



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_4.pdf

*** † POPE JOHN PAUL II † ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

Just after I sent out the March issue of *Gen Dobry!* the death and funeral of Pope John Paul II became the central story on TV and in the newspapers. I know by now most of you are probably suffering from “media overload,” so I doubt I can tell you anything you haven’t already heard. Besides, what he meant to Poles and Polish-Americans is simply beyond the power of words to express.

Still, it would be absurd for any publication dealing with Polish culture to ignore the end of the Holy Father’s life. And the passage of a little time may have made it easier to appreciate and celebrate his life without being overwhelmed by grief. So I felt I should include a few links to sources of information you might wish to explore.

Obviously those interested in Polish genealogy might like to learn more about the ancestry of Karol Wojtyła. A couple of sources provide information on this subject. An article tracing his ancestors appeared in a 1981 issue of the Polish Genealogical Society *Newsletter*, and a copy has been made available in Adobe Acrobat Reader form on the PGSA Website:

<http://pgsa.org/1981.Nwlt.6.v3n2.Wojtyla.pdf>

If you’d like something short and simple, there’s a nice chart here:

<http://www.genpol.com/Poradnik-GenPol-art117.html>

If you’re not intimidated by data given in Polish, the Genpol site offers links to collections of text material on this page:

<http://www.genpol.com/Poradnik-GenPol-sub24.html>

On the more general subject of his life, there’s a retrospective from CNN beginning at this URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/1999/pope/bio/early/>

Also fascinating is the material provided by PAP (the Polish Press Agency) on this page:

<http://papiez.pap.com.pl/>

It’s in Polish, but even if you don’t speak the language you can guess what “Fotografie” means. Click on it and you get a nice selection of photographs from various points in his life.

You can find much more information with a search on <http://www.google.com>, for instance, by looking for “Poles mourn Pope” or something along those lines. A search for “Pope John Paul” on <http://www.images.google.com> will provide plenty of photographs—or search for “Karol Wojtyła” to get photos from Polish sites, many of which are striking.

There's also a great deal of text information to be found in the archives of various mailing lists. For instance, you can look through the notes posted on the Poland-Roots site by going here:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/POLAND-ROOTS/2005-04>

The *Chicago Tribune* offers a book and a CD-ROM full of text and photos on the life of the Pope. Sometimes there's a box on the Tribune's home page (<http://www.chicagotribune.com>), on the left, about halfway down, that links to the page describing the offer. If it's not there when you visit, here's the URL for that page:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/services/newspaper/chi-pope-cd,0,3276986.htmlstory?track=sapromofront>

It's a long address, so you may have to copy and paste it into your browser one piece at a time. Once you get to that page you'll find a description of the items and what they cost.

Well, I said I'd keep this short, because really, what can I say that hasn't already been said? But it seemed only right to take a moment and pay tribute to a beloved son of Poland, one most of us admired deeply.

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

Subject: Bart Ross, aka Bartłomiej Ciszewski

I enjoyed your piece on name changing, focusing on Bartłomiej Ciszewski.

I'm also a Chicagoan, and have been fascinated that no one has yet focused on this guy's Polish background and immigration experience (and pre-immigration experience) as part of the story of what happened. His isolation alone is part of the immigration experience. Also, the kind of obsessive conspiracy theory pathology that he suffered from is not uncommon among Poles. I think of it as part of the "captive mind" syndrome. Too, there is still a terrible stigma among Poles/Polish-Americans attached to acknowledging a mental illness.

Anyway, a good piece. Thanks.

Celia Berdes <berdes-c@northwestern.edu>>

Editor—I wonder if the media is afraid to go into that, for fear they'll ruffle feathers? These days many journalists hesitate to tackle anything with an ethnic angle that isn't thoroughly positive, because they don't want to be taken for bigots. To be honest, I understand their reluctance; I hesitated before writing my piece. But I decided to go ahead, because I hoped the readers would recognize that I wasn't trying to stereotype anyone.

For more on this same subject, see Brother Joseph Martin's article below.

Subject: Book by Krystyna Wituska

I had some questions regarding the subvention for *I Am First A Human Being: The Prison Letters of Krystyna Wituska* (as mentioned in the March issue of *Gen Dobry!*) which hopefully will be

published by Wayne State University. I e-mailed Maureen Morris and promptly received an e-mail telling me she would get the answers to my questions and get back to me. I had the answers the next day. Not knowing the time schedule for the publication, if it happens, I thought you might add this information to the next issue of *Gen Dobry!*

Quoting a review by the *Canadian Book Review Annual*, “During World War II, twenty-year-old Krystyna Wituska joined the Polish Underground movement. She was subsequently caught by the German Gestapo and executed. This book comprises ninety-six letters that she wrote while in prison ... The book is admirably translated into English, and sensitively edited, by Irene Tomaszewski (who herself was born in a Soviet concentration camp).”

Subvention means to subsidize (in this case) the publication of a book. All donations to the school for the publication of this book are tax deductible. All donations should be sent to:

Kathryn Wildfong, Acquiring Editor
Wayne State University Press
4809 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48201-1309
Phone: 313-577-6070
E-mail: k.wildfong@wayne.edu
<http://wsupress.wayne.edu/judaica/holocaust/tomaszewskiafhb.htm>

I will also post this information to a couple of lists as well.

Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

Editor—Thanks for sharing that information.

Subject: *Magocsi's Historical Atlas of Central Europe*

Your Canadian readers may be interested in the availability of a new Canadian edition of *Historical Atlas of Central Europe* by Paul Robert Magocsi: Format: Trade Paperback. Published: April 2002. ISBN: 0802084869. Published by University of Toronto Press.

A purchase in Canada by Canadians offers savings compared with that from the U.S. in price, currency exchange costs and GST handling cost(\$5). Chapters/Indigo Books has a sale on now: \$CDN37.10; the iREWARDS member price is \$CDN35.25. (Eligible for FREE Shipping on orders over \$39).

Henry Szot <hojoso@hotmail.com>

*Editor—I'd strongly advise our Canadian readers to consider taking advantage of this offer. Magocsi's book is a **huge** help with making sense of history in that part of the world! You can visit the Website of Chapters/Indigo Books at <http://www.chapters.ca/>.*

Subject: Łosice

Would you be so kind as to include the following in the next edition of *Gen Dobry!*?

Approximately 1,500 Jewish gravestones (*matzevot*) have been reclaimed in the small town of Łosice. They were buried in the backyard of a local residence by the Nazis in 1942, at the same time as the local Jewish population of 2,900 souls was all but liquidated by the Nazis—taken to the extermination camp at Treblinka. The Jewish cemetery from which the gravestones were originally taken will bear witness to their return some time in the upcoming months.

I am looking for anyone with information about this episode in Łosice's history. I am also looking for partners willing to assist in the funding of the Łosice Memorial Project.

Images of some of the recovered gravestones may be found here:

<http://www.zchor.org/losice/matzevot.htm>.

Thank you.

Viktor Lewin <viklewin@shaw.ca>

Editor—Please contact Mr. Lewin if you can help him in any way, with information on Łosice or with funding. It sounds like a worthy project.

***** POLISH STEAMSHIPS AND ALTERNATIVE PASSENGER LISTS *****

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

Though Poland has an old history with the sea, as well as “losing” its coastline for over 120 years, Polish steamships and the immigrant story are a relatively recent marriage. Until the creation of the new Polish state in 1919, Poland only had vessels of small size and stature for shipping, and relied on its neighbors’ industrialized might, especially Germany, for transatlantic crossings. Many Polish immigrants left their country during the partitioned period via German ports in Hamburg or Bremen. These were convenient as many Polish citizens spoke German, were citizens of a German-speaking country, and/or were near these two large ports on the Baltic Sea.

Russia did not yet have any sizable transatlantic passenger lines, nor did the Scandinavian countries. All of this changed in time, especially after the first and second World Wars. Competition before World War I was intense between Germany, France, England, Holland, and Belgium for the immigrant trade of Northern and Central Europe; they also tried to reach their steamship lines into the Mediterranean Sea to transport Southern European immigrants, well before Italian, Spanish and Greek shipping firms reached a level where they could compete.

Many Polish-Americans, especially those who lived during the 1930s, would often talk about the great Polish ships, the *Batory* and *Pilsudski*. These were the pride of Poland and Polish-Americans as the home country finally had sizable ships for the transatlantic routes. Unfortunately, these excellent ships were built in the 1930s when immigration from Eastern Europe was curtailed by the infamous quotas of the U. S. But as passenger ships for travelers and visitors rather than

immigrants to and from Poland, they were direct and—what was very important—had the flavor, look, and taste of Poland.

What is quite interesting is how these two great ships were created. Poland had not yet developed major shipyards to build their own ships, nor had the readily available funds on hand to order and purchase ships from those shipbuilding companies thriving in the world. At this time Italy was developing its shipbuilding industry and eagerly sought out prospective clients. Italy needed the business, Poland needed the ships. The price had a unique exchange rate. Poland provided Italy with 5 years of coal shipments in return for both ships. (Of course anyone who's been to Poland, especially Silesia, knows there's plenty of that commodity still lying underground.) So for the payment in coal, Poland received its two flagships.

Built within a year of each other, they had very different lives. The *Pilsudski* was sunk by German mines off the coast of England in 1939 and to this day lies at the bottom of the North Sea. The *Batory* enjoyed a productive life, surviving World War II as well as the Cold War, but had political restrictions on arriving in any U. S. ports and was limited to Montreal. It was followed by a new turbine-driven steamship, the *Stefan Batory*, yet both have been scrapped as of 2005. For photos and more detailed histories, view

<http://stefanbatoryoceanliner.homestead.com/Predecessors.html>

<http://stefanbatoryoceanliner.homestead.com/History.html>

Many Polish researchers somehow hear the story how their immigrant ancestors came to America on these great Polish ships. Unfortunately, very few did; unless we're talking about immigrants after the mid-30s, your family never immigrated to America on either of these ships. But they may have traveled on them for business, pleasure or return trips either back to Poland or again to the U. S. and Canada.

Which brings me to the latest database on PolishRoots®. The list of passengers was extracted from a ship's printed passenger list for a sailing of the *M. S. Batory* from New York to Gdynia, July 4, 1937. Yes, it's **from** New York **to** Poland, the opposite of what we researchers are accustomed to. Unfortunately, U. S. customs didn't keep as exact records of who left the country as opposed to who came into the country. Ship lists of sailings out of the U. S. are limited to these ship printed lists when unearthed from collections or basements or attics.

The list is posted here:

<http://www.polishroots.org/ships/Batory1937.pdf>

We invite you to look it check out for yourself who might be traveling to either Copenhagen or Gdynia. Many names of Jewish travelers are listed, and due to the timing, one has to wonder why they were returning or going to Poland at the time when Hitler and anti-Semitism was on the rise in Europe.

One name which stands out to me is Miss Stella Walsh. This is the name of one of Polonia's leading track and field stars from the 1920s and 30s who ran competitively for many years, often representing the Polish Falcons. Unfortunately, we need corroborative information to confirm she was on a trip to Poland in 1937.

If anyone recognizes a name and can share a story with our readers, we would very much like to hear from you. Additional lists like these will be added to PolishRoots® as time permits.

***** SO MANY THINGS TO SEARCH ON THE BYDGOSZCZ ACADEMY MAIN LIBRARY WEBSITE *****

by Edward David Luft <edwardluft@hotmail.com>

Many, many libraries and archives in Poland now have web pages, sometimes with ingenious links for useful searches. Just put into Google or Yahoo the location that you want and the word “Biblioteka.” A few such websites even offer the homepage in English. One such library is the Biblioteka Główna Akademii Bydgoskiej (the main library of the Bydgoszcz Academy), <http://www.biblioteka.ab.edu.pl/>, 85-064 Bydgoszcz, ul. Chodkiewicza 30; information telephone: 011-48-52-341-92-22; E-mail: <library@ab.edu.pl>. On the right of the screen, just under halfway down the page, you can select the language that you prefer for the website. One of the choices in the box is English.

Probably the most interesting links available at the website currently (and it seems to vary slightly from time to time) are the ability to search the online catalogue of the main library in Bydgoszcz. But you can also search NUKAT, which is the Polish Union Catalogue, and KaRo, the combined catalogue of all major Polish libraries. NUKAT does not give holdings, while KaRo does. Please refer to “Searching for Books in Libraries Outside the United States,” *Gen Dobry!*, Vol. VI, No. 2, February 2005, pp. 2–3, at <http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_VI_2.pdf> for further information about KaRo. Remember that even though you search for a book on the English-language page, the data on the book (other than category headings) will appear in the language of the book itself. So a book written in English will appear in the catalogue in English while one in Polish will, except for the category indications, appear in Polish.

Another potentially interesting link is the “Scientific search engines” option which will allow the online full-text electronic search of currently published journals. The service originates in the United States and is free to all users via this source. Some providers of the service limit its use to in-house visitors or “members” so here is a way to access this website from home. There is also a separate link to currently-published newspapers worldwide. Additionally, the Biblioteka Główna Akademii Bydgoskiej website allows for a search of E-prints in scientific (in the narrower sense of that term, as used in English, generally equating to the concept of “natural sciences”) and technical disciplines, provides a link to search for news maps, and offers various other links, including one specifically for Bydgoszcz. You can also read “A Country Study: Poland,” a very good idea if you plan to visit Poland or are not familiar with Polish history or customs. Indeed, you will save yourself a lot of time and effort by knowing the history and culture so that you know how Poles do things. That is very useful time spent to have an idea of what records might be kept when and where, just to mention one example. Various links hold different maps of locations all over the world, including Poland, of course. There are far too many links and links from links to discuss them all here. You will have to search for yourself.

Another feature allows a search for the time of day so that you can determine the time at certain given locations. There are also links to libraries on the Internet and to a photo gallery. Take a look.

You might find something interesting, including items not mentioned in this short summary. Apparently all links offer free access from offsite so you have nothing to lose but a little time and effort. Happy hunting!

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>

***** A POLE NAMED SMITH! *****

by Joseph F. Martin

Editor: Bro. Joseph sent this article in reaction to the piece in the last Gen Dobry! on how Bartłomiej Ciszewski changed his name to Bart Ross.

The recent article in the March 2005 *Gen Dobry!* about Polish immigrants changing their names made me laugh. It is not always easy to learn why anyone did this, but serious research and a little bit of luck might reward a family historian with an interesting story about an ancestor. Part of the challenge is that the ancestors did not go to court to change names legally. Thus, this short report on our Walenty Lewicki who changed his name to William Smith! It took years to locate him and his family.

Back in 1975 my mother and I traveled to Bay City, Michigan, to visit her aunt and uncle, whom she had never met. We had lunch, and they told us stories about my mother's side of the family. Then they took us to meet an elderly woman who had married into the Lewicki side of the family. She related that my great-grandmother, Apolonia Lewicki, and her brother Valentine had been sent to the U.S. by family members. They did not want to see him drafted into the Prussian military and risk his life. In fact, she said, a priest relative in the family had sold some of the family goods to pay for the passage. When they traveled in 1892 on the *S. S. Slavonia* from Hamburg to New York, Apolonia was 18 and Walenty was 13. They settled in Bay City where other family members already lived.

Some years ago I located Apolonia's obituary which had this puzzling line: "...one brother, William B. Smith, Kettle River, Minn." I had no idea who he was because I had not located Apolonia's hometown in the Poznań area. Finally, in 1998 after almost 30 years I was able to locate her church marriage record from 1893, which gave her hometown as Starczanowo, Posen. Then my cousin and I were able to trace all the family members. Even before the Ellis Island database became available online, my cousin located them in *Germans to America*. She also found some interesting newspaper articles about the voyage of the ship, which ran into several storms and serious propeller problems.

Then my cousin located William Smith's World War II draft registration card and a Smith living in Duluth, Minnesota, at the same address where another family member had died some years ago. The Smith relative forwarded my letter of inquiry to an elderly woman who lived in Lemon Grove, California. This woman turned out to be the 90-year-old daughter of William Smith. In a January 2000 telephone interview she mentioned that her father had changed his name because he initially feared that Prussian agents would come to this country to find him and send him back to prison in Prussia for avoiding the draft. She also said that a priest in the family had arranged for their

passage, thus confirming the story I had heard 25 years earlier. We have since discovered that he was Msgr. Jan Lewicki, who served parishes in the city of Poznań and other towns in the area.

This search had more than its share of frustrations. But the rewards have been great. I learned that we can even trace a Smith family successfully!!

Editor—I'd rather trace a Lewicki than a Smith any day—except when a Lewicki is a Smith! Congratulations on untangling this puzzle. I have often speculated that some immigrants changed their names because they wanted to make it harder for the authorities back in the old country to track them down. I'm pleased to see your story confirms some immigrants did have this in mind.

***** NEW PUBLICATION: MY POLAND: ESSAYS ON POLISH IDENTITY *****

Editor—I always like to spread the word on new books being published that provide information that might interest you. Here's a translation of a press release on such a book:

Moja Polska: Eseje o polskości/My Poland: Essays on Polish Identity by Kevin Hannan, professor at the University of Łódź, is a bilingual (Polish-English) collection of essays on Polish history, culture, language, and religion (Poznań: Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 2005). ISBN 83-7177-204-1 (283 pages, paper cover).

The book consists of two parts, in Polish and English, and consists of a collection of essays which may help the English-speaking reader understand Poland better. The central idea is an attempt at an ethno-linguistic description of the country. The author analyzes, among other things, several aspects of the historical, cultural and social development of the Polish language, manifestations of *polskość* in individual borderlands, symbols of communality and tradition, and Poles' issues of faith and religion over the centuries. It deals also with traditional ethnic stereotypes seen in the background of Poland's neighbors. The author conscientiously connects the knowledge of the ethnic researcher with the penetrating observation of a newcomer from outside, who perceives Poland on many levels, highlighting the brilliant and entrancing aspects of *polskość*.

The book is enriched with maps representing Poland in various periods, an index of persons and of place names, and a detailed bibliography.

Editor—You can visit the publisher's Website at <http://www.wydawnictwo-poznanskie.pl/>. If and when I get information on how to order it through an American or Canadian bookstore, I will pass that information along in a future issue.

***** 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 March Issue:

- Q. Does the Polish Eagle face to its right or to its left?
- A. To its right

- Q. On what type of wood is the Polish Black Madonna painted?
- A. Cypress

- Q. Where did Bobby Vinton play his first public performance?
- A. At the Polish Falcons' Hall in Canonsburg, PA

- Q. What country was an early market for American tobacco export?
- A. Poland

- Q. What organization preceded the establishment of Chicago's first Polish Roman Catholic parish?
- A. The St. Stanisław Society

New Questions for the April Issue

1. Did the earliest Polish settlers arrive in America before or after the Mayflower?
2. With what place are the names Bogdan, Mata, Sadowski and Stefanski remembered?
3. In which Slavic group are the Polish people placed?
4. What church is considered "The Polish Church" for Poles living in Rome?
5. What was the first Polish episcopal see?

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>.

Saturday, May 14, 2005

2:00 – 4:00 p. m.

Carpatho-Rusyn Society - New Jersey Chapter

“Survival and Revival: How the Lemko Rusyns of Poland Overcame Akcja Wisła”

Wayne Public Library
461 Valley Road
Wayne, NJ

How did the Lemko Rusyns respond collectively to forced expulsion from their homeland? You may have heard the story of *Akcja Wisła* [Operation Vistula]; now find out what happened afterwards. Learn how your ancestors rebuilt their community life in a foreign hostile place over the decades after their 1947 expulsion from their homeland in what is now southeastern Poland. Learn how some even managed to return to their Lemkovyna homeland and what efforts they are undertaking today to help themselves.

The speaker for this program will be Susyn Mihalasky, a history instructor at Sussex County Community College in Newton, New Jersey. Her mother and maternal ancestors were among those resettled during *Akcja Wisła*. Ms. Mihalasky has researched Lemko history extensively and has written articles on Lemkos for both academic and popular press publications in North America and in Europe. In addition, she has also lived in Lemkovyna. For further information, please call (973) 540-0871 or send an E-mail to <publicrelationsnj@c-rs.org>.

June 3 – 4, 2005

63rd Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Our colleagues in PIASA invite you to the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America (PIASA), which will be held on June 3 – 4, 2005 at the University of Pittsburgh. It will be hosted and co-sponsored by the University Center for International Studies (Russian and East European Studies) University of Pittsburgh. For more information: <http://www.piasa.org/>.

Saturday, June 11, 2005

11:00 a. m. - 4:30 p. m.

Art Show - The New Jersey State Council on the Arts

Van Saun Park, Paramus New Jersey

C-RS New Jersey Chapter invites Carpatho-Rusyn artists and friends in the New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania area to place their artwork on public display in an exhibit sponsored by The New Jersey Council on the Arts. The Chapter will sponsor artists who work in 1) oils and acrylics, 2) drawings and prints, 3) mixed media (use of two or more mediums), 4) photography (mounted work), or 5) watercolor and acrylics under glass). The sale of artwork is optional and is permitted.

The art show is scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2005 in Van Saun, Park Paramus, NJ from 11:00 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. The location of the exhibit in Van Saun Park is in Area G/Pavilion F, Parking Lot #4. For further information and an application, please contact Jerry Chanda, 6 Bradway Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08618. Telephone him at (908) 882-4872 or send an E-mail to <njatlarge4@c-rs.org>.

June 24 – 25, 2005

Milwaukee Polish Fest, America's Largest Polish Festival

Summer fest Grounds ~ Henry W. Maier Festival Park Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. Tel: (414) 529-2140. Contact us at: *info@polishfest.org*.

July 10 – 15, 2005

25TH IAJGS Conference On Jewish Genealogy

Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas

For more information: <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-southernnevada/Shelley/event.htm>

Saturday, September 17, 2005

9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

“Discover Your Italian Roots”

A Full-Day Conference Hosted by
POINTers In Person Chicago and Chicago-North Chapters

Italian Cultural Center
1621 N. 39th Ave
Stone Park, IL

The \$40 registration includes 5 presentations geared to your level of experience, delicious family-style lunch at Casa Italia, and a syllabus of all ten presentations and more. For information, contact Dan at <*italianroots@comcast.net*>, or call our hotline at 763-201-3186. For conference info and registration, visit <http://www.chicagoitalian.org>.

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

<http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/#>

Ron Wagner <RWagner245@aol.com> wrote to praise this site for its Polish-language reference materials and written and audio lessons for a first-year introduction to Polish.

<http://www.esisnet.com/~jackbowmanstc/poltrans.htm>

On the Poland-L mailing list Julie Szczepankiewicz <bjszczep@sbcglobal.net> mentioned this website she's used to help translate Napoleonic-format Polish church records.

<http://felsztyn.tripod.com/germaninvasion>

On the Polish Genius list Henryk Sokolowski <hsokol@sympatico.ca> posted a note to announce that he'd made a number of additions to the website "The German Invasion of Poland" at this URL.

<http://www.chelmno.pl/>

Also on that list, Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> gave this site for those who'd like to look at the gardens in the city of Chelmno in northern Poland. She says "The gardens are tended by those who are 'out of work.' The city employs them by maintaining the gardens. I was there in 2000 and remember being fascinated by the designs. I don't have any of the photographs I took so I guess I will have to return and take more. On the left side of the screen click on 'English,' then click on 'Galery.' You'll be given a choice of subjects; here is where you can click on 'Parks and Gardens.' When you're finished, though, look at the other photographs and then click on Chelmno 'live Camera.' Click on each photo to see an enlargement."

<http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/nausa/auswk/framaus.htm>

On the German Surnames mailing list <valentine53179@gmail.com> posted a note with the preceding address for a mid-19th century map of how people could travel overland to get to ports of emigration. He added that this map shows emigrant transportation possibilities after 1866, <http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/nausa/KARTE/frameis.htm>, and this shows possible travel routes to America, <http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/nausa/dtstafe.htm>.

<http://www.polishcenter.net>

On the Genpol mailing list Alice <aliceboss@juno.com> recommended that those living in New England might want to check this site for activities of the Polish Center at Elms College.

<http://www.skarbczyk.com>

On the Poland-Roots list Pat Smith <smudge@winbeam.com> said she found this site really helpful with names and diminutives, even though it's in Polish. She said "Type in the name in the category: Wyszukiwanie Imion."

http://mipolonia.net/surname_finding_aid.htm

Ceil Jensen has set up this page on her Website where you can list names that have been misread, misspelled, or otherwise mangled. The idea is that that looking at these changes may give

you a lead in figuring out how yours have been changed. You can contact Ceil and share your mangled surnames at <cjensen@mipolonia.net>.

<http://www.archives.gov.ua/Sections/Wolyn/index.php>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list, Laurence Krupnak <Lkrupnak@erols.com> passed on information he received that “the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine has recently made the joint Ukrainian-Polish guide to archives of the Volhynian conflict available online free of charge at this address. The entire document is about 18 megs and is available in both Ukrainian and Polish. The site itself has Ukrainian and English versions and provides a wealth of knowledge about the ‘many millions of documents that together form a national documentary heritage of all peoples of Ukraine through ten centuries of ‘written history’ as reflected by the papers of individuals, records of organizations, and government institutions.” The English version of the home page is at <http://www.archives.gov.ua/Eng/>.

<http://www.roots-saknes.lv/mainroots.htm>

For those with Latvian roots, on the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup Carol Rider mentioned this website dealing with Latvian genealogy and history. It includes information about all the major denominations in Latvia during the late 1800s into the 20th century.

<http://slate.msn.com/id/2116329/>

Ray Marshall sent me an article by Paul Boutin entitled “Brewster Kahle made a copy of the Internet. Now, he wants your files.” Ray thinks Mr. Kahle’s Internet Archive and Wayback Machine might be the answer to many genealogists’ prayers. Read the article and see what you think—or visit the archive itself at <http://www.archive.org/>. (My 5-year-old twin granddaughters love the Film Chest Vintage Cartoons preserved there! It’s the first time they’d ever seen Popeye, Woody Woodpecker, Felix the Cat, etc.)

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ukrodess/page8.html>

If you could use a little help translating the headings of Russian vital registers, Alan Shuchat posted this URL on the soc.jewish.genealogy newsgroup. It won’t answer all your questions, but it might help you get started.

<http://www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search.asp>

Also on that newsgroup, Les Culank posted this address, where you can search the UK National Archives at Kew for naturalization records. He added that if you find records, there is an online ordering system to obtain full copies: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/recordcopying/>.

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp

Also on that newsgroup, Hilary Henkin said the Family History Library has lots of records of border crossing records for Canada and the U.S. At the page above, click on “search by keyword” and enter “immigration naturalization service.” You get lots of choices and may have to search carefully to find the ones you want.

<http://www.halgals.com/vitalrecords.html>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list Matthew Bielawa <bielawam@mail.ccsu.edu> announced that he's added a page to his Halgal Website that provides "both a tutorial for reading the Greek Catholic vital records and extract forms which you can use to easily copy the information from the film." You can find this information at the above address under "Tutorial of Vital Records" and "Extracting Data."

<http://www.rootspoland.com>

Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> sent me this link to a Website by Polish researcher Tadeusz (Tad) Wysocki. It tells about his research company, "RootsPoland." The Website is quite detailed and includes a price list as well as many references with contact information.

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