



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_3.pdf

***** ORGANIZATIONS OF POLONIA: LEGION OF YOUNG POLISH WOMEN
(LEGION MŁODYCH POLEK) *****

by Paul S. Valasek, D.D.S. <paval56@aol.com>

It seems no matter what part of Polonia one lives in, there is a proud and extensive history of Polish and Polish-American organizations. These organizations were formed for a variety of reasons and causes. There were groups for men, for women, for children, for different religious factions, political groups, occupational organizations, groups for pleasure and entertainment, and groups for charity and the benefit of others.

Such is the case of the Legion of Young Polish Women, aka Legion Młodych Polek. For those who want to learn particulars, their web site is <http://www.polorg.com/Org/Display.asp?Language=&General=6287>.

The Legion was founded on September 1, 1939 as Germany invaded Poland. Approximately 40 women in the Chicago area met at Helen Leonard's house to organize charity and welfare for Poland in its time of need. Throughout the war years, charity took many forms, whether medical supplies, clothing, food, and other needs for a war-torn Poland. In 1945, the annual dinner dance took on the new face of a debutante ball, properly introducing young Polish and Polish-American women to Chicago's Polonia. Held at the Stevens Hotel—which later became the Conrad Hilton Hotel and today is the Hilton Towers—the very opulent Grand Ballroom is a fitting stage for showcasing Chicago Polonia's beautiful young women.

The Legion of Young Polish Women raises the bulk of their charitable funds through this event, which are then dispersed throughout the year as needs arise. These words, from their Website, show they take pride in the following:

“Achievements: Helped install the Chair of Polish Language and Literature at the University of Chicago, expand the library at the University of Illinois at Chicago; supported financially Solidarity, museums, libraries, institutes in Poland and around the world.”

The following is a list of debutantes and participants in the first two years of the debutante balls. They have had one every year since and continue planning for many more to come. To the genealogist, this info identifies family members at a specific time and place, as well as providing a chance to track down a photo of the debutante.

1945 - White and Red Ball

Officers:

Helen Skubikowska - President
Helen Zawistanowicz - Vice-president
Eleanor Bochnik - Treasurer
Wanda Zdziarska - Financial Secretary
Olga Springer - Recording Secretary

Halina Majewska - Corresponding Secretary
Zofia Jaworska - Chairman

Participants:

Hon. Thaddeus V. Adesko - Master of Ceremonies
Harriet Michalska, Director of the Polish Women's Alliance of America Dance Ensemble
A. Kowalkowski - Orchestra Director

1945 Presentees:

Corinne Gutowska	Elvira Marciniak
Ludmila Jaworska	Mary Bernice Mix
Stephanie Karczewska	Elizabeth Ann Mix
Gloria Kenar	Lydia Sawicka
Helen Kozicka	Anita Richlowska

Loges:

No. 1 Dr. and Mrs B. J. Mix
No. 2 Mr. and Mrs. Victor Karczewski
No. 3 Mr. and Mrs. Kazimierz Kozicki
No. 4 Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Richlowski
No. 5 Mr. and Mrs. Leon Marciniak
No. 6 Dr. and Mrs. Juliusz Szygowski
No. 7 Mr. and Mrs. Teofil Sawicki
No. 8 Mr. and Mrs. Casimir S. Kenar
No. 9 Mr. and Mrs. Jan Jaworski
No. 10 Mr. and Mrs. Adam Gutowski
No. 11 Legion of Young Polish Women
No. 12 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Dyba
No. 13 Harry Szeklucki
No. 14 Wieboldt's Department Stores
No. 15 Friends of Polish Soldiers
No. 16 Polish Commercial Club
No. 17 Tow. Warszawa, Gr. 744, Zw. Pol.
No. 18 Polish War Relief
No. 19 Filareci Dudziarz Singing Society
No. 20 Polish Singers Alliance of Am.
No. 22 Mr. and Mrs. Barney Rybski

1946 - White and Red Ball

Committee:

Helen Skubikowski - President and Chairman

Eleanor Bochnik - Co-Chairman
Zofia Jaworska - Chairman - Presentees
Helen Zawistonowicz - Chairman - Tickets
Henryka Grajewska - Chairman - Refreshments
Adele Mazurek - Chairman - Decorations
Wanda Saski
Jean Lach
Olga Springer
Irene Skubikowska
Lily Ann Byczkowska
Joan Wrzesinska
Wanda Matecka
Zdzisława Alwin
D. Miczko

Loges:

- No. 1 Mr. and Mrs. John Jaworski
- No. 2 Mr. and Mrs. E. Ronkoski
- No. 3 Polish Commercial Club
- No. 4 Tow. Warszawa, Gr. 774, Zw. Pol.
- No. 5 Dr. and Mrs. Peter F. Czwalinski
- No. 6 Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Richlowski
- No. 7 Dr. and Mrs. B.J. Mix
- No. 8 Mr. and Mrs. Casimier Leonard
- No. 9 Polonaise Group
- No. 10 Wieboldt's and Co.
- No. 11 Mr. and Mrs. John Hintz
- No. 12 Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Babecki
- No. 13 Mr. and Mrs. Stephan Zielinski
- No. 14 Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Sokolowski
- No. 15 Congr. Alvin O'Konski
- No. 16 Mr. and Mrs. Felix Zaczek
- No. 17 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Samoraj
- No. 18 Mr. and Mrs. Felix Wioch
- No. 19 Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Sompolski
- No. 20 Mr. and Mrs. John Kostrubala
- No. 21 Legion of Young Polish Women

Presentees 1946:

Dolores Babecka
Caroline Hintz
Paula (Pola) Kostrubala
Dorothea Samoraj
Jeanine Sokolowski

Alice Sompolska
Urszula Wioch
Olga Zaczek
Alicia Zielinska

Polonaise Dancers:

Richard Brandt
Capt. W. Brudzinski
Corinne Gutowska
Ludmila Jaworska
Mitchell Jaworski
Stephanie Karczewska
Edward Kasperek
Gloria Kenar
Roger Kirkpatrick
Helen Kozicka

Donald Larsen
Chester Majewski
Elvira Marciniak
Elizabeth Mix
Mary Mix
Dr. Gerald Owen McDonald
John Piekielko
Anita Richlowska
Lydia Sawicka
George Sawicki

Participants:

Hon. Thaddeus V. Adesko - Master of Ceremonies
Anthony Kowalkowski - Orchestra
Evelyn Zwiefka, Director Polish Dance Group

Dancers:

Eugene Adamski
Eugene Adamski, Jr.
Angeline Keska
Loretta Krajecki

Mania Krakowski
Phyllis Pastuszka
Chester Szilder
Robert Wistort

Soloists:

Stanley Gniadek
Ruth Kustush
Trudy Lesner
Eugene Maday

Ads:

Pioneer Brewing Company 515 Summit Street, Joliet, Illinois
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Piech

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

Subject: *Gen Dobry vs. Dzień dobry!*

Editor—I recently received this note, and it brought to mind a point I thought I should clarify.

Hello. Please I would like to correct you, it is not “Gen Dobry” but “Dzień dobry.”

[Name and e-mail address withheld]

Editor—As I explained to the person who sent me this note, I know how to spell “Dzień dobry,” and the spelling of Gen Dobry! is intentional, not an error. But I wondered if there are readers out there who don’t realize that the Polish expression meaning “Hello” is spelled “Dzień dobry”? If you’re not familiar with Polish and you see “Gen Dobry!” over and over, you might easily conclude that’s how the greeting is spelled.

Just to make it clear, the title of our e-zine is a pun, a play on words. It sounds like “Dzień dobry,” but the spelling of the first word as Gen is supposed to bring “genealogy” to mind. It’s as if we’re wishing you a good day and good genealogy at the same time.

*As with any play on words, explanations are pointless; either you get the joke, or you don’t. I can live with people thinking I’m an idiot who doesn’t know how to spell dzień correctly. But I do **not** want to cause anyone to misspell the Polish greeting.*

To sum up, if you’re saying “Hello” or “Good day,” it’s “Dzień dobry!” If you’re talking about the PolishRoots e-zine title, it’s “Gen Dobry!” They sound the same, but one is good Polish, while the other is a bilingual pun. Please don’t confuse them!

Subject: West Prussia

Editor—Richard Warmowski sent me an article he wrote about the place in West Prussia where his ancestors came from. I made a few comments, and his response includes information that may be very helpful to some of our readers. So I thought I’d pass it along.

I am interested in the history of West Prussia for several reasons. First my father was born in Sierakowice parish in 1889 and then brought to the U.S. when he was two years old. My mother was born in Upper Silesia in 1888 and came to the U.S. at the age of 19. Both of them had their lives affected by what went on in these “border lands.” Last year I found a book in a used book store. The title is *Germanizing Prussian Poland*. The author is Richard Wonser Tims, and it was first published in 1941 by Columbia University Press. It was reprinted in 1966 by AMS Press, Inc. in New York. It is basically about the Eastern Marches Association, which was formed by some Germans to help increase the number of Germans in what they regarded as a frontier area of Germany at the time. It is well researched and is written to some extent with a German perspective. It shows what the Polish people were doing to counter the *Kulturkampf* that Bismarck had initiated. It is a good read. It gives a different perspective, but in my opinion it makes the Poles look good.

I like history, and I feel that the Germans who fought among themselves over religion (the Lutheran reform wars of around 1848) continued this fight into the new territory. What they did was ignite the Poles to get together and fight back. More Polish representatives were elected to the legislature after the *Kulturkampf* than before, and in some areas the Poles owned more land after the Colonization Act of 1886 than before that attempt to buy land with tax monies and sell to the Germans for less.

Richard Warmowski <rwarmowski@yahoo.com>

Editor—Fascinating! Thanks for mentioning this book, which sounds like a source many of our readers may want to track down. I checked to see if it's available from Google Books, but they don't have it, at least not yet. But a feature of Google Books will allow you to track down local libraries that have a copy. So if any reader would like to get hold of it, go to <http://books.google.com/books> and do a search for "Germanizing Prussian Poland." You'll get a list of works available on Google Books that mention Tims' work (some of which may be worth looking at); and near the bottom of the page is an option to search library catalogs for it. Or, of course, you can go to your local library and search there.

***** A REVIEW OF JOHN D. PIHACH'S *UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY* *****

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

Ukrainian Genealogy, John. D. Pihach. Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press <www.utoronto.ca/cius>, Toronto – Edmonton 2007, ISBN 1-894865-05-7 (paper). \$34.95 (paper) + 12% shipping and handling (minimum \$6). You can order online by sending an e-mail to <cius@ualberta.com> with your billing address, item(s) ordered, and credit card info. More information is available at the Website cited above.

This is the first book in English I've ever heard of that is devoted to helping researchers trace their Ukrainian roots. The author has visited Eastern Europe often to do genealogical research at various archives, and has authored a number of articles on Galician genealogy. He has also been a prominent member of the East European Genealogical Society, to which he has contributed his services in various capacities. (In the interest of full disclosure, I should mention that I edit the Journal of that Society, *East European Genealogist*. I have never met John Pihach in person, but have corresponded with him occasionally, and those contacts have always been amiable.)

The book runs 272 pages, measuring 10 inches high and 8 inches wide; and I must say, I am impressed not only with how much information Mr. Pihach was able to pack into it, but also how well he organized it. As I was paging through it, I kept asking, "Did he cover this? Did he remember that?" In every case, the answer was yes. More important, it's put together in such a way that you can find exactly what you need, as long as you have enough sense to consult the Table of Contents and the Index.

It opens with a chapter designed to help novices, giving practical suggestions on exactly how to get started with research. The next chapter gives a background in Ukrainian history, which is of huge importance to most North American researchers, who—let's face it—aren't likely to know a whole lot about this subject. Chapter 3 is devoted to given names and surnames (wise man!). Chapter 4 discusses church records in Canada, which is presumably home to much of Mr. Pihach's target audience. He does not neglect those of us living in the United States, however; Chapter 5 covers U. S. church records.

Chapter 6 deals with the immigrants' path from Europe to North America; chapter 7 covers the vital step of locating your ancestral home in Ukraine. The next chapter deals with regional history; then metrical records get two chapters of detailed attention. Chapter 11 is on Austrian land records,

a prime source easily overlooked; and the final chapter deals with “Other Overseas Resources.” Appendix 1 provides help with languages, Appendix 2 with “Other Ethnic Groups with Roots in Ukraine,” and Appendix 3 lists helpful Websites. The book closes with a bibliography and index.

I suspect you’re getting the idea: the author covers all the bases. And along the way there are plenty of maps, illustrations, sample documents, and other graphics to illustrate the points he’s making.

The author of this sort of book must walk a narrow path between two extremes. Providing too little information leaves readers without everything they really need; but providing too much can overwhelm them. I think Mr. Pihach navigated this tricky path well. For instance, as a linguist I would like to see more information on Ukrainian and other languages. Yet I must admit, he showed good judgment in this regard. The book isn’t meant to be a treatise on Ukrainian grammar, after all. He provides enough information to give non-linguists a fighting chance with understanding documents, but not so much as to leave them drowning in details only a grammarian could love.

Now it’s sort of a rule among reviewers that you must find something to criticize, or you risk being dismissed as a lightweight or, even worse, a shill. But I had a hard time finding anything I didn’t like. If I absolutely had to suggest a change, I’d advise the author to give the post-World War II Akcja Wisła, “Operation Vistula,” a little more prominence. He mentions the post-war forced relocations of Ukrainians, but does not mention Operation Vistula by name; and it can be hugely important to researchers. I’ve known more than a few people baffled to find their Ukrainian relatives living in western Poland, far from where you’d expect them to be. A little attention to those relocations might save researchers some headaches.

But really, that verges on nitpicking. I think any reasonable reader will come to the conclusion that this is a wonderful book, one that succeeds in doing precisely what it set out to do. If you have roots in Ukraine—and many, many “Poles” do—this book is a bargain.

(If you’d like a second opinion by a gentleman with far more knowledge of Ukrainian research than I have, read Matthew Bielawa’s review at http://www.halgal.com/pihach_book_review.html.)

*** VARIOUS UPROARS ***

The last month has seen three rather interesting and significant developments that caused a fair amount of heated verbiage. One began on March 16 when the Family History Library informed the Directors of its Family History Center that as of April 1st, Ancestry.com was terminating free FHC access to many of its databases. As this news showed up on mailing lists, there was a fair amount of outrage, as people voiced this and that complaint about Ancestry.com. Some did, however, speak up with words of support for Ancestry, which is, after all, in business to make a profit.

I was struck by the point of view expressed by family historian consultant Roger Minert, as mentioned in the story at <http://newsnet.byu.edu/story.cfm/63677>. He expressed hope researchers would not be discouraged that those services were no longer free, but instead would “turn toward original family history sources rather than the mostly secondary sources offered by Ancestry.com, and expand their research methods beyond the Internet.” Hear, hear!

Another item that has generated some steam is news of increased cuts and higher fees at NARA. The most recent item I have seen was posted in *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and can be read here:

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2007/02/nara_proposes_m.html

You can visit Eastman's site here to read about various reductions in services:

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2007/03/still_more_redu.html#more

"History Lessens," the original article he cites from the *New York Times*, can only be accessed by registered users; but I registered some time ago and have seen no ill effects.

Debbie Greenlee posted a note to the Poland-Roots mailing list giving some of the proposed fee increases, and I'm sure she won't mind if I quote her:

Type of record	Order form	Fee
(1) Passenger arrival lists	NATF Form 81	\$25.00
(2) Federal Census requests	NATF Form 82	25.00
(3) Eastern Cherokee applications to the Court of Claims.	NATF Form 83	25.00
(4) Land entry records	NATF Form 84	40.00
(5) Full pension file more than 75 years old (Civil War period).	NATF Form 85	125.00
(6) Full pension file more than 75 years old (non-Civil War).	NATF Form 85	60.00
(7) Pension documents packet (selected records).	NATF Form 85	25.00
(8) Bounty land warrant application files.	NATF Form 85	25.00
(9) Military service files more than 75 years old.	NATF Form 86	25.00

You can read more about this, including information on who to contact, at this site:

<http://tinyurl.com/yqjcsz>

Finally, there's a lot of attention being paid to the International Tracing Service of the Red Cross in the German town of Bad Arolsen, and its Holocaust archives. There's been some controversy over delays in making these files available, especially since aging Holocaust survivors who want to access these records are reaching a point in their lives where any delay is too long. By Googling under "News" for "Bad Arolsen ITS" I found an article dated March 29 that says ITS will open its files to the public as soon as it receives political approval; so perhaps we're not far from a resolution to this dispute. If the subject interests you, a search of any online news service should give you more information.

I don't feel there's any need to go into greater length on any of these stories here. I suspect most of you know about them already, and those that don't can easily find details online, if you're interested. But I did want to mention them briefly for any of you who might have missed them and would like to know more.

*** + **ROBERT W. POSTULA** + ***

Editor—I was sorry to receive this note from Jan Zaleski, President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan:

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Robert “Bob” Postula, the Past President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (PGSM).

Please remember Bob and his family in your prayers.

Jan Zaleski
President
Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan

Editor—Jan included this death notice:

Robert W. Postula passed away March 18, 2007 in Utica, Michigan at the age of 69. He was born November 28, 1937 in Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Postula was retired from General Motors and EDS and was a member of the Polish Genealogical Society. He is survived by his brother, Dennis (Teal) Postula; nieces, Alina and Emily; nephew, Dr. Jason (Lysa) Postula; great niece, Samantha Jane and great-nephew, Benjamin. He was predeceased by his parents, Walter and Sophie and brothers, Richard and Eugene Postula.

Editor—Paul Valasek also suggested reading the entry for Bob Postula on Jasia's blog, <http://creativegene.blogspot.com/>. Go to that site and scroll down to the entry for Tuesday, March 20, 2007, entitled “Goodbye, My Friend, a Tribute to Robert Postula.”

*** **CATCHING UP WITH CEIL JENSEN** ***

Ceil Jensen contacted me with a few items that may interest our readers. One has to do with supporting the production of an hour-long video on Detroit's Polish Community. At present the plan is to air it on Channel 7 on June 16 and June 17 – but funding is needed to make sure that will happen. You can learn more by going to this link on Ceil's Website: <http://mipolonia.net/Yes.pdf>.

Ceil also sent a copy of her upcoming lecture schedule, which can also be seen on her Website. Since Ceil is a popular speaker, I think many of you would like to know when and where she'll be talking. So let's pass the info along—and anyone else out there who will be giving lectures soon, please feel free to send me your schedule and I'll print it, too.

Ceil's Genealogy Lecture Schedule

Ancestral Manor Teleconference Seminar
Thursday, April 5, 2007, 8:00 pm
<http://ancestralmanor.com/>
Polish American Genealogy
free; phone charges may apply

Sunday, April 15, 2007
Detroit Historical Museum
Detroit Polonia, Mount Elliot and Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Lecture 1:00- 2:00 pm Lecture
2:00- 2:15 Q&A
2:15 Book Signing

Thursday, April 19, 2007 2:00 pm
Algonac - Clay Public Library
Detroit's Polonia
2011 St. Clair River Drive
Algonac, MI
(810) 794-4471

Friday, April 20, Local History Seminar, 3:00 pm
Wayne State University
Beyond the Internet

Thursday, April 26, 2007, 7:00 pm
Dearborn Genealogical Society
Planning a Trip for Overseas Research?
McFadden-Ross House
915 Brady St., Dearborn, 313-565-3000

Thursday, May 3, 2007
The Polish Center of Wisconsin
6941 S. 68th Street - Franklin, WI 53132
Wladyslaw Reymont's Chłopi (The Peasants)

Tues. May 15, 2007, 7:00 pm
Roseville Public Library (MI)
Historical & Genealogical Society
Sto Lat: One Hundred Years of Records

Wednesday, May 16, 2007, 7:00 pm
Downriver Genealogical Society
Three Generations In the News

Sunday, June 10, 2007

Premiere: Keith Famie's "Our Polish Story"

Detroit Polonia, Mt. Olivet, Mt. Elliott, Sto Lat book signings

Rock Financial Showplace

46100 Grand River, Novi, MI. 48374

July 12-14, 2007

FEEFHS International Conference/Workshop

Salt Lake City, Utah

One to One Consultant

Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel

July 15-19, 2007

27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Hilton City Center, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Using Adobe Photoshop (Workshop), How to Build a Genealogical Website, The ABCs of School Records, Maps for Genealogy: Old, New and Electronic.

Saturday, August 11, 2007

Polish Genealogical Society of California Summer Seminar

Los Angeles, California

Strategies for Locating Ancestral Villages: Four Case Studies

Understanding Migration and Immigrant Communities

Professional Techniques for the Family Genealogist

Planning a Trip for Polish Research

Polish Fest 07

Sept. 21-22, 2007

250 Maxwell Road

Latham, NY

Lectures and Consultant TBA

September 26-28, 2007

Polish Genealogical Society of America

Chicago, IL

Book Signing — Sto Lat: A Modern Approach to Polish Genealogy

Saturday, October 20, 2007

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan

Detroit's Polonian Photo Studios and Finding Aid

Polish Cultural Center, Troy, MI

Incidentally, our own **Paul S. Valasek** will also be speaking at this event! He will be speaking on Haller's Army, and his book on the Army will be available for purchase.

April 19-21, 2008

United Polish Genealogical Seminar
Salt Lake City, Utah
Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel

Finally, if you have any Jewish ancestry you may be interested in a lecture Ceil did on “Visiting Jewish Poland,” available in PDF form here: <http://mipolonia.net/visiting.pdf>. The handout for the lecture is here: http://mipolonia.net/pl_web.pdf.

***** POLISH TRIVIA QUESTIONS *****

Editor: In the last issue we gave 5 questions from a Polish trivia game PolishRoots Vice President Paul Valasek <paval56@aol.com> came across. The answers to those questions appear below, followed by this month’s questions, the answers to which will appear in the next issue. We want to thank Tom Bratkowski for permission to reprint these.

Answers to the Questions in the February Issue:

Category: Geography

- Q. What is used to fill a Polish comforter or *pierzyna*?
- A. Goose down

- Q. What were Bask, Etruria, Equitana, and Negativ?
- A. Polish-Arabian championship horses

- Q. What U.S. President attended the dedication of Alliance College in 1912?
- A. President William Howard Taft

- Q. For what factory product is the Polish city of Słupsk noted (1985)?
- A. Shoes and footwear

- Q. Who said of his Pol-Am players on the Notre Dame football team, “When I can’t pronounce ‘em, they’re good”?
- A. Knute Rockne

New Questions for the March Issue

Category: Traditions

1. What is the most important Polish religious holiday?
2. By old Polish custom, if the family’s Easter food cannot be blessed properly, what can be used to bless it?
3. On what religious day does the traditional Świeconka blessing of food take place?

4. What animal is sculpted of butter to represent Christ at Easter?
5. What is the Polish traditional sweet yeast bread called?

Reprinted with permission from Polish American Trivia & Quadrivia, Powstan, Inc. If interested in learning more, contact Paul Valasek <paval56@aol.com>.

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

Saturday, April 14, 2007
Housatonic Community College, Bridgeport, CT
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Eastern European Genealogy Lecture featuring **Jonathan Shea, Lisa Alzo** and **Matthew Bielawa**.

The speakers, all nationally known experts in their fields, will speak about family history research, historical geography and document sources regarding Polish, Belarusian, Slovak, Ukrainian and Rusyn genealogy. For more information see: http://www.pgscetne.org/Pan-Slavic_Seminar2007.html.

April 21, 2007

New England Archivists of Religious Institutions Annual Meeting
Regis College, Weston, MA
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Professor **Jonathan Shea** will deliver a lecture entitled "Religious Archives As a Source for Cultural History" at 2:00 p.m. The presentation will address document sources of all types in Roman Catholic parish and related archives and their use in genealogical, demographic and immigration studies.

Thursday-Sunday, April 26-29, 2007

New England CONNECTIONS 2007
Ninth New England Regional Genealogy Conference
Hartford, CT

Featured speakers will be **Cyndi Howells, Patricia Law Hatcher** and **Hank Jones**. PGSCETNE President **Jonathan Shea** and **Matthew Bielawa** will also be speaking.

Lectures, seminars, workshops, banquets and luncheons will be available. Exhibitors and special interest groups will be on hand. For more information see <http://www.nergc.org/>.

Saturday, May 19, 2007

MEETING OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Speaker: PAUL S. VALASEK, on “Polish Research”

This meeting will be held at the Lake County Library, 1919 W 81st Ave (US30), Merrillville IN. The meeting starts at 10 a.m., and Paul will bring along copies of his book *Haller's Polish Army in France* for purchase.

May 20, 2007

MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Jack Simpson from the Newberry Library will present a talk entitled, “ChicagoAncestors.org: Genealogy Meets Geography.” The Newberry Library is creating an interactive on-line map of Chicago. The map and database will help users find materials such as church records and neighborhood histories. It will also allow users to contribute and share their own information. Newberry librarian Jack Simpson will discuss the background of the project, and demonstrate how researchers can use it.

May 21, 2007

MEETING OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL AND THE QUEBEC FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

On the evening of May 21, 2007, at 7 p.m., Steve Morse will be the guest speaker at a combined meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal and the Quebec Family History Society.

The meeting will be held Monday, at the Eleanor London Cote Saint-Luc Public Library, Harold Greenspon Auditorium, Lower Level, 5851 Cavendish Blvd., Cote Saint-Luc (Montreal). Everyone is welcome.

[From a note posted by Stanley Diamond, President, Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal, on the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish).

June 7 – 24, 2007

TUGG GENEALOGICAL TOUR TO WESTERN UKRAINE

The Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG), www.torugg.org, is hosting a genealogical tour to Western Ukraine in June of 2007. If you wish to join us, you are most welcome! Here are the particulars.

The “Discover Your Roots Tour” runs from June 7 to June 24, 2007. For complete details and how to register see: www.torugg.org/TUGG%20Projects/trip_to_ukraine.html

We will spend a number of days in Lviv, Chernivtsi, Ivano-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.

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.

And the Archives Family Search Form: http://www.torugg.org/archive_form.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.

Costs:

Air/Land rate, based on a twin/sharing basis is \$3599.00 (CAN\$)

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

[From information posted by Jim Onyschuk, <http://www.onyschuk.com>]

Sunday, July 15 - Friday, July 20, 2007

27TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Website: <http://www.slc2007.org> (online registration, all event details)

Contact: <information@slc2007.org>

Hosted by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (www.iajgs.org), this year’s premiere Jewish genealogy event includes the following highlights:

- Networking with international researchers, experts and Eastern European archivists
- A film festival with Jewish and genealogical themes
- Breakfasts with Family History Library regional resource experts
- Popular computer training workshops in basic/advanced essential skills for researchers
- Special photographic exhibits --Resource room with access to many specialized databases and other materials
- Special interest group meetings and luncheons
- Utilizing the FHL’s extensive resources
- Vendor room
- Tours and more.

The intensive 5 1/2 day program of lectures, panels, tracks and workshops will cover the following research areas:

- Eastern/Central/Western Europe
- Israel (pre/post-1948)
- Genetics/DNA
- Holocaust
- Immigration/naturalization/migration
- Jewish history/sociology
- Methodology
- Sephardic/Mizrahi
- Non-European (e.g. India, China)
- Photograph/document preservation
- Rabbinic research
- Repositories
- South/Central America
- Technology/Internet resources
- U.S./North America (includes specific locales), and
- Yiddish theater/Jewish music.

For all event details, including easy online registration, go to the frequently updated website, <http://www.slc2007.org>.

[Based on information provided by Schelly Talalay Dardashti <publicity@slc2007.org.>]

September 26-28, 2007

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE**
Chicago, IL

Check the PGSA Website at www.pgsa.org, where details will presumably be posted as they become available.

Friday and Saturday, October 4-5, 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. Mieczyslaw Biskupski** and a Beginner’s Workshop.

October 20, 2007

PGS-Michigan's Annual Polish Research Seminar

Speakers: Paul S. Valasek, Cecile Jensen and J. William Gorski - Topics to be Determined
American Polish Cultural Center -Hall #2
2975 E. Maple Rd. (15 Mile Rd)
Troy, Michigan 48083
(use Dequindre entrance)

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

<http://www.aap.poznan.pl/archiwum.php>

On the Polish Genius list Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> explained that the catalog of the Poznań Archdiocesan Archives' holdings is online at this address. It includes parish records, and at least may help you locate records not yet filmed by the Family History Library. She explains: "Click on 'Księgi metrykalne.' The parishes are listed in alpha order. You can either wade through the numbers at the bottom of the page or type in the parish name at the top, using the drop down list to the right and bringing up 'Parafia.' Then click on SZUKAJ. If you're not sure of the spelling but have some of the basic letters, type those into the empty box and then click on SZUKAJ. You'll then receive all the parish names which contain those letters. Example: type in Walków (you're looking for Walków parish but you're not sure of the spelling) and click on SZUKAJ. The first parish which is returned is 'Chwałkowo.' If you click on the numbers at the bottom of the chart you'll move through the list. This search is not the same as the Soundex used by Shtetlseeker. You will have to have an idea of how to spell the village name."

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-geogmap2.html>

On the Poland-Roots list the administrator, Marie <rwlistsboards@comcast.net> wrote, "Is everyone aware that you can request a copy of historic maps showing your ancestral villages from the Library of Congress? I've done this for several places in both Poland and Germany." She said you can go to the URL listed above and fill out the form. She added, "You must know where (exactly) the village(s) is/are located and include that info on the form so they can locate the correct village(s). Also include the time period you are interested in. Last time I used this service the copies were free." I think we've mentioned this before, but as Marie clearly realizes, it's one of those tips worth repeating from time to time, both to inform newbies and remind old pros!

<http://www.mlorenz.at>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list Lavrentiy Krupnak repeated a note Karen Hobbs had posted on another list about the Austrian Army in World War I. She called this "a remarkable site for military research after 1880 and during World War I There are large maps to download, images of uniforms, lists of troop units and other valuable information ... Be sure to click on LINKS near the bottom left of the home page after finishing exploring the rest of the site."

Lavrentiy also forwarded another note Karen had posted on sources for information on Jews serving in the Austrian army: “Jews in the Austro-Hungarian Army,” in *Essays on War and Society in East Central Europe, 1740-1920 (War and Society in East Central Europe, Vol. XXII = Atlantic Studies on Society in Change, No. 41)*, Boulder-Highland Lakes-New York 1987, S. 69-84”; and “Jews in the Austro-Hungarian Armed Forces, 1867-1918,” in *Studies in Contemporary Jewry 3* (New York-Oxford 1987), S. 127-146.”

http://www.genealogy.com/19_wylie.html

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup, Beverly Shulster answered a question on how to cite sources by recommending this site. Good researchers are always interested in the right way to cite sources, so this might prove helpful.

<http://www.stevemorse.org>

Also on that newsgroup, Stanley Diamond posted a note saying Steve Morse has added yet another feature to his One-Step Search Website. Now you can search the records called “St. Albans Lists,” the U.S.-Canada Border Crossing Records, recently made available by Ancestry.com. Stanley added that a full description of the U.S.-Canada Border Crossing Records is available at <http://tinyurl.com/9e8tp>.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/jriplweb.htm>

Stanley also announced on that newsgroup that Michael Tobias, JRI-P Database Manager, has added options to let researchers refine their criteria for searching the database at the above site. There are now two additional fields, “Year Range” and “Type of Record.”

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues2005/november05/polishpresence.htm>

On the Poland-Roots list Carol Goodson <sunybuffaloalum@mindspring.com> said she had run across “this list of web resources on the Polish Presence in North America. The article is from November 2005, but I imagine most of the links still work, so thought I’d pass it on.”

<http://www.genebase.com/project/womenandh-01?module=forum&view=8563#14997>

Marg Nowaczyk <Nowaczyk@HHSC.CA> has posted a very interesting blog article, “His Aunt Gave Birth to Him!” Part one is at the above address, with part two at <http://www.genebase.com/project/womenandh-01?module=forum&view=8565#14999>.

<http://www.genealodzy.pl/name-books.phtml>

On the Herbarz list Nikolai v. Pock <pokrzywnickiana@yahoo.de> posted this site with links to various interesting works in digital libraries. He added a link to a list of the most requested books: http://www.genealodzy.pl/books-index-req-most_popular-ratenum-50-ratetype-num.phtml.

I must say, these digital libraries are becoming essential sources. I’m finding I can sit at my computer and access reference works I never thought I’d be able to use without actually going to Poland! The list above will let you access all sorts of armorials—Dunin-Borkowski, Paprocki, Kapica-Milewski, Niesiecki, Kojalowicz, Wittyg—as well as such items as monographs by

Kossakowski on individual families; part one of a 1937 address book for Polish parishes; a list of reserve officers of the Polish Army for 1918-1920; a list of officers of the Polish Legion as of 1916, and so on. It's almost enough to make you dizzy!

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~instjose/LadewskiPapers/lucky.htm>

Jim Piechorowski <Jamespiech@aol.com> reports that the Ladewski Papers Project is moving forward; anyone with roots in the general area of South Bend, Indiana wants to keep up with developments, at the Website listed above.

<http://www.progenealogists.com/genealogysleuthb.htm>

On the PolandBorderSurnames list Allen James Krueger <akrueger@frontiernet.net> recommended this site, with links to an impressive variety of online sources. It's a handy way to find a jillion different Websites that serious researchers use constantly.

<http://historicus.umk.pl/cmentarz/index.html>

On the Poland-Roots list Valerie Koselka <gardenld@ix.netcom.com> said she happened across this site for St. George Cemetery in Toruń. A click on the icon that says "baza" takes you to the searchable sections of this site. She added "There is also a map of the cemetery and a history for those who can read Polish. Great to see something like this online especially if anyone's family hails from that area."

<http://www.halgai.com/commonnames.html>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, Erika <einamaka@yahoo.com> asked for help with the Cyrillic spellings of given names. She wrote back to say she found this site, which lists Latin, Polish, and Ukrainian versions of many common given names. It answered many of her questions, and it may answer some of yours.

<http://www.eogen.com>

Dick Eastman, author of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, set up the *Encyclopedia of Genealogy* here. He says, "I 'seeded' the *Encyclopedia of Genealogy* with perhaps fifty pages of information about various genealogy-related topics. Since then, several hundred other genealogists have added material or have updated, corrected, and expanded the information that I originally posted. Perhaps the best example of this collaboration is the list of local, regional, and state libraries that offer free, in-home access to the records found on HeritageQuest Online. That page at <http://www.eogen.com/HeritageQuestOnline> has been updated hundreds of times by many different people, each one adding whatever information he or she could add about a local library."

This site is interesting in itself, but also because it illustrates the value of something Eastman strongly recommends: people should create a wiki for their own genealogy or for a genealogy organization. For more info on that, look at Eastman's site, or search for "wiki" on <http://wikipedia.org>.

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