*** WELCOME! ***

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

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

Gen Dobry!, Vol. X, No. 12, December 2009 — 1
A resource that has not yet been fully developed is the information to be gained from Feldpostkarten, or in English, “field postcards.” These were usually forms of communication from soldiers to family members back home. Their popularity during World Wars I and II is evident in the large number of them that survive.

There are many types and forms of these cards, which can be divided by size, shape, printing, pictures, images, and so on. For the most part, a Feldpostkarte was a card posted by military personnel at a military field post office, an army or navy base, a ship, or a military hospital or facility. They were not meant to be sealed in any envelope and the message was not considered private, since both sides of the card were quite readable to anyone handling the correspondence.

For most cards, a simple style of preprinted card was mailed from the military post office, and it usually cost the soldier little or nothing. Field postcards were usually mailed without adhesive postage stamps; they were marked using a rubber inked stamp for postage, or simply a postmark indicating processing by either a stationary post office or a mobile one that traveled with military units on the move in battle or maneuvers. Some picture postcards selected to be sent could be considered Feldpostkarten if they were from a soldier to his family or friends back home. I have not seen any regulations of these cards which would add to their use and restrictions. For the cards actually using postage stamps, a rubber-stamped Feldpost canceling could be used, or at least the written word Feldpost can be found on the address side of the card.

For the purpose of sharing with our PolishRoots’ readers, I am using a sample of a card I recently obtained that has some unique features. It was printed for use in World War I by the Austro-Hungarian armed forces. Though this card is not in itself connected to any Polish soldier or family, the interpretation of its parts can easily be used for Polish soldiers from Galicia who were recruited into the Austrian army during 1914-1918. Not only is it a rather unusual form of a Feldpostkarte, but it easily could have been used by a Pole writing back home, and thus, be in a Polish researcher’s collection. Let’s examine the card step by step, a process which any good researcher will do with any document uncovered.

To see my original color scans of the cards, click on this link:


Here are some observations.

1. The card is a simple piece of paper, slightly stiffer than most writing paper but not as rigid as traditional picture-postcard stock. The paper is usually of one color, in this case a cream color. I have also seen pink, green, and white cards, but it is most consistent that no matter what color it is, it is only of one color. No need for the expense of pretty greeting cards here. It was the act of communication that was the most important point.
2. The paper is one sheet only. There are no folds or fastening to conceal the message from prying eyes. What you wrote is what everyone read.

3. The size is that of a typical post card of the time, roughly 3.5” by 5.5”. Due to this common size, picture postcards could also be used without additional fees and handling restrictions.

4. There are some preprinted words already on this card. In this case, on the obverse, we have *Militärpflege – Katonai ápolási ügy*, both German and Hungarian for “military care,” that is, medical care, as in a hospital setting (per Fred Hoffman). There is a small box with the notation...
Stampiglie der Sanitätsanstalt, “Rubber stamp of the health establishment,” and the German word *Feldpostkorrespondenzkarte* (a dream for Scrabble players), which means “field post correspondence card.”

5. To the left hand side of the card, printed at 90-degree counterclockwise rotation, are the words *Name, Charge, and Truppenkörper (Unterabteilung)*, “Name, Rank and Military unit (subdivision)” — a return address, if you will.

6. On the reverse side of the card, a very interesting preprinted chart meets our eyes. We have five columns of nine rows with a series of words. A simple perusal of the words shows similar spellings, which would indicate these are the same words or headers spelled in different languages. Even a researcher with little experience in eastern Europe should be able to hazard a guess that the top row is German, Polish is row four, and, judging by the use of the Cyrillic alphabet, perhaps Russian in row five (on which more in a moment). Let’s decipher the words using help at our disposal (experts and the Internet).

- a. Since German is widely used and, at least in this case, there are no letters with accents or diacriticals, use of a German-English dictionary online, or even Google’s translator, produces acceptable results. *Leicht verwundet* = lightly wounded, *verwundet* = wounded, and *schwer verwundet* = severely wounded. *Krank* is sick or ill, and *schwer krank* means very sick. We can assume the words under each of these headings would mean the same in the respective languages. But what are the other languages?

- b. Row two is clearly Hungarian. I do not speak or read this language, but the unique Hungarian diacritical marks help a lot. Also, remember, this is the Austro-Hungarian Empire’s Military, so one would not think the Hungarians would take any less than second place after German (preferably first, when possible, but second is normal. After all, it is not referred to as the Hungaro-Austrian Empire.)

- c. Row three was easy for me, as this I recognize as Czech, or possibly Slovak. Let’s just say, it’s going to be one or the other.

- d. Row four is Polish. That we need to know if we want to do any Polish research. I’m not saying we need to memorize all of these words, but simply seeing words, spellings, and diacriticals should at least point the researcher in a direction for further investigation.

- e. Row five looks like Russian; at least, it’s printed in the Cyrillic alphabet. Use of the Cyrillic alphabet is most common for Russian, Ukrainian, Serbian, and Bulgarian. But Russia was not a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the source of this card. Nor would Serbian be expected, as Serbia was at war with the Austro-Hungarian Empire and should not be on a *Feldpostkarte* (though if it were on a Prisoner of War card, that could be a possibility). Ukrainian is the best choice, as western Ukraine was indeed part of the A-H Empire, constituting a large part of Galicia.

- f. Row six is in Italian; again, parts of Italy fell under the rule of Vienna and Budapest.

- g. Rows seven and eight appear very similar, and struck me as being Slavic. Other areas of the A-H Empire using Slavic languages could be Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bukowina, Dalmatia, Slawonia, and Istria. Here I needed to call in another favor from Fred Hoffman, who identified row seven as Croatian and row eight as Slovenian. Checking with Google Language, these appear to be right on!
h. Fred identified the final row as Romanian—again, parts of which fall into the A-H Empire.

So now, we’ve pretty much taken apart all of the preprinted text on the card. We have a military correspondence card that was printed by the Austro-Hungarian Military for passing on a message of a soldier’s condition, quick and simple. (I can’t help but think of “kitschy” postcards created in the 1940s and 1950s in the U.S. that had a checklist of things one was doing while in Florida, California, New York City, etc. Simply check off those items which apply to your vacation and mail off your great adventures to your friends and family. No need for any great details, unless you wanted to add them. Seems like nothing is created recently but has its basis in previous usages.)

Now we see that none of the boxes are checked off as they most likely were designed for. Why not?

Let’s examine the message for any clues. In this case, it’s a simple message and not too difficult to figure out, but penciled handwriting is not the very best for reading. While I mention it, many of these cards were indeed written in pencil. Fountain pens and bottles of ink were luxuries many regular soldiers could not manage while standing ankle-deep in water, mud, blood, and human waste.

Fred Hoffman and I were able to figure out some of the wording, but not all of it. The header is “Wieden 18/III 1917.” Wieden is surely Vienna (compare Polish Wiedeń); dates are usually written in days (numbers) / month (Roman numeral) / and year, which gives us “Vienna, 18 March 1917” —during World War I. I could figure out that Draha moja žena meant “My dear wife.” I also could spot Wiedni, Vienna; adresu, address; and na druhej karte, “on another card,” but that was about it. So, time to call in another help line.

Fortunately, I have been recently discovered by a cousin who lives in Prague and writes with very good English, Jaromir Adamec. Actually, he’s my cousin’s husband. I sent him a scan of the card and asked if he could make out the wording and provide a translation. I also asked him if any of the words printed in the chart were Slovak. He quickly answered by e-mail with the following:

The translation from Slovak (not Czech!) is:

Vienna 18 / III 1917
Dear my wife!

I am announcing to you that I am already in Vienna; (my) address I am giving to you on another card. With God Your Daniel (?)

So, he has answered one question, but raised new ones. The language is Slovak, not Czech, and he writes that this card is only sent to tell the writer’s wifie he had sent her his address previously. Thus, there was no need to say if he was injured or wounded or sick. Jaromir also wrote that none of the languages in the printed format were Slovak. At that time, it dawned on me that,
unlike Austria, which tolerated the Czechs and their language and customs, Hungarians were intent on suppressing the Slovak identity. Thus, a Czech could use his own language (as well as the official German), but no need to print anything in Slovak. Hungarian was the official language of Slovakia and that was that!

He questioned the name of Daniel as it was not a common name at the time of the First World War. I then sent him a copy of the front of the card, which is where we need to go next.

The rubber stamped words to the left of the postmark read:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Militärpflege} \\
\text{K. u. k. Reservespital Nr. 16} \\
\text{Wien XVII. Arzbargorgasse Nr. 2}
\end{align*}
\]

This translates to:

Military Care (Facility)
Royal and Imperial (Königlich und Kaiserlich) Reserve hospital Nr. 16
Vienna, (District) XVII. Arzbargo Lane Nr. 2

Now we have an address where there was a medical facility. Also, if he was indeed wounded, this would allow him easy access to field post cards detailing health. If he was stationed there and not a patient, he may still have used a card at hand, but if he was assigned there as a worker, he was neither wounded nor ill.

The address is written as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Ct. p. Bahna Danielová} \\
v Pukanci \\
Bakabányán
\end{align*}
\]

Written additionally is Hont M. and Ungarn. Between Jaromir, Fred and myself, we come up with the fact that Hont was the name of a county, and m. is short for Hungarian megye = county. So we need the name of the county in the Kingdom of Hungary where one would find a town that could be called Pukanci or Bakabányán.

Here we see the last name of Danielová, or Mrs. Daniel, a reference to the Daniel, on the reverse which was confusing. Bahna is an unusual given name, but of course Daniel is not. Jaromir concluded that Daniel Bahna is the name of the soldier. This reference to “Mrs. Daniel” refers to the wife of Daniel Bahna (she might also be called Bahnová). This is somewhat the pattern as seen in the Hungarian language.

Jaromir added that what looks like Cd. p. is really Ct. p., short for Ctená pani (honored lady). Proper European etiquette observed.

The preposition v means, “at, in” so Mrs. Daniel lived “in Pukanci Bakabányán.”
Now we should Google what we don’t understand. Type in “Pukanci” and many sites come up, just about all of them Slovak. On one or two of them, it is written Pukanci…Pukanec. Hmm, this seems to be a translation of the same place employing one of those eastern European suffix endings to words Americans do not follow too well. If we look up where Pukanec is, it’s near Nitra, Slovakia, roughly between Budapest and Vienna. Well, so far so good. What about Bakabányán?

Again, I Googled it, and the first thing I came up with was Wapedeia written in Esperanto! Whoa! I do not want to go there at all. BUT, at the bottom of the page is a link stating the article comes from a Wikipedia site for Bakabányán. By clicking on that link, we get the page for Bakabányán, which turns out to be the Hungarian name of the town Slovaks call Pukanec. Always remember, especially in eastern Europe, towns will typically have at least two or three “official” names in sometimes totally different languages and even alphabets. Learn all of the variations. It will only serve you later on in your research.

As we noted before, Ungarn means Hungary, and Hont m. means Hont county. Both of these words seem to be added by a different hand. (Maybe the postman? Maybe the military postal clerk?)

Taking a look at the section on the left, the sender’s name is Bahna Daniel, a reversal of given and surnames that is not at all uncommon in Europe. His rank is Pionier; sapper or entrencher. His Truppenkörper (military unit) is 5th Sapper Battalion, 3rd Company. It appears that in almost all Austro-Hungarian correspondence, name, rank, and specific unit were required—a great source of info for future reference. Unfortunately, now I need to find someone who wants information on one Daniel Bahna for their family tree. (Hopefully, if one has a Feldpostkarte in their family’s collection, it will apply to one of their ancestors, or at least a good friend of one of them—not a total stranger, as this card’s sender is to me.)

The last item to look at is the actual postmark. Here we have a typical circle with what appears to be the following: 47/4 Wien 107. We know that Wien is German for Vienna, 47/ 4 and 107 could be the post office numbers. The date is usually written horizontally in the middle. In this case 19.III.17 X- or the 19th of March 1917. A day after the card was written. The X- may be the time it’s postmarked? 10:00 am?? Not sure on that one. The 13 at the bottom could be the receiving Feldpost # or the sending Feldpost # or even the operator. That we will need further information about. Should any of our readers can help me out, this would be great.

So, what appears to be a simple card with an unusual chart of terms turns out to have a huge bit of information with lessons in history, geography, military, surnames, languages, and empires. It’s more than just a simple postcard. It demonstrates once again that you should never dismiss any document as useless till you take a good look at it.

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***
Subject: The Right Word for crematum

Editor—Here’s a fascinating note Mark Kaszniak sent in response to my column in the last Gen Dobry! on finding “the right word.”

Your column on the meaning of cremati ustor in Hungarian-Jewish Censuses in the November 2009 Gen Dobry! got me thinking and researching about the meaning of the terms cremati and crematum as they are typically found in a Polish documents. As these are Latin terms, I first turned to Janusz Sondel’s book, Słownik Łacińsko-Polski dla prawników i historyków [Latin-Polish Dictionary for lawyers and historians] and discovered that Sondel equates both these terms with the Polish word wódka, or vodka, not brandy (page 232).

Next a quick search in one of the online versions of the Słownik Geograficzny using the search term “cremat%” revealed that this term appears several times and in several contexts in conjunction with the Polish term gorzałka. The term seems to be best explained in the industry section of the entry for Małopolska (Volume VI, page 64, top of first column), which states: “Gorzałka (wódka), zwana vinum adustum, 1564, vinum sublimatum ‘przepalanka’ (Maciej, Żydzi 56) jako crematum, wraz z piwem była robioną i sprzedawaną przez nauczyciela szkoły w Tymbarku 1349 (Bart. III, str. 226).” The other entries appear to discuss various taxes paid by taverns (karczma) selling gorzałka (or in Latin, propinator cremati) and various distillers of gorzałka (e.g., bań, kotłów and garnców gorzalczanych or in Latin ollae (vini) cremati). I should note that the source of these terms in the Słownik geograficzny mainly come from various works authored by Adolph Pawiński (Wielkopolska, Małopolska, Maszowze) which are essentially geographic statistical compilations of early Latin documents (circa 1500–1600s) containing tax registers and lustrowanie of Polish towns and cities. Although these original documents are available on the web (search the holdings of Digital Wielkopolska), the documents themselves contain only a page or two of abbreviations for translating the Latin terms to Polish and not all terms are listed in the abbreviations.

Some further web searching in Google Books using the terms “vodka” and “crematum” turned up a very scholarly discussion in a preview from a chapter entitled “A Thousand Years of Vodka” from a 2003 book entitled 40 Degrees East: An Anatomy of Vodka by Nicholas Ermockline and Peter Iglikowski (Nova Science Publishers). These authors explain that the earliest Polish term for vodka was gorzalka. The root of this term comes from the Polish word gorzeć, to burn, and that it meant “burnt water” (i.e., alcohol that had been produced from a heating process in a still). The authors go on to relate an amusing myth that the word gorzalka derives from the sorry fate of an early alchemist K who literally burnt to death by self-combustion, and that this is the literal sense of the expression, Gorzel K (i.e., K burnt himself up).

They also explain that vodka existed even before there was a Polish word for it and that a 16th-century Latin work by Sebastian Klonowicz refers to an early grain spirit in the Latin text as vinum crematum (i.e., burnt wine, or gorzalka). These authors take great pains to point out that these early vodkas were a far cry from what we call vodka today, such as Absolut and Smirnov. The ancestral vodka spirit, cooked in stills, was harsh, fiery, and very difficult to drink. It was
rich in soapy substances, esters, and aldehydes and thus foul-smelling and cloudy, and produced atrocious hangovers. They also emphasize that it was mainly distilled from potatoes (pages 44-48).

Mark Kaszniak

Editor—I guess not everyone will find this as fascinating as I do. But it does go to show how complicated even a single word can be! In the context of a specific Hungarian document, crematum may be brandy; but you cannot assume the same translation applies when you see the word in documents from Poland. This explains why serious translators like Mark and always seek the right word, but can never be too dogmatic about having found it!

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Subject: Digitized issues of the London Gazette

“While reading the 25 December 2009 issue of the LitvakSIG Digest, I just came across a new data source for those doing genealogy research in the United Kingdom. The London Gazette is one of the official journals of record of the British government in which certain statutory notices are required to be published. The London Gazette was first published on 7 November 1665 as the Oxford Gazette. Many of the London Gazette issues have now been digitized and can be searched online. The URL is:

<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/>

Using the search term “Poland” results in 11,479 hits, the earliest dating back to the 30 December 1666 issue of the gazette.

The London Gazette includes lists of aliens who were issued certificates of naturalization/naturalisation. You need to use both spellings when searching the archives. The “naturalization” spelling along with “Poland” yields 248 hits, the earliest dating back to 3 June 1887. The “naturalisation” spelling and “Poland” yield 364 hits, the earliest dating back to 6 May 1921.

Tom Sadauskas

Editor—Thanks for the info!

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*** DOCUMENTARY ON RYSZARD KAPUŚCIŃSKI ***

Editor—Maureen Mroczek Morris sent me this letter, which I felt should be forwarded to all who might be interested.

Dear Friends of the Polish Cultural Community,

I am writing to let you know about a documentary film I made about Ryszard Kapuściński, one
of the most important Polish writers of our time. The film is called *A Poet on the Frontline: The Reportage of Ryszard Kapuściński*, and is now available on DVD for members of your organization or institution to screen, to purchase for library acquisition, or to buy for home viewing. It also makes a great gift for Kapuściński fans.

You can read a short synopsis below, and see excerpts from the film at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHPq5p50y94>

I am an independent filmmaker from New York (now based in Berlin) and I knew Ryszard Kapuściński for 15 years. I spent six months filming and interviewing Kapuściński in four countries, all with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities. My film has been broadcast internationally and screened at festivals around the world.

I hope you will consider informing the members of your organizations, institutions and communities about this film, or making it available to them. For more information, you can go to <http://www.kapuscinskithemovie.com> or write to me directly.

Author John Berger writes about this film: “The film about Richard K. is wonderful and wonderfully told, edited, saying yes between every cut, being proud of this man and the boy in him, and the words which won’t go quiet. Thank you and everybody for this film which is like the wallet of a traveller—without money but with notes from everybody.”

Many thanks for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Pfeiffer
Director/Producer
*A Poet on the Frontline: The Reportage of Ryszard Kapuściński*

<http://www.kapuscinskithemovie.com>
<http://www.gabriellepfeiffer.com>

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*** POLISH PRONUNCIATION FEATURE ON THE MUSEUM OF FAMILY HISTORY ***

*Editor*—Tom Sadauskas wrote to mention that the Museum of Family History continues to add features of value and interest to researchers from eastern Europe.

“The Museum of Family History is a virtual museum which provides information and opportunities for learning more about modern Jewish history. Included in their offerings are pronunciation guides to assist non-native speakers in correctly pronouncing the names of many...
towns and villages in Eastern Europe. Languages include Polish (220 towns & cities), Magyar (Hungarian), Lithuanian and Romanian.” The URL for Polish pronunciations is as follows:

<http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/erc-gtp-poland.htm>

Below is the Website’s description of the pronunciation guides the museum offers:

“To the non-native speaker, the proper pronunciation of words in a foreign language may be a daunting task. Many of us can remember traveling to a foreign country and trying unsuccessfully to communicate with others in their native tongue. Here, an effort has been made to aid those interested in learning the correct pronunciation of various town and city names, as spoken by those native to that particular country. These lists will be augmented and new lists will be added over time.

“The list below contains the names of two hundred and twenty towns located in today’s Poland. Each name is spoken once, and then is repeated two seconds later.

“These pronunciations have been placed within sound ‘clips’ (wav files) according to the first letter of the town name. You will have to listen to each clip from the beginning, but may be able to pause, go forwards or backwards, or play it again, depending on your computer’s media player. You can choose to repeat the town name each time after the speaker says the name.

“The particular towns and cities listed below have been chosen because their names appear within this museum’s Website. Left-click onto the head letters to begin each clip, e.g., the letter ‘A’ to hear the pronunciation of the towns beginning with the letter ‘A.’ Good luck!”

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*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group - (TUGG)

Video, “Everything is Illuminated.” A young Jewish-American man endeavors to find the woman who saved his grandfather during World War II in a Ukrainian village.

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

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February 14, 2010
MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
2:00 p.m.
Social Hall of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
984 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, Illinois

The speaker will be Carole Magnuson. Carole Magnuson started her family history research in 1981 and published books covering her maternal and paternal lines in the late 1980’s. After she retired in 2002, Carole began working as a professional genealogy researcher. She is an active member of both the DuPage County and South Suburban Genealogical and Historical societies.

The topic will be “Let’s Get Organized.” Are you buried in paper gathered from family collections, research trips, or the Internet? This presentation discusses different methods for getting your paperwork and files under control and helps you make sense of the information you have collected.

Carole Magnuson will demonstrate the paper and digital filing systems that she uses. Attendees will learn about ideas for organizing their own research, as well as how a chronology (timeline) can be prepared for each of their ancestors. Chronologies focus in on the information found for an ancestor and can help you plan your strategy for gathering additional information. Chronologies can be used as an outline for preparing an ancestor’s biography. She will also discuss ways to verify research, how to cite sources, and offer ideas for passing along your research to family members.

After the presentation, Carole will have copies of the PatSy filing system for sale for $9.00 for those wishing to purchase. Note: PatSy works in Windows XP and earlier versions of Windows, but not in Vista or Windows 7.

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Saturday, February 20, 2010
Introductory Genealogy Mini-workshop
Are you new to genealogy? Do you wonder what resources are available to help you get started? If so, EEGS members Lisa Haji Abbasi and Shauna Wall will be leading a mini-workshop titled, “An Introduction to East European Genealogy and Available Resources” in February 2010. Everyone welcome!

Date: Saturday, February 20, 2010
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Location: Henderson Public Library, 1-1050 Henderson Highway, Winnipeg, MB
Cost: Free!

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April 28 – May 1, 2010
UPGS [UNITED POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES] 2010 CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AS PART OF THE 2010 NGS FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

The 2010 NGS Family History Conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more info:

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info>

The program guide, with speakers and lecture titles, is available here:

<http://members.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/2010Program.cfm>

Here, from info provided by Ceil Jensen, are details on the talks of interest to Polish researchers.

**Wednesday, 28 April 2010**
UPGS Banquet, 7 p.m. Salt Lake Palace
featuring nationally known speaker **Loretto “Lou” Dennis Szucs** and a Polish buffet. Please join us for this UPGS fund-raiser.

**Thursday, 29 April 2010, 8-11 a.m.**
Family History Library Lab, Thursday, 4-6 p.m.
Eastern European Workshop with Daniel Schlyter.

**Friday, 30 April 2010 — The Polish Track sponsored by United Polish Genealogical Societies**

**8:00 a.m.**
**Polish Research Trip, Sonja Hoeke-Nishimoto**
This lecture will discuss research sources, such as church and state archives, parishes, newly found relatives, civil registration offices, schools, and museums. Sonja will cover the types of resources available and answer questions a researcher might have as they plan a trip to Poland to find information about his ancestors.

**9:30 a.m.**
**Polish Court Records and Census Records, Stephen J. Danko**
This presentation will discuss using Court Records and Census Records to research members of the nobility in Poland.

**11:00 a.m.**
**Genealogy in Poland Today, Tomasz Nitsch**
The presentation will cover genealogical societies in Poland and their activities and plans and Polish genealogical Websites, especially the very successful ones. Last but not least, Tomasz will tell you about his Website <http://www.genpol.com>, other useful Websites and functions, and plans for the future.

**2:30 p.m.**
Polish Archives: Behind the Scenes, Ceil Wendt Jensen, CG
Based on interviews with the archive and museum directors to identify materials beyond birth, marriage and death records. These interviews were conducted to learn about the unique materials held at the archives of Poznań, Gdańsk, Mława, Białystok, and Kraków, and at the concentration camp museums of Stutthof and Auschwitz.

4:00 p.m.
Finding Your Ancestral Village in American Records, Paul Lipinski
After family records, American records, e.g., census, ship manifest, naturalization, etc. are sources to be investigated. Record type, location and content are explained. The best records for finding ancestral villages are illustrated.

Additional Questions? E-mail UPGS at <upgs2010@gmail.com>
More information will be posted at: <http://upgs.blogspot.com/>

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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.

For Further Information:
Jim Onyschuk
<jodanji@rogers.com>

<http://www.torugg.org/>

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July 11-16, 2010

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

IAJGS 2010 Conference - Call for Papers

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles invites you to submit presentation proposals for the Conference. The Call for Papers is now live.
Go to the conference Website: <http://www.jgsla2010.com> and click on the “Call for Papers” tab, or use this direct link:

<https://www.goeshow.com/jgsla/IAJGS/2010/call_for_papers.cfm>

We welcome proposals for presentations on topics of interest to genealogists and historical researchers as well as workshops, computer classes, panel discussions, theatrical/musical presentations and films. A complete list of suggested topics and regional interests is on the Website but it is only a guide. We welcome imaginative submissions that will hold appeal for genealogists from beginner to advanced.

If you need more information about conference programming, go to our “Conference Program” tab on the home page or click on <http://www.jgsla2010.com/conference-program>, which has a helpful FAQ section.

The Call will be open until January 15, 2010 and notifications will go out by February 15th. (Conference registration will open on January 15th.)

If you want to be apprised of breaking conference news, remember to subscribe to our newsletter. A sign-up subscription link is on our home page.

Pamela Weisberger
Program Chair, IAJGS Conference 2010
<info@jgsla2010.com>

July 21 - 31, 2010

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 ezine: <http://www.cosmopolitanreview.com>

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

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*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

Jonathan Shea and I are still working on the Latin volume of our *In Their Words* series. In the meantime, I discovered the full text of a very good book on Latin parish records is available here (I hope it’s with the author’s permission!). It’s *Parish Register Latin: An Introduction*, by C. Russell Jensen, Ph.D., 1989, Vita Nova Books, and it’s a very nice piece of work. I suggest downloading the PDF or DjVu or Kindle versions, however, rather than the “full text” version. The text version was generated with OCR software, and frankly, the OCR did a lousy job. There are a ton of errors, and the formatting was poorly dealt with. The other versions I mentioned show the original pages as the author intended them to appear, and they’re a lot more useful.

On the Posen list, Edelgard Strobel pointed out that Google Books offers a preview of portions of Judith Frazin’s *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents*. Enough of the book is available, including some of the specialized vocabulary lists, to let you get a notion what the book has to offer, in case you’re considering buying it.

On the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, Rasa Kamarauskaite gave this link to a Website with sights of many Lithuanian towns and cities. If you have roots in Lithuania, take a look. Some of the photos are gorgeous!

The December 29 issue of *Nu? What’s New?* mentioned something interesting to anyone with roots in New York City. The above link is to a site that offers photographs of every house and building in the five boroughs. The cost is a little complicated to figure, but *Nu?* estimated the first 8 x 10” photo is about $50, and each additional is around $40. If you’re interested, try the Website for more info.

On the Polish Genius and Poland-Roots mailing lists, Ceil Jensen congratulated Malgosia Myc for compiling the Bentley Historical Library /Polish Americans in Michigan Finding Aid.” The subject guide is online at the above URL. She added, “Don’t forget many Polish Americans are also documented in the Polar Bear Expedition Collection: <http://polarbears.si.umich.edu/>.”

Ceil also mentioned that “the Polish History Museum has a new timeline of Polish history
entitled ‘Roads to Independence.’ It is available in both Polish and English ... (click on the
British icon on the right hand side of English).”

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polish_genius/message/11310>

On the Polish Genius list, Julek posted a large collection of YouTube links with Polish
lessons, telling you how to say a wide variety of useful and interesting things in Polish, including
how to ask a girl out on a date or tell her she’s cute. The list is too long to repeat here, but you
can access it at the above URL, if you have a Yahoo account and can visit the various Yahoo
groups.

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<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/12/create-a-blog-for-yourself-or
-your-society.html>

If you’ve ever been interested in getting involved in blogging, either for yourself or for
a society, a recent issue of EOGN had a nice article that takes you through many of the issues
involved. If you’re at all interested, try reading the article at the above URL.

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<http://www.donhoward.net/genpoland/polhistory.htm>

On the Posen mailing list, Bronwyn Klimach mentioned this page, with links to different
regions of Poland.

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