



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_3.pdf

*** A NAME CHANGE FOR A RECENT POLISH IMMIGRANT ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

In the ongoing discussion genealogists have about name changes—how they were changed, why, when, to what, etc.—I’ve noticed people sometimes can’t understand why a Polish immigrant to North America might want to change his name. Recently there was a story in the news that might shed light on this, about a Polish immigrant who had Americanized his name. Frankly, I imagine most Polish-Americans are glad he did.

I live near Chicago and get my news largely from Chicago media, and one of the biggest stories of the last month was the murder of the husband and mother of a federal judge, Joan Lefkow. Like any judge, she had handed down decisions that infuriated a fair number of nasty individuals. The police were hesitant to focus too much on any one group; there were quite a few people who might have wanted to harm or intimidate her. But the media focused on a decision she had made against a prominent white supremacist, who then threatened her. There were reports that some supremacist groups had targeted Judge Lefkow for intimidation on Websites. (Incidentally, in another ironic comment on names and identity, some of these geniuses had assumed from her name that Judge Lefkow was Jewish; in fact she and her husband were Episcopalians.)

It turned out the murderer was not a white supremacist at all, but a Polish immigrant named Bart Ross. If you’re not familiar with the story, he was an electrical engineer who came to the United States from Poland in 1982. He could only get work as an electrician, but Ross felt his life went really sour when cancer of the mouth disfigured him. Doctors saved his life, but Ross filed one malpractice suit after another against them, and against the hospital where he was treated. He got nowhere in the courts, and became convinced the whole world was a conspiracy of doctors and judges out to get him. Judge Lefkow had recently dismissed one of his lawsuits. When Ross decided he had nothing left to lose and wanted some payback, she went to the top of his list. He broke into her house and was waiting to kill her when Mr. Lefkow found him. Ross killed him, then killed the judge’s aged mother when she went looking for her son-in-law. Finally Ross gave up on waiting for and went on his way, leaving the judge to come home and find her husband and mother murdered. A few days later, stopped by a policeman in his car, he shot and killed himself before he could be arrested. He left behind letters confirming what he’d done.

A miserable, tragic story, all the way around; and I don’t want to trivialize it. But one thing nagged at me: why on earth did the media keep identifying this guy as a Polish immigrant when his name was Bart Ross? Surely I wasn’t the only person in the Chicago area who was thinking, “You know, ‘Bart Ross’ doesn’t sound Polish.”

Finally they got around to giving more facts: he was born “Bartłomiej Ciszewski.” (The first media reports spelled his first name “Bartilomej,” but eventually they got it right). He changed his name to “Bart Ross” after he came to the United States.

Why did he change it? I don’t know, but it’s not hard to make a reasonable guess. Suppose you were a recent immigrant, not just a ditch-digger but a person with a skill, trying to earn a living. You quickly realize your name is hard for most Americans to pronounce. More than that, Americans looking for a specialist to help with electrical problems might hesitate to contact a

“Bartłomiej Ciszewski.” No matter how competent he might be, the name might make them assume he didn’t speak English well, and it would be hard to communicate with him. After all, if you were looking in the Yellow Pages for someone to fix your electrical problem, who would you call first: Bartłomiej Ciszewski, or Joe Smith? Be honest, now.

So Ross probably decided his name was holding him back, getting in the way of building a clientele. Like so many immigrants before him, he decided to go by a more American-sounding name.

Notice what he chose: *Bart Ross*. The connection between “Bart” and “Bartłomiej” is obvious, and it makes sense. If you’d spent your whole life answering to some form of a name beginning *Bart-*, why not choose the closest-sounding name you could find? It’d be a lot easier for a Bartłomiej to answer to “Bart” than to, say, “Elvis” or “Snoop Doggy Dogg.” When it came to *Ciszewski*, he couldn’t find a common English name that sounded similar, so he just chose a short, simple name that struck him as typically American. Maybe he knew and liked someone named Ross; maybe he was inspired by the story of Betsy Ross; or maybe he just liked the sound of *Ross*. Hard to say exactly why he picked that name; and as in many cases of names changes, we’ll probably never know.

I imagine plenty of Polish-Americans are just as glad he did change his name. Who wants to be associated with someone like this? I remember years ago I was combing through 1901 issues of the *Dziennik Chicagoski* for obituaries, and read the headlines announcing that President McKinley had been shot in Buffalo. You could really tell the Polish editors were horrified to have to admit that the assassin was named Człogosz! It’s a shame he hadn’t changed his name, too!

In any case, I apologize if my remarks appear to be trivializing a really painful tragedy. That’s not my intent; I have a small but serious point to make. In view of all the problems researchers have with names and name changes, don’t underestimate the value of relating to things you read and hear about from day to day. We all have experience with people misunderstanding or misspelling our names; you can relate that experience to the problems our ancestors might have undergone. The present can often illuminate the past.

Insight may be as close as your daily newspaper, and come from something as simple as remarking, “You know, that name doesn’t sound Polish.”

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

Editor—This response, to a comment in the last issue, is rather long and was intended for one of our readers. But there’s a lot of information in it, which some of you may find helpful.

Subject: Finding your ancestor who served in the Franco-Prussian War
[Addressed to Ray Marshall <raymarsh@mninter.net>]

Dear Ray,

In looking over the January 2005 *Gen Dobry!*, I saw your comment, within which was your lament about not finding your ancestor's service record for his service in the Franco-Prussian War. I made the assumption that he served on the German side, but the principles below could also apply to service on the French side, just not the specific citations. The Library of Congress lists the following subject headings which might turn up a relevant citation:

- 1 Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871 Regimental histories Germany. LC subject headings
- [2] 1 Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871 Regimental histories Prussia. [from old catalog] LC subject headings
- [3] 2 Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871 Registers of dead Germany. LC subject headings
- [4] 1 Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871 Registers of dead Germany Prussia. LC subject headings
- [5] 1 Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1871 Registers of dead Germany Saxony.

Do you know if your ancestor survived his service in that war? It is customary for veterans of wars, in the "West" at least, to write regimental histories. [The head of a regiment is a colonel.] If you do not find what you want in an American library, you may need to search in German in German libraries. The easiest way to do so is to search on the Karlsruhe Virtual Catalogue, which has a page in English. The English-language website is here:

<http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/hylib/en/kvk.html>

Hopefully, you could narrow down or at least make educated guesses as to the German Kingdom within the Empire in which he served and then write to the relevant archives to see what they hold on unpublished regimental histories and service records.

You should be able to order any pages that you need in a book from Germany for a fee. Sometimes, but seldom, a library will send you a page or two for free or upload it as a scanned attachment to an E-mail. Don't count on it. However, most German libraries, even small ones, have at least one person whose English is quite good, sometimes fluent. And Germans are usually quick to reply and likely to do so. Frequently, you can pay charges with a credit card; such charges are usually reasonable, and most Germans are honest and responsible, in my experience.

To search the subject headings in German, use the following phrase without the quotation marks: "Deutsch-französischer Krieg" and add the word "Regiment."

Using this method, I turned up books on:

Das 3. Badische Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 111 im Feldzuge 1870/71: nebst einer kurzen Vorgeschichte der badischen Truppen von 1604 bis 1850 und von der Errichtung des Regiments 1852 bis 1870 // Heinrich Feill. - 2. Aufl. - Berlin : Mittler, 1885

"Wenn doch dies Elend ein Ende hätte": ein Briefwechsel aus dem Deutsch-Französischen Krieg 1870/71 // Albert Böhme. - Köln [u.a.]: Böhlau, 1999

Braunschweiger Husaren in Feindes Land: Erinnerungen aus dem Kriege 1870/71 // Rudolf Mackensen von Astfeld. - Berlin: Salle, 1902

Unter den Fahnen des Hohenzollernschen Füsilier-Reg. Nr. 40 im Kriege 1870/71 / Steinaecker, Heinrich von

Das königlich-bayerische 3. Chevaulegers-Regiment "Herzog Carl Theodor," ehemals "Herzog Maximilian" während des Feldzuges 1870 - 71 in Frankreich ... nach den Kriegsakten und Tagebüchern / Sixt, Friedrich

Erlebnisse eines Braunschweiger Soldaten im Feldzuge 1870/71 // Hirschhausen, August. - Hannover: Göhmann, (1909)

Braunschweiger Husaren in Feindes Land: Erinnerungen aus dem Kriege 1870/71 // Mackensen von Astfeld, Rudolf. - Berlin: Salle, 1902

Ehrenbuch der Hanseaten: Erlebnisse und Heldenkämpfe der hanseatischen Regimenter No 75 und 76 im Kriege gegen Frankreich 1870 - 71; mit Verlustliste, Verzeichniß der Inhaber des Eisernen Kreuzes und einer Marschroute der hanseatischen Regimenter; nach den besten Quellen historisch dargestellt / 3. verm. Aufl. - Hamburg: Nestler & Melle, 1872

Of course, I have not seen any of these books.

You might then search to see which of the titles of interest are available in the United States by using WorldCat and Eureka at your local research library. These books are normally available on interlibrary loan. Ask your reference librarian. If there is indication of a name index in the book [German books usually have separate indexes for persons, locations, and institutions and organizations but seldom have subject indexes], the librarian might be willing to search for a specific name and provide the details from the page indicated in the index.

Please be so kind as to let me know what progress you make. I look forward to hearing from you and will be happy to offer whatever advice that I can.

Edward Luft <edwardluft@hotmail.com>

Editor—Thanks to Edward for suggestions that just might open doors for a few folks!

***** THE POLISH COMMUNITY OF NEW BRITAIN *****

Editor—When possible, we like to pass along word of publications that might prove helpful in your research. Here's a recent press release on a book sure to be valuable for anyone with connections to New Britain, Connecticut. I haven't received my copy yet, but I know the authors and am convinced anything they do is going to be first-rate!

THE POLISH COMMUNITY OF NEW BRITAIN

By JONATHAN SHEA & BARBARA PROKO

Arcadia Publishing, March 2005

225 historic, never-before-shared photos, 128 pages, 10 chapters:

Leaving Home, Staying Together, Keeping the Faith, Organizations, *Za Chlebem*, Education, Fighting for the Homeland, Political Life, Athletics, Keeping Tradition Alive

Plus: a FREE index -- 600 surnames! (available exclusively from the authors)

To purchase, please mail your check or money order to: Jonathan Shea, Book Order, 8 Lyle Rd., New Britain, CT 06053

Price per book: \$19.99 + USPS media mail shipping & handling (please see totals below)

Total cost: 1 book = \$21.67; 2 books = \$42.18; 3 books = \$62.59; 4 books = \$82.58

From the back cover:

Factory jobs in the Hardware City of the World began attracting Polish immigrants to New Britain in the 1890s. The Poles soon became the city's largest ethnic group, centering their family, business, social, cultural, and spiritual life on Broad Street. Their Polonia was unparalleled in New England. Three parishes and dozens of organizations shared a strong commitment to Polish education, military service, political representation, and *Dożynki* and *Dzień Zaduszny* traditions. Continuing waves of immigration contributed to Polonia's ceaseless self-renewal. *The Polish Community of New Britain* celebrates this magnetic vitality and cultural continuity with rare photographs drawn from family albums and local archives.

Jonathan Shea is a New Britain native and the grandson of Polish and Irish immigrants. A professor of foreign languages, he has authored several manuals for translating genealogical documents. He is the founder of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast.

Barbara Proko coauthored *The Polish Community of Worcester*. A writer, editor, and avid genealogist, she is the granddaughter of immigrants from Russian Poland. She researches Polish settlement in New England.

The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. Arcadia is proud to play a part in the preservation of local heritage, making history available to all.

For more information

Please e-mail <polish_community@yahoo.com> or phone Barbara Proko at (860) 223-0887.

*** ***I AM FIRST A HUMAN BEING: THE PRISON LETTERS OF KRYSZYNA WITUSKA*** ***

Editor: Maureen Morris <maureenm@sbcglobal.net> sent a number of people copies of this letter to Ms. Caria Tomczykowska, President, Polish Arts and Culture Foundation. It provides information on the publication of another book you might wish to know about, one you might wish to support.

Irene Tomaszewski's *I Am First a Human Being: The Prison Letters of Krystyna Wituska* was first published in 1997 by Véhicule Press in Montreal, Quebec, Canada (<http://www.vehiculepress.com>).

It was well received and highly praised. The book will be republished in the United States by Wayne State University Press later this year or early next year.

On the book jacket Czesław Miłosz notes: “The letters of Krystyna Wituska are an unforgettable testimony of human dignity and courage.” Other notables have sent letters of support to Wayne State University Press, e.g., Professor Thaddeus Gromada, Executive Director of the Polish Institute for Arts and Sciences in America, and Professor Tom Napierkowski from the University of Colorado (who uses the book in his mainstream literature course and in university’s drama department). Professor John Micgiel, director of the Center for European Studies at Columbia, wrote a letter of support, as did Professor Tamara Trojanowska, University of Toronto. Dr. Aldona Wos, Advisory Council Member of the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, lamented that he was unable to obtain copies of this book because it is now out of print.

Wayne State University Press (WSUP) is looking for a modest subvention for the book. There are a number of communities that give publishing support to WSUP, but sadly **there are no Polish groups among them.**

Support from Polish community organizations would be greatly appreciated and publicly acknowledged by Wayne State University Press. Donors will receive a letter directly from Wayne State University. \$1,000 or even \$500 would help.

I sincerely hope that there will be some contribution from Polish groups in the United States. Please direct this letter to anyone whom you think might be interested.

Many thanks,
Maureen Mroczek Morris

***** A USEFUL LIBRARY WEBSITE FOR CITY DIRECTORIES *****

by Edward Luft <edwardluft@hotmail.com>

For a search of Posen Province [now Wielkopolska] city directories, see a full-text website, <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl>, which has, among other things, 20 city directories [use the term “*Adreßbuch*” or “*Adressbuch*” for the search], one for the city of Gnesen/Gniezno, 17 for the city of Posen/Poznań, and two for the whole Province of Posen, one being for royal officials, and another for large estate owners, among them a few Jews. The value to this last city directory is that you might be able to determine who was the Christian landlord of the town where your ancestor lived, even if your ancestor had long departed that location. With that information, you can then consult Edward Luft’s website on Central European magnates, <http://www.avotaynu.com/magnates.htm> to find out where any surviving archives for that family are now and consult them to find out about your ancestors from the records of that magnate family, sometimes the only records left which mention a non-famous ancestor.

All of the publications are in German, but the website is available in English and in Polish. It also currently contains more than 3300 other full-text items, including periodicals, and continues to grow, so check back periodically to see if something relevant has been added. Unfortunately, there is no engine to search the full-text content, although one to search titles does exist. Most of the content is old and rare and all of the content is from libraries in Great Poland (mostly the former Posen Province). This discovery raises the question of whether there are other similar Polish websites of interest to *Gen Dobry!* readers. Reader response to this issue is encouraged.

For persons researching areas formerly in Germany, the German Historical Institute has a website [“German History in Documents and Images” or “GHDI”] with original historical documents in 10 volumes organized by time period, along with German texts and accompanied by English translations, to review German history from 1500 to 2000. The website is a convenient way to put into historical context any genealogical information and to understand why ancestors might have done certain things at that time and place. See <http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org>. The website is absolutely free and all items may be downloaded for non-commercial purposes. The project is in progress for scheduled completion in 2007.

Editor— Note that a complete and up-to-date list of Edward Luft’s writings appears at:
<http://www.mylitsearch.org/mbrx/PT/99/MBR/11078005>

***** SUMMER STUDY IN POLAND *****

Editor— We’ve mentioned before in Gen Dobry! the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee’s summer study program at the Catholic University of Lublin, headed by Prof. Mikoś. But with summer approaching again, we should remind you of this program, which I’ve heard many people praise highly. The following is a note posted by Marvin Pozdol <Marvpozdol@adelphia.net> on the Poland-Roots list.

In summer 2001, my wife and I spent 3 weeks studying Polish at the Catholic University of Lublin. We did this through the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. For more information contact Professor Mikoś at <mikos@uwm.edu>.

It was wonderful but the Polish language is very difficult. You are given a “test” the first day and then put in with a small group to begin your studies. There were 8 groups in our session and we were in group 2, with 8 being those who really knew Polish but were upgrading. We were in class from 9:00 to 12:15. There were options for more class work and small group conversation. Also there were in English and Polish lectures on Polish History, customs, present day issues, etc.

On weekends we had guided tours of Lublin, Kazimierz Dolny, the Kraków area and historic sites. When that was over, we rented a car (arrangements made with Hertz in the U.S.) and drove from Lublin to Zamość and the town of our Polish instructor from Cleveland. We stayed a weekend with her and her in-law. Then we drove to Tarnów (all driving in the daytime), where we stayed in a hotel for couple of days. There we met there Pozdol’s that we think were relatives but so far have

not tied that down. We were treated like relatives. One of them hired a college student who spoke English and we spent some days touring the area besides visiting their home.

Then we drove north to Warsaw where we stayed at the John Sobieski III Hotel (arranged ahead of time in the U.S.) We met a Pomianowski (my mother's maiden name) who gave us a grand tour of Warsaw for a couple of days. We did a lot on our own and also met Józef Taran, who is on this site a lot.

All of my contacts were made ahead of time via the Internet. There was another couple we met via the Internet. She taught at another university and her English husband worked with Poles teaching them English. We had a wonderful time at dinner in their apartment. They lived in Lublin.

I took videos and some 35mm pictures but do not have them on my computer. By the way, while in Tarnów we visited the home *gmina* of my grandmother and through prior Internet contact we were able to get some civil records. Met the mayor, too! Visited her home church and the same with my grandfather. It was a great trip.

Another place for contact concerning studying the language in Poland is <http://www.kosciuszkofoundation.org>. If I would go again to study, I would do it in Kraków. So much history and beauty there.

This is a short version of our trip. Somewhere in the archives there is a longer version. Anyone have questions, please contact me.

Marv in Cleveland <Marvpozdol@adelphia.net>

Editor—if you'd like more details, visit this site: <http://www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour/>

*** POLISH TRIVIA QUESTIONS ***

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

Answers to the Questions in the February Issue:

- Q. What religious season does the *Zapusty Karnawal* precede?
- A. Lent or Ash Wednesday

- Q. On what religious holiday is the *Rezurekcja* observed?
- A. Easter

- Q. By Polish custom, what does the gift of an Easter egg from a girl to a young man mean?
- A. That she welcomes his interest

- Q. What animal is given the seat of honor in a traditional Polish Dyngus parade?
- A. The rooster
- Q. By custom, what day is devoted to playing pranks, throwing water, etc.?
- A. Dyngus (Easter Monday)

New Questions for the March Issue

1. Does the Polish Eagle face to its right or to its left?
2. On what type of wood is the Polish Black Madonna painted?
3. Where did Bobby Vinton play his first public performance?
4. What country was an early market for American tobacco export?
5. What organization preceded the establishment of Chicago's first Polish Roman Catholic parish?

Reprinted with permission from Polish American Trivia & Quadri-Trivia, 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>.

Saturday, April 9, 2005

Newberry Library in Chicago

Friends of Genealogy's Seventh Annual Workshop in Memory of Barbara Stenger Burditt

“Sources and Strategies with Sandra Luebking”

(formerly “A Day with the Szucs: Lou and Juliana Share Strategies for Genealogical Success”)

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

<http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/L3gfriends.html>

Sandra Luebking is the co-editor of the major reference work for American genealogy, *The Source* (published by Ancestry in 1997) and the award-winning *The Archives: A Guide to the National Archives Field Branches*. Ms. Luebking is a regular lecturer at Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research in Birmingham, Alabama and at the Genealogical Institute of

Mid-America in Springfield, Illinois. Her four lectures are entitled “Surname Smart Search!” “The Great Courthouse Caper,” “Land and Taxes,” and “Circumventing Blocked Lines.”

A vast selection of genealogical guides and reference works will be available for purchase in Newberry’s A.C. McClurg Bookstore. Plus, bring your old photos for expert restoration advice from Eric Basir of Fotografix.

Admission to all four lectures, a detailed syllabus, and a box lunch is \$75; \$50 for current members of the Friends of Genealogy and new Friends of the Newberry Library at the Author (\$100) level and above. Reservations are required; call 312-255-3574.

Sunday, April 10, 2005

Polish Genealogical Society of America Meeting

“How Chicago Became Polonia’s Capital”

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

Rich Kujawa of the Polish Museum of America will give a talk on reasons for Polish immigration and why so many Poles chose Chicago as their ultimate destination.

Saturday, April 23, 2005

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Carpatho-Rusyn Society, New Jersey Chapter

“An American in Presov”

Wayne Public Library
461 Valley Road
Wayne, NJ 07470

C-RS member, Dr. Walter J. Orange, Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Pennsylvania will speak to members of the New Jersey Chapter. Refreshments will be served.

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

<http://www.kosciuszkoatwestpoint.org/index.html>

William E Serchak <weserchak@erols.com> sent word of this, “the Website of the American Association of the Friends of Kościuszko at West Point, Inc., commemorating the life of Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746–1817), Polish and American Patriot and Hero, Altruist, and Champion of Freedom, Independence, Democracy, and Equality on Two Continents.”

<http://www.cmentarze.org/polska.htm>

Sophie Korczyk <economist21@hotmail.com> mentioned this site on the PolandBorderSurnames list. She explained: “You don’t need to know any/much Polish to make a name search. The first page the URL takes you to is the list of Polish provinces. These are proper names—they don’t translate—and you can find them on a map. So then pick, say, Śląskie if your soldier was born in that province. This takes you to a table. The table headings tell you, in order, the soldier’s surname, given name, date of birth, and place of birth. The final column, with the abbreviations, tells you where the soldier is buried:

H = Netherlands
D = Denmark
N = Germany
B = Belgium
W. Bryt = Great Britain
F = France

“There are other pages with political statements and options for searches, too, but those you would probably need to translate. You can figure out from the headings whether you want to know more just by using a dictionary.”

<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=2662&from=metadatasearch&dirids=1>

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup Jacob Rosen posted this as the address where you can see the 1930 Address Directory of the City of Poznan online. Logan Kleinwaks noted that it also contains a name index on pages 16-54.

<http://polgenresearch.com/en/references.php>

On the Poland-Roots list Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> said this is the Website of Michał Marciniak, a genealogical research in Poland whom several satisfied customers have praised. Debbie says she has the names and e-mail addresses of others (besides those listed on the Website) who also recommend Michał.

http://earth-info.nga.mil/gns/html/cntry_files.html

Garret Mierzejewski <mierzejewski@verizon.net> kindly passed this site on as a source of downloadable place names for specific countries.

<http://www.kalter.org/search.php>

This site was mentioned in a recent issue of *Nu? What's New* as offering a full-word index to a number of directories of Eastern Europe, searchable by exact spelling or Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex. These directories are:

- * 1923 Poland and Danzig Commercial Directory
- * 1912 Galicia Telephone Directory
- * 1901 Galicia Industry Directory
- * 1925 Romania Business and Organizational Directory, Vol. I (Bucharest)
- * 1924/1925 Romania Business and Organizational Directory, Vol. II (rest of Romania)

* 1938/1939 Warsaw Telephone Directory

Logan J. Kleinwaks <kleinwaks@alumni.princeton.edu>, who put this index online, gave details in a note on the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup: “These directories are not globally alphabetized, and are difficult to search manually, without knowing the subject’s town of residence. The search engine permits you to search the directories for a surname (or other text), and returns the numbers of the images in which your search term appears in the online versions. You can then visit the online directories and jump directly to those image numbers. (Directions for doing this can be found in the FAQ mentioned on the search page.) Please keep in mind that searches are case sensitive and sensitive to accented characters. You can use ? as a wildcard character. Tips for how to best use the search engine can be found in the FAQ.”

<http://www.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.html>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy list Diane Rooney <DianeRoone@aol.com> recommended this site because it gives the instructions provided U.S. census enumerators 1850–2000. You can imagine the impact these instructions might have on how our immigrant ancestors were listed. For instance, point 142 under 1900 says, “In case the person speaks Polish, as Poland is not now a country, inquire whether the birthplace was what is now known as German Poland or Austrian Poland, and enter the answer accordingly as Poland (Ger.), Poland (Aust.), or Poland (Russ.)” Diane says it’s amazing reading!

<http://www.literad.de/geschichte/index.html>

On the Posen mailing list Bill Hoffman <billhoff@charter.net> (no relation to me, incidentally) mentioned this site, which he found very helpful for German history, especially its useful village index (<http://www.literad.de/geschichte/ortsbuch39.html>).

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polgen2/>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list, Anna Hanasz provided this address for a new Yahoo group in English for genealogists researching Polish roots.

<http://www.pgscsca.org/records-Medrzechow-intro.html>

Also on the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, Dick Mann <mann_r_s@yahoo.ca> gave this as the URL for a Website with data “from John Dudek’s book on the village of Medrzechów, Tarnów, Poland. This data is extracted from FHL (Family History Library) film nos. 1895996 & 1895997. Data includes births, marriages and deaths for the village of Medrzechów, for the years 1785-1901.” It’s worth noting that the website belongs to the Polish Genealogical Society of California; if you use the info, give PGS-CA some support!

<http://www.c-rs.org/Chapters/NJ/videos.html>

In another note on that list, from: Tom Singel <tsingell@comcast.net> points out that this site offers tape and DVD copies of the recent talk “What Makes the Rusyn Language Special,” by Brain McHugh, at a recent meeting of the New Jersey chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society.

<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/friends/atlas8-03flyer.pdf>

PolishRoots Vice-President Paul S. Valasek pointed out to me this offer for Prof. Paul Magocsi's *Historical Atlas of Central Europe (formerly East Central Europe)*. More information is available at the above address (which, incidentally, requires that you have the Adobe Acrobat reader installed on your system). Paul and I both have this atlas and use it all the time. This offer includes a discount, and deserves consideration from any serious researcher!

<http://czapiewskifoto.oned.pl>

Paul also passed along a note from a Stefan Czapiewski inviting anyone interested in the Czapiewski name to compare notes by going to this Website. "All Czapiewskis are invited to become members of Czapiewski Family Research Institute and contribute to the reconstruction of our family history." As usual, we pass the information along for you to consider, with no endorsement implied.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unicode>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list: Roman <romanka@comcast.net> gave this address for an interesting article on Unicode and the various UTF's.

<http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html>

On the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish Mimi Katz responded to a request for helping looking up a Chicago death index by pointing out that Illinois has put its death and marriage indexes online at the above site.

<http://www.online-translator.com/?lang=en>

Also on the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup Donna Dinberg gave this URL in response to a request for online sites that convert Cyrillic spellings of names to Roman-alphabet versions. Donna said this free site also translates decently, especially if you keep your sentences short and avoid idiomatic expressions. While I have serious reservations about the accuracy of such resources, it's true they can sometimes be helpful, if you use them the right way. So I pass the word along, but urge caution. Do not expect a magic wand that effortlessly turns Russian into perfect English, or vice versa!

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