



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_VI_11.pdf

***** PNA LODGE #877 - JINX DANCE *****

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

As most immigrants from Europe found out, the need for social activities in America was as important as in the old country, sometimes even more so. The desire to get together with “fellow countrymen” was profound, and as a result, many immigrant societies sponsored dances and events which brought together people of similar backgrounds. Some were strictly social, some were fundraisers, some were a way to acclimate the recent immigrant to the New World. Here was the opportunity to enjoy common music, common foods, and exchange success and failure stories with friends, relatives, and folks from the ethnic community.

Below is a list of participants for PNA Lodge #877, The Thousand Braves Young Folks Club. To our knowledge, this lodge is still active. The dance was held in the Pompeian Room of the Logan Square Masonic Temple of Chicago, a neighborhood heavily populated by Poles who arrived later than the earliest Polish immigrants, who settled the Polish Triangle of Division, Milwaukee, and Ashland Streets. This dance was held on January 13, 1940, when war was raging in Europe but still had not reached the American shores officially. Some of these members are likely to still be alive; if some may come forward and relate stories of the event as well as the purpose of the society, PolishRoots® would greatly appreciate it. Music was provided by Royal Eddy and his Orchestra.

Betlej	Jean	member
Blicharz	Jerona	member
Blohm	Mr. and Mrs. W.	Well Wisher
Bryk	Miss Irene	Well Wisher
Bulkowski	Bernice	member
Burroughs	Mr. and Mrs. Al	Well Wisher
Cheskis	–	Pharmacy
De Mares	J.J.	Coal Co.
Dietz	Ted	member
Dubiel	Jacob	North Tavern
Dubiel	Paul	Meat Market
Elarde	Miss Mary	Well Wisher
Galuszka	Irene	member
Gancarz	Mr. and Mrs.	Compliments
Gilewski	R.C.	Tuxedo rentals
Gleba	Celia	member
Gontarek	Felix	Triangle Tavern
Grochowina	Mrs. E.	Well Wisher
Grondzki	Leo	VP- member
Grondzki	Sophie	member
Grondzki	Mr. and Mrs. Leo	Well Wisher
Grosse	Chester	member
Grosse	Peggy	member
Hadamik	Paul	member - Well Wisher
Hadamik	Miss Dorothy	Well Wisher
Hadamik	Mrs. Rose	Well Wisher

Hadamik	Mr. Joseph	Well Wisher
Janus	Adam	member
Jerz	–	Printer
Kedzior	Edward	member
Kedzior	Mr. and Mrs. M.	Well Wisher
Kedzior	Mr. E.J.	Well Wisher
Klapman	M.	Liquor Store
Korman	Ann	Fin. Sec.- member - Well Wisher
Krysinski	Edward	member - Well Wisher
Lugowski	Jack	ad
Luka	Chas. C.	Funeral
Masc	Ed	Sgt at Arms - member
Mikula	Stephanie	Trustee - well wisher
Mikula	Mr. and Mrs. R.	Well Wisher
Nowakowski	C.	member
Osowski	V.S.	Sport Shop
Osuchowski	Al	Liquor Store
Palka	Bruno	member
Palka	Loretta	member
Palka	Edward	member
Palka	John	member - Well wisher
Piening	L.R.	Heat and Power Co.
Piszkiewicz	Gus	Liquor Store
Podraza	Anthony	President - member
Podraza	Andy	Treas. - member
Podraza	Catherine	member
Podraza	Mrs. Ann	Well Wisher
Podraza	Mr. and Mrs. T.	Well Wisher
Podraza	Mr. Henry	member - Well Wisher
Prokop	Betty	VP - member - Well Wisher
Prokop	Edward	member - Well Wisher
Prokop	Mr. and Mrs. W.	Well Wisher
Prokop	Mr. and Mrs. C.	Well Wisher
Prorok	Joseph P.	Tavern
Remijan	–	Grocery
Sandrik	–	Florist
Saulinski	–	Grocery
Solowski	Edward	member
Sraka	Mitchell	member
Stelmasiak	L.	member
Szumarnski	John A.	Ward Committeeman
Szymanski	Mr. J.	Well Wisher
Tomchek	Mr. and Mrs. Ted	Well Wisher
Tuman	–	Tavern
Tylka	Stanley Ed.	Wrightwood Inn
Wenc	S.	Ladies Cloak Store

Wisniewski	Chester	Trustee- Well Wisher
Wisniewski	Mr. and Mrs. A.	Well Wisher
Wojcik	Virginia	member
Wojcik	Mr. and Mrs. A.	Well Wisher
Wojcik	Mr. N	Well Wisher
Wojcik	Miss V.	Well Wisher
Zelek	Bernice	member
Ziemba	Joseph	member
Ziemba	Tony	member
Ziemba	Ann	member
Ziemba	Mr. and Mrs. A.	Well Wisher
Ziemba	Mr. and Mrs. J.	Well Wisher
Ziontek	Mr. and Mrs. S.	Well Wisher
Zurek	Miss Jean	member - Well Wisher
Zurek	Mr. and Mrs. J.	Well Wisher

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

Subject: The First Polish Pope

Who was the first Polish Pope?

No, not Pope John Paul II. It was Pius X. He was the son of Jan Krawiec, who was born in Poland. If Jack Kennedy can be considered the first Irish president, despite his father being born in the U.S., then it is fair to call Pius X the first Polish Pope.

From: <http://www.dailycatholic.org/issue/04Sep/sep3sos.htm>

“He was born Giuseppe (Joseph) Melchiorre Sarto into a family of nine children on a small farm in the little village of Riese in the Province of Treviso, Italy near Venice on June 2, 1835 during the pontificate of Pope Gregory XVI. His father Giovanni Battista Sarto, a former postman and yet a cobbler by trade, died when Joseph was very young in 1852. Giovanni had been born Jan Krawiec in Wielkopolska, Poland, a tailor by trade. When Poland fell into Prussian hands, Jan and his wife sought political asylum in Italy. There he became a mailman first outside Treviso in Godero, Italy, and then settling in Riese. To offset any assimilation to his Polish roots for fear of reprisal, Jan translated his name to Giovanni Battista, still the same patron saint he was baptised under and adopted the Italian word for tailor, *sarto*, as his new surname.”

It is interesting to note that Sarto was elected Pope, after Pope Leo XIII, due to Jan Cardinal Puzyna’s (Kraków) veto of the favorite. Although the veto was at the request of the Austro-Hungarian Emperor, it was actually done because of fear that the candidate was too favorable to Russia, and would force the use of the Russian language in place of Polish and Lithuanian. See: <http://www.chiesa.espressonline.it/dettaglio.jsp?id=7042&eng=y>.

There is more information, in Polish, in:

<http://www.piusx.org.pl/index.php?nr=8>
<http://www.fidelitas.pl/index2.php?sort=norm&tryb=cala&id=352/>

Henry Szot <hojoso@hotmail.com>

Editor— Fascinating! I knew that Pope's original surname was Sarto, which is Italian for "tailor." But I didn't know that was an Italian rendering of Polish krawiec. Thanks for sharing this info with us.

***** 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 9 and 12 December 1905, and are or soon will soon be available for viewing at:
http://www.polishroots.org/newspapers/dzchig_headlines.htm

December 9, 1905:

Dalsze fazy zamętu w Rosyi – Further Phases of Confusion in Russia
Pogłoski o rezygnacyi Wittego; zaprzeczają im urzędowo. – Rumors of Witte's
Resignation; Officially Denied
Serbski minister finansów obity – Serb Minister of Finances Beaten Up
Nowe pogrożki Prusaków—w obec Polaków – New Threats of the Prussians against Poles
Niespodziewana śmierć senatora związkowego Mitchella wprawia w kłopot senat St. Zjedn.
– Unexpected death of Senator Mitchell Causes Problem in the U. S. Senate

December 12, 1905:

Rozlew krwi w Warszawie – Bloodshed in Warsaw
Kompletna anarchia w Liwonii i straszne zajścia w Rydze – Total Anarchy in Livonia and
Terrible Riots in Riga
Reakcya i rewolucya przygotowują się do śmiertelnych zapasów – Reaction and Revolution
Prepare for a Deadly Contest
Tajny konsystorz w Rzymie. Nowi kardynałowie. Ks. Schinner mianowany biskupem w
Superior, Wis. –Secret Consistory in Rome. New Cardinals. Rev. Schinner
Appointed Bishop in Superior, Wisc.
Zatonięcie okrętu latarniowego Nantucket – Sinking of the Lightship Nantucket

***** TRAVEL CHANNEL SPOTLIGHT ON NEW BRITAIN, CT *****

by Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

Editor—Here's a note Debbie posted on the Poland-Roots list:

The November, 2005 issue of the *Polish American Journal* has an article, “The Kielbasa Capital of the United States,” about a program which will air in December on the Travel Channel. This channel is available to cable and satellite subscribers.

The segment, taped in New Britain, Connecticut, will air as part of the “Taste of America” series. It showcases the Bogdan Nozewski Meat Products Plant making ... kielbasa! The show also features the Staropolska Restaurant, as well as the Johnny Prytko band and an impromptu dance group of young, local Polish dancers.

This whole show was arranged by Jonathan Shea, the author, professor, genealogist and Christine Stoj, a New Britain teacher, after Shea was contacted by the Travel Channel.

Mark your calendars for December to check for this show. It should be fun and interesting.

If you're interested in the article it might be on the newspaper's Website:
<http://www.polamjournal.com/>

***** HELP WITH THE OLD GERMAN PRINT *****

by Barbara A. H. Nuehring <RootsHunter@TheDreamHunters.net>

Editor—Most folks who deal with German records find the old Fraktur type hard to read. Here's a note posted on the German-Surnames list that offers some assistance with it:

Sandy Rothschild asked:

> Also is there a website that shows the alphabet with the old type?

There are several, Sandy:

<http://www.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/fraktur.htm>

<http://www.peter-doerling.de/Englisch/Sutterlin.htm>

<http://www.mun.ca/rels/morav/pics/tutor/mscript2.html>

<http://www.genealogienetz.de/misc/scripts.html>

However, my favorite is the pamphlet published by the FHL, which includes a chart. Go to <http://www.familysearch.org>, click on “Search,” click on “Research Helps,” click on G, scroll to “Germany,” click on “Handwriting Guide: German Gothic.”

You can download it as a PDF and save it forever. I printed it out and it goes to every repository with me, right next to the film reader. :-)

Editor—This guide is just one of many useful publications offered free at the FHL Website. If you aren't taking advantage of them, you must like doing things the hard way!

***** MAYOR MAJEWSKI OF HAMTRAMCK, MI! *****

Editor— Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> sent this note, which came as a pleasant surprise to me, since I'd heard nothing about it!

Please send good wishes to Pani Majewski: kmajewska@comcast.net:

Karen wrote:

I know some of you were following the progress of my mayoral campaign, so I'm happy to tell you that as of January, 2006, Hamtramck will have its first woman mayor (but not its first Mayor Majewski—that would have been Stephen, no relation).

Thank you to everyone for your support. <snip>

Karen Majewski
Mayor-Elect, City of Hamtramck, Michigan

Editor—I wrote Karen and told her I was going to have a hard time maintaining my cynical attitude toward politics, now that I knew personally of a case where an intelligent, talented, hard-working individual actually won an election! Gee, do you suppose the system does work sometimes? In any case, my congratulations to Karen, but especially to Hamtramck—its citizens are the real winners here.

***** POSSIBLE BOOK ON MT. OLIVET CEMETERY, DETROIT *****

by Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net>

I'm updating my database on burials at Mt. Olivet in Detroit. Arcadia Publishing is interested in it as a book (late 2006/early 2007). Incidentally, Arcadia will publish *Detroit's Polonia* in early 2006. For more info: <http://mipolonia.net/polonia/>

I have both personal and profession interests in the cemetery. My grandparents and great-grandparents are buried at Mt. Olivet, as well as (at least) 30 other relatives. I strongly believe that Mt. Olivet should be showcased as Detroit's cemetery of 19th-century Catholic immigrants. I am also researching news stories and photos from the *Detroit News*, Walter Reuther Library and the Burton Collection.

I have identified Civil War Veterans as well as Belgian, English, Italian and Polish interments. My goal is to develop a thoughtful and historically accurate book on Mt. Olivet.

Do you have family buried there? I will collect non-Polish ancestors, too. I am also interested in photos of monuments and tombstones, families gathering at the cemetery, stories, etc. You can send

me the information in an e-mail and I will cut and paste it into the Excel spreadsheet I've started. You can see a sample here:

http://mipolonia.net/rest/MtOlivet/mt_olivet_sample.htm

I need the following info:

- Surname
- Given Name
- birth date
- birth place
- death date
- death place
- Inscription on tombstone (if there is one, and you know the info)
- Notes (like husband of, wife of, etc.)

So I am interested in data, stories and photos—of the tombstones, but also of the departed when they were full of vim and vigor.

***** HUMOR *****

by Julie Szczepankiewicz <bjszczep@sbcglobal.net>

Editor—Julie sent me this note, which is self-explanatory, and, I thought, very cute:

In the latest issue of *Gen Dobry!*, you said you were looking for humorous stories. Here's a true story I think most people on the subscription list would find amusing:

For many years, my Polish-American grandparents have gone each year in May to visit the graves of their parents, grandparents, and other deceased family members. They tidy up the graves by pulling weeds, putting down grass seed, trimming around the headstones, and planting flowers. As they've gotten older, this labor of love has gotten more difficult for them to perform.

A few years back, my Dad, who is of mostly-German ancestry, offered to go with them and do the work, as long as they were there to show him which graves to tend. This plan worked well for Grandma and Grandpa, but after Dad came home, he told Mom, "For the first time, I think your parents are getting a little confused." Mom asked him what he meant by that, and he said, "Well, they said these were the right graves, but I don't think so. Half the graves didn't even have the right family name on them."

"What name did they have on them?" Mom inquired curiously.

"They said 'Matka'!"

***** 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 October Issue:

Subject: History

— Q. Who invaded Kraków in 1241?

— A. The Tartars

— Q. In historic rural Poland, which official held the highest rank: *starosta*, *wójt*, or *sołtys*?

— A. *Starosta*.

— Q. What neighboring country did not participate in the Second Partition of Poland?

— A. Austria

— Q. About how many Pol-Am soldiers fought in World War I? (Within 20,000)

— A. 300,000

— Q. Who for centuries appointed the rector of the *Yeshiva* of Lublin (a Hebrew Talmudic study center)?

— A. The King of Poland

New Questions for the November Issue

1. What Polish opera is the story of a peasant girl who may not marry her chosen man because of his high social rank?

2. In what art medium did Stefan Mrożewski work?

3. Who was known as Poland's "Populist Poetess"?

4. What was Joseph Conrad's first occupation on leaving Poland?

5. What patriotic Polish song did Józef Wybicki write?

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>.

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

7:30 - 9:30 pm

The next meeting of **Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group**

St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.

Video “Jakub” presented by Wasyl Sydorenko of Petro Jacyk Centre, University of Toronto

ALSO

Our annual Christmas Party. Please bring some dish to share with the group. All interested persons welcome to our meetings.

<http://www.torugg.org>

Per an e-mail dated 25 November 2005 from: Sonia van Heerden <soniavh11@hotmail.com>.

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 Tatrás 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://eogn.typepad.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2005/11/generating_fake.html

On the Poland-Roots list Julie Szczepankiewicz <bjszczep@sbcglobal.net> repeated info she'd heard about an Internet site called FakeFamily.com. This URL takes you to a page from *Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter (EOGN)* that tells you about it. Eastman explained it thus: you paid \$75 for software to upload fake family trees in GEDCOM format to your Website, in order to boost your Website's ranking in search engine ratings so that people looking for family connections would visit your site, looking for matches, and see the ads there. Increased viewing of ads amounts to increased revenue for your Website.

Julie commented, “Yes, we're all supposed to check our sources and not believe everything we see on the 'net, but this attempt at deliberate deception is just plain mean.”

A follow-up in the November 28th issue of *EOGN* says the site has been taken offline, so it may not be a threat any more. But even if it has gone away, this is worth your attention—if only as a revelation that it's essential in the digital age for everyone, not just genealogists, to be skeptical and wary. There are some very clever people out there looking for ways to make a buck. If you don't want to be sheared, don't be a sheep!

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

As long as I'm mentioning Eastman's newsletter, if you're not familiar with it, take a look here. Every issue has at least a few articles sure to fascinate you; frankly, I can't imagine how Eastman does it! You can read the basic edition for free online at the above URL. Or you can subscribe to the Plus edition, with lots of interesting extras, for \$19.95 a year. I subscribed and think it's going to be worth every penny.

<http://www.tarnopol.prv.pl/>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list Jay Sydoruk <jayrsyd@yahoo.ca> passed along this link for detailed maps from the old Polish times in western Ukraine. He said he “ended up being able to finally pinpoint a good amount of villages I was beginning to think I’d never ever see possible on a map. Go to ‘Mapy’ on the left column, maybe 5 or 6 down...click it, and then you’ll see the 3 main maps... by far the best is the 4 page map - it shows everything!!! ... Hope this will be helpful for some of you - but remember, a lot of the major highways today didn’t exist then so it’s sometimes a lot harder to pinpoint what you’re looking for.”

<http://www.recipesource.com/ethnic/europe/polish/index1.html>

Also on the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, Mary-Ann <bensings@mindspring.com> wrote, “My daughter Cyndiann in Tampa sent me the following link of extensive Polish recipes...thought I’d pass it along.”

http://belsoch.exe.by/phone_29.shtml

On the Herbarz mailing list Aleksiej Bujewicz <matcc@aviacom.ru> said he found this site with White Pages directories for almost all major cities in Belarus, “including Lida and Baranovichi. Unfortunately the on-line search is unavailable. You need to download and install them first.” (You also need to be able to read Russian).

He added, “If you are sort of looking for the statistics of certain surname, you can search an on-line database for Velcom (the largest cell phone company in Belarus):

<http://www.nomer.org/executer.php?bazaname=velcom&lang=>

“A quick search on Tyszko (Tishko) surname delivered 307 records and 58 records on (Tyshko)!!! :)”

<http://neveryetmelted.com/?p=49>

On the Herbarz mailing list David Zincavage <jdz@usa.net> posted this site for information on the discovery in Frombork of remains thought to be those of Mikołaj Kopernik (or, if you prefer, Nicolaus Copernicus). You have to subscribe to a service to read the whole article at this site, but the drawing given here, showing a reconstruction of the face from the skull, is very interesting. If you want more details, you can find a number of articles by using a search engine such as Google.com and looking for, say, “Copernicus remains Frombork.”

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/9479/rusyn.html>

Paul Valasek pointed out this site, which has some good background information on Rusyns, Lemkos, Hutsuls, etc.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Manifests/>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, someone asked what it meant if a passenger’s name had a line through it on the manifest. A number of good replies were posted, and one

mentioned this Web page. I felt it had the best summary of the various possible explanations for this and other markings on manifests or passenger lists.

http://www.sggee.org/translation_helps.html

This page on the Website of the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) offers links to a number of translation aids that Polish genealogical researchers might find very helpful, including sample Polish- and Russian-language documents, help with German script, etc.

<http://ukrindex.otrok.ru/14/0e.html>

On the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish, an experienced researcher, Alexander Sharon <a.sharon@shaw.ca>, posted this address for an informative site that identifies every little locality in Ukraine by postal code. He also gave a similar site for Russia, <http://postindex.otrok.ru/>, and Belarus, <http://belindex.otrok.ru/>.

<http://www.academic-genealogy.com/bookspublicationsgenealogical.htm#Edpub>

Also on the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup, Tom Tinney, Sr. announced that Education Publications and Online Books had recently been updated to include the current status of online book resources, at this address. He said some might find it interesting to compare: “(1) The current Google Print search of the full text of books; (2) The newly created Open Content Alliance group from around the world, that will help build a permanent archive of multilingual digitized text and multimedia content; (3) The “i2010: Digital Libraries” project, making European information resources available in an on-line environment (Digital Libraries - Europa); (4) The Digitized Texts Online at the Internet Archive, with various Sub-Collections; (5) Other various sites, genealogical and otherwise, linking or containing Digital Books; as well as making comparison with 6) Indexers and Genealogists sources, at:

[http://www.academic-genealogy.com/documentationpublications.htm#Indexers.](http://www.academic-genealogy.com/documentationpublications.htm#Indexers)”

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/>

Another note on that same newsgroup, from Saul Issroff, reported that the LDS Family History Library had begun digitizing all of the Family History books in their collection, and was making them available on the Internet. You can search the collection at the above page.

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