



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_5.pdf

*** BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

As you may have noticed in past issues, I like to pass along word of books I hear about that might prove helpful to researchers. Some months one book comes to my attention; some months it's two or three. May has brought an unusually rich harvest: no fewer than 7 books that struck me as worth mentioning for your edification.

I should explain that I have only seen one of these books so far, so I cannot say from personal experience how good the others are. But I only mention them here if word about them comes from, or is confirmed by, some source I consider generally reliable. I don't want to waste your time sending you after books that turn out to be worthless!

Atop my list—because I actually have a copy—is the third Polish-language book I have ever seen on genealogy. It is entitled *Poszukiwanie przodków: Genealogia dla każdego* [Seeking Ancestors: Genealogy for Everybody]. The author is Małgorzata Nowaczyk, Associate Professor Pathology and Molecular Medicine and Associate Member, Paediatrics, at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. A pediatrician and geneticist by profession, she's a native Pole who also happens to have a passion for genealogy! She's written a book that shares with Poles her love of this pursuit, and encourages them to try it for themselves. Her point is that genealogy is not just for snooty descendants of nobility—it is for everybody!

It's a shame most of our readers are not fluent in Polish, because Dr. Nowaczyk—"Marg," as she tells her English-speaking friends to call her—has written a very enjoyable book. Her style is never obscure or elitist; she conveys as much information as possible, with no strain or effort. It is a real pleasure reading as she takes you through every step of genealogical research. If you are reasonably fluent in Polish, this is not just a good reference work; it's a comrade to take along on your quest! You can learn more about it by visiting the publisher's Website, <http://www.piw.pl>. Or just Google "Malgorzata Nowaczyk," and you'll find a large number of Polish Websites discussing her book, as well as many devoted to her medical accomplishments.

I suppose I must mention, in the interest of fairness, that I am not entirely unbiased. I helped Marg with the dictionary of Russian terms that appears among the appendixes. That's 30 pages out of 400+, so I can hardly lay claim to any great role in the creation of the book. But working with her did not exactly prejudice me **against** her book—I expected to love it before I ever saw it—and I probably should say so.

Another book that sounds fascinating was brought up by Marv Pozdol on the Poland-Roots list: *Commemorations and the Shaping of Modern Poland* by Patrice M. Dabrowski, Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis. Published in 2004. (This book was also mentioned in the January 2005 issue of *Gen Dobry!* by Edward Ahtel, who was reading it at the time.) Marv said "Having been to Kraków and Warsaw, it brought back many memories—I wish I knew this history before I visited Poland in 2001." He added that Indiana University Press has a Website at <http://iupress.indiana.edu>, and I noticed there's a page specifically on this book: <http://www.indiana.edu/~iupress/books/0-253-34429-8.shtml>.

Betty Iwanski, wife of PGSA President Edmund Iwanski, sent out a notice several weeks ago that the Polish Museum of America in Chicago was hosting Leonard Kniffel, the author of *A Polish Son In The Motherland: An American's Journey Home*. Though that reception has long since passed, I gathered from what I read online that this sounds like an entertaining and informative read. A Google search for "A Polish Son In The Motherland" turned up lots of Websites, including that of the publisher, Texas A&M University Press, at <http://www.tamu.edu/upress/BOOKS/2005/kniffel.htm>. Here we learn the book was published in May 2005, is 6 x 9", 246 pp., and is available in cloth (ISBN 1-58544-420-0 for \$35.00 or in paperback (1-58544-441-3) for \$17.95. It's available from many booksellers, including Amazon.com (paperback \$12.21).

Author Elizabeth Petty Bentley sent out notice that the 5th edition of her *Genealogist's Address Book* is now available in both paperback and CD-ROM versions. The publisher's prices are \$49.99 plus \$6.00 shipping and handling for the paperback (three-column format, 791 pp., 8¼ x 11½" trim size) and \$19.99 plus \$4.00 s&h for the CD-ROM (single-column format, 2684 pp.). Until June 30, however, you can get it directly from her at a special price: paperback at \$45.00 postpaid, the CD-ROM at \$19.99 ppd., or both together for \$60.00 ppd. For more information see her Website, <http://www.geocities.com/epbentley/genealogy.html>, or write her at epbentley@hotmail.com.

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup was word of a specialty item that might be of great help to Jewish genealogists: *A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents*, ISBN: 0-9537669-6-9 (56 pages p/b) Published May 2005. It was published in England by JGSGP Publications, PO Box 180, St. Albans, Herts. AL2 3WH, England, U.K., Website: <http://www.jgsgp.org.uk/bookb1.shtml#Reading>. The price is £4.50 plus p&p UK 50p/Europe £1.50/Canada/USA £2.00.

The Website says "The Guide includes the Hebrew alphabet, Hebrew vowels, numerical values, Jewish calendar, conversion tables, formula to convert a Jewish year to a Gregorian year, how to read headstones, symbols on headstones and their meanings, frequently used Hebrew words with abbreviations found on tombstones, Hebrew given boys' and girls' names, Hebrew letters which are liable to be misread, glossary of Yiddish terms, examples of Hebrew documents/inscriptions, many photographs and much more."

Another book of particular interest to Jewish researchers—but I have a notion that, used judiciously, it may also help non-Jews—is *A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*, Lars Menk, published by Avotaynu. Running 824 pages, it identifies more than 13,000 German-Jewish surnames from pre-World War I Germany. I've ordered my copy, and a recent issue of *Nu? What's New?* says advance orders are about to be shipped; I can't wait to see it. More information is available here: <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/menk.htm>. The book costs \$89.00, so it is a sizable investment. I intend to write a review for the next issue of *Gen Dobry!*

Finally, on the Posen mailing list, James Birkholz <James.Birkholz@usa.okmetic.com> wrote of being intrigued lately by a recent book, *Ordinary Prussians: Brandenburg Junkers and Villagers, 1500-1840*, by Wm. H. Hagen. James said Hagen's earlier book *Germans, Poles and Jews: The Nationality Conflict in the Prussian East, 1772-1914*, had a lot of good material; a small excerpt can be read here: <http://www.posen-l.com/pos/GPJ.html>. James explained that the newer book "paints a picture of life in the northern part of the neighboring province of Brandenburg, but many

things would be the same in Posen. You can read and print 5 page excerpts by searching its contents on Amazon.com (and purchase it there of course), and the publisher has the first 2 dozen pages online in Acrobat format at:

<http://assets.cambridge.org/052181/5584/sample/0521815584ws.pdf>.”

So many books, so little time (and money!). I'd love to buy and read them all. In any case, I wanted to mention them here, because books of this sort don't get a lot of mainstream media attention. If they're not to disappear without a trace, those of us interested in their subjects must spread the word. I'm not trying to tell you what to buy; I'd just like you to know these books do exist and can be obtained. It's up to you to decide whether they're worth further attention on your part.

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

Subject: Bill Dzierzek, Monte Cassino

Editor—The September issue included a note from John Askham <john@askham48.freemove.co.uk> asking for help finding “a Sargent in the Polish 2nd corps ... involved in the capture of Monte Cassino, His name is Bill Dzierzek and was my wife’s father. His last known address was, Grange Avenue, Toronto, Canada.” Here is a reply I received earlier this month:

To John <john@askham48.freemove.co.uk> asking in *Gen Dobry!* to help find info about Bill Dzierzek: I have lot of info. He sponsored me to Canada in 1963. I am his brother’s daughter. Send me email.

Lucy Dzierzek-Gabinet <lucy.gabinet@gmail.com>

Editor—Lucy and I both wrote to John at the address he gave earlier, but neither of us received a reply. I am printing this note in the hope he might still be subscribed under another address, or maybe one of our readers knows him and can pass this information along. John, if you’re out there, please contact Lucy; it sounds as if she might be exactly the person you’re looking for!

Subject: Polish Trivia

Editor—As usual, we give the answers to the Polish Trivia in last month’s issue later on. But I wanted to print this e-mail from Tina Ellis, who showed how much you can find on the Internet if you have a little patience and motivation.

I had some time, so I decided to look up the answers for the trivia questions in your April issue. I cheated. I only knew the answer to the first one.

1. Did the earliest Polish settlers arrive in America before or after the *Mayflower*?

Does the average American youngster—whether of Polish or any other extraction—learn in school that a group of Poles arrived at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608, 12 years before anyone had even heard of the *Mayflower*? Is he or she told that the Jamestown Poles not only laid the foundations for America’s first industry (the manufacture of pitch, soap and glass) but also staged America’s first civil-rights strike?

SOURCE: http://www.polishnews.com/fulltext/essay/2001/essay66_2.shtml

2. With what place are the names Bogdan, Mata, Sadowski and Stefanski remembered?

Daniel Sadowski became Archbishop of Gniezno in west central Poland. Born at Radom, not far from Sadowie and perhaps of the same clan as Antoni Sadowski, was Stanislaus Sadowski, who arrived at Jamestown, Virginia in 1608. Stanislaus Sadowski arrived with seven other Poles. Among them were Jur Mata, Zbigniew Stefanski, Michal Lowicki, Karol Zranica, and Jan Bogdan.

SOURCE: <http://members.aol.com/anderson73/saddesc.html>

3. In which Slavic group are the Polish people placed?

The Polish language belongs to the western Slavic group of Indo-European languages, like Czech and Slovak. Over 90 percent of the population claims to be Roman Catholic, though one will come across numerous Orthodox and Greek Catholic Churches, Lutheran and Calvin congregations, synagogues and old mosques.

SOURCE: http://www.polishculture.org.uk/polinfo/polinfo_population.html

4. What church is considered “The Polish Church” for Poles living in Rome?

Mass in the Polish church of St. Stanislaw in Rome, Thursday, Feb. 4, 2005.

SOURCE: <http://www.catholicpressphoto.com/servizi/04-02-2005-messa-polacca/default.htm>

5. What was the first Polish episcopal see?

Polish history began in the early 9th century when the Polians (dwellers in the field) obtained hegemony over the others Slavic tribes that occupied the country. Their principal dynasty (Piast) accepted Christianity in 966. Poznań was the earliest Polish capital and Gniezno the first Episcopal see.

SOURCE:

<http://66.102.7.104/search?q=3Dcache:20F9JmQAGOsJ:ciesin.ci.uw.edu.pl/poland/polhistory.html+first+Polish+episcopal+see&hl=3Den>

Tina Ellis <vellis@jps.net>

Editor—I’m impressed! If I were grading, I’d give you an A+! Incidentally, I couldn’t make that list link work, but I’ve repeated it in case it’s only down temporarily.

Subject: Name Changes

In your article on the name change to Ross and in this month's article on the name change to Smith, I was reminded about my brother who changed his name to Warner. We lived in the large Polish area around St. Josaphat Church and he was in the business of selling fruits and vegetables from a horse-drawn wagon. This was about 1931, my birth year. Most of his customers were in the area just north of St. Josaphat's around St. Alfonso's, which was a large area of German people. He found he had better sales with the name Warner.

Richard Warmowski <rwarmowski@yahoo.com>

Editor— Thanks for the note! It's a really good illustration of the kind of practical motives people sometimes had for changing their names. I think most Poles were proud of their names and didn't like to change them, necessarily. But they were, and are, hard-working, practical people. If changing their name helped them get ahead, they'd do it! And they didn't waste too much time worrying about whether they were making things tough for any descendants who might be genealogists ;-)

Subject: Mangled Surnames and Photo Finding Aids

Thanks for posting my call for mangled surnames. I have two pages right now. I was overwhelmed by the replies. I see they are breaking down the way you cited in you lectures: meanings of the surname, dropping Polish letter combinations and mimicking Anglo surnames. The most interesting to me was the change in Jewish family surnames. The rudimentary index for Surname Finding Aid is here:

http://mipolonia.net/surname_finding_aid.htm

I also am cataloguing my family photos and identifying the Detroit photo studios serving the Pol-Am population. I will eventually put a call out for that ...but not right now! I found a PL website that has an unknown photo from a Detroit studio. Sent back to the folks in the old country.

My goal is to publish a pictorial history of the studios and create a chapter that helps family historians identify their "unknown" photos in their collection. Since each studio was in walking distance of a parish or two, a map will identify the sacramental records available for family researchers. The index for the Photo Finding Aid is here:

http://mipolonia.net/photo_finding_aid/

Right now I am only collected Studio Photos from Detroit researchers. If it is successful I may be able to expand the collection. Looking for Detroit portraits, first communions, confirmations, school groups and weddings. I don't know if anyone would have professional funeral photos. With acknowledgments to the Dead Fred site (<http://deadfred.com/index.php>), folks can submit studio photos with the following information: Last Name; First Name; Middle Name; Subject's City: Detroit; Subject's State: MI; Subject's County: Wayne; Subject's Country: United States;

Date; Photographer; Photographer's City: Detroit; Photographer's State: MI; Nee; Comments. For privacy, PLEASE do not submit images of living people.

Ceil Wendt Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net>

Editor—As always, thanks for the info, Ceil!

***** ST. MICHAEL'S POLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 1905-1935 (DERBY, CT) *****

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

[The following article was taken from the book The Tercentenary Pictorial and History of the Lower Naugatuck Valley 1935, compiled by Leo T. Molloy. The history stops at the then-current day of 1935. Additional information may be found at the Websites listed at the end of the article. There was also an article on this parish in the Fall 1985 issue of Pathways & Passages, the newsletter of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast. — Paul Valasek]

An enduring memorial to the faith and zeal of the early Polish settlers of this vicinity as well as to its parishioners today stands in the well-equipped, valuable property of St. Michael's parish in East Derby. It is a memorial to their faith and their loyalty not only to Church but to Country. In Derby, the history of the Polish people is one that reflects credit upon themselves and their devotion, farsightedness and integrity. Thirty years of parish history shows great progress together with careful administration on the part of their pastors.

Parish Organized

The movement for a Polish parish in Derby was started in 1902. The Polish people felt that they wanted a church of their own, with a pastor who could talk to them in their own language. At that time they were connected with St. Mary's church, and at intervals Rev. Charles J. McElroy, pastor of St. Mary's, secured a Polish priest to come here and conduct services for them. But so earnest were some of the Poles for a church, that they bought a piece of land in East Derby, on which were three houses, and presented this to the bishop for church purposes. The bishop, finding that the Polish people of Derby were ready to go thus far in the interest of a parish, consented to send a priest here, and shortly after the land was bought he designated Rev. George Glogowski, C.M., to see if a parish could be formed. The priest found the field a fertile one and on July 16, 1905, the parish was organized. The parish originally comprised the Polish people of Derby, Ansonia, Shelton, and Seymour.

In the beginning services were held in the chapel of St. Mary's church, but in September of that year the hall in the old Whitlock Machine Shop was hired and fitted up for worship. Here services were held until Christmas. In November 1906, Rev. George Glogowski was succeeded by Rev. Stanislaus Konieczny, who remained here only a short time, being succeeded by Rev. Paul Waszko, C.M.

Rev. Paul Waszko

Under Father Waszko the work was pushed ceaselessly. Not only did he strengthen the parish, but he eagerly entered into the building of the church. On looking over the ground he saw that the lot adjoining that which had been bought and presented to the bishop was the best place for the church because it was already graded and free from buildings, the buildings having been destroyed by fire. This he purchased and shortly afterwards had plans prepared for the erection of the church.

The work on the foundation was begun early in the spring of 1906 and by September 23 they were ready for the laying of the cornerstone, which rite was performed by the Right Rev. Michael Tierney, Bishop of Hartford, in the presence of a great crowd of people.

After that the work on the building went ahead rapidly, and by Christmas the basement of the church was completed and made ready for occupancy, the first Mass being celebrated in the basement on Christmas day. From then on services were held in the basement, and work on the other part of the church proceeded. The dedication of the new church took place July 4, by the Rt. Rev. John Synnott, vicar general of the diocese of Hartford. The square formed just in front of the church by the intersection of Derby avenue and Main street, was so packed with the Polish people it seemed that every man, woman and child in the parish was present to witness these ceremonies to which they had looked forward for so long and for which they had worked so hard.

An Achievement

The church that cost \$40,000 was an important step in the rapid advancement of St. Michael's parish. When it is considered that the parish was not yet two years old, that fact that a church had been built, shows that the pastor and the people were imbued with a spirit and an energy rarely found in parishes of any denomination. When it is further considered that the people of this parish were not wealthy but that the great majority of them earned not more than \$1.50 a day, the sacrifice that was necessary to raise the funds needed to build the church appears very great indeed. But it did not appear too great to the people of the parish, for they illustrated what can be done through united effort. There were no large donations to help out the church work, but everyone gave willingly according to his means, and as a result the church was built within two years from the time of the organization of the parish.

One of the interesting things about the pews in the church was that they were put in by members of the parish, who volunteered to set them, in order to save the parish the expense of having this work done by carpenters. This illustrated one of the many ways in which members of the parish have worked to make the church possible and to realize the hopes they entertained of having a church of their own.

The New School

The proof how the people of St. Michael's parish are generous for public deeds is the erection of a school and convent for the Sisters, which were finished in 1914. The school is a three story brick building with ten rooms and a spacious auditorium. It is conducted by the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth. The Catholic Church carries the great burden of its educational system by which boys

and girls are taught the principles of religion and respect for authority, not only because it is necessary to the Church itself, but also because it believes it is necessary for the preservation of American ideals, which are founded in Christianity. The Catholic Church knows that the only way to insure future citizenship is to inculcate in the young the principles of religion. That is the reason why Catholics, who like other citizens, pay their taxes and contribute to the upkeep of public institutions at the same time bear the tremendous burden of their own educational system.

Societies

The social activity is carried on by different organizations to which the people of the parish belong. There are: Young Men's Association for boys, Sodality of Mary for girls, St. Michael's, John Sobieski the King's, benefit societies for men; the Union of Polish Women, benefit society for women; St. Thaddeus, a group of Polish National Alliance* [see link below]; Casimir Pulaski, a group of Polish National Alliance in Shelton**; and St. Joseph's Society, a group of the Roman Catholic Polish Union***.

* <http://www.polishroots.org/asp/findpnalodge.asp?City=derby&Lodge=&Search=Search>

** <http://www.polishroots.org/asp/findpnalodge.asp?City=shelton&Lodge=&Search=Search>

*** <http://www.polishroots.org/asp/findprcualodge.asp?Lodge=&City=derby&State=&Search=Search>

Various athletics are emphasized in the development of the youth of the parish. There are basketball teams, football teams and baseball teams.

When Rev. Paul Waszko, C.M., was transferred to Brooklyn, N.Y., he was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Studzinski, C.M., who conducted the parish from July, 1924, to January, 1929. The present pastor is Rev. Stanislaus Konieczny, C.M., and his worthy assistant is Rev. Julian Pustelnik, C.M.

Last year (1934) the church was renovated and beautifully decorated. The short history of St. Michael's parish shows that it is an active, vigorous and progressive congregation.

Rev. Stanislaus Konieczny

Rev. Stanislaus Konieczny, twice and present pastor of St. Michael's church, is a native of Cracow, Poland. He pursued his studies for the priesthood at the University of Cracow and was there ordained in 1899. He spent eight years as president of St. John Kanty College, Erie, PA., and for two years was a member of Mission Band in Brooklyn. In 1906 he served a brief pastorate at St. Michael's and was returned here in 1929 and is still pastor of the church. Father Konieczny is a member of the Vincentian Fathers and attended the provincial convention of that order in Paris in 1933.

Rev. Julian Pustelnik

Rev. Julian Pustelnik, assistant pastor of St. Michael's church, is a native of Silesia. He studied for the priesthood at the University of Cracow, Poland, and was ordained there in 1924. He spent two years as an instructor at St. John Kanty College, Erie, PA., and came to St. Michael's as assistant pastor in 1928. He is a member of the Vincentian Order.

Important Dates in St. Michael's History

1902 — Movement started for Polish Parish in Derby.
July 16, 1905 — St. Michael's Parish organized.
September 23, 1906 — Cornerstone of Church laid.
July 4, 1907 — St. Michael's Church dedicated.
1914 — Erection of School and Convent.

Pastors of St. Michael's Church

Rev George Glogowski, C.M. – 1905-1906
Rev. Stanislaus Konieczny, C.M. – 1906-1906
Rev. Paul Waszko, C.M. – 1906-1924
Rev. Joseph Studzinski, C.M. – 1924-1929
Rev. Stanislaus Konieczny, C.M. – 1929 (present 1935)

Current websites which give details on the parish:

<http://www.electronicvalley.com/tour/DerbyChurches.htm>

http://www.design-street.com/pssderby/english/e_history.htm

*** WHERE IS THAT BOOK OR PERIODICAL I WANT TO READ? ***

by *Edward David Luft* <edwardluft@hotmail.com>

Suppose that you have the correct title and/or the author of a book [or a periodical title], almost certainly out of print; or you know that you do not want to buy the book, only refer to it, at least initially. You could go to the local reference library to see what Eureka or WorldCat says about which reference libraries in the world hold the book. But at home you are more limited, since you do not want to pay for a subscription to either service. A subscription would cost thousands of dollars a year for each of those two services! That's not much fun!

So what can you do at home, rather than at the library, to find it? How many reference librarians, after all, will offer you instant gratification in your own home? And if they did, would you really find it all that gratifying? So take a look instead at <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/open/default.htm>. [I call it "WorldCat light", a kind of "down and dirty" shortcut. You are home, after all, and quite possibly alone at your computer!] By entering the author or the title, you can see what is available. With some experimentation, you can even see where the book is in large parts of the Western World and even in a few other places. Then simply visit the website of that research library to find out more, such as that library's call number for the publication and the library's contact information. It really is that simple.

Here's an example. Say you wish to search for all of the books published by Luft, Edward David. In Google or in Yahoo enter in quotation marks: "find in a library" and then add the name of the

author [or the title]. The results, however, returned only one and not both of my books, although it did show that there is a copy of the book in Singapore, which I know to be true. So you really cannot wholly rely on “WorldCat light,” but it is better than nothing until you can visit your local reference library.

By playing with the ZIP Code entry, you can even see in which other libraries, sometimes even in other parts of the world, the book is held. When I entered ZIP codes for East and West Coast USA libraries, at most I found regional holdings; but by entering actual ZIP Codes for locations in Middle America, I sometimes was rewarded with holdings in foreign countries as well.

If you do not find all that you want, a visit to your local reference library to use WorldCat and/or Eureka—both of which your local reference librarian can explain to you—is always a more complete option. Currently, “WorldCat light” lists all known holders; after 1 July 2005 “WorldCat light” will only list participating libraries and not all holders of the books, periodicals, etc.

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>

***** THE CENTRAL ADDRESS BUREAU *****

Editor—I often have occasion to mention to researchers an office in Poland, the Centralne Biuro Adresowe (Central Address Bureau) that can, under specific circumstances, provide addresses of people currently living in that country. Recently on the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list Theresa < TMTeoli@aol.com > posted a note I thought worth sharing in edited form, with more information on this office.

My tidbit of advice to those wanting to find people in Poland: do what I did. I wrote to the Bureau of Addresses in Warsaw. I asked if there were possibly any people with the surnames I had who I might be able to write to and were possibly family to me. I used a form letter from one of the books I had; it was in Polish and I filled in the blanks. I sent a pedigree chart, also in Polish, I got from the Polish society in California, where I lived at that time.

I was surprised when in about a month I got a letter through the Polish embassy in Los Angeles. It gave me 4 addresses of people with the Osiurak surname, and one Setlak (nee Labant). I believe that the government contacted these people in advance and asked if they would give permission to release their address, and then the Polish Bureau of Addresses in Warsaw sent these addresses, with permission from the people themselves, to me via the Polish consulate in Los Angeles.

From my correspondence with these family members on the Osiurak side I learned there used to be Osiurak family members in Pennsylvania which the Polish family wrote to in the 60s. I wrote to one address in Ellwood City PA, got no reply. I found an obituary for a Frank Oshurak, found he belonged to a Catholic church in Ellwood, contacted the church, and it gave me the nursing home

where the eldest Osiurak member resided. I got her son's address as well in the phone directory online.

I traced my Pretka lady to a Pretka living on the same street as in an address a family in Poland gave me. From Mary Pretka I got pictures and a bit of information about our family. Now in Poland I have a cousin who has access to email. I am happy now.

The address for the Bureau of Addresses in Poland is:

Centralne Biuro Adresowe
ul Kazimerzowska 60
02-543 WARSZAWA
POLAND

Editor—Note that it does little good to write the Central Address Bureau and say “I need addresses for Nowak, I don't know where they live”—they're not going to send you the addresses of all 200,000+ Nowak's in Poland! Your best chance of success is if the name you're looking for is rare, or if you can pinpoint what part of Poland your family came from. If you don't have that information, you can always ask; but don't be disappointed if they come up empty.

***** LVIV ARCHIVE CLOSED INDEFINITELY (?) *****

Recently V. Semeniv <vladis@mail.lviv.ua> posted a note on the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list saying that the Lviv State Archive is to be closed for an indefinite period, beginning May 30, 2005. He said it was caused by the need to “perform strict control of the funds ordered by Kyiv authority.” He said he was about to leave for Ukraine and would tell more when he returned.

Jim Onyschuk <jodanji@aci.on.ca> posted a follow-up note, noting a disturbing press release on the Ukrainian State Archives site at <http://www.archives.gov.ua/Eng/Archives/Lviv.php>. It told of serious problems with theft of documents from the Archives holdings. It was not clear whether that was connected with the Lviv Archive's closing or not. Whether it was or not, it's a serious problem.

Obviously this is one of those stories where we have to end “More to follow.” But I thought I should mention this in case any of you have plans to visit the Archive in Lviv soon. It might be wise to check and see if you need to revise them!

***** 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 April Issue:

- Q. Did the earliest Polish settlers arrive in America before or after the Mayflower?
- A. Before the Mayflower

- Q. With what place are the names Bogdan, Mata, Sadowski and Stefanski remembered?
- A. The Jamestown Settlement

- Q. In which Slavic group are the Polish people placed?
- A. The Western Slavs

- Q. What church is considered “The Polish Church” for Poles living in Rome?
- A. The Church of St. Stanislaw, B. and M.

- Q. What was the first Polish episcopal see?
- A. Gniezno

New Questions for the May Issue

Topic: Traditions

1. On what religious day in Poland do marriageable young women float floral wreaths down a river?
2. What Polish queen is associated with the salt legend?
3. What three brothers in Polish mythology founded Slavic nations?
4. In the old Polish legend, what did the king’s 12 princes and one princess become?
5. Complete the Polish proverb, “Curiosity is the first step to _____.”

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*** 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>.

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 12, 2005

2:00 p.m.

Polish Genealogical Society of America Meeting

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church
1255 N. Noble St.
Chicago, IL

Between 1874 and 1899 St. Stanislaus Kostka parish was the “mother Catholic Church of Polish parishes.” Mrs. Diane Wilder, Development Director, will conduct a tour of the church and provide background and current information about this historic church.

June 14, 2005

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the **Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG)** will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2005, at the St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Avenue from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

This seasonal wrap-up session will include:

- * Sharing Legends of our Families: Proving or Disproving Them
 - * Ideas for next season's program
 - * Members' mini-presentations
-

June 23, 2005

6:30 p. m.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts summer meeting will be held at the Agawam Senior Center. Our speaker will be Frances (Rozkuszka) Gagnon, who will discuss her research into her local Polish family. She will stress the value of retaining all historical material and how the seemingly insignificant material can bring out noteworthy details of their daily life. She will bring historical items and explain their importance. There will be Q&A. New acquisitions will be on display. Open to all. **FREE**. Bring a friend.

Directions: The Agawam Senior Center is located in Meadow Brook Manor on Wright Street, (West off Main Street/Route 159) Agawam, MA. Call (413) 586-1827 for more details, or visit our Website (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mapgsm/>) for latest information.

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

We should mention that one of the speakers will be our own Paul S. Valasek, lecturing on "Immigrant Steamships, 1850–1950." Stop by and say hello!

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>.

October 2, 2005 Sunday

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The Great Eastern European Festival

Old Deerfield, Massachusetts

A celebration of Polish, Ukrainian and other Eastern European cultures with ethnic food, dancing, music, books & crafts. Polish Food. Polish Genealogy display with resources and Q&A. Admission \$5. Next to Memorial Hall Museum in Old Deerfield, Massachusetts.

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

<http://www.ksiazka-telefoniczna.com/>

On the Polish Genius list Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> posted a note saying the Polish Telephone Book is back online at this address. “It covers all of Poland and is available in Polish, English, French and German. You do not have to use the correct diacritical marks. There are a few drawbacks however. You do have to know the new *województwo*, village and surname. You can’t just do a general search on all of Poland or even a *województwo*. You must know the village. I compared it with my 2002 Krosno phone book (paper version) and there are at least a few surnames which do not show up in the online version. I don’t know why. One surname had several listings in the paper book but none online. So even if you don’t find someone online, that still doesn’t mean those people don’t live in the village you are searching.”

<http://www.utexas.edu/courses/slaving/grapp/images/ts-eng.pdf>

People with roots in Silesia, or Texas, might find this paper worth a look. Dating from 1990 and written by Gilbert C. Rappaport of the University of Texas at Austin, it's a linguistic examination of Polish as spoken by Silesian immigrants to Texas. By about page 5 it's probably too technical for most folks; but if you skim through it you may find some interesting tidbits.

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/022/008/index-e.html>

The May 1, 2005 issue of *Nu? What's New* gave this as the site of an index to more than 12,000 divorces in Canada has been posted by Library and Archives Canada. For more information on developments affecting Canadian research, see that issue at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/v06n06.htm>.

<http://www.semanchuk.com/gen/maps/index.html#spezialkarte>

On the Poland-Roots list Jane <muehsam@bigpond.com> said this was "by far the best map I have seen on the area of Galizien that I am searching. It can be downloaded for free. HUGE!!. There are also details on how to print and also a legend."

<http://www.lineages.com>

Also on the Poland-Roots list, Susan <SuznKelley@aol.com> said there is an inexpensive look-up service at this site for those who can't use LDS microfilms for any reason. "Depending on what you want searched and the number of requests, it can be as little as \$6 per look up for indexed films. They respond within about a week or so with hard copy, often large size paper. By their response I can usually tell they looked thoughtfully, not just by rote."

<http://www.genealogicaltree.org.ua/eng/eindex.html>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list Mark <mnenartowick@cox.net> asked if anyone had insights or firsthand experience using the services of the Ukrainian Center for Genealogical Research, whose Website is at the above URL. If you know something about this Center and would like to pass on your comments to Mark (and to us), please don't hesitate to do so.

<http://www.apronus.com/learnpolish/>

On the PolandBorderSurnames list Sherry Rorick <gosherry@centurytel.net> praised this as a good site for seeing and hearing the Polish language.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/pdir/poldir.html>

Also on PolandBorderSurnames, Chris Bukoski <cbgenealogy@hotmail.com> cited this page on the Library of Congress site with pre-World War II directories. "The first one is 'Handlowa ksiega adresowa Polski i Gdanska.' A 1923 commercial directory for the entire country, including Gdańsk (Danzig), totaling about 700 pages. A guide to navigating this online publication can be found on the Gesher Galicia website. The second is 'Spis abonentow warszawskiej sieci telefonow Polskiej Akcyjnej Spolki Telefonicznej i rządowej warsz. sieci okregowej.' This is a 540-page white pages directory of Warsaw and environs on the eve of World War II, along with a listing of businesses and advertisements arranged by product or service, e. g., office machines,

sporting goods, physicians. This directory should be of special interest to researchers who lost relatives, friends, and/or property during the war.”

<http://listsearches.rootsweb.com/?list=POLAND-ROOTS>

On the Poland-Roots site Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> posted a note explaining how she finds which parish served a specific village. It’s a bit long to repeat here, but it’s full of good practical advice. You can read it by going to the archive at this URL, and searching 2005 for “Bronisl~awy.” All the notes are worth reading, but especially Debbie’s, which is listed as “filename 200.”

<http://www.austro-hungarian-army.co.uk/index.htm>

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup Adelle Weintraub Gloger responded to a request for information on Austro-Hungarian Military Records with a recommendation of this site, which includes “illustrations of insignia found on the collars of military uniforms and their meanings” and “history of the military and the battles.” She added that the site owner provided her with the URL for an English-language overview of the Austrian War Archive’s holdings at <http://www.genealogienetz.de/reg/AUT/krainf-e.htm>.

<http://www.routledge.com/textbooks/0415236614/resources/indi.asp>

Also on soc.genealogy.jewish Alan Kolnik recommended this site for maps showing Jewish emigration patterns, as well as <http://www.chalem.com/genealogy/maps/migration.htm>.

<http://www.jri-poland.org/jripltip.htm>

Also on that newsgroup Mark Halpern recommended viewing the Acrobat PDF downloadable at this site, “A Guide to Headings of 19th Century Galician Jewish Vital Record Forms (.PDF).” It provides translations of the headings of the birth, marriage, and death record forms used in Galicia starting in 1877.

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