



Gen Dobry!

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*** WELCOME! ***

to the latest issue of Gen Dobry!, the e-zine of PolishRoots(R). If you missed previous issues,
you can find them here:

<<http://polishroots.org/GenDobry/tabid/60/Default.aspx>>

*** ANOTHER TV BOOST FOR GENEALOGY? ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

While I make no pretense of keeping up with the entire field of genealogy, online or not, I do monitor a number of mailing lists and online publications in an effort to have some idea what's going on. Two publications I keep an eye on are *EOGN* (Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter) and *Nu? What's New?*, the e-zine edited by Gary Mokotoff of Avotaynu. On January 18, I saw items in these two publications that struck me as interesting for the future genealogy.

One was a notice in *EOGN* that the staff of *Ancestry* magazine had posted this note on the magazine's Website, <<http://www.ancestrymagazine.com>>.

***Ancestry* Magazine Discontinues Publication**

For 25 years, *Ancestry* magazine has been a valuable, timely resource for family history professionals, hobbyists, and novices alike. For a variety of reasons, the time has come for us to discontinue publication. Over the last few years, we have found that with the expanded accessibility of terrific family history content published online at Ancestry.com we can reach a larger and broader audience than the limited distribution of a print publication.

The March/April 2010 issue will be the final issue of *Ancestry* magazine. Subscribers to *Ancestry* magazine with current subscriptions that will not be completed by the mailing of the March/April 2010 magazine will receive prorated refunds. Subscribers will find a letter enclosed with their final issue informing them of these details. We are also no longer selling new magazine subscriptions nor renewing those that have expired. Single copies of past issues, including the upcoming March/April issue, will be available for purchase in our online store.

With *Ancestry* magazine we have loved the opportunity we've had to write about the best of what we found in the world of family history. We thank our readers and contributors for sharing our enthusiasm for all things genealogy.

Sincerely,
The *Ancestry* Magazine Staff

As the editor of several publications, I was sorry to read this, and somewhat concerned. If *Ancestry* is shutting down, what does the future hold for our considerably less famous publications? I'm not the gloom-and-doom type; and as I've said before, my track record as a seer rivals that of those psychics who predicted all sorts of interesting things for Michael Jackson in 2009, but somehow overlooked his death. So it would be silly if I sat around prophesying woe.

Still, you do hear people worrying about the future of genealogy. Many societies are having a tough time keeping their membership levels up, especially in this economy. The Internet has become a huge factor in genealogy, but so has the stubborn notion of many Web devotees that

everything on the Net should be free. I've seen postings where newcomers to genealogy react with scorn to the notion that they should buy books that might help with their research. They're convinced everything they need can be found online. I just shake my head and wish them luck, figuring with that approach, they're going to get just as far as they deserve.

On other hand, there is good news out there. Just from my own experience, there are genealogical organizations that seem to be doing quite well. For instance, I participated in the conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast back in August, and it was clearly a success by any standard. Lots of people attended, and everyone seemed to be very pleased with the quality of the lectures offered and the venue (Central Connecticut State University in New Britain is a very nice place to hold a conference!). I did not have a chance to attend the 2009 Fall Conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, but from what I heard, it did very nicely; and I know PGSA's membership has remained steady. The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan went through a rough stretch for a while, but is now publishing the *Polish Eaglet* on schedule, and PGSM is organizing the UPGS 2010 Conference as the Polish track for this year's NGS Family History Conference (see "Upcoming Events" below). As far as I can see, PGS-California, PGS-Texas, and PGS-NYS are all doing very well, thank you.

(I'm sure I've forgotten to mention somebody. If I forgot to mention your organization, please forgive me—and write to tell me how things are going. We want to share word with our readers of everything that goes on within the world of Polish genealogy.)

So genealogy's not dead; but its popularity as a hobby, especially on the Internet, doesn't always translate into success for genealogical organizations. That's kind of a shame. Valuable as online resources are, I've attended too many conferences to doubt that people getting together in generate vitality and energy you just can't get any other way. Something will be lost if the future finds us all zombies parked in front of computers, giving no sign of life other than an occasional click of a mouse button.

That said, a couple of other items I read in *EOGN* and *Nu?* made me hopeful. American genealogists are unanimous that the most significant development for genealogy in recent decades was the airing of the miniseries *Roots* back in the 70s. Its impact was huge. And while TV events don't mesmerize the nation quite as much as they used to, back in the days of the *M*A*S*H** finale and the *Dallas* episode "Who Shot J.R.?", we can look forward to programs in the near future with a potential for revitalizing genealogy.

The one that has captured the most attention is the U.S. version of *Who Do You Think You Are?* It will premiere on NBC on March 5, and it is scheduled to air every Friday night at 8 p.m. (Eastern time) until April 30. This is an American adaptation of a series that was a big hit on BBC in Great Britain. It may be hoping for too much that this import will do as well as *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* But it will take a look at the family history of various celebrities, and I must admit, I'm intrigued. Lisa Kudrow and Brooke Shields may not do much for me, but as a fan of the Dallas Cowboys since 1965, I would like to see the installment on Emmitt Smith. If you'd like to learn more, the official announcement is available on NBC's Website:

<<http://www.nbc.com/news/2010/01/14/nbc-presents-post-winter-olympics-primetime-schedule-beginning-march-1/>>.

That's the show likely to make the biggest splash, but PBS has a four-part series, *Faces of America*, premiering February 10th, that could be just as interesting, and perhaps more substantial. *EOGN* quoted series host Henry Louis Gates Jr. as follows: "What this special proves is that white people, Latino people, and Asian people are just as ignorant about their ancestors as black people ... The difference was, this time we were able to go back further," Gates said. Maybe not very diplomatically phrased, but an interesting point.

Of course, given the history of network TV, it's entirely possible all these shows will do is make us scream at our TV sets, "That's not how you do genealogical research, you morons!" I'd like to be optimistic, but it does seem TV has a way of butchering everything I've ever been interested in. Still, in a nation that seems to believe devoutly in the saying "There's no such thing as bad publicity," at least genealogy is getting some publicity. If it helps put butts in seats, at organization meetings and libraries, I guess it can't be all bad.

***** CD WITH 30 YEARS OF PGSA PUBLICATION *****

Editor—I have divided feelings when something I've worked on is made available for sale. It would be rude and selfish to take advantage of my position as editor to cram it down your throat. On the other hand, there's a real possibility you might want to know about that publication, because its main purpose is to help researchers. I think maybe the best approach is for me to mention it, one time, for your information—and then shut up about it. So let me quote this announcement from the latest *PGSA Notebook*:

PGSA proudly announces its newest CD

RODZINY & MORE:

30 years of PGSA Publications 1979-2008

1,750+ pages of quality research tips, personal experiences, reviews, historical data, solutions for brick-wall problems, and translations in one easy-to-search place.

Zero in on a subject of interest or just browse an article, a single publication, or the entire CD. It includes:

- Electronically searchable PDF indexes-subject, title, author for 1979-1992
- 1992-2008 directly searchable PDFs
- Three decades of easily accessible information now on your computer screen!

Available via PGSA Website: <<http://www.pgsa.org/store>>

(\$25 members/\$35 non-members: includes postage and sales tax)

***** GENTEAM — AUSTRIAN RESEARCH DATABASES *****

Editor—On the Posen mailing list, Gerd Müllenheim forwarded this note, which I think may be of value to some of our readers. While not directly concerned with Polish research, GenTeam's sources on lands currently and formerly ruled by Austria could benefit researchers with roots in Galicia, for instance.

Dear Members!

With this e-mail, I introduce GenTeam <<http://www.GenTeam.at>> to you.

GenTeam is an organization of genealogists or historians who produce databases on their own or as a part of a group, and who offer these databases to all researcher without any fee. GenTeam is a non-commercial organization! The geographical centre of the databases is the present-day Austria and its neighboring lands. The use of the databases is without any fee; only a simple registration is required.

The collection currently contains 1,316,729 records and will be continually updated.

Overview:

1. Index of Roman Catholic marriages of Vienna between 1542 and 1850/1860, about 840,000 records—As the capital of the Austrian-Hungarian Dual Monarchy, Vienna grew considerably during the 19th century; from about 215,000 inhabitants in 1800 up to more than 2.1 million in 1910. Many migrated to Vienna, especially from the crown lands, and left here their genealogical tracks or staid in Vienna.
2. Owners of houses in Lower Austria in 1817, about 198,000 records—From 1817-1824 a complete survey of Lower Austria was made. All the protocols and maps still exist. They are a fantastic toll for each genealogist and historian.
3. Gazetteer of Czech, Austrian, and Slovenian Republics, about 62,000 records—In this database you will find about 62.000 locations in Austria and in the Czech and Slovenian republics. It contains former and present names of locations, current and former parish affiliation, year that existing records begin, archival districts, and political districts or crownland.
4. Death Cards of soldiers from both World Wars, about 12,700 records—The death cards have been submitted by Mireille Trauner and contains genealogical information as well as pictures of the soldiers.
5. Index of Vital Statistics (church records) and seigniorial records—About 201,000 records This database contains records of different parishes/dominions of Lower Austria, Moravia and Slovak Republic. This database will be updated continually. You get a table of all parishes and dominions in the help-button after a registration.

If you have indices of church records of present-day Austria or neighboring lands, GenTeam would be glad if you will offer these records to GenTeam.

If you have any questions, please, don't hesitate to contact me at <kontakt@GenTeam.at>. Please, send this information to any other mailing list or archives. Thank you!

With kind regards,

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*** *A SURVIVOR'S STORY* ***

Editor—Ann Poslosky posted this note on the Polish Genius mailing list, and I thought some of our members would like to know about it. Ann was so kind as to offer her services as middleman for those who might like to get a copy of this book.

Recently I read a book called *A Survivor's Story* by Severin Fayerman, a Polish man who spent time in the Auschwitz and Birkenau Nazi concentration camps during World War II. This book is not available in bookstores, etc. The author has copies available for when he gives talks to groups about his experiences. The cost is \$10.00 prepaid in the US and \$20 if going to a foreign country (because of postage.) It is easy to read, soft cover, only 83 pages.

I received my copy as a gift from a close friend and former neighbor; after reading it, I told her I thought others on the lists may want a copy. Severin contacted me and said he could provide the books that anyone would want to purchase. So, I'm sort of the middleman. If you want to order a book, contact me personally.

I'm not getting any money, chocolates, or vodka for doing this; just a favor for a wonderful man. It just happens I knew of Severin and his company on a personal level and we had mutual friends. By the way, your book will come autographed by the author.

Thanks.

Ann Poslosky <poslosky@yahoo.com>

***** UPCOMING EVENTS *****

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group - (TUGG)

Ron Wencer will speak on “How Many left Deviatnyky?”, a look at the magnitude and impact of emigration from a Galician town in the years before World War I.

From 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

St Vladimir Institute
620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto
Contact: (905)-841-6707

There is parking at the rear of the building accessible via a laneway running south off Harbord Street. There is also metered parking on Spadina Avenue. [From an e-mail from Jim Onyschuk <jodanji@rogers.com>.]

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February 14, 2010

MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

2:00 p.m.

**Social Hall of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
984 N. Milwaukee, Chicago, Illinois**

The speaker will be Carole Magnuson. Carole Magnuson started her family history research in 1981 and published books covering her maternal and paternal lines in the late 1980s. After she retired in 2002, Carole began working as a professional genealogy researcher. She is an active member of both the DuPage County and South Suburban Genealogical and Historical societies.

The topic will be “Let’s Get Organized.” Are you buried in paper gathered from family collections, research trips, or the Internet? This presentation discusses different methods for getting your paperwork and files under control and helps you make sense of the information you have collected.

Carole Magnuson will demonstrate the paper and digital filing systems that she uses. Attendees will learn about ideas for organizing their own research, as well as how a chronology (time line) can be prepared for each of their ancestors. Chronologies focus in on the information found for an ancestor and can help you plan your strategy for gathering additional information. Chronologies can be used as an outline for preparing an ancestor’s biography. She will also

discuss ways to verify research, how to cite sources, and offer ideas for passing along your research to family members.

After the presentation, Carole will have copies of the PatSy filing system for sale for \$9.00 for those wishing to purchase. Note: PatSy works in Windows XP and earlier versions of Windows, but not in Vista or Windows 7.

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Saturday, February 20, 2010

Introductory Genealogy Mini-workshop

Are you new to genealogy? Do you wonder what resources are available to help you get started? If so, EEGS members Lisa Haji Abbasi and Shauna Wall will be leading a mini-workshop titled, “An Introduction to East European Genealogy and Available Resources” in February 2010. Everyone welcome!

Date: Saturday, February 20, 2010

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Henderson Public Library, 1-1050 Henderson Highway, Winnipeg, MB

Cost: Free!

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April 28 – May 1, 2010

UPGS [UNITED POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES] 2010 CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AS PART OF THE 2010 NGS FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

The 2010 NGS Family History Conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more info:

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info>

The program guide, with speakers and lecture titles, is available here:

<<http://members.ngsgenealogy.org/Conferences/2010Program.cfm>>

Here, from info provided by Ceil Jensen, are details on the talks of interest to Polish researchers.

Wednesday, 28 April 2010 UPGS Banquet, 7 p.m. Salt Lake Palace

featuring nationally known speaker **Loretto “Lou” Dennis Szucs** and a Polish buffet. Please join us for this UPGS fund-raiser.

Thursday, 29 April 2010, 8-11 a.m.

Family History Library Lab, Thursday, 4-6 p.m.
Eastern European Workshop with Daniel Schlyter.

Friday, 30 April 2010 — The Polish Track sponsored by United Polish Genealogical Societies

8:00 a.m.

Polish Research Trip, Sonja Hoeke-Nishimoto

This lecture will discuss research sources, such as church and state archives, parishes, newly found relatives, civil registration offices, schools, and museums. Sonja will cover the types of resources available and answer questions a researcher might have as they plan a trip to Poland to find information about his ancestors.

9:30 a.m.

Polish Court Records and Census Records, Stephen J. Danko

This presentation will discuss using Court Records and Census Records to research members of the nobility in Poland.

11:00 a.m.

Genealogy in Poland Today, Tomasz Nitsch

The presentation will cover genealogical societies in Poland and their activities and plans and Polish genealogical Websites, especially the very successful ones. Last but not least, Tomasz will tell you about his Website <<http://www.genpol.com>>, other useful Websites and functions, and plans for the future.

2:30 p.m.

Polish Archives: Behind the Scenes, Ceil Wendt Jensen, CG

Based on interviews with the archive and museum directors to identify materials beyond birth, marriage and death records. These interviews were conducted to learn about the unique materials held at the archives of Poznań, Gdańsk, Mława, Białystok, and Kraków, and at the concentration camp museums of Stutthof and Auschwitz.

4:00 p.m.

Finding Your Ancestral Village in American Records, Paul Lipinski

After family records, American records, e.g., census, ship manifest, naturalization, etc. are sources to be investigated. Record type, location and content are explained. The best records for finding ancestral villages are illustrated.

Additional Questions? E-mail UPGS at <upgs2010@gmail.com>

More information will be posted at: <<http://upgs.blogspot.com/>>

[In a recent note, Ceil Jensen provided additional information.]

The registration this year is via NGS and their Website:

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info>

PGSM is organizing the Polish Track:

<<http://www.pgsm.org/2009/11/pgsm-hosts-united-polish-genealogical.html>>

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June 4 - June 21, 2010

SECOND ANNUAL DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS TOUR TO WESTERN UKRAINE

If you are interested in tracing your roots in Ukraine, now is the time to sign up. This year the group will be limited to 20 persons. For details of the tour, go to:

<http://www.torugg.org/TUGG%20Projects/trip_to_ukraine.html>

This tour, sponsored by the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group, offers a unique service that other tours do not, including helping you with:

- * Locating the exact village of your ancestors. Often there may be several villages with the same name and there is no point in visiting or researching the wrong village.
- * Letters you may wish to write to the village head and parish.
- * Planning side trips to ancestral villages.
- * Arranging for any drivers, guides and translators you may require.
- * Contacting the archives before the trip to let them know which files we wish to examine, so that they can have them on hand when we visit.
- * Suggesting and helping you with other side trips; you may wish to go on as tourists.

What You Can Find In the Archives

The State Archives of Ukraine, particularly the Central Historical Archives in Lviv and Kyiv, have many unique genealogical sources including thousands of Metrical Books (vital record registrations) of different religions (Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, Evangelical, Jewish) from the 18th-20th centuries. Recently, the Historical Archives in Lviv received over 700 parish registers from local registry offices since the last time their files were microfilmed by the LDS, and more are being received each day. In addition to Metrical Books there are:

- * Other original parish records
- * Census records
- * Szematisms, which were staff directories for the military, government administration, school and church administrations
- * Lists of house owners
- * Property maps, called Cadastral Maps
- * Emigration papers your ancestors filled out prior to coming to North America
- * School Records
- * Registration of property transactions
- * Family and estate papers of the nobility
- * Military records

This Tour is Tailored to Your Needs

While this is a group trip, every effort is made to tailor it to your personal needs and wishes. The goal is to provide assistance with your family history project special to your needs or, alternatively, help you find those missing pieces. The trip includes visits to various archives, guide/interpreters, time to visit and spend time in your villages of interest and tourism.

Other Things To See In Ukraine

Ukraine is home to 300 museums, seven national historical and cultural preserves as well as many different examples of culture, archaeology, unique cities, palaces, parks and a warm, hospitable people with a rich history.

For Further Information:

Jim Onyschuk

<jodanji@rogers.com>

<<http://www.torugg.org/>>

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July 11-16, 2010

30TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY JW Marriott Hotel at L.A. in Los Angeles, California

Come be a part of the world's largest Jewish Genealogy conference! The 30th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Los Angeles, California next year at the brand new L.A. LIVE conference center. Join hundreds of other researchers as we explore our roots and build our family trees. Whether you're a beginner, just starting to trace your family's history, or a pro looking for the latest information and tips, the IAJGS conference will have something for everyone! For more details, visit the Website:

<<http://www.jgsla2010.com/>>

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July 21 - 31, 2010

POLAND IN THE ROCKIES

Speakers and Filmmakers from Canada, the United States and Europe

History, Politics, Culture, Media, Identity, Networking, Lectures, Discussions, Films, Hiking, Campfires, Friendships

An intensive transnational Polish experience — in the beautiful Canadian Rockies

See <<http://www.polandintherockies.com>> for application and scholarship details

PitR video: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ph-Sd63Leo>>

Alumni ezine: <<http://www.cosmopolitanreview.com>>

[Thanks to Maureen Mroczek Morris for sending me this info.]

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October 1 – 2, 2010

PGSA'S 32ND ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

The Polish Genealogical Society of America's next conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 1 & 2, at the Hilton Hotel in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The hotel is located at 9333 S. Cicero Avenue.

The Hilton Hotel and Conference center is a well-known venue for events on the south side of Chicago. It is located three miles south of Midway Airport and is accessible to major highways and expressways, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Orange Line, and the Metro Train station. It provides easy access to much of the city and Chicago's downtown and the many attractions they provide. A scheduled complimentary shuttle is also available.

With a new location, speakers, and topics to inspire you, we invite you to revisit your research from a different point of view.

Please check our Website for future up-dates: <<http://www.pgsa.org>>

[From the January 2010 issue of *PGSA Notebook*]

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

<<http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>>

The 18 January issue of *EOGN* (Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter) said this "little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) provides genealogy information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. The records include naturalization files, visa applications and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries. Under the USCIS Genealogy Program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. For \$20, the government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files." For more information, visit the Website, or read Eastman's article at <http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/01/a-littleknown-government-genealogy-service.html>.

<<http://www.genealogyforum.com/gfaol/resource/Hispanic/PortNaturaliz.htm>>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, Mary Guler answered a question about U.S. naturalization procedures by describing this as “a good site for information on the changing naturalization processes and procedures in the U.S., and where and how to look for records ... Don’t be put off by the fact that ‘Hispanic’ is in the address, as the information is relevant for anyone looking for this type of information.”

<<http://personallifemedia.com/podcasts/415-family-history/episodes/47994-immigration-naturalization>>

A note was posted on the PolandBorderSurnames mailing list, mentioning an article on “Immigration and Naturalization” that you can read or listen to. The article features Lisa Louise Cooke and Stephen Danko. A follow-up note praised Lisa’s podcast at <<http://genealogygemspodcast.com>>, and also Stephen’s blog. We’ve mentioned him before, but what the hell, why not mention him again? His blog is at <<http://stephendanko.com/blog/>>.

<<http://archives.chicagotribune.com/2009/dec/20/news/chi-obit-sclair-bddec20>>

Paul Valasek brought this to my attention. It is an obituary for Helen Sclair, “the Cemetery Lady,” a popular speaker in the Chicago area who died in December. I never had the good fortune of hearing her speak, but she lectured at a conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, and I was supposed to speak in the same room after she was finished. So many people stayed after her lecture to talk to her that I began to wonder if I was ever going to get a chance to use the room!

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/01/genealogy-items-on-ebay.html>

Paul has been telling me for some time that he’s found all sorts of great genealogical items on eBay, and he couldn’t believe more people didn’t know about this. Well, Paul, your days of limited competition may be over. *EOGN* recently included this article, and judging by the comments from readers, the cat’s out of the bag!

<<http://fsi-language-courses.org>>

Another item in a recent issue of *EOGN* bore the title “Free Online Foreign Language Courses.” That got my attention, so I took a look at the site it referred to. The good news is that the site does offer free courses in a number of languages. The bad news is, Polish isn’t one of them. Still, it may be worth a look, if only to learn more about German or Russian, which can be quite helpful in Polish research. What’s more, a researcher who responded to the *EOGN* article pointed out that free online courses are available at <<http://www.livemocha.com/>> — and that *does* include Polish!

<<http://www.jewishgalicia.net>>

The January 3, 2010 issue of *Nu? What's New?* mentioned this Website. You can read more about it at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V11N01.htm>>, or simply visit the site.

<<http://genealogyindexer.org>>

In a later issue of *Nu?*, dated 18 January 2010, Gary Mokotoff mentioned this site. Logan Kleinwaks has been placing digitized and indexed Eastern European directories on his site for several years. The site now has more than 10 databases. “They include directories from Bulgaria, France, Israel, Lithuania, Poland, Galicia, Silesia, Pomerania, Posen, Romania, Carpathian Ruthenia, South America and United Kingdom. A complete list can be found by clicking the word “Directories” at the upper left portion of the home page.” Gary noted that many require installation of the DjVu browser plug-in, which these days can be downloaded at Caminova’s Website, <<http://www.caminova.net/en/downloads/download.aspx?id=1>>. Gary ended by noting, “Also at the site are 64 digitized and indexed yizkor books and lists of Polish military officers.”

That issue of *Nu?* <<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V11N02.htm>> was full of good articles, including “A Potential Risk Using Geni,” “Article about Online Family Trees,” and “ITS Finishes Digitization of Post-War Records.” Take a look, and subscribe—it’s free!

<<http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/~swan/beta/>>

Kuba Przedzienkowski posted a note on various Polish genealogical mailing lists to tell us, “Professor Swain has published an on line searchable dictionary for Polish to English ... As you can tell, it is a beta version, but looks to be a useful site for those searching for translations with and without diacritical marks.”

<<http://www.krakowpost.com/article/1818>>

On the Poland Roots mailing list, Debbie Greenlee mentioned an article in the *Kraków Post* about Warsaw Airport being closed in September. A follow-up note from a gentleman named John cited this article, which said the possible closure dates were September 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19. As Debbie pointed out, if you plan on traveling to Poland later this year, you might want to know about this!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polish_genius/files/>

On the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee notified us that a series of files had been uploaded to the group’s Yahoo Website, images of Polish handwriting provided by a lady named Michele. They are Word documents, moderately large files because of the scanned graphics imbedded, but they show you a lot about Polish handwriting, in case you’ve found it hard to decipher. Their names all begin with “Polish Cursive Writing,” and they illustrate proper handwriting for lowercase alphabet and numbers, first names, place names, sentences, and uppercase letters. Michele and Debbie deserve credit for making these available.

<<http://donhoward.net/genpoland/>>

Also on Polish Genius, Debbie mentioned that two of Łukasz Bielecki's Websites have been moved. This one is a "how to" site hosted by RootsWeb, "Genealogy & Poland — A Guide." The other is for his business Website, "Discovering Your Roots," at <<http://www.discovering-roots.pl/>>. I was aware of the latter, but not the former.

< http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polish_genius/message/11580>

One more note from Polish Genius. A note was posted asking for help learning conversational Polish, and Jan Plowy posted an extensive reply with YouTube clips cited. We've mentioned some of them before, but I think some of these are new. It's a long list — too long to repeat here, but you can find it at the above URL.

<<http://www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour/>>

The January 2010 confirmed that Prof. Michael J. Mikoś of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will once again be conducting the annual Summer Study Program at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. A number of people have participated in this program in past years and praised it highly. The above URL has more information.

<<http://www.genealogy.net>>

A post from "Simone" on the Posen mailing list described this as "the leading (or at least one of the leading) non-commercial German genealogy Website." It's all in German, but Google's translation tool gives you at least some idea what it's all about. I notice under "Links" extensive pages on German surnames at <<http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Familiename>>.

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