



Gen Dobry!

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Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, E-mail: <wfh@langline.com>

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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_VIII_12.pdf

*** SZCZĘŚLIWEGO NOWEGO ROKU ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

While I have a habit of doing my level best to ignore the holidays completely—I tend to think Scrooge was on the right track before he was terrorized into conformity by vicious spirits—I realize most folks don't feel the same way. There is one holiday sentiment, however, which I can share wholeheartedly: the wish for a Happy New Year! Oh, I know that reaching a particular point in the Earth's orbit around the sun probably has no great significance in terms of the lives of the planet's inhabitants. But it is very human to note the passage of the seasons, and to note new beginnings. As we start a new year, why not hope it will be a good one?

There is good reason for genealogists or family historians to feel optimistic about 2008. More and more people are coming to share our passion; more and more resources are becoming available to assist us in satisfying it. It bothers me that we still see too many promises from companies telling us to get online and fork over money and in no time we'll have traced our ancestors back to a primordial gob of goo. It's a little tougher than that, and I hate to think how many people have been disappointed to discover that successful genealogical research is actually kind of like (gasp!) work! But for those who know nothing worthwhile comes easy, books, conferences, and online sources are multiplying. If you really want to learn about your family history in 2008, it seems opportunities will be there. We will do our best to tell you about them.

I hope 2008 will be a great year for you, a year full of joy and totally devoid of brick walls!

*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: Herbert Hoover and Poland

Thank you for the website about Herbert Hoover and Poland. What a pity Hoover has to be remembered as the president of the "Great Depression" and not for all his humanitarian work. When I showed my husband the article in *Gen Dobry!*, he went to his library and took the book, *Herbert Hoover and Poland, A Documentary History of a Friendship*, by George J. Lerski, from the bookshelf. It was published by the Hoover Institution in Stanford, California. Then my husband showed me two other books that he had that were published by the Hoover Institution. They were *Nothing But Honour, The Story of the Warsaw Uprising, 1944*, by J. K. Zawodny, and *Red Eagle, The Army in Polish Politics, 1944-1988*, by Andrew A. Michta. I wasn't showing my husband anything new with the article about Herbert Hoover and Poland.

As a bit of family history, I have found my uncle, Alexis Galezewski, mentioned on the Internet as a delegate from Illinois to the Republican National Convention held at Chicago Stadium, Chicago, Illinois, June 14 to 16, 1932, resulting in the nomination of Herbert Hoover for President. I always wondered about this. Maybe Uncle Alex knew all about Hoover's humanitarian connection with Poland.

Armela Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

Editor—This note was also sent to Paul S. Valasek, who wrote as follows: “Until I made a stop at the Hoover Presidential Library in Iowa, I knew very little about Hoover’s efforts in Poland during and after the First World War. So though I went there looking for information on my grandfather’s visit with the President at the founding of Pulaski Day in 1929, I came away with a whole new chapter of U.S./Polish relations. I have a copy of the book from Stanford and was quite impressed with it. Too bad most Polish Americans don’t know this story. And learning history is how to properly do one’s genealogy!”

I want to thank Armela and her husband for letting us know about these books. This is exactly the sort of thing we’d like to tell our members about, so that the books and the information they contain will not be forgotten. It is a shame Hoover is best known for two things: the Great Depression, and the blooper of the radio announcer Harry van Zell, who introduced the President as “Hoobert Heever.” (If you’re interested in the truth about the urban legend that grew up around this incident, see <http://www.snopes.com/radiotv/radio/vonzell.asp>.)

Subject: A New Website, PolishOrigins.com

Editor—Zenon Znamirovski copied me on a note sent to a researcher whom he and his wife had helped recently. I thought readers would like to know about the website Zenon and Magdalena have set up. Perhaps they can assist some of you.

We all cordially invite you to visit our new website www.PolishOrigins.com (formerly www.inpassa.com). We have been working hard on developing it for several months and have just brought it online today, December 19, 2007 :-).

You will find – among other stories, videos and pictures – an article about Christmas Eve traditions in old Poland. Just click here <http://polishorigins.com/document/wigilia> to read it.

We decided to build the new website to create a virtual space where everyone who visits will have the opportunity to learn or, at least, ask questions in our Forum about everything related to Polish genealogy and heritage. We also wish for everyone to have the opportunity to participate – to share their feelings and knowledge from the most credible of sources – your own experiences.

We hope that you will consider your visit to our site both enjoyable and worthwhile.

If you think the website may interest any of your friends or acquaintances; please tell or e-mail them about it.

Warm regards from cold, but not wintry yet, Poland,

Magdalena & Zenon Znamirovski <zenon@polishorigins.com>

Subject: The FHL Indexing Project

Editor—In the last issue I included comments on the FHL's ongoing project to index records. I received this note from a member of the LDS Church. It would probably be incorrect to assume she speaks for the Church; but I felt her comments were informative and worth passing on.

I am member of the LDS church, and, yes, the online project is going well. The 1900 census is just about done, in fact, I was indexing some Canadian records last week ... so it may actually be done. I have indexed over 1,000 records—not sure my count, it's there if I want to know, I just keeping working.

All of these records will be made available free to the public once they are completed. I believe some records have begun to roll out...

It is extremely easy to extract the information and put into the form the church is using. Your screen on your system is split, with the top portion being the census record and the bottom portion being the form they want the information transferred to. The census record is blown up so it is easy to view; that may not translate to easy to read, given that we have all worked with census records and know what kind of shape they can be in! But outside of that, the work is very easy. It takes me about 15-20 minutes to do one page of a census record.

The program is written to perform a check and ask you to check any information that may be inaccurate. And that is all self-explanatory. The census record in question is highlighted and you are asked, are you sure? You check it and check what you wrote down. Yep ... then click OK. If you can't read it, then you mark it Unreadable—you don't need to take a stab at it.

I think they have had some problems with some indexers not following instructions in the actual indexing. General messages and instructions are given each time you open up the program, so I always check to see if there are any specific instructions to the census record I will be working with.

The Canadian census records are very different than the U.S. ones. They contain much less information, but the big stuff is there. And they include type of religion, such as Roman Catholic, and this is being recorded. That may prove helpful in obtaining information, if need be. U.S. census records did not include this type of information.

They are looking for people with various backgrounds in languages, as they are also working on some Mexican census records, so this project is huge and does not just include U.S. records—it's worldwide.

Sue Masten <blueabyss@sbcglobal.net>

Editor—Thanks for writing! I always try to get my facts straight, but whenever possible, I prefer to pass along the words of those who are actually involved in a project, and can give us the straight story. This is a very good follow-up to the article in the last issue.

Subject: More on the Indexing

Editor—Here's another good input on this subject.

Dear Fred,

You are right as always, this time about the value of having Poles index Polish names. But let me add another, secondary, point. Many times the handwriting people are being asked to decipher is not so much “bad” as archaic, and/or country-specific. For example, Poles write the lower-case *z* in script as an angular letter without a tail, while Americans write it as a rounded letter with a tail. The result is that many Americans read a Polish *z* as an *r*. Archaic handwriting styles also hit you in visiting a historic American site like Mount Vernon or Monticello. I don't know what the solution is—a “Palmer method” type of template for the 19th century? :=D

Best regards,

Sophie M. Korczyk, Ph.D. <smkorczyk@comcast.net>
Analytical Services
706 Little Street
Alexandria, VA
USA
Tel: 703.548.4281

*Editor—Thanks, Sophie! You're quite right about the handwriting. The way Poles write *z* is indeed often misread as an *r* by non-Poles. We all know the Polish *ł* often is misread as *t*. There are quite a few of these little things that can trip you up. And it's not just foreign handwriting: older English-language texts can puzzle you. How many of us wondered when we were in school why on earth the Constitution refers to “Congrefs”?*

***** POLISH KIDS VS. AMERICAN KIDS *****

Editor—Paul S. Valasek sent me this, which was posted to the PolishAmerican Forum. He said everyone on the forum got a kick out of it, and maybe we should share it with you.

Polish kids vs. American kids

American kids: Move out when they're 18 with the full support of their parents.

Polish kids: Move out when they're 28, having saved enough money for a house, and are two weeks away from getting married ... unless there's room in the basement for the newlyweds.

American kids: When their Mom visits them, she brings a Bundt cake, and you sip coffee and chat.

Polish kids: When their Mom visits them, she brings three days' worth of food, begins to tidy up, dust, do the laundry, and rearrange the furniture.

American kids: Their dads always call before they come over to visit them, and it's usually only on special occasions.

Polish kids: Are not at all fazed when their dads show up, unannounced, on a Saturday morning at 8:00, and starts painting the window frames or mowing the lawn.

American kids: Always pay retail, and look in the Yellow Pages when they need to have something done.

Polish kids: Call their dad or uncle, and ask for another dad's or uncle's phone number to get it done ... cash deal. Know what I mean??

American kids: Will come over for cake and coffee, and get only cake and coffee. No more.

Polish kids: Will come over and get cabbage rolls, pierogi, roast chicken, salad, bread, fruit, cheesecake a few before, during and after dinner drinks.

American kids: Will greet you with "Hello" or "Hi."

Polish kids: Will give you a big hug, a kiss on your cheek, and a pat on your back.

American kids: Call your parents Mr. and Mrs.

Polish kids: Call your parents Mom and Dad.

American kids: Have never seen you cry.

Polish kids: Cry with you.

American kids: Borrow your stuff for a few days and then return it.

Polish kids: Keep your stuff so long, they forget it's yours.

American kids: Will eat at your dinner table and leave.

Polish kids: Will spend hours there, talking, laughing, and just being together.

American kids: Know few things about you.

Polish kids: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

American kids: Eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on soft mushy white bread.

Polish kids: Eat kielbasa sandwiches with dill pickles on rye bread.

American kids: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.

Polish kids: Will kick the whole crowd's ass who left you behind.

American kids: Are for a while.
Polish kids: Are for life.

American kids: Think that being Polish is cool.
Polish kids: Know that being Polish is cool.

American kids: Will ignore this.
Polish kids: Will forward it.

And also one I got before (from another Polish kid....)

YOU KNOW YOU'RE POLISH WHEN....

1. You or someone in your family owns a Nissan Maxima with a PL sticker proudly displayed.
2. You have relatives who aren't really your relatives.
3. You sing the same song, *Sto lat*, on every occasion (weddings, birthdays, baby showers).
4. You watch soccer.
5. You know very well Pope John Paul II was Polish and his name was Karol, not Carol.
6. You go to Midnight Mass every Christmas Eve and keep your Christmas tree up till February.
7. You drink your *wódka* straight.
8. You listen to techno.
9. You don't feel the need to add an "s" to *pierogi* because you already know the word is plural and it annoys you when others do. However, you still add 'y' to already plural English words ... *chipsy, dzinsy*, etc.
10. You are convinced your pets only understand Polish.
11. You are forced to listen to Disco Polo by your parents.
12. You can spot Polish people like Asians can spot each other.
13. When others find out you're Polish, they tell you about every Polish person they've ever known, which is most likely followed by them mispronouncing common phrases such as *cześć* or *dziękuję*.
14. Your name always gets slaughtered on the first day of school.
15. The thought of eating cow stomach (*flaki*) doesn't gross you out.
16. When you're at a stranger's house, you expect their garbage can to be under the sink.
17. Every window in your house must have *firanki*, even in the bathroom.
18. Once in a while, you do a big *przemeblowanie* at home.
19. You always take off your shoes as soon as you step into someone else's house (even if the owner of the house insists you don't have to).
20. You celebrate your birthday AND your name day, *imieniny*.
21. You were extremely surprised to learn that American weddings last hours, not days!!!

*** REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE ***

Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Sack, publisher and editor of *Avotaynu*, recently visited the Interna-

tional Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany. Gary devoted a recent issue of the free e-zine *Nu? What's New?* to a report on ITS, which he describes as “archives of 12 million documents (20,000 meters of files) regarding the fate of people during World War II (persecuted people only, not perpetrators) and after the War (refugees).” You can read his report at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V08N24.htm>. (A more in-depth report by Sallyann Sack is scheduled to appear in the Winter issue of *Avotaynu*.)

ITS is potentially a source of great importance to family history researchers who wish to learn the fate of victims of the Nazis. Obviously it is of overwhelming interest to Jewish researchers, since Jews were the primary targets of the Holocaust. But the Nazis also murdered millions of non-Jews, especially Poles. It would be a mistake for a researcher to ignore ITS because “we’re not Jewish.”

I have a feeling many researchers are going to be investigating ITS in coming years. Gary Moko-toff’s article in *Nu?* can help you assess its potential importance in your research. I strongly recommend you take a look.

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

Tuesday January 8, 2008

MEETING OF TUGG (TORONTO UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY GROUP)

7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Hands on Session on “Strategies for Overcoming Brick Walls, Dead Ends & Bottle-Necks in Genealogy.”

At the St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Ave.

Contact: Jim Onyschuk (905)-841-6707 Jim Onyschuk <jodanji@aci.on.ca> [From a note posted by Jim Onyschuk to the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list.]

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. To have a general idea here are the costs for the 2007 Tour:

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 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:

Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President and Chicago 2008 co-chair

Telephone: 808-395-0115 (Honolulu, HI)

E-mail: <FederLee@msn.com>

**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.myheritage.com>

On the Posen mailing list, Allen James Krueger posted a note asking “Have you seen this website? I understand this website uses ‘smart matching.’ Smart Matching is a specialized genealogy technology to connect family trees. It works by comparing millions of names, facts and tree connections – intelligently. When two family trees are connected, both their owners are informed, and benefit from the opportunity to collaborate and learn from each other.”

http://rootstelevision.com/players/player_conferences.php?bctid=1323280470

The December 2 issue of *EOGN* (*Eastman’s Online Genealogical Newsletter*) gives this link to view an interview with Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak (not a typo, that’s her name), a major figure in American genealogy. It’s very interesting—and while you’re there, check out some of the other videos available for viewing from Roots Television.

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Lyakhovichi/lyakhovichi.html>

Gary Palgon <Expert@FamilyTreeExpert.com> posted a note to the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup giving this link for the Lyakhovichi SIG’s website and “announcing the addition of a complete names index that includes over 19,000 entries, a patronymic index (entitled the “Fathers of Lyakhovichi”) and a face index which contains the first set of photographs of one-time residents

of Lyakhovichi.” Over the years I’ve run into a fair number of people with roots in the area of Lyakhovichi (now in Belarus). If you’re one of them, this site is definitely one to look at! It is most helpful for Jews, but I think non-Jewish researchers will also find a lot of good information there. I’ve dealt with Gary Palgon for years, and have found him to be a serious, committed researcher.

<http://calumetmi.blogspot.com>

On the PolandRoots list, Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> posted a note describing “a Christmas present to the gen community. Kathy Atwood, Joseph Martin and I have been working on a new blog site. It’s dedicated to the small Polish community of Calumet ... We each have ancestors who left the parishes of Bnin and/or Rogalinek outside of Poznań and settled in Calumet. We have transcriptions, photos, and sample records online. We will be adding additional records and a database or two as time permits. If you have Polish ancestors that lived in Calumet, Houghton Co., Michigan for any length of time, please consider contributing a photo, document or story to the blog. It’s fun, easy and free. BTW, Kathy is looking for the home village of her Baranowski ancestors. Anyone know the village or parish in Posen?”

<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V08N23.htm>

This link takes you to the December 2, 2007 issue of *Nu? What’s New?*, which I enjoyed because it discusses a humorous book on genealogy, George Sackheim’s *Grin-ealogy*, and includes samples of real questions received over the years by *Nu*’s editor, Gary Mokotoff, and by prominent author and genealogist Miriam Weiner. If you’d enjoy a laugh, go here and scroll down near the end to “More Candidates for *Grin-ealogy*.” These are classic examples of “What the hell were these people thinking?” I love the one from the person whose ancestor came from a place that “sounds like a lot of sneezes” (the consensus candidate was Szczuczyn, Poland).

<http://www.rkc.lviv.ua/>

In a note posted to the Polish Genius mailing list, Debbie Greenlee tried to help a researcher with roots in Ukraine, and mentioned this, the website for the Roman Catholic Church in Ukraine. If your ancestors were Catholic and lived in Ukraine, you can probably use all the help you can get! I don’t think we’ve ever mentioned this site before, so it seemed like a good idea to mention it now.

<http://www.digitaldialects.com/Polish.htm>

Debbie posted another note to that list talking of this site. “Here’s a Polish language learning web site which includes ‘games’ to help you remember the words and phrases. Unfortunately there isn’t a pronunciation guide, but it works for correspondence.”

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Litvak/HTML/OnlineJournals/whatsinaname.htm>

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup, Judi Langer-Surnamer Caplan, editor of the *LitvakSIG Online Journal*, posted a note on a very interesting article that appeared in a recent issue. It’s

entitled “What’s in a Name? The Problem of Name Changes in the Search for Family Roots,” by Professor Gilbert Herbert. “He writes about the challenges he confronted and surmounted researching names, both given names and surnames, in his family.” He uses specific examples to show how circumstances can cause all kinds of changes to given and family names; it’s a good article, not too long and well written. If surname variations interest you—and frankly, it’s a subject all genealogists need to know something about—you might like to read it at the above URL.

<http://www.techagra.com>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, Danuta Janina Wójcik mentioned this site, a link to aerial photos of specific areas in Poland. She said, “Here is a site for real estate in Poland, there are many, but I am sending this one. Click on the map for the different regions.” Particularly interesting is the category “Agroturystyka,” for “agro-tourism,” where you can get a first-hand look at agricultural life in Poland.

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

There’s also been an interesting thread on the PolandRoots list lately, about positions teaching English in Poland. Rhoda Sostakowski mentioned the program on this website. I believe we’ve mentioned it before, but it’s worth mentioning again. It allows volunteers with no teaching experience to help Poles learn English while they learn Polish and experience life in Poland. My understanding is that British English has been and still is the preferred form; but plenty of Americans have participated in the program. If you’re interested in doing something really fascinating, you might take a look.

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2007/12/family-history.html

The December 19, 2007 issue of *EOGN* mentioned an agreement to allow the Family History Library and the 13 largest Family History Centers to have free access to Ancestry.com. You can read the details at the URL given above. Unfortunately, almost all of the FHC’s involved are in the states of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah, with the one exception being in London, England. So in the posted comments to the article there are plenty of people feeling left out!

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09698a.htm>

In response to a question on the Posen mailing list about mixed marriages, i. e., Catholics and Protestants, Gerd Müllenheim posted a very interesting response that gave all kinds of information I’d never seen before. I did a little digging and found that it was the article on “Mixed Marriages” from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. I cannot print the article here—it’s rather long, plus that might infringe on their copyright—but I can certainly post the URL where you can read it for yourself.

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy Yahoo Group list, Lois Mackin posted a note explaining that those with relatives who immigrated to Canada should check out the Canadian Genealogy Centre on

the Library and Archives Canada website (the URL is given above). “The website shows the information available at LAC and links to related information online and in other repositories. The web site also has a new database of passenger lists for ships arriving at Canadian ports 1865-1922. Currently, you cannot search for individual names, but you can search by name of ship, year of arrival, port of arrival, shipping line, port of departure. You can also search for specific dates of departure and arrival if you know them. Having identified ship arrivals of interest, you can go to the digitized ship manifests online and search for individuals manually.”

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