



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/archives.htm>

If you’d like *Gen Dobry!* in PDF form, this issue is available for downloading here:

http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_X_4.pdf

***** I'M SORRY I'M LATE — AGAIN! *****

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

Those of you who have been reading *Gen Dobry!* for some time probably have noticed that I try to send each month's issue out on the last day of the month. Until recently, I had a pretty good track record. An issue was occasionally late, but usually the last day of each month saw the latest issue showing up in your e-mail inbox.

The last few months, however, I've been running late, and I'm especially late this month. This issue should have gone out on April 30th; instead, I'm mailing it on May 4th. I can only apologize for the delay, and say I hope I'll be back on track soon. I've been busy moving my office, and now the move is done and I'm getting settled in. I expect to be back to full speed in a week or so. Please note, the best e-mail address for contacting me continues to be wfh@langline.com.

I'm especially sorry this issue is late because I missed giving some attention to various celebrations connected with celebrations of the May 3rd Polish Constitution Day, including a note from Debbie Greenlee on May 3rd festivities in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area—and Polish activities in the Metroplex area are truly news!—as well as a note from Ceil Jensen on the Polish Mission's May 3rd activities. (You can always get news on the Mission at its Website, <http://polishmission.com/>).

In any case, I just wanted to apologize for the delay in recent issues. You've all been very patient, and I hope I will no longer try your patience.

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

Subject: "Does Anyone Have Info on So-and-So?"

I read the Letter to the Editor from Christa Shukaitis, "Does Anyone Have Info on So-and-So" in the February *Gen Dobry!* In this world of the whirling dervishness of information from around the world, I thought I would remind people to also talk to their neighbors. Here is an abbreviated version of conversation with my neighbor, Ivan, who lives across the street from me. The families mentioned below are Germans who migrated through Poland and Ukraine to North America.

Ivan: So where are you originally from?

Me: Rosenfeld, Manitoba. You probably haven't heard of it. [Rosenfeld is a village of 300 some 850 miles or so from Calgary, a city of one million.]

Ivan: Of course I have. I've been there many times.

Me: Why?

Ivan: I have cousins there.

Me: Who?

Ivan: Oh, let's see—the Martels, the Martins, the Fielmanns . . .

Me: But those are all my cousins too!

Bottom line, his grandmother and mine were first cousins. Ivan and I are third cousins. The conversation continues as we enjoy the afternoon sun in his front yard.

Me: So what about your wife? Is she a German from Volhynia as well?

Ivan: No, but she is German. Her ancestors migrated through Poland to the Black Sea area.

Me: What were her ancestral surnames?

Ivan: Well, there was Xxx, Yyy, Steinwand

Me: Wait a minute! Steinwand! I'll bet she's related to me. Two Steinwand cousins migrated to the Black Sea region in the early 1800s after stopping for a decade or so in South Prussia. My branch went to Volhynia.

Though Ivan's wife had some ancestral info, it did not go all the way back to German territory. Six months of research later, we were able to determine with 100% certainty that she and I were 9th cousins. Our common Steinwand ancestor was born in Hopfau, Germany in 1621! And they both live across the street from me!

So don't forget to talk to your neighbors.

Jerry Frank, Calgary, AB

Editor—Great story, Jerry! Thanks for sharing it, and for reminding us we should look close to home before we turn our attention to places far away.

Subject: Poles and World War II

With regard to comments on Poles serving in German units during World War II: I've come across a lot of stories and bits in various books I've read regarding Poles fighting for the Germans. From what I can put together, the vast majority all claimed to have been "impressed" into German service. There were supposedly Poles in some of the main German units involved in the Normandy defences; when the American troops got up close and personal, the Poles wasted no time in laying down their arms and informing the GIs who they were and that they were glad to

surrender and get away from the Germans.

Excellent book I just finished reading: *Without Vodka*, by Aleks Topolski. He got caught up in World War II as a 16-year-old cadet; while attempting to escape the Russian occupation in 1939, he was caught on the Rumanian border, and was sentenced to five years in a labor camp. He ended up joining volunteers for the Polish Army that was being formed in Russia in 1942. He fought in Italy and finally ended up living in Canada. The book is very informative about conditions in eastern Poland, western Ukraine, and a good part of Russia between 1939 and 1942.

Another book, an older one, is *A History of Ukraine*, which starts from approximately 1000 A.D. and goes up to 1941. Written by a Michael Hrushevsky and published by Yale University Press in 1941, it is a very detailed history covering all the trials and tribulations involving the forming of a nation of Ukraine. I came across it by accident while browsing in a local branch library.

Ed Mucha

Editor—I'm sorry to say I had never heard of either book, but I'm glad you told us about them. I did a little reading, and there is fascinating information about Hrushevsky. The English translation printed by Yale University Press in 1941 is based on *Історія України-Руси* [Istoriia Ukraïny-Rusy] by Михайло Грушевський [Mykhailo Hrush-evskyi], the Ukrainian version of his name. The Ukrainian original appears to be online at <http://litopys.org.ua/hrushrus/iur.htm>. There is more information on the book here:

http://www.ualberta.ca/CIUS/jacykcentre/About-Ukraine_Rus.htm

Note, however, that there is some controversy about the English translation, especially the last two chapters, written by the editor to update Hrushevsky's unfinished work. You might want to see some of the comments on the book given here:

<http://www.infoukes.com/history/famine/serbyn/>

Subject: Names in the Russian Partition

Anyone who has dealt with LDS records of the Russian partition realizes that they are a mixture of Polish, Latin, Russian, etc., which makes them almost impossible to fully decipher. For example, even the name of one of my ancestors from Mława was spelled in a variety of ways:

Chumiesicka
Chumiczekich
Chumielska

Then in the States, this name changed to:

Howinska
Humiecka
Huminska

My goal is to figure out if these are the same person or different wives. First, I know there are different suffixes added onto people names in the church records, such as *-ich* and *-ach*, and I wonder what additional meaning these have.

Secondly, many churches will Latinize the given name. Does the same apply to the surname and how?

Finally there is the Cyrillic alphabet, in which the Russian language (among others) is written. According to LDS' translation guide, there is no true 'H'. Their letters translate to Ch, Sh, Th, Zh, and the G exception. Then there are multiple types of I, E and IE combinations.

Thus, I can imagine someone speaking in Polish, the recorder, by decree, was required to write the name in Cyrillic, and then records it using Latin letters. This doesn't even yet account for the Americanization of the name. I am hoping one of your experts or some of your readers have some insight into deciphering names for records in the Russian partition.

Lee Warzala <warzala@yahoo.com>

Editor—Dealing with these different forms of names is a major challenge for most researchers. I am reasonably fluent in Polish, German, Latin, and Russian, and have been studying Polish and other surnames since 1991; yet I often have trouble figuring out what's going on with them!

Endings such as *-ich* and *-ach* don't necessarily change how we'd translate a name; they just apply grammar. If you study Polish grammar, you learn why *Humińskich* means "of the Humińskis" and why *o Humińskich* means "about the Humińskis." Unfortunately, this is not something you can pick up in an hour or two. I'm really not trying to act as a shill here, but Jonathan Shea and I devoted hundreds of pages to explaining and illustrating all this in our book *In Their Words ... Volume 1: Polish*. My advice is, try to familiarize yourself with the endings, and don't let them throw you; figure out the meaning from context, and don't worry too much about the grammar. But if you do have time and inclination, an effort to learn the grammar can prove very enlightening!

Usually, church records gave the Latin forms of first names, but left the surname alone. There are exceptions, especially in older records. But anything from, say, 1700 on will usually give the surname with little or no Latinization.

If you're trying to understand how names were rendered in the Cyrillic alphabet, I really have to suggest getting the *In Their Words* volume on Russian, which deals extensively with this subject. I'm honestly not trying to cram our books down your throat; but I don't know of any short, sweet way to explain this subject. Some things are complicated, and attempts to simplify them just end up making them worse. Steve Morse has some alphabet conversion tools on his Website, <http://stevemorse.org>, that may be some help.

Subject: Hallmark Movie on Irena Sendler

I will be watching the movie about Irena Sendler on 4/19/09. I hope it will be a just and truthful movie about this woman's extraordinary life.

I would like to say that my two brothers, my two brothers-in-laws, my father-in-law and my husband served in the military: Coast Guard, Navy, Marines, and Air Force. Needless to say, one knows my feelings when it comes to the Armed Forces.

What about average people from different walks of life who lived during horrible and horrific times, helping those in need, knowing that if they were found out they could die, or members of their family could die, but they did the right thing? Irena Sendler was one of those individuals.

Irena Sendler and the many like her are the true heroes. They are not looking to have their pictures in the newspapers or have all kinds of articles written about them. They did what they thought was the right thing to do at that particular time.

I have all the respect in the world for these people and would pray to God if I was ever in the same situation, I would have the courage and the guts to be strong and follow thru with doing and helping as much as I could.

Cathy Duprey

Editor—Amen! I would like to think I'd have the strength to do the right thing in such a situation; but I'd be lying if I said I was sure that's how it would work out. People like Irena Sendler were indeed heroes, and it's right that we remember them and take inspiration from them. If you're interested in learning more about the 6,066 Poles recognized so far for defying the Nazis to save those being hunted down for extermination, you might read this Wikipedia entry:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_Righteous_among_the_Nations

Subject: Pol-Am Bloggers Receive Recognition

ProGenealogists cites two Pol-Am blogs, those of Jasia and Steve Danko, in their Top 25 most popular 2009 genealogy blogs! Way to go, Jasia and Steve!

Ceil Jensen

Editor—Ceil included a Web page with her note, and you can read it here:

<http://ancestryinsider.blogspot.com/2009/04/top-25-most-popular-2009-genealogy.html>

Subject: Lou Szucs Honored

Editor—Ceil also sent me this URL, where you can read about honors given to Loretto “Lou” Szucs, who richly deserves them:

<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2009/04/loretto-lou-dennis-szucs-honored-as-uga.html>

***** POLISH FALCONS OF AMERICA, NEST #37, CHICAGO SOUTH SIDE, TOWN OF LAKE *****

by *Paul S. Valasek* <hallersarmy@aol.com>

One research technique I strongly advocate is to be productive and proactive in gathering information while doing one’s genealogical research. Of course, when we are digging for information on a relative, we want to gather all we can. But what about the information which we gloss over or completely ignore? Wouldn’t this be of value for other researchers? Of course it would!

Now I don’t necessarily say to worry more about others’ research than your own. But, if I may mangle the old saying, “Gather while ye may!” If the information is in front of you—especially if it may be there only for a short time—collect it for others’ use, or even your own future use.

Thus follows the listing of members of the Polish Falcons in America, Nest #37. This was my grandfather’s nest, located on Chicago’s South side, I believe on Ashland Avenue in the Stockyards area, one of Chicago’s largest business areas. Now of course, the stockyards are gone, and so is Nest 37. But the memory lingers on.

Some of the names are familiar, while others are totally new to me. Yet one would have to assume that my grandfather, Jan Kostrubała, intermingled with them for an unspecified period of time. One name which pops out to me is Roman Miller. His first name is quite common for a Polish name, but Miller shows a German influence. As it turns out, Roman Miller also enlisted in Haller’s Army, became an officer (same class as my grandfather), and served in France, also in the 3rd regiment (again, the same as my grandfather). Unfortunately, he was killed in action in France, and thus did not return to Chicago.

Another name which “bothers” me a lot is A. J. Pierzynski. Yes, for those of you who are baseball fans, the name should look very familiar, as it’s the name of the catcher for the White Sox. Of course, the time frame excludes this A. J. as being the same man. Still, *Pierzynski* is not a very common name, and the use of A. J. really rings a bell. How often are two initials used for Polish names? Many times, list of names are given with a single initial—which drives researchers crazy, especially if it’s a J. But to use a combination such as A. J. strikes me as being unusual.

There was a Pierzyński shoe store located on Ashland Avenue during my grandfather’s day. As a matter of fact, one of his first jobs was as a shoe salesman for that store. The business is still op-

erating on Archer Avenue, in what has become one of Chicago's newer Polish neighborhoods (just Google "Pierzynski shoes" to find plenty of Websites mentioning it).

I looked up the biography of the White Sox's Pierzynski and it states he was born in upstate New York. On the Ellis Island site, there is an Anton Pierzynski coming from "Germany," going to Chicago, and he was a shoemaker. The baseball player's initials, A. J., stand for Anthony John. There are many similarities to consider that strike me as significant. I sent e-mails to both the Chicago White Sox and a local sportscaster, asking how to get a hold of A. J. As usual, I received no responses. I guess if there's no profit to be made, pure information is just not worth talking about. (Especially in American sports, where crime, illegitimacy and bad habits are featured nightly!)

The following names were extracted during my research and cover the years June 1895 through October 1921. There were other members who also joined Haller's Army from this nest, as well as many of the other nests in existence during the period 1917–1919. If anyone spots a familiar name, please feel free to write <hallersarmy@aol.com>. Maybe we have more in common.

Adameczyk, Stanislaw
Adamkiewicz, Andrzej
Adamkiewicz, J.
Badecki, A.
Bagos, Ambrozy
Bartkiewicz, L.
Bartkiewicz, P.
Bartkowiak, Antoni
Bartkowiak, Jozef
Basinski, A.J.
Basinski, C.
Basinski, St.
Basinski, Stef.
Basowski, Michal
Bauer, Jozef
Bednarczyk, Jozef
Belica, Julian
Bentkowski, St.
Bogdanski, Stanislaw F.
Bona, Bronislaw F.
Bonkowski, Benedykt
Bonkowski, H.
Bonkowski, Stefan
Bonkowski, Wladyslaw
Bonowicz, Wacław
Borejszo, Lucyan
Borowiak, Teodor
Borowicz, Jan

Bradel, E.
Brzezinski, Adam
Brzezinski, Nepomucene
Brzuski, Walenty
Buczynski, Piotr R.
Butler, J.
Cegielski, J.
Cesielski, W.
Ciszewski, Franciszek
Ciszewski, Jan
Cwiklinski, M.
Cwiklinski, Maryan
Czajkowski, Stanislaw
Czarnik, Jan F.
Czerniak, Teofil
Czerniec, Ludwik
Czuzyla, Jan
Dabrowski, Franciszek
Dalka, Franciszek
Danielewicz, Alex.
Deplewski, Hipolit
Deplewski, St.
Dobron, Marcin
Dorcer, A.
Dreutkiewicz, Jan
Drewniacki, Adam
Drzewiecki, R.
Dzewiecki, Adam

Dziekan, Kazimierz
Dzwiecki, Adam
Dzyanski, Jozef
Fatter, Wladyslaw
Ferenc, Antoni
Fijalkowski, Antoni
Filipiak, Andrzej
Filisiewicz, B.
Frankiewicz, S.
Gajewski, Jan
Galezewski, W.
Gaminski, Wladyslaw
Gardocki, Wacław
Glebowski, B.
Glowniak, Stanislaw
Golembiewski, Edward
Gonia, Jan
Gorniak, A.
Gorniak, M.
Gorniak, St.
Gornicki, Dyonizy
Gorski, Franciszek
Gorski, Jan
Gorski, Jozef
Grablinski, Stefan
Gracz, Bernard
Graniczny, Wladyslaw
Gronkowski, St.
Guzwiak, Wincenty
Hebel, Feliks
Hejna, K.
Hejnna, Stef.
Hojnacki, Syl.
Hulak, Jan
Jagielka, T.
Janczak, Wlad.
Janicki, Ant.
Jankowski, J.J.
Jankowski, Jozefat
Jankowski, M.
Jankowski, St.
Jankowski, Zdzislaw
Jaworski, Ign.
Jozwiak, Wincenty
Jura, Jan

Jurczak, Ludwik
Jurkowski, Edward J.
Juszczak, K.
Juszczak, Kazimierz
Juszczak, Wacław
Kaczkowski, J.
Kaminski, J.
Kaminski, Jan
Kaminski, Jan
Kaminski, Jozef
Kaminski, Roman
Kaminski, Stanislaw
Karaszkievicz, F.
Karaszkievicz, Kos.
Kibort, Franciszek
Kieckowski, Jan
Kierzanski, Ignacy
Kijanowski, S.
Klejhammer, St.
Kluczynski, Jozef
Kluczynski, Kazimierz F.
Knaflowski, S. Feliks
Kociemski, Tomasz
Kolnicki, Leon
Konieczka, Franciszek
Konieczny, St.
Koniuszewski, W.
Koralewski, A.
Koralewski, Franciszek
Kosciucha, Wiktor
Kosinski, K.
Kosmarski, A.
Kostrubala, Jan
Kostrubala, Jozef G.
Kotarba, Wojciech
Kowalczyk, Stanislaw
Kowalewski, R.
Kozlowski, A.
Kozlowski, Ksawery
Kozlowski, Wincenty F.
Kozubowski, Tomasz
Krolikowski, Wl.
Krop, Wladyslaw
Krulikowski, Wladyslaw
Krusinski, J.

Krusinski, Jozef
Krzanik, Jozef
Krzyzanski, Wl.
Kubasiewicz, Jozef
Kucharski, St.
Kulacki, Rajmont
Kwiatkowski, Stanislaw
Lamperski, A.
Laskowski, Boleslaw
Laskowski, Boleslaw
Lewandowski, J.
Lewandowski, Michal
Lipinski, Leon
Lipinski, R.
Liznicki, Edward
Longin, Figlerowie
Lopacinski, K.J.
Lorczynski, Gabryel
Lownik, Feliks Dr.
Lukaszewski, Wincenty
Majcher, Ludwik
Majewski, Jozef
Marcyan, Ambrozy
Markiewicz, Franciszek
Markiewicz, Roman
Miciek, Franciszek
Miciek, Jan
Mielczarek, St.
Mielzenski, J.
Mielzynski, Walenty
Miklejewski, Stanislaw
Miller, Alek
Miller, F.
Miller, J.
Miller, Roman #1
Miller, Roman #2
Misniak, Jan
Myszak, F.
Naborowski, Stanislaw
Narozny, W.
Natkowski, W.
Niesyto, Wincenty
Niksinski, A.
Niwinski, Stanislaw
Nizinski, Franciszek

Norogrodzki, Boleslaw
Nowak, Antoni
Nowak, Piotr
Nowakowski, Ludwik
Nowogrocki, B.
Nutowc, J.
Olezak, Jan
Olszowka, Wladyslaw
Opas, Marjan
Orciuch, Wiktor
Orlicki, Antoni
Orlicki, Franciszek
Orlowski, J.
Palaszewski, Bronislaw
Panowicz, J.
Paszkiewicz, B.
Patka, F.
Pawela, Antoni
Pawelkiewicz, Ed.
Pawelkiewicz, W.
Pawlak, Kazimierz
Pawlak, W.
Pawlak, Wojciech
Perlowski, Fr. M.
Perlowski, Michal
Petecki, W.
Pierzinski, K.
Pierzynski, A.J.
Pierzynski, Aleks
Pierzynski, Boleslaw M.
Pierzynski, Tadeusz S.
Pilarski, Jozef
Piontkowski, Roman
Plucinski, A.
Plucinski, W.
Pomorski, Boleslaw F.
Porebski, Tomasz
Posronra, Jan
Potocki, A.
Prasecki, A.
Przybylski, Jan
Przydruza, Wincenty
Przydruza, Czeslaw
Pyrzynski, Lucyan
Rachubruski, M.

Raczynski, Kazimierz
Raczynski, Konstanty
Radachonski, Piotr
Radecki, A.
Radecki, Aleksander
Rajewski, B.
Rajewski, Stanislaw
Ratajczak, Stanislaw J.
Ratka, J.
Rogowski, Jan
Rolewicz, Tomasz
Rubruski, T.
Rydelewski, Wincenty
Rymkiewicz, Ksawery
Rzegocki, Stanislaw
Scigalski, Ignacy
Siwek, Tomasz
Skowronski, Franciszek
Skretny, Piotr
Skwaczynski, W.
Slusarczyk, Kazimierz
Smuszkiewicz, J.
Sobczak, J. Tomasz
Sobczyk, Stanislaw
Sobierajski, Franciszek
Sobierajski, Jan
Sobierajski, Jozef
Sobolefski, Ludwik
Solejko, Franciszek
Sroka, W.
Staskiewicz, Roman
Stelmachowski, Ludwik
Stokarski, Wiktor
Struczewski, Adolf
Strzewewski, Edmund
Strzyzkowski, Antoni
Strzyzkowski, Stanislaw
Sturomski, Woj. J.
Sulkowski, Piotr
Swierz, Wojciech
Swietz, Jozef A.
Szlak, St.
Szwaja, J.
Targowski, Stanislaw

Targowski, Stanislaw
Tobiasiewicz, Jan
Tomaszewski, Wl.
Trafalski, Konstanty
Trochim, Wladyslaw
Twardowski, M.
Urbanowicz, Z.
Wachowski, Jozef
Warda, Jozef
Wcislo, Adam
Wiacek, W.
Wiachowski, L.J.
Wiertelak, Albert P.
Winiarski, Feliks
Witanowski, J.
Witkowski, Leon
Wlodarski, Ant.
Wlodarski, Antoni
Wohlgemuth, Bruno E.
Wohlgemuth, Teodor
Wolgiemutk, Brono
Wolniewicz, Kazimierz
Wroblewski, Adam
Wroblewski, Konstanty
Wroblewski, Michal
Wroblewski, St.
Wroblinski, Adam
Wroclawski, Bronislaw
Wrzesinski, ?
Wundroch, Ludwik
Wutkowski, J.
Wyndolek, Franciszek
Wypychowski, L.
Wyzykowski, W.
Zaleski, B.
Zaleski, J. Dr.
Zalewski, Boleslaw J.
Zarembski, Klemens
Zaworski, Franciszek
Zaworski, Wincenty
Ziolkowski, A.
Ziolkowski, Henryk
Ziolkowski, K.
Zownik, Feliks J.

*** + DON SAMULL + ***

Editor—I was saddened to hear of the death of Don Samull, whose name should be familiar to many of you. I learned of his passing in a note Debbie Greenlee posted on the Poland-Roots list:

Don Samull died March 5, 2009. Outside of Michigan, Don was probably best known for his Polish American calendar, which included Polish recipes. Perhaps some of you bought one or two.

Don had a long, accomplished history in Polonia. He was a board member for the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, Polish American Historical Association, the Friends of Hamtramck Library, the Polish American Historic Site Association, the Polish American Assistance Association, the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Polish Heritage Society and the Toledo-Poznań Alliance.

Don made several trips to Poland, even attending the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. He wrote a guide booklet on Polish-related sites in the U.S. and articles for *PolAmerica* magazine and was a correspondent for the *Polish American Journal*.

The list goes on.

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

Debbie

Editor—Ceil Jensen posted a follow-up on the funeral:

Don's funeral was attended by members of Michigan's Polonia. It was held at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit. He was one of our Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan's board members. I understand from his family that the 2010 calendar was complete before he had surgery in October. So, we will have to watch for an announcement.

Here are two additional articles about Don:

Polonia Mourns the Passing of a Great Leader, Don Samull (10/2009)

http://mypolishtimes.com/czaspolski/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=429&Itemid=1 (or <http://tinyurl.com/cd92rg>)

Donald F. Samull: The Calendar Crusader

http://mipolonia.net/samull_calendar.pdf

Editor—*Cześć jego pamięci!*

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

May 9, 2009

GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF BERGEN COUNTY, NJ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bergen County Community College
Paramus, New Jersey

Jonathan Shea, of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, will speak on Polish research. For further information, please contact <gerimola@aol.com>.

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May 16, 2009

FREE POLISH GENEALOGY WORKSHOP IN WORCESTER (MA)

A free workshop titled “Tracing the Polish Roots of Massachusetts Families” will be offered Saturday, May 16, at Worcester Public Library. It is scheduled for 1:15-2:15 p.m., with a 45-minute presentation and 15-minute Q/A period.

Workshop presenter Barbara Proko will discuss records and resources related to immigration to the U.S. and settlement in Massachusetts, with a strong focus on Worcester County. She will illustrate her talk with images of parish, census, military, and naturalization records, passenger lists, maps, and top Internet sites. How-tos will demonstrate strategies geared to research success.

The granddaughter of Polish immigrants who settled in Worcester before World War I, Barbara Proko is a member of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists and a board member of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts. She is the lead coauthor of *The Polish Community of Worcester* (Arcadia Publishing, 2003) and *Worcester County’s Polish Community* (Arcadia, 2007).

The Polish workshop is among 26 sessions scheduled for WPL’s second annual genealogy conference, which will take place Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, from 9:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is located in downtown Worcester, kitty-corner to the rear of Worcester Common and City Hall.

The conference is free and open to the public. Preregistration is required and may be completed online at <http://www.worcpublic.org/OnlineRegistration/registration.html>

Barbara will have signed copies of her books available for sale after her workshop. Cost is \$19.99 each; cash and checks will be accepted. For more information on the Polish genealogy workshop, e-mail her at <lida_ancestors@yahoo.com>.

=====
May 23, 2009

BLANCHE KRBECHK SPEAKS IN LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

The Special Interest Group and the Polish Genealogical Society of California are pleased to announce a special joint meeting on Saturday, May 23, in Lakewood, California. Blanche Krbechek, long-time president of the Kashubian Association of North America (KANA), will lecture from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on these two topics: “Is it Pomerania or Kashubia?” and “Traveling in Northern Poland.” She will appear in costume with bagpipes—and we are offering this program to the public at no charge!

The location is the Weingart Senior Center, 5220 Oliva Avenue in Lakewood (two miles north of the Long Beach Airport, near the intersection of Lakewood and Del Amo Blvds). The Weingart Center is centrally located between the (710), (91), (605), and (405) freeways. It is best to drive to the intersection of Lakewood and Candlewood (2 blocks north of Del Amo Blvd). Go west on Candlewood to the first driveway on the left that is a service road behind the Mall and next to the fire station. Continue on that road for about 1/2 block to Weingart, that will be on the your right. Look for balloons at these last two spots, and you’ll be there!

[From a note posted by Ceil Jensen to the Poland-Roots mailing list.]

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July 4 - August 10, 2009
Summer Study-Tour at Catholic University in Lublin, Poland

As in past years, Professor Michael Mikoś of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is leading a Summer Study-Tour in Lublin, with a 100-hour course of the Polish language at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. Also available is a three-week/six-credit course in Polish Culture and Polish Language from July 6-24. The trip includes excursions to Warsaw, Kazimierz, and other places of interest, with optional trips to Kraków and Białowieża National Park.

Program fees:

\$2,515.00 for Five Weeks, All Inclusive

\$1,417.00 for Two Weeks, All Inclusive

The program fee includes lodgings and all meals in Poland, lectures, language classes, performances, and health insurance; it does NOT include round-trip air transportation from Chicago to Warsaw. For details, contact Professor Mikoś at 414-229-4151 or write via Dept. of Foreign Languages & Linguistics, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201, e-mail <mikos@uwm.edu> or visit www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour/.

August 2 - 7, 2009

29TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

**Sheraton Philadelphia Center City Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

The annual conference of the IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) is always the premier event in the United States for Jewish genealogists. This year, there's an interesting twist: the keynote speaker is a Catholic priest! Father Patrick Dubois, author and humanitarian, will speak on "The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 million Jews," which is also the title of his recently published book. Fr. Dubois is best known for his work in searching for and uncovering mass graves in Ukraine.

The fascinating people who will be there include Dorin Dobrinicu, the Director General of the Romanian National Archive system, and Deputy Director Olga Muzychuk, a representative from the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine, who will be giving a talk. Among the huge roster of speakers, names that may be familiar to our readers include Matthew Bielawa, Logan Kleinwaks, Gary Mokotoff, Stanley Diamond, Stephen Morse, Kahlile Mehr, and Warren Blatt. Check out the entire program at <http://www.philly2009.org/program.cfm>.

For more info, visit the Website <http://www.philly2009.org/>.

[From a posting to the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup by Mark Halpern]

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August 7-8, 2009

PGS-CONNECTICUT/NORTHEAST 2009 CONFERENCE -- 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

For detailed information on this event, visit this page on the Society's Website:

<http://www.pgscctne.org/Conference%202009%20materials/index%20page.html>

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September 18 – 19, 2009

**FALL CONFERENCE OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
(PGSA)**

"UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES"

Friday, September 18th (1/2 day) and Saturday, September 19th (all day).

Location:

Chicago Marriott Schaumburg
50 North Martingale Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173

For more information and updates visit <http://www.pgsa.org>.

Speakers confirmed to date:

- * **Don Litzer**, former librarian of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN
- * **Kahlile Mehr**, manager of the Slavic/Germanic Collection at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City
- * **Michael J. Mikoś, Ph.D.**, professor of foreign languages and linguistics at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee
- * **Cynthia Piech**, Board Member and Treasurer of the PGSA
- * **Craig Pfannkuche**, president of Memory Trail Research, Inc. and genealogical archivist at the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society
- * **Julianna Smith**, editor of Ancestry.com newsletters, author of genealogy books and magazine articles
- * **Loretto Szucs**, author of genealogy books and executive director and vice president of community relations at Ancestry magazine

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://www.tvchannelsfree.com>

On the Poland Roots mailing list, Chris Knopf responded to a note about free access to foreign television channels by recommending this site. “There are literally hundreds of television channels available there, from several dozen countries worldwide. All broadcasts are live, so take into account the time differences. Also, each broadcast station is subject to its own laws regarding what it can broadcast on the web and when, so you may often see messages that usually translate into something like ‘We are forbidden to broadcast this stream at this time.’ Of course, high-speed internet access required!” For Poland specifically, the URL is <http://www.tvchannelsfree.com/channels/50/Poland>.

<http://geoportal.gov.pl/en/>

I noted in the January 2009 issue of PGS-California’s *Bulletin* that frequent contributor Robert Sherins suggested this Polish “geospatial portal.” I have not had a chance to familiarize myself with it, but I suspect this may prove to be one of those resources whose value is limited only by the user’s ability to take advantage of it. I’ll say this, my first look at some of the maps (<http://maps.geoportal.gov.pl/webclient/>) makes me want to go back and learn more!

<http://www.wdl.org/en/>

Gayle Schlissel Riley posted a note on the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish about the World Digital Library, which she described as “a wonderful site many, many countries around the world in English, docs and maps, pics.” At present, it has 11 items for Poland, 22 for Ukraine, and so on. It’s pretty interesting at this point, and I have a feeling it will only get better.

<http://www.slavsofnewyork.com/search/label/poles>

Paul S. Valasek told me about this site. I assume the name is a wordplay on the title of Tama Janowitz’s book *Slaves of New York*. I’m kind of like Buck Owens—”I wouldn’t live in New York City if they gave me the whole dang town.” But if you visit, this tells you about some pretty fascinating places to see.

<http://www.pocketopera.org/2009-Season/PO-2009-Manor.html>

Maureen Mroczek Morris pointed me toward this Web page, which advertises a production by the Pocket Opera in San Francisco of Stanisław Moniuszko’s *Straszony Dwór* (Haunted Manor). Two of the performances were in April, but one remains, on Saturday, May 9th, 2:00 p.m. at Julia Morgan Theater. If you have a chance, check it out!

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/04/family-stories-and-other-fairy-tales.html

This link leads to an excellent story from *Eastman’s Online Genealogical Newsletter*, “Family Stories and Other Fairy Tales.” It examines a whole series of family stories that usually prove false, including “Our name was changed at Ellis Island” and “He arrived in this country without paperwork.” Of course, sometimes researchers establish that these far-out stories actually were true in a given case. But in the vast majority of cases, they’re nonsense, and Eastman explains why in a very convincing way.

<http://iijg.org>

A recent issue of *Nu? What’s New* (<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V10N07.htm>) talks about the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem. It was founded in 2004, and has already helped produce a variety of impressive contributions to Jewish genealogy. If you have any Jewish ancestry, you really ought to know about this organization, and you might want to consider contributing to it. Visit its Website at the URL above, or read the article in *Nu*.

Incidentally, that same issue of *Nu?* also has a brief piece on a free tool for converting GEDCOM files into Excel, Access, or CSV files. If you’d like to be able to view your genealogical database files in these formats, take a look!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcEmEF526Ls&feature=related>

Lindy Kasperski posted this link on the Polish Genius mailing list. It brings up a video for the song “Dumka na dwa serca” by Edyta Górniak with Mietek Szcześniak; the song was featured in the film *Ogniem i mieczem*. You can see a version with English subtitles at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ie8Och3Ch60>. It’s a pretty song in its own right, and the scenes from

the movie are intriguing. It also proves wrong anyone who thinks Polish artists can't produce a very slick video!

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_gates_foundation_libraries.html?source=mypi

Also on the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee posted an Associated Press article about a grant of \$57 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to assist public libraries in Poland, Romania, and Vietnam in providing Internet access. There are many pages on the Internet about this story, dated April 23rd; the URL above links to one of the more complete versions of the article.

http://liturgicalcenter.org/pdf/p_031.pdf

Ceil Jensen posted a note stating that Fr. Flis, of The Liturgical Center at Orchard Lake Schools, has created a list of enrollment statistics for ordainees during the period 1885-200 available at this site. As Ceil pointed out, "You may find your uncle or parish priest on this list." The abbreviations are as follows: S = Seminary; CS = College-Seminary; C = College; Kraj = country of origin; Diec. p. = diocese of origin; Inkard. = affiliation to diocese in the USA; święc. = year ordained; studia = studies; and Uwagi (źródła inf.) = Notes (source of info). Given how important priests were in the Polish-American community, it was a rare family that didn't have a priest or two somewhere in the family tree.

<http://www.wtg-gniazdo.org/nekrologi.php>

On the Posen mailing list, Jerzy Szuman posted a note saying "the Obituary searcher has been activated by the Genealogical Society of Great Poland 'Gniazdo' ... It contains over 8000 obituaries taken from the Poznań newspapers, mainly *Dziennik Poznański* and *Kurier Poznański*, therefore the greatest number of names gathered are Polish ones and originate from Great Poland or Posen ... province. Unfortunately the searcher is in Polish only and not all annals are indexed yet but it will be continuously completed with new data. Both newspapers are presented here: <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/publication?id=2290&tab=3> and here: <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/publication?id=16370&tab=3>."

http://www.unsere-ahnen.de/digi_buecher/Uebersichtskarte_Messtischblaetter.pdf

Also on that list, Günter Mielczarek posted a note explaining that this link downloads a PDF file with a master map of the German Empire, including parts of modern Poland, East Prussia, and Lithuania, and links to individual maps, very detailed. The PDF with the master map has tiny print; you really have to magnify it 500% or more to read it. But most of the places shown have links to maps, most often from the Website of the University in Greifswald. For the serious researcher with roots in "German Poland," who has established the German names of his places of interest, this resource may help you get detailed maps of the areas in question. It is convenient having all these links put together in one place; and the PDF file is only a little more than 1 meg, so it's not huge. Just remember, you will have to magnify it a lot before you can read the names!

http://www.digitalbookindex.com/_search/search011t-rev.asp

Maralyn Wellauer-Lenius sent me (among others) a note saying this was a great link, as it helps one find digital material available on the Web. It is an impressive list, one I hope to explore in detail.

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