



# Gen Dobry!

**Gen Dobry! 28 February 2002**

\*\*\*\*\* GEN DOBRY! \*\*\*\*\*

Volume 3, No. 2. 28 February 2002.

Copyright (c) 2002, PolishRoots(tm), Inc.

Editor: William F. "Fred" Hoffman, E-mail: WFHoffman@prodigy.net

\*\*\*\*\*

## CONTENTS

- Welcome
- The Basics: Mailing Lists
- Letters to the Editor
- 10 Commandments of E-mail
- Chicagoland Researchers!
- Upcoming Events
- More Useful Web Addresses
- You May Reprint Articles...

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* WELCOME! \*\*\*

to the latest issue of GEN DOBRY!, the e-zine of PolishRoots(tm). If you missed previous issues, you can find them at [http://polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry\\_index.htm](http://polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry_index.htm).

Be sure to visit the PolishRoots site and take advantage of the numerous sources featured there to help you with your research. One very popular resource is the SurnameSearch(tm):

<http://polishroots.org/surnamesearch.htm>

It lets you:

- \* Browse submitted surnames
- \* List your own surnames
- \* Update your surname submissions

You don't need to register to browse submitted names. If you want to add your surnames, however, you are asked to register. Take a look and see if it can help you!

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* THE BASICS: MAILING LISTS \*\*\*

by William F. "Fred" Hoffman <WFHoffman@prodigy.net>

One of the things I keep being reminded of -- and need to be reminded of -- is not to assume everyone always knows what I'm talking about. I don't mean this in the sense "I'm so brilliant that lesser humans can't possibly know as much as I do" (not hardly!). I simply mean that each of us has his interests, things we delve into. What you deal with every day and know backward and forward might be unfamiliar to me, and vice versa. Occasionally we all need to take a moment to make sure others know just what the heck we're talking about.

A case in point: not long ago I got an e-mail from a gentleman who'd seen my reference to "a note posted to Genpol@man.torun.pl." He was interested in reading more, and tried to go to that "Website," only to find he couldn't get there. He asked if I could tell him more about how to access Genpol and other "lists" I referred to, such as Poland-Roots-L, Polish\_Genius, etc.

If you're an old hand on the Internet, you may smile. But we have to remember more and more people are joining our online communities every day. It's unrealistic to expect them to know from Day 1 things we only learned after months or years of experience. So let me say right now to all readers: if you're interested in something I refer to, but you're not quite clear exactly what I mean, NEVER HESITATE TO ASK!

\* Listservs or Mailing Lists \*

As I said, you'll notice that in \_Gen Dobry!\_ I often quote a note posted to, for instance, "PolandBorderSurnames-L@rootsweb.com" or "Polish\_Genius@yahoo.com." Since these complicated conglomerations of words end with ".com" it's easy to conclude

they must be Websites. In fact, they are mailing lists to which members post notes in the form of e-mails. (As a rule of thumb, if you see the symbol @ anywhere in such a string of words, it's almost certainly an e-mail address.)

A mailing list is a special kind of e-mail, because it takes the notes sent to it and posts them to all other members who've subscribed to that list. A listserv is the computer facility that hosts a mailing list, although sometimes the term is used as a synonym for "mailing list." Some lists are associated with Websites, but the addresses with @ are for the lists themselves.

The addresses I cited above for PolandBorderSurnames and Polish\_Genius are e-mail addresses, as the @ symbol indicates. Each is the address to which you send a note when you want it posted to all subscribers. Generally you have to subscribe to a list to post a note on it. It's a simple process, and there's almost never a fee involved (if there is, you'll know it up front). Once you've signed up, you're on the list of people who receive a copy of every note posted to that address.

(If you want to send a private reply only to the person who posts a note that interests you, just jot down his or her personal e-mail address; it appears in the message header, usually after "From: ". Then send a private note to that address. Avoid clogging up mailing lists with notes that interest only you and one other person).

Personally, I think mailing lists are a great deal. They cost nothing, and they let you share your questions and problems with lots of others -- including, perhaps, someone who knows the answer to the very question that's bothering you. I've subscribed to quite a few, and I learn a lot by looking through the notes I get from them, even though I routinely delete most of them. After all, these are public lists -- it's unreasonable to expect every note to interest me. Maybe only 1 in 100 is relevant to anything I'm interested in. But boy, that 1 can be a lifesaver sometimes!

#### \* Polish Genealogical Mailing Lists \*

As interest in genealogy has grown, the number of mailing lists devoted to it has increased. Not too many years back, I remember, the only one that dealt much with Polish genealogy was Genpol. Now there are many others, ranging from very active to almost comatose, including:

- Galicia Genealogy, "to exchange information that would be useful to persons who are researching their Galician ancestors."

- Ger-Poland-Volhynia, "for anyone researching the genealogy of Germans whose migrations took them through Russian Poland and/or Volhynia (northwestern Ukraine, next to the border with Poland). Fringe regions such as Posen, Podolia, Kiev, various parts of Prussia and others may also be included. Topics of discussion may also include related geography, history, religion and culture."

- Kresy-Siberia, "for those with a special interest in the tragedy of the 1.7 million Polish citizens of various faiths and ethnicities (Polish, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish, etc.) deported from eastern Poland (Kresy) in 1940-42 to special labour camps in Siberia, Kazakhstan and Soviet Asia."
- Herbarz, "for the discussion of Polish and Lithuanian heraldry, the history of the armorial clans, and the genealogy of noble families."
- Poland-Roots, "for anyone with a genealogical interest in researching Polish roots both inside and outside of Poland."
- PolandBorderSurnames, "for anyone researching genealogy in the former historical borders of Poland including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Moravia, Hungary, Russia, the Balkans, and East Prussia."
- Polish Genius, "A mailing list for those who are researching the genealogy of their Polish ancestry. Polish Genius is devoted to all types of Polish genealogy and Polish heritage whether in Poland or in another country, during any era (B.C.-21st century). History and culture are considered to be part of genealogy."
- Polish Lessons, "for assisting Poland researchers in translating Polish documents. Basic vocabulary lessons and pronunciation will be stressed."
- Pol-Lubuskie, "a mailing list for those researching in the present Polish province of Lubuskie."
- Pommern-L, "for those interested in sharing and exchanging information on genealogy and history which has a connection to Pomerania, both the current Polish part and remaining German parts of the former Prussian province."
- Posen, "for anyone with a genealogical interest in the former Prussian province of Posen/Poznan and its adjoining areas (especially Silesia)."
- Prussia-Roots, "for anyone with a genealogical interest in Brandenburg, Hannover (or Hanover), Ostpreussen (East Prussia), Pommern (Pomerania), Posen, Provinz Sachsen (Province of Saxony - northern Saxony), Schleswig-Holstein, Schlesien (Silesia), Westpreussen (West Prussia), Lubeck, Hamburg, and Bremen."
- Rzeszow-Poland, "for those searching in the area and surrounding areas of Rzeszow, Poland."
- Schlesien-L, "for those with a genealogical interest in the former Prussian province of Schlesien (Silesia), which is now mostly in Poland."
- Tarnobrzeg-Gen, "dedicated to help researchers for town of Tarnobrzeg in podkarpackie voivodeship, South Eastern Poland."

- TX-Polish, "a special interest mailing list for those of Polish descent whose ancestors immigrated to Texas."

Those are just the ones I could find offhand! Unquestionably there are more. You get an idea of how the field of Polish genealogy has grown when you look at the proliferation of mailing lists devoted to its various aspects.

If you'd like to know more about any of those mentioned above, or to see some I've omitted, this Website not only provides info on the lists, but also has links that let you subscribe easily:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/maillists.html>

That's where I got the info I quoted above. (You surely didn't think I went to the trouble of compiling all that myself!).

Of course, you may be interested more in Lithuanian research. A good site listing various Lithuanian mailing lists is here:

<http://www.cyndislist.com/baltic.htm#Mailing>

If Ukraine is the focus of your research, look over this list:

[http://www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen\\_mail\\_country-ukr.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_country-ukr.html)

If you have Jewish roots, you have an enormous variety of lists that may help you, including some mentioned above. Take a look at all the options mentioned here:

<http://www.cyndislist.com/jewish.htm#Mailing>

As you may be starting to realize, there are lists out there on almost any area you care to look at. You may have to wade through a lot of junk to find one worthwhile post -- but it only takes one! And you'll almost certainly learn more than you expected to.

\* A Few Do's and Don'ts \*

Mailing lists can be a big help in your research, and they cost nothing (assuming, of course, you already are connected to the Internet - and if you're not, I'd love to know how you're reading this!). The biggest problem with them is that if you subscribe to more than a few, you may find the avalanche of mail can be overwhelming. But you can always unsubscribe if it doesn't work out.

One way I cope with all that mail: if a list offers the option of subscribing in List or Digest mode (and most do), I always choose Digest. Signing up in List mode means you receive each individual note posted separately; in Digest mode individual notes are

collected into one larger file and sent out periodically. I find that form much easier to digest.

Also note: some lists maintain archives of past notes. Pay attention to this! A search of the archives will often uncover just exactly what you need to know. It's a shame so few people take advantage of this very useful feature. You might be astonished to see how many of your questions have already been answered. (And you might be embarrassed to learn how sick some of us get of answering the same bloody questions over and over again!!!).

Also, if you subscribe to a list, PLEASE make a note of the instructions on how to unsubscribe, log off temporarily while you're on vacation, etc. Save yourself time and trouble -- keep those instructions someplace you can find them. Then when the time comes, USE THEM! Don't clog up the list with routine requests that could be handled automatically by computer. I go berserk when I see people do that, because it's so easily avoided.

Finally, remember that these are PUBLIC lists. A lot of different people, with different points of view, are signed up. Think about what that means -- it virtually guarantees every note posted is not going to interest you. Please don't take it on yourself to decide what is and is not "on topic." Who died and left you in charge?

\* Summary \*

So that's what a mailing list is. If you haven't sampled one, give it a try! It'll cost you nothing but a little time, and you just might make a connection that will help you when you run into a brick wall. If and when that happens, you won't need anyone to convince you of their value.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

[Reacting to a note in \_Gen Dobry!\_, Volume 3, No. 1, on Centennia Historical Atlas software, Stefan Wisniowski wrote:]

Bad news for Mac owners.

Sadly Centennia Napoleonic Edition is only available for Windows95/98/NT users. Versions of the Working Model of Centennia are available for Windows95/98/NT as well as older PC operating systems. Sorry Mac fans, we don't have a Working Model of the Mac version. There is a full version of Centennia for Macintosh computers -- just no free demo to download. If you are a Mac user and want to see how the software works, find someone who can download the Windows version for you. The functionality is nearly identical.

Stefan Wisniowski, Australia  
<swisniowski@px.com.au>

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* 10 COMMANDMENTS OF E-MAIL \*\*\*

[Guido Buldrini <buldrini@tin.it> posted this note to  
Poland-Roots-L@rootsweb.com. It seemed worth repeating.]

Dear Friends,

I think that everyone has something to learn from the:

#### TEN COMMANDMENTS OF E-MAIL

- 1) Thou shalt include a clear and specific subject line.
- 2) Thou shalt edit any quoted text down to the minimum thou needest.
- 3) Thou shalt read thine own message thrice before thou sendest it.
- 4) Thou shalt ponder how thy recipient might react to thy message.
- 5) Thou shalt check thy spelling and thy grammar.
- 6) Thou shalt not curse, flame, spam or USE ALL CAPS.
- 7) Thou shalt not forward any chain letter.
- 8) Thou shalt not use e-mail for any illegal or unethical purpose.
- 9) Thou shalt not rely on the privacy of e-mail, especially from work.
- 10) When in doubt, save thy message overnight and reread it in the light of the dawn.

And, here's the "Golden Rule" of E-Mail:

That which thou findest hateful to receive, sendest thou not unto others.  
- Original author unknown.

For the members of a list we should add: Thou shalt not reply to the list if your answer is only for a couple of persons. Ciao!

Guido

[I was delighted to read these, and wish people would obey them. Of course, when Guido posted this note, it was followed by 17 posts from people saying they agreed with the commandments, 212 saying "Me too," 116 proposing other commandments that should be substituted for ones in the list Guido quoted, 14 from people who thought the note violated the separation of church and state, and 1 from a guy demanding to know why Congress doesn't make Paczki Day a national holiday. And so it goes....]

\*\*\*\*\*

## CHICAGOLAND RESEARCHERS!

Attention to all Researchers in the Chicagoland area the first weekend of April:

I would like to take a moment to encourage any researchers who may be in Chicago, or could make the trip, to consider attending the annual Illinois State Genealogical Conference, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, 2002, at the William Tell Holiday Inn in Countryside, IL, a southwestern suburb of Chicago.

Our theme is "Ethnic Illinois," but there will be plenty of information for the Polish Researcher. Ceil Jensen of Michigan will be giving her talk on DNA linkage and the current advances in that field of genealogy. She has roots in Poland, especially the Poznan region. Anthony Lascio will be featuring his Italian Roots, but Tony is half Polish and folks who attended my conferences at PGSA should remember Tony for his great information.

The editor of PolishRoots' own Gen Dobry!, Fred Hoffman, will be giving a lecture on mangled names from all over Eastern Europe. Always good information. I will be lecturing about the resources of Haller's Army -- many researchers still don't realize the great number of Polish families this fighting force was drawn from.

ISGS has also called on speakers from archives at various levels -- local, Phil Costello, Cook County Archives; state: Charles Cali, State of Illinois Archives; and national: Martin Tuohy, Great Lakes Branch of the National Archives (whose talk will be about the 1930s census just released) -- to discuss the vast resources of Illinois.

The featured speaker is a nationally known figure, Dr. George Schweitzer, who always does a great job on German genealogy. Well worth the price of admission in itself. Jewish, Black, Czech and Slovak research will also be featured, as well as Jon Austin's talk on Illinois' Funeral Museum (only two states have one - Texas is the other), and Loretto Szucs' talk on the naturalization process. Many genealogists will recognize Loretto's name from national conferences and Ancestry.com.

For additional information, please take a look at the link under our PolishRoots Events calendar, and the info presented below under "Upcoming Events." I hope to see many of you there if possible.

Paul Valasek  
PolishRoots VP  
ISGS 2nd VP

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\*

March 17, 2002

St. Barbara Parish  
Lackawanna, New York

Chicken dinner, 12:00 noon to 5 p.m.

For those who live in the Buffalo area, March 17th is not ONLY St. Patrick's Day. According to Dan Kij it's also "the FEAST day when St. Barbara Parish holds its delicious Wendel chicken dinner, noon to 5pm (adults \$8, children under 12 - \$4)."

For more info, contact Dan: (716) 822-5258, or  
DanielJKij@aol.com

---

April 5-6, 2002

Illinois State Genealogical Society 2002 Conference

"ETHNIC ILLINOIS"

To be held at the William Tell Holiday Inn, Countryside, IL

Featured Speaker: Dr. George Schweitzer

Contact: ISGS P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/fallconf/newestconf.html>

---

June 29 - July 14, 2002

and

July 6 - July 21, 2002

TRIPS TO POLAND!!

The Polish Museum of America in Chicago will conduct two trips to Poland this summer, the first June 29 - July 14, the second July 6 - 21. The first will tour northeastern Poland, concentrating on the Mazurian Lakes region, with a visit to Bialowieza National Forest. The second will tour the religious and historical centers of the country, including Warsaw, Krakow, Poznan, Czestochowa, Oswiecim/Auschwitz, and Zakopane. Both tours will be in air-conditioned buses with stays in 3-star hotels. Additional info can be found here:

<http://www.pgsa.org/polandtrips.htm>

For more info e-mail the Museum at <pma@prcu.org> or write, specifying which trip you're interested in:

PMA Poland Trip  
984 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
Chicago IL 60622

---

July 14 - 18, 2002

#### 2002 INTERNATIONAL ROOTS CONFERENCE

Dearborn Michigan

Hyatt Regency Dearborn  
Fairlane Town Center

Plans call for this to be the premier national genealogical conference for family historians tracing their European roots. Already signed up are 25 speakers, and 2,000 attendees are expected! It's not a minute to soon to make plans to attend. For more information visit the Website:

<http://www.rootsconference.com>

Don't miss it!

---

July 19 - 21, 2002

#### DISCOVERING OUR LINKS TO EUROPE: AN INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

July 19th - 21, 2002

This event is being hosted by the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (SGS), in conjunction with the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS), the Bukovina Society of the Americas (BSA), the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE), and the East European Genealogical Society (EEGS). It is anticipated that it will attract an audience of several hundred people.

A call for papers, along with additional information on the Conference, can be seen at the EEGS site:

<http://www.eegsociety.org/CallForPapers.html>

---

September 7 -21

THE POLISH MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
TOUR OF POLAND

This tour is scheduled to stop at sites in Wroclaw, Legnica, Czestochowa, Krakow, Wadowice, Nowa Huta, Rzeszow, Przemysl, Zamosc, Deblin, Lublin, Kozlowka, and Warsaw.

For more info e-mail the Polish Museum of America at <pma@prcua.org>, specifying that you're interested in the Polish Military History Society of America tour, or write:

PMHSA Poland Trip  
c/o Polish Museum of America  
984 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
Chicago IL 60622

---

January 17 & 18, 2003

GENTECH 2003  
PHOENIX, ARIZON  
The Phoenix Civic Plaza.

"Digital Technology - The Ancestral Frontier"

Maryellen T. <deeproofs@go.com> posted a notice on the Polish\_Genius mailing list about this event, saying rightly that it's not too soon to make plans to attend. Past conferences of GENTECH have focused on how to use technology more effectively in your genealogical research (see Ceil Jensen's article on Gentech 2002 in the last issue of \_Gen Dobry!\_). You can get more information at the Website:

<http://www.agcig.org/gt03.htm>

or at Gentech's site:

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

[Debbie Greenlee added that info on this event is included on the Events Calendar of PolishRoots:

[http://www.polishroots.org/coming\\_events.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/coming_events.htm)

In fact, it's always a good idea to check this site, as it contains more info than we have room for here.]

\*\*\*\*\*

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

<http://12.237.150.30/Research.html>

"Genealogy Research" <angie03@coolgoose.com> sent out a note saying "I have 422 Genealogy Databases listed for research at the follow web site." Why not take a look and see if some of them might help you?

---

<http://www.genhelp.org>

Bill Cribbs <cribbswh@tbi-set.org> posted a note to LithuanianGenealogy@yahogroups.com, sharing the news that this site has just been "unveiled." He included other URLs you may find useful:

<http://www.obitcentral.com> [Obituary Central]

<http://www.obitlinkspage.com> [Obituary Links Page]

<http://www.gendirectory.com> [GenDirectory.com]

<http://www.obitlinkspage.com/surnames/> [WebWide Surname Locator]

---

<http://genealogypro.com/directories/USA.html>

Tina Ellis <przymelewski@hotmail.com> posted this URL to PolandBorderSurnames-L@rootsweb.com in response to a question about finding Polish professional genealogical researchers, explaining, "This is an online list of an organization with researchers all over the world."

---

<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/>

Ceil Jensen <cjensen@htdconnect.com> mentioned this site on Poland-Roots-L, explaining, "Stephen P. Morse, PhD, has a new finding aid ready for the 1930 Federal Census." Morse devised a splendid site making searches of the Ellis Island database easier, so his site for the 1930 Census, "Obtaining EDs for the 1930 Census in One Step (Large Cities)," is probably worth a look. Ceil adds that Morse offers a useful FAQ at this address:

<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/faq.htm>

---

[http://www.paul\\_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm](http://www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm)

Carol <Franksgram@aol.com> mentioned this site on Poland-Roots-L, saying, "Click on this for "old" medical terms.... This is a good site to keep bookmarked or in favorite places. It has helped me out with old death certificates."

---

<http://www.posen-l.com/CathDeanLst.php>

James Birkholz <j.birchwood@verizon.net>, manager of the Posen-L list, posted a note on that list to announce that a new database has been added at this address. It helps researchers locate parish churches in Poznan province where their ancestors' records might be located. It's an abstract of *\_Brevis Descriptio Historico-Geographica Ecclesiarum Archidioecesis Gnesnensis et Posnaniensis ad Ordinem Decanatum Digestarum\_* by Jan Korytkowski (Gnesnae: J.B. Lange, 1888) [A Brief Historico-Geographic Description of the Churches of the Archdiocese of Gniezno and Poznan by Deanery].

\*\*\*\*\*

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. 3, No. 2, 28 February 2002. PolishRoots(tm): <http://PolishRoots.org/>.