



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>>

*** EPIDEMIOLOGY AND GENEALOGY: FOLLOW-UP ***

by Paul S. Valasek, DDS <hallersarmy@aol.com>

Last month, I wrote an article on epidemiology and genealogy, discussing the cholera epidemic that ravaged one of my ancestral towns in 1866. More information has surfaced since that writing, and I received several e-mails asking for further material. So I am writing this second article.

No sooner had I sent Fred Hoffman the first article, stating that I could not check some other dates for epidemics in Blatnice, Moravia, than the Brno Archives put two of the three missing files online. Not only was I excited by quickly adding another 400 members to my tree, but I now could check on records from 1785 through the 1840s.

One link I had listed in my previous article was for a chart of epidemics that ravaged Europe through the past centuries (at least those which had been recorded). I remember seeing the year 1831 and wondered what effects it had on Blatnice, located about 75 miles northeast of Vienna.

Searching the records again for cause of death, cholera, I looked over 1831 and quickly started seeing deaths by “cholera morbus.” All fine and good, but in 1866 it was listed as cholera—what was this cholera morbus? *Morbus* is Latin for disease. The Roman poets often personified Morbus as a netherworld demon who brought pestilence (according to Wikipedia). There appeared to be a difference so once again, we use our research tool of Google (or any other search engine you like), and type in “cholera morbus.” The following comes up:

Cholera morbus

The term “cholera morbus” was used in the 19th and early 20th centuries to describe both non-epidemic cholera and other gastrointestinal diseases (sometimes epidemic) that resembled cholera. The term is not in current use, but is found in many older references. The other diseases are now known collectively as gastroenteritis.

So it appears we have a slightly different disease ravaging the countryside. Let’s look once again at the chart of diseases here:

<<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/myadel/Pandemics.htm>>

We see the areas affected in 1831 include Poland; German States, Russia, and Galicia are singled out. But when reading more about it, we see that they have added the plague, and I also have seen influenza added to the mix. Instead of one very nasty creature called cholera, cholera morbus appears to be a multi-headed death machine. All three of these illnesses can give you similar symptoms, and thus could be confused without proper microbiological tests. But needless to say, each may cause death in a similar way.

Returning to the records for Blatnice, and centering on the year 1831, I went through the years 1825 through 1835 for a 10-year scan. The following totals for deaths were:

1825 = 44
1826 = 50
1827 = 63
1828 = 71
1829 = 32
1830 = 74

1831 = 118
1832 = 41
1833 = 30
1834 = 59
1835 = 43

Though we have a few increased peaks in death (1828 and 1830) we once again see the spike in 1831 of more than double many of the surrounding years. Since we now know that the second cholera epidemic went through the area in 1831, a spike is what should be expected.

Let's look now at the individual death records. If you remember from the 1866 study, there was absolute dominance of cholera causing all of the deaths for about two months exclusively.

Starting in January of 1831, causes of death appear to be varied and no single illness predominates. The first sign of what was to come is listed on July 8, 1831, with cause of death listed as dysentery. Indeed, this may have been pure dysentery or a number of other diseases associated with gastrointestinal illnesses. The next listing of dysentery is over a month later, on August 24th, followed by a third case on September 12th. All of these may be considered normal for a rural village in the 1830s where central plumbing is unavailable, farm animals are in every home, and horses and cows walk up and down the streets leaving "remembrances" behind. Every house relied on a well that usually pulled water up from a natural underground reservoir—hopefully deep enough to keep the surface waste away. From my own visit in 1974, when most people still used wells, there was most distinctly a difference in taste between everyone's wells. Uncle John, the butcher, had the best tasting and coldest water, possibly due to the fact that he had a butcher shop and I would have to believe his well was extra deep to avoid surface contamination. (He also was the only one who had a brick outhouse, plastered and covered with pages of graphics to peruse while one was taking care of business.)

The first sign of trouble is the death listed on October 9, 1831. Cause of death was first listed as dysentery, but then cholera morbus was added. At this time, we would have to assume that what was considered as dysentery would now become something more deadly. The next six deaths are listed as cholera morbus, but then a death from another reason is listed. 13 more cholera deaths follow, then interrupted by three non-cholera deaths. This pattern goes through the rest of the year, some cholera, some non-cholera, until December, when we have two deaths listed as simply dysentery and no more cholera appears. No deaths in 1830 or 1832 have cholera or cholera morbus as the cause of death.

Cholera morbus is a disease which is loosely grouped and may be masked as cholera, plague, gastroenteritis, dysentery, and even influenza. Without proper laboratory tests, we cannot assume all of these diseases were exactly what they were labeled, seeing that all diagnosis was made by visual exams of the symptoms. I know there was never a hospital in Blatnice, not even sure if there was a resident physician in town with a house/ clinic setting or simply a practitioner who made house calls. The two larger towns of Uherské Hradiště and Uherský Brod undoubtedly had physicians in them and possibly some form of hospitals or clinics. Herbal and homemade remedies

were used to try to cure the ill. But in the end, it usually turned out to be survival of the fittest that eliminated the proliferation of the disease, coupled with a hard freeze to kill the deadly rampant bacteria, which thrive in the warmer, moist weather of summer and fall.

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

Subject: Epidemiology and Genealogy

Editor—Actually, these aren't letters to me, but rather to Paul Valasek. His article on epidemiology and genealogy provoked some of the best notes we've ever received. I thought it was a good idea to pass them along, as they might be interesting or useful to other readers. And they made good companion pieces for Paul's follow-up, see above. If you wish to contact any of these folks, write me at <wfh@langline.com> and I'll forward your note.

While doing my research for family in Galicia, I have come across people dying from cholera in 1831 and again in 1844 in Jodłówka, Poland. I will have to look through more of my records to see if there were any other villages in which this happened.

Julie Crawford

I was very interested in your article on epidemics. Your research and conclusions were very compelling.

My second great-grandmother, Katarzyna Gołębiowska, died of consumption (TB) in August 1855 in Niedomice, near Tarnów, Poland. However, a review of the death records for that year (summer of 1855) shows that Niedomice suffered through a terrible cholera epidemic. Of the 47 deaths for the year, 31 died during the epidemic; some entire families were wiped out or nearly so. This must have been devastating for a small village.

There was also an epidemic in 1690 in Northampton, Massachusetts, probably a flu of some sort, that killed both white settlers and Indians. Several of my ancestors died there as well.

Thanks for a well-done article.

Sharon Haskin Galitz, Surprise, Arizona

For some time I have been extending my research of Evangelical families in villages around Suwałki, and following them to USA, esp. Chicago and Scranton. I had also decided to keep a bit of an eye on statistics (see sample below). Unlike you, I have not found any entries listing cause of

death. However I have found a rather different “peak” at 1861, and would need to go back to the records to see if they cluster around a couple of months (likewise for 1865). These records cover many small villages over quite an area, but go through phases of grim reading for some families for which I had assumed the cause of multiple deaths was probably some kind of waterborne or other infectious disease.

Year	B	M	D	
1829	30	63	21	
1830	35	43	59	
1831	42	55	71	
1832	38	75	37	
1833	28	54	48	
1834	35	72	64	
1835	31	56	46	
1836	41	60	40	
1837	27	66	46	
1838	51	59	84	
1839	69	91	82	FHL Film 0752615
1840	54	76	73	[Also FHL Film 1196491 B1840-1846]
1841	67	102	123	
1842	133	144	144	[Also FHL Film 1196498 M1842-1853]
1843	143	118	77	
1844	92	48	65	
1845	79	38	142	
1846	82	66?	121	
1847	150	53	–	No 1847 Death records; no 1847 Civil duplicates
1848	89	42	88	FHL Film 0752616
1849	141/2	48	98	D97 entries in Index - one missed?
1850	103	40	69	
1851	112	45	68	
1852	119	48	102	
1853	119	44	84	
1854	110	34	136	
1855	–	37	–	No Civil Registers [FHL Film 1196499 M1853-1873]]
1856	137	41	50	
1857	116	55	65	
1858	147	33	86	
1859	140	42	87	FHL Film 0752617
1860	142	30	70	
1861	152	48	135	
1862	144	52	59	
1863	160	30	59	
1864	154	44	64	
1865	152	47	94	
1866	151	44	59	FHL Film 1191981

1867	121	25	62	
1868	135	32		Deaths missing???
1869	22	97		FHL Film 1191982

I've enjoyed your article; if you have any 1861 ideas I would certainly hope to hear them! And the 1842 doubling of the number of marriages? An unprovable baby boom 20 years before, emigration, other?? Or I am working with too small a sample from which to draw conclusions? In terms of border skirmishes and battles, Suwałki was in a rather unfortunate position.

Bronwyn Klimach

I too was stunned one year by this phenomena of an extraordinary number of deaths. I had done surveys of the parish (birth counts, death counts, marriage counts). Now one year was off the charts. It was 1831! I know the disease was cholera because it was noted in the parish records. Half of ALL deaths that year were cholera (probably would have been more if they were all properly categorized).

Do you know that one of my ancestors (not direct line) had died and they did not even know the date when he had died. It was an end of year notation. Now I was perusing again the wonderful beginners' genealogy guide, *Polish Roots*, by the Toledo genealogist Rosemary Chorzempa. Do you know she had a chart of the various pandemics in there and 1831 was the first Asiatic Cholera? I could only see the data in Biechów, because LDS did not have microfilm for Pacanów before 1875.

My ancestors came from Biechów and Pacanów (old woj. Kielce, presently Świętokrzyskie) which are just north of the Vistula (the dividing line between Russian-Poland and Austria-Poland) and were Russian Poles.

I once undertook a survey of house numbers and who lived there in Biechów (hence my detailed understanding of the village).

<<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~meliasz/biechow/BiechowVillageHouses.htm>>

I have a spreadsheet that shows the counts by year and how they were out of proportion to the other years.

This data was extracted from LDS Microfilm #0936664 (which contained only death registers for 1812-1860, with many missing years). You are very welcome to publish this in *Gen Dobry!*

Most years, the number of dead roughly equals the number born, with births usually a bit larger (i.e., slow growth). In 1831, there were only 46 births recorded. So the 232 deaths seems out of all proportion. In 1831, there were two final deaths recorded after the parish priest had closed the books for the year. One of these was my ancestor; neither of these "late adds" had a death date.

Now this is odd because in other years, if a late birth or marriage or death were found, a date was still recorded for the event. It would seem to me that they did not know when these two died (both of which had died from cholera).

The 1812, 1814, 1815 deaths seem a bit high, but no indication of disease. It would appear these might be soldiers dying in war for/against Napoleon. Later years (≥ 1850) the data seems to be sporadically missing within the year, so these numbers should not be used for population/demographics.

Here is my survey on Biechów parish (powiat Stopnica, part of Kraków Department before 1830, then Kielce woj. afterwards) pasted here:

Year	B	M	D	
1829	30	63	21	
1830	35	43	59	
1831	42	55	71	
1832	38	75	37	
1833	28	54	48	
1834	35	72	64	
1835	31	56	46	
1836	41	60	40	
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1868	135	32		Deaths missing???
1869	22	97		FHL Film 1191982

C. Michael Eliaz

Editor—Thanks to all who wrote. I think Paul was really gratified to get this kind of substantive response to his article. When you're interested in a particular subject, it's always great to hear that others are, too.

***** FORMER POLISH LABOR LEADER VISITS REUTHER LABOR LIBRARY IN DETROIT *****

by Raymond Rolak

Editor—While Lech Wałęsa's visit has already taken place, I think readers will want to know about the exhibit at the Reuther Library, which runs through next July.

Pope John Paul II and Ronald Reagan Front and Center in New Exhibit

DETROIT—Lech Wałęsa, former President of Poland, spoke at the opening of the new exhibit “Solidarnosc: Poland’s Struggle for Freedom” exhibit at the Walter P. Reuther Labor Library at Wayne State University. Pope John Paul II and U.S. President Ronald Reagan are featured prominently in the presentations. It is the 30-year anniversary of Solidarity [Solidarność] and Wayne State will run the displays until July 1, 2011.

Wałęsa also talked about the influence that the Reverend Jerzy Popiełuszko had on the unity of Solidarity. Popiełuszko was a Roman Catholic priest in Poland, associated with union. In 1984, he was murdered by agents of the Polish communist internal intelligence agency because of his motivational sermons at Sunday Mass. Wałęsa also talked about his own imprisonment by the communist regime because of union organization and the loss of friends in the Smolensk plane crash recently, including President Lech Kaczyński.

During a preview luncheon at the WSU McGregor Memorial Conference Center, Wałęsa had a strong labor message of unity. The former leader of Solidarity and U.S. Senator Carl Levin of Michigan (D) got a chance to share ideas and reminisce. Said Senator Levin, “I was delighted to meet once again with President Wałęsa this week and to help welcome him to Michigan. I have

long admired his courage and tenacity and his historic role in defeating communism and bringing freedom to the people of Eastern Europe. When I visited with him in Poland in 1988, I was honored to bring messages of support from people of Michigan. When he was elected president two years later, it was a great victory over totalitarianism and for free trade unions. It was great to chat with him about the current state of the world.”

Beforehand, Wałęsa spoke about the Solidarity movement in Poland. He said, “We didn’t have guns or missiles, but we had spirit and faith—and union workers need to act as one when facing foes that want to drive them apart. The spirit is stronger than missiles, tanks and nuclear power.”

Wałęsa was very open and his words verified the help Solidarity got from former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and from Pope John Paul II. “When Pope John visited Poland, it was more powerful than nuclear weapons and tanks,” he said. “Pope John unified the factions, he brought us together ... We got financial help from the unions in America, we could not have succeeded without the overseas help,” Wałęsa added.

The Reuther Labor Library Director, Michael Smith, and staff documented the history of the turbulent time period. What was especially noteworthy was the display of vintage posters. Poster art is a big genre in Poland, and the exhibit is presented in both Polish and English. Archivists Dan Golodner, Elizabeth Clemens, and librarian Kristen Chinery put on view informative displays with compelling information. “We got great help from the Polish Mission in Orchard Lake, Michigan, the AFL-CIO, the American Federation of Teachers and the United Auto Workers,” said Golodner. “They had great stuff from thirty years ago.”

Smith, who went to Poland last year to authenticate items and document first-person accounts, got great assistance from local historians and labor activists also.

“In the new era of globalization, there is opportunity for peace and prosperity, providing we have some essential reform,” he added. He was folksy with humor and joked about Polish democracy. “We have over a 100 political parties in Poland and there is a saying ... when two Poles talk politics, they start another political party,” he said, smiling.

“We are equal under God. We are all essentially needed. We cannot have disproportions between countries or manufacturing plants will transfer from country to country,” he added.

Special visitors to the opening of the exhibit were Marcin Chumiecki of the Polish Mission at Madonna College, Piotr Cywiński of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum in Poland, Artur Patek of the University of Kraków-Jagiellonian University, and Wanda Strozyk, President of Solidarity-Fiat. Strozyk commented on current union situations in Detroit, “To the Flight Attendants (AFA-CWA) at Delta Airlines, vote and support the union,” she said. “It is a no-brainer. With the union, labor can exercise their rights,” she added.

Sebastien Szczepański translated for Strozyk. “Unity is the key for success,” added Wałęsa.

Both Wałęsa and Strozyk were aware of the Flight Attendant’s vote that is currently in progress

at NWA-Delta Airlines. It affects over 50,000 F/A's and Delta is now the largest commercial carrier in the world. The labor leader was ably assisted by translator Magda Iwińska. Wałęsa was in New York recently for an ironworkers rally in Times Square. He will next travel to Chicago for a political fundraiser.

The Reuther Labor Library was named after the longtime head of the U.A.W. (1946-1970). He was famous for raising the standard of living in Middle America and was famous for a special non-labor quote, "There is no greater calling than to serve your fellow man. There is no greater contribution than to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well." Reuther and his wife May were killed in a 1979 plane crash near Pellston, Michigan.

"Solidarnosc: Poland's Struggle for Freedom" can be viewed at the Walter P. Reuther Labor Library on the Wayne State University campus. It is located at 5401 Cass Avenue, across from the Detroit Main Public Library. It will be at the library until July 1. Hours are 11 a.m. - 6:45 p.m. Monday and Tuesday and 9a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.

(Note: Raymond Rolak is an aviation writer and attended Wayne State University)

Editor—Incidentally, the Piast Institute <www.piastinstitute.org> announced that it had proclaimed October Polish Heritage Month in Michigan. I'm sorry I didn't hear about this in time to include it in last month's *Gen Dobry!*, but I want to thank Tom Malek for sending me the announcement so I can mention it now.

***** AGREEMENT BETWEEN JRI-POLAND AND MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS *****

by Stanley Diamond, Executive Director, for the Board of JRI-Poland

Editor—This note was posted on the JewishGen discussion group.

We are delighted to announce that Jewish Records Indexing-Poland and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews have signed an agreement where each of JRI-Poland's "Your Town" pages will have a link to the Museum's Virtual Shtetl pages for the same towns, and vice versa.

This will enable those reading about their town in the Museum's Virtual Shtetl site to learn about surviving records for their families by clicking on the link to the JRI-Poland page for the same town.

There will be more than 1,000 linked towns and villages.

The JRI-Poland site is at <<http://www.jri-poland.org/index.htm>>. It contains an index to more than four million records of the Jewish presence in Poland, mostly birth, marriage, and death records.

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews will open in 2012 on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto. Its Internet site is at <<http://www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/index.php?lang=en>>.

More information about the signing can be found at:

<<http://www.sztetl.org.pl/en/cms/news/872,a-cooperation-between-jewish-records-indexing-and-museum-of-the-history-of-polish-jews/>>

and

<http://www.cjnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20004&Itemid=86>

***** DON'T OVERLOOK OLD PHOTOS! *****

by Ross Johnson (contact Editor to forward any notes you wish to send Ross)

Editor— Ross Johnson sent me this note, with an idea for a future article. I told him I'll see if I can find someone who can write such an article. In the meantime, what Ross wrote is not bad at all!

I have a suggestion for a future article, not specifically related to our Polish heritage but for all genealogists.

Recently I was able to enjoy the pleasant experience of reuniting family living 400 miles away, with some very old photos I acquired in a local garage sale. The photos were in a bi-fold frame, and were very well labeled with first and last names and even a maiden name, photo dates (1878 no less), birth years (1851 & 1853) and even Grampa xxxxx parents. Some family member had been very cognizant of the importance of this info, and it inspired me to buy these and look for living family members. The owner of the garage sale didn't know how these photos came into her possession, nor did she recognize any of the names when I discovered them on the back.

After a few days searching on various Websites (such as Ancestry.com, Rootsweb, etc.), I found a family tree with these names and dates. A quick hop, skip, and jump put me in touch with living family, who were dumbfounded when I contacted them. I told them I expected nothing in return, other the wonderful feeling of reuniting family who had been "Lost in Oblivion" and their assurances that these treasures remain safely with family. (BTW, they have no family near Chicago and could not figure out why or how the photos were here.)

Two lessons for us all here:

1. Label your photos well, with at least some basic info. When we are gone, how many of our children or grandchildren would ever recognize photos of our parents and grandparents? At that

point, these our family become “Lost in Oblivion” and the photos will be discarded or be sold to strangers in a garage sale for the \$1 price of the frame. Labeling the photos will at least give our ancestors a chance of remaining with family.

2. Cyndislist.com has a “Photos - Lost & Found” list with many, many links. One of the links led to a wonderful May/June 2003 *Ancestry Magazine* article written by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak titled “Returning Lost Heirlooms.” Perhaps you can get the OK to reprint this article. It is a wonderful read, as long as we understand some of the referenced Websites may not exist seven years after it was published.

The link to the article is:

<http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=7643&cj=1&o_xid=0001029688&o_lid=0001029688>

No longer will I stop at garage sales looking for tools or gadgets without also checking out the old bibles & photos.

***** TEACH YOURSELF POLISH *****

by Debbie Greenlee

Editor—On the Polish Genius mailing list, Debbie Greenlee responded to a question about CDs that help you teach yourself Polish. I thought her comments were worth repeating for those who didn’t see them.

Several years ago I bought a series of “Polska Mowa, Polish Language For Beginners” workbooks from Polish Art Center:

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

I really like them because I can learn words of individual items, learn to use them in a sentence, etc. “Czy to jest kreda?” Tak, to jest kreda.” “Is this ...?” “This is...”

This is not to say that you will become fluent in Polish, though. I think that takes immersion and speaking every day. However, I think it’s important to know how to spell the words you say. I think eventually you will recognize when a letter needs a diacritical, for example. One day, it will just dawn on you! “Hey, that L needs to have a slash through it because the word ‘sounds’ better that way!”

I think using CDs or cassettes (check out used bookstores!) and workbooks will go a long way to helping you learn the language and impress your Polish friends and relatives.

I am not sure that buying an expensive Polish language course is worth it if you don’t plan on

moving to Poland. I think you need to weigh the cost of the CDs vs. the time and effort you really are willing to expend.

I bought a cassette tape once that was only vocabulary. On one side the teacher said the Polish word first and then the English word and I was to repeat it. On the flip side the teacher said the English word first and then the Polish word and I was to repeat it. I would use this in my car. The problem was that when I'd get back into the car I never knew if the teacher was saying the Polish word first or the English word first so I'd have trouble figuring out if he was saying that *styczeń* was a bus or January.

I also do not shy away from written/typed Polish. Though I can't translate everything I read, sometimes I can get the gist.

St. Mary of the Angels school in Chicago recently stopped their Polish language classes for the students (mostly a Hispanic school now). I wonder if you could buy some materials from them? Tell 'em I sent you. ;)

If you read about my last trip to Poland then you might remember Karol, the groom. Karol speaks and understands English very well but his written English is not good. When he writes, it's in Polish phonetics. If I was not very familiar with how Polish letters and words are pronounced, I wouldn't be able to read Karol's English.

For example, see if you can figure out why he spelled the words the way he did:

“Halo.
Haw are you.
We are fain.
In Poland is wery cold now.
And haw is the wether in Texas.
I have now realy mach work in school, I have hard exams in 01.2006r.
Bat I'm hapy becouse I end school in april.
Waleria fill wery good.
She is wery energetic.
My parents all the taim are in work.
We get the packet from you we fenks you wery mach.
we send kisses and good wishes to you.”

Editor—A follow-up note was posted by Rev. Dr. Dave Poedel, STS:

Before our mission trip to Świętochłowice this past July, I took the plunge and bought the expensive Rosetta Stone Polish Level 1 & 2. I had a lot of technical issues with the program on my Mac laptop, but it is an excellent program. I have zero language aptitude, so in spite of my best efforts, I knew very little Polish when I arrived.

Polish uses so many words to say something that I could not keep up with folks like clerks

in stores, etc. Wearing a clerical collar opens many doors in Poland, and everywhere I went I received welcome and they usually could find someone who spoke some English. Many Poles speak English but are afraid to use it for fear they will get it wrong, much as I felt when I wanted to try my Polish.

So, beyond the hello and goodbye, two weeks immersed in Poland didn't give me any proficiency whatsoever. Since we are planning to return to Silesia next year, I have Rosetta Stone on my Mac and I pull out level 1 and start over every couple of weeks ... I am determined to get somewhat conversant by next July. Pray for me!

Editor—Debbie and Fr. Dave both make good points. Teaching yourself Polish is hard to do; developing fluency requires total immersion, communicating only in Polish constantly. But even that doesn't guarantee success. There's nothing quite like the feeling of despair you get when, after many hours of careful steady and preparation, you plunge into your first real, live conversation with a Pole—and lose what he or she is saying after a sentence or two! It's a little like being in deep water and realizing, "Well, darn, apparently I can't swim, after all." Teach-yourself CDs and tapes can help you, but the only thing that really works is to plunge into an environment where you have to speak Polish or go hungry! The good thing is, once you get used to the sheer speed with which native Poles speak, you start recognizing words and phrases. At that point, what you learned earlier will start to kick in, and you'll make rapid progress. But the first few days, or weeks, can be tough....

*** + **JIM JANKOWICZ** + ***

Editor—Also on the Polish Genius list, Debbie posted this note. Eve Jankowicz has written some fine articles and online notes about Polish genealogy and history, and I was very sorry to hear her husband has passed on. *Cześć jego pamięci!*

I am very sad to tell you that Eve Jankowicz's husband, Jim Jankowicz, died Thursday morning after a long fight with cancer.

Jim was the father of three children, the youngest of whom will be graduating from college in May and the grandfather of two grandchildren.

Eve is one of our long-time members who has been very helpful on this list as well as on other lists.

If you would like to express your condolences privately, please feel free to e-mail Eve at [<Eve5J@aol.com>](mailto:Eve5J@aol.com).

If you wish to send a card through the mail, contact me off list and I will give you her home address.

Debbie

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

November 14, 2010

Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of America

“Finding Grandma’s Ancestors,” a presentation by Steve Szabados.

Mr. Szabados now has over 17,000 names of his ancestors (and he started in 2004!). He is a member of the Czech & Slovak American Genealogy Society of Illinois, Polish Genealogical Society of America, Illinois State Genealogical Society, and the National Genealogical Society. His roots are Polish and Hungarian, and he has researched German, Irish, English, Scottish, Slovenian, and Bohemian records.

His presentation will focus on how to find the vital records for your ancestors in the “old country.” Steve will discuss how he found the Polish records for his grandmother’s ancestors and tips he used to translate them. Steve will also discuss sources for the records for a few other countries.

Steve will also share some resources that go beyond the traditional documents that has enabled him to gather documents, pictures and information that has enriched his understanding and knowledge of his heritage.

The presentation will be applicable for researchers of all European backgrounds and not just those of Steve’s ancestry.

[From an e-mail note sent out by Harry Kurek]

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November 17, 2010

**MEETING OF THE EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
WINNIPEG, MB, CANADA**

Date: November 17, 2010

Time: 07:00-09:30 p.m.

Location: University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Ave. Winnipeg Mb., Bryce Hall, Room 2B22. Bryce Hall is to the east of the ‘castle like’ building (Wesley Hall) that faces Portage Ave. Entrance through doors facing Wesley Hall in passageway

between the two buildings. (Plenty of street parking available or in the IM-Park lot north of the Holiday Inn (old bus depot).

Presenter: Alexander Freund

Title: German Immigration to Canada 1947-1960. Survey, Sources, Methods.

Description: In the two decades after World War Two, a quarter of a million Germans immigrated to Canada. In this presentation, I focus on three points: First, I survey the scope, development, and demographic composition of this migration. Second, I talk about some of the problems we encounter in terms of definitions (who is a German?) and statistics (who is counted as a German, as an emigrant/immigrant?) when it comes to postwar German immigration. Third, I talk about the use of oral history as a research method for studying German immigration to Canada.

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

<http://tinyurl.com/22maoav>

A recent issue of *EOGN* [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter] had an article I thought made good sense. Dick Eastman has diabetes (like me) and travels a lot (unlike me). He realized those of us getting on in years often have medical conditions and take medications that first care providers would need to know about in case of medical emergency; and in such an emergency, we might not be able to tell anyone about them. A standard medical ID bracelet can't provide all the info that might be needed in a medical emergency, and a paper list can get too long and unwieldy. So he suggested carrying a USB flash drive with all the info a doctor would need to know in a medical emergency. He also carries a card in his wallet that says, "In case of medical emergency, please find the USB jump drive in my pocket. Open the file 'In case of medical emergency please read this.txt.'" I can imagine cases in which his article, and the comments others added, could end up saving someone's life. You can read more at the URL above; or if it doesn't work, go to <http://blog.eogn.com> and search for "carry emergency information with you." Look also for his update to this article, where he discusses the Macx USB Medical ID Bracelet with built-in USB jump drive, which he has since started using.

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

Another recent *EOGN* told of one of the more bizarre ideas I've ever heard: turn cremated ashes into a vinyl record. He wrote, "Here's a different way to remember a loved one. Or perhaps the way that YOU would like to be remembered. Vinyl records once were declared dead, but they still seem to live on, kept alive by enthusiastic audiophiles. Now, once you die, you can become part of a vinyl record." He tells of Andvinyly, a company based in the United Kingdom, with the motto "Live on from beyond the groove!" You can record a message to be pressed into the grooves of the record with your ashes. It ain't cheap, but if you're interested, or you just like reading morbid stuff, visit the company's Website at the above URL. Notice what

happens to your cursor while you're there.

<http://www.jewishfamilyhistory.org/index.htm>

On the JewishGen mailing list, Jim Bennet wanted to remind people of the Jewish Family History Foundation, a project of Sonia and David Hoffman (no relation to me). You can go to the site and take a tour. "Among their many projects they obtained photocopies of the census sheets, town by town, of the 1784 census of the Jews in the eastern regions of the Poland-Lithuania commonwealth. Białystok is not included, but scores of other Jewish communities in what are now Lithuania, Belarus and Poland are included ... My wife Myrna's oldest known ancestors, 'Morduch' [Mordechai], his wife, three sons and their wives and children are the sole Jewish family listed living in the noble estate of Boryshin, in the Dworec district, of Belarus. No family name in 1784, but in about 1812 the sons adopted the family name BORISHANSKI. The census sheets are in Polish-Latin characters, easy to read. Pure gold, from a tiny village deep in Belarus in 1784!!"

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/tomek/films.htm

Another note on JewishGen was from Steven Lasky, about an addition to his Museum of Family History Website. "Tomek Wiśniewski's seventy-first film at the Museum is an intriguing one, three minutes and eleven seconds of archival film (much in color) from 1939. The film contains scenes of Stalin, Molotov, von Ribbentrop and Hitler in Warsaw in 1939. The film is entitled 'The Partitioning and End of Poland,' so you will see the signing of the Molotov-Ribbenentrop Pact as well as the marching of the German troops through Warsaw, etc." Like much of the content on this site, this is of value to Jewish and non-Jewish researchers alike.

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

On the Poland Roots list, Debbie Greenlee mentioned that her "Poland Trip Diary" from July 2010 is now available in four parts on her Website. Click on "My Trips." Don't be intimidated by her schedule—Debbie says, "Keep in mind, the way I travel in Poland and what I do there isn't how most folks visit the motherland. My trips are more like a working vacation. If you've not been to Poland yet, please don't let my diaries scare you."

<http://www.mtg-malopolska.org.pl/bibliotekacyfrowa.html>

Iwona Dakiniewicz wrote a nice article about this site for the Fall 2010 *Rodziny*. She focused on the *Galician Schematism*, which she described as "the Galician Yellow Pages." This site has put online a collection of many of the annual issues, in German and Polish, roughly 1830-1900. The *Schematism* is a valuable source, but there are plenty of other good sources for Galician research here. If you have roots in that area, and aren't intimidated by a little Polish, take a look!

<http://photografixpro.blogspot.com/>

Eric Basir of Photo Grafix in Evanston, Illinois is an expert in restoring photographs who is particularly interested in helping genealogists. His “Ask the Retoucher” appears in several publications. Eric has recently integrated several different aspects of his work online, including a Photoshop course, online versions of his articles with video, a Twitter feed, a presentation on restoring photos and documents, and more. It’s all available at this site.

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