



# Gen Dobry!

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Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, E-mail: <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

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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/gendobry\\_index.htm](http://polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry_index.htm)

Also, if you are among those who'd like *Gen Dobry!* in PDF form, you can download this issue here:

[http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry\\_V\\_6.pdf](http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_V_6.pdf)

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**\*\*\* POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES \*\*\***

by Fred Hoffman <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

In these days of incredible resources on the Internet, many people feel everything you need is available online. The more you look at all the information provided for free by PolishRoots, the easier it is to get that impression ☺. Still, everything you need is *not* online, and will not be for the foreseeable future. Just try to imagine the logistics involved in finding, copying, posting, and indexing all the jillions of documents and forms that can prove relevant to genealogical research! It's a massive job — and, just by the way, who do you think is going to pay for all that?

No, you can't do it all online, not now and probably not any time soon. There are still many instances where you have to get off your butt and go somewhere, to check piles of dusty documents, to wind through microfilm reels, to talk to other people who know the score, and so on.

What's more, you're cheating yourself if you try to do it all alone. For one thing, we all need a little human companionship now and again. Besides, many of the problems you face have been encountered by others. If there's some way to connect with them, they might be able to answer in a moment a question that might otherwise baffle you for years. There is something to be said for interacting with other people who share your interests and have already faced the obstacles that are blocking your way. That kind of contact energizes you.

So I strongly advise researchers to consider joining one or more of the various genealogical societies that have sprung up over the last 25 years. Find one that concentrates on research in areas of interest to you, and visit their Website. If you can, go to a meeting in person!

All these societies have devoted their efforts to developing resources in their particular area. Say you live in Texas now, but your ancestors first settled in Connecticut; a question about them that baffles you might be a piece of cake for someone with PGSCCTNE (Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast). If your ancestors came from Poland to Canada, but then later resettled in the U. S., you might find something valuable in a series of articles on Poles entering the U.S. from Canada in the *Polish Eaglet*, the Journal of PGS-Michigan. Never underestimate the value of a local connection!

I realize it may seem I'm undercutting PolishRoots a little when I promote various PGS'es, but I don't think that's true. The job before us is immense, and there's room for lots of players, all doing their part. I keep an eye open for posted or printed remarks that show research experience and good sense, and it's amazing how often I see names I recognize, because the people in question read *\_Gen Dobry!* but are also members of one or more PGS'es I'm familiar with. To me, it's clear that successful researchers typically are members of one or more societies. The reason they get so far is that they don't try to do it all by themselves!

So let me give you a list of the various societies I know of that focus (wholly or in part) on research involving Poles. I may miss some organizations, or get details wrong — if so, I welcome correction!

## \* Societies in the United States \*

Since most of our readers live in the United States, let's start with societies in the U.S.:

### **Carpatho-Rusyn Society**

<http://www.carpathorusynsociety.org>

Publication: *The New Rusyn Times*, published 6 times a year

Obviously this society doesn't focus on Poles exactly — but a great deal of its info is valuable to Polish researchers. The homeland of the Carpatho-Ruysns was long ruled by or associated with Poland, so many “Poles” actually turn out to be Carpatho-Rusyns. If your ancestors were from Galicia, you may want to look into joining this group!

### **Kashubian Association of North America**

<http://www.ka-na.org>

Publication: *Przyjaciół ludu Kaszubskiego*, quarterly

This society specializes in research on the Kaszubi, a fascinating and colorful ethnic group closely related to the Poles and living in what is now northwestern to northcentral Poland, in the area west and southwest of Gdansk.

### **Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society**

<http://www.lithuaniangenealogy.org>

Publication: *Protėviai*, semi-annual

Obviously this group focuses on Lithuanian research, but to relatives of the many ethnic Poles who have lived and still live in Lithuania, LGGS can prove helpful.

### **PGS-America**

<http://www.pgsa.org>

Publication: *Rodziny*, quarterly

The first Polish genealogical society organized in the U.S. (only a matter of weeks before PGS-Michigan), headquartered in Chicago, Illinois but with members living all over the United States. I am honored to serve as editor of their Journal.

### **PGS-California**

<http://www.pgscalifornia.org>

Publication: *Bulletin*, quarterly

PGS-CA was established in 1989, and meets at the Los Angeles Family History Center. Its *Bulletin* is always worth reading, and it has played a major role in co-hosting meetings every other year of the United Polish Genealogical Societies in Salt Lake City.

### **PGS-Connecticut and the Northeast**

<http://www.pgscctne.org>

Publication: *Pathways & Passages*, semi-annual

This society is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a conference in September (see **Upcoming Events**, below). *Pathways & Passages* is excellent, and the society has developed many resources for research in the northeastern U.S., with particular emphasis on northeastern Poland and Galicia, which is where many of its members came from.

### **PGS-Greater Cleveland**

<http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/>

Publication: *Our Polish Ancestors*, quarterly

PGSGC, which held its first meeting in 1991, meets on the first Tuesday of each month from September through June at the parish hall of St. Mary's PNC Church in Cleveland.

### **PGS-Massachusetts**

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

Publication: *Biuletyn Korzenie*, semi-annual

PGS-MA, founded in 1989, has long been a solid and active organization. In recent years PGS-MA has co-sponsored two very successful conferences with PGSCTNE.

### **PGS-Michigan**

<http://www.pgsm.org>

Publication: *Polish Eaglet*, three times a year

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, PGSM is especially known for its fine journal, *Polish Eaglet*. A combination of circumstances has made its publication in recent years erratic, but recently it seems to be catching up and getting back on track. Whether it's on time or late, it's always full of solid information.

### **PGS-Minnesota**

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>

Publication: *Newsletter*, quarterly

I'm particularly impressed with this society's quarterly newsletter, which features a lot of original research and provides information you really can't get anywhere else.

### **PGS-New York State**

<http://www.pgsnys.org>

Publication: *Searchers*, three times a year

PGSNYS was founded in 1988, led by the late Mike Drabik. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga, NY. I've never had a chance to attend a meeting, but over the years I've had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know quite a few of its members. With people like this, the society must be good!

### **PGS-Texas**

<http://www.pgst.org>

Publication: *Polish Footprints*, three times a year

I got to spend three glorious years living in Houston, and spoke twice at PGST meetings. I had a grand time, and the group made a great impression on me. For years Virginia Hill has done a splendid job editing *Polish Footprints*. She's retiring now, however, so we have to wish PGST good luck finding someone else who can do the job as well.

### **PGS-Wisconsin**

<http://feefhs.org/pol/frgpgswi.html>

Publication: *PGSWI Quarterly*

Dues: \$15/yr, send to PGSW, P.O. Box 342341, Milwaukee WI 53234-2341

Established in 1989, PGSWI meets on the 4th Monday of March, April, May, September, October, and November at the Polish Center, 6941 South 68th St., Franklin Wisconsin.

### **Toledo Polish Genealogy Society**

417 E. Pearl St., Toledo, Ohio 43608

For more information, please contact Rose Sniegowski <[rasnieg@accestoledo.com](mailto:rasnieg@accestoledo.com)>

## \* Jewish Societies \*

Many Jewish researchers are going to have roots in Poland, and many Polish Christians find they have Jewish ancestors. So unquestionably there are close ties between Jewish research and Polish research. Still, there are enough practical differences that Jewish genealogical societies are generally listed separately rather than grouped with Polish genealogical societies. I don't feel this is a sign of animosity or that anyone's trying to exclude anyone else; it's just practical to categorize the two groups separately.

The list of Jewish genealogical societies is too long to give here. But you can find such a list, with links to Websites, for nearly 50 societies in the U.S. and 6 in Canada here:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/iajgs/members.html>

## \* Societies in Other Countries \*

Societies in other countries that can provide valuable assistance with Polish research include:

### **Catholic Family History Society**

#### **Polish Interest Group**

United Kingdom

<http://www.catholic-history.org.uk/cfhs/>

The last I heard this Society's Polish Interest Group is still active, but I must admit it has been some time since I heard anything about them. If anyone can provide updated information, I'd be glad to reprint it.

### **East European Genealogical Society**

<http://www.eegsociety.org>

Publication: *East European Genealogist*, quarterly

This society, headquartered in Manitoba, Alberta, Canada, deals with research throughout Central and Eastern Europe, with particular emphasis on Galicia, since so many Canadian immigrants came from that region. Its publication, *East European Genealogist*, has featured many excellent articles.

### **Polish Genealogical Society of New Zealand**

<http://feefhs.org/pol/frgpgsnz.html>

PGS-NZ has been active for years, with a prominent role played by Roy Watembach, who now serves as secretary and researcher; Gordon Dodunski serves as president.

### **Saskatchewan Genealogical Society**

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

Publication: *SGI Bulletin*, quarterly

Obviously this Society helps all inhabitants of Saskatchewan with genealogical research — but since a great many of them have roots in Poland and Ukraine, SGI belongs in this list.

## \* Conclusion \*

Sadly, I'm sure I've forgotten to mention some excellent groups that deserve better. I have probably paid more attention to societies whose meetings I have attended or spoken at, simply because I know a little more about them. If you know of a group I overlooked, don't hesitate to tell me about it, and I'll be glad to print an update next issue.

In the meantime, I hope you'll look over this list and ask yourself whether you have something to gain by joining one of these groups. Most publish newsletters or journals that contain valuable information; so even if you never come within 100 miles of a meeting, you may still benefit from membership. And if you do have a chance to join and attend meetings, I urge you to do so. If you try it and decide it's not for you, fair enough. But there's nothing like that burst of enthusiasm you get when you're around other people who are just as crazy as you are!

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

Subject: Correction

Sorry to do this but I have a correction. In the May, 2004 issue I am listed as the person who posted "The Ancestors' Commandments" on Poland Roots. I didn't. I don't usually send that sort of thing. ;)

It was posted by "Debbie B" in Australia! <kolega@speedlink.com.au>. I guess there are too many Debbies out there.

I would like to add a commandment though: Thou shalt be born in a country that shall not be studied in foreign history books so that your descendants shall be forced to read like children though they are old in years.

Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

*Editor — Sorry, Debbie. You know, I do my fair share of griping at the media. But I have to admit, from the tiny little bit of experience I have doing this and other publications, I have learned to temper my criticisms a bit. I've learned firsthand that a person can have all the will in the world to get the facts right, and still mess up! I apologize for the error.*

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Subject: Correction re PGSM

Jan [Zaleski] and Kathie [LaBudie-Szakall] are not founding fathers of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. I sent Ceil Jensen a correction when the posting first appeared.

Richard Zaremba <duzyorzal@comcast.net>  
Past president of PGSM

*Editor — Again, mea culpa! I don't know where my head was when I let that one slip by. Perhaps I can atone by pointing out to all who are interested that the Summer 2003 issue of the Polish Eaglet has a detailed article on the founders of PGSM (compiled by Jan Zaleski, in fact) as well as an article on PGSM's early days by James J. Tye, one of said founders.*

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Subject: Booklet on emigration

I talked with some of my sources in Poland about that question in the last *Gen Dobry!*, asking how our ancestors managed to find out how to emigrate, and how they actually managed to pull it off. One of them came back with this:

“*Rolnictwo za oceanem a przesiedlna emigracya*. Oleśków, Józef. Żółkiew 1896, Nakł. autora. 19 cm, s. 48. Opr. wyd. brosz. Bardzo rzadkie!”

How does it sound to you?

Paul Valasek <paval56@aol.com>

*Editor — Well, it might be interesting: Agriculture on the other side of the ocean, and emigrants who settled there, published by the author, Józef Oleśków, Żółkiew 1896, a brochure of 48 pages, very rare. However, it was apparently written by someone in Poland, so I don't know how much firsthand info it has on the difficulties emigrants faced. Plus I'm not sure how many people will touch it, since it's in Polish. Still, I'm glad to mention it. Some enterprising person may decide it's worth a peek — and we want to encourage such people!*

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Subject: How Did Our Ancestors Manage It?

In my family history, I referenced Leslie Moch's book *Moving Europeans* as follows: “Ships that sailed to America with European passengers and German goods returned with tobacco, cotton, sugar, coffee, timber, rum and other articles. However, it was the emigrants, as goods, that brought the shipper the largest profit. Emigration traffic escalated in 1857 with the founding of the North German Lloyd shipping company. The company would send paid agents into the villages to recruit travelers to fill their boats. Although they never guaranteed employment, the agents were knowledgeable of opportunities in the New World. They were salesmen selling dreams. Energetic and enthusiastic agents started migrations from many a Polish village.”

With intense competition motivated by profit, I believe other shipping companies also had agents whose job was to arrange for emigration of those people who could pay for a ticket.

I also referenced an article entitled “70 Years North German Lloyd Lines 1857 - 1927”, Atlantic-Verlag (no date): “Everything possible was done to ensure a high standard in handling the emigrants. The strategy was to reduce the pressure of the relocation and have the emigrants find work and prosper in their new home. Then they could support the future transportation of other family members from abroad. The chief care of the private companies was to assure that the supply of passengers did not run out.” Bremerhaven became the leading port of embarkation for Europe's emigrants competing with much larger ports such as Le Havre, Amsterdam and Hamburg.

I would think that in 1913, a 16-year old male's transportation was financed by his family and likely only had to arrive at some collection point where he and other emigrants were then transported to the point of embarkation. Germany and Poland had a fairly good railroad system early in the 1900s. I would also think that they would be accompanied by someone bilingual and familiar with the routine similar to today's tour guide. And they were likely met at the port of debarkation by someone, perhaps a relative or the parish priest or some organization. In Baltimore, the focus of my family history, the Polish National Association helped immigrants get

adjusted. It ran night schools that offered courses in English and Civics, and generally came to the defense of the immigrant when needed.

Bill Rutkowski <ImogeneRut@aol.com>

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Subject: Visas for Poles

Finally heard from my congressman, Steven C. LaTourette (R), regarding H.R. 3956, the bill that would waive visa requirements for Polish citizens traveling to the U. S. To quote from his letter, "H.R. 3956 remains in committee and although preliminary assessments indicate that Poland's current B1/B2 visa refusal rate is significantly higher than what is required for participation in the program, I will certainly keep your views in mind should H.R. 3956 come to the House floor for a vote. I know many in northeastern Ohio trace their ancestry to Poland, and I look forward to hearing the committee's report on the bill." In another part of his letter he says, "With heightened security concerns, some critics question how open our borders should be. For example, in the last year, 49% of all legal overseas visitors entered the U.S. without a visa." It doesn't sound too hopeful, does it?

Armella Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

*Editor — I'm afraid it doesn't. As usual in this world, upright people end up paying for the misdeeds of a few wicked people. I must say, knowing how few Arabs and Muslims live in Poland and how hard it would be for terrorists from the Middle East to get a foothold there, I'd feel letting Poles in is less worrisome than admitting people from Germany and France, where there are large Arab and Muslim communities. Still, terrorism is inevitably going to make it harder to keep open borders. And since I'm afraid I think another major attack is inevitable, it may only get worse. For more on this same subject, see the article below on Polish visas.*

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**\*\*\* VISAS FOR POLES: IS THIS HOW WE TREAT FRIENDS? \*\*\***

*Editor — Of course we deal with genealogy, not political hot potatoes. Still, I've been hearing a lot lately about how Poles are treated when they try to come to this country, and as best I can tell, this is something many of you care deeply about. As an example, here are three notes sent me by Richard Pearse <skpearse@isp.com> about just one case he knows of, his cousin who applied for a visa at the U. S. Consulate in Warsaw. Here's the first note:*

Been receiving *Gen Dobry!* since you first started July 2000, have your book of names. Would like you to make the Polish people aware that they will not receive a visa from the U.S. Embassy Warsaw Consulate, unless you are a child or student. They will accept the \$100 US to file or re-file for a visa, hundreds apply and they will not receive one. We have written to many people, but I believe you will be our god-send. **Tell all people of Polish background to write to their senators and congressmen to end the need for Poles to get a visa to enter the U. S.** We are millions in the U. S. A., stand up for our rights. You will receive many letters from my family relatives. Thanks, Richard Pearse Lexington, Kentucky

*Editor — This next note was sent to Mr. Pearse and forwarded to me. It tells what happened the first time his cousin, Ewa Michalska, applied for a visa:*

My cousin, Ewa Michalska, who I visited this summer, applied for a visa from the U. S. Consulate in Warsaw to visit the United States. Specifically, she was to visit some of our family members in Florida for about five weeks beginning in July. She had to pay \$100 for an interview at the Consulate and was denied because according to the Consulate she had not offered sufficient proof that she was coming as a visitor and not an immigrant. Apparently over 100 people applied that day, and perhaps ten, mostly children or students, were granted a visa.

Ewa owns significant property in our hometown of Raciąż. She is the care-giver for her 80-year-old parents. She is a school teacher who is well respected and who had plans already for the start of the new school year. Still, our Consulate says there is no proof that she is not trying to immigrate as opposed to coming as a visitor.

Various family members contacted their congressmen. As a result, Ewa was told to apply again. Today, June 25th, she paid another \$100 for an interview, only to get the same response — no visa. It was the consulate who told her to interview again this year, yet the only thing they said today is that she reapplied too soon after being denied.

I think Polish Americans who have family in Poland are deserving of some real answers. You can be French or German, or a number of other nationalities, and not have a visa requirement to come into the U. S.

So, I just unloaded on you. Sorry. But it angers me that Polish troops are being killed and wounded in Iraq, and Poles get no respect nor honor. I am reading Norman Davies' new book, *Rising '44: The Battle for Warsaw*, which clearly shows how shabbily Britain and the United States treated their "First Ally." Nothing seems to have changed.

*Editor —Finally, here's a summary of the situation by Mr. Pearse:*

Pleaseeeeeeeeee, need your help, the U.S. Embassy Warsaw Consulate is ripping off the Polish people that want to visit their relatives in the U.S. and return to Poland. They are charging US\$100 to file for a visa, but they are **not told** that only children and students will receive visas. They will be refused and lose the \$100, but they are told to re-apply and another \$100 is needed — how long will this go on, hundreds and hundreds have been refused, is this a scam?

My cousin, Ewa Michalska, was told if she would have her trip paid for in advance she would have a better chance of receiving a visa. This she did, was refused, was informed that she re-apply which she did, received another appointment, paid another \$100, and was refused because she applied too early. She was number 773 in line today and more behind her waiting. \$100 US per application.

She is a school teacher in Raciąż Poland, owns property, takes care of her 82-year-old parents, who she loves very much, paid for her trip in advance by her cousin in Orlando, Florida, scheduled July 8, 2004 to the USA, August 26, 2004 to return to Poland.

Ewa visited the U.S. 20 years ago, and has been asked to revisit, so many new cousins in the U.S. I am one of many, a disabled veteran of World War II, 82 years old with a heart problem, this will be my only chance to meet my cousin that I have corresponded with for many years. She and her parents live in the very home that my mother lived in as a child, this home has many memories for our family.

People of Poland must be told that they will be refused a visa to enter the U.S., unless they are students or children. Many countries do not need a visa, such as France, Germany, doors are open to many terrorist countries.

<...>

Please check on the case of Ewa Michalska, who resides in Raciąż, Poland applying for a visa with the U.S. Embassy Warsaw Consulate, that she has been denied twice, for a visa to the U.S. within 3 weeks, for no reason, she had information that would prove her entry into the U.S. and they would not look at them. (WHY)?

Richard Pearse

*Editor — Mr. Pearse and his relatives have been sending copies of their notes to <President@whitehouse.gov>, to Bill O'Reilly <oreilly@foxnews.com>, Rush Limbaugh <rush@eibnet.com> and others, hoping someone with clout will get involved. Frankly, I have my doubts any of them will help; but I'd love to be wrong. If you can suggest other courses of action to help Ewa in time, contact Mr. Pearse <skpearse@isp.com>. If you can do anything to help in this case or in others, do it! And let me know if something works.*

*Also, let me know if you think this sort of thing is an appropriate topic for Gen Dobry!, or if you think it's out of bounds.*

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**\*\*\* GIVE THE SCRIBES A BREAK! \*\*\***

*Tom Lassek <grandpa@davispc.com> posted this note on the Polish-Surnames mailing list, and I think it sheds some valuable light on a matter of interest to researchers. It's natural to gripe at the so-and-so's who scrawled the information we need illegibly in documents — but Tom reminds us that you should walk a mile in someone's shoes before you trash him.*

I have had the fortune in exchanging e-mail with a good man, a one-time Roman Catholic priest, now an Episcopal priest. After a two-day “discussion” concerning legibility of entries in the old records, he offered a few observations concerning record entries in general, some of which I never really thought about:

1. Priests were taught Latin, not penmanship. While they were fully capable, through the education process, of recording sacramental entries in Latin, the subject of penmanship was simply not taught.
2. The priests believed that their sacramental entries would never be read and analyzed by others. They understood that the Bishop may peruse the records but it was a matter of numbers more so than the quality of penmanship that was analyzed. If, in their wildest dreams, the scribes would have thought that genealogists would have future access to these records as authorized by the church, he feels that they would have taken great pains to ensure that every entry would be penned properly and legibly.
3. In following, the emphasis on the record entry by the scribe was put into insuring that the Latin was correct as opposed to proper spelling of the surname, although the priests did their best to insure that the surname spelling was correct, however, and again, the emphasis on the entry concerned the proper usage of the Latin language, the official language of the church at that time.

Regardless, the entry would count as a new baptism, a new marriage, a death, etc, etc.  
(Promulgation of the Faith).

4. He says that when an entry had to be validated years later, the new priest did not read the Latin word for word, he simply extracted that relevant information as you and I do when we research the records for entries. There was no need for a complete translation since the relevant information was simply documented on another form or letter and sent to the inquiring party with the seal of the church attached.

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### \*\*\* POLISH TRIVIA QUESTIONS \*\*\*

*Editor: In the last issue we gave 5 questions from a Polish trivia game PolishRoots Vice President Paul Valasek <paval56@aol.com> came across. The answers to those questions appear below, followed by this month's questions, the answers to which will appear in the next issue. We want to thank Tom Bratkowski for permission to reprint these.]*

#### Answers to the Questions in the May Issue:

– Q. What did the Teutonic grand master send to King Wladyslaw Jagiello just before the Grunwald onslaught?

A. Two swords

– Q. What is “Sobieski’s Shield”?

A constellation in the sky.

– Q. What carved figures surrounding the crypt of King Kazimierz the Great symbolize the grief at his death?

A. The figures of weeping women.

– Q. Which Polish princess was a youthful love of German Kaiser Wilhelm I?

A. Princess Elisa Radziwill

– Q. Who was the first ruler of Poland to accept the Christian faith?

A. Mieszko I

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#### \* Questions for the June Issue \*

Category - Humanities

1. What was the stately dance of the court of historic Poland?

2. To what region of Poland do the folk music and dance of the Mazur and the Oberek belong?

3. For what are Polish-American women Pola Negri and Carol Landis noted?
4. What Polish painter is known for his gigantic mural of the crucifixion?
5. Which Sienkiewicz work focused on the Polish-Swedish wars?

Reprinted with permission from Polish American Trivia & Quadrvia, Powstan, Inc. If interested in learning more, contact Paul Valasek <[paval56@aol.com](mailto:paval56@aol.com)>.

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

[Note: the PolishRoots Events Calendar <[http://www.polishroots.org/coming\\_events.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/coming_events.htm)> usually has more info than we have room for here. If you have an event coming up you want Polish genealogical researchers to know about, send as much info as possible to <[Events@PolishRoot.org](mailto:Events@PolishRoot.org)>.]

July 17 & 18, 2004

**National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival**

at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

For more info: 319-362-8500 or <http://www.ncsml.org>

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July 23 - 25, 2004

**JOIN US FOR THE  
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE CARPATHO-RUSYN SOCIETY!**

Fri. July 23

- 6:45 p.m. Carpatho-Rusyn Society annual meeting — free
- 7:30 p.m. Rusyn film festival featuring clips from foreign and American films by and about Rusyns — free to CRS members and their guests

Both events will be held at the new National Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Center (former St. John's Cathedral) Dickson St. & 10th Avenue, Munhall, PA

Sat. July 24

12 noon - 4 p.m.

7th annual Carpatho-Rusyn event at the Andy Warhol Museum, 117 Sandusky St., Pittsburgh's Northside, 12 noon- 4 p.m. A true celebration of Rusyn culture. Rusyn song and dance by the Slavjane Folk Ensemble of McKees Rocks, PA, and the Reviljak Family of Bardejov, Slovakia,

Rusyns arts demonstrated and you can even make some too! Rusyn food available in the cafe. Rusyn activities throughout the afternoon. Free with museum admission of \$10 (adults), \$7 (seniors 55+); \$6 (students and children 3-18). A spectacular event!

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Reception for C-RS members and their guests at the new National Carpatho-Rusyn Cultural Center (former St. John's cathedral) Dickson St. and 10th Avenue, Munhall, PA. Rusyn foods and mineral waters and soft drinks served. Enjoy delicious pirohy, palachinke, imported cheeses and more. \$20 per person

Sun. July 25

1- 4 p.m.

Rusyn bus tour of Pittsburgh -- visit key sites in the development of Rusyns national and internationally, including Andy Warhol's boyhood home, St. John's in Rus'ka Dolyna (Rusyn Valley), the former St. John's Cathedral in Munhall and St. Michael's Church in Rankin. See the sites from which the church splits occurred, the immigration established itself and Czechoslovakia was formed. Historic commentary by CRS national president John Righetti. \$18 per person.

7 -10 p.m.

The 10th anniversary Dinner -- Dance Cruise about the Liberty Belle, Station Square, Pittsburgh South Side. Complete with Rusyn dinner of Kobasy and Kraut, Halushky, Stuffed cabbage, breaded chicken breast, fruit bowl Green salad with champagne vinaigrette and cheesecake with fresh strawberries. Coffee/tea, Cash bar. Jerry Jumba and the Rusky Muzikanty band will play for your dancing and listening pleasure -- Rusyn favorites. \$45 per person. Children 6 and under free. ONLY 200 RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE.

To participate in the events, order your tickets now!

Call John Righetti at 412-749-0675, e-mail <[president@c-rs.org](mailto:president@c-rs.org)>

or Susan Timo at 724-239-4211, e-mail <[zuzka@c-rs.org](mailto:zuzka@c-rs.org)> with questions.

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August 5-8, 2004

## **THE SOCIETY FOR GERMAN GENEALOGY IN EASTERN EUROPE**

### **- 2004 CONVENTION -**

Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Center  
1316 33rd Street NE  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Phone: 403-248-8888

Contact: [convention@sggee.org](mailto:convention@sggee.org)

Web: <http://www.sggee.org>

Web: [http://www.clickcalgaryhotels.com/coast\\_plaza\\_hotel\\_and\\_conference\\_center.html](http://www.clickcalgaryhotels.com/coast_plaza_hotel_and_conference_center.html)

SGGEE is a Poland and Volhynia genealogy group for people of German origin interested in the genealogy, culture and history of their ancestors who migrated through present-day Poland and Volhynia (now western Ukraine) and the surrounding areas.

Research opportunities, speakers and workshops will assist you in discovering your ancestral roots out of these areas. SGGEE reaches researchers not only in Canada but the U.S.A., Germany, Poland, Australia, and Russia.

More data will be available on the Website <http://www.sggee.org> as details are finalized.

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September 8 - 11, 2004

**“LEGENDS LIVE FOREVER”  
CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY  
THE FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES**

At the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas

There will be over 70 speakers, an exhibit hall, book sales, and so on. Debbie Greenlee <[daveg@airmail.net](mailto:daveg@airmail.net)>, who mentioned this conference in a note on the Poland-Roots mailing list, had an excellent suggestion: “You might even include a trip to Panna Maria for a day or so. Texas in September is still warm, no chance of snow!

For more details see the FGS Website: <http://www.fgs.org/2004conf/FGS-2004.htm>

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September 17-18, 2004

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE NORTHEAST

presents their 2004 Conference in affiliation with the

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY POLISH STUDIES PROGRAM

More info will be given in the Spring issue of *Pathways & Passages*, and on the PGSCCTNE Website at <http://www.pgscctne.org>.

**!! ZAPRASZAMY !!**

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September 24 - 26, 2004

**POLISH FEST 2004**

Latham, New York

A Celebration of Polish/American Culture

3 Days of fun and entertainment for the whole family

Located in Latham NY, a suburb of Albany.

<http://www.polishfest-ny.org/>

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October 1 - 3, 2004

### **FEEFHS / PGSM International Conference**

“What Is Past Is Prologue”

Three-day fee, \$150, including lunches, Single day fee: Friday fee, \$65, including lunch, Saturday fee, \$65, including lunch, Sunday fee, \$50, no lunch. Dinner \$30 per person. Syllabus \$20

Crowne Plaza Detroit- Metro Airport

Convention Chairs: Ceil Jensen FEEFHS and Jan Zaleski PGSM

We have 25+ speakers and over 60 presentations scheduled. The range of topics include Polish, German, Slovak, Ukrainian, Russian, Slovenian, Hungarian, Croatian, Pomeranian, Prussian, Czech, Jewish and Austrian Genealogy.

Sessions are designed to be informative for beginners as well as advanced researchers. Need help with translating documents? We have sessions on Latin, German, Polish, Russian, Hungarian and the handwriting style of Sütterlin (Kurrent and Fraktur).

The registration form, speakers list and additional information is on the FEEFHS website:

<http://feefhs.org>

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October 27 and November 3, 2004

The Newberry Library - Chicago, IL

### **Polish American Research: Using Resources in the United States and Poland**

2 part, 4 hour course on Polish and Polish American Research sponsored by the Newberry Library Seminar Series.

More information will be posted later on the Website: <http://www.newberry.org>

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

<http://www.forum-polonia-houston.com/Events/2004/pmaria/pmaria.htm>

John Penz posted a note to remind people that the Polish American Conference-Texas Division (PAC-TD) will be convening its 2004 annual convention beginning 22 October in

Houston, and will be dedicated to the 150th Anniversary of the First Polish Settlement in America (Panna Maria, Texas). Information is available on line at the address given above. Other info on Panna Maria is available at: <http://www.pannamariatx.com>.

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<http://stevemorse.org/ellis/boat.html>

A recent issue of the free e-zine of Jewish genealogy, *Nu? What's New?* talked about the latest addition to Stephen P. Morse's Website: a compilation of every ship arrival at Ellis Island from 1892 to 1924. This issue also discussed a decision by the International Tracing Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross to open its archives to researchers. You can read it here: <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu13.htm#v05n11>.

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<http://www.polandintherockies.com>

Maureen Morris <[maureenm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maureenm@sbcglobal.net)> mentioned this site to me. We mentioned it in an earlier issue, but "Poland in the Rockies" sounds like something not to be missed! So a reminder seemed in order.

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<http://www.pogranicze.sejny.pl/english/found/found.htm>

On the Lithuania and Herbarz mailing lists, David Zincavage <[jdz@inr.net](mailto:jdz@inr.net)> called this "a marvelous website ... belonging to the Borderland Foundation, an intellectual center devoted to the history, culture, traditions, and identities of the different peoples of the Polish-Lithuanian *Kresy* [Eastern Borderlands], i.e. that of the Poles, Lithuanians, Belarusians, Jews, Karaites, Tartars, and Armenians. This foundation was established in 1991 (at the time of the Fall of Communism) by the then governor of Polish province of Suwalki. This foundation seems to have flourished, and today operates a publishing house, devoted to the works of major Central European writers. It also publishes a very admirable journal called *Krasnogruda*, named after an estate located in the neighborhood of Sejny, once the property of the family of Czesław Miłosz, and pursues a variety of worthy activities. I see the illustrious names of Czesław Miłosz, Josef Brodsky, and Tomas Venclova all associated with *Krasnogruda*."

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[http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/free4\\_tda](http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/free4_tda)

On the Poland-Roots mailing list, Kim Stankiewicz <[kim.stankiewicz@comcast.net](mailto:kim.stankiewicz@comcast.net)> explained that this site offers free access to the Times of London Archives for the years 1785-1985. "Enter the word 'trial' as your password and then hit the proceed button. For a better range, change the marker for 'search words' to 'entire article' to get more articles. You can type in anything from towns, villages, ship names to the names of your ancestors. ... I am not sure why this site is free or if it will stay free. It may be wise to access now in case they change their policy."

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[http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/burton/burton\\_index.htm](http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/burton/burton_index.htm)

On the Poland-Roots list, Mary Anna <[Rejoin@aol.com](mailto:Rejoin@aol.com)> pointed out that the Burton Collection at the Detroit Public Library in Detroit, Michigan is going to start charging non-residents of Detroit \$100 yearly for a library card to "if they want to take out books or use the Burton Historical Collection, the E. Azalia Hackley Music and Performing Arts Collection and the National Automotive Collection. They will still be able to go in the library and use the other

materials free.” The site given above is the Burton Collection’s page on the Detroit Public Library Website — you might want to monitor it o learn more or contact the Library. Ceil Jensen <<http://mipolonia.net>> also suggested that you can subscribe to the Burton Historical Collection List to discuss this issue and others regarding the Collection at this Website:  
[http://habitant.org/mailman/listinfo/bhc\\_habitant.org](http://habitant.org/mailman/listinfo/bhc_habitant.org)

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