



Gen Dobry!

Volume VI, No. 6

30 June 2005

ISSN 1555-774X. Copyright © 2005, PolishRoots®, Inc.

Editor: William F. "Fred" Hoffman, E-mail: <wfh@langline.com>

CONTENTS

Welcome
The Most Common Polish Surnames
Letters to the Editor
Some County Histories Searchable In Full-Text Online
Another Soundex Proposed
International Institute for Jewish Genealogy
The L'viv Archive: Update
Polish Trivia Questions
Upcoming Events
More Useful Web Addresses
You May Reprint Articles...

***** 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_6.pdf

*** THE MOST COMMON POLISH SURNAMES ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

In the last issue of *Gen Dobry!* I printed a short item on Poland's Central Address Bureau, which can sometimes provide addresses for Poles with specific surnames. I pointed out, however, that it's kind of silly writing to ask them about a name such as *Nowak*, which is extremely common all over the country. It's just plain horse sense that your chances of getting a useful answer improve if the name you ask about is not extremely common, and/or you can focus on a specific area. A request such as "Please send me addresses for all Nowak's in Poland" is a waste of time and postage; but "Please send me addresses for any Dworzański's living in Pomorskie province," that just might get you somewhere!

How do you know whether a specific name is common in Poland, and whether it shows up in the areas of interest to you? You can get a basic idea by searching for it here:

<http://www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html>

If you need help making sense of the data this Website provides, I wrote an article on the subject, "The *Słownik nazwisk* is Online," in the issue of *Gen Dobry!* available here:

http://polishroots.com/gendobry/GenDobry_vol3_no8.htm

Anyway, my note on this subject brought a reply from Sophie Korczyk <economist21@hotmail.com>, who frequently posts smart, sensible messages on the Polish genealogy lists :

Your comment about searching for common names (*Nowak*) gave me a little smile. I have now officially given up on warning people on the PBS list that no one *Kowalski*, or *Nowak*, or *Zakrzewski* should assume they are related to any other *Kowalski*, etc. I am guessing these are mainly people who may have only one Polish line in their lineage and want to do some work on it, but don't have the background. Common names are also a problem in my own research. Of my 4 grandparents' surnames, three are fairly uncommon, one (*Szpila*) particularly so. The fourth—*Wolski*—seems to be a dime a dozen. There is an armigerous *Wolski* line, too, but without a lot of work I have no way of knowing if they are in my line; I am not willing to *assume* they are.

I wonder if you could publish in *Gen Dobry!* even a short list of the 5 or 7 or 10 most common Polish names. I think this could move a lot of newbies several steps forward in their research.

Sophie gave me an idea for an article that would require very little work on my part. I love it when that happens!

Somewhere around here I have a list of the 50 most common Polish surnames; I've had it for years. Now that I want it, of course, I can't find it. Still, if memory serves, the "50 common Polish surnames" given on this Website covers most or all of the ones on that list I can't find:

http://genealogy.about.com/cs/surname/a/polish_surnames.htm

This site is worth mentioning anyway because the author gives basic info on each of the 50 surnames listed, plus some basics on surname origins. There are some inaccuracies, but by and large it's not bad. Let's say it's hard to do better without typing a 1,000-word essay and boring the hell out of the reader!

Now let me take the top ten on that list and provide hideously oversimplified translations, plus the 1990 data on their frequency from <http://www.herby.com.pl/herby/indexslo.html>, the Website I mentioned earlier:

1. NOWAK (“new guy,” like English NEWMAN): 220,217
2. KOWALSKI (“of the smith,” like English SMITH, or “one from Kowale” [Smithville]): 131,940
3. WIŚNIEWSKI (“from Wiśniów or Wiśniewo,” etc. = [place] of the cherry trees): 104,418
4. DĄBROWSKI (“from Dąbrowa” = oak grove): 92,945
5. KAMIŃSKI (“of stone,” much like the English surname STONE, or “from Kamień” = “Rockville”): 87,935
6. KOWALCZYK (“son of the smith,” like English SMITHSON): 87,690
7. ZIELIŃSKI (“of the green” or “from Zielona, Zielone, etc.,” like English GREEN): 85,988
8. SYMAŃSKI (should be SZYMAŃSKI, “of Simon,” like English SIMONS, or “one from Szymany” [Simonville]): 84,527
9. WOŹNIAK (“cart horse,” probably used much like English CARTER, or it can come from *woźny*, “beadle, bailiff”): 81,390
10. KOZŁOWSKI (“one from Kozłów or Kozłowo” = [place] of the goat = “one from Goatville”): 72,368

Let's just look at that information for a moment and think about what it tells us. I think right away it tells you not to be surprised if a Nowak or Kowalski or Wiśniewski shows up in your family tree. These are pretty common names. And take my word for it, they are not concentrated in any one area of Poland. Just as a Newman or Smith or Stone might come from anywhere in England, a Nowak or Kowalski or Kamiński can come from anywhere in Poland. The name, by itself, tells you nothing; to get anywhere in your research you must be able to specify “I'm looking for the Kowalski's who came from Szczurowa (“rat-town”) near Tarnów.” Even then, there might be quite a few local families named Kowalski, and you'll still have to untangle the lines to figure out which ones are yours.

Notice, too, that Polish names, though they seem exotic to us, are at least comparable in meaning to English names. They tend to refer to a place an ancestor came from, or his profession, or something about him that made him stand out, at least in the little community where he was living at the time. Especially common is reference to a place name which, in turn, came from a person's name. That pattern doesn't appear in the first ten (except for *Szymański*, which can refer to places named *Szymany* for a connection with a guy named Szymon, “Simon”). But that category shows up frequently in the next ten:

11. WOJCIECHOWSKI (“from Wojciechów or Wojciechowo” < the given name *Wojciech*, usually is rendered *Adalbert* or *Albert* in English, so that you could say this surname means “one from Albertville”): 63,519

12. KWIATKOWSKI (“of the little flower” or “one from Kwiatków or Kwiatkowo” [Little Flowerville]): 62,629
13. KACZMAREK (“little innkeeper, innkeeper’s son”): 59,403
14. PIOTROWSKI (“kin of Peter” or “one from Piotrów or Piotrowo” [Peterville]): 57,934
15. GRABOWSKI (“one from Grabów or Grabowo,” often < *grab*, “hornbeam tree”): 54,652
16. NOWAKOWSKI (“of the [kin] of the new guy” or “from Nowaki or Nowakowo” [New-guy-ville]): 54,178
17. PAWŁOWSKI (“one from Pawłów or Pawłowo” [Paulville]): 52,744
18. MICHALSKI (“of Michael,” much like English MICHAELS, or “from Michael’s [place]”): 51,325
19. NOWICKI (“from Nowica or Nowice”): 49,771
20. ADAMCZYK (“son of Adam,” much like English ADAMS): 49,599

What else does this tell us? Well, consider that the most common name, *Nowak*, was borne by some 220,000 Poles; by the time you get down to *Adamczyk* we’re talking fewer than 50,000 Poles. This hints at something further research confirms: there’s a fairly small list of surnames that are common by Polish standards, and then a huge mass of surnames that are rare. Of the 800,000+ surnames listed in that 1990 database, only about 45,000 were borne by more than 100 people. That means 95% of those surnames were borne by fewer than 100 people! This is worth keeping in mind: I’d say in the context of Polish names, any borne by more than 1,000 people are common, comparatively speaking.

(Obviously the same numerical standards don’t apply to Poland that apply in the U.S. Some data on surname frequency in the U. S., per the 1990 census, is available here:

http://names.mongabay.com/most_common_surnames.htm. A name borne by 220,000 Americans would only rank as #94, under Foster but ahead of Gonzales. Incidentally, Hoffman, borne by some 104,454 Americans, ranked #252. So people, quit writing me and asking if I’m kin to that Hoffman you’re distantly related to!)

Another point: all politics are local, and I think you could say genealogical research is, too. Even if a name is comparatively common in Poland, additional info may help you with it. For instance, there were 49,599 Polish citizens named *Adamczyk* in 1990, and in most provinces the numbers were sizable; for instance, there were 3,226 in Warsaw province. But only 84 lived in Łomża province! Here’s where added info can make a surname more helpful. If you know your *Adamczyk*’s came from the Łomża area, you discover that although *Adamczyk* is a common name, it’s not so very common in that area. Any *Adamczyk*’s you **do** find there might be relatives.

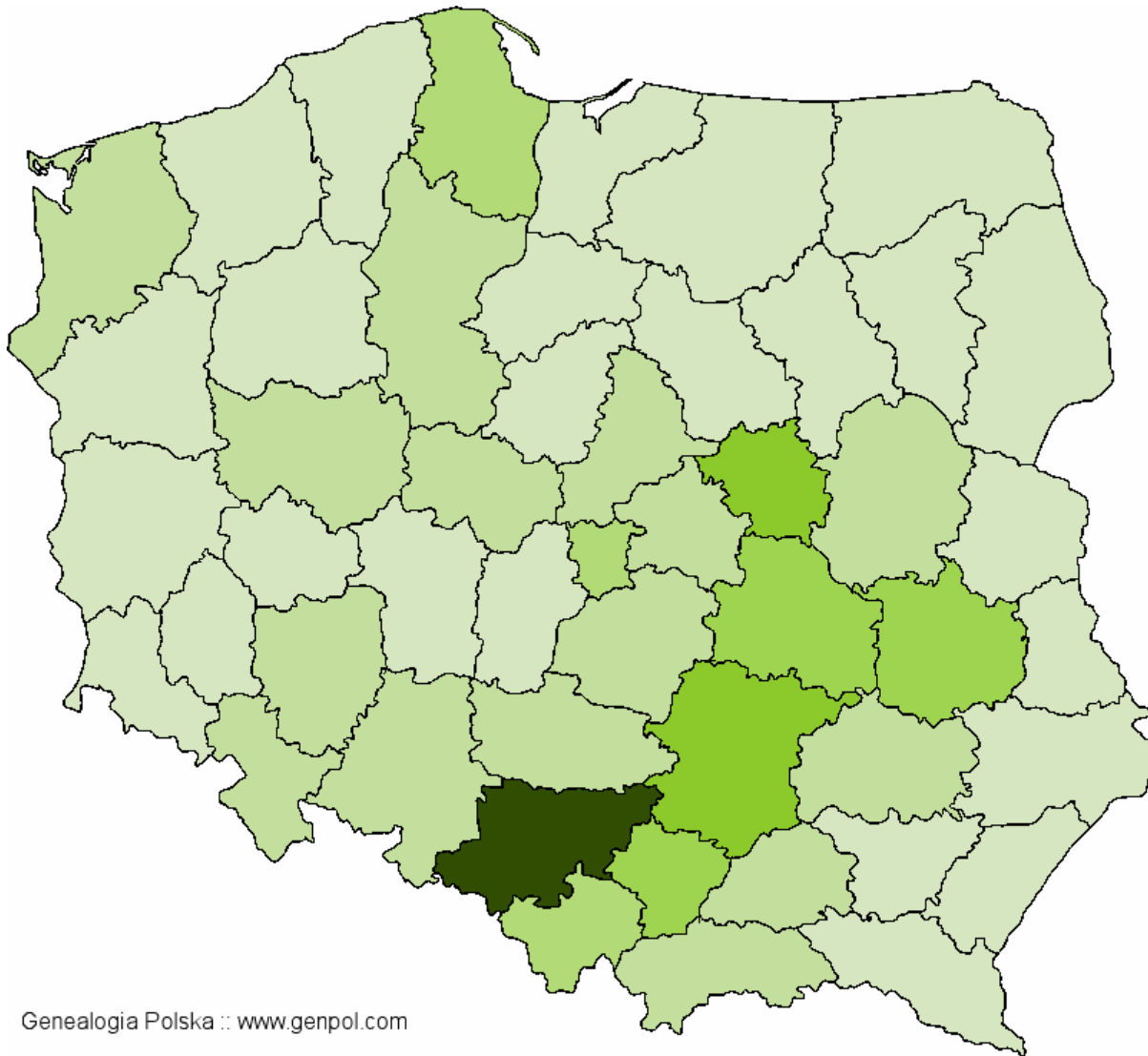
This can make a practical difference in how you approach your research. For instance, for most parts of Poland, writing the Central Address Bureau for the addresses of *Adamczyk*’s is kind of pointless. But if you can tell them to focus on the Łomża area, it might not be such a waste of time after all.

Of course, it helps if you can judge how rare or common a specific name is in a specific area. There are resources online that help you with that. Even though this page is in Polish, it’s worth a look:

<http://www.genpol.com/Mapa+main.html>

This page lets you paste in data from the 1990 database and generate a map showing a surname's distribution. So if you were on the *Słownik nazwisk* site and looked up *Adamczyk*, you can highlight the data in the 3rd column, "Rozmieszczenie" [Distribution], copy it (on PC's hit Ctrl and C), then go to the Mapa page and paste that data (Ctrl-V) into the large box where it says "Podaj dane o jednym nazwisku."

There's a smaller box under that one, labeled "Generuj mapkę dla nazwiska" (Generate map for the name). There you type in the name you're asking about. (You can ignore this if you wish, but it'll bug you with a message asking if you're sure you don't want to input the name). Then near the bottom of the page click on "Pokaż mapę." This generates a map in BMP format that shows at a glance whether or not the name in question is concentrated in a particular area. You can save the map, print it out, etc. Here's the map the *Adamczyk* data generates:



Darker green indicates greater frequency. As you can see instantly, the name is found all over the country, but is comparatively most common in the southcentral part of Poland—especially in the province of Katowice, where there were 7,071 Poles by that name. This shows you in graphic form

(easier to grasp than a bunch of numbers) that an Adamczyk near Katowice is no rarity; but in other areas, such as northeastern Poland, the name isn't so common.

By the way, that script also generates a list of how many people by that name lived in each province. The map doesn't include that list; if you want that data, you'll need to copy or print it out separately.

This may strike you as a lot of work with very little payoff. If so, you can ignore the tips I've given. But I notice a lot of the people who contact me with questions on surnames are particularly interested in knowing how common their surname is, and what part of Poland it comes from. Using the two Websites I've described above may help you answer that question for yourself.

If you find your name is fairly common in the area your ancestors came from, well, at least you can rule out the surname as a likely source of useful leads. If, on the other hand, your name turns out to be kind of rare in your ancestral region, that can affect your approach. If nothing else, it tells you anyone with that name in that area is worth a closer look—he might be a relative. And at least you'll know that every Nowak you run into isn't necessarily related to *your* Nowak's!

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

Subject: First Polish Episcopal See

Editor—In the last issue Tina Ellis answered the Polish trivia questions from the April issue, citing sources on the Web. I noted, however, that her link for info on the first Polish episcopal see (Gniezno) did not work. Here's her reply, which gives a link that does work.

I just read this issue of *Gen Dobry!* I don't know where I found the website that did not work. I just now found the data again on this one.

http://members.fortunecity.com/john_deere/shorthist.html

Tina Ellis <vellis@jps.net>

Editor—Thanks for tracking down this info for us, Tina.

Subject: Werchi, May 1916

Editor—Here's a question I received. I give my best answer below, but anyone who can tell us more is welcome to contact me or Mr. Bradtmiller.

Please advise what you can tell me as to where Werchi was and what happened there in May 1916. I understand that the Polish 1st Legion Lancers were there. Were they serving the Russians, the Germans or the Austrians? Any info you have would be appreciated.

Paul Bradtmiller <nancyvenice@earthlink.net>

Editor—I think you may be referring to the village called Verkhy in Ukraine, which Poles call Werchy, northeast of Kovel' or Kovel' or Kowel (depending on whether you use the Ukrainian name, the Russian name, or the Polish name) in the Volhynia region of what is now northwestern Ukraine, but was at one time part of Poland. You can see a map if you go to the ShtetlSeeker at <http://www.jewishgen.org/shtetlseeker/loctown.htm>. Under “Search for town” specify “Verkhi,” under “Narrow the search by a specific country” specify “Ukraine,” and under “Search using” specify “Precise Spelling”; then click on “Start the search.” You’ll get a list with two entries; the first one is the one I’m talking about. Click on the blue numbers (latitude and longitude) and you’ll get a map of the area—on the map the name is spelled “Verchy.” You can save the map, print it, zoom in or out, etc. I think this might be the place you’re talking about.

I don’t have extensive sources on Polish military history, so I don’t know specifically what the Lancers would have been doing there. I do know Piłsudski’s Legions were created to fight against Russia (see, for instance, <http://www.geocities.com/veldes1/pilsudski.html>). Davies’ God’s Playground (Vol. 2, page 385) says Piłsudski’s Legions operated “under Austrian orders” and adds “In the next two years, they saw action in Subcarpathian Ruthenia, in Podolia, in Volhynia, and in the great battle of the Stochód valley in Polesie.” So it appears the Legions were active in that area at that time, and were apparently under Austrian command, fighting against the Russians. Davies adds that in 1917 Piłsudski refused to transfer his allegiance from Austria to Germany, so I gather he and his Legions were under Austrian command throughout the period 1914 to 1917.

Subject: Lublin Records

Editor—Author and researcher Maralyn Wellauer contacted me to ask if I had any ideas that might help her trace a former soldier of the de Watteville Regiment, Paul Reynberger/Reinberger/Rheinberger, born circa 1785, with roots in Lublin during the later part of the 18th and early 19th century. She’s checked the Family History Library catalog and found nothing promising; so she’s looking for other Lublin-area records that might give her a lead.

I wonder if this Reynberger had a brother (or some kin) who attended university in Lublin—figuring that he may have been from a “well-heeled” (German?) family—but I haven’t found that any university was established there as early as 1800. Would you know, and if there was, are matriculation lists extant?

Maralyn A. Wellauer <fhea@execpc.com>

Editor—The only Lublin university I know of is Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski, the Catholic University of Lublin; it was founded in 1918, much too late to help Maralyn. I told her “there may be all kinds of records in the Lublin branch of the State Archives that LDS hasn’t touched yet, and that might include records of guilds (often very heavy with Germans), administrators, and so on. But getting access to those records and searching them is probably more trouble than this is worth to you. I doubt you could do it long-distance; it would almost have to be done in person at the Lublin branch of the State Archives.”

Can anyone add some specifics to my advice?

Subject: Poznań Project

Editor—Here's the text of a recent update on the Poznań Project that Dr. Łukasz Bielecki sent out to participants. Some of you may have wondered how the Project is going; and some of you may want to get involved. Here's what Łukasz had to say:

Dear Poznań Project Participants,

It has been 2 years or so since I sent my last newsletter and many of you could well have thought the Project was dead, but let me assure you it is not. For the moment, several people have already submitted the transcripts and for the first time I was able to create a quite preliminary database consisting now of 6 parishes. The results are available under this URL:

<http://www.man.poznan.pl/~bielecki/proj/proj.htm>

Please let me know your thoughts.

Also, I would like to encourage you to let other researchers know about the Project. Of course we still need volunteers to transcribe parishes—and I will of course appreciate those of you who once declared help to submit results when convenient. I hope during the coming summer I will be able to extend this preliminary database.

Many thanks to all of you who have already done a great work with the transcription.

Best regards.

Łukasz Bielecki <bielecki@rose.man.poznan.pl>

Subject: Michigan Archives

Hi Fred,

I am asking folks to sponsor an image from one of the Michigan Archives. The Arcadia publisher said that no one has proposed this before. My answer is that they have not been a public school teacher doing their teaching with smoke and mirrors!

Here is the link to a current list of archive photos that need a sponsor:

<http://mipolonia.net/arcadia/>

Cecil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net>

***** SOME COUNTY HISTORIES SEARCHABLE IN FULL-TEXT ONLINE *****

by Edward David Luft <edwardluft@hotmail.com>

Do you know that an ancestor, immigrant or born in the United States lived in a certain state and acquired some reputation as a businessman, priest, banker, politician, etc.? Many county histories are now online and more are being added all the time. County histories were very popular in the last quarter of the 19th century into the first quarter of the 20th century. Those out of copyright are finding their way onto university websites where a full-text search engine is offered. Articles in country histories are often created on the basis of a person or family name and provide interesting details of the life of that family or person, making more real the life of an ancestor, far beyond mere vital records information. Usually, such articles list family members, marriages, dates, education, immigration, businesses, and club memberships, among other topics, offering avenues for further research.

Here are just two as examples.

The University of Michigan has an extensive website for full-text searches of county histories among other categories. You will find it at <http://www.hti.umich.edu>. Select county histories and then enter a search term. I entered “Posen” and found 26 hits [books] with numerous entries in some of the hits. I was able to display the exact page of the entry and then print what I wanted, including the title page, index pages, and, of course, the entries of interest.

Similarly, the University of Pittsburgh has <http://digital.library.pitt.edu> where you can select “Historic Pittsburgh Full-Text Collection” and enter a search term. Entering “Posen” produced 5 hits. I was able to search in a similar manner to that for Michigan and found similar results. The website also affords the researcher the chance to look at maps, archival finding aids, and the catalog of the Library and Archives of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

So the number of hits offered on each website was generous but not overwhelming. Search for similar online offerings from your state on <http://www.google.com> or <http://www.yahoo.com> by entering “county histories” and the name of the state of interest. You might also try the name of the county if you know it.

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>

***** ANOTHER SOUNDEX PROPOSED *****

Editor—Here’s a note James Birkholz posted on the Posen-L list that discusses coming up with the most useful possible Soundex system. If you’ve had trouble researching because proper names were misspelled, the issues he raises may interest you.

Six years ago, I posted the material below. We are finally far enough along to consider implementing this proposed home-brewed soundex. I’m reposting, in case we have some “linguists” now that can improve the proposal, since I hope to implement it in the next few weeks.

=====
Date: Mon, 9 Aug 1999 02:01:41 -0500
Subject: [POSEN-L] Soundex proposal

I have always intended to provide a method of phonetic matching for the place names inventoried on the Posen-L web site.

There are essentially three major phonetic coding algorithms in common usage in genealogy; (Russell) Soundex (used by the National Archives), Daitch-Mokotoff (used by the ShtetlSeeker), and Metaphone (used by one of the Rootsweb search engines).

I'm not thrilled with any of them. The Russell soundex is too general, as is the Metaphone. The Daitch-Mokotoff is geared towards Slavic/Yiddish, which tends to include German spellings also, but is much too complicated for my needs.

Therefore, I've developed a prototype soundex for German/Polish words that I'd like to have evaluated those who have experience working with one or both languages. After comparing, I find it to be essentially a simplified version of the Daitch-Mokotoff approach, with some of Metaphone technique, that is relatively easy to create a computer program for, as well as to be able to generate in one's head. It has the added benefit of displaying in a somewhat recognizable form.

All four soundex algorithms take the approach of throwing the vowels away. The Russell method reduces the remaining sounds to 6 groups, Daitch-Mokotoff (and mine) to 9 groups, Metaphone to 16 groups. The Russell keeps the initial letter and adds the consonant sounds as number codes, up to four digits. The Daitch-Mokotoff uses 6 digits, converting consonant sounds to number codes. Metaphone converts to capital letters, number of digits varies (I believe).

My system uses a capital letter to represent the consonant sounds and an asterisk (" * ") for vowel sounds, with no truncation or padding of length to uniformity. My system is designed to focus attention on a portion of an ordered list of similar soundex codings, rather than machine matching.

With that background out of the way, let me present the first generation of the coding scheme:

The letter groups:

* = aeiouyjh and the umlaut versions and the Polish diacriticals

M = m, mm

N = n, nn

L = l, ll

R = r, rr

B = b, p, bb, pp

V = v, w, f, pf, ff, ww, vv

D = d, t, dt, dd, tt, th

K = k, g, q, x, ck, ch, gg, kk

S = s, z, c, sh, sz, ss, st, tz, ds, dz, cz, cc, zz, sch, drz, drs, tsch

The rules:

- 1) convert all letters to lower case and combine words into one word
- 2) convert all vowels sounds to the asterisk, combining them if adjacent
- 3) convert the consonants into the capital letter representation, starting with 4 letter combinations and ending with 1 letter conversions

Example:

Von Gruvats = V*NKR*V*S

Wongrowitz = V*NKR*V*S

Wągrowiec = V*KR*V*S

Mellentin = M*L*NT*N

Adelnau = *D*LN*

Odolanów = *D*L*N*V

Szamotuły = S*M*D*L*

Miedzichód = M*S*K*D

Kosten = K*S*N

Kościan = K*S*N

Schildberg = S*LDB*RK

Ostrzeszów = *SRS*S*

Bomst = B*MS

Babimost = B*B*M*S

James Birkholz <j.birchwood@verizon.net>

administrator, Posen-EN mailing list &

Websites <http://www.Posen-L.com> & <http://www.birchy.com/GenWiki>

Editor—Personally, I've found the Daitch-Mokotoff system works fine for me. But then I am a linguist, which makes a difference. I recognize that for many folks none of the systems available is ideal. I'm all for helping anyone who's trying to come up with good alternatives, and that's why I encourage people to share any ideas they have with James.

***** INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH GENEALOGY *****

Editor—Sallyann Sack, editor of the Jewish genealogical periodical Avotaynu, posted this note on the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup. Its contents are obviously worth bringing to the attention of researchers with Jewish roots. But I think the vision involved is one all genealogists should share, as it may improve the quality of the research we do.

Ida and Joseph Schwartz have inquired about Ze'ev Glicenstein's article (*Canadian Jewish News*, May 19, 2005) on the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center in Jerusalem. As Chair of the Institute, I am happy to respond.

We are delighted with Ze'ev's article, but those of you who subscribe to *Avotaynu* or attended the IAJGS conference in Jerusalem last year probably knew about us already. The Institute's "Mission Statement" was published in the Winter 2003 issue of *Avotaynu*. Publisher Gary Mokotoff also

mentioned the Institute in his article entitled “The Future of Jewish Genealogy” (*Avotaynu*, Summer 2004) and talked about it at the Jerusalem conference. Then the lead article by Gary Mokotoff and myself in the Fall 2004 issue, entitled “The Next Step: Jewish Genealogy Goes Academic,” described our rationale and progress.

In short, a founding committee of 13 prominent Jewish genealogists from around the world have created an academic research institute affiliated with the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem. We have a vision and an ambitious program to move Jewish genealogy into the scholarly world and transform it into a recognized academic discipline, all the while working in close collaboration with the Jewish genealogical community.

The interest and involvement of all Jewishgenners is central to us. I will be happy to send you our brochure if you would like to know more. Please send me your mailing address.

Sallyann A Sack <sallyann.sack@verizon.net>
International Institute for Jewish Genealogy

Editor—There are pro’s and con’s to making any subject “a recognized academic discipline.” Sometimes academics seem to excel at providing enormous amounts of detailed information of no practical use whatever. Still, there are some serious, high-caliber people doing genealogy. I’d love to see them get a little more recognition and support; and a link with academia might help in that regard. If Jewish researchers can lead the way, the rest of us would be stupid not to follow! So I’ll be interested to see how this develops.

***** THE L’VIV ARCHIVE: UPDATE *****

Editor—There’s been a lot of talk lately about the closing of the L’viv archive. Sarah Ritts <rittstar@yahoo.com> posted this note on the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, and it shares information I thought might interest some of our readers:

I would like to let you know I wrote to my researcher in the Ukraine

E-mail: genealogicaltree@ukrpost.net

Website: <http://www.genealogicaltree.org.ua>

who has been successful in researching several of my family records from the 1800s. About the rumored closure of the archive she responded:

“You also mentioned that the latter archives are closed for public at the moment. That’s true. However, our researchers are able to continue work with possible little delays. Theft problem in the archives had little effect on our research work.”

So happily research can continue. I thought I would give this information to all of you so that you do not wind up discouraged and know you may contact them for assistance during this difficult period of transition for the archive.

Best Regards to All,

Sarah

***** 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 May Issue:

- Q. On what religious day in Poland do marriageable young women float floral wreaths down a river?
- A. June 24th, St. John's Eve
- Q. What Polish queen is associated with the salt legend?
- A. Queen Kinga
- Q. What three brothers in Polish mythology founded Slavic nations?
- A. Lech, Czech, and Ruś
- Q. In the old Polish legend, what did the king's 12 princes and one princess become?
- A. 12 eagles and one dove
- Q. Complete the Polish proverb, "Curiosity is the first step to _____."
- A. Hell

New Questions for the June Issue

Topic: History

1. Which Polish saint did Pope Benedict XIII canonize in 1726?
2. In what year did the November Insurrection begin?
3. What Polish king was respectfully called "King of the Peasants"?
4. In what year was Maria Skłodowska-Curie born?
5. How many Polish Air Force pilots fought in the Battle of Britain in World War II?

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>.

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>

Saturdays, July 23 and 30, 2005

**“60 Minutes to Better Genealogy”
A Newberry Library Seminar**

Sometimes 60 minutes of instruction on a focused topic can help you push through a particular question or task in your research project. This seminar is designed with genealogy researchers in mind. You can take all eight sessions, or simply choose those that most appeal to you. Research in the second floor Reading Room between seminar sessions (Saturday hours: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.).

Instructors Marsha Peterson-Maass is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and Jack Simpson is Curator of Local and Family History at the Newberry Library.

Saturday, July 23

- 9:30-10:30 a.m.: “Tutorial of Family Tree Maker 2005 Software”
- 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon: “How and Why to Build a Medical Family Tree”
- 1:00-2:00 p.m.: “Yes, You CAN Develop a Research Plan!”
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.: “City Directories: More Than Just Names”

Saturday, July 30

- 9:30-10:30 a.m.: “Tutorial of Bygones Research Log Software”
- 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon: “The Most Helpful Genealogy Reference Tools You’ve Never Used”

1:00-2:00 p.m.: "Using Technology for Newspaper Research"
2:30-3:30 p.m.: "What to Do When They Seem to Have Disappeared"

There are 8 one-hour sessions. Registration is \$15 per session; \$100 for both days; \$50 for one day. Friends of the Newberry, \$12 per session; \$90 for both days; \$45 for one day.

Space is limited and prepayment is required. NEW! Register online at <http://www.newberry.org/programs/L3sems.html> or call 312-255-3700 or 312-255-3592. Payment accepted at the door while space is available.

August 19–21, 2005

FEEFHS 11th International Conference
"Dare to Discover: Exploring Central and Eastern European Ancestry"

The Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) will hold its 11th International Conference in the North Star State of Minnesota in the Capitol City of Saint Paul. This enlightening opportunity to explore Eastern European ethnicities will be held 19-21 August 2005 at the Four Points by Sheraton near the capitol and several libraries including the Concordia University Library (with Germanic Genealogy Society collection), Minnesota History Center, the University of Minnesota Wilson Library and Immigration History Research Center.

For more information: <http://feefhs.org/11thintconf.htm>

September 7–10, 2005

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and The Utah Genealogical Association

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and The Utah Genealogical Association are pleased to announce the FGS/UGA Conference to be held September 7-10, 2005 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

For more information: <http://www.fgs.org/2005conf/FGS-2005.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.

October 15, 2005

- ISGS FALL CONFERENCE - ITASCA, ILLINOIS -

Illinois State Genealogical Society's Fall Conference, "Building Family Bridges: Linking the Present to the Past," will be held at the Holiday Inn, Itasca, IL on Saturday, October 15, 2005. Speakers will include Tony Burroughs, Maureen Brady, Jeff Bockman, Brother Joseph Martin, Craig Pfannkuche, Helen Sclair, Jack Simpson, and CAGG-NI (Computer-Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois). Vendors will offer their genealogical products. Genealogy societies will be present as well.

Three separate presentations will be offered at each of the four sessions—so you will be able to find a topic to interest you whether you are a beginning or experienced researcher. Several sessions on computer genealogical topics such as comparisons of genealogical software packages, video genealogy (converting home movies), and the latest trends in genealogical computing will also be available.

Registration information and online registration with PayPal on our website:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/>

Additional questions can be directed to <ISGSconference@comcast.net>.

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

<http://earth.google.com/>

If you have a reasonably strong computer and high-speed connection, and love the idea of flying above the Earth and dropping down for aerial views of towns and landmarks, this free program is great! My computer, top of the line three years ago, is nothing special now—it handles this program fine; a newer, stronger machine would make it sing! Just this morning I zoomed down to see Area 51, Mount St. Helens, and the World Trade Center site; then I crossed the ocean to look at Białystok, Vilnius, Hrodna, L'viv, Moscow, etc. Some places are shown in greater detail than others; but it's all fun! Plus you could gather your kids in front of the computer, find your home, zoom out, go to Europe, and pinpoint the areas your ancestors came from (if you know them). One suggestion, though—practice first before you try to impress the kids; it's surprising how hard places can be to find in aerial shots. Otherwise you'll have the kids saying “OK, old-timer, out of the way. I'll show you how to do this.” (Of course they'll probably do that anyway.)

<http://www.stevemorse.org/grandfather/>

What passes for “genealogical humor” tends to be pretty lame (which is why I don't print more of it). But in the June 26, 2005 issue of *Nu? What's New?*, Gary Mokotoff mentioned this page by Stephen P. Morse, author of the numerous One-Step aids to online genealogical databases at <http://www.stevemorse.org>. Dr. Morse wrote Gary that he compiled it “for people who write to me asking to find their grandfather.” I loved it, and wanted you to see it, too!

<http://09.bresttelecom.by/search.php?w=private>

Sources that help with research in Belarus are terribly hard to come by. A contributor to the Polish site <http://www.genpol.com> recently posted this URL for an online Belarus telephone directory. It requires use of Russian Cyrillic spellings and lists only subscribers—if you find a match it gives surname, initials of first and middle name, town, street name, and telephone number—so it's not going to be the easiest or most productive tool. Still, if you are searching in Belarus, every little bit might help!

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

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup David Rosen answered a request for help with a list of ships sailing from London or Southampton in August 1900 by suggesting this Website. The moderator added that on the Cimorelli site you should follow the link “Ships arriving US from Europe.” This falls into the category of “Reminders of basic but essential sources we can easily forget about.”

<http://www.mzv.cz/washington/cons/genealogy.htm>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list Laurence (Lavrentiy) Krupnak <Lkrupnak@erols.com> suggested this site for Czech research. He said, “You simply contact the main Czech archives. They direct the inquiry to the appropriate national or regional archive, or local town hall, etc.”

<http://www.rusyn.org/?root=rusyns&rusyns=ethnography&article=63>

Again on that same list Lavrentiy recommended this site for a discussion of the Boiko ethnic group. He also listed these sites as helpful:

<http://www.rusyn.org/?root=rusyns&rusyns=ethnography&article=21>

<http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/display.asp?AddButton=pages\B\O\Boikos.htm>

<http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/pages/C/A/CarpathianMountains.htm>

<http://www.refdesk.com/paper1.html#poland>

On the Polish_Genius list Trist <brujaojos@yahoo.com> suggested this site for a link to some newspapers in Poland. For other countries go to http://www.refdesk.com/paper_a.html#top.

http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kuk_galizien.htm

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list BJK-yahoo <hoboken@cox.net> posted this link with maps and some background information on the Kingdom of Galicia-Lodomeria. Map and info on Bukowina as an Austrian crownland are on this page: http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/kuk_bukowina.htm.

<http://www.geocities.com/shebreshin/>

If you have roots in the area of Szczebrzeszyn, near Zamość in southeastern Poland, you should visit this Website, which Paul S. Valasek brought to my attention. He had been contacted by Tomasz Panczyk, the man who put the site together, and we hope to hear more from Tomasz—perhaps an article on the town’s history, or something along those lines. In the meantime, this site offers history, monuments, photographs, etc., in both Polish and English.

Incidentally, the name of this town appears in a famous Polish tongue-twister, “*W Szczebrzeszynie chrząszcz brzmi w trzcinie*” [In the town of Szczebrzeszyn a beetle buzzes in the reed], from a poem “Chrzaszcz” by Jan Brzechwa. Fair warning: even native Poles have a hard time saying this one! If you’d like to learn more, go to this page:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrzaszcz>. You can even download an audio file and hear a Pole recite the poem, though it requires installing software to decode the Ogg Vorbis format; see

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Media_help for more. If you’d like to see a few more Polish tongue-twisters, try this page (which is actually a test page for fonts with Polish characters):

http://dtp.msstudio.com.pl/fonty_test.html.

YOU MAY REPRINT articles from *Gen Dobry!*, PROVIDED: (1) the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes; and (2) the following notice appears at the end of the article: Written by [author’s name, e-mail address, and URL, if given]. Previously published by *Gen Dobry!*, Vol. VI, No. 6, 30 June 2005, PolishRoots®: <http://www.PolishRoots.org/>.

Copyright 2005, PolishRoots®, Inc. All rights reserved.