



Gen Dobry!

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*** WELCOME! ***

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

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

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

http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_IX_3.pdf

*** MY DNA JOURNEY ***

by Don Szumowski <DSzumowski@PolishRoots.org>

Editor—This is something different! PolishRoots' Don Szumowski doesn't often contribute articles. I'm glad he sent in this one, and hope we'll hear from him again!

Have you ever been curious about what your DNA might tell you about your heritage? Well, I was! I had been hearing a lot about the new interest in DNA testing within genealogical circles and thought it would be interesting to know what was lurking in my ancient past.

A couple of years ago I ordered a Y-DNA test kit from Family Tree DNA (FtDNA), which was one of the early entrants into DNA testing for genealogists; it had been recommended by a friend as reliable and trustworthy. Y-DNA traces genetic mutations within the male line to determine your ancient ancestral roots. The test involves a simple cheek swab, which is mailed back to the FtDNA offices in the postage-paid envelope included with the test kit. It took about 6 weeks to get my results back via e-mail.

Since I have traced my paternal line back to late 18th century Poland—specifically, the Białystok region—the haplogroup R1a results were not very surprising. According to Wikipedia, “R1a likely originated in the Eurasian Steppes, and is associated with the Kurgan culture and Proto-Indo-European expansion. It is primarily found in Central Asia, South Asia, and the Slavic peoples of Eastern Europe.” Since I can confirm that my family is Eastern European, the test validated my genealogical research and also gave me a strong sense that my family has been grounded to place for a very long time.

Since about 56% of Poles are supposed to be R1a (and 60% within Lithuania's Aukštaičiai or Highlands region), why were there no matches to others who had been tested? FtDNA offers a secure service which will alert you to others with matching DNA results, yet I was the only one with my specific genetic markers.

Fast forward to 2007, when I was contacted by Larry Mayka, who heads the Polish Project at FtDNA, asking that I join his DNA research group. Once your test results are posted online at the FtDNA site, you can join research groups such as specific surnames, ethnic, or geographic. One of the nice things about a research group is that there are often discounted rates for DNA test kits. I went ahead and joined the Polish Project. A couple of days later Larry contacted me again asking if I would be willing to have a full 67 Y-DNA marker test done, since my 12-marker test had matched none of the other members of the Polish Project or the more than 64,000 other samples. With the 67-marker test completed, I would know whether I was still unique or if there were others with similar DNA markers. You guessed it, the 67 marker Y-DNA test still provided no matches with other FtDNA participants.

Larry then asked me to contact other Szumowskis and solicit their participation in the Y-DNA testing. This would have a two-fold purpose of expanding known Polish DNA samples as well as confirming whether my DNA test was a fluke or a pattern. Some believe that *szlachta* (Polish nobility) are descended from the Sarmatians, which might explain my unique Y-DNA pattern.

During my first trip to Poland in 1989, I befriended a Szumowski family from Ostrołęka. Over the years we have tried without success to determine how our families are connected. Since both Szumowski families lived only 25 miles apart for generations, our assumption was that we were related, but just couldn't figure out how. I contacted my "cousin" Tadeusz Szumowski to find out if was interested in participating in this study. After a little persuasion, he agreed, and I had a test kit sent to him by FtDNA. His DNA results have just come back and Tadeusz is a haplogroup N. This haplogroup appears most commonly in the Finnish population within Europe. While the Y-DNA test tells us that our Szumowski lines are not genetically related, we have forged a family bond that pure blood cannot break.

I hope you have enjoyed my journey through Y-DNA and recommend that you visit the Polish Project at FtDNA (<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/polish>) and contact Larry Mayka about participating in this exciting personal and scientific journey. Once your test has been completed you will be offered the opportunity to have your DNA results sent to the National Geographic Genographic Project, which is yet another way to play a role in the wonderful world of science.

***** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *****

Subject: Contacting Polish churches

I am going back to Poland in the fall and would like to visit the churches in two villages where my father's family came from, to find records. One church is in Garwolin, which is where my father was born and his brother is buried. The other church is in the town of Miastków Kościelny, where my grandfather's grave was found. Last year, I wrote to both churches and asked how I could find and get copies of birth, marriage or death records, but I received no response back (I even put in a donation). How can I make contact with these churches and be sure I can look at the records when I visit?

Thank you very much for any help,

Geri Jaron Schlenoff <geri1154@gmail.com>

Editor—I could give Geri some generic advice, but I wanted to pass this along to our readers, as some of you may be able to give her better pointers than I can.

Subject: The movie *Katyn*

Because of our big snowstorm last Friday and Saturday [this note was sent March 15th], we had to miss two showings of the film *Katyn* at the 32nd Cleveland International Film Festival. In viewing the Festival's web site, I found out that because of the snowstorm there was going to be an additional viewing on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. I can't say I have ever been in a movie theater at

9:30 a.m., but we couldn't miss this opportunity.

The movie is in Polish, German, and Russian, with English subtitles. It opens with a group of Poles fleeing the Nazis on one side of a bridge, when suddenly another group of Poles collides with them from the other side trying to escape from the Soviets. The Germans invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 and the Russians on September 17, 1939. The Soviets took thousands of Polish soldiers as prisoners of war. In March, 1940, Stalin signed an order sentencing to death 22,000 Polish officers and government officials. They were secretly executed in the spring of 1940. Two years later, the German army, on its way to Moscow, stumbled upon mass graves of Polish officers in the Katyń forest. In the spring of 1943, the Germans announced to the world that the Soviets had murdered thousands of Polish officers. Stalin denied this and called for his own investigation. In 1944, the Soviet Union issued its own report that blamed the Germans for the Katyń crime. For the next 47 years, the Soviet Union suppressed any evidence of their involvement in the Katyń crime, until in 1990 Gorbachev admitted that the Soviet Union was behind the massacre. In 1993, Yeltsin brought documents pertaining to the massacre to Poland.

The film also reveals the deportations of the families of the executed soldiers to the Soviet Far East and their persecution after the war. No one could speak out and say that their loved ones were murdered by the Soviets because the Communist Party was in charge and the Soviets still insisted that the Nazis were the criminals. Poles were jailed if they tried to tell the truth as to who performed the executions.

Before the movie began, Mr. Bak of the Polish Cultural Center in Cleveland invited everyone in the theater to a reception at the Center. We enjoyed some delicious Polish cooking and pastries, followed by a discussion of the movie. I did buy Mr. Bak's autobiography, *Life's Journey* (<http://www.amazon.com/Lifes-Journey-Eugene-Bak/dp/0880335076>). He wrote it with the encouragement of his children. They felt he should tell of his war experiences from the train ride to Siberia, to Uzbekistan, to Pakistan, to India and eventually to the board room in the Cleveland Towers. I'm looking forward to reading this.

Warning: if you get the opportunity to see *Katyń*, bring plenty of tissues. It is an emotionally draining movie.

Armela Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

Editor—On the Polish Genius mailing list, Debbie Greenlee mentioned that this film is now available for purchase. "PolBook.com has this movie! <http://www.polbook.com/index.php?p=index&t=kat&v=11>. It's on the right side of the screen under "Bestsellers." It's only \$19.95!"

Subject: Diacritics in Gen Software

Saw the query in *Gen Dobry!* about programs that support Polish (and other) diacritics. I use

PAF (Personal Ancestral File) - a free download. The only problem is that when you GEDCOM your data to another program or person the diacritics come out weird.

For instance, my grandmother Stanisława (a barred L) comes out something like Stanis?#wa (with the ? upside down). But reports, etc. come out just fine. I just checked my Brother's Keeper shareware program and it does not support diacritics. However, it has several different language options which might do so.

Sharon <BillG17634@q.com>

Editor—Thanks for the input.

Subject: Poles in Jamestown

The recent edition of *Głos Polek*, the monthly publication of the Polish Women's Alliance of America, had an interesting article entitled, "The First Products 'Made in America' Were Manufactured by Poles." Immediately after reaching Jamestown on October 1, 1608, aboard the English vessel, the *Mary and Margaret*, the Poles began producing goods needed to develop the settlement, like pitch and soap. Soon they also started operating the first glassworks, which they built one mile outside of Jamestown and which was to become the first official factory in America. Historians confirm that the factory created by Polish craftsmen in 1608 was the first one ever built in America, and their glass products were the first goods manufactured in the future United States of America. Polish glass was famous all over Europe and soon the exports from America were being sold there as well. To this day there is a company in Jamestown called Jamestown Glasshouse which is a successor of the glassworks built by Poles in 1608. Artistic glass products are produced there with the use of the traditional methods and designs which go back 400 years.

Armela Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

Subject: Polish Women Who Saved 2,500 Jewish Children!

With or without the beautiful music, this will move you deeply...

http://richards-creations.net/Pages/8/_Irena-s_Children.html

Armela Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

Editor—Some of you might want to bookmark this site, to show it to people who talk about Poles' anti-Semitism. Some Poles have done great evil, some Poles have done great good. Gee, sort of sounds like they might be members of the human race....

***** POLAND TO SOUTH AMERICA - MORE SHIPPING INFORMATION - RMS
ASTURIAS 1936 *****

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

As time permits, I plan to make more information as this available to readers of *Gen Dobry!* Here are extractions from the passenger list of *RMS Asturias*, leaving Southampton, England on July 11, 1936, and arriving at Buenos Aires on July 28. Unlike transatlantic crossings from Europe to North America, voyages to South American ports usually involved more stops along the way. This voyage made stops at Cherbourg (as did *Titanic*), Vigo (featured in the movie *Das Boot*, in the Spanish province of Galicia, which is not the same Galicia that used to include southeastern Poland!), Lisbon (*Casablanca*, anyone?) Rio de Janeiro, Santos, and Montevideo, before arriving at Buenos Aires. Thus, passengers leaving Poland or Lithuania saw some pretty exotic ports before arriving at a continent with quite a different ambience than that of eastern Europe.

The *Asturias*, a Cunard ship built by Harland and Wolff (builders of the *Titanic* and many other steamships on which our ancestors sailed to America), was launched on July 7, 1925, completed January 12, 1926, with its maiden voyage, Southampton-La Plata, on February 27th of that year. Serving as an armed merchant vessel in World War II, the *Asturias* was badly torpedoed by the Italian submarine *Cagni* and towed to and laid up for the war at Freetown. After the war, it was refitted as a troop transport and later entered the England-Australian immigrant trade route. It arrived at Faslane to be broken up on September 14, 1957. At this time, it was used as a prop and backdrop scenery for the well-received British movie of the *Titanic* disaster, *A Night to Remember*.

I have extracted those names from the passenger lists and paperwork that list passengers whose nationality was Polish, Lithuanian, or Russian. Even though there are many Jewish names on board, they were listed as having Polish nationality. Seeing that this passage took place only three years before the outbreak of war, its not surprising to see so many from eastern Europe leaving and going to South America. The U.S. still had quotas in place limiting arrivals of passengers fleeing an ever more aggressive Europe. This list is not all-encompassing, as there were many other passengers on board coming from France, Spain, Switzerland, and other places which may not be of much use to PolishRoots readers. This particular voyage had a total of 680 passengers, of whom 233 were Argentine and 447 were foreigners to Argentina. For a photo and additional information: <http://www.ssasturias.net/>.

Copies/scans from the original paperwork are available from me for a fee. Some passengers have additional information as to the reasons they were traveling or were in sick bay. Nowhere is there any mention of town or date of birth, relatives in Europe or South America, nor any addresses. Occupations and ages are listed and again in some cases, there is additional information which is in either Spanish or Portuguese. I can pick out some of the main words, but would not be able to translate them properly.

Fees go towards obtaining more material for PolishRoots.

Adler, Fajwel	59	Poland	Gajerman, Ruchla	23	Poland
Adler, Chaja	54	Poland	Gotkin, Eszra	23	Poland
Adler, Ruchla	14	Poland	Grunke, Herman	49	Poland
Bajgelman, Rachael Laja	33	Poland	Grunke, Otylja	40	Poland
Bartnicki, Antoni	33	Poland	Grunke, Fryda	14	Poland
Bartnicki, Sabina	22	Poland	Grunke, Gustaw	7	Poland
Berensztajn, Dyma	38	Poland	Grunke, Emil	18	Poland
Berensztajn, Josef	7	Poland	Gucz, Jan	33	Poland
Bluchard, Jechewet	26	Poland	Gucz, Anna	29	Poland
Bojczuk, Maksym	36	Poland	Gucz, Aleksander	5	Poland
Bojczuk, Dominika	34	Poland	Gucz, Mikolaj	1	Poland
Bojczuk, Nadzieja	14	Poland	Gwizdz, Michal	43	Poland
Bojczuk, Marja	10	Poland	Halas/ Halaza, Andrzej	30	Poland
Bojczuk, Stanislaw	7	Poland	Halas/ Halaza, Marja	29	Poland
Brucki, Jakob	42	Poland	Halas/ Halaza, Edwarda	6	Poland
Brucki, Helena	41	Poland	Halas/ Halaza, Marja	4	Poland
Brucki, Wlodzimierz	12	Poland	Halas/ Halaza, Jozef	2	Poland
Brucki, Dymitr	8	Poland	Holyda, Daniel	43	Poland
Brucki, Anotoljusz	5	Poland	Holyda, Juljana	42	Poland
Brucki, Natalja	6 mo	Poland	Holyda, Jewdokja	16	Poland
Chemij, Julja	32	Poland	Holyda, Pawel	14	Poland
Chemji, Jan	8	Poland	Holyda, Aleksandra	9	Poland
Cikier, Lejbisz	31	Poland	Jablonska, Dwora	21	Poland
Cybulka, Gadryjel/ Gabryel	39	Poland	Janowicz, Mikolaj	18	Poland
Cybulka, Marja	30	Poland	Jemelow, Izrael	24	Poland
Cybulka, Wlodzimierz	7	Poland	Kania, Moszko	46	Poland
Cybulka, Ludmila	4	Poland	Kijko, Roman	7	Poland
Czczujka, Antoni	25	Poland	Kijko, Jan	36	Poland
Czczujka, Melanja	35	Poland	Kijko, Marja	37	Poland
Czczujka, Wlodzimierz	6	Poland	Kijko, Anna	12	Poland
Czernuk, Lejzor	29	Poland	Kijko, Eugenja	9	Poland
Dabilowicz, Nikolaj	9	Poland	Kijko, Stefanida	7	Poland
Dobniewski, Moszko	33	Poland	Kijko, Pawel	34	Poland
Dobryniuk, Anna	17	Poland	Kijko, Anna	31	Poland
Dobryniuk, Wiktor	14	Poland	Kijko, Jozef	8	Poland
Dowhun, Grzegorz	27	Poland	Kijko, Eugenja	6	Poland
Dowhun, Marta	30	Poland	Kijko, Helena	3	Poland
Dowhun, Piotr	3	Poland	Kliocaite, Chaja	27	Lithuania
Dowhun, Scharja/ Marja	1	Poland	Kosar, Teodor	23	Poland
Dudiuk, Jermolaj	27	Poland	Kossower, Ita	24	Poland
Dudiuk, Mitrofan	22	Poland	Kotelanski, Josel	27	Poland
Dudiuk, Julina	49	Poland	Kowalczyk, Timofiej	32	Poland
Dudiuk, Mikolaj	14	Poland	Kowalczyk, Susanna	27	Poland
Dudiuk, Anna	12	Poland	Kowalczyk, Halina	2 mo	Poland
Dudiuk, Zinowja/ Zinobja	5	Poland	Kowalczyk, Piotr	8	Poland
Dudiuk, Piotr	50	Poland	Kowalczyk, Stefan	7	Poland
Dyzenhaus, Moszek	12	Poland	Kowalczyk, Nadzieja	6	Poland
Dzyndzyrysta, Marja	14	Poland	Kowalczyk, Lidja	3	Poland
Dzyndzyrysta, Anna	12	Poland	Krawczuk, Iwan	29	Poland
Finkiel, Liba	26	Poland	Krawczuk, Aleksy	25	Poland
Frajberg, Fajga	19	Poland	Krawczuk, Anna	26	Poland
Frydman, Josek	24	Poland	Krawczuk, Walentyna	3 mo	Poland
Fuks, Chaja	63	Poland	Krawiec, Jacha	24	Poland
Furman, Benjamin	26	Poland	Kudyba, Antoni	38	Poland

Kudyba, Jozefa	32	Poland	Rott, Betti	23	Poland
Kudyba, Bronislawa	12	Poland	Rozen, Lejb	26	Poland
Kudyba, Leokadja	9	Poland	Rubacha, Ester	21	Poland
Kudyba, Tadeusz	6 mo	Poland	Sawiuk, Daniel	29	Poland
Kuniec, Stefan	31	Poland	Sawiuk, Ksenja	27	Poland
Kuniec, Zofja	31	Poland	Sawiuk, Zinaida	2	Poland
Kuniec, Borys	9	Poland	Schkolnik, Valentin	46	Russian
Kuniec, Genadjusz	11 mo	Poland	Solominski, Jankel	27	Poland
Kuniec, Anna	11 mo	Poland	Sosnowska, Marja	21	Poland
Kuzmicz, Piotr	49	Poland	Szajdenfisz, Salomao	35	Poland
Kuzmicz, Antonina	42	Poland	Sznajderhaus, Jankiel	20	Poland
Kuzmicz, Jan	7	Poland	Sznurewicz, Gdal	35	Poland
Kuzmicz, Zofja	4	Poland	Sztyrenszys, Gesia	37	Poland
Kuzmicz, Sergjusz	3 mo	Poland	Sztyrenszys, Chaim	6	Poland
Langhoff, Otto	33	Poland	Tryskier, Dawid	40	Poland
Lastik, Genia	46	Poland	Tryskier, Wolf	17	Poland
Lastik, Owszyja	48	Poland	Turkiektaub, Rywen	27	Poland
Lejzen, Awrum	24	Poland	Turobiner, Majer	32	Poland
Lew, Chana	24	Poland	Tymoszek, Serkej/ Serhaj	57	Poland
Luzman, Reisla	31	Poland	Tymoszek, Feodora	45	Poland
Luzman, Chaja	6	Poland	Tymoszek, Wiera	13	Poland
Malczyk, Szmerek	34	Poland	Tymoszek, Elzbieta	11	Poland
Mitelberg, Moszek	63	Poland	Tymoszek, Jakob	7	Poland
Mitelberg, Mnecha	68	Poland	Tymoszek, Demian	2	Poland
Mokrzycki, Wojciech	47	Poland	Tyszkiewicz, Piotr	60	Poland
Mokrzycki, Marja	36	Poland	Tyszkiewicz, Nadzieja	54	Poland
Mokrzycki, Janina	4	Poland	Tyszkiewicz, Olga	32	Poland
Mokrzycki, Wladyslaw	1 mo	Poland	Tyszkiewicz, Antoni	31	Poland
Netka, Paja	24	Poland	Tyszkiewicz, Michal	29	Poland
Norymberg, Hena	26	Poland	Tyszkiewicz, Lubow	27	Poland
Nowogrodzki, Szymzel	29	Poland	Tyszkiewicz, Ludmila	25	Poland
Nowogrodzki, Szejna	26	Poland	Tyszkiewicz, Jan	24	Poland
Olijnik, Iwan	34	Poland	Wasserman, Samson	25	Poland
Paniman, Ruchla	76	Poland	Wasserman, Ruchla	25	Poland
Paniman, Basia	16	Poland	Weingarten, Eisig	37	Poland
Pickholz, Natan	25	Poland	Weremczuk, Gregori	22	Poland
Piskorski, Bartlomiej	38	Poland	Wizenberg, Cywja	21	Poland
Piskorski, Ewa	38	Poland	Woronko, Sergij	30	Poland
Piskorski, Mieczyslaw	13	Poland	Woronko, Jewfemja/ Josefinja	21	Poland
Piskorski, Genowefa	11	Poland	Wozniuk, Simon	34	Poland
Piskorski, Czeslawa	7	Poland	Wozniuk, Anna	40	Poland
Ponieman, Zeras	36	Russian	Wozniuk, Jakow	13	Poland
Ponieman, Regina	23	Russian	Zylbersztejn, Nasza	32	Poland
Ponieman, Solomon	59	Russian	Zylbersztejn, Brandla	30	Poland
Ponieman, Chana	51	Russian	Zylbersztejn, Chaja	4	Poland
Ravel, Benjamin	34	Russian	Zylko, Wlodzimierz	9	Poland
Ravel, Juana	34	Russian			

*** MTU ARCHIVES ANNOUNCES RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARDS ***

by Julie Blair <jblair@mtu.edu>

Editor—Release Date: 2/15/08

The MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections announces the winners of the 2008 Research Travel Award, making a total of twenty researchers that have been funded through the program since its start a decade ago.

This year, researchers will make use of the Archives collections in some innovative ways. Thomas Beach, an independent filmmaker, plans a visit to the Archives this spring to work on a 90-minute video documentary of the 1913 copper miners strike, using the rich array of cultural and historical resources available at the Archives.

Michelle Hamilton, from the University of Guelph, plans to researches archaeological issues related to prehistoric Native American mines as sites and early mineral exploration by white settlers. She'll give a talk on artifact collecting during her visit later this spring.

The third award goes to a collaborative team of ethnographic and genealogical researchers, Cecile Jensen, director of Michigan Polonia, and Brother Joseph Martin, Assistant to the President of Lewis University. They will look at the early Polish immigrant community in Calumet and their ties to the Posen District of Poland. Martin and Jensen will share their experiences researching in American and Polish repositories in a public presentation in June.

The Friends of the Van Pelt Library provides financial sponsorship for the Michigan Tech Archives Travel Award program and makes it possible for researchers from outside the area to explore the unique Archives' unique collections. For further information about the award program or the collections at the MTU Archives, call 487-2505.

***** TRACKING A PACKAGE OR REGISTERED LETTER EVEN BEFORE IT LEAVES A FOREIGN COUNTRY *****

by Edward David Luft <luft1111@hotmail.com>

Editor—It's been a while since Edward David Luft has sent me an item for Gen Dobry! I'm glad he could send this one, which gives a useful tip on something I frankly would not have thought possible!

When I entered the Polish registration number for a package that I had not yet received into the U. S. Postal Service package tracking number system, <http://www.usps.gov>, it told me that the package is in the system but had not yet left Poland. Note that the package was in the U. S. system even though the U. S. Postal Service had not yet received it! You should be able to do the same for a package from any country in the Universal Postal Union and going to any other country in the Universal Postal Union, which is almost all countries in the world with the probable exception of North Korea (see <http://www.upu.int/members/en/members.html>). Although the U. S. Postal Service web site told me to enter the number with all of the letters and spaced the same

way as in the original, I did not do the spacing correctly, but it still found the package. A friend has informed me that he also tracked a package from Belarus in the same manner as I tracked the one from Poland.

All you need is to wait until the day after the item has been mailed in one country (so that the package number can be entered into that country's database and can be marked for the destination country), the number of the item for registration, insurance, certificate of mailing, etc., presumably receiving that information from the sender, and access to your own country's postal web site, such as that of the United States. Most such web sites are only updated once per day. You cannot track a package for which no number was assigned.

Once the package is in the system and headed for your country, you should be able to track it even before it has left its country of origin from the shipper's web site in either the country of origin or the country of destination. The service is most likely free of charge. Some countries will even send you an e-mail every time a specific number changes status by moving to a new handler or country. Although the U. S. web site offers such a service, elsewhere it says that such a service is only for business customers, not for individual customers. I have no idea why, and although I entered the information, I received no e-mail when the information was updated.

Note that the application of the principles involved should work for packages headed in any direction and should work for DHL, UPS, FedEx, etc. as well. There are even web sites which do not require you to know which company is handling the transmission so long as you have the correct tracking number. You merely have to enter the complete number, and the web site will track the package regardless of the carrier and inform you which carrier is handling the delivery. Of course, if you know the carrier, you can always access that carrier's web site for such information. Most carriers will also disclose the information by telephone, and all of the private carriers have toll-free telephone service. Some countries' postal services also do.

Editor—Note that a complete and up-to-date list of Edward Luft's writings appears at:
<http://www.getcited.org/mbrx/PT/99/MBR/11078005>.

***** POLISH VILLAGES *****

by Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

Editor—On the Polish Genius mailing list, Debbie Greenlee posted this note about a source of info on Polish villages I had never heard of...

Based on the recommendation of someone on another list I bought the book *The Man Farthest Down* by Booker T. Washington. Yes, THE Booker T. Who knew or who remembered that he traveled abroad and wrote about in the early 1900s? There are at least three chapters in his book which describe life in Polish villages just after the turn of the 20th century.

Chapter XIII - "Cracow and the Polish Jew"

Chapter XIV - "A Polish Village"

Chapter XV - "A Russian Border Village"

Washington traveled through Europe and wrote about his impressions. Keeping in mind that Washington wrote this book in 1910 and 1911, all of these chapters give wonderful insight into Polish village life back then—though I've seen the same wagons Washington describes on the roads today.

You don't have to purchase the book. I'm sure it's at your public library or you can read it online:

<http://www.questia.com/PM.qst?a=o&d=1449600>

***** POLONIA ROARS *****

On the Polish Genius list lately, there have been a lot of notes about inaccurate or offensive references to Poles in the media. For instance, when a journalist writes an article that refers to "Polish concentration camps," implying Polish collaboration with the Nazis in their own murder, someone will post a note about it, urging members to write the editor of that publication and raise hell. Which makes sense — after all, if Polish-Americans don't complain, these slanders won't stop.

But Debbie Greenlee pointed out, with justification, that she didn't want to see the Polish Genius list overwhelmed with this sort of controversy, which tends to generate lots and lots of notes saying, essentially, "Me, too!" So she mentioned that there is a mailing list, Polonia Roars, devoted to precisely this sort of problem. She wrote, "POLONIA ROARS is a media e-activism and alert group created for the specific purpose of informing our community when swift collective action is required."

You cannot access the list, however, without an invitation from the owner. So Debbie said, "If you e-mail the list owner, Eve, she will 'invite' you and then you can sign up. E-mail Eve at: <POLONIA_ROARS-owner@yahoo.com>."

I know a lot of our readers see red when some writer includes a Polish joke in an article, or repeats lies about Poles doing this or that. It's appropriate to fight back, but you want to do it effectively. The Polonia Roars list is potentially a useful weapon in the fight.

***** UPCOMING EVENTS *****

Tuesday April 8, 2008

Next Meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group - (TUGG)

Bill Bienia will speak on “Genealogy Software Programs - Are They For The Serious Researcher?”

At the St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Ave.

From 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Contact: Jim Onyschuk <jodanji@aci.on.ca>

April 18 – 21, 2008

**UNITED POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (UPGS) SEMINAR
Salt Lake City, Utah**

We have knowledgeable speakers from Poland and the U.S., and plenty of time for library research. Please visit our blog (set up by speaker Steve Danko):

<http://upgs.wordpress.com/>

And online registration is at:

<http://upgs08.eventbrite.com/>

I’m happy to field any questions you might have.

Ceil Wendt Jensen, MA, CG
Certified Genealogist
Michigan Polonia
<http://mipolonia.net>

May 18, 2008

**MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL
2:00 p.m.**

The speaker will be Ursula Bielski, and her presentation will be “The Haunting of Mary Bregovy,” focusing on the legend of Resurrection Mary, believed to have been a young Polish and Czech girl from Back of the Yards. Ursula Bielski is the founder of Chicago Hauntings, Inc. An historian, author, and parapsychology enthusiast, she has been writing and lecturing about Chicago’s supernatural folklore and the paranormal for nearly 20 years, and is recognized as a leading authority on the Chicago region’s ghost lore and cemetery history. She is the author

of five popular and critically acclaimed books on the same subjects, all published by Lake Claremont Press. (From an e-mail sent out by Harry Kurek.)

June 6 – 23, 2008

~~TUGG'S DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS TRIP TO WESTERN UKRAINE~~

CANCELLED!

Per a note posted by Jim Onyschuk on various mailing lists on 28 March 2008:

Unfortunately the 2008 “Discover Your Roots” Tour to Western Ukraine has been cancelled due to a low response.

If you are interested in going on next year’s tour in 2009 (Friday June 5 – Monday June 22), please e-mail me <jodanji@aci.on.ca> and I will add you to our mailing list.

July 17 – 28, 2008

POLAND IN THE ROCKIES

Poland in the Rockies (PitR), the biennial international student conference launched in Canada in 2004, is now accepting applications for 2008.

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

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

Launched by the Polish Canadian Association of Calgary and the Canadian Foundation for Polish Studies in Montreal, PitR’s aim is to stimulate an interest among English-speaking Americans

and Canadians in Polish history and culture; to create a network of well-informed and dynamic friends of Poland; and to encourage Polish Americans and Canadians to integrate their identity into the mainstream of North American life—but not to lose it.

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

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

<http://www.polandintherockies.com>

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

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

August 12 - 24, 2008

HUSARIA TOUR OF POLAND

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Forwarded by Paul S. Valasek from the PolishAmericanForum.]

August 17 – 22, 2008

28TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

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

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

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

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

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

A special mini-symposium will be held on Genetics, Jewish Diseases, and the Role of Genealogists, underwritten by an educational grant from Genzyme Corporation. Speakers will include Dr. Lee Shulman, MD, Anna Ross Lapham Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chief, Division of Reproductive Genetics, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Feinberg School of

Medicine, Northwestern University; Gary Frohlich, Certified Genetic Counselor with Genzyme Therapeutics; and a representative of the Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders.

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

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

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

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

The conference Web site has a conference flyer that can be printed for publicity purposes.

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

Contact:

Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President and Chicago 2008 co-chair

Telephone: 808-395-0115 (Honolulu, HI)

E-mail: <FederLee@msn.com>

**October 2008
4th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
PLANO, TEXAS**

Uwaga! Attention!

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

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

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

<http://www.polamfound.com>

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

Hope to see you there!

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

Friday and Saturday, October 3 – 4, 2008

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

Sponsored by the Polish and Polish American Studies Program, Central Connecticut State University. We will be featuring **Dr. Stephen Morse**, who will be lecturing on “Searching the Ellis Island Database on the One-Step Web site.”

There will also be a Polish history lecture by **Dr. Mieczysław Biskupski** and a Beginner’s Workshop.

***** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES *****

<http://iajgs.org/pramc/legislation.html>

Jan Meisels Allen <janmallen@worldnet.att.net> posted a note to the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish that deserves lots of attention. She wrote, “The IAJGS along with the rest of the genealogical community are concerned that legislators and regulators believe that access to vital records is a cause for identity theft, however, there is no proof that access to records is the cause of identity theft. We believe access to public records must remain open.

“Posted on the IAJGS web site at <http://iajgs.org/pramc/legislation.html> is a link to a white paper endorsed by the IAJGS, Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and the National Genealogical Society (NGS), authored by group of professional genealogists within APG which formed the Keeping Genealogical Records Open Workgroup (KGROW).”

<http://mygenealogy.ourtoolbar.com/>

On the Herbarz mailing list, Tom Lassek <granmagranpa@bellsouth.net> mentioned this site, saying it’s “a free download for the genealogist that puts a genealogy toolbar on your Browser. Works with all Windows versions to include Vista. I wish I had such a thing years ago. It helps.” I pass the info along for what it’s worth, because as best I can tell, there’s no drawback to installing this. Still, I’m cautious when it comes to toolbars; theoretically, some might open your computer up to malware. If anyone finds that this item brings with it some unwelcome bag-

gage, please let me know so I can pass the word along. But if the toolbar is legit, some of our readers may find it useful.

<http://www.the-map-as-history.com/demos/tome03/>

On the PBS mailing list, Gerald Cierpilowski <gcierpil@comcast.net> posted this link, which gives a really nice, animated history of what happened to Europe's borders after World War I, which included the rebirth of Poland. I found it to be a short, interesting piece, one that makes a rather complicated bit of history easy to comprehend.

<http://trees.pl>

Robert Sliwinski pointed out this site, which I had not heard of before. It shows that interest in genealogy is indeed growing in Poland, which could be good news for us—it may make more Poles inclined to cooperate with genealogical researchers in all countries.

<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=2447>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list, “Galizia Forever” <vladis@mail.lviv.ua> posted this as the address for the *Księga adresowa przemysłu galicyjskiego 1901*, the 1901 Address Book of Galician Industry.

<http://www.kasperandanna.wordpress.com>

This is a blog on genealogy by Elliot Wrann, which he mentioned to me in a recent e-mail. I like to show our readers examples of the kind of cool things they can do online with their research, and this is a good example. It may encourage more folks to do likewise.

<http://ebuw.uw.edu.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=47&from=&dirids=1>

On the Herbarz mailing list, Kaj Malachowski mentioned that two classic reference works on Polish heraldry by Adam Boniecki are now available online. The one at this URL is *Poczet rodów w Wielkiem Księstwie Litewskiem w XV i XVI wieku* [List of Clans in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 15th and 16th Centuries]. Also available is Boniecki's *Herbarz Polski* [Polish Armorial] at <http://ebuw.uw.edu.pl/dlibra/publication?id=49&from=&dirids=1&tab=1>.

<http://adressbuecher.genealogy.net/Search.html>

In a recent issue of *Nu? What's New?* (Volume 9, Number 5, March 2, 2008, <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/v09N05.htm>) mentioned an index to German address books from 1699–1958 is located here. Only a limited number of years are covered for a limited number of towns. For example, for Berlin the years 1801, 1823 and 1825 are available. The index can be searched by last name, first name, place name and/or occupation. A list of all books in the system can be displayed by town, title or year.

<http://surnames.rutrin.com.ar/index.shtml>

Paul S. Valasek brought this site to my attention. It has an index of surnames in Argentina, which, you may or may not be surprised to learn, includes plenty of Poles and Czechs.

http://www.mapywig.org/viewpage.php?page_id=8

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, Roman Kałużniacki praised the authors of this site for “their efforts to recover the maps produced by the Polish Military Institute of Geography (1919-1939). They have made tremendous progress in the past two years to provide essentially complete coverage of pre-war Poland.” We’ve mentioned the Mapywig site before, but it’s worth mentioning again, as these are extremely valuable sources of info.

<http://www.pavlovics.com/lost-registers>

Also on that list, Maria <meryugan@yahoo.com.ar> she found this site with “lost records of some places in Galicia.”

<http://www.epaveldas.lt/vbspi/content/about.jsp>

On the PolandBorderSurnames list, Przemek Kisielewski <przemyslaw@verizon.net> reacted to a discussion of Lithuanian research by posting a note saying “There is great news regarding genealogy in Lithuania. Pretty soon one will see parish books without living your study or computer room.” He mentioned this URL, which is a site where one can see a number of records that have been digitized already. Later Przemek posted a note saying that “representatives of Polish Genealogical Society and regional societies from Poland are meeting with NDAP (central administration of Polish State Archives) in Warsaw next month to present point of view of Polish genealogist in this matter.”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nc_5DEHYcnc

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Ellen Moshenberg <ellenmoshenberg@gmail.com> posted this link to a video clip “Colorful Warsaw 1 - prewar.” She also posted a link to another clip on the Jewish district, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aFwtPt8ibg>.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=66560GxVv6I>

Also on that list, Bronwyn Klimach <bronklimach@gmail.com> posted a link to yet another YouTube clip, one I wouldn’t have missed for the world. She said, “It is a Polish commercial of a bank, presented exactly as it is presented on Polish TV, but you will not have any problems to understand it;-)))” Thanks, Bron! And now for something completely different...

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

On the Polish Genius list, Ray Marshall <raymarsh@mninter.net> told of discovering this site, for the The Polish American Priests Association. “The page is only a month or two old but the organization dates back to at least 2004 and they have posted four of their nice-looking an-

nual bulletins with the names of Polish bishops in the U.S. and information from various American dioceses.”

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