

Gen Dobry!

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

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Editor: William F. "Fred" Hoffman, E-mail: WFHoffman@prodigy.net

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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 at

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

Don't forget to visit PolishRoots.org, the sponsor of _Gen Dobry!_, and take advantage of the many resources offered there -- unless, of course, you enjoy doing things the hard way!

*** AM I POLISH OR UKRAINIAN? ***

by William F. "Fred" Hoffman < WFHoffman@prodigy.net>

The other day I received an interesting note from Mr. Lloyd Ozembloski <islloyd@shaw.ca>, and with his permission, I thought I'd repeat his question and my answer for you. I wanted to do so because his situation illustrates beautifully just how complicated the answer can be to what seems a simple question, that of ethnic identity -- in this case, "Am I Polish or Ukrainian?" I suspect this is a question many of you can relate to; and with any luck, in my answer I may have stumbled into saying something that will provide a bit of insight.

Here's what Mr. Ozembloski wrote:

- > My Dad came from what was Austria around 1918 and
- > his family settled in Saskatchewan, Canada. My father
- > always said we were Ukrainian and our family (parents
- > and older siblings) spoke Ukrainian. At any rate
- > here's the background:
- > Fathers name: William (Bill) Ozembloski
- > Mother's Name : Josie Lozinski (maiden name)
- > My Name: Lloyd William Ozembloski
- > I noticed that there is a variation on the spelling of
- > the surname: Oziemblowski.
- > The question really is: am I Polish or Ukrainian
- > and is this a name that currently exisits in Poland
- > or Ukraine?

This is a terribly complicated question, because bloodlines and heritage in that part of the world are often tangled past all unraveling. If it were possible to analyze the blood of a "pure Pole" for reliable markers of ethnic descent, in one case you might find traces of ancestors who were Lithuanian, German, Ukrainian, Czech, Hungarian, Romanian -- maybe little or no trace of Poles at all! In another case, you might find mainly traces of Poles, or mainly traces of Ukrainians. So many different bands have come marching and riding through eastern Europe throughout history -- sometimes raping as they went, sometimes settling down, marrying, and fathering whole broods of ethnically mixed children -- that they've made a real hash of the inhabitants' pedigrees. It's enough to make us genealogists throw up our hands and say, "Hell, we're all a pack of mutts."

However, many don't want to think that way. They want a clear ethnic identity as an

integral part of who and what they are. They ask the same basic question you've asked, and they want an answer. So I understand why you, and many others, want to reach a clear conclusion on the subject.

I usually answer that you are what you say you are, because it's so hard making a coherent argument based on any objective point of view. Facts are hard to come by, and often contradictory. And people from central and eastern Europe are famous for being opinionated and downright stubborn -- they don't let facts confuse them when they're sure they're right!

* YOU ARE WHAT YOU SPEAK *

Usually, in seeking an objective answer, I go by things like: 1) what language did the family speak? 2) what was their religion? -- Poles were usually Roman Catholic, Ukrainians either Orthodox or Greek Catholic; and 3) what first names did they use? If boys were called Jan or Grzegorz, they were Poles; if the names were Ukrainian versions, such as Ivan and Hryhir, they were Ukrainian.

By that logic, your family was apparently Ukrainian. People living in eastern Europe often find it advantageous to be able to speak a number of languages, but the one the family uses at home is usually the one they consider "their own." Obviously there can be exceptions, but people who considered themselves Poles would probably not speak Ukrainian among themselves. That's a pretty strong indication they were Ukrainians, in every sense that really matters.

Also, you say they came from Austria in 1918 -- which almost certainly means they came from Galicia. That was a province under the rule of the Austrian Empire during the period 1772-1918. It covered lands that now comprise southeastern Poland and western Ukraine. You have a great deal of mixing of ethnic elements in that area; Poles, Ukrainians, even Hungarians and Romanians (and of course, many, many Jews) all figured in the population statistics. So it's an area where you have plenty of ethnic Ukrainians living what is now in Poland, and ethnic Poles living in what is now Ukraine. From the data I've seen, the vast majority of "Poles" who immigrated to Canada came from Galicia, and many of them were more Ukrainian than Polish.

So the short answer is, "You're Ukrainian." Your family knew what they were -- why argue with them? (Especially since you have no chance of winning the argument!).

* LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE NAME *

But when it comes to eastern Europe, things are seldom simple, and there are some interesting complications here. If we look at your surname in regards to LINGUISTIC origin, which is a matter susceptible to impartial analysis, I'd say the name itself has to be Polish.

For one thing, it retains a nasal vowel, in that combination -emb-. The mother tongue of

all Slavs had nasal vowels, but in the other Slavic languages they lost their nasal quality, typically becoming -ya- or -u-. Only Polish preserved them (although slightly modified). More on this in a moment; for now the main point is, a Slavic name with -emb- in it is almost certainly Polish.

Also, names in the form X-owski usually come from the names of places beginning with the X part. So we'd expect OZIEMBLOWSKI (the original Polish spelling) to mean "one from Oziemblow" or some similar place name. The only place I could find with a name that fits is Oziemblow (also called Ozieblow, see below). In the late 19th century that village was in Opatow county, and was served by the Roman Catholic parish church in Modliborzyce, near Tarnobrzeg, in southeastern Poland.

That area was actually in Radom province of the Russian Empire (roughly 1815-1918); but it was very near the border with Galicia. I think chances are your family was called Oziemblowski because they came from, or had some connection with, this village in Poland. Presumably the family came from Oziemblow originally, back in the days when surnames were developing. Then later on they apparently moved farther to the south or southeast, into the region that was eventually ruled by Austria.

In any case, the form of the name is definitely Polish; that -iemb- combination is almost never seen in any Slavic language other than Polish. And the plausible link with this place name tends to confirm the conclusion that the name is of Polish linguistic origin.

I should add that the 15-volume _Slownik Geograficzny_ gazetteer of Poland and nearby lands also mentions a place called Oziemblowo. It was a walled farm settlement of noblemen on the Usa river, 90 versts from Oszmiany; strictly from a linguistic point of view, your surname could also refer to that place name. But this settlement was up in what is now Belarus, quite a long ways from the area ruled by Austria. The village in southeastern Poland seems the better bet in light of the information you mention.

Now, names in the form X-owski don't always refer to place names. Sometimes they mean "of the kin of X." The root _oziemb-_ in Polish means "frozen, chilled," so it is conceivable this name meant "kin of the chilly one." It could refer to body temperature, or it could refer to a cold, stiff personality. This is a plausible interpretation of Oziemblowski. But for names in the form X-owski, if you can find a place name beginning with the X part, it generally means the surname began as a reference to a family connection with that place.

Incidentally, that same root, meaning "chilled," exists in Ukrainian -- but it's _ozyab-_. If this name were Ukrainian, it would presumably take the form Ozyablivskyi, not Oziemblowski. (See how the Polish nasal vowel -em- has modified to -ya- in Ukrainian?). The form of the name itself is unquestionably Polish; and it probably refers to a place name, of which Oziemblow strikes me as the most likely candidate.

I should add that in Polish Oziemblow is spelled with a slash through the L and an accent over the second O. Online we use the tilde ~ to indicate those diacritical marks, because you can't reliably use them with computers not configured to use the Central European character set. So online we type Oziembl~o~w, but Poles write it as Oziemblow with a slash through the L and an accent over the second O. And OZIEMBLOWSKI is spelled with a slash through the L, OZIEMBL~OWSKI. I know all these tildes can be confusing, but sometimes it is essential to distinguish the letters, and this is the only way of doing so that is reliable when sending mail from one computer to another; if I used the correct Polish characters, they'd probably show up as strange symbols on your machine. At least we can count on a tilde to show up as a tilde, and it warns you that the preceding letter should bear a diacritical mark.

One more complication: in Polish when you see -emb- it's often a spelling variation, an alternative to the the nasal vowel written as an E with a tail under it. Online we use E~ to stand for that letter. Since the E~ sounds like "em" before a B, it may often be spelled that way. That means your surname can be spelled OZIE~BL~OWSKI or OZIEMBL~OWSKI; both are pronounced the same, roughly "oh-zhem-B'WOFF-skee." And Poles spell the name of the village Oziembl~o~w or Ozie~bl~o~w (my sources show both spellings)

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 were 259 Polish citizens named OZIEMBL~OWSKI. They were scattered all over the country, with no real concentration in any one area. There were also 243 who spelled it OZIE~BL~OWSKI, and this spelling, too, was scattered all over. These are basically just two slightly different but acceptable ways of spelling the same name. The version with E~ is probably just a touch more "correct" than the one with EM, but the difference is pretty insignificant.

If you'd like to see the frequency and distribution data on the various spellings of this name in Poland as of 1990, go to this Website:

http://www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html

In the box type "Ozi*b?owski" and then click on "Szukaj" (Search). Using the wild cards * and ? will let you bypass the need for entering the Polish characters, and it will also let you see a number of different spellings. Some matches, such as Ozie~bkowski, are not relevant to your search; just ignore them.

If you need help understanding how to read and interpret this data, you can read my article "The 'Slownik nazwisk' Is Online!" in the August issue of _Gen Dobry!_ at this site:

http://www.polishroots.com/gendobry/GenDobry vol3 no8.htm

If you'd like to see where Ozie~bl~o~w/Oziembl~o~w is located, go to:

http://www.jewishgen.org/shtetlseeker/loctown.htm

Enter "Oziebl" as the place you're looking for, select "Poland" as the country to be searched, and select "All towns starting with this precise spelling." Click on "Start the search," and after a moment you'll see a list of various places in Poland with names starting Oziebl-. It should be a short list, with only one name, Ozieblow. Click on the blue numbers (latitude and longitude) and you'll get a map showing that location. You can print the map, save it, zoom in and out, etc.

There are a number of good Websites that provide information on the people, history, and culture of Ukraine. For genealogical research in particular, my favorite is http://www.halgal.com. Others worth a close look are:

http://www.rootsweb.com/~ukrwgw/index.html

http://www.mtu-net.ru/rrr/ukraine.htm

http://www.carpatho-rusyn.org/

http://www.infoukes.com http://www.lemko.org/

* GEE, I'M GLAD I ASKED! *

To sum up, this surname is almost certainly Polish, and was originally spelled either Ozie~bl~owski or Oziembl~owski, meaning "one from _" where you fill in the blank with a place name beginning Ozie~bl~ow- or Oziembl~ow-. The most likely place I can find is the village of Ozie~bl~o~w or Oziembl~o~w in southeastern Poland. That's consistent with all the information you give, and could plausibly be connected with a family that lived in southeastern Poland or western Ukraine and later immigrated to Canada.

Linguistic analysis of the surname may indicate that your family was connected with a Polish village -- but it does not mean they were Poles. They may very well have been ethnic Ukrainians. They thought they were, and they should know. Analysis of the name turns up nothing to refute that contention. After all, if Ukrainians can end up living in America, searching for a better life, why couldn't a Ukrainian family have settled in Poland centuries ago, for the same reason?

I don't know how much I've cleared things up -- you may be scratching your head and mumbling, "Gee, I'm glad I asked -- or am I?" But I hope I've helped a little, and wish you the best of luck with your research.

Subject: Correction

[This refers to an item in the last issue about Galician Military Cemeteries at http://www.cmentarze.gorlice.net.pl/]:

The site Paul Valasek recommended deals with World War I, not World War II cemeteries, in Galicia. I was intrigued by the site because I could not figure out why anyone would associate the name Galicia with World War II. The reason I am so interested is that I am on a search for my Gf who was MIA in World War I in 1916.

Sophie M. Korczyk <economist21@hotmail.com>

[Editor: Oh, World War I, World War II, what's a Roman numeral between friends? This is one of those aggravating little typoes that slip by so easily, but drive you nuts. Obviously a World War II Galician cemetery would require some explaining, since Galicia ceased to exist after World War I. Sorry about that!]

Subject: Mongolian invaders

This group of people occupied St. Petersburg for some 500 years and made forays into Poland on a periodic basis. Their actions were not one of traders. Raping and pillaging was the order of the day. Rosemary Chorzempa's _Polish Roots_ contains only a one line reference.

Some of my family, mother's side have Asian/ Mongolian/Chinese features. A number have somewhat pronounced Asiatic features:

- lack of facial hair
- slanted eyes
- yellowish skin
- bowed legs and short legs, etc.

I haven't been able to find anyone with the "Mongolian Spot." However, I have not researched this too carefully.

I collect photographs. Some photos of unrelated (married into) persons show the signs of the Oriental look. Photos I have received from Poland, which are few, seem to be lacking in the Oriental look.

In my travels through Poland I did not see any Polish Asians! Not that I did a complete search of every corner of Poland; however, none seemed to be evident.

What happened to these people? Were they ethnically cleansed along with the Jews,

homosexuals, etc? Perhaps they were put on the front line during World War I and II and were gotten rid of this way?

Have you done any research in this area? Or received any input?

Francis A. Przygoda 222 Garden Street Hoboken NJ 07030 201 420 7557 FAPHOBOKEN@aol.com

[Editor: I have not, but would love to hear from anyone who can shed some light on this subject.]

Subject: Changed Names

Both of my Polish grandparent's surnames evolved into something different after being in the U.S. for a number of years.

- 1) Chojnacki was changed to that very Irish name, Hoyne. Imagine NOT knowing you were really Polish and trying to research your Irish potato roots? I expect they picked it because it sounded similar; there is a street in Chicago with that name and I think it was the name of a big bank at 6 corners (?).
- 2) Jaworski was changed to Jayes. As a kid in Chicago area I always fantasized that we were heirs to the Jays potato chip fortune. I have no idea why my grandfather picked Jayes as the new surname.

Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

Subject: Changed Names II: The Andersons Strike Back

Thought you might enjoy the following name change. My great-uncle, Ignacy Zawadzki, immigrated to the U.S. in 1891. He wanted a more "American" name, so he changed his name to John Anderson. Fortunately, the families stayed in touch so that I knew about the Anderson cousins.

I enjoy _Gen Dobry!_ every month - thanks!

Barb Pardol <Golfdrp@aol.com>

Subject: Changed Names III -- Return of the Rutkowskis

I really enjoyed the latest issue of _Gen Dobry!_. Several of the Web addresses were very useful, but what I enjoyed most was your article "Is This A Polish Name?"

When I was a youngster my family surname was Gardner. According to my Dad, it reverted back to Rutkowski when Social Security went into effect in 1939. Several of my father's brothers officially changed their name to Gardner. They claimed that it was easier to do that than to go back and change the names on other important documents such as mortgages, insurance policies, etc.

One of the great mysteries of my genealogical research is the origin of the surname Gardner. I learned from the 1900 Census that a Jozef and Lizzie Gardner with their four children lived in Fells Point in Baltimore, only a few houses away from grandfather and his family. But I was unable to find any connection between this family and my family. Another theory is in 1871, Baltimore's newest landmark was a towering grain elevator erected on a pier at Fells Point. Painted on the structure in large block letters was the name Gardner's Northern Central Railway. Polish immigrants being transported across Baltimore Harbor from the Locust Point Terminal to the Fells Point's Polonia couldn't miss the structure and the name.

I thought perhaps my Great-grandfather may have adopted this name for his business until I read your article. It is my understanding that the name Rutkowski is locational in origin and means "where the rue grows." According to Sophie Hodorowicz Knab in her book _Polish Herbs, Flowers & Folk Medicine_, "Rue growing in a cottage garden was a sign that a marriageable daughter lived within and was preparing for her wedding day ... [She would] weave a wreath of rue to wear to church on her wedding day." My Great-aunt Teresa was married in Baltimore and it is likely that she may have grown her own rue.

So, if rue grows in a garden, it would have been planted and tended to by a gardener. With the practice in Baltimore (Balmore) then and now to frequently drop unnecessary syllables, do you just suppose that this may be how the Gardner name originated?

Bill Rutkowski < ImogeneRut@aol.com>

[Editor: it's an ingenious conjecture -- and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if it turned out to have some merit. Rutkowski can indeed come from place names meaning "[place] of rue" (although there are other possibilities). Obviously facts are better than speculation, and some rather prosaic fact may come along and provide a very humdrum explanation to the name change. But until something better comes along, this is as good an explanation as any.]

*** PITTSBURGH'S "BLACK SHEEP ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION" ***

[Polish Roots Vice President Paul S. Valasek came across two items with info on Poles in the Pittsburgh area, and thought them worth sharing -- just in case some members might spot a familiar name.]

Souvenir from the Annual Valentine Dance of the Black Sheep Athletic Association, Monday Evening, February 14, 1938. Lithuanian Hall on the South Side, (Pittsburgh). The Polish Aristocrats Orchestra.

Officers:

John Multa - President Stanley Kosmaczewski - Vice-president Charles Baier - Secretary- Treasurer Chester Walas - Asst. Treasurer Walter Majewski - Sargeant at Arms

Members:

Casimir Arbasak

Harry Bodura

Alexander Majewski

Melvin Evosavic

Adolph Kwiatkowski

Benjamin Majewski

Michael Bodura

Joseph Conway

Harry Kowalewski

Michael Bodura (#2)

Stanley Glowacki

Edward Sosnowski

Harry Glowacki

Henry Grabowski

Bronko Majewski

Henry Kaczmarski

Frank Kaczmarski

Walter Wrzesinski

Nick Winowich

Stanley Witkoskey

Stanley Wanielista

Frank Glowacki

Frank Kosmaczewski

Joseph Kowalski

Frank Malinski

Steve Tomczyk

Joseph Hagaski

Vincent Multa

Anthony Psuty

Flax Oldynski

Chester Multa

Stanley Guziatis

Stanley Multa

Joseph Multa

Art Schmidt

Leon Spychala

Ike Olesak

Stanley Walas

Joseph Vucic

John Genitis

Jack Stiller

Frank Rack

Walter Kudla

Ted Psuty

Al Cooper

* THE POLISH ARISTOCRATS ORCHESTRA *

"We Work While We Play"

Call Mayflower 8437

[The following list of names is taken from a Souvenir booklet of an Annual Valentine Dance of the Black Sheep Athletic Association held Monday Evening, February 14, 1938 at the Lithuanian Hall on the South Side [Pittsburgh]).

Members of the Orchestra

Edward Wisniewski, Saxaphone and Director

Eugene Olszewski, Trumpet

Stephen Delach, Saxaphone

Joseph Zarnich, Accordion

Vincent Greida, Saxaphone

Robert Allebrand, Drummer

Thaddeus Kubiak, Pianist

Chester Jakoski, Manager

[Any information on the orchestra, the organization, or the hall is greatly appreciated and will be added to the page we're making for this data on the PolishRoots Website. Photos most welcomed. -- Dr. Paul S. Valasek]

February 13, 2003

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

"Tracking Your Polish Ancestors Via American and Polish Resources"

The NEWBERRY LIBRARY 60 West Walton Street Chicago, Illinois 60610-7324

Recently the Friends of Genealogy of the Newberry Library in Chicago announced they are hosting a talk by PolishRoots' own Paul S. Valasek:

"Learn the ins and outs of Polish research on both sides of the ocean, including name changes, foreign alphabets, and finding records. Your guide is Paul Valasek, past president of the Polish Genealogical Society of America and a mainstay of the Polish Museum of America and PolishRoots.org. Benefit from his years of experience researching in Eastern Europe, tracing ancestors as far back as 1604. Admission is \$10; free to members of the Friends of Genealogy. For inquiries and reservations, call (312) 255-3510."

The Newberry Library http://www.newberry.org

Genealogy Collection

http://www.newberry.org/nl/genealogy/genealogyhome.html

and Friends of Genealogy http://www.newberry.org/nl/genealogy/L3gfriends.html

March 22, 2003

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

One-Day Regional Conference

New Brunswick, New Jersey

[Edward L. Rosenbaum <erosenbaum@yahoo.com>, President, JGS of Bergen County, NJ, posted a note on the JewishGen Bulletin Board offering more information on this conference at this site: http://erosenbaum.netfirms.com/jgsbc/new_brunswick.pdf.]

The Hyatt Regency, New Brunswick Two Albany Street New Brunswick, NJ 08901

April 24-26, 2003

Ohio Genealogical Society 2003 Conference "Ohio: 200 Years of Heritage"

Columbus, OH

For More Information: http://www.ogs.org/

May 28-31, 2003

National Genealogical Society - 2003 Conference in the States

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

More details to follow

July 7-10, 2003

The Illinois State Genealogical Society Announces

THE 9TH ANNUAL GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTE OF MIDAMERICA

Springfield, Illinois

University of Illinois, Springfield Campus

The Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) is a four-day intensive educational experience. Students choose one of four courses to attend for the 4 days. Instructors are nationally known lecturers who have spoken at local, state and national genealogical conferences.

Courses are taught in a relaxed atmosphere. Be a part of a Midwest tradition, where genealogical instruction is presented in a relaxed atmosphere, a small informal setting where camaraderie among attendees and instructors make for a unique educational experience.

To be added to the mailing list for further information, please send your mailing address

to Susan Kaufman-Tavenner, GIMA Chairperson at: kaufmansusan@juno.com -- please put "GIMA" in the subject line. Information can also be found at the ISGS web site, http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/index.html.

Or write: ISGS-GIMA03, PO Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195

July 20-25, 2003

IAJGS 23rd International Conference DC

J.W. Marriott, Pennsylvania Ave., NW

More details to be announced later

September 5-6, 2003

St. Louis Polish Festival

Behind Falcon Hall - 20th and St. Louis Avenue

Music, crafts, games and authentic Polish food and pastries.

For more Information: 314-421-9614

November 6-9, 2003

St. Louis, MO

New England Regional Genealogical Conference

Sea Crest Resort, North Falmouth, MA

New England-America's Melting Pot

For more details: http://www.rootsweb.com/~manergc

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

http://www.pbi.edu.pl/index__.php

Garret Mierzejewski <gmpolam@att.net> sent me a note on this site, the Polish Internet Library, after seening an article on the subject in the January 19, 2003 issue of the _Warsaw Voice_. It will feature Polish literature, scientific papers, academic texts, archival material, periodcals, as well as paintings, photographs, and other graphic works. The first items put in were masterpieces of Polish literature, including _Pan Tadeusz_, The Trilogy, and _The Crimean Sonnets .

http://members.fortunecity.com/john_deere/poland.html#top

Valerie Koselka <gardenld@ix.netcom.com> posted a note on this site to Poland-Roots-L@rootsweb.com, saying she found it "while looking for something on Polish costumes. I think it is kind of fun site and listened to 'Goralu czy ci nie zal' while clicking on pictures of the country and reading about regional costumes. There is information about koledy, language, history, etc...."

http://digital.nypl.org/imagegate/newgate/index.cfm

On Poland-Roots-L@rootsweb.com <PolishDragon@att.net> mentioned this site, home of the New York Public Library's project to put some of its maps, images, records online. "If you search on Ellis island, it brings up 80 plus images -- be sure to see the Ruthenian woman, the Russian cossacks and the Slovak gypsies. <g> Some of the images have already been used in Ellis Island books and TV series. Have fun."

http://naturalizationrecords.com/usa/

In another post on Poland-Roots-L@rootsweb.com, <PolishDragon@att.net> indicated this is an excellent site for info on naturalization. "The resources/addresses are even broken down by state and Canada!"

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bukowsko_triangle

Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> posted a note to various lists on a new e-mail group for "anyone whose ancestors (or themselves for that matter) were connected with the village of Bukowsko or its surrounding villages in old wojewo~dztwo Krosno in southern Poland. This would include the city of Sanok. Bukowsko is located south of the city of Sanok. It is a gmina and the parish church is located here." For more info visit the above site; to start sending messages to members of this group, just send e-mail to: <bukowsko_triangle@yahoogroups.com>.

http://freepages.misc.rootsweb.com/~lukomski/lists/ctpolish.htm

The January 15, 2003 issue of _RootsWeb Review_ mentioned this new mailing list devoted to Polish genealogical research in Connecticut. The Website indicated above gives information about its purpose, how to join, and how to post notes to its members.

http://www.xrce.xerox.com/competencies/content-analysis/tools/guesser

On the mailing list soc.genealogy.jewish, Tom Venetianer <tom.vene@uolcom.br> praised this as "an outstanding resource for genealogical research. If you have a document and can't identify its language, type a short text in this very peculiar translatorengine and it will tell you *exactly* the language of origin of the document under scrutiny. It works with 47 different languages, including Hebrew and Russian."

http://www3.shore.net/~anderson/Fraktur.html

On Posen-l@rootsweb.com, Jim Piechorowski <Jamespiech@aol.com> described this site as "a must for anyone trying to understand the typeface 'Fraktur' used in Prussian birth, death and marriage records."

http://www.osobliwosci.ids.pl/~milosz/ekurpie.htm

On Genpol@man.torun.pl, Laurence Krupnak < Lkrupnak@erols.com > gave this address as a source of info on the Kurpie region of Poland.

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http://www.treemakers-toolbox.com/genealogy-software.html

Jennifer <genyak@hotmail.com> mentioned this site on PolandBorderSurnames-L@rootsweb.com because it reprints a PC Magazine article from September 17, 2002 that rates 7 top-selling genealogical software packages. If you're thinking of buying a program, this info might help you choose the best one for you.

http://www.jewishgen.org/databases

On the mailing list soc.genealogy.jewish, Warren Blatt <wblatt@jewishgen.org> described several new and updated databases on the JewishGen website, and said this address is where to find them.

http://teams.karpaty.edu.pl/4XA/index.html

Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> posted this address on the galicia@topica.com mailing list, saying it shows maps of Galicia circa World War I and "looks like students posted this site for a classroom project." She also mentioned another site with great info, photos, and maps of Galicia: http://www.ziemia-jasielska.gal.pl/spis_tresci.html.

http://www.archives.ca/

On Genpol@man.torun.pl, Lindy Kasperski wanted to let folks know that the "1906 Canadian census of the Northwest Provinces is now available (as of last week)through the Archives of Canada website in ArchiviaNet Online Research area" at the above address.

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