



Gen Dobry!

Gen Dobry! 31 May 2002

***** GEN DOBRY! *****

Volume III, No. 5. 31 May 2002.

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CONTENTS

Welcome
My Poznan Travel Journal, Part I
Letters to the Editor
Genealogical Advisor
Humor
Upcoming Events
More Useful Web Addresses
You May Reprint Articles...

*** WELCOME! ***

to the latest issue of GEN DOBRY!, the e-zine of PolishRoots(tm). If you missed previous issues, you can find them at http://polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry_index.htm.

Be sure to visit the PolishRoots site and take advantage of the numerous sources featured there to help you with your research. Now that we are entering the time of year when conferences come thick and fast, you might find it helpful to plan with information on the PolishRoots Events Calendar:

http://www.polishroots.org/coming_events.htm

One event PolishRoots is co-sponsoring is the 2002 International Roots Conference, to be held July 14 - 18, 2002, at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, Michigan. It is designed to be the premier national genealogical conference for family historians tracing their European roots, and will feature 25 speakers. For more information visit the Website:

<http://www.rootsconference.com>

*** MY POZNAN TRAVEL JOURNAL, PART I ***

by Ceil Jensen, <cjensen@mipolonia.net>

[Editor -- We are approaching the time of year when people are most likely to visit "the old country." It's helpful to hear what experiences others have had -- sometimes you get a tip or idea you wouldn't have had otherwise. Ceil was kind enough to send in this first part of her journal for her recent trip to Poznan, and I hope you'll find it interesting and informative.]

* Detroit Metro *

First International flight since 9/11 although I had flown into Boston's Logan airport for Gen-Tech in January.

Security was tight at the new Metro airport. I was asked to move to an area with a table and a chair. My carry-on had a digital video camera, a 35 mm camera and a tape recorder. I was asked to take off my shoes for a check. The female security guard told me she needed to check the waistband of my jeans. She ran her hands along the waistband. The agents seemed more nervous than the passengers.

I sat there waiting for the flight to Newark. I wanted to take the LOT flight into Chicago but it was booked. The Detroit / Newark flight was delayed 3 times including a delay to allow for a second cleaning of the plane. One passenger was allergic to peanuts!

The arrival in Newark gave me a view of the WTC memorial. Eighty-eight searchlights reached into the night sky. The ethereal blue light filled the space left by the towers. The light had a spiritual quality. It glowed as if all the souls of 9/11 were present. It was a frightening view to see from the sky. I felt that we were at the same altitude as the

terrorists were as they turned into the towers.

I arrived in Newark with only 15 minutes to spare. The Northwest ground crew wouldn't call the LOT desk to let them know I had arrived. I ran to the LOT desk and got there at 10:35 p.m. The flight was scheduled for a 10:45 p.m. departure.

When I asked if I could still board (my boarding pass was issued in Detroit) the attendant told me it would cost \$10,000 to re-open the plane. I quietly asked my question again. "Is it possible for me to board?" I felt confident that my great grandmother was going to help me board -- after all I was going to her village of Rogalin a few miles outside of Poznan.

Sure enough, Great-grandma "Cherry Mary" helped. The attendant made a call and we were given the go-ahead to come to the gate. We ran toward the gate and I was stopped again by security. They once again searched my hand luggage. I thanked them for being thorough.

* LOT Flight 002 *

My seatmate was a Polish university student who was returning home for Easter. He was spending a year in the US on a business internship. Michael was amused -- three hours into a LOT flight he was still speaking English. My Polish left a lot to be desired, but his English was great. At first I was hesitant to strike up a conversation, but he asked me why I was traveling to Poland. We talked for hours about Polish history, genealogy, language studies, and the future of Poland in the E. U.

The flight was full. Service was fine. I had forgotten to make a special meal request but the Lenten meals included a fish selection. The breakfast tray was typical Polish fare. Included was a fresh roll, thinly sliced tomatoes and cucumber, cheese and lunchmeat. A cup of yogurt was also included. Juice, tea and coffee rounded out the meal.

We landed in Warsaw and some of the passengers applauded. Michael and I both had layovers. So we decided to continue our conversation over coffee. By this point I was his adopted aunt and we brainstormed ideas how we might generate some zlotys for him and his university friends via the Michigan Polonia website <<http://mipolonia.net>>.

The announcements at the Warsaw airport were made in both Polish and English. Unfortunately after the Polish announcement people began to move and speak and I had to gauge what was happening by the movement of the other passengers. A bus takes the passengers out on the tarmac to the plane to Poznan. Note to myself: NEVER sit in row 3 again. Directly outside the window is the propeller whirling and seemingly getting closer! Otherwise it was a calm and uneventful flight.

* Arrival and Agenda *

I arrived in Poznan on time. My luggage didn't. I was glad to see Kasia* waiting for me at the gate. We went to report my lost luggage. Kasia is a professional tour guide as well

as a researcher and knows the ropes of reporting lost luggage. Having lived this situation many times in the past, I had packed the items I needed to feel "human" and trusted I would see my bag in a day or two. *[Editor: referring to Kasia Grycza <elviska@poczta.onet.pl>, a particularly active researcher with Discovering Roots of Poland < <http://www.man.poznan.pl/~bielecki/roots.htm>>].

I happily accepted the red tulip Kasia offered me and I gave her a guidebook on Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum. It was an invitation for her to visit the Detroit metro area. We walked out of the new Poznan terminal onto the snow-covered sidewalk. Another reminder that my ancestors had lived in a climate very similar to Michigan.

We arrived at the Rzymiski Hotel and I checked it. The rates varied throughout my two week stay: weekday rate, weekend rate and Fair rate. Each rate included breakfast and two in-room bottles of mineral water "with gas." Kasia and I had a meal in the restaurant as we reviewed the research itinerary.

She had already made calls and set up appointments. My goals:

- Researching the Raczynski records from the Palace and Farm at Rogalin for my Adamski and Garbarek ancestors
- Meeting with the archivist for the palace and farm of Rogalin
- Records for the ancestors from Tulce with the surnames Szmykowiak, Rychlewicz and Wojtkowiak
- Searching second-hand bookstores for unique materials for the Michigan Polonia website
- A visit to the Raczynski Library in Poznan. My hotel was just a block away for the library established by Edward Raczynski, the owner of the Palace of Rogalin and employer of my ancestors.
- Visits to the Ethnographic Museum of Poznan and the Town Hall that also is a museum for the city's history.
- Archives: visits to both the civil and diocese archives.

Different protocols need to be employed at each site. I was anxious to search the books and documents that had not been microfilmed by the LDS. I also planned a visit to the villages of Zaniemysl and Mechlin, villages owned by the Raczynski family. I was interested in researching the relationship between the manor owners and the peasants who worked the fields.

At the end of my list were contacts I wanted to call while in Poland. They were researchers I met online and thought it would be neighborly to call while in the country.

[to be continued]

*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Detroit showings of "A Forgotten Odyssey"

The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (PGSM) is pleased to announce the scheduling of two showings of the film "A Forgotten Odyssey." This film has been gaining momentum in many areas throughout the world. It was made in the United Kingdom in the year 2000, and the first viewings occurred in Glasgow, Scotland, and London and Manchester, England. Subsequently it was broadcast on the History Channel in the U.K. Showings have also occurred throughout Australia and New Zealand as well as throughout Canada at Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Montreal, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Ottawa, St. Catharines, Toronto and Vancouver.

In the United States it has been shown, or will be, at Ann Arbor, Baltimore-Washington, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, Toledo, and Washington D.C.

The PGSM has been most fortunate to schedule two separate viewings. Member Art Wagner has been instrumental in making this happen, with the cooperation of many others.

Mark your calendar with one or both dates mentioned below. Our first showing will take place before other geographic areas. This is an opportunity that you should not miss! If you would like further information please visit the following: <http://www.PGSM.org>, and <http://www.AForgottenOdyssey.com/links.html>

Date: Saturday June 15, 2002

Zak Memorial Library
2360 Caniff Ave.
Hamtramck, MI 48212

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: PGSM Board of Director's Meeting
12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.: PGS Video Film "A Forgotten Odyssey"
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: PGSM Election of Officers
2:30 p.m. -4:00 p.m.: Sweetest Heart of Mary Cemetery Project (Past, Present, and Future) presented by Fred Kuplicki

Date: Saturday September 21, 2002

St. Clair Shores Public Library
22500 Eleven Mile Rd. at Jefferson Ave. East of I-94/696 interchange)
St. Clair Shores, MI
810.771.9020

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: PGSM Board of Director's Meeting

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Lunch
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: Short Business Meeting
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: PBS Video Film "A Forgotten Odyssey"

Bob Postula
<robertp@bignet.net>

*** GENEALOGICAL ADVISOR ***

[Editor: I'm often asked for help by researchers having trouble with finding surnames or place names. I can't always help, but sometimes I can. When I find a question and answer particularly interesting or instructive, I'd like to print it here. My hope is that the answer - or more often, the way I looked for it -- will tell you something you can apply in your own research. The following is such a case.]

[Oh, yes, let me add that I welcome submissions by any researcher who has something short and to the point that may be instructive. If you've solved a practical research problem, take your turn as our genealogical advisor!]

To: Pat Keenan <pekeenan@laplaza.org>

> The name that I am interested in is WOJCIUKIEWICZ. It is my grandparents' surname.
> I have had conflicting information regarding their origin. One was that they were from
> Vilnius, Lithuania -- and the other Poland. I did check with the Lithuanian Museum in
> Illinois and was told that the surname was not a Lithuanian surname.

The name is definitely Polish, not Lithuanian. But Poland and Lithuania were allies and co-members of the Commonwealth of Two States, Poland and Lithuania, for centuries. Large numbers of Poles settled in Lithuania, especially in the Vilnius area. So both statements could be correct; your grandparents certainly could have come from Poland and yet lived in Vilnius. It's highly likely that either the family originated in Poland, or else were Lithuanians who became thoroughly Polonized, to the point of taking a Polish name. That is possible -- Poland's cultural and linguistic influence on Lithuanians was pretty significant, and when Lithuanians started adopting surnames they often modeled theirs after Polish names.

From the name alone it's impossible to conclude for sure the ethnic background of your ancestors. But chances are pretty good they were ethnic Poles, with a Polish name, and at some point they joined the many other Poles who resettled in Vilnius or the surrounding area.

The spelling WOJCIUKIEWICZ, which would be pronounced roughly "voyt-sook-YEAH-veech," is rare. As of 1990, according to the best data available (the *_Slownik nazwisk wspolczesnie w Polsce uzywanych_*, "Directory of Surnames in Current Use in Poland," which covers about 94% of the population of Poland), there was 1 Polish citizen

by that name, living somewhere in Walbrzych province (in western Poland). Unfortunately I don't have access to further details such as first names or addresses, so I can't tell you how to find that info.

But it is quite likely that's just a typo, or a spelling variation, of WOJCIUKIEWICZ ("voy-chook-YEAH-veech"), a name borne by 132 citizens of Poland. They were scattered in small numbers all over the country, with the largest numbers in the provinces of Olsztyn, 30, and Szczecin, 37. It's quite possible those living in western Poland have only been living there since World War II; after that war many were forced to relocate from east to west; if we had data from before 1939 we might well find this name primarily in eastern Poland.

The name means literally "son of Wojciuk"; the suffix -ewicz means "son of" (in Lithuanian adaptations of Polish names it's -evic^ius, using c^ to stand for C with a little v over it, pronounced much like our "ch" and equivalent to Polish -cz-). Wojciuk can come from two sources: it can mean "kin of the wójt, son of the wójt," referring to a term for an administrative official in charge of a district. But I think more often it comes from short forms of the popular Polish first name Wojciech. So the way your surname originated is that first Wojciuk developed as a name meaning "son/kin of the wójt" or "son/kin of Wojciech"; then later -ewicz was tacked on to mean "son of Wojciuk."

I don't have comprehensive info on name frequency and distribution in Lithuania. But according to the 2-volume *Lietuvių pavardžių žodynas* [Dictionary of Lithuanian Surnames], ed. A. Vanagas, published in Vilnius in the mid 1980s, as of then there were at least 25 Lithuanian citizens bearing the Lithuanian adaptation of this name, VAICIUKEVIC^IUS (pronounced roughly "vite-sook-EH-veech-oss") living in the districts of: Medininkai (near Vilnius) 2, Onuskis (near Trakai) 2, Rukainiai (near Vilnius) 1, Svencionys 10, Vilnius 1, and Zasliai 9. If you're curious about trying to find some of them, the Lithuanian White Pages are online at the following address:

http://telefonai.takas.lt/simple_search.asp

My advice is to go to the box that says "Pavarde" (surname) and type in VAICIUKEVI. Under "Rodyti po" click on 20, then click on "Pirmyn." This will bring up 20 names and addresses at a time of people listed whose names start with those letters. Don't bother with the ending C^IUS because the C^ is a pain to input if you're not set up to use the Lithuanian character set; if you input VAICIUKEVI, it will bring up a list and you can go down it, and that works fine.

You'll see there are quite a few people named Vaiciukevic^ius, Vaiciukevic^iene (the form of the name used by married females) and Vaitkievic^iute (the form for unmarried females). If you want to look only in the Vilnius area, go to the first page and click under "Vietove" to bring up the list of districts, and select "Vilniaus r."

As you go through the list, click on "Kitas" to see more entries from that list, "Atgai" to go back to the previous page, and "Is naujo" to do a new search. This should give you

addresses of Lithuanians who bear the Lithuanian form of the surname you're interested in.

[For more notes along these lines, see the following page on the PolishRoots site:
http://polishroots.org/surnames/surnames_index.htm].

*** HUMOR ***

On one of the Polish genealogy lists Julie <JulieSzczepankiewicz@compuserve.com> replied to a comment by Debbie Greenlee, "In response to Debbie's suggestion that we can avoid housecleaning entirely if we spend all of our time at the FHC, may I point out that on that site Debbie recently recommended,

<http://www.funstuffforgenealogists.com/store/enter.html>,

they offer products which state, 'Genealogy is my hobby and I raise dust bunnies as pets!'

"If you'll excuse me, I need to go feed my dust-bunnies before they start to get nasty.... :-)"

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

[Note: It's always a good idea to check the PolishRoots Events Calendar, as it contains more info than we have room for here:

<http://www.polishroots.org/coming_events.htm>]

July 14 - 18, 2002

2002 INTERNATIONAL ROOTS CONFERENCE

Dearborn Michigan

Hyatt Regency Dearborn
Fairlane Town Center

Plans call for this to be the premier national genealogical conference for family historians tracing their European roots. Already signed up are 25 speakers, and 2,000 attendees are expected! It's not a minute to soon to make plans to attend. For more information visit the Website:

<http://www.rootsconference.com>

Don't miss it!

July 19 - 21, 2002

**DISCOVERING OUR LINKS TO EUROPE:
AN INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE**

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

July 19th - 21, 2002

This event is being hosted by the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS), in conjunction with the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS), the Bukovina Society of the Americas (BSA), the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE), and the East European Genealogical Society (EEGS). It is anticipated that it will attract an audience of several hundred people. For more information visit their Website:

http://www.saskgenealogy.com/seminar/sgs_seminar.htm

August 4-9, 2002

+++ MEETING PLACE +++

22ND IAJCS INTERNATIONAL CONF ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

Sheraton Centre Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)

Note: May 31 is the last day for early bird registration!
For more info: <http://www.jgstoronto2002.ca>

August 7 - 10, 2002

FGS 2002 CONFERENCE

Ontario, California

Contact: Phone 888-FGS-1500

Website <http://www.fgs.org>
E-mail: fgs-office@fgs.org

January 17 & 18, 2003

GENTECH 2003
PHOENIX, ARIZON
The Phoenix Civic Plaza.

"Digital Technology - The Ancestral Frontier"

Past conferences of GENTECH have focused on how to use technology more effectively in your genealogical research. You can get more information at the Website:

<http://www.agcig.org/gt03.htm>

or at Gentech's site:

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

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://www.independent.co.uk/story.jsp?story=291197>

On Poland-Roots-L@rootsweb.com, Stefan Wisniowski <swisniowski@px.com.au> suggested visiting this site for info on Microcosm, the newest book by Norman Davies, author of histories of Poland entitled God's Playground and Heart of Europe. Stefan said, "It deals with the history of the city of Wroclaw (or Breslau in German) in Silesia, western Poland, which was emptied of its German population after the war and repopulated by Poles from the Kresy (eastern borderlands), including Lwów."

<http://lineages.com>

A researcher mentioned online (unfortunately I forgot to note who and where) that Lineages.com has an inexpensive record search service. She said "They will review the film and send you a copy of what they find, for maybe \$6 to \$8 per type of record searched. They found my grandpa's passenger manifest in Baltimore, when all I knew was the year, 1902, from the census. They also found his immigration records and got me copies of everything. I just had to give them the year of naturalization, again from the census (which they also found for me). If you have more money than time to spend, this is a good resource. They've got a list of about 320 different record types they will search for you. You can ask for an index of wills, or deeds, etc., so you can send to the county for the most likely ones."

<http://pom-wpru.kerntopf.com/karten/index.htm>

If you could use a reasonably detailed map of Pomerania and West Prussia as they existed during the Partition Era, with the German names of places, and well as an index of the Polish equivalents to those names, this site is worth a look.

<http://www.sggee.org/TranslationHelps.html>

This page on the Website of the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) offers help with translating Polish and Russian records. It's well worth a visit.

<http://www.genealogyunlimited.com>

Recently in a note posted to <galicia@topica.com>, one member <ottomania213@aol.com> praised this as the site for "the best maps of Galicia." (Editor: This is the same company that used to be in Orem, Utah; it was purchased from the Schiffmans and is now in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, managed by Dave Obee.) It sells "maps from the Austro empire that are very detailed, you can buy the entire group that would be Galicia for about \$400 dollars Canadian. They are 1-200,000 scale and you will find the tiniest village on these maps. Some are in colour, others in black and white ? The size of the maps are large, I think 11 by 17."

<http://www.ancestry.com/genetics/>

On <LithuanianGenealogy@yahoogroups.com> Mary Guler <guler22@optonline.net> mentioned, for the benefit of any who might be interested, that this site discusses Ancestry.com's program "in which, if you are willing to pay to have your own genetic study done (roughly \$200 each for the maternal and paternal sides), they will do the study and actually put you in contact with others who have had the study done who genetically 'match' your DNA.....one would assume that those who have this done by Ancestry.com are interested in genealogy and are researching their own roots, soooooo.....you could potentially hook up with relatives that you would never have hope of finding otherwise. It is an interesting concept." [Editor: like Mary, we are simply passing on info; it's up to you to decide whether you want to look into it. As always, let the buyer beware!]

<http://www.lfcc.lt/howfind.html>

On Lithuania-L@rootsweb.com, Kajetan Bienkowski <Kajetan01@msn.com> suggested trying this site, saying it had a lot of good info and links to help with tracing Lithuanian ancestors.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~polpodka/>

This is a RootsWeb page devoted to Podkarpackie province. If that's not the province you want to know about, you can see a map of the provinces, and click on the province

you're interested in, by visiting this page:
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgg/polandgen.html>

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