



Gen Dobry!

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***** WELCOME! *****

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

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

***** WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE? *****

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

I've been rather surprised at the attention the TV-show *Who Do You Think You Are?* has been receiving lately. I knew the episodes that aired earlier this year were being rerun, but I did not expect the fact to draw all that much attention. But comments on the various genealogical mailing lists I monitor seem to be nearly as frequent as during the show's first run.

I was also a little surprised at how negative many of the remarks were. My impression, perhaps inaccurate, was that the first airings were met with a fair amount of enthusiasm among genealogists, though the enthusiasm was tempered with criticism and some disappointment. Researchers rightly noted that the show's emphasis on celebrities and depiction of the research process could give newbies a very misleading notion of what good genealogy really involves. I think most of us were pleased to see interest in family history research kindled in millions of viewers, but wished the show had managed to add a little more grit to the glitz.

I also think the criticism was fair and valid. At the same time, I am willing to cut the producers a little slack. I've never been in a position to put on a show designed to entertain millions, and I doubt I ever will be. I can imagine, however, that it's a tricky proposition. You have to get people's attention and convey at least a glimmer of the excitement of discovery, or you'll get bad ratings and be canceled. Balancing those requirements with the demands of accuracy can't be easy! Accurate would be an hour of footage showing a dozen people sitting almost motionless in front of microfilm readers; but who'd watch?

I notice this time around, a lot of people are pretty harsh about how the show makes research seem effortless, and how it focuses on celebrities. There is an undercurrent of "Who do they think they are?" Some people are downright "grassy knoll" about the whole thing, claiming it's a conspiracy: the Mormons own Ancestry.com and are putting on hour-long recruiting ads in the guise of entertainment. As with most matters of public discussion these days, the wacko element seems to be getting more than its fair share of attention.

At the risk of proving I've acquiesced to mind control and am now a slobbering cretin, I don't think we have to seek anything quite so sinister behind this. I know it's kind of galling to be fed endless pap about "celebrities"—but people seem to lap it up. What's more, I can't act all superior and pretend I'm above it all. I made a point of catching the episodes with Emmitt Smith and Lisa Kudrow because I was really interested in seeing how things worked out for them; and I regretted missing Susan Sarandon's episode. I also know even I wouldn't watch an hour devoted to Fred Hoffman's genealogy! We can't really blame the producers too hard if they try to focus on interesting people ... And it's a given of American pop culture that anything featuring "celebrities" to catch viewers' attention will involve a certain level of, shall we say, bovine excrement.

I imagine you've heard there will be a second season of the show. Let's hope for the best. We will probably be disappointed—but even at the worst, a sizable number of our fellow citizens

will get a taste of the joys genealogy can offer. Many of them will sign onto Ancestry.com, expecting to trace their families back to Adam between commercials, and will quit in disgust when they realize the quest involves a certain amount of time and effort. Still, some of the newbies will stick with it. Really, when you come down to it, aren't they exactly the kind of people we'd love to see join us?

And there's one big thing I liked about this show: it actually recognized that some Americans have roots in central and eastern Europe! Mainstream American genealogy has studiously ignored this for a long time. If the show accomplishes nothing else, I like seeing Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak get some mainstream recognition. In your face, people who think Slavic names are too difficult!

I'll end by citing a comment posted on the Poland-Roots list by Maryanna Negley, recognizing a show that might serve as an antidote to the failings of *Who Do You Think You Are?* "For those of you interested in viewing a genealogy program that is more realistic, I can recommend *The Generations Project* that is produced and shown on BYU-TV. It happens to be one of the university channels on my satellite package. It's an hour-long show, interviewing ordinary individuals and following them as they research one or sometimes two ancestors, all in this country. They make it easy by providing them transportation, genealogy experts, and sometimes archivists. But these are real people, not celebrities."

In other words, let's not just gripe when someone gets it wrong. Let's praise those who get it right!

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

Subject: Polish Heritage at the Ballpark!

Editor—Raymond Rolak sent along some really interesting material on the 40th Annual Polish-American Night with the Detroit Tigers, as well as press releases on Polish Heritage Night at Wrigley Field in Chicago. Unfortunately, all these events have already taken place. But I thought a lot of our readers would enjoy his account of the Detroit event, so here it is.

DETROIT—Before the game, the players watched with amaze: both the A's and the Tiger's. They watched along with everyone else, the color and the authentic costumes. They watched the Polish folk dancing and listened. The show was spectacular and this all helped to make Polish-American Night at Comerica Park a giant hit.

Coordinated by the Polish American Congress-Michigan Division, the evening was a vision of color and the weather was perfect. For those in attendance, the Polish style music was a hit also. At game time, Comerica Park was standing room only.

The home team lost to the Oakland A's, 5-4, but the post-game fireworks presented by Pepsi got most in attendance in good spirits before they left the stadium. The accompanied Polka music during the fireworks show was a surprise and an added bonus.

It was the 40th Annual Polish-American Night with the Tigers and before the game General Manager, Dave Dombrowski was smiling, "We will have a full house and it will be a great pre-game show." The Tigers and the Polish-American Night committee hit a home run with the presentation.

At the Detroit event, even "PAWS," the Tiger's mascot, was dressed in Polish folk costume, and the Press Box and staff commissary was serving Polish stuffed cabbage and kielbasa-n-kraut.

Early arrivals to Comerica were treated to the lively tunes of Big Daddy Lackowski & the La-De-Das, The Natural Tones, and The Kielbasa Kings. Big crowds gathered outside of Comerica Park before the game and enjoyed the music. WDIV-TV weatherman, Chuck Gaidica, highlighted Big Daddy Lackowski on the Channel-4 evening news.

Also, the first 10,000 people entering the stadium got vintage-style wool 'Olde English D' Tigers caps with the 1935 World Series highlighted. These were sponsored by the Detroit Medical Center. It is the 75th anniversary of that title. Furthermore, The Tigers and the Polish-American Night Committee presented tee-shirts to those that bought a pre-planned ticket package. Also, the Polish American Congress Foundation got \$5 from every Polish Night pre-game ticket package sold.

There were 13 dance troupes and the Polish Scouts performing on the field. Representatives of sponsoring Polish fraternal groups were introduced before the game.

Before the game, Tiger radio broadcaster Jim Price hosted Wally Ozog, currently of Chicago and President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, on his pre-game show. Price highlighted past Polish-American nights at Tiger Stadium. Throughout the Oakland-Detroit game broadcast, Price brought to light anecdotes about former Major League Polish-American baseball players. He told humorous stories about Tom Paciorek, Frank Tanana, Ron Perranoski and Dick Tracewski. Price, who played for the Tigers said, "We always looked forward to Polish-American Night as we had Polish food in the clubhouse after the game and we always teased 'Trixie' (Tracewski), for getting another plaque from the host committee. People forget he was on three World Series winners as a player and another as a coach. That's four rings. Those are great memories."

Price also mentioned that former Tiger Jim Northrup and his wife are sponsoring an orphanage in Poland.

On the field, right before the umpires declared "Play Ball," Barb Toboy introduced Robert Szczublewski, who was dressed in traditional Polish costume. He had stirring renditions of the Polish National Anthem and the "Star Spangled Banner." It transitioned to the honoring of a decorated U.S. Army veteran, Specialist Joe James, who was on leave from Iraq. They got

standing ovations.

Ceremonial first pitch throwers, Nicole Blaszczak and Jerry Lubiarez did commendable jobs and survived the tremendous applause. The PRCUA Zakopane Polish Folk Dance Group had the distinction of being the color guard.

The Tiger loss dampened a spectacular three-home run night by Miguel Cabrera. It was the first time for the Tiger slugger that he had three in one game. Oakland reliever Andrew Bailey earned his 10th save of the year. The A's are now 9-2, in the all-important, one-run games.

In the press-box, former Tiger great Willie Horton reminisced how honored he felt when presenting Paciorek into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame in 1992. "I remember how great the mushroom soup was that evening. I love Polish food. Tom and I were teammates in Seattle. He had good years in Seattle. He always helped keep the clubhouse loose. He is a great baseball broadcaster, always prepared."

Ray Fosse, former catcher for the Oakland A's and now their flagship station broadcaster, sent glowing reports of the evening to California during his call of the game. Mario Impemba of Fox Sports Detroit also painted the picture of Polish-American Night with highlights on the Tigers TV-cast. Fox Sports Detroit had great camera work with their High Definition video of the pre-game show. The television camera's highlighted all the color of the Polish-American Night extravaganza.

Most of the electronic media outlets mentioned the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony June 24, in Troy, Michigan which will honor former Phillies Manager Danny Ozark. Ozark led the Phillies to NL-East titles in 76, 77 and 78. He was also a longtime coach for the L. A. Dodgers. Past Philadelphia slugger Greg Luzinski will present for the deceased Ozark (2009). Paciorek, the popular and veteran announcer, is scheduled to emcee. He was awarded a sports Emmy for his White Sox and Washington National's baseball broadcasts.

NPASHF Chairman Jim Conrad said, "We will also be inducting swimming champion Kristy Kowal of Reading, Pennsylvania and Hamtramck, Michigan native and tennis great Peaches Barkowicz." NPASHF board members manned an informational table near the right field foul corner.

During an afterglow (*poprawiny*) at the Coaches Corner Bar & Grill, in Harmonie Park, former University of Buffalo football player Gerry Ratkewitz over *piwo* (Polish beer), said, "I remember Al Kaline's only three home run game, it was in 1955 against Kansas City. Steve Gromek was the winning pitcher." Detroit native son, Gromek, pitched for the Tigers at the time and was inducted into the NPASHF in 1981.

Polish-American Night, the game and festivities, were dedicated to the memory of Poland's President Lech Kaczyński and First Lady Maria Kaczyńska and the 94 others who lost their lives in the tragic airplane crash of April 10, 2010 in Smolensk, Russia. They were in route to the 70th anniversary memorial of the World War II Katyn atrocity.

The Cleveland Indians will host the Washington Nationals at Progressive Field on June 11, for Polish Night with the Cleveland Indians at 7:05 EST. Tickets are only \$12. More info for tickets at <www.polishyoungtown.com> or <www.clevelandsociety.com>.

On June 18, The Pittsburgh Pirates will be celebrating ‘Maz’ at PNC Park with a canvas picture give away. Special tickets are priced at \$19.60 to remember Bill Mazeroski and the 1960 season. The Pirates will host the Cleveland Indians. It is a 7:05 PM EST start.

On June 19, the Toledo Mud Hens will host the Norfolk Tides at Fifth Third Field for Polish Heritage Night. There will be a pre-game concert at 5:30 PM featuring “Touch of Brass” and a post game party with your ticket stub at the Toledo PRCUA Hall. 419-265-2615 for tickets.

Vice President of the Polish National Alliance, Paul Odrobina said, “I hope we can have this many people for Polish Night in Chicago.” The White Sox will host Polish Night at U.S. Cellular Field on July 6.

Polish-American Night in Buffalo at Coke-Cola Field will be August 3, when the Bison’s take on Lehigh Valley as part of Polish Fest. Fireworks will be presented by UNYTS.

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WERE REPRESENTED ON THE FIELD at
COMERICA PARK

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
ZAKOPANE POLISH FOLK DANCE GROUP
HONOR GUARD AMERICAN AND POLISH FLAGS

POLISH SCOUT ASSOCIATION
ZWIAZEK HARCERSTWA POLSKIEGO
DETROIT DIVISION

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
ROGALIN DANCE TROUPE
WYANDOTTE

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
HALKA DANCERS
DETROIT

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
OPOLE DANCERS
WARREN

POLISH WOMENS ALLIANCE
LOWICZ DANCERS
WARREN

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
POLSKIE MAKI DANCERS
HAMTRAMCK

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
MALA POLSKA FOLK ENSEMBLE
STERLING HEIGHTS

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE
CENTENNIAL DANCERS
PLYMOUTH

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
SYRENA DANCERS
DEARBORN

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
ZAJACZEK DANCE ENSEMBLE
STERLING HEIGHTS

POLISH WOMENS ALLIANCE
ZAMEK DANCERS
DETROIT

POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC UNION OF AMERICA
WIELICZKA DANCERS
REDFORD

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE
POLISH ALLIANCE DANCERS
DEARBORN

POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE
POLANIE SONG & DANCE ENSEMBLE
DEARBORN

(Raymond Rolak is a Michigan based sports broadcaster)

Editor—As for Polish Heritage Night at Wrigley Field, which took place on August 17, I didn't find a whole lot of material online. But here's a link to a blog entry, as well as links to two YouTube videos you'll like if you enjoy Polish girls who are pretty and talented!

<<http://konicki.com/blog2/2010/08/23/polish-heritage-night-at-wrigley-field/>>

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvZm1g-uYvs>>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxUNqkS_K-M>

Subject: PolishOrigins Forefathers' Traces Tours

Editor—On August 18, Zenon of PolishOrigins sent out this note. It seemed worth passing along.

Dear PolishOrigins.com community member,

Forefathers Traces Tours to Poland season is at its peak. The next two months will be filled with ancestral trips throughout Poland with my guests looking for their ancestors as well as for living relatives who might still live in Poland.

I have just updated our FTT Blog, <<http://blog.polishorigins.com>>, and posted a few pictures from the Tours we already had this year. I hope to add more stories from our journeys to the blog soon, so check it regularly—or subscribe to get updates from the Blog via e-mail by clicking here: <http://feedburner.google.com/fb/a/mailverify?uri=ForefathersTracesToursBlog&loc=en_US>.

Although I am very busy in August and September, I still have openings for some dates in October, November and December. If you are wondering about your own, personal, “Who Do You Think You Are?” family story journey to Poland please visit our Forefathers Traces Tours offer page here <<http://tours.polishorigins.com>> or contact me directly at <zenon@polishorigins.com>.

If you think any of your friends or family might be interested in taking a genealogy vacation in Poland, please feel free to forward this e-mail to them.

Best Regards,
Zenon & Team
PolishOrigins.com

***** BOOKS ON IMMIGRANTS SERVING IN THE U.S. ARMY IN WORLD WAR I *****

by Tom Sadauskas

Editor—Tom kindly sent this info for me to pass along for our readers.

Here is some info about two books dealing with immigrants who served in the U.S. Army during World War I. About 17% of soldiers were immigrants in World War I, versus the 5% currently serving in the U.S. military.

The first book is entitled *The Long Way Home—An American Journey from Ellis Island to The Great War* by David Laskin. In the book, he traces the lives of 12 immigrants (including several Poles) who ended up serving in the U.S. Army during the war. About 18% (nearly half a million) of the men who served in the U.S. Army were immigrants, representing 46 different nationalities, including many from countries who fought against America and the Allies.

The second book is entitled *American All!—Foreign-born Soldiers in World War I* by Nancy Gentile Ford. This book describes how this country dealt with the large number of immigrants who ultimately became soldiers in the American army and how they were integrated into the military, as well as the nation's attitude as to whether these new immigrants could be depended upon to become "real Americans" and give up their loyalties to their native lands. My mother's father was drafted into the U.S. army in 1917 and these two books helped me understand better what he had to deal with having just arrived in the U.S. in 1911.

***** RESEARCHERS' RULES TO LIVE BY! *****

by Alan J. Kania

Editor—Writer Alan J. Kania often posts notes to various mailing lists, full of information or good sense, and I like to repeat them for those who may have missed them the first time around. This one first appeared on the Polish Genius list.

First, as more and more commercial databases go online, we need to recognize that these databases are still a very small fraction of what information has not been digitized or microfilmed. NOTHING replaces the need to visit churches/synagogues, the city clerk offices, district courts, archdiocesan archives, regional branches of NARA, and good old-fashioned libraries (particularly for local newspaper microfilms). And for whatever motivation the Mormons have for microfilming records all over the world, they are a genealogist's best friend. Some of these sources will make copies of a few records if you provide them with specific information—they're not going to do your research for you. I have found that family historians will come with a long laundry list of "look ups" when visiting a City Clerk's office, expecting the employee to spend his or her day helping you construct your family tree—that isn't what those employees were hired to do. Play nice with government employees, parish priests and other caretakers of unmicrofilmed records! The next researcher will appreciate the favorable relationship that you leave behind when you've left the office.

Secondly, it's easy to become frustrated when trying to break through a stone wall. It's not helpful to blame the group for not helping. What you think may be enough information to go on, may be insufficient for anyone to provide additional assistance. When that happens, just pull back, continue working on a solution on your own, and then raise the issue again in a few months. There are new people who join these groups—possibly one of them will have greater insight into finding a solution to your problem. Or new records may become public.

In the meantime, Debbie has noted the publication of several new help-guides that bring new directions to our searches. It's really important to explore domestic resources to the fullest extent before becoming bogged down with the paper chase in foreign countries.

And finally, when the paper trail becomes thin, look to hints through an understanding of the historical period you're researching. Business records, military records, newspaper stories, land transaction records and others can either provide you with some pearls of wisdom of where to search—or the historical events can provide some “flesh, muscle, and sinews” to the sterile names, dates, and locations that compose most family trees. Through new resources added to Footnote.com, I learned that my wife's family had filed a registration on something that was used in the textile industry. That's a new bit of information that provides greater insight into the family.

Questions often go unanswered in public forums like this. It's not because we don't care. It's because we're all travelers down this road of family history. Some have read the guide books, some are looking out the window taking it all in, and some of us are taking a nap until we get there.

For more information on Alan J. Kania's published books, visit <www.johnottobook.com>

***** NONFICTION WRITER SEEKS INTERVIEWS WITH POST WORLD WAR II-ERA LEMKO PARTICIPANTS FOR MANUSCRIPT RESEARCH PROJECT *****

Editor—Debbie Greenlee posted this note on the Poland-Roots list. I thought the project it describes deserves support, and some of you might want to participate.

Pittsburgh-born writer Corinna Wengryn-Caudill has undertaken a manuscript project examining the forcible expulsion of the Lemko population of the Carpathian mountain region in post-World War II Europe.

As the result of Soviet and Polish Communist ethnic cleansing policies, virtually the entire Lemko population was forcibly expelled from their ancestral settlements in Southeast Poland between 1944-1947 and resettled in Soviet Ukraine or in western territories of Poland. Caudill is examining:

- (1.) The political motivations behind the operations;
- (2.) The circumstances and details surrounding the deportation, resettlement and assimilation of the displaced Lemky in Soviet Ukraine and Western Poland, and
- (3.) How these actions engendered a legacy of ethnocide; the virtual destruction of their distinctive ethnic culture, collective identity, and unified presence in East Central Europe.

In order to obtain the Lemko perspective on the events, Caudill has conducted extensive research

into this topic, including interviews with survivors and eyewitnesses in the United States, Ukraine and Poland. The manuscript research is ongoing through Spring 2011, and Caudill is interested in locating and interviewing additional participants who were personally affected by these events, including individuals who were in displaced persons (DP) camps during the Allied occupation of Germany and were therefore separated from their Lemko relatives during the expulsion actions.

If you have any information or would like to participate in the project, please contact Ms. Caudill at (703) 987-0592 or at <wengrvm@yahoo.com>. Location: US, Ukraine (& eventually Poland)

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

Sunday, September 19, 2010

“HOW YOUR ANCESTORS CAME TO AMERICA AND HOW TO FIND THEIR RECORDS” — A Presentation by Tom Sadauskas

Hosted by the **National Capital Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society** and the **Slovak American Society of Washington**.

McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA
Noon-1:45 p.m.

Every family with immigrant ancestors has stories of how their family first arrived in America. Many of these stories contain grains of truth as well as unsubstantiated myths. This presentation looks at the immigration process that our ancestors went through to come here to America as well as what records exist documenting their travels from their European village to America. Topics to be covered include:

- * Factors Causing People to Emigrate;
- * Emigration Routes and Means of Travel to the Various European Departure Ports;
- * Different Sailing Routes and Ports of Entry including Canada & Mexico;
- * What Emigrants Had to Face at the Various Ports of Entry;
- * Dispelling the Urban Myth That Names Were Really Changed at Ellis Island;
- * Findings Record Sources including Those for Displaced Persons;
- * Locating Your Ancestral Village

RSVP to Christy Slifkey <cslifkey@c-rs.org> or call 703.968.8192

October 1 – 2, 2010

PGSA’S 32ND ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

The Polish Genealogical Society of America's next conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 1 & 2, at the Hilton Hotel in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The hotel is located at 9333 S. Cicero Avenue.

The Hilton Hotel and Conference center is a well-known venue for events on the south side of Chicago. It is located three miles south of Midway Airport and is accessible to major highways and expressways, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Orange Line, and the Metro Train station. It provides easy access to much of the city and Chicago's downtown and the many attractions they provide. A scheduled complimentary shuttle is also available.

The theme is:

19th Century Research using 21st Century Technology

Changes and improvements in technology are constantly providing us with new tools to use to re-think and re-evaluate our research. Here are just a few examples of presentations that can reinvigorate yours.

“Discovering the Treasures of 19th Century Polish Language Records” - You may not speak the language, but you can still mine the records for what they can tell you.

“You're Not in Kansas Anymore: Essential Resources for Urban Area Research” - Have you used the latest tools available for this challenging topic?

“Searching Electronic Databases” - Controlled vocabulary can help you find information on line that you didn't realize existed.

“A Novice's Approach to Using the Polish Archives: - Proving that even if you aren't an expert, the right techniques will allow you to use these records.

“Lost Children: Orphans, Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted” - Unusual challenges may not be where you think they are. Get directions from an expert.

Please check our Web site for future up-dates: <<http://www.pgsa.org/index.php#conference>>

NOTE: We are spreading the word that our October 1 & 2, 2010 genealogy conference is fast approaching and that the **early bird registration deadline is September 1st, 2010**. For more information on our conference visit our Website.

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October 2, 2010

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

Featuring speakers **Matthew Bielawa** and **Brian J. Lenius**

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

This full-day seminar will include various topics on Galicia, including a description of Galicia, record keeping, locating records, reading and analyzing records, languages (including Cyrillic), among other topics. **Ukrainian and Polish roots will be covered in depth, and groups with German, Jewish, Mennonite, Armenian, or Czech roots in Galicia will be covered according to attendance.**

Matthew Bielawa (Stratford, Connecticut, USA) has specialized in western Ukraine and eastern Galicia, about which he has extensively lectured, written articles for various genealogical journals; he has created a Website, *Genealogy of Halychyna / Eastern Galicia*, at <<http://www.halgai.com>>. Matthew has conducted research trips to Ukraine, Poland and Russia numerous times, including a semester of studies at Leningrad State University. Matthew earned a B.A. degree in Slavic and East European Studies from the University of Connecticut and a M.A. degree in Slavic Languages and Literature from New York University.

Brian J. Lenius (Selkirk, Manitoba) has conducted East European research specializing in the former Austrian province of Galicia for over 25 years. Brian is author and publisher of the *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia: Expanded Data Edition*, as well as numerous articles on Galician and Austrian research published in various Polish, eastern European, and other genealogical periodicals. He has presented research-oriented lectures to numerous genealogical societies in Canada, USA, and Germany. Brian has undertaken 15 extended research trips in Poland, Ukraine, Austria, Czech Republic, and Germany greatly expanding resources available to North American genealogical researchers.

Do consider attending this exceptional event!

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

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October 16, 2010
The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan
invites you to the **Annual Polish Heritage Seminar**

CONNECTING WITH POLAND

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
American Polish Cultural Center

The annual seminar of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan will take place on Saturday, October 16, 2010. Tomasz Nitsch, noted genealogist from Poland, will be the featured speaker. He will discuss connecting with Poland's past (in all three partitions) and present, as well as genealogy in Poland today. The day's activities will include a continental breakfast and full

course Polish lunch. Bring your laptop—free Wi-Fi service available! The information will be useful for anyone interested in family history, from beginners to expert.

The fee is \$65 for early registration and \$75 after September 15.

The program will be held at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan and will begin with registration packet pick-up at 8:30 a.m. The program begins 9 a.m. and continues to 4 p.m. It includes a continental breakfast and a full course Polish lunch.

In addition, on Friday, October 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan and The Polish Mission of the Orchard Lake Schools will be offering research help at the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI), and on Sunday, October 17, Mass at the Orchard Lake Seminary Shrine Chapel, exhibit of the Polish Panorama, and use of the PARI library. More information is on the Society's Website, <www.pgsm.org>, or call (248) 683-0323. Tickets may be purchased online at <<http://www.pgsm.eventbrite.com>>.

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

[From an e-mail note sent by Valerie Koselka]

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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]

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

<<http://vimeo.com/13763341>>

Rosemary Chorzempa, the author of *Polish Roots*, sent out a note telling people about this “marvelous fantastic video from the Shanghai World Expo condensing ALL of Poland’s rich history into a little over eight minutes.” It is very interesting to watch!

<<http://apps.facebook.com/quizcreator/quizzes/439406/play>>

David Zincavage, moderator of the Herbarz and Lithuania mailing lists, posted this address, saying, “If you are on Facebook and can more or less read Polish, you will enjoy this quiz which decides which pre-World War II Polish Uhlan Regiment you would have belonged in. My own result was the 1st Krechowicki Uhlan Regiment, which, oddly enough, was the same result George Lucki got, and which is actually geographically appropriate.”

<http://books.google.com/books?id=0xwwAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA41&dq=%22Joseph+Senkus%22&hl=en&ei=PydcTIT3IIT58AbS5ejkAg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=3&ved=0CDEQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Tom Sadauskas sent this URL, with the following note: “Google Books keeps putting all sorts of good things on-line regarding out-of-print books useful to genealogists. I stumbled onto a 1915 book, *Second Annual Report of the Miner’s Examination Board of the State of Illinois*, while looking for a SENKUS ancestor. The book lists the names and towns for more than 8,000 men who applied for “practical coal miner” certificates. The certificate was needed in order for a man to be hired as a miner. Many of the applicants were immigrants. Some 639 applicants were rejected because they did not speak the English language. The 1915 book lists those examined for the fiscal year ending 28 February 1915. Included in the total number of applicants were 1,330 applicants who were “sons of coal miners,” many of whose fathers were immigrants. This book may help people seeking their ancestors who ended up in Illinois wanting to become miners, usually coal.” If the lengthy URL above doesn’t work, just go to <<http://books.google.com/>> and search for “Illinois Miners Examining Board 1915.”

<<http://www.polona.pl/dlibra/collectiondescription2?dirids=12>>

Maralyn A. Wellauer-Lenius sent out a note to inform us that the National Library of Poland has put 20 digital collections online. The ResourceShelf page she cited links to the above URL, where you can access the collections.

<<http://www.vimeo.com/13660907>>

Debbie Greenlee posted this URL to the Poland-Roots list, describing it as a short video

of Raymond and Joan Bittner, the owners of the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck, Michigan. I hope it's not out of line to say I've visited the Polish Art Center and have dealt with the Bittners quite a bit over the years, and it's always been a pleasure. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend that anyone interested in anything Polish visit the Center, if possible, in person in Hamtramck, or if not, online at <<http://www.polartcenter.com/>>.

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

Dorothy Petraitis posted a note to the LithuanianGenealogy Yahoo Group, saying that she had signed up for this wonderful blog. If you have some Lithuanian ancestry—and an awful lot of Poles do—you might want to take a look.

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

Kuba Przedzienkowski mentioned this site on the Polish Genius list. As he admitted, the subject is somewhat off-topic; but I figure most readers of *Gen Dobry!* are just as interested in Polish culture as in Polish genealogy.

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

Also on the Polish Genius list, there was a spirited discussion about the relative merits of Ancestry, Footnote, and World Vital Records. “Polish Dragon” weighed in to say this site is well worth some attention. “I tried it, and now wouldn't be without it. You can review the available papers to see what is included for your area and also subscribe for short periods of time. Don't say ‘but Grandpa/Grandma never did anything to get into the papers.’ The papers of old printed the news of the neighborhood sent in from people in neighborhood. They also filled in with stories of events outside the area. I now know that Dad burned his hands messing with a car engine in 1931, his mother ran whiskey out the back door in 1929, and my grandfather got hit by a car in 1936 and sued the driver (now have to check court records). Also was able to pin down wedding dates because the brides' photos were in the paper and sort out a complicated family situation by using obits. That's family history, folks. And wait till the kids read some of the other stuff I found that's not printable here!” Of course, the service is not free; but as many a wise man has noted, you get what you pay for.

<http://www.mormontimes.com/article/16144/The-coming-genealogical-dark-ages?s_cid=queue_title&utm_source=queue_title>

A recent issue of EOGN [*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*] talked about this article, which discussed Curt B. Wicher's fear we may be entering a genealogical dark age. Wicher, the manager of The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Ind., was the plenary speaker at BYU's Conference on Family History and Genealogy in late July. He says, “At the same time we have more (technological) ability we are losing interest and focus on keeping the thoughts and the words for future generations.” Interesting stuff, and a little scary. You can read the full story at the above link; if it doesn't work, try <<http://tinyurl.com/2wnj3qd>>.

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

Pat Iurilli posted a note on the Polish Genius list to say that, “starting on Wednesday, September 1, 2010, Polish Greatness (Blog) will be posting Daily News Reports with pertinent videos and photos to document the September Campaign which lasted from September 1, to October 8, 1939.” I suspect many of our readers will wish to log on at the above URL.

<http://www.actapublica.eu/>

Paul Valasek noticed that the Brno, Praha archive site, they’ve added the Archidocese of St. Polten, Austria. He said “Not sure why this is included in basically a Czech Archive, but why not tell people in case they need to look it up? If you want to see the records, Google in Actapublica, register, and off you go.” I believe the URL given above gets you to the Actapublica site, and the link marked “Registrace/Registration” should allow you to sign up.

https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Czech_Republic_Land_and_Property

Paul also mentioned this resource, of value mainly for Czechs, but the discussion of terminology and the records may be useful for some of our readers as well.

<https://www.createpace.com/3470422>

On the JewishGen mailing list, Jamie Kotler posted a note regarding a new book “about Miedzyrzec Podlaski, a town of about 22,000 of which 18,000 were Jewish before WWII. The title is *The Birch Trees Stand Tall*. The author is Naphtali Brezniak. The book is the story of his father’s life - Moshe Brezniak survived the war in Poland, and this book is his testimony. The book was published in Hebrew some time ago, and is now available in English.” The book can be published at the above URL.

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=allCollections;r=0>

In response to a question on the Poland Roots list about where to find the LDS Pilot Site, Kim Stankiewicz gave the above URL. As this site covers more and more records, researchers will surely use it often. Even though I’m sure we’ve given this URL before, it seemed like a good idea to print a reminder.

<http://www.genealogija.org/lt/odynai/vard-odynlis?showall=1>

On the LithuanianGenealogy list, Norbertas Zioba mentioned this useful reference source for translating names between Latin, Polish, Russian, and Lithuanian. The list gives names in Lithuanian (Lietuvių), Russian (Русų), Polish (Lenkų), and Lotynų (Latin). This specific URL gives the entire list, rather than requiring you to move between pages. It’s a pretty good list, all things considered. The alphabetization by Lithuanian forms might make it a bit harder for English speakers; I see at least a few errors; and they could have done a much more thorough

job giving Polish and Latin forms. Still, a lot of the time, I think you can guess what the corresponding Polish and Latin versions would be. And what the hell, it is free!

<<http://www.nekrologi-baza.pl/nazw/indexnazw.htm>>

On the PolandBorderSurnames list, there was a discussion regarding an online resource for searching for persons buried in Warsaw cemeteries. After some problems with errors in the URL, Terissa Schor and others established the correct form, as shown above.

<<http://www.jewishgalicia.net>>

On the GaliciaPoland-Ukraine list, “Galizia Forever” posted this URL for a site dedicated to commemorating “Jewish History in Galicia and Bukovina.” I had not run across it before, at least not as far as I can remember, and it looks like a promising effort.

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