



# 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://polishroots.org/GenDobry/tabid/60/Default.aspx>>

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### \*\*\* POLISH SURNAME DATA COMPILATIONS \*\*\*

by Fred Hoffman <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

I've received a couple of interesting notes lately about the two websites that give data on the frequency and distribution of Polish surnames. One, <<http://www.herby.com.pl/indexslo.html>>, uses 1990 data compiled and formatted by a team under the direction of the late Polish name expert Professor Kazimierz Rymut. The other, <<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/>>, uses 2002 data compiled by Prof. Rymut and his colleagues. Each site has its pluses and minuses. The Herby site is easier to search, but the 1990 data it uses had a lot of errors. The Moikrewni site uses more accurate 2002 data, but is not as easy to search for specific names.

I've written about these sites before, because data on the frequency and distribution of a specific surname can sometimes be very helpful in research. Of course, other times, it doesn't tell you a darned thing. But checking these sites is free and not too hard; so why not give them a try?

The other day, I got a note from Rip Rapalski, who asked:

Do you know if the Polish census office (PESEL?) is going to/has published another census surname summary for the 2011 census like the Rymut did with 1990 data or Moikrewni (now MyHeritage.com) did with the 2002 data? Or is this data available elsewhere?

I sent him a note beginning with my short answer: "I don't know if there will be another such summary. I don't think the data is available elsewhere."

Then I gave an explanation in greater depth. It may be worth repeating here.

PESEL isn't exactly the census office. It's a system used by a government agency that functions somewhat like our Social Security, assigning every Polish citizen a unique ID number to be used in connection with various social programs. (Wikipedia gives some info on PESEL here: <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PESEL>>). From what I understand, PESEL has lots of data on Polish citizens that we'd love to access; but it keeps this data under very tight control, because the Polish government takes its citizens' privacy seriously. That's why I doubt the data is available elsewhere, except perhaps from hackers.

PESEL didn't publish the summaries Rip referred to. Professor Rymut did, under the auspices of the Polish Language Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków (and, for the 2002 data, the Polish Genealogical Society of America). He needed data on the frequency and distribution of Polish surnames for scholarly purposes; such data can be helpful for those studying name origins and meanings. He could have used the census, but PESEL was a better source for various practical reasons.

He was allowed access only under very specific instructions, so that he could compile data on surnames and provinces or powiaty of residence. He had the 1990 data compiled; then, once he

realized there were significant flaws in that data, he asked for and received permission to access the 2002 data. The compilation he produced is the one used by Moikrewni on its Website.

Since Prof. Rymut died some years ago, he won't be doing any updates. (You see, it's this sort of bold and insightful statement people that write to me for.) But I communicate fairly often with some of his colleagues at the Polish Language Institute, outstanding scholars in their own right. I can and will ask if they have any intention of doing a similar compilation with updated data. Of course, I will share with Rip and with our *Gen Dobry!* readers any information I obtain.

To be honest, I kind of doubt there will be more such compilations. It takes money to access and then formulate the data. The 2002 compilation Rymut did probably will suffice for most scholars' purposes for some time. Oh, a yearly update would be very nice; but who's going to pay for it?

Still, no harm asking!

Rip added a comment that I wanted to repeat because my own experience suggests he is right on the money about this.

BTW, if your surname research is working a fairly unique name, searching on Facebook may yield current potential relatives. Facebook does provide a way to privately e-mail most of the individuals. Say hi, explain your interest; worse case, they will never respond. I plan to reach out to the approximate 20 Rapalski/Rapalska I found in Poland early in 2013. I'll advise you mid-year about the results of this effort.

I think this is a very good idea! While I was working on the latest edition of my book on Polish surnames, now available from PGSA and the Polish Art Center (surely you knew I was going to find a way to work that into the conversation), I was surprised how often searches for specific surnames turned up hits on Facebook. Of course, there's no guarantee a person you find on Facebook speaks English; but the chances are good. Social media of this sort is very popular among young, hip Poles; and they're the same people most likely to be learning English in school, and happy for a chance to use it in conversation or correspondence.

I mentioned to Rip that another good social network for contacting Poles is Nasza Klasa ("Our class," <<http://nk.pl/>>). From my admittedly superficial look at this service, it's more likely to demand fluency in Polish. You also have to register, and the instructions are in Polish. My guess is that for English speakers, Facebook is the better option. It might not hurt to take a look at Nasza Klasa, however, especially if you can read a little Polish.

I also heard recently from Roman Kałużniacki, a researcher who has spent some time studying the data from the CD-ROM Rymut and the PGSA published back in 2002. He had noticed that data for specific names as given on the Moikrewni site sometimes differs significantly from that given on the CD. Rob Strybel of the Polish American Journal also pointed this out to me some years ago, noting that Moikrewni shows 205,536 Poles named Nowak, whereas the CD says there were 208,026.

I told Roman I had noticed this. As I worked on my surname book, I often checked the Moikrewni data for a specific name; but I tried very hard to remember to check the CD as well, precisely because the Moikrewni data is sometimes off. From what I've seen, most errors are fairly small; but there are cases where Moikrewni completely misses the *powiat* in which a name is most common. It's distressing to see inaccuracy in a source that is computer-driven and therefore, presumably, reliable when it comes to handling data.

I still don't know exactly what the problem is, but I have noticed a factor that shows up many times. The data on the CD sometimes has formatting inconsistencies—an extra comma, or a missing comma, or an extra line break—that seems to throw off the Moikrewni program that parses the data. As I understand it, Rymut got the appropriate raw data fields from PESEL, and he paid someone familiar with computers to format the data, to make it easier for humans to read. Thus, for instance, the original PESEL data used numerical codes to identify the individual powiaty; Rymut had these codes converted to letter codes that would presumably be easier for people to use. (I know this, because at one point, while the CD was being prepared, I told him the letter codes were somewhat hard for Americans to recognize. I asked if he'd consider whether numerical codes would work better. I could sense real pain in his reply as he explained that he'd spent a fair amount to turn those numerical codes into letters!).

I'm not surprised some mistakes were made. Maybe they were in the original data from PESEL. I suspect they were made by the person(s) who formatted that data for PDF's to put on the CD-ROM. With the massive amount of data to be manipulated, small errors could easily creep in. All I know is, when I notice one of these discrepancies and study it, more often than not, it seems to match up with minor, barely noticeable inconsistencies in formatting.

What's my point? I simply want those who use the Moikrewni data to realize there are mistakes. If it is at all possible, try to check the data before you accept it. Many researchers bought copies of the CD back when PGSA was selling it. A polite request on one of the Polish genealogy mailing lists will almost certainly turn up someone willing to find an entry, copy it, and send you the numbers. Most of the time, you'll find the error was not a big deal. But every so often, it is significant. We have to deal with human error all the time—and sometimes it shows up where we least expect it. Be vigilant!

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

Subject: Polish Genealogical Researchers

*Editor*—Debbie Greenlee's article on professional Polish genealogical researchers brought a couple of requests for more information. I passed them along to Debbie, and asked permission to publish the requests and her replies here. Presumably, some of our readers will find the information valuable. First is her reply to John Bernacki, who asked if there were any researchers who could help with work in the area of Zamość. He also asked if anyone had experience researching German immigration to the Zamość area

from the Palatinate (Pfalz) region of Germany. Here is Debbie's answer.

Zamość: I have a few researchers for you to contact. I have picked the ones who live closest to Zamość to keep your costs down. I do not know if any of them are familiar with German immigration to the Zamość area however.

Dariusz Ciekot in Lublin <[d.ciekot@wp.pl](mailto:d.ciekot@wp.pl)>  
Maciej Orzechowski in Przemyśl <[omaciej@wp.pl](mailto:omaciej@wp.pl)>  
Danusia (Danuta) Jampolska <[jampolska@wp.pl](mailto:jampolska@wp.pl)>

*Editor*—Of course, if anyone has any other suggestions that might help John, send me the info and I'll pass it along to him ... I also received a request from Mary Dashnier for a genealogist in the region of Pruchnowo. I explained there was more than one Pruchnowo, and she specified the one near Gniezno, in Wielkopolskie province, served by the Roman Catholic parish in Dębica. Debbie gave this reply.

Since Pruchnowo is in gmina Klecko, powiat Gniezno and old województwo Poznań, I think the best person for the job is Łukasz Bielecki as he lives in Poznań. See his website:

<<http://www.discovering-roots.pl/welcome.htm>>

Good luck. Please let us know how things work out.

Debbie

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Subject: Polish Genealogical Researchers

*Editor*—I also received this request for info, but it's a little different. This gentleman needs a researcher who can work in the area of Zasław, which is now Ізяслав (Izyaslav), Ukraine:

I have been trying to trace my family roots on the Boczkowski side for some time now and with very little success. I know the name of my great-grandfather and his wife (I have been able to find extensive material on his wife's side) but little on the former. What I do know with certainty is that at least 3 of his 5 children were born in Chrystówka (Chrestówka), province of Zasław between 1890 and 1895 [now Христівка (Khrystivka), Izyaslav raion, Khmelnytskyi voblast, Ukraine]. He was still alive in 1919 and active in development work with "Polskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Organu Władzy (PTPOW)" with specific responsibility for Białogródka [now Білогородка (Bilohorodka)] (close to Chrystówka). In a record of birth of one of his sons in 1894, he was listed as a resident (*mieszczanin*) of Nowogród Wołyński [now Новоград-Волинський (Novohrad-Volynskyi)], which is a little puzzling, given that the children were born in Chrystówka. Finally, my father believes that this couple was married in Berdyczów [now Бердичів (Berdychiv), Ukraine] but I have no evidence for this other than what he has said.

Thus the geographic area of my family “nest” at that time appears to be relatively narrow and focused within Volhynia. I wonder if you or any of your readers have knowledge or specialization in genealogical research in this specific Zasław area. My great grandparents were Josef Wladislaw Boczkowski and Jadwiga Victoria Czerczycka. I would appreciate any help or insight.

Richard Boczkowski

*Editor*—I wasn’t able to offer Richard much, except to suggest a good look at Matt Bielawa’s site on Galicia, <<http://www.halgai.com>>. If anyone can offer better tips, send them to me and I’ll pass them along to Richard.

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Subject: Help communicating

*Editor*—PolishRoots Webmaster Don Szumowski and I both received this request, and I thought it would be best to share it with our readers and see if anyone out there can help.

Dear Sir,

A friend with Polish origin in our Parish in Fort Saint John, B.C. Canada is helping to find somebody who would be able and willing to communicate with Priest Slawomir Laskowski in Gomel, Belarus to expand my humanitarian effort to help the very poor and in the operating of the Catholic orphanage as well as Caritas House Mother Theresa.

Your consideration in this matter is very much appreciated.

Regards,

Tony Stoeckl

*Editor*—The item in question is a two-parge letter in English that needs to be translated in Polish. If you’d like to help, contact either me or Don and we’ll send you the document, along with Mr. Stoeckl’s e-mail address.

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**\*\*\* FOREFATHERS TRACES TOURS 2012 AND PLANS FOR 2013 \*\*\***

The Forefathers Traces Tours of 2012 are behind us. The last part of it, September and October, was particularly busy. Zenon and Slav were on the road, often taking care of two independent groups of guests at the same time. As always, we shared with you a lot of moving moments while

discovering your family history on the pages of historic documents, or knocking on the doors of your, so far unknown, Polish cousins. This is invariably a wonderful experience not only for you, our friends, but also for those newly found family members, and for us as well!

We think the 2012 season is best summarized by blogs written by our honored guests and published on our Forefathers Traces Tours Blog <<http://blog.polishorigins.com/>>. The last entry is entitled “Trip of a Lifetime.” These travelogues are illustrated with pictures and sometimes short videos that give a vivid picture of the trips. More stories will appear soon on the blog.

We have received the first inquiries about research trips in 2013. The availability calendar for next year will be posted on our website soon. But there is something more we would like to propose to you in 2013.

During the many years of traveling with you, we have had the good fortune to witness how you have experienced and responded to various sights in Poland: nature, landscapes, architecture, cuisine, the traditional customs and present-day life of the Polish people, etc. These observations and conversations with you have been quite illuminating because you have often been impressed by things that had seemed quite ordinary and unremarkable to us. Through your eyes, we have looked at many things differently. Based on this invaluable experience, we have started to design the PolishOrigins Tours offer. It is specially dedicated to our PolishOrigins members.

At present, we are working on the PolishOrigins Galicia Tour. We wish to show you some unique places in Galicia (Polish territories that used to be under Austrian rule) where big tour operators rarely take their guests. We want you to learn about the rich history of the land of your forefathers not only by reading about it, but also by seeing, listening, and talking about it with others. In short, by experiencing it.

We are planning to organize this tour for small, private groups of up to 16 people plus 2 guides. If you are interested in such an adventure and would like to be among the first to receive more detailed information, including the itinerary and planned dates, please subscribe to the e-mail newsletter dedicated to this subject, PolishOrigins Tours, by clicking here <<http://polishorigins.com/12all/index.php?action=subscribe&mlt=no&nl=8>>.

Zenon & Team

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**\*\*\* GESHER GALICIA — “THE BRIDGE TO GALICIA” — UPDATE \*\*\***

*by Pamela Weisberger* <[pweisberger@gmail.com](mailto:pweisberger@gmail.com)>

Gesher Galicia, the special interest group for those researching their roots in this former Austrian province, is pleased to announce the launch of our new website as of January 1, 2013: <[www.GesherGalicia.org](http://www.GesherGalicia.org)>.



This new re-design of our previous site, engineered by our vice-president and tech wizard, Brooke Schreier Ganz, provides a clean, intuitive interface for searching the riches contained therein. Our home page provides an easy launch pad to our most popular pages and search engines: The Geshher Galicia Map Room ([www.maps.GeshherGalicia.org](http://www.maps.GeshherGalicia.org)), the All Galicia Database ([www.search.geshhergalicia.org](http://www.search.geshhergalicia.org)) and Our Cadastral Map & Landowner Records inventory ([www.Inventory.GeshherGalicia.org](http://www.Inventory.GeshherGalicia.org)). If you are not familiar with either of these innovative search engines, I suggest you start exploring now. You might be in for some surprises.

We are especially proud of our map room, which is a spin-off of the Geshher Galicia Cadastral Map and Land Owner Records Project. Many of these historic maps are truly beautiful.

As described by Brian J. Lenius, author of the *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*, “Three distinct property land surveys were conducted for all of Galicia during the Austrian period of the 18th and 19th centuries. These consisted of detailed records showing the size of land parcels, type of land, crops grown and more. The Austrian Stable Cadastral Survey of the 1830s to 1860s consisted of records and extremely detailed maps showing the smallest parcels of land, individual yards, houses, barns, roads, field plots, synagogues and even large trees. At least three versions of these maps were created at the time including a field sketch, a preliminary drafted version and the Cadastral Map in full color. At least one or more versions of these maps still exist for most villages.”

Digital images of maps in the inventory are being acquired in archives with collections covering the historic region of Galicia, in modern Ukraine, Poland, Germany, and Austria. Historic maps were often produced on multiple sheets; to display the maps here, typically the individual sheets are digitally stitched together and then tiled to simplify viewing in a web browser. The maps are grouped by scale (regional or town) plus a category of ‘special’ maps. Maps are added here as new images are collected and stitched.

Our most recent province-wide additions are:

**Tobias Conrad Lotter Map of Galicia and Lodomeria, ca. 1775** -Engraved and hand-colored “New Map of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria, with the Duchy of Bukovina,” showing towns (distinguished in four classes from fortified to ordinary to village to hamlet), postal routes, and major geographic landmarks. Annotated in French (and some Latin), and scaled in miles and toise d’ordonnance. Undated map produced by Tobias Conrad Lotter and Sons of Augsburg, Bavaria between 1772~1810, probably during Lotter’s lifetime (by 1775).

**Artaria Railway and Postal Communications Map of Austria-Hungary 1887** - A railway and postal route map of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy published by Artaria of Vienna in 1887. The map shows region borders (highlighting Galicia), towns, rail lines, and postal routes, with a detailed legend of communication lines by color and symbols. Additional features include suburban rail lines around Vienna and Budapest at roughly 5x greater scale, plus a more detailed rail network map of northern Bohemia.

**Telegraph and Telephone Network Map of the Eastern Austro-Hungarian Monarchy 1912**



- A network map of the eastern portion of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy's telegraph and telephone systems, both state and private, produced by the Telegraph Bureau of the Imperial General Staff, in 1912. Includes networks of the empire and connections to surrounding monarchies, showing towns, rail lines, telegraph and telephone lines and stations, and radio stations, plus a separate detailed map of the Kraków region networks. Major political sub-regions (including Galicia) are outlined in green.

We have cadastral maps for the following places: Belz, Bohorodczany, Bolszowce, Brody, Bukaczowce, Chodorow, Dobromil, Grzymalow, Kalush, Kopyczynce, Korolowka, Krakow, Kazimierz, Lancut, Lwow (Lemberg, Lviv), Mykulyntsi, Nienadowa, Podhajce, Polupanowka, Przemysl, Rohatyn, Romanowe Siolo, Ropyczyce, Skala, Trzcieniec, Uscieczko, Nowy Wisnicz, Zbarazh, Zborow, and Zurawno.

**The All Galicia Database** currently features almost 200,00 records from 70 different data sources, covering everything from birth, death, marriage and divorce records to phonebooks, school and landowner records. Although Gesher Galicia's focus is researching Jewish roots in this region, the diverse community sources of information in this database also contain names that span *all* the ethnic and religious groups who lived in the area, so we have a complete collection of Polish and Ukrainian community records for many towns. Gesher Galicia has recently acquired hundreds of digitized images for tax, school and voter records spanning the 1870s through the 1930s.

The searching options are as follows:

- 1. All fields are optional.** You can search by given name, by surname, or a combination of both. You can also limit your search results to a specific geographic area. And you can choose to sort your results by different criteria, if you like.
- 2. Expand and contract your records.** Click on the blue plus sign next to each of your search results to show all of the information about a given record, not just the primary names associated with it.
- 3. Use facets to narrow your search results.** You can click on the links in the sidebar to focus your search on a particular "facet", or sub-set of your search results, such as record type, town, year, etc. The facets will also help give you an overview of all information associated with your search, such as the other surnames commonly attached to the surname you queried, the towns often associated with the surname, etc.
- 4. Find phonetically similar surnames with Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching.** Use the checkbox underneath the Surname field to enable or disable this capability. We recommend enabling it, so that you can find surnames that were similar but may have had an alternate spelling in the original records.
- 5. You can use asterisks to do wildcard searches.** For example, entering SCHR\* in the surname field will show all surnames beginning with that string, such as SCHRANK, SCHREYER, etc. You can also use a wildcard (or even **multiple wildcards!**) in the

middle or the end of a name, such as \*WITZ or K\*H\*N. There is no minimum number of letters that you have to enter. Wildcards will work in the Given Name field too.

**6. Some common synonyms and kinnui for Given Names have been enabled.** For example, searching for Rebecca will also turn up matches for names like Rivka, Becky, etc. A search for Hersch will find spelling variants like Hers and Hirsch, but also Tvi and Zvi. Learn more about Jewish given names and kinnui here: <<http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/GivenNames/>>

**Map that town!** If your record results show a modern-day town name underlined in light blue, click that link to show a helpful pop-up map of the area.

The Cadastral Map & Landowner Records Project will now be included under the “umbrella” of a larger, all-encompassing research project entitled:

**The Galician Archival Records Project (GARP)**

The components or sub-sets will be:

- Cadastral Map & Landowner Records Project (CMLR)
- Voter, School, Tax and Tabula Registers Records Project (VSTTR)
- Vital Record & Census Project (VRC)
- Polish Magnates Record Project (PMR)
- Austrian State Archives Project (ASA)
- Stanislawow 1939 Census Project (S1939)

All of these projects are community-wide initiatives containing records for anyone who lived in a particular town. Below is a listing of town for which we've acquired maps, records or both: Berezhany, Bobrka (Bibrka), Bo-lechow (Bolekhiv), Bolszowce (Bilshivtsi), Boryslaw (Boryslav), Brody, Buczacz (Buchach), Bukaczowce (Bukachivtsi), Chodorów (Khodoriv), Czarnolozce (Chornoloztsi), Czeremchow (Cheremkhiv), Czortków (Chortkiv), Dora, Drohobycz (Drohobych), Gliniany (Hlyniany), Grzymalów (Hrymaliv), Gwozdziec (Hvizdets), Hankowce (Hankivtsi), Horodenka, Horozanka (Horozhanka), Kalusz (Kalush), Kniyhynicze (Kniyhynychi), Komarno, Kopyczynce (Kopychintsy), Krystynopol (Khrystynopil), L'viv (Lwow, Lemberg), Mosciska (Mostys'ka), Nadworna (Nadvirna), Nienadowa, Obertyn, Pavshivka (Pauszowka), Podhajce (Pidhaitsi), Podniestrzany (Pidnistriany), Peremyshliany, Rohatyn, Rozdol, Rozluch (Rozlucz), Rozniatow (Rozhniativ), Skala, Stare Miasto, Strzeliska Nowe (Strilychi Novi), Suchostaw (Sukhostav), Swirz (Svirzh), Ulaszkowce (Ulaskivtsi), Uscie Biskupie (Ustie Episkopske), Uscieczko (Ustechko), Zbarazh (Zbaraz), Zurawno (Zhuravno).

To learn exactly which records have been acquired, check our inventory page: <[www.inventory.GesherGalicia.org](http://www.inventory.GesherGalicia.org)>. We are updating this page weekly, so if you can't find specifics, feel free to contact Gesher Galicia president and research coordinator, Pamela Weisberger: <[pweisberger@gmail.com](mailto:pweisberger@gmail.com)>.

The way our program works is that IF we already have photographed record books, you can get a password to view these files by making a contribution to our program. If you want to fund a town project, you must be a member of Gesher Galicia – starting at \$25 a year – and if you (or a group of individuals) contribute \$250 to start a project, Gesher Galicia will add a \$250 matching grant, after which we hire a researcher in Ukraine or Poland to inventory your town and then start acquiring records or maps. We have people working for us all year round to add to our acquisitions, and we are also working with archives in Israel and Vienna to add to our offerings. More detailed information can be found on our research project pages found on the drop-down menu on our website.

We welcome all Galician researchers to become part of Gesher Galicia and join with us in bringing overseas archives to our online portal. Come check us out!

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### **\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\***

**October 23 – 26, 2013**

#### **CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL 2013 GENEALOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) will hold its 14th Genealogical and Cultural Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois, October 23–26, 2013.

Hotel reservations can now be made for the Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois. Click on the Reserve icon when you get to the Hotel page.

The keynote speaker will be our own Paul S. Valasek! Other notable speakers are Lisa A. Alzo, Grace DuMelle, Leo Baca, Lou Szucs, and many more.

For more information on the program, see this Web page:

<<http://www.cgsi.org/content/2013-genealogical-and-cultural-conference-program>>

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**November 13 – 14, 2013**

#### **POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE**

The 2013 Conference will be held at the Hilton Lisle in Naperville, Illinois. In the months ahead, the Website, <<http://www.pgsa.org>>, and the *PGSA Notebook* will post additional details.

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### \*\*\* MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES \*\*\*

<<http://content.library.ccsu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/cpaa>>

Bernie Olender posted a note to the Polish Genius list on Central Connecticut State University's collection of documents on Polish American history online. "Since its establishment in 1986, the Connecticut Polish American Archives has collected many ephemeral publications that are placed in its vertical file. Materials include anniversary booklets, convention materials, programs of concerts, celebrations, reunions, dedications, dinners, balls, and testimonials. These publications may contain historical essays, photographs, and membership lists. A significant part of many of these pamphlets is devoted to advertisements by local businesses and prominent members of the community along with lists of contributors, donors, committee members, and congratulatory letters." They can be found at the above URL.

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<<http://stephendanko.com/blog/7937>>

Researcher Len Jakubczak wrote to call my attention to this blog entry, "Describing Place Names in Poland -- a Summary." Len said, "It and its links cover all the various phases of pre-partition and partitioned 'Poland' up to World War I, giving the history, rationale and examples appropriate to each of those phases. Although not brand new (you may have already cited it), it's revolutionizing my citation practice." I may or may not have mentioned it before, but it's certainly worth mentioning again.

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<[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2012/11/warsaw-indianas-oakwood-cemetery-graves-are-now-online.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2012/11/warsaw-indianas-oakwood-cemetery-graves-are-now-online.html)>

The November 12 issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN] mentioned this link under the headline "Warsaw, Indiana's Oakwood Cemetery Graves Are Now Online." Dick Eastman talks about a description from Stacy Page's blog of a new online database of the burials in the Oakwood Cemetery in Warsaw, Indiana. Dick wrote, "With the assistance of the Kosciusko County Historical Society, Oakwood Cemetery has photographed and mapped 95 percent of its 70 acres and 18,000 graves. The database is online and available to the public. It also includes GPS locations of each tombstone." I figured a cemetery in Warsaw mapped by the Kosciusko County Historical Society must surely mention a few Poles!

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<<http://www.geni.com/projects/Jewish-Families-of-Krakow-Poland/12917>>

The November 4 issue of *Nu? What's New?* told of a project started on Geni.com that seeks to connect all Jewish families from Kraków on to one family tree. More information can be obtained on this Web page.

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<<http://students.cs.byu.edu/~jbejran/FastFilm>>

The November 18 issue of *Nu?* gave this link for info on software called FastFilm that lets you download batches of digital images from the FamilySearch collection. The procedure to make the software operational is located at this page. *Nu?* editor Gary Mokotoff said he found

the video with instructions too technical to understand. Gary's a smart man, and if it's too tough for him, it may be more than most of us care to tackle. Still, no harm in spreading the word, so that those who want to take a swing at it can do so.

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<<http://tinyurl.com/LehrerTab>>

I may be the only one who finds this interesting, but I loved it. The November 25th issue of *Nu?* mentioned the story available on this page of a blog by Gershon Lehrer. Apparently an academy based in Moscow discovered a tablet with some strange writing on it. After detailed study, the academy's scholars decided it was a dialectal Russian-language inscription with a mix of Cyrillic, archaic Greek, and Latin characters. Then this killjoy Lehrer pointed out that if you just turn the tablet upside down, it's clearly a Jewish tombstone written in Hebrew!

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<<http://genealogyindexer.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=14&t=3073>>

A note posted to the JewishGen newsgroup by Logan Kleinwaks dealt with the Kraków census of 1910, and also part of the 1900 census, available on his site, "thanks to the Małopolska Digital Library and the Polish State Archive in Kraków. To learn how to find people using the indices, please see [the above URL]." There are also direct links to the collections of images.

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<<http://tinyurl.com/bbeu55y>>

Another note posted to JewishGen, by Howard Orenstein, Ph.D., dealt with an article on Poles who have begun to look at Polish Jewish history as part of their own cultural heritage. The article is by Katarzyna Markusz, a photo-journalist from Sokołów Podlaski, Poland. "She created a project, 'Missing,' a collection of cleverly juxtaposed old and new photographs related to Jewish heritage in order to save community memories for the next generation and to keep them alive in the current generation."

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<<http://www.nmap2015.com/>>

The November 2012 issue of *PGSA Notebook* gave information on the National Museum of the American People, called "the most important American museum that doesn't exist ... yet." There is a coalition calling for a bipartisan commission to study establishment of the museum. It has support from national Polish American organizations such as the Polish American Congress and The Kosciuszko Foundation; so presumably, it would include significant attention to Polish Americans. This URL will take you to the coalition's Website so you can judge whether this is something you want to become a supporter.

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<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfHuVEDjnc&feature=related>>

Tom Flis, the Webmaster of PGSA's Website, sent this link to some friends, and I thought it worth passing along. It's about how Poland was the only country in the European Union that saw its economy grow throughout the recent financial crisis. The video is in English, and lasts nearly half an hour.

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