



Gen Dobry!

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*** WELCOME! ***

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

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

If you'd like *Gen Dobry!* in PDF form, this issue is available for downloading here:

http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_IX_1.pdf

*** DOING YOUR FAMILY GENEALOGY USING TOTAL STRANGERS ***

by Paul S. Valasek <Hallersarmy@aol.com>

Anyone doing genealogy knows where to get the answers: your own family, of course. Who better than the people you are studying for information about themselves, than themselves?

One group of people often overlooked are those who, for some reason or another, were tied-connected-herded-relocated-locked up with-lived next to, or for gazillion other reasons, attached to some of your relatives. School and work are perfect examples. You may be 100% Polish, but it's very unlikely that everyone in your school or office is 100% Polish as well. For that reason, you might find yourself (or an ancestor) in a group photo with every race/color/creed/ size/ and shape of people out there. If you knew this, and knew where these folks are, you could ask their families for a copy of the photo with you or your ancestors in it.

My dad served in World War II, and, after the war, spent six additional months in Korea on U.S. Army depots. At that time, he took numerous photos of the Japanese families living in the area who would visit the U.S. bases and interact with the soldiers. I bet their descendants not only don't know of these photos but would love to see them as well, considering how poor these families were, most likely not equipped with cameras and the means to develop photos of their own.

Another source of information can be pen pals. During World War II, my mom was in high school. A favorite pastime, especially for girls, was to write to soldiers overseas, to cheer up their spirits with a "letter from home." Well, my mom not only wrote to a number of U.S. soldiers and sailors she knew from home, but also to British fliers and sailors, as well as one Polish RAF pilot. They exchanged photos and correspondence throughout the war. The letters are interesting, and the photos are very nice as well. I've often thought, "I wonder if these families, especially the foreign soldiers, know that their ancestors' pictures exist and are well preserved in Chicago?" Most likely, these men are now gone; if they didn't share the information with their children, their descendants wouldn't have a clue (then again, maybe they couldn't care less). I've thought of looking up these families when I've visited England, but just couldn't find the time. Not that I'm that curious about what their families have done; but I wonder if my mom's photos and letters are preserved in some London suburb, or a village in Sussex, or in Luton, where some were based.

It is quite a stirring feeling to walk into a stranger's home, say, 4,000 miles from yours, and she opens a box and pulls out a photo of your grandfather! That's what happened in Warsaw in 1974 when we visited not a true stranger, but an unknown cousin we recently discovered in the phone book. We went over to her apartment, and found out that not only was she my grandfather's first cousin, she also had his army photo, which was passed down from World War I. It gave me goose bumps—here was Grandpa's photo sitting in a "stranger's" apartment!

Another time, I realized I had no sample of my paternal grandmother's handwriting. Sure, I grew up with her until I was 13, but after her death, and then subsequently, my grandfather's, all paperwork seems to have disappeared. (That was before I got very active in genealogy.) So

I sat around saying, “I wonder how my grandmother wrote and how she sounded in letters.” I contacted my family in the Czech Republic and asked if any of them had anything written by my grandmother. Well, lo and behold, they turned up a stack of letters she wrote “back home” in the 1930s, talking about the latest family happenings and gossip, and the like. I did get to separate a few examples for my files, and wonder now, what happened to the rest.

So don’t rule out the possibility that material pertaining to your family may be lying in a location which has nothing to do with your family at all, and by all accounts, shouldn’t be there for any reason. Or by “total strangers” who may turn out to be unknown relatives, or attached to your ancestors in ways that might not occur to you offhand.

I am now trying my luck at making such a connection. The following names are those of men who went into officer’s training at Camp Borden for Haller’s Army. They are the third class of officer trainees, and yes, my grandfather is one of them. If anyone can make a connection, then possibly I may have a photo of their ancestor, or maybe they have one of mine, or a letter or post-card pertaining to either ancestor or their experience during the war. This list comes from Canadian muster rolls; where the original is, I do not know. My source was Wincenty Skarzyński’s memoirs, which listed the class and showed what the document looked like in 1917.

Maybe you have a photo of my grandfather, but you just don’t know who that tall guy is next to your relative?

Third Class of Officers - Camp Borden, Ontario 1917

Andruszkiewicz, P.	Galinski, W.J.	Kowalski, M.
Basowski, M.	Gawalkiewicz, W.	Kozlakowski, A.
Baskiewicz, F.	Godziszewski, R.	Kozlowski, J.F.
Bialas, F.	Golaszewski, W.	Kukuczka, J.
Blacha, S.	Gorczyca, W.	Kuzminski, F.S.
Bratuszewski, S.B.	Gosiewski, J.	Kwasniewski, T.
Brzezinski, B.	Gorecki, F.	Lawcewicz, G.
Budziak, L.	Grecki, J.	Luczywo, B.
Butlak, S.A.	Gruchacz, L.	Lyczak, A.B.
Ciapa, J.	Gut, J.L.	Malinowski, A.T.
Ciecierski, W.	Jedrczak, J.	Marszewski, M.
Cieslicki, A.	Karczewski, S.	Matejkowski, A.
Czaban, W.A.	Kargol, W.	Matuszkiewicz, J.
Czackowski, B.	Kawszewicz, J.	Mierzejewski, W.
Czajkowski, W.	Klimczewski, H.	Miller, L.R.
Dabrowski, J.	Kogut, G.J.	Miller, R.
Dombrowski, A.	Kolasa, S.J.	Minoga, J.
Draczkowski, S.	Kordecki, W.	Misiewicz, P.
Dudek, W.	Kosinski, F.	Mlochowski, K.
Dworzecki, F.	Kostrubala, J.	Mulak, J.
Dzierzowski, P.	Kowalczyk, A.	Niemiec, P.J.
Galasiewicz, F.	Kowalewski, A.	Niski, B.

Nowak, Z.F.
Nowakowski, S.
Pajewski, M.
Paluch, M.K.
Palaszewski, S.
Partyka, S.
Pasniewski, J.R.
Pawlak, W.A.
Pawlowski, W.
Perzan, J.
Pospula, J.
Przybylowski, S.
Pszczolkowski, K.
Pulaski, S.
Radziwanowicz, A.

Rolka, I.
Rucinski, J.H.
Ruminski, J.A.
Rutkowski, S.R.
Sielawa, S.
Smakosz, V.T.
Smiecinski, F.
Sobieski, I.
Solon, S.
Sosien, S.
Sosnowski, C.A.
Stach, L.S.
Staniszewski, A.
Stepkowski, J.
Stygar, W.

Szczepanski, P.A.
Szwagiel, W.
Szwejkowski, J.
Tenerowicz, J.
Truskiewicz, F.
Twardowski, S.J.
Wenda, B.
Wenglicki, J.W.
Wienckus, Z.F.
Wojtylak, B.
Zajaczkowski, W.
Zarzecki, W.L.
Zegarski, F.R.
Zebrowski, S.

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

Subject: Paderewski's Legacy

Polish Americans should promote the legacy of Ignacy Jan Paderewski. This great pianist and composer was also an eminent statesman with a laudable philosophy. Paderewski's philosophy was that freedom and democracy can be promoted through excellence in education and the arts. He was called by Clemenceau one of God's most noble creatures. He drafted the 13th Point for the Versailles Treaty and became the Father of modern Poland. It was my great honor to fulfill a fifty-year ambition by planning and executing the return of Paderewski's remains to Poland. See www.paderewskirowny.com. Paderewski's philosophy and example should be taught our children and grandchildren. Those wishing to perpetuate Paderewski's legacy in a practical way can contribute to the Paderewski Scholarship Fund. I established this scholarship in 2004 to bring Polish students to the United States for study. They can also purchase a copy of my book, *Tango z Niedźwiedziami*; profits go to the Paderewski Scholarship Fund. To contribute to the scholarship fund or purchase a book, send me an e-mail at <ERowny@aol.com>.

Edward L. Rowny <ERowny@aol.com>
Former Ambassador and LTG, USA (Ret.)

Subject: Lists of Passengers From the UK

I am writing to inform you that Find My Past, a company I work for is, in cooperation with England's National Archives, publishing passenger lists on our joint website:

<http://www.ancestorsonboard.com>

These are outward-bound lists from UK ports. Previously, the lists online covered 1890 to 1939, but this week are publishing lists for the period 1940 to 1949.

I thought your readers might be interested in something I've noticed. The lists for the immediate post-war years contain large numbers of Poles, and I wonder whether some or many of these would have been members of the Polish Government in exile in London and/or Armia Krajowa re-settling in U.S. or Canada, or whether it is more likely that they were official UN Displaced Persons.

Interested readers may wish to view sample DjVu images at the following URLs:

<http://tinyurl.com/38wr5x>

<http://tinyurl.com/3xcb2f>

<http://tinyurl.com/37517x>

The first is an image of a page of a long 1947 list showing a group of men (with a leader and an assistant leader) bound for a new life in Ontario. There are many pages like this, with men bound for every Province from the Maritimes westward.

The second is a page of a list from 1941 (i.e. mid-War) which bears the remark "sealed orders" in lieu of destination - this shows some Poles on British government orders leaving the English port of Hull. Can anyone suggest what these men may have been doing, where bound etc? Hull was the major port for the Baltic route in peacetime but perhaps it is more likely that this ship was bound for USA, although the ship, the Dan-y-Bryn, certainly later went on convoy missions into USSR waters. What do you think?

The third is one page of a long 1948 list of Poles emigrating to Argentina.

If you do not have a DjVu image viewer (which is free), you can download it from our website:

<http://www.findmypast.com/downloads>

I'd be delighted to hear from any readers of *Gen Dobry!* with suggestions about the men mentioned on these pages. I doubt whether anyone would recognise any specific individuals (unless the "sealed order" passengers were senior Polish government-in-exile or Home Army men), but perhaps they might be able to suggest some background to the large parties travelling together to Canada (note that a Polish typewriter was used in preparing the list and that each man has a "PI" number).

Thanks in advance.

Stephen Rigden, Head of Research, Find My Past, London, England
<stephen.rigden@findmypast.com>

Editor—I had no brilliant ideas for Stephen. Can anyone out there enlighten us?

***** DIACRITICAL MARKS ONLINE *****

by Roman Kaluźniacki <romanka@comcast.net>

Editor—This note is an edited version of a response to a question posted on the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list. I thought it was a very good analysis of a question that often bothers people online when they receive e-mails that drop diacritical marks or render them as garbage.

In the global Internet forum we often get to view Web documents or read e-mail containing content composed in alphabets (Cyrillic, Greek, Polish) that are not native to the English language. And, at times, this content appears as gibberish on your computer monitor. What happened? Where is the problem?

In some sense the mail group or the author of the document is just an innocent bystander caught up in the situation. Or, perhaps, not. The real answer to this simple question is much more complicated.

Suppose that you are fluent in Chinese, Russian and English and that you want to create, maintain, and display documents on your computer containing text in all of these languages. Several things need to happen:

1. There must be some standard way to store these characters. As a consequence various translations of characters into binary numbers, called Character Encodings, such as Western (ISO-8859-1), Cyrillic (KOI8-R) and Chinese (GB2312) were invented. One Character Encoding, Unicode (UTF-8), can handle the alphabets of all these languages at once, virtually all others cannot. [But there is a hidden cost associated with this capability.]

2. You must be able to enter these characters via your keyboard (input device), a keyboard not big enough to have separate keys for each of these characters. And you must be able to display them on your screen or print them on your printer (output devices). That means the computer hardware and operating system (Microsoft's Windows XP, Apple's Mac OS X, Linux, etc.) must understand Character Encodings and know which coding you are using at any given time. You can then type English, Chinese or Cyrillic characters on a small keyboard and see the corresponding representation on your monitor.

3. You must use programs that are able to recognize and handle the Character Encodings you have picked. That means that your document programs (Word, Excel, etc.), your browsers (Fire-

fox, Safari, Explorer, etc.) and your mail programs (Thunderbird, Outlook, Apple Mail, etc.) all understand how to deal with the Character Encodings.

The first item used to be a real problem since there are so many languages and alphabets, but it has been resolved fairly nicely with the introduction of Unicode. If you use it, you can read and write a document containing all these characters without the need to change Character Encodings.

The second item is still a minor problem since the vendors want to sell the same machine all over the world. Regional Settings was an early solution. And then you were given the ability to pick your favorite Regional Setting as well as your Character Encoding. Furthermore, you are now able to set up your keyboard to mimic any configuration you wish.

The third item remains more problematic. Not all vendors provide full language or Character Encoding capabilities in their software products, nor do they necessarily play nicely with each other. The problems are magnified when you want a given document (such as a mail message) to be processed correctly no matter which program is used to either write or read it.

When you write mail, your mail program should recognize the Character Encoding you use and insert that information into the mail message. A good mail program will do that with a special header (that you normally don't see). When you receive mail, your mail program should recognize this special header, interpret it, and display the message in the correct Character Encoding. Some mail programs are a bit lazy in this respect. And exactly the same situation is true with Web page authorship and display.

In our case, the mail list (Yahoo) is not likely at fault unless you use the Yahoo browser to read and write mail. That mail program is not very good about Character Encoding issues. If you see gibberish in some mail, you might try different Character Encoding settings (or examine the hidden header to find out which setting was used).

“Galicia_Poland-Ukraine” is not the problem. However, your moderator uses an old mail program that is not very smart with respect to Unicode so you will likely see all sorts of errors in reading his (Cyrillic or Polish) mail. He need do nothing more than copy a valid Unicode expression into a message he is composing and it will not act properly. Notice that this happens frequently when he includes the original note in a response.

Well, that is the story in a nutshell. Any further commentary would likely delve into complicated technical language and issues. So, as Fred would say, it's time to stop here!

Roman

*** POZNAŃ PROJECT UPDATE ***

Editor—Łukasz Bielecki sent this update out on December 31st, shortly after I'd already mailed out the last issue of Gen Dobry! I know a lot of our readers are interested in this Project, so I wanted to print the update, even though many of you probably already read it on mailing lists.

Dear Poznań Project Friends,

A few days ago we reached another milestone of the Project: there are now over 200,000 records in our database. Thanks to your help, our holdings have more than tripled within the year that is just closing.

I am grateful to all of you, for your continued help with indexing the records, getting scans and digital pictures, visiting parishes and informing me of any possible ways of improving the Project. I appreciate all the donations that you have sent in order to keep the Project going.

Over the last two months, a couple of interesting things have happened, which should be highlighted.

There have been talks with the staff of some Polish archives where the records crucial for the Project are stored. We have made sure that no objections are made towards our efforts, and we have agreed on the way the Project should proceed so that there is no possible violation of the rights of the primary holders of the records.

Good relations with the archives are of particular importance for the native Polish volunteers of the Project, which is in turn important due to the fact that an overall proofreading will probably have to be done as the database is growing, in order to improve the accuracy of the material.

The Poznań Project site has been rebuilt in the way that all the material is now held on one server and the entire service now runs in PHP. This helps managing the search engine functions and the whole structure of the site has become more clear.

A new function was added to the search engine: the option presenting the statistics and map distribution of a surname on the territory covered by the Project. This option is available exclusively to the Poznań Project contributors (volunteers, donators etc.) as my personal thank you for their dedication.

The personal code to access the new option will be given per e-mail request and an example of how the new function works can be viewed here:

http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/map_help.php

There is a new member of the 10k club (10,000 marriage entries indexed): Wojciech Liskiewicz from Poznań, who mostly works with the Środa district.

New parishes added in November and December (Catholic only):

Chobienice, Opalenica, Kolniczki, Baranów, Baszków, Rydzyna, Owińska, Golejewko, Zajączkowo, Niechanowo, Wąwelno, Cerekwica (Żnin), Rakoniewice, Gostyń, Inowrocław, Rąbiń, Sośnica, Oporowo, Pogrzybów, Modrze, Miejska Górka, Ostroróg, Junczewo, Bysław, Jeżewo, Łaszczyn, Lutogniew, Sarnowa, Rososzycza, Dziewierzewo, Wielowieś, Łęki Wielkie, Konradowo, Witkowo

Unfortunately there are no new Lutheran parishes (I encourage those of you who work with Protestant records for the Posen/Poznań area to make indexes to enrich the database).

Once again, thank you for all your help and of course I appreciate your continued interest in the Project and your support! We still have some half a million marriage records to index and add to the database.

As usual, the main search engine address is:

<http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/search.php>

with further links to pages about how to support the Project, about its statistics and other details.

Best regards and a happy New Year 2008,

Łukasz Bielecki

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

Thursday, February 7, 2008

**HALLER'S POLISH ARMY IN FRANCE
(OR WHY WORLD WAR I DID NOT END ON NOV. 11)**

Times: 6:15 p.m. doors, 6:45 p.m. meeting, 7 p.m. speaker

Location: Tinley Park Public Library, 7851 Timber Drive, Tinley Park, Illinois

Come and listen to the fascinating story of Polish nationals living in the United States who volunteered to fight in France toward the end of World War I. They continued to fight for Polish independence from all neighboring governments in what became the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1921. Speaker Dr. Paul S. Valasek.

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

The Next Meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG)

St. Vladimir Institute
620 Spadina Ave.
Toronto, Canada

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Ron Wencer will be speaking on “Seeing Your Family’s History Through Military Records and Memorabilia.” Contact: (905)-841-6707.

[From a note posted by Jim Onyschuk <jodanji@aci.on.ca> to the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list.]

March 18 , 2008

TRACING THE 20TH CENTURY IMMIGRANT USING CZECH/SLOVAK, POLISH AND RUSYN RECORDS

Paul S. Valasek, D.D.S.

Meeting of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists
Forest View Education Center, 2121 South Goebbert Rd, Arlington Heights, Illinois
7:30 p.m.

Paul S. Valasek, D.D.S., is a three-time graduate of Loyola University of Chicago, earning his Doctorate in Dentistry in 1984. Born and raised in Chicago, he and his wife, Andrea, have always been interested in their ancestries and where their families came from in Europe. Paul’s first of numerous trips to Europe was in 1974 with his immigrant grandfather Joseph Valasek, a major turning point in his life. Dr. Valasek has written numerous articles for genealogical publications, as well as being an international lecturer. He recently completed his first book, *Haller’s Polish Army in France*, which makes available long-lost and obscure material detailing the formation of this fighting force of over 23,000 Polish Americans in World War I and the subsequent Polish Soviet War of 1919-1921. He also has the most complete database of the army with over 3 million facts accumulated to date.

[From the Website of the Northwest Suburban Council of Genealogists, <http://teresamcmillin.com/meetings.html>]

April 18 – 21, 2008

**UNITED POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES (UPGS) SEMINAR
Salt Lake City, Utah**

We have knowledgeable speakers from Poland and the U.S., and plenty of time for library research. Please visit our blog (set up by speaker Steve Danko):

<http://upgs.wordpress.com/>

And online registration is at:

<http://upgs08.eventbrite.com/>

I'm happy to field any questions you might have.

Ceil Wendt Jensen, MA, CG
Certified Genealogist
Michigan Polonia
<http://mipolonia.net>

June 6 – 23, 2008

TUGG'S DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS TRIP TO WESTERN UKRAINE

The Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG) www.torugg.org is hosting its Second Genealogical Tour to Western Ukraine in June of 2008.

To read an account of the archives we visited in 2007 see:

http://www.torugg.org/visiting_the_archives.html.

To read a full account of our last visit see: http://www.torugg.org/trip_diaries1.html#2007

If you wish to join us, you are most welcome! Here are the particulars.

The "Discover Your Roots Tour" runs from June 6 to June 23, 2008. For complete details and how to register see: http://www.torugg.org/TUGG%20Projects/trip_to_ukraine.html

We will spend a number of days in Lviv, Chernivtsi, Ivan-Frankivsk, Ternopil and Kyiv, both as tourists and researchers. We will visit various archives and visit the villages of our ancestors. Here is a more detailed Itinerary of the Tour: http://www.torugg.org/trip_itinerary1.html

If you are not sure if there are existing records for your ancestors villages please fill out as much as you know on the following Archives Family Search Form (www.torugg.org/archive_form.html). We have a listing of every village in Ukraine and know where the parish records are kept. We can help you to locate any available records.

Those wishing to go on this "Discover Your Roots Trip" will need to fill out a Reservation Form,

http://www.torugg.org/reservation_form1.html.

It is important that the Archives Family Search Form be filled out as best you can. Our intention is to forward the requests from the Form to the respective archives for processing. We will inform them when we will be visiting their archive and hopefully the requested genealogical information will have been prepared and readied for our visit.

It is too early to determine the 2008 costs. For a general idea the costs for the 2007 Tour were:

Air/Land rate, based on a twin/sharing basis — \$3,599.00 (CAN\$)

For Single Occupancy per Person add \$600.00 (CAN\$)

[From a note posted to the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list by Jim Onyschuk,
<http://www.onyschuk.com>.]

July 17 – 28, 2008

POLAND IN THE ROCKIES

Poland in the Rockies (PitR), the biennial international student conference launched in Canada in 2004, is now accepting applications for 2008.

Speakers confirmed to date include major figures from politics, television, film, the press and academe. Among them will be former Polish Minister of Defense, Senator **Radek Sikorski**; Washington Post columnist **Anne Applebaum**; BBC documentary maker **Wanda Koscia**; former advisor to Leszek Balcerowicz, Professor **Jacek Rostowski** of the Central European University in Budapest; the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's "most influential" producer, **Mark Starowicz**; and Director of the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University in Bloomington, **Bill Johnston**. History, an important element of PitR, is presented in many voices. **Timothy Snyder's** (Yale) incisive view of Poland's past within Poland's present; **Piotr Wrobel's** (University of Toronto) analysis of a century of challenges including a culture under siege; **Lynn Lubamersky** (Boise State University) on social and family history; and **John Bukowczyk** (Wayne State University), a foremost authority on the history of Polonia.

"*Poland in the Rockies* is not 'a course' in Polish history," says director Tony Muszynski. "There is no long lecture in one voice. On the contrary. It is a fast-paced, intensive, wide-ranging discussion of 'things Polish,' and ultimately an exploration of the many facets of the Polish identity."

Launched by the Polish Canadian Association of Calgary and the Canadian Foundation for Polish Studies in Montreal, PitR's aim is to stimulate an interest among English-speaking Americans and Canadians in Polish history and culture; to create a network of well-informed and dynamic friends of Poland; and to encourage Polish Americans and Canadians to integrate their identity into the mainstream of North American life—but not to lose it.

Funded entirely by Polish organizations and individuals in the United States and Canada, PitR is not designed for specialists in Polish studies but is intended for students from a wide variety of disciplines. Full scholarships are granted on the basis of a student's curriculum vitae, letters of reference, and an essay explaining their motivation for attending. Geographical diversity is also taken into consideration.

For complete information, prospective sponsors and candidates should refer to the website:

<http://www.polandintherockies.com>

Media relations contact: Marek Domaradzki, tel. 403-262-7141

[From a press release sent by Maureen Mroczek Morris <maureenm@sbcglobal.net>]

August 12 - 24, 2008

HUSARIA TOUR OF POLAND

I'd like to let you all know about our plans for a special and unique tour. In August 2008 will be the first annual "Husaria Tour of Poland."

One of the features of this tour will be a weekend at Vivat Vasa—the largest 17th-century reenactment in Poland. The event is held at historic Gniew castle with over 300 re-enactors reliving the battle that took place there in 1627 between the Polish winged hussars and the Swedes under Gustav Adolphus. Those of us with 17th-century kits have been invited to participate in the event but it is not mandatory for those on the tour to do so.

We'll also be visiting the major collections of husaria arms, armor and related 17th-century items across the country. We'll be seeing many of the major sites, castles, battlefields across the country. This should be a once in a lifetime trip and PAT Tours of Springfield MA. will be arranging the hotels, transportation and all the details. PAT Tours has over 30 years of experience in developing custom tours of Poland.

Here's the best part, our friend and noted Polish historian and author Radek Sikora will be our historical guide through out the trip. Radek will be a great resource, guiding us through all those wonderful museum collections and answering many of our questions. So if you are serious about considering being a part of the tour please contact me and I'll get you all the details and answer your questions.

http://www.polishhussarsupply.com/contact_us.html

Pozdrawiam

Eryk Jadaszewski <jrjada@juno.com>

Rotmistrz husarski
The Czarniecki Division
17th century Polish re-enactors

[Forwarded by Paul S. Valasek from the PolishAmericanForum.]

August 17 – 22, 2008

28TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

Honolulu, HI - December 12, 2007. The International Association of Jewish Genealogy (IAJGS) announces the 28th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Chicago, August 17 - 22, 2008 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. The IAJGS is proud to co-host this conference with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois and the Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society.

This annual conference is the premier event for Jewish Genealogists. Attendees from around the world gather to learn, share expertise, find others researching the same locales, and maybe even meet a relative they didn't know about before. From beginners to experienced genealogists – all are welcome and will have an unforgettable experience.

Sixteen Special Interest Groups (SIG's) will host sessions concerning their research focus such as German-Jewish Genealogy, Ukraine, Poland, and Litvak Jewish Genealogy research. A number of specialists or archivists from Europe or Eastern Europe will be in attendance to make presentations and advise attendees about resources available in their country. Some of the SIG's will hold luncheons with a featured speaker.

At least sixteen smaller groups, Birds of a Feather (BOF), will hold meetings such as the BOFs for Yiddish Theater, Suwałki-Łomża, Posen Prussia, and Lublin & Zamość Area.

There will be sessions on aspects of researching Sephardic ancestry, the Midwestern Jewish experience, using computers, immigration records, and much, much more. A Resource Room with a wide variety of genealogically relevant materials will be open to attendees. There will be an Exhibitor Room with vendors selling books, maps, and other items of interest to genealogists.

A special mini-symposium will be held on Genetics, Jewish Diseases, and the Role of Genealogists, underwritten by an educational grant from Genzyme Corporation. Speakers will include Dr. Lee Shulman, MD, Anna Ross Lapham Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chief, Division of Reproductive Genetics, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University; Gary Frohlich, Certified Genetic Counselor with Genzyme Therapeutics; and a representative of the Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders.

A film festival will feature a wide range of films of relevance to Jewish genealogy.

Chicago offers many research opportunities for genealogists such as the Spertus Institute of Jewish Study (with its Asher Library and the Chicago Jewish Archives); The Newberry Library; and public institutions (e.g. Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, the Office of the Circuit Court Clerk of Cook County, the Cook county Assessor's office (for property records), the Cook County Vital Records office) and the Great Lakes Regional branch of NARA (the National Archives).

The hotel has wonderful facilities. All registered conference attendees will get free internet access from their hotel guest rooms and complementary access to the hotel's health facilities.

To register or find additional information, see the conference website at www.Chicago2008.org.

The conference website has a conference flyer that can be printed for publicity purposes.

The IAJGS is an organization of organizations, founded in the late 1980s, to provide a common voice for issues of significance to its members, to advance our genealogical avocation, and to ensure there is an annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Go to www.iajgs.org for more information.

Contact:

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October 2008
4th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
PLANO, TEXAS

Uwaga! Attention!

Those who live in Texas need to mark their 2008 calendars for the 4th annual International Festival to be held October 2008 in Plano, Texas.

There is a Parade of Nations, in which Poland is represented, as well as a Polish Cultural Booth, a food booth, dance ensemble, two concerts (Polish musicians).

The group responsible for the above is the Polish-American Foundation of Texas:

<http://www.polamfound.com>

The organization is planning several more events for the near future.

Hope to see you there!

[From a posting by Debbie Greenlee on the Polish Genius mailing list.]

Friday and Saturday, October 3 – 4, 2008

PGSCTNE 2008 POLISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE
Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut

Sponsored by the Polish and Polish American Studies Program, Central Connecticut State University. We will be featuring **Dr. Stephen Morse**, who will be lecturing on “Searching the Ellis Island Database on the One-Step Website.”

There will also be a Polish history lecture by **Dr. Mieczysław Biskupski** and a Beginner’s Workshop.

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

<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/>

On the PolandBorderSurnames mailing list, Debbie <Wavey34@aol.com> posted a note about this site. “It is a map of Poland and you put in the surname you are looking for and it shows you what areas that surname exists and the highest concentration of that surname.” In a follow-up, Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> explained that “this ... is a social networking site and is part of a web company out of England, <http://itsourtree.com>. I poked around their site but can’t find a reference for the data. It looks like a combination of Rymut’s data (<http://www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html>) and Tomek’s map-making” (<http://www.genpol.com/Mapa+main.html>).

Unfortunately I could find no explanation on the site of where it gets its data—not a great sign, as reliable sources generally are happy to tell exactly where they get their data. I can say it’s definitely not the 1990 data from the so-called Rymut Website, which broke data down by the 1975-1998 provinces. The maps on this site show the breakdown on the *powiat* or county level, which means it’s based on current administrative divisions. I didn’t have time to take a close look, but it appears to be the same data from 2002 that Rymut used on the CD-ROM sold by PGSA. The site Ceil referred to as “Tomek’s map-making” can generate maps using either the 1990 or 2002 data. So I don’t think this site offers anything new; it just offers the same thing Tomek offers on the Genpol site, with a few extra bells and whistles. But you should know about it if you don’t have the Rymut CD or don’t read Polish very well; it makes that data available, plus the maps are a bit more colorful. All in all, it’s a tool researchers should know about.

http://www.polegli.tgcp.pl/index_en.php

On the Poland-Roots mailing list, Rita Robinson <ritarobin@gmail.com> gave this ad-

dress for the English-language page listing fallen soldiers as well as non-combatants of World War I. The data covers 10,852 names and 988 cemeteries.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/polandarchives.html>

On the Poland-Roots list, Marie <rwlistsboards@comcast.net> listed a number of additions to its Transcribed Records project, including Chorzele Parish Marriage Records, 1841-1855; Kłodawa Index of Marriages, 1846-1855; the Zarszyn War Memorial and Cemetery Tombstone Inscriptions; priests of Pieranie; a memorial list of teachers from Konin *powiat* killed during World War II; and priests of Kaczanowo (in former Poznań province). These lists have been updated: Bukowsko Cemetery, and Jodłowa Cemetery. These files can be accessed at the above URL.

<http://www.byubroadcasting.org/ancestors/charts/>

Again on that list, Marie posted a note urging newbies to learn how to document sources properly. She highly recommended the Research Log available at this site; and there are a number of useful files available there in PDF format.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LithuanianGenealogy/files/>

On the LithuanianGenealogy mailing list, Joel Ratner <Joelrat1@hotmail.com> posted a note saying, “I have just uploaded a consolidated listing of all Lithuanian and Belarussian towns to the ‘Files’ section. This list comes from a US Govt. website, which maintains a listing of localities for all countries on Earth. Included in this spreadsheet are latitude / longitude data. Each town is listed with its native spelling, denoted by an “N”, as well as additional listings where there are variant [V] spellings.” The file is available as a Microsoft Excel worksheet in zip form at the above address.

<http://www.wilno.org>

On the PolandBorderSurnames list, Lolly Kozak <lolky95@hotmail.com> mentioned this site, the home of the Wilno Heritage Society of Wilno, the oldest Polish settlement in Canada. Actually Wilno, despite its name, was initially settled by Kashubians. The Society is very active in tracing and remembering immigrants’ roots, and if you have Canadian or Kashubian connections, you should be familiar with it.

<http://www.tachna.com/jlp/>

Paul Valasek mentioned this site to me. It shows photographs from the book *Image Before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864-1939*, by Lucjan Dobroszycki and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Schocken Books, New York, 1977, ISBN 0-8052-3607-4. Lucyna Artymiuk <lucyna.artymiuk@bigpond.com> also mentioned it on the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list: “Amazing photos with details of Jewish life in prewar Poland. Photos from Wilno, Wołyń, Białystok, Kraków, Warszawa, Otwock, Galicia and other places. Highly recommended.”

<http://www.kresowy.pl/kresy.html>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, Krystyna <thymetrax@yahoo.com> notified list members that the Instytut Kresowy in Warsaw, dedicated to preserving the memory of Poles in the Eastern Borderlands (now in Belarus and Ukraine), is struggling and may have to be dissolved. The announcement is on the Institute's Website—which is all in Polish, so you need to be able to read Polish to understand what's going on. Many of our readers have roots in the *Kresy*, so I thought I should mention it so that those of you so inclined can visit the site.

<http://www.wappenbuch.de>

On the Herbarz mailing list, Marius Kaubrys <marius.kaubrys@gmail.com> gave this URL for the online version of Johann Siebmacher's 1605 *Wappenbuch* (Armorial).

<http://www.footnote.com>

Tom Sadauskas <thomas.sadauskas@tma.osd.mil> forwarded a note he posted to several Lithuanian mailing lists. He said, "I came across a site (www.footnote.com) that has digitized millions of records from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). They are working to include naturalization records (1792-1966) for New York, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. I signed up for a one-month subscription and found my grandfather's information regarding his naturalization in 1918 while in the U.S. Army. They also have a 'free' seven-day subscription." Tom said typing in "Lithuania" yields 12,685 hits and "Russia" generates 302,155 hits. He checked and found 7,162 hits for "Polish" and 83,802 hits for "Poland." Sounds to me like it's worth a look!

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/databases.html>

On the Poland-Roots list, PolishDragon <PolishDragon@att.net> wrote, "For all you folk that had ancestors that legally changed surnames thru the court system in NJ, the NJ Archives has a searchable database just available. You can search old and new names with a click of the mouse. Now you can see when/where Dubblefinishkowski changed to Dublin. <VBG>"

<http://vertimas.vdu.lt/twsas/Translations/TextForm.aspx>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy list, Liuda <liuda@frontiernet.net> recommended this site as a valuable online translation system that will translate English into Lithuanian (but not vice versa, unfortunately). It was developed by Vytautas Magnus University, in partnership with PROMT, a provider of machine translation technologies. I really hesitate to give publicity to online translators, as most of them don't really work very well. Still, at times they can be useful—and finding someone to translate into Lithuanian can be even harder than finding a good Polish translator! So this might prove helpful to some researchers.

<http://nasza-klasa.pl/>

On the Polish Genius list, Terissa Schor <terissa.schor@gmail.com> told of this site, a sort of Polish equivalent to Myspace.com or Facebook.com. She said, "If you don't speak Polish,

you'll have to poke around a little ... but even with my limited vocabulary, I was able to sign up and find 14 'cousins' with my family names... and we only had 81 in all of Poland in 1990 (according to Rymut). Why not give it a try?" If you want to read more, she talked about how to use this site in the message archived here:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polish_genius/message/7189

<http://tracingroots.nova.org/>

Also on that list, Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> said "Everyone, regardless of ancestral nationality or religious beliefs, must listen to, 'Tracing Your Family Roots,' a Washington-area public access television station. This particular show is about a fact finding trip to Bad Arolsen where the International Tracing Service (Red Cross) is located. In mid-December, 2007, Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff (*Avotaynu*) visited ITS. Sack's report is absolutely fascinating! You get caught up in the woman's excitement about the information that is available at ITS and what will soon be more accessible in the U.S. and Israel. Though the hosts are Jewish they make a point that most of the records at ITS are non-Jewish." You can access this show at the URL given above; look under "Recent Shows," it's currently the first one listed. If you're interested in the trip *Avotaynu* is sponsoring to Bad Arolsen in May, you can get details at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V09N03.htm>

<http://www.polonesesnobrasil.com.br/pesquisadores.html>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, Silvia Parapinski <parapinski@terra.com.br> gave this as a site for surnames of Poles in Brazil. The home page for Polish immigrants to Brazil is at: <http://www.polonesesnobrasil.com.br/>

<http://polskieradio.pl/thenews/>

Garret Mierzejewski sent along this link, for news of Poland in English. Thanks, Garret!

<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/SurnameWall.htm>

The January 20, 2008 issue of *EOGN* (Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter) quoted an announcement from the Southern California Genealogical Society that they now have their Surname Wall up and running. It is meant to provide "a worry-free way to post information about your ancestors online and find others who are researching your families." Obviously, the more people who participate, the more valuable it will become. Maybe you should take a look!

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/21012>

On the Polish Genius list, Ray Marshall <raymarsh@mninter.net> posted this link to the *New York Review of Books*' article on Andrzej Wajda's film *Katyń*. I don't think it's possible to overstate the significance of the Katyń massacre to the psyche of Poland, and Wajda is regarded as one of the world's great film-makers. So I suspect many of you might be interested in seeing what Anne Applebaum has to say about the movie.

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