



Gen Dobry!

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***** WELCOME! *****

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

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

*** SO WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE? ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

So, have you watched any of the episodes of NBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* I seldom watch anything on network television any more, and I keep forgetting the shows will be on. Not that it's the end of the world to miss one, as the episodes are soon available on my cable system's On Demand feature soon after airing, and you can also watch them on NBC's Web site. Frankly, I prefer watching them On Demand, as it cuts way down on the commercials (I've heard that's also true of the versions shown on NBC's Web site). If I never see another commercial in my life, that would suit the hell out of me!

Anyway, I missed the first two episodes, but the third focused on producer Lisa Kudrow's family, with a visit to Belarus and to Poland. That one I had to see! Miracle of miracles, I actually remembered it was on.

I must be honest and admit that while I enjoyed watching it, I was not terribly impressed with it. I realized up front this is a product of American commercial television and deals with a so-called "celebrity," so it would be downright stupid to have high expectations. Still, it bothered me that she did virtually no research on her own, relying on the work of others; and the program focused on only one branch of her family tree, the one that offered the greatest entertainment value. Also, there were holes in the story you could drive the Goodyear blimp through. And how did a relative named Yuri end up being a Pole named Bolesław? But I suppose that's tantamount to being disappointed when an onion smells like an onion; what else would you expect?

Paul Valasek pointed out something very interesting. Kudrow's cousin now goes by the name Bolesław Barudin. Paul suggested I take a look at the 2002 data for that name at this site:

<<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/kompletny/barudin.html>>

It would appear that there are only five Polish citizens named Barudin, and all live in Gdynia *powiat!* I think we meet all of them in the show. I wonder if the researchers who did the grunt work for Lisa Kudrow used this resource?

After the show aired, I paid attention to some of the reaction on various online mailing lists, and many of the notes I saw were fairly positive. Jewish watchers, in particular, found the story moving. For them, of course, it was no mere TV show, but rather the revisiting of a horrific tragedy burned deep into their memories. There can be no words for how agonizing it is to think of one's grandmother being driven through a town like cattle, forced to strip naked, then made to stand in line waiting her turn to be shot in the head and dumped in a hole. Then it hits you that this scene was replayed not once but millions of times (with changes in the details, of course). Yes, I see how one might get a bit emotional over that.

I know there were some who expressed the same reaction we hear every time a media event focuses on the Holocaust: "Why do they only talk about the Jews? Hitler tried to kill millions of Christians

too!” It is only just to remember, for instance, the millions of Polish Christians also murdered by the Nazis. I don’t blame Jews for focusing primarily on the injustice done to them, but I do wish the rest of the world would pay a bit of attention to Hitler’s other victims (and Stalin’s, and Mao Zedong’s, and Pol Pot’s, for that matter).

But I guess it’s human nature to move on, and in fact it’s something we have to be able to do. I always liked the quotation from *Lonesome Dove*, “The best thing you can do with death is ride off from it.” Yes, ride off — but remember what happened so it doesn’t happen again.

The night after Lisa Kudrow’s episode was on, I watched the Emmett Smith episode via my cable system’s On Demand feature. It made me suspect I had been a little premature condemning Kudrow’s episode, because Smith’s showed him getting involved in the research, starting with his parents and moving back, generation of the time, the way you’re supposed to. I read that they also showed this in the first episode; maybe the producers figured that by the third episode, they didn’t have to keep repeating that, as the point had already been made. Smith’s episode also focused on only one line in his family tree; I would like to see more, but the show is just an hour long. I suppose it’s wrong of me to focus on what they’re doing wrong; I should spend a little more time paying attention to what they’re doing right.

What they’re doing right is bringing the thrill of genealogy to the attention of people who may never have experienced it before. Yeah, the show is kind of shallow and superficial; but how many people would tune in to watch a researcher spend an hour zipping back and forth on a reel of microfilm? Any teacher learns that before you can educate someone, you have to get him in the room and keep him awake. If education had a Hippocratic oath, it would begin, “First, do no boredom.”

I just hope there won’t be too many cases where someone watches the show and says, “Gee, I’ve got a free hour, I’ll log on to Ancestry.com and trace my family tree.” First, of course, they’ll find out that Ancestry.com charges money to get to the good stuff. Shortly thereafter they’ll realize they ain’t gonna trace no family tree in no hour! There’s going to be some of that, naturally; I just hope there won’t be too much. If genealogy does get a bounce out of this show, I hope it doesn’t bounce right back down where it was—after having convinced thousands or even millions that it’s all a big bait-and-switch orchestrated by Ancestry.com!

I see the next episode, to be shown this Friday night, deals with the history of Brooke Shields’ family. I’m pretty sure I’ll give that one a pass, unless I need a good nap. I may try to catch the one on Susan Sarandon, though.

All in all, I’d have to say the show is not as good as I hoped for, but a little better than I expected. I’d like to see more depth; but if it succeeds, it may pave the way for shows with more depth. A TV show on genealogy was worth a try, and I give the producers credit for trying; I doubt I could have done better ... If you have missed any episodes and would like to see them you can catch them online here:

<http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/video/>

Those are my reflections, and I realize they're not terribly profound. If you have something more substantial to say, I'd love to hear from you, so I can share it with our readers in the next issue.

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

Subject: Eastern European Cultural Society Tour of Poland

Editor—This note from Chris Kulinski appeared as an open “letter to the editor” on the PolandBorderSurnames list. While it wasn't sent specifically to me, I thought many of you would like to see it, in case you missed it there.

Dear Editor:

Members of the Eastern European Cultural Society (EECS) are once again organizing a Heritage, Culture and History tour of Poland. This will be a follow-up to the 2001 and 2006 Lublin Sister City and heritage culture and history tours.

Our American guide will be Chris Kulinski, genealogical researcher and European history expert. The tour will depart August 30th and we will return September 14th.

After our transcontinental flight to Warsaw, we will take a connecting flight to the Baltic seaport of Gdańsk, where we will begin our tour. On September 1st, we will partake in a ceremonial laying of a wreath at Westerplatte, where World War II began in 1939.

Among further highlights of the trip, besides exploring this seaport city and shopping for amber and multicultural souvenirs, will be:

- Teutonic Knights medieval castle at Malbork (the largest medieval fortress in Europe);
- Mrągowo country estates, famous for folk music and culture festivals;
- Ancestral villages of Kolno, Pupkowizna and Myszyniec in Łomża district;
- Warsaw and a planned dinner with a U.S. Embassy rep. in the old town district;
- A visit to an world renowned artists' paradise at Kazimierz;
- A luncheon stop over, at the famous Nałęczów health spa;
- One of Poland's ancient capitals, Sandomierz;
- Leżajsk, to visit 17th-century Bernardine Basilica, where many healing miracles took place;
- Rzeszów, the Carpathian Beskid region's capital;
- Tour ancestral villages of Biecz, Lupcza, Ołpiny, Pilzno, and Jasło;
- A luncheon at Niedzica castle and explore the legend of the Inca princess;
- Tour the Carpathian Mountains region of Zakopane, home of the Polish Highlanders, master wood carvers, and unique architecture. We will dine in the Highlander tradition, with folk music and local performers.

A visit is also planned to the medieval city of Kraków, named after Krak, the dragonslayer,

where Polish kings ruled for four centuries. You will shop until you drop in this ancient market square. Side trips to Auschwitz and the fascinating Wieliczka salt mine (the oldest in Europe) or Kościuszko memorial mound will be included. We will also have dinner with a U.S. Consular Representative at one of Kraków's renowned eateries.

We will conclude our trip at western Poland's city of Wrocław, where we will view the Panorama Raławicka, depicting the battle where Tadeusz Kościuszko defeated the Czarist Russian army. Wrocław also has one of the largest market squares in Poland, with the world famous Boleslawiec pottery.

We will be entertained with ethnic dance and cuisine at a farewell dinner party.

These are just some of the highlights. Persons wishing to join us on this grand odyssey, please contact the following EECS members.

Chris Kulinski 715 - 669 - 3017 <tylkoChris@yahoo.com>

Jim Mnichowicz 715 - 669 - 3577 <jimmnich@yahoo.com>

Diane Anderson 715 - 316 - 1423 <meandmoonbeam@yahoo.com>

Chris Kolasa 715 - 447 - 5701 <kolasal@centurytel.net>

Subject: Ceil's Article on Displaced Persons

Editor—Ceil Jensen sent me this note, and posted it to several mailing lists as well.

Ancestry Magazine shares my article on Displaced Persons in their March/April issue. Please see pp. 30-33.

This downloadable feature (pdf) from the March/April 2010 issue of *Ancestry Magazine* follows three projects that showcase how genealogy is being used to expand on textbook history. By focusing on families who were there when history happened, our trio of modern-day researchers is uncovering stories of the everyday that give us all a better understanding of how lives and history intertwine.

<<http://www.ancestrymagazine.com/2010/03/genealogy/what-a-project/>>

Ceil

Subject: Ancestry Magazine Issues Online

Editor—While we're talking about *Ancestry Magazine*, Tom Sadauskas shared this with me.

In their January/February 2010 issue on Page 9, they state that issues of the magazine from 2004 to early 2009 are available on <<http://books.google.com>> by searching on “Ancestry magazine”.

They’re working on posting their earlier issues before 2004 as well.

Tom

Editor—Thanks, Tom, that’s useful information!

*** **TYTUS PILECKI** ***

Editor—Paul S. Valasek sent me this, and I think it’s worth sharing.

Tytus Pilecki

(Tytus Severin Knight of Pilecki , *4.1.1840 +11.6.1906)

For more than 18 months I have been actively searching traces and roots of my family. I am located in Austria (formerly known as K.u.K. Österreich) in Vienna, and yes, I am a real Austrian. My grandmother’s family comes from Poland, Lwów, known in the past as Galicia.

My grandmother, a well-known opera singer (alto) at the Vienna K.u.K Hofoper performing during the years 1918 to 1925, was the daughter of a Polish noble, called Julian, knight of Pilecki. Julian had a brother named Tytus von Pilecki – an artist and a painter – born in Stara Wieś, a small town located exactly at the border of Poland and Hungary. They all were nobles from the *Herb Leliwa*, plenty of titles, having a coat of arms and all were full of prestige.

During my search on the Internet about stories and data referring to Tytus Pilecki, I became acquainted more or less immediately with a source mentioning an article (of course in Polish) in “PolishRoots.” It was a brochure with the title “Catalog Zbiorów,” containing the biographies of 250 Polish artists. So I wrote to the e-mail address stated on the page and got a reply mail from Dr. P. Valasek within a couple of days.



Goplana, by Tytus Pilecki

After I paid and transferred a small fee to the journal, Dr. Valasek sent me a copy of the mentioned article about my great-grandfather's brother. So a connection between Chicago and Wien (Vienna) was set up very fast and in a very smooth way.

One of my Austrian friends, speaking Polish fluently, translated the text into German. And I received through this way further knowledge about my ancestor's family. Now I have a handful of new information which might help me further to find out more about the painter of *Goplana* and about his time and works he had spent around 1900 in the north of Germany.

In case someone is interested in a German version of the short text sent to me by Dr. Valasek and/or wants to get in contact with me to exchange data about the Pileckis I would be pleased to answer any e-mail reaching me under <pilecki@claps.in>.

Peter Clausen – Wien -Austria

Editor—Here's an English translation of the text Paul sent: "Pilecki, Tytus. A native of the Duchy of Poznań, where he was born in 1843. In 1863, after graduating from the university in Berlin, he enrolled in the Dresden Academy, where he worked for several years. In 1869 he moved to Munich and was a student of Prof. Anschutz, and subsequently of Wagner. He received a silver medal for the excellence of his studies. After staying for a couple of years in the Duchy of Poznań and East Prussia, where he painted portraits, he returned to Munich in late 1873 to complete his large picture *Goplana*, which was shown at many exhibitions, enjoyed great success, was reproduced many times, and popularized the artist's name. Having left Munich in 1876, Pilecki stayed for a series of years in the residences of citizens, painting portraits of superior artistic worth. Circa 1895 he lived for an extended period in Warsaw. He died a few years later in the Grand Duchy of Poznań."

***** FOREFATHERS TRACES TOUR TO POLAND *****

by Zenon Znamirovski

PolishOrigins.com - Forefathers Traces Tours to Poland, season 2010. "Something magic - or spiritual - comes into play that makes it unlike other journeys." "This was a trip of a lifetime and the gift of family was more than I could have hoped for from this trip." These are only a few voices of our honorable guests whom we had the privilege to assist in their Forefathers Traces Tours to Poland. (Click here to see more testimonials: <http://polishorigins.com/document/ftt_testimonials>).

A few days ago we updated our Forefathers Traces Tours offer, click here to see the new offer page: <<http://tours.polishorigins.com>>. We added more details which we hope will give you better understanding of the experience you may have while traveling to Poland for your genealogy vacation: <http://polishorigins.com/document/ftt_offer#tour_service_offer>. We haven't raised our service fees for 2010 season <http://polishorigins.com/document/ftt_offer#costs>.

Although we started to take bookings a year ago, we still have openings for 2010 Tours, especially in spring (starting from the second half of May) and in late autumn (starting from October). Remember: You don't have to be a celebrity to experience your own *Who Do You Think You Are?* family story journey to Poland with PolishOrigins.com!

Zenon & Team
PolishOrigins.com

***** ONE-STOP SHOPPING *****

Editor—Alan J. Kania posted this thought-provoking note on the Poland-Roots mailing list. I thought his comments deserve the widest possible audience, so I wanted to repeat there here (and anywhere else I can think of).

I usually get in trouble when I raise this, but a series of experiences today prompts me to raise this question. Debbie has pointed out an absolutely fascinating Polish Web site, “Commonwealth,” that demonstrates Poland’s cultural historic variety. It’s an incredible flash-video. [*Editor*—See **More Useful Web Addresses** below for the URL.]

Today I attended a genealogy class in Denver that covered the Holocaust. I was completely overwhelmed with the number of high-quality Web sites that are all linked to a common objective—to learn about the Holocaust and help family researchers. It was like one-stop shopping at Costco.

I still don't honestly understand what the different Polish organizations accomplish. Their purpose seems (to me) strictly ceremonial. Here's a suggestion—could these organizations either market their purpose a little better, or come up with a new purpose? I'll describe the Polish community in my own geographic area. There is a Polish festival every year, but I have never seen any announcements in the local media. I asked the organizer how they let people know about the festival. The response was, “We post notices at church.”

I'm sorry, but I'm not Roman Catholic and I don't go to the Polish church that's an hour drive away. The 2000 census indicated that in Colorado, there are 4,200 people who speak Polish at home. Add to that the tens-of-thousands of people like myself who are Polish by heritage, and you have the makings of a festival that would rival any other ethnicity in Colorado. Just stop marketing to the choir!

If our national Polish organizations recognized that there are hundreds of thousands of people who would like to connect to their ancestry through festivals, genealogy, or just plain awareness, we wouldn't have the ignorance of the Polish jokes like we saw on the public participation section of the *New York Magazine* Web page. Through public exposure of the culture and heritage of Poland, we can actually bring a positive understanding of Poland (instead of just blaming the media for the ignorance).

So, here's my proposal. I've seen some incredible Web sites for Polish hotels and restaurants, so I know there is some untapped talent out there who could be hired (or offered a trade-out). And I've seen comments about a large number of regional workshops with some wonderful programs. Those programs are perfect for people who live in that area, but that's a small percentage of the people who could benefit from the knowledge being shared at those workshops. The programs could easily be video-taped and streamed on the internet. Take a look at the TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) conferences: <<http://www.TED.org>>. These are lectures that are entertaining, thought-provoking, and educational. While we wouldn't be able to duplicate the high-definition studio quality productions, home video-cameras mounted on a tripod and a wireless microphone can produce a respectable level of quality.

There are certainly corporate executives for major industries with Polish ancestry. Surely they could be approached to encourage their company to help underwrite the cost of creating and maintaining a Web site that contains streaming video from all the different genealogy workshops, video news from Poland, and travel tips. Connected to the Web site would be links to the resources available online. And surely the Ambassador to Poland can actually do something other than posing for pictures.

All it takes is an organization willing to take up the project. Among us, there are some of the most incredible educators on Polish genealogy, culture and heritage. Through Polish, Jewish, and other Web-databases, there is an opportunity to provide people a one-stop source to begin learning more about learning about our families. Think of it as an online version of the book *Polish Roots*. Think of it as having Steve Morse and Fred Hoffman carpool with you on a genealogy field trip!

Just a thought.

Alan

Editor—I'd love to see this proposal get serious discussion, especially if it's the kind that leads to action. Except I don't know if carpooling with Steve Morse and me would be the best idea. You might not get a word in edgewise. In fact, I'd probably shut up and just listen to Dr. Morse. The man has a lot of good stuff to say!

***** POLISH MISSION VOLUNTEERS — THREE CHEERS! *****

Editor—Ceil Jensen sent me this, and posted it on several mailing lists. I think volunteers deserve all the credit they can get, so here it is again.

I have to post about the great team of volunteers helping in the Polish Mission Research Room each Friday. Since December, we have been working on creating searchable databases and organizing the resources on campus. I hope researchers will make an appointment to visit or attend the open PGSM meeting on Saturday, March 20th from 2-4 p.m. Societies are welcome to schedule a lecture or a tour. We have food service on campus.

Let me introduce a few volunteers:

Hal Learman

As many of you know, Dr. Hal Learman has not only donated the funding to properly conserve the Kowski artwork, but has purchased new furniture and computer carrels for the room. Each Friday he devotes his time and talent to organizing the room and records. He is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and do the “sweat equity” needed to create an environment conducive to research and collaboration. He had over 20 years of volunteer service at the Family History Center of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and has traveled overseas to conduct research in parishes and archives.

Tim Westfall

Tim is currently working on his own Polish genealogy and brings a wealth of knowledge of the practices of the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of Detroit. Westfall served as an assistant in the Archives of the Detroit Archdiocese for 6.5 years and trained at Wayne State University. He also studied at Sacred Heart Major Seminary for several years. His resume includes his experience as director of Mt. Kelly Cemetery in Dearborn, Michigan. He was the photo manager of the publication *Make Straight the Path* on Detroit parishes several years ago. He is working with the prints and negatives in the Polish Mission collection.

Military Team

JJ Przewozniak was trained by the Henry Ford to be a re-enactor and historical interpreter. He brings both this skill and his interest in Poland’s Home Army to the Polish Mission. He and his colleague Steve are working on digitalizing the military collections of the Polish Mission. He will collaborate with Ceil to submit grants to appropriate foundations to fund the process.

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (PGSM)

Betty Guziak, Brenda Kociemba, Valerie Koselka, and Bernadette Drobot, PGSM members, are undertaking indexing and creating digital extractions for campus records. The records include the 1922 and 1948 Greetings from Poland signed by school children, Displaced Persons coming the metro Detroit, early OLS student enrollment cards, and funeral memorial cards. These will be searchable databases and allow family historians to order copies for a set fee. Valerie Koselka introduced us to a young Polish teacher, Kamila, who will provide translation services in Polish and Russian.

Ceil Wendt Jensen

I continue to develop programs that will tie genealogy into the educational community. We have submitted a grant to fund state-of-the-art computers. With an up-to-date lab, we can invite not only genealogists, but schools and Scouts to work on their cultural history research and cultural and genealogical badges.

The volunteers are diligently working, and we welcome researchers to make an appointment for a consultation. And bring your laptop—we have wireless!

Ceil

PARI
The Polish Mission
Orchard Lake, Michigan
<<http://www.polishmission.com>>

***** GUIDE FOR LOCATING AUSTRO-HUNGARY MILITARY RECORDS*****

Editor—Bill Tarkulich sent this note to Don Szumowski, and Don suggested we include it in the next issue of *Gen Dobry!* Ceil Jensen also wrote to me, suggesting we publicize this. I'd like to think I know a good idea when I hear one....

Announcing a New Guide for Locating Austro-Hungary Military Records

Announcing a new guide to help researchers locate information about ancestors who may have served in the Austro-Hungarian Army. Carl Kotlarchik has generously shared his research knowledge on this subject in an easy-to read paper.

Carl has put significant effort into describing the available resources and how to locate them for a specific individual from a specific region of the empire.

The paper contains document samples, translation of key document headers, links to essential information and an extensive bibliography.

The paper may be viewed or downloaded at

<<http://www.iabsi.com/gen/public/ahm.html>>

We all owe Carl a great debt of gratitude for sharing with us the knowledge he gained in his search.

Excerpt:

A Guide for Locating Military Records for the various Regions of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

by Carl Kotlarchik

While military records are usually considered a secondary resource for genealogical researchers, knowledge of military service adds depth to a family history and goes beyond just having a list of names and dates. It provides insight into what an ancestor may have experienced during their lifetime and gives a perspective of the history at that period.

To find military records for the Austro-Hungarian Army, one first needs to determine where and how to look for them since they were kept at different locations during various periods of time.

The records were also kept differently for the various states within the Empire. Consequently, it can be a little confusing if one does not understand a bit about the history of the Austrian Empire and the subsequent Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Read more: <<http://www.iabsi.com/gen/public/ahm.html>>

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

April 13, 2010

MEETING OF THE TORONTO UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY GROUP - (TUGG)

Dr. Romana Bahry (York University) - Will speak on "Ukrainian Genealogy in Vienna, Austria."

From 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
St Vladimir Institute
620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.
Contact: (905)-841-6707

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Saturday, 17 April 2010

**WASHINGTON DC FAMILY HISTORY CENTER (A.K.A. KENSINGTON,
MARYLAND) 4TH ANNUAL GENEALOGY CONFERENCE**

Washington DC Family History Center
4th Annual Conference
April 17, 2010
9:00 AM - 3:15 PM
The link to the list of sessions is below:

<http://www.wdcfhc.org/conf2010/descriptions.php>

This year, we are pleased to offer 20 classes. Each class is taught by experienced researchers with specialized areas of expertise.

The conference will be held at:
Washington DC Stake Center
(location of the Family History Center)
10000 Stoneybrook Drive
Kensington, MD 20895

This Conference is FREE OF CHARGE.

Frequent *Gen Dobry!* contributor Tom Sadauskas is giving two presentations:

2-4 The Immigrant Experience - How They Came to America

Tom Sadauskas

Every family with immigrant ancestors has stories of how their family first arrived in America. Many of these stories contain grains of truth as well as unsubstantiated myths. This presentation looks at the immigration process that our ancestors went through to come to America. Topics to be covered include:

- What emigrants had to do to “escape” or leave their countries
- Emigration routes and means of travel to the various European departure ports
- Conditions facing emigrants at the departure ports
- The different sailing routes and ports of entry including Canada & Mexico
- What emigrants faced at the various ports of entry
- Record sources for research

4-2 Your Frequent Flier Immigrant Ancestors

Tom Sadauskas

One little known immigration phenomena is that of multiple passages of immigrants to America and their return to the Old Country. Anywhere from one-fourth to one-third of immigrants ultimately returned to their native homeland. One of the reasons researchers often fail to find “missing ancestors” is that these ancestors lived in America for a brief time and then returned permanently to the Old Country. This presentation looks at why these frequent fliers chose re-emigration as well as ways for finding them. Topics to be covered include:

- Economic conditions causing re-emigration
- Mobility of the migrant work force
- Impact of re-emigration on the Old Country
- Illustrative case studies of re-emigration
- Record sources for research

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April 17, 2010

3RD ANNUAL GENEALOGY DAYS AT WORCESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Two New Workshops presented by Barbara Proko

I’m presenting two new workshops at the 3rd annual “Genealogy Days at Worcester Public Library” conference. My sessions are scheduled for 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Saturday, April 17. I haven’t been told yet which one is being held in which time slot, but here’s what I’m offering:

“Boleslaw and Tekla’s Excellent Adventure: The Journey to Worcester”

Some case studies of chain migration from the Russian Empire (Poland, Lithuania), 1890-1914, focusing on how immigrants traveled from tiny villages to major European ports to sail to the United States, and factors that influenced their choices. Recognizing names on passenger lists. Understanding why the manifest “destination” may have been a stop along the way to Worcester.

“It Takes More than a Village”

You have a village name, but the past century’s border (and possibly language) changes are complicating your search for family records created in Eastern Europe. Learn how to use historic and modern aids—gazetteers, maps, and Web sites—to locate a village. Understand how to negotiate the LDS/FHL catalog to find microfilmed church and civil records. Become acquainted with resources for translating documents. Take a virtual visit to the homeland, courtesy of the Web!

I’ll also have signed copies of *The Polish Community of Worcester* and *Worcester County’s Polish Community* available for sale (\$20 cash/check).

About the event: “Genealogy Days at Worcester Public Library” is free and open to the public, offering 2-3 sessions hourly by area genealogists. The event is very popular and well attended. Seating is limited, so registration is required. “Online registration available shortly,” according to the WPL calendar of events.

Check the library Web site at <<http://www.worcpublic.org/>> for the full schedule of topics, online registration form, driving directions, and general info. WPL has great genealogy/local history resources on the 3rd floor, well worth browsing. The library is located downtown at 3 Salem Square, basically kitty-corner to the back end of Worcester Common. The only cost involved is feeding the meters at the municipal parking lot next to the library—bring lots of coins!

About me: I describe my ancestral quests in my blog, “Basia’s Polish Family: From Wilno to Worcester.” A Worcester native, I am the lead coauthor of *The Polish Community of Worcester* (2003) and *Worcester County’s Polish Community* (2007). I’ve been active in genealogy since 1996, am a member of several genealogical societies, have presented numerous talks and workshops, and have traveled to Belarus, Lithuania, and Poland to research my roots.

Hope to see some of you in April!

Barbara Proko

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April 18, 2010

Please join the Polish Mission as we welcome spring at our Polish Folkloric Show and Tea on Sunday, April 18. Our event features the POLANIE Song & Dance Ensemble, who will perform a Polish Folk Dance and Fashion Show. The program opens with Chopin's Polonaise A-major "Polonaise Heroique" followed by the Mazur, Krakowiak, Oberek, and Kujawiak. The dancers will explain the traditional costumes and dances from 15 different regions. The Finale will be the Marzanna - Welcoming of Spring. The drowning of the Marzanna straw figure is a traditional folk fest in Poland. The festival is a symbolic welcoming of spring and burial of winter. The ritual hails from Slavic folklore. This tea includes Polish refreshments with *kompot*, a pleasant lightly-sweetened fruit drink, and pastries.

Poster:

<<https://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B3h0bOYRuDi4NTg2MWYwM2YtZWZWM4Zi00MzVILWE5ZDMtYjdIMGUyNzQ3NDFm&hl=en>>

The Polish Mission
Polish American Art and Cultural Research Foundation
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324

Ceil Jensen

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Wednesday, April 21, 2010

MEETING OF THE EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG FAMILY HISTORY
RESOURCES**

Presentation by

Linwood Delong and Brad Russell

An overview of the University of Winnipeg Library materials for east Europe, the EEGS book & periodical collection, and tour of the Geography Department Map Library including the EEGS Map collection.

EEGS members will be available to provide hands on help for attendees.

Wednesday April 21, 2010 7:00 PM University of Winnipeg (Library, 5th floor) 515 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba

Please Bring Interested Family and Friends

VISITORS WELCOME

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April 28 – May 1, 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8:00 a.m.

Polish Research Trip, Sonja Hoeke-Nishimoto

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

9:30 a.m.

Polish Court Records and Census Records, Stephen J. Danko

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

11:00 a.m.

Genealogy in Poland Today, Tomasz Nitsch

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

2:30 p.m.

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

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

4:00 p.m.

Finding Your Ancestral Village in American Records, Paul Lipinski

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

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

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

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

The registration this year is via NGS and their Web site:

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

PGSM is organizing the Polish Track:

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

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16 May 2010

MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Chicago, Illinois

The speaker will be Ola Heska. Her topic will be how non-Polish speaking individuals can extract information from the *Geographical Dictionary of the Polish Kingdom (Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego)*. [From an e-mail sent out by Harry Kurek.]

Editor—If I may add a personal note, I have dealt with Ola a number of times in the past, and have been impressed by her abilities; she speaks Polish as her native tongue, but her English is very good. It seems to me she's very qualified to speak on this subject. If you have a chance to go listen, I bet you'll learn something! I don't see details on the PGSA Web site right now, but I'm sure they will be appearing soon.

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June 4 - June 21, 2010

SECOND ANNUAL DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS TOUR TO WESTERN UKRAINE

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

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

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

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

What You Can Find In the Archives

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

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

This Tour is Tailored to Your Needs

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

Other Things To See In Ukraine

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

For Further Information:

Jim Onyschuk

<jodanji@rogers.com>

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

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July 11-16, 2010

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

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

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

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July 21 - 31, 2010

POLAND IN THE ROCKIES

Speakers and Filmmakers from Canada, the United States and Europe

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

An intensive transnational Polish experience — in the beautiful Canadian Rockies

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

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

Alumni e-zine: <<http://www.cosmopolitanreview.com>>

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2010!!

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

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October 1 – 2, 2010

PGSA'S 32ND ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

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

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

The theme is:

19th Century Research using 21st Century Technology

Changes and improvements in technology are constantly providing us with new tools to use to re-think and re-evaluate our research. Here are just a few examples of presentations that can reinvigorate yours.

“Discovering the Treasures of 19th Century Polish Language Records” - You may not speak the language, but you can still mine the records for what they can tell you.

“You're Not in Kansas Anymore: Essential Resources for Urban Area Research” - Have you used the latest tools available for this challenging topic?

“Searching Electronic Databases” - Controlled vocabulary can help you find information on line that you didn't realize existed.

“A Novice's Approach to Using the Polish Archives: - Proving that even if you aren't an expert, the right techniques will allow you to use these records.

“Lost Children: Orphans, Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted” - Unusual challenges may not be where you think they are. Get directions from an expert.

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

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

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

<<https://www.xoom.com/sendmoneynow/home>>

While wandering around the Web, looking for anything interesting, I came across this

site, which claims it can let you send money to Poland for as little as \$4.99. I know people are always looking for ways to send money to someone in Poland, so I thought this was worth passing along. Please note, I have no experience using this company, so I can't say how good its services and prices are. I've always used U.S. Money Express <http://www.usmoneyexpress.com/MONEY_TRANSFERS.ASP> and been pleased with them. But a little honest competition never hurts, and consumers can always benefit from having more than one option.

<<http://www.lithuania-photo.com/>>

Tom Sadauskas came across a reference to this site that contains numerous beautiful aerial photographs of many Lithuanian cities. He said, "What's especially interesting is to discover how the photographs were taken. Very clever."

<<http://www.pitt.edu/~armata/cyrillic.jpg>>

For those who have a hard time making out the letters of the Cyrillic alphabet, this is a Web page Joe Armata made to give you a hand. It's short, sweet, and to the point.

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

On the LithuanianGenealogy mailing list, Mary Guler described this as a "fabulous new site started by Cynthia Richardson of Chicago Genealogy."

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

Rosemary Chorzempa mentioned that this is a fairly new Web site "about everything Polish in Toledo area, made by Deniusz Kotylowski." I was glad to have a chance to pass the URL along. Also, Rosemary recently appeared on Toledo television, and the clip can be viewed here: <<http://abclocal.go.com/wtv/story?section=news/local&id=7327867>>.

<<http://tinyurl.com/yjcdh27>>

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Alan J. Kania posted a note to let people know about a bill being considered in Massachusetts that would restrict vital records drawn up after 1841. It's on the Genealogy Insider blog, under the title "Massachusetts Bill Threatens Vital Records Back to 1841." The URL for the Web page is too long to post here, so I hope this TinyURL will do the job. If not, contact me and I'll give you the full link.

<<http://www.connectingcanadians.org/en/content/home>>

Tom Sadauskas came across a posting telling about how various ethnic newspapers printed in Canada are being digitized and put online. The ten languages represented include Polish, Lithuanian, and Ukrainian. The Polish newspaper *Związkowiec* (English title, *The Alliancer*) is among them, except it's listed as "Zwilazkowiec Alliancer." Well, I guess we should just be happy they included it; getting the spelling right is probably too much to ask.

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/03/charles-hall-rip.html>

The March 22nd issue of *EOGN* [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter] reported that Charles Hall died recently. He was particularly involved in German-American genealogy, and founded two genealogical societies, Palatines to America and the Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies [FEEFHS]. You can read Eastman's article at the above URL, which also has a link to Charles Hall's obituary. You can also learn more about him here: <<http://www.feefhs.org/about/officers.html#hall>>.

<<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Polish-Genius-polish-genealogy-group/361512857943?v=info>>

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Debbie Greenlee reported that Polish Genius now is on Facebook. If you're interested in signing up, the link above will take you to the right place.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/world_news_america/8569420.stm>

Also on that mailing list, Dennis Gnatowski gave this link to a very interesting BBC story on keeping the Polish culture alive in New Britain, Connecticut.

<<http://commonwealth.pl/>>

On the Polish Genius and Poland-Roots lists, Debbie Greenlee said "Here's a link to 'Commonwealth,' an interesting site about Poland's cultural heritage—and it's in English! When you get to the English page you'll see a small white crown at the bottom left. Put your cursor over it and pictures will appear. Place your cursor over each box and you'll see that it's a link. There is information about: the French Connection; Shofar Away (Jewish); Armenian Character; Facing Southeast (Islamic); Oh Lithuania, My Country; Deutsch Vita (German); All Roads Lead from Rome (Italian); Cyrillic Method (Eastern Lands collection); and more."

Incidentally, Eve Jankowicz added an interesting note: "I think I saw this site somehow when it was less developed around a year ago. It's beautiful, but the primary ethnic group of Poland has been left out. This is, of course, Poles! What gives? LOL."

<<http://www.bociany.edu.pl>>

For those of you fascinated by the yearly adventures of Poland's storks, it's that time again. Follow the fate of the storks in a nest in Ustroń, southern Poland. The first stork arrived on Sunday, March 28, so the action has already started—or I guess it will when another stork shows up....

<<http://genealogyindexer.org/>>

Chris Bukoski wrote that she came across this site while searching for online directories. "Kinda neat to look at a 1913 telephone directory for Galicia!"

<<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2010/03/09/technology/20100309-translate.html?emc=eta1>>

On the PolandRoots list, Michele gave this link to a New York Times article, “Putting Google to the Test in Translation.” She said, “It compares the quality of the translations from it and similar translating services with actual translated samples. No Polish in the article but there is Russian, German, French, Spanish, and Arabic in the comparison. There is even a human translation. Very interesting.”

<http://www1.yadvashem.org/exhibitions/album_Auschwitz/multimedia/index.HTML>

Cathy Duprey wrote, “A friend of mine sent this to me. It is very compelling. The Auschwitz Album.” This URL will take you there.

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