



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

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\\_9.pdf](http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_V_9.pdf)

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**\*\*\* THE POLES ARE GETTING INTO THE ACT \*\*\***

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

Earlier this month I got to do something's that always fun: meet a person I'd heard a lot about. Kasia Grycza, a Polish researcher and guide known for her work with the Discovering Roots Society in Poznań, was speaking at PGSA's Fall Conference, as was I. I hoped I'd have a chance to meet her and talk to her a little, though I knew she was going to be the star of the show and there'd constantly be a crowd around her.

I'm pleased to say I did get to talk to her for a few minutes early on, before everyone showed up and started mobbing her. It was a pleasant experience, not only because she's tall, young, and attractive, but also because she laughed and joked constantly and gave the impression she was having the time of her life. She seemed to have no trouble understanding everything said to her, and her English, though accented, was very good. I listened to portions of her talks and was particularly impressed at her self-confidence and the extent of her knowledge. I guess I'm getting old, because I found myself thinking "How does someone that young know so much?" (When I was young myself, of course, I thought, "How can anyone old know anything?")

I feel particularly lucky because just a year ago, at PGSA's 2003 Conference, I got to spend the whole time in the company of Iwona Dakiniewicz, another charming lady who has developed an impressive reputation for her skills and professionalism as a researcher. Iwona thought she might need a little help with her English, so I assisted her as she met with clients throughout the Conference. I felt like a fifth wheel, though—she would have done just fine without me. I must admit, I was in awe of her intensity and professionalism during working hours, and her ability to relax and enjoy herself after work was over.

Two years, two encounters with charming Polish women with impressive skills! What will next year bring? (I have a feeling my luck can't continue.)

Nor are Iwona and Kasia the only Poles whose efforts in the area of genealogical research have impressed me lately. I've heard from two people in the last month, for instance, about how much help Adam Jędryka has been to them. He works as a guide and translator and researcher out of the Kraków area, and it appears he's gradually building a good reputation (his e-mail address is <[ajedr@interia.pl](mailto:ajedr@interia.pl)>). In last March's issue of *Gen Dobry!* respected researcher Stanley Diamond said he highly recommends Krzysztof Malczewski of Warsaw for help in northeastern Poland (if you want to know more, Stanley said to contact him at <[SMSDIAMOND@aol.com](mailto:SMSDIAMOND@aol.com)>). There are probably others whose names I can't think of now—if you have someone you recommend, write and let me pass the word on in the next issue.

It's clear more and more Poles are getting interested in helping genealogical researchers. This is a wonderful development! For years people have asked me, "Who do you know in Poland that is competent and honest and charges reasonable rates?" I always had to answer "No one." Sometimes I'd hear good things about so-and-so, but as soon as I told people that I heard from folks saying, "No, I tried him and he's a crook" or "No, nice lady, but she doesn't know what she's doing." A separate category consisted of Polish scholars who are enormously competent and perfectly honest, but their work leaves them no time to help researchers, such as Rafał T. Prinke of Poznań.

So for years I couldn't answer that question "Who in Poland do you recommend?"—and I hate not being able to answer questions!

I knew, of course, there were jillions of honest and capable Poles; it was just that none of them had happened to get involved in genealogy. I think that may be changing. Poles are beginning to realize there is great interest in their country on the part of genealogists, and a few are coming to realize that helping them can be an enjoyable way to earn an honest living.

Plus I see some hints of awakening of Poles' interest in genealogy per se. For a long time they couldn't quite understand why we're so fascinated with our roots. One Pole told me, "That's probably because we live here, so we feel no separation from our roots. When you're surrounded by something, you don't miss it—you only miss it when you go somewhere else." But now as their pride and self-confidence grows, perhaps they're beginning to develop more of an interest in their own past. Maybe they're thinking, "Hmm, all these foreigners are interested in us, maybe we should take a closer look at our ancestors, too."

If so, it's great news for us! The more Poles who get involved in genealogy, the more help we can get. Of course the key questions will still be "Who's competent?" and "Who's honest?" There are always skunks everywhere who'll try to con you; and even a well-intentioned person may not really know what he's doing. Our only way of feeling sure a given researcher is capable and honest is to judge by what we hear from those who've employed him or her. That's why I like to give people like Iwona and Kasia and Antoni and Szczepan a little attention: they've earned it!

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

Subject: Who Is 100% Polish?

*Editor—The lead article on the last issue, quoting Sophie Biedrzycki Gottemoller's father's statement on what it means to be a Pole and who can claim to be 100% Polish, brought several thought-provoking responses. Let me share them with you.*

Sophie Biedrzycki Gottemoller has it right. The question of what is a Pole has perplexed historians for centuries. For better or worse, Poland has always been a melting pot or, as Norman Davis so eloquently tagged it, "Heart of Europe." It has the most complex history of all of Europe. As a Melting Pot, America is an infant. It is doubtful that Americans will ever attain the homogeneity of identity that people in Poland or of Polish ancestry have. What has always given Poles a unique identity, an identity not related to any DNA, is their language and culture. This was recognized by the partitioning powers, Germany and Russia. Austria was ambivalent. This understanding was the basis for the brutal attempt at the suppression of the Polish Language and Culture by both the Germans and Russians. They failed. The Polish People refused to assimilate under those conditions and the Language and Culture went underground where it was kept alive and even thrived in home and hearth. We can thank generations of Grandparents for their heroic refusal to be assimilated and whose legacy is the identity we all enjoy today.

It is difficult for us to even imagine what it means to lose one's cultural identity. "Sorrow and Grandeur of Exile," an essay by Józef Wittlin, is a kind of outline of the physiology of émigré literature. Sophie refers to the late Czesław Miłosz, this grand man of literature, who suffered but overcame this phenomena. How can a person of letters express himself or herself except through the language that constitutes their very soul. How does it feel to be repeatedly asked "Can you spell your name please?" Do you give in and Anglicize it or do you hold on to this vestige of your identity?

In his *Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland's Present*, Norman Davies deals with this subject very directly. It is a great book to read. If one is not much into reading, then I suggest that Chapter V will suffice, particularly the section on "Lasting Traditions: The Multicultural Tradition." A brief excerpt reads as follows:

"Within the confines of the old Republic, there flourished a profusion of peoples, a riot of religions, a luxuriance of languages. Polish noblemen and Slavonic peasants mingled with German burghers and with Jewish and Armenian merchants. People prided themselves in their descent, real and imagined, from Sarmatians to Chazars, or from Dutch, Swedish, Italian or Scots immigrants. The Roman Catholic majority was surrounded by a colorful array of sects and faiths—by Calvinists, Lutherans, Arians, Unitarians, Orthodox, Uniates, and Old Believers; by orthodox Jews, Karaim, Chassidim, and Frankists; by Armenian monophysites and by Tatar Muslims. The official languages of Polish and Latin in the kingdom were matched by *ruski* and Polish in the Grand Duchy. Vernacular speech was conducted in anything from the four main regional dialects of Polish, plus Kashub and *góralski* (the highland brogue) to Ruthenian in its northern (Byelorussian) or southern (Ukrainian) forms; Lithuanian, Latvian, and (to 1600) Prussian; *platdeutsch* in the northern cities; Yiddish, Tatar, or Armenian. The royal court was Italianate under Bona Sforza and Sigismund-August; Francophone under Henry Valois, Latinophone under Bathóry, and Germanophone under the Vassas and Wettins."

That paragraph will have most people spending hours in their dictionaries and encyclopedias. It did me. What is remarkable is that, centuries ago, Poland created a diverse society and social philosophy much like America is only trying to achieve today. Did it have a lasting impact on other countries? You betcha! It inspired Thomas Jefferson in his choice of wording in our Declaration of Independence. Unfortunately, it also challenged the status quo of hereditary rule in the rest of Europe which eventually led to the partitions. However, once born, you cannot destroy an ideal and so all of Europe was eventually influenced. Norman Davies well understands the enormous influence that this "Heart of Europe" has had and does a beautiful job in documenting it.

Edward Aachtel <[aachteles@idcnet.com](mailto:aachteles@idcnet.com)>

(No! I am not of German descent. I am as Polish as one can be—at least through the 16th century.) Before that, who knows. Isn't Genealogy exciting!!

*Editor—Here's another letter on this subject.*

I agree with Ms. Gottemoller. I love history and read a lot about all countries. I have many books on Poland. It would be really wonderful if we could go back in our family as far as 1,000 years to see where we all came from.

My father came to this country at the age of 19, the year was 1910. He did not have much interest in religion. He was 6', nicely built all of his life. Always kept himself very neat when he was not working. Loved to gamble and won. When he did drink it was a glass of beer with a shot of whiskey. Had very large hands, his work was hard labor. The color of his eyes were a very bright blue, with chestnut color hair. His looks were hard but then he had a hard life but always loved to joke and laugh.

Years ago when I worked at the VA hospital in Miami, Florida, I had a problem with one of my teeth. I went to the dental clinic and had one of the oral surgeon look at the tooth. After the exam, he asked me what my nationality was and I told him Polish. I asked him why he asked and said that he worked among the Eskimos and the shape of my teeth was the same that the Eskimos had and we know where they came from, so I am sure I am a mixture.

We took a cruise in July and one of our stops was Gdańsk. Beautiful port and they are doing much to bring it back to life. The amber was truly breathtaking. I did not know that much about it until my trip to Gdańsk. I did not buy any amber for myself but I did get my daughter a beautiful necklace. I would love to take a trip back and if I do, next time I will buy myself some amber.

Lena Duprey <[rcduprey@peganet.com](mailto:rcduprey@peganet.com)>

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Subject: Polish Nobel Laureates!

*Editor—We heard from several people who spotted an error in the Polish trivia answers published in the last issue.*

The following trivia question may have required a qualifications or explanation. You asked and answered:

- Q. Who was the only Polish woman to become a Nobel laureate?
- A. Maria Skłodowska-Curie

In 1996 Wisława Szymborska received the Nobel Prize in Literature....

Frederick S. Zimnoch <[zimnoch@crocker.com](mailto:zimnoch@crocker.com)>

*Editor—And again:*

I just received the August '04 edition of *Gen Dobry!* and must tell you that the answer to your Trivia Question:

- Q. Who was the only Polish woman to become a Nobel laureate?
- A. Maria Skłodowska-Curie

is **incorrect!!** Let's not forget the 1996 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to Wisława Szymborska!!!

Leigh Kwiatek <[lkwiatek@adelphia.net](mailto:lkwiatek@adelphia.net)>

*Editor—And again:*

A small correction:

- Q. Who was the only Polish woman to become a Nobel laureate?
- A. Maria Skłodowska-Curie

Polish woman Wisława Szymborska (poet) is also a Nobel laureate.

Jarek Szklinski <jarekpost@hotmail.com>

*Editor—Thank you all for the correction!*

*As it says in every issue, Polish Roots Vice-President Paul Valasek came across a game “Polish American Trivia,” which is no longer being sold. He got permission from the publishers to provide me with questions and answers from the game, as long as we acknowledge the source. Paul told me the game was printed in 1985, so the questions were put together before then. At the time, therefore, Skłodowska-Curie was the single right answer; but Szymborska’s 1996 prize for Literature made it no longer valid.*

*Paul edits the questions before sending them to me, and he weeds out a lot that are obviously outdated; this one slipped by both of us, unfortunately. While Paul and I both hate making mistakes, we are delighted that people are paying attention and catching errors! It proves people who read Gen Dobry! care about providing accurate information, and that’s important to us.*

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Subject: Visas for Poles

*Editor—Here’s an update on this question from the man who addressed it several issues ago. He wanted me to pass on a note he sent to Fox broadcaster Bill O’Reilly on Monday, September 27, at <speakout@foxnews.com>:*

Mr. O’Reilly,

Have written so many e-mails to you with the help of others and we still can not receive a answer. The U.S. Consulate in Warsaw is exploiting the students, allowing them to come to the U.S. on a visa, knowing that they will overstay their visa, this makes the year 2003 with 30% over stays, 300 Polish students worked at the Cedar Point Park in Ohio off Lake Erie. They were furnished housing, and the pay is enough to pay for their schooling when they return to Poland. This has been going on for some time.

The Consulate can not change the visa requirements until they get below 3% over stays, this will never happen.

I am 82 years young, with health problems (heart plus). My cousin was scheduled to come to the U.S., to visit me; I have not seen her in person. Her trip was paid for and she paid \$100 twice for a

visa that was denied. She tried to show proof that she would not overstay her visa and they would not consider it.

There are millions of people here in the U.S. that have a Polish background, if they only knew what is going on with their distant and close relatives, they would surely raise **hell**.

President Bush was asked about the visa program for the Polish people, he did not think that there were that many people in the U.S. with that background. They are overcharged for a visa, other countries pay only \$10 and \$15 for one.

He can get rid of the visas for the Polish people, they are fighting side by side with us, and many times before. They have many places named after Polish people that did so much for our country, is this the way we pay them back?

Please ask the President why is this happening?

Richard Pearse <skpearse@isp.com>

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Subject: Steve Morse's Castle Garden Section

Was a little disappointed to discover that you had to have a subscription to Ancestry.com in order to use Steve Morse's Castle Garden section.

Armela Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

*Editor—I did not realize that was necessary! Thanks for pointing it out.*

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Subject: Bill Dzierzek, Monte Cassino

I am trying to find information about a Sargent in the Polish 2nd corps and was involved in the capture of Monte Cassino. His name is Bill Dzierzek and was my wife's father. His last known address was, Grange Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

John Askham <john@askham48.freemove.co.uk>

*Editor—I'm afraid I have no information on the whereabouts of individual persons or families, and have no idea how to can find this gentleman. But I promised to run this in Gen Dobry! so that perhaps some of our readers can make helpful suggestions.*

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Subject: Polish State Archives Website

Have you seen the new web site for the Polish Civil Archives?

<http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/>

It appears to be a bit more confusing to us non-speakers than the old site. Maybe it's just that all the pages don't work yet. Perhaps in your spare time ;) you could re-write the directions you posted on "PolishRoots: The Polish Genealogy Source."

Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

*Editor—Of course there is an English version accessible from the home page by clicking on "English version" at the bottom left right under the logo, or by accessing the URL:*

<http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/?CIDA=43>

*Still, the whole thing is definitely harder to tackle for those who don't speak Polish. I haven't had time to look closely at it, but I will keep this in mind as good subject for a story in a future issue.*

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**\*\*\* HALLER ARMY RECRUITMENT FOR SCRANTON AND OTHER RECRUITING CENTERS \*\*\***

Paul S. Valasek <paval56@aol.com>

As more and more material surfaces on the recruitment process for Polish men in the Polish Army in France, interesting facts and figures emerge. At one time, the Polish Army in France, later to be known as Haller's Army, was thought to be a 100% volunteer army. After reviewing many of the recruitment pages, it has been discovered that an active and sometimes forceful recruitment practice took place. Not all men were eager volunteers, yet a military force of over 23,000 men was created without a formal legal Polish Draft Board existing on American soil. Recruits were gathered from all sources and places, and the vast majority appear to have enlisted voluntarily, yet others were reluctant while still others needed a bit more "persuasion." As a result, there were a number of deserters and slackers in the army, as would be expected of any force numbering over 30,000 applicants.

By Act of Congress, the United States started a draft in 1917. All men, whether born or naturalized U.S. citizens, as well as resident aliens, were required to file a draft form. Though this was not by any means absolute in coverage, many men did obey the order. It appears that this draft information was made known to other recruiting offices—the Polish Army in France; the Czech Legions, also forming for service in France and stationed in Connecticut; and other groups—so that men not eligible for the U.S. draft could be conscripted into associated Allied fighting forces. Here was a way for Polish recruiters to locate draft age men who were living in the U.S.

All of these men listed below were considered "subjects of Russian Poland," which makes sense as of the three partitioning powers, Russia was the U.S.'s only ally, while Austria and Germany were our enemies. Many of the names do not have a true Polish spelling and it is likely that many of



these men were resident foreigners within the borders of old Poland. Ukrainians, Rusyns, Jews, Slovaks as well as others easily could fit in under the heading of a Polish homeland, but not of an ethnic Polish heritage. Being from the coal fields of Eastern Pennsylvania and the regions near Scranton and Hazleton, the multi-ethnic blend of Eastern Europeans at the outbreak of World War I was quite predominant in many of these towns.

The following names are listed under the heading of “Aliens not Alien Enemies: Subjects of Poland, classified in class 5-F”:

Birch Adam — Jeddo, PA	Perkowski Alexander — Freeland, PA
Calcopski Edward — Highland, PA	Petchkonis Martin — Freeland, PA
Chesluck Peter — Eckley, PA	Putro Jozef — Freeland, PA
Davidovich Stephan — Highland, PA	Rogusky Kazimierz — Highland, PA
Domen Jozef — Highland, PA	Secorsky Jozef — Eckley, PA
Doznefskie Stanislaw — West Hazleton, PA	Sledowsky Ignats — Freeland, PA
Duckta Adam — Freeland, PA	Skokuski Jan — Cranberry, PA
Gazdosky Franciszek — Highland, PA	Soika Julius — Freeland, PA
Jasternski Jozef — Jeddo, PA	Sosnowski Jan — Highland, PA
Karcheviskie Jan — Jeddo, PA	Stukovich Charles — Hazleton, PA
Klinc Hyman — Freeland, PA	Stukowski Walter — New Cranberry, PA
Klukmonski Jan — Highland, PA	Synecvics Stanislaw — Montain Top, PA
Kubiak Leon J. — Bear Creek, PA	Szterkowski Stanislaw — Old Cranberry, PA
Lubinosky Stephan — Highland, PA	Tearasavich Jozef — West Hazleton, PA
Matusevich Boleslav — Highland, PA	Tulanosky Konstany — Freeland, PA
Menoka Albert — Freeland, PA	Woshlofski Jan — Hazleton, PA
Milcharick Piotr — Freeland, PA	Yakacki Antoni — Ebervale, PA
Moro Jan — Harleigh, PA	Zubetski Awukum — Jeddo, PA
Pavelesky Antoni — Freeland, PA	

If any of our readers are familiar with this area and can enlighten our readers regarding the Polish ethnicity of the region, please feel free to share any material you may have. For further information, you may contact me at <[paval56@aol.com](mailto:paval56@aol.com)>.

For the story of the Lattimer Massacre, a coal mining labor disaster not far from these towns, click on the following webpage:

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/dms/website/papers/lattimer1.htm>

#### **\* Wilkes Barre Recruitment Center Personnel \***

The following name and addresses are listed among paperwork for the recruitment center in Wilkes Barre, PA. This center had overlapping information with the recruitment center founded later in Scranton, PA. It appears none of these individuals enlisted in the Polish Army in France, and have titles of “honorary sergeants,” which at this time is assumed to be a title for people involved with the recruitment process rather than those who actually enlisted in the army.

Derkowski, P., 40 South Oak Str., Mount Carmel, PA  
Murawski, Jozef, 789 Carson Str., Hazleton, PA  
Dombrowski, Feliks, 32 S. Market Str., Nanticoke, PA  
Gorzech, A., 13 Downs Ave., Binghampton, NY  
Popik, Michal, 1129 Main Str., Priceburgh, PA  
Grygo, W. J., 341 S. West Str., Shenandoah, PA  
Wolniak, Stanislaw, 1272 Oneida Str., Shamokin, PA  
Kaminski, M., 106 Walnut Str., Plymouth, PA  
Garzynski, Jozef, 210 Grant Str., McAdoo, PA  
Kraska, Wladyslaw, P.O. Box 26, Gumbola, PA  
Bonkowski, Antoni, 90 Water Str., P.O. Silver Creek, New Philadelphia  
Wegrzyn, Jan, 320 Kline Str., Lansford, PA  
Krol, Jan, Box 330, St. Clair, PA  
Domin, Szymon, 12 W. Chestnut Str., Hazleton, PA  
Matulewicz, Jan, 342 Winters Ave., W. Hazleton, PA  
Zemejda, Franciszek, 324 Oak Str., Providence, PA  
Szczeny, Jan, 179 Shoemaker Str., Swoyersville, PA

The following names appear to be connected with citizens groups for recruitment purposes:

Ks. W. Kwiatkowski, 213 W. Green Str., Hazleton, PA  
Ks. Kowalczyk, Carson and 8th Strs., Hazleton, PA  
Jan H. Bonin, president, 312 Markle Bank Bldg., Hazleton, PA  
Pani Lapinska, secretary Kółka Polek, 702 W. Green Str., Hazleton, PA  
Ks. Strimajtis, Freeland, PA  
Piotr Bartusiewicz, president, 949 Ridge Str., Freeland, PA  
JulianSkwarkowski, secretary, 712 Ridge Str., Freeland, PA  
Ks. Patarewski, McAdoo, PA  
Jozef Garzynski, president and honorary sergeant, 210 Grant Str., McAdoo, PA

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**\*\*\* OCTOBER: POLISH HERITAGE MONTH \*\*\***

*Editor—Here's a reminder Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> posted on the Poland-Roots mailing list the other day:*

Get ready for October 1, the start of Polish American Heritage Month in most of the United States. Time to hang out your Polish flag, put out the “Witamy” door mat, hang the Polish ornaments on your Halloween tree and invite some friends over for a Polish meal! Decorate the table in red and white! Call them by their “Polish” given names and write their names (in Polish) on badges so they will know how to spell them.

After dinner, toast Poland with Polish *wódka*! Impress your friends with your knowledge of Poland. Rent a Polish movie or a movie about Poland, even a “Travel” video.

Keep the kids busy with coloring contests:

[http://www.polishamericancenter.org/CC\\_Artwork\\_2004\\_Urban.html](http://www.polishamericancenter.org/CC_Artwork_2004_Urban.html)

Go to Polish American Cultural Center for more ideas:

[http://www.polishamericancenter.org/Heritage\\_Frame.htm](http://www.polishamericancenter.org/Heritage_Frame.htm)

and print off the signs.

OK, that's all I've got. Anyone else?

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**\*\*\* *PUSH NOT THE RIVER* IN PAPERBACK \*\*\***

*Editor—This bit of news about James Conroyd Martin's book Push Not the River has got to be welcome to all lovers of Polish culture, as many have called his book the "Polish Gone With the Wind."]*

*Push Not The River* has come out in paperback, and it's doing very well. It has a Readers' Group Guide inside that's encouraging book clubs to choose it. Milwaukee's independent chain, Schwartz has gotten behind it, and many of their 75 book clubs have chosen it ... so people are learning about Polish culture and the Third of May Constitution years.

Also, BookSense, a consortium of 1200 independent booksellers, has voted *Push Not the River* an October recommendation. This is a huge honor!:

<http://news.bookweb.org/booksense/2838.html>

I'm close to submitting the sequel. The Polish translation is due out in the spring. Anyone wishing to order an autographed paperback copy can obtain one through Polonia Bookstore in Chicago (773-481-6968).

James Conroyd Martin  
Author of *Push Not The River*  
<http://www.PushNotTheRiver.com>

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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 August Issue:**

- Q. What U.S. comic strip is known as “Fistaszki” in Poland?
  - A. “Peanuts”
  
  - Q. For what Polish university is the Alma Mater song entitled, “Gaude Mater Polonia?”
  - A. The Jagiellonian University
  
  - Q. What disease was the cause of poet Adam Mickiewicz’s death?
  - A. Cholera
  
  - Q. In what U. S. city was the Alliance of Polish Socialists formed in 1896?
  - A. New York, New York
  
  - Q. What was designed by Antoine Bourdelle and set in place in Paris in 1929?
  - A. A monument to Adam Mickiewicz
- 

### Questions for September

- Q. Which king of Poland moved the capital from Kraków to Warszawa?
- Q. What Polish king owed his election to support from Empress Catherine II of Russia?
- Q. How many Polish kings were assassinated?
- Q. Which Polish dynasty ruled for more years, the Jagiellonians or the Piasts?
- Q. What Polish king was killed at the Battle of Varna?

Reprinted with permission from Polish American Trivia & Quadrivia, 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 at [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)>.*

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

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

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 3, 2004

12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

### **The Great Eastern European Festival**

Greenfield, Massachusetts

At: Holy Trinity School, Beacon St., Greenfield

A celebration of Polish, Ukrainian and other Eastern European cultures with ethnic food, dancers, music, books & crafts.

PGSMA Outreach. Polish Genealogy display with resources and Q&A. Polish Food. Admission \$5/person.

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October 4, 2004

### **“Lviv/Lwow/Lvov/Lemberg, or Names across Political and Linguistic Borders”**

7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Jewish Community of Amherst, 742 Main St., Amherst, MA

Our research requires an understanding of Polish and other Slavic languages. Difficulties abound with the spelling and details of surnames and geographic locations. Was it Podhale or Podolia? So if you are struggling over Jabłoński and Yablonsky or Sądowski and Sandusky this is an opportunity to get the facts.

Dr. Robert A. Rothstein is Professor of Slavic and Judaic Studies and of Comparative Literature at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has taught at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst since 1971. Former head of the Slavic Department, he now directs the Program in Slavic and East European Studies. He has published widely in the fields of Slavic linguistics and Slavic and Yiddish folklore and popular culture.

This presentation is organized by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Western Massachusetts and co-sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts.

Presentation followed by Q&A books, maps and resources along with snacks & beverages.

Contact person: Gerard Braunthal, tel. 413-549-1534. FREE. Bring a friend.

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October 21, 2004

### **PGS-MASSACHUSETTS FALL MEETING**

6:30 p.m. at Jones Library

Our speaker will be Gail Ciabaszewski Fusco, a long time member of the PGSMA and member of our Outreach team. Her topic will be "Searching My Polish Family." She will describe her step-by-step search for ancestors in Poland, obtaining genealogical documents in the U. S. and Poland, places and addresses for finding records, and her trips to Poland. She will display genealogical material, an atlas of Poland, documents that resulted from her research, photo albums, and handout material. This is a must meeting for beginners. Open to all. FREE. Bring a friend.

LOCATION: Jones Library Lower Level Meeting Room at 14 Amity Street just off North Pleasant Street in the center of town. Public parking across from the library. Call (413) 586-1827 for more details, or visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mapgsm/> for latest information.

Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts, PO Box 381, Northampton MA 01061-0381

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October 27 and November 3, 2004

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

The Newberry Library - Chicago, IL

4 hours of in-depth research techniques on discovering your Polish Roots, Ancestry and Heritage held on two evenings at the Newberry Library, Wednesdays October 27th and November 3rd, from 5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Gazetteers, maps, military records, and archives in Poland and North America will be discussed. Identification of lesser known sources will also be examined.

Hosted by Paul S. Valasek, VP- PolishRoots, Past President of PGSA, Polish Museum of America Board Member

Contact: The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago IL 60610-7324,  
<http://www.newberry.org> or by phone: 312-255-3680.

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December 4 – 7, 2004

**American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies’  
36th Annual Conference**

Boston, Mass. at the Boston Marriott Copley Hotel located at 110 Huntington Ave. Boston, Mass.10216.

The Preliminary Program for the nearly 200 individual panel discussions includes two panels relating to Rusyn topics and presented by noted Rusyn academicians on Monday December 6, 2004.

In addition to four days of panel discussions and meetings the Convention features dozens of exhibition booths which sell books, newspapers and other materials relating to Slavic history and studies. The public is also able to attend this AAASS Convention. Details as to cost of attendance and hotel accommodations are obtainable on their web site at <http://www.aaass.org>.

[Announcement from a note sent to all members of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society with e-mail addresses. See upcoming events at <http://www.c-rs.org/evnt.htm>.]

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March 31 – April 3, 2005

**8th New England Regional Genealogical Conference  
“New England Crossroads 2005”**

The Holiday Inn By The Bay in Portland Maine

Four of the country’s best known genealogists will be the lead speakers for this program: Tony Burroughs, Cyndi Howells, Elizabeth Shown Mills and Craig Scott.

Complete program details and a registration form can be found at: <http://www.NERGC.org>.

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

<http://baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/pradziad.eng.php>

Tina Ellis <vellis@jps.net> noted on the Poland-Border-Surnames list that this is the new URL for the Pradziad database on the Polish State Archives site. "If you know the name of a parish or governing administrative district where births, baptisms, marriages and deaths were registered, you can use this site to see what records they hold for genealogical purposes. The administrative districts are the government agencies, which hold records. They are called *gmina* in Polish."

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<http://www.genealogia.ru/en/main/author/>

On the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish Alexander Sharon shared this site that provides services for those researching roots in Russia. But note that it deals only with places now in Russia, not places that used to be ruled by the Russian Empire or USSR.

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<http://www.ships.cjb.net/>

This is a site Arlene Gardiner brought to the attention of PolishRoots' Vice President Paul S. Valasek. If you're interested in info on ships, you need to take a look!

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<http://www.iabsi.com/gen/public/correspondence.htm>

On the Galicia\_Poland-Ukraine mailing list Mary Lou <mlthrush@adelphia.net> recommended this site for "a good explanation of corresponding with the old country ... It concerns writing letters to Slovakia but I am sure it applies to many of the Eastern European countries we are researching. By the way, Bill Tarkulich's entire website has great information on all aspects of research in this area."

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<http://felsztyn.tripod.com>

On the Polish\_Genius mailing list Henryk Sokołowski <hsokol@sympatico.ca> noted he had added material to his personal Website at this address. Among the material is the text of booklets entitled *Eastern Poland* and *The Soviet Occupation of Poland*. "The purpose of these booklets was to provide the English speaking academic, political and diplomatic worlds with a summary of Poland's situation immediately prior to and at the start of the 1939 Russian invasion. There are many interesting insights, including much detail from the Polish census of 1931.

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<http://lythgoes.net/genealogy/software.php>

In the September 25, 2004 issue of *Nu? What's New?*, Volume 5, No. 17, editor Gary Mokotoff mentions a creative software system for placing your family history on the Internet. For information visit the URL given above.

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<http://www.pgf.cc/heritage/kresy.htm#Memorial>

Maureen Morris <[maureenm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maureenm@sbcglobal.net)> sent me e-mail notes that mentioned this site that memorializes Polish survivors of World War II.

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<http://www.lvivecotour.com>

A gentleman named Vladyslav Tsarynnyk sent me a note about his Website, which promotes a small tourism business he provides out of Lviv, Ukraine. He said, “Our customers are often people who come to Ukraine to find out about their roots in this part of the world. Others are contacting by email asking to find out about their possible relatives in Western Ukraine. I would be available to provide services to anyone interested in obtaining more detailed information about towns and villages in Eastern Galicia.” Obviously I know nothing about his business and cannot vouch for it. But if you are thinking of taking a trip to western Ukraine to search for your roots, you might wish to look into using his services. (And if you do, please let me know what you thought).

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