



# 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](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\\_VII\\_12.pdf](http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_VII_12.pdf)

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**\*\*\* POLISH ARMY VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.—  
PAVA aka SWAP \*\*\***

by Paul S. Valasek, D.D.S. <[paval56@aol.com](mailto:paval56@aol.com)>

In the history of Polonian organizations, acronyms are widely used; the acronyms differ, depending on whether you're referring to the organization's English or Polish name. There are, for instance, the PNA (Polish National Alliance), in Polish ZNP (Związek Narodowy Polski); PRCUA (Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, in Polish ZPRK (Zjednoczenie Polskie Rzymsko-Katolickie); PFA (Polish Falcons of America), which in 1914 Poles called ZSP (Związek Sokołów Polskich [w Ameryce]), but in 1928 changed to Sokolstwo Polskie w Ameryce; PWAA (Polish Women's Alliance of America), in Polish Związek Polek w Ameryce (ZPA); and a host of others.

One that has been widely overlooked is PAVA, the Polish Army Veterans Association of America; its Polish name is *Stowarzyszenie Weteranów Armii Polskiej*, or SWAP. Formed by returning *Hallerczycy* (Haller's Army veterans) in 1921, this organization served as a source of assistance for any member who was in need, as well as maintaining the camaraderie of the military life these men had just experienced.

After the Polish-Soviet War, the returning *Hallerczycy* organized this association, and its ranks grew continually as more and more veterans understood the advantages of membership. When World War II broke out, a whole new group of veterans became available for membership and the organization continued to grow. But times change; and if one has to find a downside of peace, it's the reduction in the number of veterans. Thus, in recent decades PAVA has seen its numbers continually decrease, as the need for military ranks has decreased, not in ideology, but in numbers.

Recently, Andrea and I had the enjoyable experience of spending several days at PAVA Headquarters in Manhattan. Located at 119 East 15th Street, the building is only one block from Union Square Park and easily reached by subway, bus, or the ubiquitous yellow cabs. Our visit was a mutual learning experience, as I discovered what was available at PAVA, and they had the opportunity to review my recent book on Haller's Polish Army in France.

As genealogy goes, the most critical piece of paper they maintain is the membership application for the association. I received a copy of my grandfather's. Not only did it have the usual, date and place of birth, current address, and occupation; it also had something most descendants of *Hallerczycy* desperately want to know: the unit in which the man fought, and his rank upon leaving the army. I was fortunate in that I already knew my grandfather served in the 3rd Polish Regiment in France, which later became the 45th Borderland Riflemen; and I knew his discharge rank of 1st Lieutenant. But for many other researchers, this kind of needed information is now being made available.

There is also the identification of which post the soldier joined. Each post has its own history, as well as photos, banquet books, anniversary booklets, and the like. All valuable adjuncts to research once you identify the correct post, or, as it's known in Polish, *placówka*. There is also a question on the form, *Do jakich organizacji należy?* (To what organizations does he belong?). To this my grandfather answered "37 gn. ZSP" (Nest #37, Polish Falcons of America) and "gr. 440 ZNP," (Group 440, Polish National Alliance). For those who do not know to which organizations their ancestor may have belonged, this is a great source for further leads.

As PAVA membership is changing and the numbers are declining, their Board recently discussed the need to preserve their important historical material and continue to teach the public about the role their founders and members have played in establishing, maintaining, and re-establishing a free Poland, and thus contributing to a free Western democratic union of nations.

The PAVA Board passed a new by-law that allows descendants of former members—i. e., sons, grandsons, great-grandsons, nephews, daughters, granddaughters, nieces, etc.—to become members. I have already sent in my membership, which requires a \$10.00 registration fee, annual dues of \$25.00, and information on who my ancestor was and the fact that he was indeed a member. If you had a female ancestor in the Women's Auxiliary only, then you may become a member of that group, which is a sub-group to the main body of membership.

I strongly urge anyone who may be eligible for membership to join PAVA and continue the mission our ancestors set forth and to preserve the legacy of men and women who fought for Poland and the West. For further information and the application process, contact:

PAVA  
119 East 15th Street  
New York NY 10003  
e-mail <[info@pava-swap.org](mailto:info@pava-swap.org)>, telephone 212-358-0306

Let me conclude with PAVA's brief description of its own history, reprinted with permission from the 80th Jubilee Anniversary book of PAVA, 25 November 2001, New York, NY.

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### **80 Years of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America**

During the First World War, Polish Americans made an important contribution to the rebirth of an Independent Polish State. Apart from giving financial aid, the Polonia of the United States and Canada supplied more than 20,000 volunteers to the Polish Army in France, later to be known because of its uniforms as the "Blue Army." When in 1920 the wars for the freedom of Poland ended, some 14,500 returned to America. In May 1921, at its first convention in Cleveland, OH, they formed the Polish Army Veterans Association of America (PAVA) and elected its first president Dr. Teofil Starzyński, a renowned leader of the Polish Falcons of America. As its highest priority PAVA adopted an organized support for its needy members—invalids, the sick, unemployed and homeless. To finance this action they developed fund-raising among the Polish community called "Bławatek," which made it possible to establish some shelters and self-supporting workshops. The veterans also got substantial help from the great Polish patriot Ignacy Paderewski, who in 1926 initiated with a donation of \$10,000 an Invalids Fund, which exists to this day.

In 1921 PAVA had 1,746 members, organized into 66 Posts. By 1939 it grew to 4,450 members in 141 Posts, forming 10 geographical districts in the U.S.A. and one each in Canada and Poland. In 1925 many PAVA posts organized Ladies Auxiliary Corps, and in 1931 societies of Friends of Polish Veterans and Sons and Daughters of Polish Veterans were formed in some localities.

During the Second World War PAVA supported the Polish Government in London by donating an ambulance for the Polish Army, sending parcels for the P.O.W.'s, and aiding in the recruitment of volunteers in the USA and Canada.

After 1945 PAVA membership was greatly increased by the influx of veterans of the Polish Armed Forces in the West, and in time, they gave PAVA organizational continuity. During 1945-1985 PAVA provided material and financial aid to the World War II volunteers from America who remained in Poland and were not receiving any state help. PAVA supported fund-raising activities for flood victims in Poland, blind invalids, the Solidarity movement, and many other causes. Invalid veterans living in the West were assisted, and maintenance of Polish military cemeteries in Italy and France was financed.

After 1989 PAVA established regular contacts with the newly independent Poland. In 1992 it took part in the worldwide reunion of Polish veterans in Warsaw. In 1996 a memorial plaque was erected in the military cathedral in Warsaw. In 1998 PAVA funded a monument dedicated to Polonia's contribution in the 1918-1920 war to restore Poland's independence. National Commander Hieronim Wyszyński funded a monument of Gen. J. Haller in Ossów. PAVA director Czesław Jakubik presented a regimental standard to the unit in Gubin.

Currently PAVA has 61 Posts in 10 Districts. Since 1921 the Association numbered some 20,000 members. The Ladies Auxiliary Corps and Society of Friends of Polish Veterans still exist. In 2000 the PAVA Foundation was established. A monthly newsletter, the *Weteran*, has been published continuously since 1921. For its achievements PAVA has been awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (1923) and the Gold Cross of Merit (1939).

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### \*\*\* LETTERS TO THE EDITOR \*\*\*

Subject: Online Polish telephone directory

*Editor—In the last issue I mentioned the online Polish phone directory at <http://www.wirtualnafrancja.com/telefonj/>. Tina Ellis sent a note with some very useful information on using that site.*

There are some nice features with the online telephone directory, about which you wrote in your November issue of *Gen Dobry!* I thought you may like to pass them onto your readers.

The % symbol can be used as a wildcard. If you have a surname, village, or city name that has letters with diacritical marks, you can use % in place of those letters. If you have a surname ending in *-ski* or *-ska*, you can type in *sk%* at the end to get all male and female listings.

You can also find the names of everyone in any given village using the % only in the surname slot of the program. As an example, my grandmother is from the village of Szurpiły, which is in the province of Podlaskie. If you use the drop-box to plug in Podlaskie, type in Szurpi%y in the *miasto* box and % in the surname box, you will find the names of 29 people with telephone numbers listed. Five of the surnames listed are in my family tree. My cousin Adam tells me there are 13 families in

the village, which he has identified as blood relatives. It does not include 2 of the 5 surnames in our family tree. Those two names go back to our 4th and 5th great-grandmothers. It would take more research to make the exact connection with these two families.

A few years ago, one of the PolandBorderSurname mailing list members was researching the surname of Makowski from the village of Bartniki in Podlaskie. The telephone directory shows no one with that surname for this village. I suggested that he write to all 33 people listed. He did not write to all of them— I know it was less than 10—but he found two cousins. One woman who received a letter knew her neighbor was a Makowski before she married, and passed the letter on to her. One man whose best friend was a Makowski had moved to a city about 40 miles south of Bartniki. This man sent the letter to his friend, and he also turned out to be a cousin. Both the people who were given these letters responded.

Anyway ... I wanted you to point out that the site can be a very useful tool, and that it has some manipulative applications that can be very helpful. Sometimes we have to use our imagination to further our research. :)

Tina Ellis <[polska.research@gmail.com](mailto:polska.research@gmail.com)>

*Editor—Words of wisdom! Thanks so much for giving us all more information to work with.*

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Subject: 1846 Deaths of Soldiers in Łowicz

*Editor—In the last issue we had a question from Sue Masten <[blueabyss@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blueabyss@sbcglobal.net)> about her research, which showed a number of soldiers dying in the Łowicz area during 1846. She wondered what that was all about, and I couldn't tell her. But I know our readers would come through, and they did! Here's the first note I received:*

I couldn't help but laugh out loud when I read where you are “gently” reminding people that they need to do their own work, because there was no “Polish elf” that was going to jump out with all the answers. I cracked up. All I could think of was that little red furry devil guy who goes around with St. Nick. Or Sometimes St. Nick has a stick with a furry red devil attached to it to remind the naughty kids that they could get swatted.

Anyways, in regard to 1846 in Galicia, yes, there was an uprising, peasants against nobles. Completely out of hand, and it was politically inspired and the peasants were used shamelessly to turn on their *szlachta*. The peasants were cruel and put many a noble person to death. My g-g-grandfather Matthew Lakoma died trying to help the nobles near Straszecin in Galicia. Many little villages and towns show many death records for that month of Feb 1846.

I think maybe that could be related to the military deaths your reader found. The military was called in to quell this uprising.

Karen Wisniewski <[madamlazonga@hotmail.com](mailto:madamlazonga@hotmail.com)>

*Editor—Here's the second note I received, and it proved particularly enlightening:*

The military deaths in Łowicz may be related to the Peasants Uprising of 1846 and an aborted nationwide revolt. The Peasants Uprising (which was a pre-emptive counter strike by peasants in Galicia supported by the Austrian government to foil a planned nationwide revolt led by Polish nobles) was limited to Galicia, but the revolt of 1846 was to have been a nationwide event. A number of northern Polish nobles were arrested by the Russian authorities prior to the planned date of the commencement of hostilities, and many other northern nobles then withdrew their support of the revolt. But the ill-fated revolt went ahead as planned in Kraków, and manifestos of independence, land reforms, and civil rights were issued. Unfortunately, the revolt did not generate much support except in the vicinity of Kraków, the revolt was ultimately crushed, and Kraków lost its “free city” status.

If the military deaths in Łowicz occurred in the early part of 1846, then they are probably related to the ill-fated revolt. In Galicia, the Peasants Uprising took place in February and the cause of death given for the victims in my ancestral parish records is “*per tumultuantam.*” The keyword is “tumult.” A sad chapter in Polish history.

Dennis Benarz <[d\\_benarz@prodigy.net](mailto:d_benarz@prodigy.net)>

*Editor—Thanks to Karen and Dennis for some excellent information. The great thing about my job is that I learn something new every day!*

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Subject: Donut holes!?

*Editor—Here's another chance for our readers to give someone information I couldn't!*

This year I am planning to have a little fun with my grandsons (Judah Joust), who can eat the most donut holes, and I want to be sure that I am using and spelling the word right. What is the correct Polish word and spelling for “donut hole”? I told my grandsons that we are to have a feast eating donut holes. I remember listening to an old 78 rpm Polish record years ago (can't remember the name of the record) that spoke to Wanda (the lazy devil) putting Judas in Donuts. Is Judah the Polish word for hole? Or was this a Polish slang word?

Dennis Minarczik <[dminarczik@verizon.net](mailto:dminarczik@verizon.net)>

*Editor—Here's what I told Dennis:*

Well, my English-Polish dictionary defines “donut” as “*paćzek (często z dziurką)*” = “a *paćzek* (often with a little hole).” You've heard of *paćzki*, I'm sure – the word sounds like “ponch-key.” As far as I know, that's the closest thing Poles have to donuts: a round pastry, but with no holes. Instead they have little depressed areas with various fillings such as jam.

The standard Polish word for “hole” is *dziura*, which sounds like “JOOR-ah,” but the Polish R sounds a little different from ours. It's made by lightly flicking the tip of the tongue up against the

top of the dental ridge — much like a D, except with D you push the tongue against the dental ridge, but with R you just flick it. To an English-speaker, a Polish R can sound like a D. So *dziura* could indeed sound a lot like “Judah.” A *dziura* is a hole; a *dziurka* is a little hole. If you showed a Pole a donut and pointed at the hole and asked him what he’d call it, my guess is he’d probably say either *dziura* or *dziurka*.

I don’t know if there is a Polish word for the little round pastry we call a donut hole (and oh, do I love to eat them!). I guess Poles really don’t have donut holes, because they don’t have donuts. It’s amazing that different cultures can take the same basic ingredients and come up with such different items! Poles have *paczki*, but not really donuts. We have donuts, but *paczki* are foreign to us. Unless, of course, you grew up Polish-American, and then you can have the best of both worlds....

*Editor—OK, enough of my guessing. Let’s hear from some of you who, unlike me, know what you’re talking about!*

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Subject: Books *Genealogy of Zakopane Families* and *Polish Son in the Motherland*

I wonder if you are familiar with a book *Genealogy of Zakopane Families*, written by the research couple, Mr. and Mrs. Krzeptowski-Jasinek? I was told about it by an acquaintance in Poland, but he thinks it’s only in Polish (which I cannot read). Have you heard of a translated copy?

I am trying to follow-up on some highly interesting track (which supposedly places an ancestor in the 1600s). My grandfather’s surname, Zwijas, is (according to what is supposedly stated in this book) the same as one early inhabitant of Zakopane: Klemens Ciągwa-Zwijas, who lived there in 1615, and was married to a Regina Gašienica (of Zakopane’s founding family) in 1620. Also, he was supposed to have come to Zakopane from a village called Zubsuche (on the hills above Poronin), near Zakopane.

By serendipity, while surfing the web regarding my surname (Zwijas), I found a link to a person by the name of Zwijacz in Poland and decided to take a chance and email him (this was a year or more ago. We have penpals since)! This friend (whose full surname is Ciągwa-Zwijacz) and I are now thinking that we are distant relatives. At first he doubted, but himself came across this book and research data. I always thought Zwijas and Zwijacz were interchangeable for a long time. Finally one time, I wrote you about this query and you kindly verified the same and sent me very helpful information about these surnames (which I emailed my acquaintance/friend/relative(?)).

So, any further help you can offer as to the book or translation or data would be very much appreciated.

Stephanie Sweas <[reallylooking@mail.com](mailto:reallylooking@mail.com)>

P.S. On a separate note, I am just finishing an exquisite account of one person’s journey to Poland, in search of his family. I just came across it in the library yesterday, and could not put it down. It is called, *A Polish Son in the Motherland*, by Leonard Kniffel, copyright 2005. (By the way, the author is a current Chicagoan). I would like to suggest it to your readership. Even though it is HIS

hi(story), and takes place in a part of Poland distant from my own sets of grandparents', I truly was transported to what must have been the quite similar lives of my own families' joys and travails. I am confident that anyone who longs to explore their heritage (or return to their homeland even if in imagination and memory) will find in Mr. Kniffel's memoir, a tender account of a passionate search for one's roots. It is also laced with historical facts, colorful local anecdotes, current snapshots, and the author even translates many Polish words/phrases as he struggles to speak the language while on an extended stay. I don't want the book to end. Its particular magic has increased my desire to experience a similar journey to my own ancestral homesites. A unique and enjoyable travelogue....

*Editor—We've mentioned Mr. Kniffel's book in Gen Dobry! before, but I'm glad to have a chance to pass along your praise. As for the Zakopane book, I could find no mention of an English translation, and I'd be surprised if anyone's gotten around to doing one. Still, I don't know for sure; maybe one of our readers has better info. In any case I think there's a good chance some of them can compare notes with you, to your mutual benefit.*

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Subject: Poles and Potatoes?

Knowing your love of Polish curses etc I thought this little article might interest you. So what is it with Poles and potatoes???

*[Quoted from the 5 December 2006 issue of the British newspaper Metro]:* **Polish jibe turns into a hot potato.** Photos comparing Polish President Lech Kaczyński to a potato have been published by a German newspaper ahead of a vital summit today. Five months ago, a meeting of German, French and Polish leaders was scrapped following a similar taunt – a grave insult in Poland. A Berlin daily printed pictures of Mr. Kaczyński next to potatoes on its front page, with the headline: “Which one of you is it that's coming again?”

Bronwyn Klimach <[bronklimach@gmail.com](mailto:bronklimach@gmail.com)>

*Editor—Well, I can't say I've ever run across mention before of any specific Polish problem with potatoes. But no one likes being compared to a spud. And that's just the start of this whole affair....*

*I searched for this online, and as best I can tell, it began with an article in the German newspaper die Tageszeitung, available at <http://www.taz.de/pi/2006/06/26/a0248.1/text>. It's entitled “Polens neue Kartoffel. Schurken, die die Welt beherrschen wollen. Heute: Lech ‘Katsche’ Kaczynski.” This means “Poland's new potato. Scoundrels who want to rule the world. Today: Lech ‘Katsche’ Kaczynski.” Objectively, the article is hilarious; but it's downright cruel, as it makes fun of Lech Kaczyński's short stature, inexperience in foreign affairs, and especially his ignorance about Germany. It continues, “Often enough this highest ranking Pole has proclaimed that he knows nothing about Germany except the spittoon in the men's toilet at the Frankfurt airport.” I must admit, if someone wrote that about me, I'd be pretty ticked off!*

*If you want to learn more, just Google “Kaczynski potato” and you'll find plenty of press about this matter.*



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\*\*\* HUMOR \*\*\*

*Editor—Here are two brief items I thought were amusing. The first was posted to the Poland-Roots list by Ceil Jensen <[cjensen@mipolonia.net](mailto:cjensen@mipolonia.net)>; it's from a note a fellow researcher sent Ceil:*

Good Morning Ceil,

After I left the library and driving down Woodward yesterday, I was thinking about the Season and Santa, and wondered what ethnic background he has. And then, all of a sudden it hit me.....

Of course,  
He is North Polish.....!

Merry Christmas,

Ernie

*Editor—The other item was posted to Poland-Roots by Liz Jarvis <[lj Jarvis@twmi.rr.com](mailto:lj Jarvis@twmi.rr.com)>. She said the author was unknown, but it appeared in a 1984 issue of the Illinois State Genealogical Society's newsletter:*

A Genealogist's Christmas wish: All I Want For Christmas Is A New Surname

Dear Santa: Don't bring me new dishes,  
I don't need a new kind of game.  
Genealogists have peculiar wishes.  
For Christmas I just want a surname.

A new washing machine would be great,  
But it's not the desire of my life.  
I've just found an ancestor's birth date;  
What I need now is the name of his wife.

My heart doesn't yearn for a ring  
That would put a real diamond to shame.  
What I want is a much cheaper thing;  
Please give me Mary's last name.

To see my heart singing with joy,  
Don't bring me a leather suitcase,  
Bring me a genealogist's toy:  
A surname with dates and a place.

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**\*\*\* POZNAŃ PROJECT NEWSLETTER \*\*\***

*Editor—Given the interest our readers have in the Project, I intend to reprint the latest updates whenever Łukasz Bielecki sends them out, for the benefit of anyone who might have missed them.*

Dear Poznań Project Friends,

In November and December, the following parishes have been added to our database:

Catholic:

Białężyn (Oborniki district), Brzyskorzyszew (Żnin district), Glesno (Wyrzysk district), Krobia (Gostyń district), Wałków (Koźmin district), Rozdrażew (Krotoszyn district), Skórzewo (Poznań district), Parchanie (Inowrocław district), Jutrosin (Rawicz district)

Lutheran:

Kopanica [Kopnitz] and Rostarzewo [Rothenburg a/Obra] from the Babimost [Bomst] district, Kiszkowo [Welnau] from the Gniezno [Gnesen] district.

By Christmas, we have exceeded 80,000 marriages in the database! One Catholic marriage in six (from those having taken place in the Poznań region) and one Lutheran marriage in 14 is already there. I feel I should encourage those from you who perform German-oriented genealogy of Posen (hence usually based on Lutheran records) to index more towns! Of course new Catholic parishes would be appreciated, as well.

Whoever would be able to help us with indexing new towns in the New Year, please write me!

New features added:

Most of the material has been translated into Polish. Also, the French interface has started, thank you, Florent, for providing the translation!

Please let me know if you have any ideas to improve the Project functionality. Also, if you have the possibility to burn CD's from microfilms containing marriage records from the Poznań area, please let me know. Some LDS Centers offer this and many participants would be able to work at home with the images, while they are unable to go to the LDS centers in person.

Also, if you would be able to index a parish at home when given the scans, please let me know! I hope this possibility will soon become true (see previous paragraph).  
As usual, I remind you of the Poznań Project main (English) site:

[http://www.discovering-roots.pl/poznan\\_project/project.htm](http://www.discovering-roots.pl/poznan_project/project.htm)

I wish you a happy New Year full of new genealogical discoveries.

Łukasz Bielecki

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**\*\*\* 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](mailto: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 November Issue:**

Category: Traditions

- Q. What is placed in the corners of the room in the Polish Christmas *Wigilia*?
- A. Sheaves of grain of the last harvest
  
- Q. What does the *Gwiazdor* carry in a traditional Polish Christmas caroling group?
- A. The star of Bethlehem
  
- Q. What is the traditional Polish *Szopka*?
- A. A puppet show or Nativity scene
  
- Q. What day marks the end of the Polish Christmas season?
- A. Candlemas Day, February 2nd
  
- Q. By tradition, on what day do people in some parts of Poland wash with money?
- A. On New Year's Day

**New Questions for the December Issue**

Category: Geography

1. What country borders Poland on the south (1985)?
2. What Polish city did Jan Zamoyski found?
3. Who founded the city of Wilno?
4. What city is the center of Polish textile industry?
5. What is the small desert in southcentral Poland called?

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

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**\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\***

**TORONTO UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY GROUP (TUGG)'s  
NEXT MEETING**

**Saturday, January 20, 2007**

**Field Trip to the Family History Center** at 24 Ferrand Drive, North York. - A hands-on session from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group will be a field trip to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Library to have a look at the microfilms available there:

Family History Library  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
24 Ferrand Drive, Don Mills & Eglinton area  
Saturday, January 20, 2007  
2 to 4 pm

There are over 125 films of Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic Ukrainian parishes on permanent loan at the Library, plus 16 films of the Geographic Dictionary of the Former Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic Lands. All villages in Galicia would be on these Słownik films, and some places as far east as Rivne Oblast as well.

They also have the pay-for-view Ancestors site free on one of their computers.

*[From an e-mail sent by Sonia van Heerden <[soniavh11@hotmail.com](mailto:soniavh11@hotmail.com)>]*

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## **POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEETING February 11, 2007**

### Topic Title

The Unpolished Gems: The Cook County, Illinois Irregular Indexes

### Short Description of Topic

Non-property records are “irregular” for the Cook County Recorder’s Office and are unpolished gems for genealogists. Beginning in 1871, the indexes include pre-1916 birth/death affidavits and change of surnames.

### Short Bio

Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CGSM is a full-time professional researcher specializing in Chicago and Cook County research, an author, and an editor. She has published articles in a number of journals including *the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society’s Quarterly*, and is the editor of the Chicago Genealogical Society’s newsletter. She is a member of NGS, APG, and a multi-year alumnus of IGHS at Samford and of NIGR.

CG, Certified Genealogist is a service mark of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, used under license by board-certified associates after periodic competency evaluations. The board name is registered USP&TO.

[From an e-mail sent out by Harry Kurek. The note doesn't specify the time or meeting place, but usually PGSA meetings are held at the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL, starting at 2 p.m. If you're interested and want to know more, you can write <[pgsamerica@aol.com](mailto:pgsamerica@aol.com)>.]

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

<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=51593&from=latest>

On the Posen list Gerd Müllenheim <[muellenh@pt.lu](mailto:muellenh@pt.lu)> mentioned that Alfred Lattermann's *Einführung in die deutsche Sippenforschung in Polen und dem preussischen Osten* [Introduction to German Genealogy in Poland and the Prussian East], published 1938, is now available on the Digital Library of Wielkopolska site, at the above URL. You will need to download the DjVu browser plug-in (<http://tinyurl.com/2z3lo>) to view the pages. You can browse them online, or download the whole file in ZIP form.

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<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra>

On the Herbarz list Klaus Liwowsky <[KlaLiwo@web.de](mailto:KlaLiwo@web.de)> mentioned that works on 16th-century Poland by the historian Adolf Pawiński (1840-1896) are now available online via the Digital Library of Wielkopolska, at the above URL. The works are in Polish, of course, but Klaus pointed out that the volumes for Małopolska have lists of names, and there is a list of villages at the end of Volume 2 of the Wielkopolska book. Go to the home page and use "Search" to look for "Pawiński, Adolf." This will bring up links to his various works.

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Narocz/>

I recently referred a question on research in Belarus to Barbara Proko <[lida\\_ancestors@yahoo.com](mailto:lida_ancestors@yahoo.com)>, who has a lot of experience with research there. She mentioned that there is a Yahoo Group devoted to the Lake Narocz area, and suggested our readers might like to know about it. The group can be visited at the above URL. Here's how it describes its focus:

"Pastavy aka Postawy, Gruzdovo aka Hruzdowo. This group is for those interested in the area and towns near Lake Naroch/ Narocz, located in what is today Belarus. It has at previous times been considered politically part of Russia, Poland and Lithuania. Perhaps you have ancestors from this area and would like to connect and share information with other descendants of people from this area? Nearest city Postavy. Some other nearby towns as of 1923 include Ozarowo, Jakubowce and Orgrodniki, Rusiny, Lukasova, Teshelova, Pukhovka, Mikhniche and Savichi.

"Some surnames from the area: Drozd, Kundra, Popok, Podgajski, Szaban, Litvonovich, Ra,balski also sp Rombalski, (various spellings Hruzdowo, Chruzdowo), and others. Other towns in this area include Rubaniki, Kolonji Szyrki ( now Shirki), Narocz and Pastavy. Pastavy being the large town in the area."

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<http://fzp.jewish.org.pl/english/index.php>

Paul Valasek mentioned this site, the Polish Jews Forum. If your ancestry includes any Polish Jews, you might find a lot here to inform you.

<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>

Garret Mierzejewski <[mierzejewski@verizon.net](mailto:mierzejewski@verizon.net)> sent along several interesting links for our readers. The one above takes you to a site with outline maps of Europe in PDF format, which could be nice additions to compilations of family genealogy. He also mentioned a site on a new postal service in Poland at <http://www.inpost.pl/>, and “Your Voice Translations and Training,” a service offered by the *Warsaw Voice* at <http://www.warsawvoice.pl/yourvoice.php>.

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[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2006/12/publishing\\_your.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2006/12/publishing_your.html)

*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (EOGN)* recently had an interesting article “Publishing Your Genealogy Book in Print or Online.” I know this is a subject of great interest to many researchers. If you're thinking about publishing the work you've done, you should read this. It may give you some valuable insights and pointers.

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<http://www.genclass.com/>

Another issue of *EOGN* discussed online genealogy classes. Since *Gen Dobry!* is largely about using the Internet to help you with your research, I thought some of our readers might want to know about these classes. Visit the GenClass website for info on classes in 2007, including classes on Jewish Genealogy (taught by Schelly Talalay Dardashti and Micha Reisel) and Eastern European Genealogy (taught by Lisa A. Alzo), both beginning February 1st.

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

Jim Piechorowski <[Jamespiech@aol.com](mailto:Jamespiech@aol.com)> posted information to several lists on the first phase of efforts to assemble and digitize the work of the late Gertrude “Lucky” Ladewski, a devoted genealogist in the South Bend, Indiana area. If you have roots in Indiana, especially the South Bend area, you need to know about this site!

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<http://www.digitalgenealogist.com>

The e-zine *Nu? What's New?* had an interesting article in its December 17, 2006 issue (available at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/v07n21.htm>). The article is about a new electronic magazine, *Digital Genealogist*, which you can check out at the above URL.

Also, the December 3rd issue of *Nu* (<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/v07n20.htm>) had a good article on the latest improvement to Stephen P. Morse's excellent Website, at <http://stevemorse.org>. It's the “Gold Form,” described as the “Ultimate Ellis Island Search Engine.”

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<http://tinyurl.com/y4qrrf>

Susan Ager, a journalist for the *Detroit Free Press*, contacted PolishRoots with a request for info on Polish surnames that had been Americanized, for an article she was working on. The article appears at the above URL. It's about a young man who decided to change his name back from Michaels to the original Mikolajczyk!

Paul Valasek and I both answered her with some names, but the info arrived too late for Susan to use in her article. She did use some of it, however, in her blog entry, which you can read at: <http://tinyurl.com/y2g89x>.

If you'd like more info, there's a nice list of Polish-Americans – some with names changed, some unchanged – here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Polish\\_Americans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Polish_Americans).

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