

Gen Dobry!

********** 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 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. A recent addition is a link to the World Bibliographic Index #11:

http://www.biblio.tu-bs.de/wbi11_en/

Try searching there -- you never know what you might find!

*** THE PIANIST -- A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR GENEALOGISTS ***

by Paul S. Valasek, D.D.S. <paval56@aol.com> Vice-President of PolishRoots(R)

The one thing all genealogists yearn to accomplish is experiencing their ancestors' lives, times, tribulations and victories. How often do we say, "How was it in those days? What was it like to work and live on a manor? How was Army life during the Napoleonic Wars? What did they eat in 1716, and how did they survive the winters?" The questions are endless and limited only by the thoughts of those asking them.

If science ever perfects a time machine, rest assured, I'll be fighting for the first place in line. Space travel, nope; time travel, yes, sir! The fascination of just viewing a time gone by, or -- for the brave -- the future, is a tremendous thrill to many. I imagine the tickets would be bought up by genealogists all over the world.

So, you may ask, what does this have to do with the move "The Pianist"?

Movies, as an art form, give us that moment of time travel, that isolation in a dark room where only the images and sounds of the movie are flashing across your eyes, ears, and mind. Such was my experience when seeing "The Pianist." This movie, greatly overlooked by the general public (and a lot of political Hollywood), didn't make its move until near extinction from the theaters. As it turned out, steam was building for its support as the Oscars approached. My guess is, a few weeks more and it would have beat out "Chicago" for best film.

Now it's out on DVD (Universal) and soon on VHS as well. And I urge you, the reader, to rent, borrow, or buy a copy of this fine movie.

For those not yet sure what it's about, it portrays the life of the up-and-coming Polish-Jewish pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman, whose piano was the last music heard on free radio in Warsaw prior to the Nazi invasion of September 1, 1939. He was acclaimed by both Jews and Poles as a fine pianist whose renditions of Chopin were particularly prized. The story continues with his life in Warsaw from 1939 through the end of the war in 1945,

dealing with his survival with the aid of Jews, Poles, and even a German officer. He lived until 2000; and what is important, he wrote his memoirs, -- not 20, 30, or 40 years after the act -- but only a few short years after the war. The accuracy is indisputable and the memories vivid.

Director Roman Polanski, himself a Krakow ghetto survivor, directs the story admirably, placing great emphasis on details and accuracy. And this is what I want to point out to genealogists: the details of the times. The scenes, the furnishings, the artifacts, the food, the costumes, the music, all parts of everyday life now more than 55 years in the past.

As with many films, there are multiple levels of viewing this movie. Of course, you have the main line story of Szpilman and his survival in war-torn Warsaw for 6 years. You have the story of the Jewish Ghetto Uprising, followed by the Polish Warsaw Uprising against the Nazis in 1944. Both of these battles involved tens of thousands of people, many of whom are included in our family trees (or should be, if we knew of them). Too many times, we have a complete line of the family in the 1850s to the nth degree, but have no idea of who in our family was living in Poland during the 1940's.

And then we have the level of the details.

For this level, I can watch a movie time and time again. Look at the details which good movie productions use: the sets, the costumes, the props. They are truly representative of the times, if not actual surviving artifacts. When I saw the great number of props used in the sets of "The Pianist," all I could see was the antique shops I frequent in Eastern Europe on my travels, and the huge amount of Art Deco and Waterfall design furnishings: the silverware, the ash trays, the pianos which are typically "European" and not seen in shops in the U.S. (unless they deal in European Antiques). For many of these items, they don't even represent comparable items from Western Europe, because the style of the East is different from that of the West.

As for many of the apartments, I felt I have been in them -- older apartments in buildings which survived the war have not been greatly altered to this day. The plumbing and electrical fixtures of the 40s are still seen today, or current versions of them. When I visited Poland in 1974 for the first time, many of these fixtures were indeed survivors of the 30s and 40s, with the wiring on the outside of the plaster wall. And indoor plumbing was still a luxury in small towns and villages!

DVD's have the great advantage of adding material to the movie. A director's cut and production notes are usually fascinating, and such was the case for "The Pianist." After I left the movie, I tried to figure out what part of Warsaw it was filmed in -- if it was filmed in Warsaw at all! Well, it turns out that some of it was filmed in the Praga district of Warsaw, that area on the East side of the Wisla where the Red army was sitting, yes, sitting on their hands, during the Warsaw uprising, waiting for the Poles and Germans to kill each other off, thus allowing the Red Army to simply walk in and mop up what was left! There's the history lesson we start to get from these films. Now one needs to look up this Soviet inaction, as well as the story of both uprisings.

Some of this area had survived the brutal destruction of Warsaw, which nearly devastated the entire city on the west side of the river. Very, very few buildings survived; those that did experienced heavy damage. But what of the sets of streets which looked like pre-war survivors?

Of course, this is where Hollywood takes over, and neighborhoods, apartments, streets, restaurants, and buildings were created from scratch to serve as the backdrop for the story. I don't know if these sets survived the movie, but I for one would love to walk through them to get that feeling of Warsaw, 1939. That's where movies can make "time travel" possible, to set us, for a moment, in a past time and place.

I've spoken with many knowledgeable researchers, and have been greatly surprised how few have seen this movie. Maybe folks figure it's a rehashing of "Schindler's List." In my opinion, it's a better and more honest representation of the times and situations. Not ALL Jews were victims, not ALL Germans were evil, not ALL Poles were accomplices of the Nazi machine against the Jews. As in real life, shades of grays appear all over, rather than black and whites. But what can be said is that good people will do good no matter who they are, and evil will continue with those who strive for its success.

Peter Jassem, a good friend of PolishRoots whose lineage is both Jewish and Polish, commented that there are many, many stories of survival like this, but very few are ever widely told. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada-Toronto recently had a historical lecture on these matters, one I wish I could have heard. In this case, we owe a debt to Wladyslaw Szpilman and Roman Polanski for bringing some truth to these horrible times, as well as the visionary experience of living through the eyes of people in Warsaw 1939-1945. See the movie and judge for yourself. (And judge for yourself, too, how important a can of _ogurki_ can be!).

*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Call for Action!

[Editor -- This note was sent to Paul S. Valasek regarding his article in the last _Gen Dobry!_].

I just wanted to write and tell you that I appreciate your article, "The Internet as a Shared Working Tool," in the most recent _Gen Dobry!_. So many family researchers use the Internet to search for information and clues while they themselves are sitting on "gold mines" that they are not sharing. They are not doing so selfishly; they just don't realize that their personal data may have universal worth.

Thanks for prodding many of us to action.

Daryl Ann < Daryl Anns Desk@aol.com>

[Editor -- This note is from Paul, with thanks for a response to that same article:]

We want to send a large "Thank You" from PolishRoots to Rita Koziol of Arizona for providing us a copy of the book _Batalion Strzelcow Podhalanskich 1944-1945_ [Battalion of Podhale Riflemen] which has over 500 names of casualties from World War II, giving the unit as well as places and dates where some of them died. This will be indexed as soon as I can get to it. This is a direct result from my appeal in the last issue for folks to send us and contribute material which they may have at home.

Paul S. Valasek <paval56@aol.com>

Subject: LDS Microfilm #1048408

Attached is an index listing in Latter Day Saints Microfilm #1048408 for the town of Gniezno, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish. The parish church is located at the entrance of the cemetery. This is the southernmost cemetery. This one has more mausoleums. The church is located in the northwest part of Gniezno, and is not being used as a church anymore, according to my friends from Gniezno.

Sts. Peter and Paul's served the following towns and sections:

Braciszewo
Maczniki
Obora
Piekary
Przedmiescie
Pyszczynek
Skiereszewo
Skrzynka (spelling?)
Zerniki
Zoziechowa

I have also included for cross-reference purposes some of the actual details of the entry: the parish priest, bride and groom, parents of the bride and groom, and the best man and bridesmaid. The towns of each are also included.

If anyone would like the actual page in the index I would be glad to FAX it to them. Because of the writing, I can't guarantee the accuracy of the spelling of the name.

Additionally, I have found that there are nearly 100 reels of microfilm for the town of

Gniezno. I am also working on another index, however it is slow going.

I trust that you may have some use for this index listing.

Francis A. Przygoda 222 Garden Street Hoboken, NJ 07030 201 420 7557 FAX 201963 3398 faphoboken@aol.com

[Editor -- Obviously I don't have room to print this index in _Gen Dobry!_. But I sent it to PolishRoots Webmaster Don Szumowski, and he's going to post it on the Website with the other databases (http://www.polishroots.com/database.htm). I'm printing this to spread the word that Mr. Przygoda has done this, so that other researchers can learn of it, benefit from his work, and thank him for sharing it.]

Subject: Polish Translator and Guide

I have been to Poland three times, 1995, 1998 and 2000 and have used the same person each time to guide and translate for me. He is very reliable and intelligent and has been in Chicago for English training. His name is Roman Mycak and lives in Poznan, Poland, but will come anywhere to pick you up at any airport in Poland or Germany. His address is ul. Znanieckiego 12 L/136, Poznan, Poland 60-683. His rates are very low and service is outstanding. Please put him on your list of Guides.

Hank <AZGENCO@aol.com>

[Editor -- I'll be happy to add him to the list.]

Subject: Thanks, and Czolgosz

I want to acknowledge the help I received from Dolores Konopa. I had wanted to receive the death notices for Katherine, Jerome and Florence Lewandowski from the Buffalo Library, but their rates had gone up to \$15 per death notice, if you do not reside in Erie County. Dolores very kindly copied the notices and sent them to me. I thought there was hope in finding relatives in Buffalo. The death notices mentioned Florence's married name, Bera, her husband was Vincent. However, when I went to the Social Security Index a Florence Bera died on 29 December 1997, 14215 Buffalo as her last address. And the same with her husband, Vincent. He died in November 1979, last address 14211 Buffalo.

The death notice mentioned a son for Jerome, Joseph A. Lewandowski. There were 179

Joseph's mentioned in the Social Security Index. Of those residing in NY there were no deaths for someone probably born in the 1940s or 1950s. So now I will try the phone directory for Joseph. In the death notice, Denise is mentioned as Joseph's wife. And there was a mention of a child, Victoria Ann Lewandowski.

To those of you who e-mailed me with suggestions and help, I wish to thank you all. And yes, Jerome, was a veteran of World War II and belonged to an electrical workers union. He was buried from Queen of Peace Church. His mother, Katherine, was buried from Transfiguration Church.

Thank you all again for your help.

Also, in searching through the records of St. John Cantius, Buffalo, NY, I came across an Andrzej Czolgosz, age 77, 182 Ashley, who died on 15 December 1939. Also mentioned in the deaths was a Franciszka Czolgosz, age 4 days old, who died on 5 March 1915. Her parents were Wladyslaw and Antonina.

My question is: Was the infamous Leon Czolgosz [the man who assassinated President McKinley], a parishioner of St. John Cantius? He was from Buffalo.

Armela Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

Subject: Baltimore

In the March issue of _Gen Dobry!_ you carried a note from Ray Marshall about the connection made between the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the North German Lloyd Steamship Line. He mentioned that he did not have a source. I have located one online source that might interest readers whose ancestors arrived in Baltimore.

Using the Google search engine, type in Enoch Pratt Free Library and then, inside quotation marks, "Baltimore, the Other Ellis Island."

The one hit will be a very nice four-page article with interesting details.

Joseph Martin <martinjo@lewisu.edu>

[Editor -- Thanks for the tip! Baltimore researchers, take a look!]

Subject: _Gen Dobry!_ as a College Text

I have spent the last few weeks reading the copies of _Gen Dobry!_ in the archives. It is like taking a college-level course in Polish (Eastern Europe) genealogy.

[Editor -- Thank you! That's one of the nicest compliments I've ever received. At heart I'm a teacher, and I'd love to think of what I'm doing as offering a college course of the sort you describe. So your comments are very gratifying.]

I have learned much. I started about a year ago doing research on my family. I'm 71 and I decided that one of the things I must do is record what I know and find out all I can for the future members of the family. I live in central Mexico so whatever I do, I do on the Internet and through the mail. I have discovered the name of my grandfather, also the name of my grandmother's father. I now know the burial place of my uncle who was killed in World War I. He is buried in France. I also communicate with younger members of the family that are interested in family history. You have helped with your surname information. Keep up the good work!

Richard Warmowski <rwarmowski@yahoo.com>

[Editor -- I'll try. It's a pleasure to see how much you have learned. Living in central Mexico makes it harder to do research in person, of course. But as you've shown, persistence and ingenuity lets one make the most of his opportunities -- and the most can be a lot!

*** SOME BASICS ON PASSENGER LISTS ***

by Lorine McGinnis Schulze <otg@csolve.net> or <olivetreegen@netscape.net>

[Editor -- On the Herbarz-L mailing list, Lorine Schulze posted a note designed to help someone having trouble finding an ancestor on ship's passenger lists. There's a lot of good information here, and I thought it was worth repeating for those who didn't get to see it. What follows is the original question, followed by her reply, and references to further sources.]

- > From: "WG" <wgalinski@silvatica.pl>
- > My grandfather, Antoni Galinski was in USA from ca. 1894 to ca. 1904 and
- > went back to Poland. Although, a lot of efforts I have paid I am unable to
- > find out whereabouts of his stay in USA. He should be covered by the 1900
- > census but I was not successful in searching for his name. According to my
- > family tradition, he returned to Poland as a rich man, so he had to work
- > somewhere. Do you think it is possible to trace his fate in the USA? What
- > kind of sources would you recommend me?
- > I have already tried the Ellis Island Foundation but I have got no
- > certain results. What were other points of entries to USA available to
- > emigrants from Poland/Russia? Are they available via internet (I am located
- > in Europe).

Once you know your ancestor's state of entry, you can search microfilms. Most states are indexed, so this will make your job slightly easier. You can order films in to a nearby Family History Center, or have NARA do the job (once you have precise details).

You can get a list of film numbers (NARA & FHC) at:

http://olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/nara_indexbyport.shtml

Scroll down to the state you want and click on the link, then find the film # you need.

The staff of the National Archives will undertake a search of the original records for a fee. To obtain a search request form, write to:

General Reference Branch (NNRG) National Archives and Records Administration 7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20408

and request NATF Form 81, Order for Copies of Ship Passenger Arrival Records. You can also order National Archives (NARA) forms online at:

http://www.archives.gov/global_pages/inquire_form.html

To find your nearest FHC you can go to:

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp

There are some ideas for researching hard-to-find ancestors on ships' lists after 1820 at:

http://olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/usaaft1820.shtml

For more ideas go to:

http://olivetreegenealogy.com/articles/articles.shtml

and scroll down to "Emigration, Immigration & Passenger Lists" to make your choice.

To search online transcribed ships' lists, have you tried these two sites? They both have search engines set up to search online free passenger lists. If one doesn't have what you want, the other probably will:

http://www.searchforancestors.com/records/passenger.html

and

http://olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/search_ships.shtml

This site has several search engines, one for each state where ships arrived.

From these two search engines you can search almost ALL online passenger lists to USA.

These are all free to use.

Lorine McGinnis Schulze

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* The Olive Tree Genealogy

http://olivetreegenealogy.com/

* Naturalization Records

http://naturalizationrecords.com/

* USA Genealogy

http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote/usa_genealogy/

*** BOOK REVIEW: _SL~OWNIK NAZW WL~ASNYCH_ ***

One of the things you learn the hard way when you tackle translating materials in another language is that most dictionaries don't help you much with proper names. That is, they concentrate on common nouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, etc. They usually ignore names of persons and places -- or at best, stick a brief list in the back of the book.

But these are sometimes the trickiest words to deal with in a foreign-language text! Suppose you're reading something in Polish dealing with European history and come across the adjective _langwedocki_. Good luck finding a source that will help you figure out this is the Polish adjective for Langwedocja, a historical region of south-central France. Suddenly the light goes on -- this is the Polish form of the name we know as Languedoc!

Recently I discovered a helpful book available from Dom Ksiazki (House of Books) in Chicago, Website www.domksiazki.com. It's by Jan Grzenia, and is entitled _Sl~ownik nazw wl~asnych_ [Dictionary of Proper Names], ISBN 83-01-13710-X, published by Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 2002. It cost \$13.95. I took a chance buying it -- for all I knew it was worthless -- but it has turned out to be really useful, so I thought I'd mention it for others who might be interested.

You must understand that it is all in Polish. But the definitions are in simple terms, easy to look up. If you're up to tackling texts in Polish, you can definitely handle this! Thus Langwedocja is defined as "kraina historyczna we Francji," which is not hard to decipher as "a historical region in France." Or if you read someone lived "w Gniewie" and you're trying to figure out why he was living "in Anger" (in Polish _gniew_ is a noun meaning "anger, wrath"), you can look it up and see that Gniew is "miasto w wojewodztwie

gdanskim," "a town in Gdansk province." Or if you see some reference to "Jowisz," you can look it up and find it is the name of "a god in Roman mythology" or "a planet in the Solar System" -- oh, yeah, Jupiter/Jove! Obvious, once you figure it out.

The book includes a broad listing of names of people and places. It does NOT contain every little village, and I don't want to mislead you on that score. It covers people and places a well-read Pole might see in a newspaper or magazine article. It also gives you grammatical forms that might baffle a foreigner -- it tells you the vocative case of the feminine name Jowita is Jowito, and the locative is Jowicie. Just the sort of thing that a Pole recognizes without being told, but a poor foreigner trying to read Polish might waste days trying to figure out.

As I say, don't buy it in hopes of getting an index to every little place in Poland; it's not that detailed. But it does help you recognize a wide variety of proper names you will encounter in reading Polish sources -- some native Polish names, others Polonized adaptations of foreign names. It's not something you need if you seldom try to read Polish. But if you do find yourself wrestling with Polish text fairly often, this book may make the task easier!

*** GENEALOGY CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNET ***

The latest issue of _Nu? What's New?_ (the free e-zine of Avotaynu, Inc.) had an article on a subject I'd heard nothing about: the first genealogy conference on the Internet. The location is the Website http://www.familyhistoryradio.com, and the idea is to provide a live conference for those who can't make it to events in person. Potentially a great idea!

Unfortunately, according to _Nu_, the execution of this great idea leaves a lot to be desired. Still, there's always the hope people will learn from the experience and improve it. It's certainly something to keep an eye on.

For more, read _Nu? What's New?_, Vol. 4, No. 11, 22 June 2003, available here:

http://www.avotaynu.com/nu10.htm#v04n11

*** UPCOMING EVENTS ***

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 11-12, 2003

MIDWESTERN ROOTS

Family History & Genealogy Conference

at the Indianapolis Marriott East East 21st Street & Shadeland Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana

Sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Genealogical Society

For more information visit the Website: www.indianahistory.org/midwesternroots

July 20-25, 2003

IAJGS 23rd International Conference DC

J.W. Marriott, Pennsylvania Ave., NW

For more info -- http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003/

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July 26, 2003
Polish Genealogical Society of California Meeting
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. research assistance; 1:00 p.m. Class; 2:30 p.m. General Meeting
Site: LA-FHC, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA
July 31 - August 3, 2003
The International Polka Association is holding its
35th Anniversary Festival
at the Hyatt Oak Brook, Oak Brook, IL
For more information, check out their site at www.internationalpolka.com
or call 1-800-TO-POLKA, or 773-254-7771
August
Polish Genealogical Society of California Summer Seminar
Details to follow: see Website -- http://www.pgsca.org
September 3-6, 2003
Federation of Genealogical Societies 2003 Conference
Orlando, FL
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For more information: http://www.fgs.org/2003conf/FGS-2003.htm

September 5-6, 2003

St. Louis Polish Festival

Behind Falcon Hall - 20th and St. Louis Avenue

St. Louis, MO

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

For more information: 314-421-9614

October 3-5, 2003

Polish Genealogical Society of America's

* 25th Anniversary Fall Conference *

Ramada Hotel O'Hare, Rosemont, IL

For details check the PGSA Website at http://www.pgsa.org

Or contact the Conference Chairperson, Linda Ulanski: LUlanski@aol.com

October 15-18, 2003

9th CGSI Genealogical Conference

Houston, Texas

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, together with the host organization, the Texas Czech Genealogical Society http://www.txczgs.org/, will hold the 9th CGSI Genealogical Conference at the Omni Houston Hotel Westside in Houston, Texas, October 15-18, 2003.

November 6-9, 2003

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.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/george/4894.asp

At this address you can read "He Said, She Said: What to Do with Conflicting Stories," by George G. Morgan. It addresses a problem all researchers face: how to deal with sources that provide conflicting facts. This is one of those basic texts that would be required if you took a course Genealogy 101.

http://www.esisnet.com/~jackbowmanstc/poltrans.htm

Marie <polandgenweb@comcast.net> posted this address on the Poland-L list after getting a note from Jack Bowman. It gives the new address of his page providing aid translating records written in the Napoleonic format in Polish and Russian. For those who want a hand with paragraph-form records, this can be a real help!

http://www.stat.gov.pl

On the Galicia mailing list, Laurence Krupnak posted a note quoting http://www.rferl.org/pbureport/ on statistics from Poland's 2002 national census, available at this address, the Website of the Main Statistics Office. This census was the first in Poland after World War II to ask about inhabitants' ethnicity (_narodowos~c~_). It might not be everyone's cup of tea, but some researchers might find the information of interest.

http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Manifests/name/

On the PolandBorderSurnames mailing list Tina Ellis przymelewski@hotmail.com>
recommended this site as a good one for explaining notations on manifests.

http://www.stroje.pl/indexeng.htm

On the Posen mailing list Anna <Annahanulka@aol.com> cited this Website with information on folk costumes in Poland.

http://www.lviv.net/tel/

Vitaliy Vandrovych <vivandr@brandeis.edu> posted the address of this Website on the Galicia mailing list <galicia@topica.com>, saying it was the online phone directory for the city of Lviv (Polish name Lwow). It is in Ukrainian.

http://www.telefonbuch.de

On Lithuania-L mailing list Lutz Szemkus <Lutz.Szemkus@t-online.de> gave this as the address of a searchable German online telephone directory.

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