



Gen Dobry!

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*** WELCOME! ***

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

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

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

http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_VI_10.pdf

*** "POLES" IN THE WORLD SERIES ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

As you might imagine, for a lot of folks in the Chicagoland area, last week's World Series was required viewing. PolishRoots Vice-President Paul Valasek came up with an angle that totally escaped me. He noted that several of the Chicago White Sox players had names that sounded Polish, namely A. J. Pierzynski, Scott Podsednik, and Paul Konerko. He thought some readers might be interested in a little info on those names.

Catcher A. J. Pierzynski was an open-and-shut case; Paul found that name in my book on Polish surnames. He wrote, "I see that Pierzyński is derived from *pierzyna*. Also there was and is a shoe store by that name now on Archer Avenue; my grandfather worked for Pierzynski shoes in the 20s. So far I have no idea if there is any connection with A. J., who I believe is from upstate New York."

As of 1990 there were some 649 Polish citizens named *Pierzyński*; so it's not a particularly common name, but by Polish standards it's not all that rare, either. Prof. Rymut's book on Polish surnames lists it under the root Pierz-, saying *Pierzyński* appears in Polish records as early as 1454 and is connected with the root in *pierze*, "feathers, plumage" and especially *pierzyna*, which Rymut defines as "a pillow-case filled with feathers serving as a cover." In modern Polish it means "eiderdown; cover, layer." A Pierzyński family could have gotten that name as a reference to an ancestor who was "the feathers guy" or "the eiderdown guy." The surname might also refer to a family connection with places such as Pierzyny Duże and Pierzyny Małe near Sieradz; in that case the place name obviously came from some sort of association with feathers or eiderdown. Only research into a specific family's history might establish for sure which derivation applied in their particular case.

Podsednik is a tough one. As of 1990 there were no Polish citizens by that name; and from a linguistic standpoint the name doesn't really fit in Polish. I speculated it might be connected with *podsadnik*, a kind of moss, or with *pod sądny*, "defendant." But neither derivation struck me as solid, and I wondered if the name had been changed somewhere along the line.

Turns out, as usual, a little extra info on the place of origin can make a big difference. An article in the *Chicago Tribune* said Scott Podsednik came from West, Texas, a little Czech community (which, ironically, is near Waco, a few hours' drive northwest of Houston). Armed with the info that Podsednik's ancestry was probably Czech, Paul dug up an excellent site:

<http://members.tripod.com/~zlimpkk/Genealogy/ruralpopulation.html>

It gives information on a lot of terms for kinds of farmers in Latin, Czech, German, and Polish. It says the Czech name *Podsednik* (actually more common in Moravia) comes from a Czech term that

equates to German *Hintersasser* and Latin *subses*, and referred to a farmer who owned only a small plot of land, up to 15-18 acres. So a Podsednik probably had an ancestor who lived in Bohemia or especially Moravia, and owned some land, but nowhere near enough to feed his family from what he grew on it.

KONERKO is still a puzzle to me. There were no Polish citizens by that name, and I can find no close match in Polish, or in Russian or Ukrainian either, for that matter. (Surnames ending in *-ko* are often Ukrainian or Russian, but don't necessarily have to be.) I thought I'd be clever and do a Google search for the Cyrillic spelling, which looks like KOHEPKO. I found several matches on Russian Websites, and thought "Aha!" Nope. They were all sites devoted to sports, and talked of how Пол Конерко (Pol Konerko) had hit a "хоум ран" (*khoun ran* = "home run") in a recent game.

The closest root I could find in Polish is *konar*, a term for a bough or limb, also an archaic term for a horse-breeder, herder, or dealer, especially a servant who took care of horses for a lord. In modern Polish it can also mean "antler." It's not too unusual for names with *-a-* to have variants with *-e-*, and the diminutive ending *-ko* is added to many, many roots to form names. So it's not totally implausible to suggest the name started out meaning "little bough" or "little one who tends/breeds/sells horses."

But any experienced researcher knows, it's not enough to come up with a plausible theory on how something **could** happen; you're not finished till you prove that's how it **did** happen. So far I've had no luck proving anything about *Konerko*, one way or the other. Besides, *Konerko* could very well be a distorted form produced during or after immigration. For all we know, the original name could have been something quite different.

Which underscores a basic point I'm always telling people: if you really want a good answer on what a surname means, you usually have to combine linguistic analysis with good genealogical research. Trace the name back, and establish what it was **before** your ancestors left Europe. Why waste time researching a name until you know you've got the right one?

Now that I've made that point, perhaps I'll be forgiven for a piece that looks suspiciously like an excuse to give Sox fans another chance to revel in their victory! Except, of course, for readers who were rooting for the Astros. I know they're not going to forgive me....

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

Subject: Debbie Greenlee Honored

I was a little disappointed that Debbie Greenlee wasn't mentioned in the latest edition of *Gen Dobry!* I posted this to PR [*the Poland-Roots mailing list*]:

Debbie has been selected as one of the recipients of the Polish Museum Polish Heritage Award. This award recognizes individuals or organizations for their interest, knowledge and generosity in the interest of genealogy.

I've known Debbie since 1994 when we were both on GenPol and I can't think of anyone who deserves it anymore than she does.

Our list should be proud to have one of the best genealogists residing and contributing to Poland-Roots.

An anonymous person told me of this award because Debbie doesn't toot her own horn. I'm sure she'll be upset but I think the list should know that one of the best resides on Poland-Roots.

Congratulations friend!

I don't know of anyone who deserves this award more than Debbie.

Pat Malecki-Smith <smudge@winbeam.com>

Editor—I don't know how I missed that! I would have included this note if I had seen it then, and I'm glad to make up for my omission by including it now. Congratulations, Debbie!

Subject: Finding Relatives in Poland

Editor—In the last issue Yolanda J. Glinka-Walstrom <jetsetrn@optonline.net> asked for tips to help her on a trip to Poland to find relatives. Here's an answer sent in by an experienced researcher, a note with lots of good advice:

Yolanda,

I have a suggestion for you when trying to find your father or other relatives by visiting a cemetery in Poland. When I was in Poland, we found the gravesite of a relative. It looked like many other gravesites in that it appeared to have been visited recently (flowers or flags left there). We talked to someone who was caring for a neighboring site and asked if someone came to visit "our" gravesite often. She replied that someone came occasionally. Either we asked if we could leave our address with her to give to them when she next saw them, or we left it in a zip-lock baggie under a rock or something at the gravesite.

About 2 years later I received a letter from a relative who visited the gravesite, and I wrote to her once (and have been meaning to answer her second letter). The relative who wrote to me lives in the U.S. now but visits Poland once a year and usually goes to the cemetery.

So my suggestion to you is to write a short note and have it translated to Polish. Leave it at the gravesite in a baggie in case you do not see a relative during your visit. In fact, take several copies of your note and leave one at the local church and possibly leave one with an elderly person who lives near the cemetery (When visiting an area where I don't know anyone, I often ask who has lived in the area a long time—it's a fair chance they might know something/someone you would be interested in.)

As far as travel arrangements, I was fortunate to travel around Poland with my Polish cousin who made all the arrangements. I had the impression he was concerned with crime and theft wherever we went, so we always took everything out of the car each night and locked it (he wasn't familiar with the villages we were visiting). Like anywhere else, I'd suggest you not travel in unfamiliar remote areas when dark. We also had trouble finding restaurants and lodging except in the larger cities, so allow extra time to locate these or carry food with you. The first time you check into a hotel, they will ask for and keep your passport for several hours (possibly a day?) to register you with the local authorities. Be sure you get it back before you leave.

Good luck!

Christine Elia <chrise365@earthlink.net>

Subject: Info on the artist Magnavacca

I am a student doing some research and I am writing in regard of an Italian artist operating in Poland in the 17th century. The name of the artist is Magnavacca, and he was from Bologna. I believe he operated in Warsaw, and it is reported he was there in 1639, during the reign of Ladislaus IV. From the little information I got, he painted in court of Warsaw and possibly in some churches. Also, I found the following bibliographic reference: E. Rastawiecki, *Slown. Mal. polsk.*, 1850, which I believe refers to Baron Edward Rastawiecki. If it is possible to have some more indications about this artist I would be extremely grateful.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Giovanni Biglino <Giovanni.Biglino@brunel.ac.uk>

Editor—Can any of our readers give Giovanni some leads?

Subject: Pogonowski dictionary

Just tried the <http://www.pogonowski.com/Slowniki> web address and just wanted to let you know that the three English words I tried translating into Polish were really off-base. I tried “hospitality” and four Polish words popped up that did not even have the least inkling of what I wanted to say. Neither did the words “meeting” and “sharing.”

Armela Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

Editor—As I said in the last issue, I've never been very impressed by Prof. Pogonowski's works (and I'm sure my opinion keeps him up at nights!). I only mentioned this site because it is free and in some circumstances readers might find it helpful. But I wouldn't bet the farm on finding info I need there

Incidentally, Maureen Morris <maureenm@sbcglobal.net> sent this link to a dictionary I found more impressive: <http://www.dict.pl/plen>. You might give it a try and see if you like it better.

Subject: Post Your Travel Diaries to Ukraine

The Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG) is asking you to post your travel diaries to Ukraine.

Most of us want to make that trip to search out our roots. Some will be fortunate to make the trip. Others may have to forgo it due to health or financial reasons. In any case, reading your trip diary will help inspire both those who are planning their trip and those who cannot go, for whatever reason.

Myron Masnyk and Judith Hrynenko have posted their diaries at:

http://www.torugg.org/Travelling%20To%20Ukraine/trip_diaries.html

Both are wonderful reads and we're sure they will encourage you to make that trip if you can.

If you have a diary to Ukraine you wish to share, or know of any that have been published, please let us know. The Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group is planning a genealogy research tour for next May/June, 2006. See:

http://www.torugg.org/TUGG%20Projects/trip_to_ukraine.html

We will update this page as the itinerary and details become known.

Jim Onyschuk <jodanji@aci.on.ca>

*** **DZIENNIK CHICAGOSKI HEADLINES** ***

Editor—As explained in previous issues, we'd like to show you selected headlines from Dziennik Chicagoski issues of a century ago. This month's headlines are from 14 and 21 November 1905, and are or soon will soon be available for viewing at:

http://www.polishroots.org/newspapers/dzchig_headlines.htm

November 14, 1905:

Nowe Katastrofy – New Catastrophes

Związek Związków w obronie Polaków – Union of Unions Defends Poles (for more on this organization see http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/october_manifesto.htm or <http://mars.acnet.wnec.edu/~grempel/courses/wc2/lectures/rev1905.html>)

Machinacye Prus i Austrii – Machinations of Prussia and Austria

Zwycięstwo Rewolucyi w Gruzji – Victory of the Revolution in Georgia

Groźne rozruchy chłopskie w wielu miejscowościach walącej się w gruzy Rosyi –
Dangerous Peasant Riots in Many Localities of Russia, Collapsing in Ruins

November 21, 1905:

Proklamacya Polaków – Proclamation of Poles

Delegaci zwracają się do narodu, a nie do rządu – Delegates Return to the People, but Not to the Government

Socjaliści nie przestają bruździć – Socialists Continue to Make Trouble

Książę Karol przyjął koronę norweską – Prince Karl Accepts the Norwegian Crown

Minister Taft sławi amerykańską gospodarkę na Filipinach – Minister Taft Praises American Management in the Philippines

***** CHANGES AT THE FAMILYSEARCH SITE *****

by Deanna Spingola <spingola@comcast.net>

Editor—This is a note sent out by the administrator of a mailing list serving patrons of the Family History Center in Naperville, Illinois. I thought I'd pass it on, just in case it might help some who attempt to use the Family History Library's Website, which is undergoing renovation:

On 27 November [*sic, surely she meant "October"*] at 6:15 AM MST the FamilySearch Internet site was opened on its new hardware (computers) to the world. Ultimately this should improve performance, and allow for enhanced features.

There are however some bugs that they are working on:

GEDCOM submissions won't work (should be working after first week of November).

Some diacritics in IGI will not appear properly (after first week of Nov).

Some Family History Library Catalog diacritics will not appear properly (no ETA).

IGI Ordinances are only current as of September 17th (updated by mid November).

SSDI is only current as of August 2005 (updated by 2nd week of Nov).

Some users may enter our URL, <http://www.FamilySearch.org>, and get a "Page not found error." If this happens, use <http://www.familysearch.net> until all the Internet DNS caches update — could take two weeks but not likely a problem for many people).

***** OPLATKI *****

Editor—There was a very interesting discussion of opłatki on the PolandBorderSurnames mailing list. Melanie Messens <melaniemessens@yahoo.com> mentioned that you can buy them from the Polish Art Center in Hamtramck, Michigan, <http://www.polartcenter.com>, and various people mentioned other sources. Perhaps the most interesting note was one posted by Katharina

Hines <hines747@msn.com>, which encouraged people to make their own! Since Katharina posted this on a public mailing list, I'm sure she won't mind if we repeat it for those who missed it:

You also could make your own.

Below is the history of the wafers and the recipe.

Oplátky are wafers. *Oblaten* (as they are called in German) are used in church services. It is the bread in the Last Supper.

The wafers were served, in the Middle Ages, at the Polish court during meatless days or at the end of a meal with various confections and Malvasia wine. Because they are also contained sugar, the wafers were generally made by specialized confectioners and were therefore not only sweet but expensive. Part of the expense was the saffron and sugar. The large portion of the saffron came from regions bordering on the Black Sea.

The wafers were made with iron ornaments with various patterns that were pressed into the surface of the wafer. The Polish irons were normally round, although rectangular in North Germany and Dutch types were also used in Gdańsk and Pomerania. The images were generally religious. With different iron they would make wafers for funerals, weddings, and special religious feasts as for Easter or Christmas. For every day use the royal coat served wafers with the impression of the coat of arms.

The wafer consisted of:

- 1 cup of flour
- 1 cup of powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon saffron
- 4 egg whites
- 3-4 tablespoons rosewater

A perfect wafer will be paper-thin.

In Germany some of the wafers have no impressions on them; they have very thin colored pictures. They were very famous around 1860 in Germany. They were pretty, and bright pictures. They were at that time easier to make, they were covered with paper pictures, they were no more decorated with almonds and painted with colored sugar.

Editor—In case you're interested, Aleksander Brückner's Słownik etymologiczny języka polskiego [Etymological Dictionary of the Polish Language] says opłatek (plural opłatki) is a Polonized version of German Oblate, borrowed in turn from Latin oblata, "offered."

***** DR. MINAKOWSKI'S NEW ONLINE RESOURCE *****

Editor—On the Herbarz mailing list Marek Jerzy Minakowski <minak@portal.onet.pl> announced the availability of a list some researchers may find valuable:

At the address <http://www.sejm Wielki.pl> I placed the genealogy of descendants of all senators and members of parliament of the Grand (Four-Year) Sejm (1788-1792). To be more precise: all who signed the Act of General Confederation on 7 Oct. 1788 and 16 Dec. 1790.

This is a dynamic database (GeneWeb server) including over 30,000 people:

- 434 members of Sejm (MPs and senators)
- additionally, 4,589 their siblings and their direct descendants
- additionally, 7,483 spouses of people from all above categories
- additionally, 6,315 parents of people from all above categories

Sure, this is just the beginning... The database is a compilation of several big sources, not there is a time to add dozens of smaller sources – everyone is asked for addenda and corrigenda...

The database is multilingual. Front page for the English interface is here:

<http://www.sejm Wielki.pl:2317/sejm Wielki?lang=en>

Editor—Dr. Minakowski's original note included a list of "all surnames of known direct descendants of the Grand Sejm members (with number of known people who used it)." It's too long to repeat here, but you can find it on this page from Herbarz list's archive: <http://tinyurl.com/7546r>].

***** THE FAMILY TREE REGISTRY *****

by Logan J. Kleinwaks <kleinwaks@alumni.princeton.edu>

Editor—Logan, whose posts to the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup have brought many good items to our attention, sent a lot of folks this note about a new resource he has created:

You are among the first people I am notifying about a free genealogy website I have just opened, which I hope will be a useful new tool for genealogists and genealogical organizations and institutions, owing to its advanced and unique features.

The Family Tree Registry, <http://www.FamilyTreeRegistry.org>, is a free resource facilitating the exchange of genealogical information while maintaining the privacy of its users and their family trees. The Registry does not contain family trees. Instead, it functions as a central repository of descriptive information about family trees (including where to find them) and surnames appearing on them (but not about individuals). In other words, you won't put your aunt Betty's name online, but other genealogists will still be able to know whether your family tree interests them, and, if so, they will be able to contact you through the Registry, without seeing your email address (if you choose to keep it private).

The Family Tree Registry also functions as a search engine, enabling users to find family trees by specifying properties the trees or surnames on the trees must possess. Properties such as ethnicity/sub-ethnicity, religion/sub-religion, place, date last modified, whether surnames or family trees contain nobility, whether they contain rabbis, whether they have associated DNA (genetic)

information, and more are searchable. Surnames and places can also be specified and searched according to their native spelling in non-Latin characters (Chinese, Hebrew, Polish, etc.). Of special interest to Jewish genealogists should be the ability to search by sub-ethnicity (Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Teimani, etc.), tribal affiliation (Kohen, Levi, Israel), and sub-religion (Hasidic, Haredi, etc.). As the number of registered family trees increases (we are starting today from zero), being able to specify so many properties will be increasingly useful.

When logged in, searches you perform can be saved so that you can easily retry them in the future, without having to re-specify the search parameters.

The Family Tree Registry is not limited in scope to family trees that are available online. You can also register family trees that are privately maintained offline, that are published in books, or that can be found in repositories. For example, the Genealogical Society of X can use the Registry to tell the world that it has a family tree covering certain surnames, ethnicities, places, dates, etc., and that it can be found at the Society's headquarters, without having to post the contents of the tree online. Or, if in your genealogical research you have encountered a rare out-of-print book that contains a family tree, you can use the Registry to make other genealogists aware of that tree's existence and location.

The Family Tree Registry will increase in usefulness with the number of registered family trees, so I encourage you to register your trees and spread the word about this new tool. You can also help by sending ideas of ways to improve the site, such as additional ethnicity/sub-ethnicity or religion/sub-religion categories, additional properties you would like to be able to search by, or functionality you would like to see. Since the site has just opened, please especially tell me about any problems or difficulties you encounter.

Editor—In a follow-up note Logan mentioned he'd already made one improvement based on user feedback: it is now possible to specify variant spellings of surnames. Take a look; I think this could become a really valuable resource!

***** THANKS AND "TRICK OR TREAT" FROM CEIL *****

by Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net>

Editor—Here are two notes frequent contributor Ceil Jensen asked me to pass along:

I wonder if you would run a "Thank You" for me? I want to give everyone who offered photos and expressed an interest in "Detroit's Polonia" a thank you and an update.

The book is now being printed in England. It was completed in 2 months. It has 207 photos from archives and family albums. I was fortunate that contributors were willing to meet with me at local libraries and let me scan their collections on the spot. I scanned photos in basements, on a pool table and even collected a CD in a parking lot. Like school kids we were hushed at a local library for enjoying the selection process a little too loudly! I drove over 1,000 miles to access the images.

I bought a new scanner for the project and after scanning over 500 images and jostling it in the trunk over so many miles it went kaput after the last scan.

Just like the fisherman who tells about the one that got away, I found many great photos that could not be used in the book for one reason or another. Many of the photos that had to be edited out can be seen on my website Michigan Polonia. Genealogists who contributed to the book will have additional family histories on the Michigan Polonia website, <http://mipolonia.net/polonia>.

Thanks again to all who offered images and interest!

I still have **more** free Google g-mail accounts to give away. As they roll out the service, the way to get an account is via someone who already has one. I got mine some time from another genealogist. Even though I gave away 25 accounts a few weeks ago, my g-mail account generates more for me to give away—like the miracle of loaves and fishes.

So I'd like to offer the accounts to *Gen Dobry!* readers—sort of a virtual “Trick or Treat” <G>.

People have asked why they would want another e-mail account. The g-mail accounts allow attachments up to 10 mg. That's a lot of documents or photos. Also, it supports Polish diacriticals, which is important for our research. After you set up an account you can invite all your Polish cousins to have one, too. Set up an account to handle just one line of your family. Use that surname in the e-mail address.

Researchers can request it via my regular email cjensen@mipolonia.net or my g-mail account ceil.jensen@gmail.com.

Editor—I took advantage of Ceil's offer and now have a g-mail account, wfhoffman@gmail.com. Think about whether this is a good idea for you, too.

***** NAME CHANGES — LEGAL AND OTHER *****

Editor—Here are two posts on name changes from the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish that I considered worth passing on, for those who didn't see them. The first is by a gentleman named Ira Leviton; it's one of those things I read and said “I wish I'd written this!”

The name change process has changed only slightly in the U.S. over the past hundred years. What has changed is the percent of time it has been formally undertaken, which I believe is due to the declining number of informal name changes. Anecdotally judging from the ledger books in which name changes are still recorded in two courthouses of New York State Supreme Court of New York County (60 Center Street and 111 Center Street in Manhattan), there hasn't been a huge change in the numbers of name changes per year, even over a century. But there probably has been

a change in the numbers of informal name changes. Immigrants nowadays are more likely to keep their names, whether it's due to ethnic pride, less need to assimilate, or more acceptance.

A hundred years ago, if somebody walked into a bank with \$10 to open an account, the bank gladly accepted the money, filled out the paperwork, and issued a receipt and bankbook (or whatever was used); any name could be used for the account. Nowadays, if a person wants to deposit \$10,000, they have to show proof of identity and address, and their Social Security Number and first grade report card is checked. It's not easy to open an account with a name that's not yours, even if everything else is correct, although it can be done with some planning. Same for buying a house, renting an apartment, etc.

The name change process varies from state to state, but is usually a variation of this: the person files a petition with a court requesting that they be permitted to change their name from x to y. (The petition states that the name change is not being done to avoid crimes, debts, alimony, tax or other payments, and a birth certificate may be required as evidence that the correct person is doing it.) After the petition is verified, a court order is issued to change the name, the petitioner files the court order with the county clerk, and a notice is published in a newspaper with a circulation in the local area. Finally, an affidavit of publication is filed with the county clerk, who records the name change. (For New York State, see <http://www.namechangelaw.com/states/ny/newyork.htm>)

Note that this process is time-consuming and costs a few dollars in notary and court fees that our immigrant ancestors were unlikely to be able to spare. If it was just as easy but cheaper, it is highly likely that Uncle Moische simply started to call himself Morris, and that was the way he changed his name. Of course, when there's no documentation, it's impossible to prove or say that names were informally changed so-and-so percent of the time. But after learning which names do not require any change from another language to English, it is fair to say that not a single person named Morris was ever born in Poland or Russia. German is linguistically closer to English, and one has to be more careful about equivalent names there.

Editor: The second, by Anna Reuter, is a good follow-up drawing on personal experience:

Here are two links to Warren Blatt's Information on name Changes for our Immigrant Ancestors:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/GivenNames/slide61.html>

<http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/faq.html#Names>

It was simple and easy for our immigrant ancestors to change their names as they wished. It is *no* longer simple, especially after 9/11.

I have had some recent experience vis-à-vis name changes in California. My birth certificate reads Anita Reuter. My SSN is under that name. I took my grandmother's name, Anna Reuter, by general use in the 1970s in California. My parents had named me for her in the Ashkenazi custom, but twisted the English name. I had the name, Anna Reuter, notarized as my name in 1990 as my legal name under general use. My driver's license and other records are under the name, Anna Reuter.

A few days ago, I went to the Social Security Office to have my name changed on their records to Anna Reuter. It did *not* work at all despite having many documents in the name Anna Reuter.

The Clerk told me that he could **not** change my first name without a Court Order. Examples: Divorce papers with a name change; Adoption; Naturalization; Name Change Petition. But it **had** to be a court order. He would recognize any Court order from any state.

I researched how to do this on the Internet under the California court system. One must advertise your name change for 4 weeks in a newspaper. One must apply to Superior Court for the name change and pay fees between \$300-\$500. It said general use was no longer valid and that in general, the courts would grant a legal name change for an individual over 21 if petitioned to do so. This change occurred post 9/11.

If my grandfathers had to do it via Court Order, Sam Gorden would still be Schloime Gorin and Reuben Reuter would still be Rewen Rojter.

***** DECISION ON POLISH CITIZENSHIP *****

Editor—Let me repeat one more item from the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish, one some of you may find interesting:

In a precedent-setting and final decision last Friday [*this note was posted on October 20*], the Polish Supreme Court (NSA) ruled that the 1958 State Council decree stripping emigrants of their Polish citizenship was illegal and therefore invalid.

As a result, all Polish citizens who were theoretically stripped of their Polish citizenship when forced to emigrate to Israel, Germany and other countries in 1958, in 1968 and in subsequent years **remain Polish citizens** and are entitled by law to confirmation of their Polish — and hence European Union — citizenship.

This decision affects as many as two million people worldwide, many tens of thousands of Polish Jews amongst them.

Please note that we are not lawyers nor are we Polish consular officials; we are merely passing along information from the Polish press that might be of interest to many of those reading this list.

Anna Przybyszewska Drozd & Yale J. Reisner
The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project
at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland (Warsaw)

***** HUMOR *****

Editor—I dearly love humor, but it's not always easy to find good humor related to genealogy. Here are a couple of items I saw recently that made me chuckle. The first appeared in RootsWeb Review:

Avoid Cannibals!

by Molly Ford in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

While helping a sister-in-law, who had no family history experience, search through cemetery records, we came upon the death record of one of her ancestors.

The information said that he had died of consumption. My sister-in-law fell back in her chair, her mouth fell open, and she asked in disbelief, “You mean, someone ate him?”

[Previously published in *RootsWeb Review*: 12 October 2005, Vol. 8, No. 41.]

Editor—The second is from the 2 October 2005 issue of Nu? What’s New, Vol. 6, No. 15. To appreciate it you need to realize there have been instances when Jewish researchers discovered that Mormons had posthumously baptized many Jews, who almost certainly would have resented this ferociously. This has been the subject of a serious dispute between the LDS and Jewish researchers. Gary Mokotoff gave it a nice twist in this note about the premature obit for Bernard Kouchel, a fine gentleman I’ve had the honor of working with:

Poor Bernard Kouchel

Bernie Kouchel is one of the pioneers of Jewish genealogy. He is the founder of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County (Florida). He was on the JewishGen Board of Directors for many years. JewishGen honored Bernie by declaring the popular ViewMate system “The Bernard Kouchel Viewmate Project.” He is one of my advisors on the Mormon/Jewish controversy and is the author of the JewishGen Infofile about the controversy which is located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/ldsagree.html>.

Bernie recently discovered that he is listed Florida Death Index, 1936-1998, located at Ancestry.com. Bernie wailed that not only is the announcement of his death premature, but he stated that now he has to worry that the Mormons will baptize him.

***** 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 September Issue:

- Q. Which Polish city was originally on the right bank of the Warta River and was later moved to the left bank?
- A. Poznań
- Q. What Kaszubian peninsula juts out into the Baltic Sea?

— A. The Hel Peninsula

— Q. Where is the largest Gothic castle in Poland?

— A. At Malbork

— Q. Which U.S. state contains the townships of Krakow, Lublin, Poniatowski, Pulaski, and Sobieski?

— A. Wisconsin

— Q. In what city was Mikołaj Kopernik born?

— A. Toruń

New Questions for the October Issue

Subject: History

1. Who invaded Kraków in 1241?
2. In historic rural Poland, which official held the highest rank: *starosta*, *wójt*, or *sołtys*?
3. What neighboring country did not participate in the Second Partition of Poland?
4. About how many Pol-Am soldiers fought in World War I? (Within 20,000)
5. Who for centuries appointed the rector of the *Yeshiva* of Lublin (a Hebrew Talmudic study center)?

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

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

Note: the PolishRoots Events Calendar at http://www.polishroots.org/coming_events.htm usually has more info than we have room for here. If you have an event coming up you want Polish genealogical researchers to know about, send as much info as possible to <Events@PolishRoot.org>.

November 8, 2005

TUGG MEETING

Jim Onyschuk <jodanji@aci.on.ca> posted a note on the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list, announcing that the next meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG) will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2005, at the St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Avenue in Toronto from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Mike Dunk will speak on “Using Digital Equipment in genealogy.”

“Bring all your digital camera and scanning questions to this informative and practical meeting. If you don’t as yet have a digital camera or a scanner this session will help you determine what you will need in case you decide to purchase these items in the future.”

For more information: <http://www.torugg.org/>

November 10, 2005

Fox Valley Genealogical Society

7:30 PM

Naperville Municipal Center, 400
South Eagle Street, Rooms B&C
Naperville, Illinois

“Development of the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*” with Ann Keating, co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*

Gary Hargis <GKHargis@comcast.net> posted a note about this meeting on a mailing list for patrons of the Naperville Illinois FHC. He added, “Commissioned by the Newberry Library in cooperation with the Chicago Historical Society, the 1100-page book is one of the most significant historical projects undertaken in the last twenty years. Now it’s also an online encyclopedia on the Chicago Historical Society website.

“Visitors are always welcome and there is no charge. For more information visit www.rootsweb.com/~ilfvgs/index.htm.”

November 13, 2005

Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of America

2:00 p.m. at the Social Hall of the Polish Museum of America
984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Illinois

Leonard Kniffel, will discuss his book, *A Polish Son in the Motherland: An American’s Journey Home*. Mr. Kniffel’s book relates to his investigative journey to Poland in 2000 to recapture his Polish ancestry, specifically his grandparents’ life prior to their journey to America. His first-hand experiences and observations of the Motherland will be discussed.

A Board meeting will beheld at 12:00 noon.

April 21 – 24, 2006

UPGS 2006

Paul Lipinski, President of PGS-California and Chairman of UPGS 2006, sent this announcement:

On April 21-24, 2006 the United Polish Genealogical Societies [UPGS] will hold its biennial conference “**UPGS 2006**” in Salt Lake City, Utah. This conference will host the best and most knowledgeable speakers on Polish research from across the U.S. It offers a unique opportunity to use the world’s largest collection of genealogical material and have access to expert Polish genealogical researchers. The speaker’s presentations are of proven research techniques.

FHL (Family History Library) records include U.S. ship passenger lists, naturalization, census, World War I and II draft registration records. The FHL also has birth, marriage, and death civil records for many U.S. cities and U.S. Polish Catholic parishes. They also have the largest collection of microfilm of Poland’s church and civil records available to researchers in one location. New features at the FHL include many computer systems that allow researchers to access valuable online resources such as Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest.com, etc.

Following is the proposed schedule of events.

- Friday, April 21 Arrival, registration, and individual research at the FHL
- Saturday, April 22 Welcome, FHL Orientation, lectures, individual research, and Question & Answer session
- Sunday, April 23 Attend church, optional sightseeing, lunch, and lectures
- Monday, April 24 Individual research, Conference banquet and keynote address

Additional conference particulars will be available in the coming months. Check <http://PGSCA.org>, <http://PGSA.org>, <http://mipolonia.net>, <http://PolishRoots.org>, and other PGS websites.

July 20 — 31, 2006

POLAND IN THE ROCKIES, 2006

Maureen Mroczek Morris <maureenm@sbcglobal.net> sent me this information:

“An intensive, 11-day program set in the magnificent Canadian Rockies—the Tatras of the West—in Polish history, culture and contemporary issues designed specifically for North American youth of Polish background. **Poland in the Rockies** will bring together 40 bright young people from across the continent to meet outstanding scholars and other public figures, forge new friendships, and foster pride in their identity and links to the world-wide Polish community. The program will provide information, perspective and skills for future leaders.”

For more, visit the Website: <http://www.PolandInTheRockies.com>

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

<http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/literacies/information/5locate/adviceengine.html>

On the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish Paul Silverstone posted this address, for a website that gives you advice on which search engine to use, depending on the type of question you have. Google's great, but why use only one tool in your tool-chest? There may be times these other search engines can give you better results. Why not get familiar with them?

<http://members.chello.pl/g.krupinski/indexe.htm>

This is a site I happened to find as I was looking around on the Internet. It's the English-language homepage of the Suwalskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne [Suwałki Genealogical Society]. If you have roots in northeastern Poland it might be worth a look, especially the page "Surnames of 19th-Century Suwalki-region Residents" at <http://members.chello.pl/g.krupinski/nazwiska.htm>.

<http://www.mimuw.edu.pl/polszczyzna/SGKPi/SGKPinfo.html>

David Zincavage <jdz@usa.net> posted a note on the Herbarz list saying that the 15-volume *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego* is available online at this address. It lacks all the documentation that comes with the CD-ROM version, and in my opinion that documentation is a huge help for people who don't speak Polish. Since I helped prepare that documentation, however, perhaps I'm not totally unbiased!

<http://www.lemko.org/maps100/>

Also on soc.genealogy.jewish, Phyllis Kramer mentioned this source of "high resolution maps of the southeastern corner of Poland ... and a little of Ukraine ... The site says the maps were recently released for public use by the headquarters of the Polish Army. They are full color and terribly exciting....as you can see your shtetls and the surrounding areas quite clearly. They are fairly large at 300KB, but certainly worth downloading!!"

<http://www.saskgenealogy.com>

On the PolandBorderSurnames list Chris Bukoski <cbgenealogy@hotmail.com> said she'd just heard that those researching ancestors in Saskatchewan can search the Saskatchewan Homestead Index database on this site. "Click on Saskatchewan Homestead Index under featured content. You will then be taken directly to the site. There is also a CD for sale for those who do not have Internet or have dial-up. The CD is \$20.00 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. For anyone outside of Canada the fees are payable in US funds and the postage and handling to the U.S. is \$4.00 and to the overseas is \$6.00."

http://www.geocities.com/visualfantasy_studio/

On the German-Surnames list, Karen Jenter <JenterKar@aol.com> suggested checking this site, which offers, among other useful utilities, the free "German Assistant," which gives you a simple, easy way to type umlauts or eszets. "What it does is put a tiny little keyboard at the top of your screen. It appears on any program you are working on. Then if you need the letter, you can

just copy and paste ... You don't have to worry about what keys to push to get the umlaut to appear in your text. I have no connection to the site, I just think it is a great tool!!!"

<http://tomcat-dmaweb1.jrc.it/fuzzyg/query/>

This is a fascinating site mentioned by Ilan Ganot on the newsgroups soc.genealogy.jewish. "The Fuzzy Gazetteer enables you to find geographic features even when you do not know their exact names. A list of similar names is returned, web-linked to the JRC Digital Map Archive of the European Commission. Searching 7,205,433 place names world-wide. The Fuzzy Gazetteer may serve as an aid to the ShtetlSeeker" (<http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker/>). Given how badly names are often misspelled in records, this could be a real help!

<http://www.telefony.arteq.org>

In the last issue we mentioned a new Polish telephone directory online at <http://www.andy.univ.gda.pl/marek/ktel>. Unfortunately, that URL no longer works. On the PolandBorderSurnames list Tina Ellis <vellis@jps.net> said Marek Drwota, the gentleman who developed that directory, has two mirror sites we can use. One is at the address given above; I just tested it, and it was working fine. (I got an error message when I tried the other address, so I think we'd best ignore it.)

<http://kpbc.umk.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=623>

Logan J. Kleinwaks <kleinwaks@alumni.princeton.edu> told me this site may have some Polish genealogical content at the beginnings of volume one (at the URL given above) and volume two (<http://kpbc.umk.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=726>). The work is *Geographie und Statistik von West- Süd- und Neu-Ostpreußen: nebst einer kurzen Geschichte des Königreichs Polen bis zu dessen Zertheilung* ("Geography and Statistics of West, South, and New-East Prussia: along with a short history of the Kingdom of Poland up to its Dissolution"), by August Karl von Holsche, published in Berlin in 1800 and 1804. "You can find there lists of *Prenumeranten* (pre-subscribers), which include names, occupations, and places of residency." Thanks, Logan!

<http://mmm.lib.msu.edu/search/index.cfm>

Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> said there are great materials on this site, including audio records of Polish immigrants. "The Making of Modern Michigan is a collaborative project involving more than 50 Michigan libraries. It includes local history materials from communities around the state. Michigan's unique heritage is represented through photographs, family papers, oral histories, genealogical materials, and much more. As of January 2005, MMM includes contributions from 36 libraries. Collections from another 15 libraries are in the works and will be available soon." She added, "You can search by institution or subject."

<http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/manifests/>

On the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish Lisa Lepore suggested using this page for info on the various codes that appeared on ship manifests.

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

Maureen Morris <maureenm@sbcglobal.net> thought language nuts like me might find this site interesting. She also suggested a look at this one: <http://www.euro-languages.net/>.

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