



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/tabid/60/Default.aspx>>

***** THE RIGHT WORD AND THE WRONG WORD *****

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

People often ask me how a fellow who majored in German ended up working in the field of Polish genealogy. Well, actually, more ask why a fellow would major in German....

Be that as it may, I got involved in Polish genealogy mainly because it was a way to put my language skills to good use. Over the course of my first 30 years, I had learned a fair amount about Latin, German, Russian, and Polish (in that order, the last one self-taught)—and those happen to be exactly the languages that prove useful in any branch of Polish history, including genealogy!

In America, sadly, knowledge of languages other than English is not usually a path to career advancement. Oh, if you already have a marketable skill and can bring knowledge of another language to the table as an added qualification, that can prove useful. But hard as I tried to discover a marketable skill, languages are what I'm best at; and there really is no great demand for linguistic talent per se.

So I was rather pleased when I came to realize that genealogists often need help from someone who knows his stuff, language-wise. Where most hard-headed businessmen say, "No need to learn a language, make people in other countries learn English," genealogists are constantly stumbling across foreign terms they don't know, terms that could be important in their research. They will be grateful to anyone who can tell them what they need to know, maybe even pay for the info. What a concept!

The other day I was reminded how important it can be to find someone who knows just the right word. Right now, Jonathan Shea and I are trying to make serious progress on the Latin volume of our *In Their Words* series of translation guides. Jonathan's dug up plenty of sample documents; my job is explaining the grammar and putting together vocabulary lists. Latin documents are not too hard to figure out if you have some help with the unfamiliar terms that constantly show up in them. So I'm keeping my eyes open for any term we haven't already listed, especially if it refers to an occupation that may show up in vital records or parish sacramental registers.

I was fascinated when I saw a note posted to the JewishGen mailing list, in which a gentleman named Eric asked:

In translating the 1771-1774 Hungarian Jewish Censuses, one occupation is listed in Latin as *Cremati Ustores*. The only thing close to this that I find in translation Websites is "corpse burner." The two words appear to be somewhat redundant and mean the same thing. It has been suggested this occupation refers to alcohol distillers. Certainly the distillation process requires burning. However, I cannot find any definitive source that links this Latin occupation with distillation.

Based on the fact that some towns in the Censuses identified numerous Jews with this occupation, and considering that Jews do not cremate their dead (i.e., burn corpses),

it seems plausible the term does refer to alcohol distillation—although, there are certainly other words in the Latin language that could have been used to refer to alcohol distillation.

Can anyone cite a reliable source that has linked the terms *Cremati Ustores*, or similar words, to the occupation of distilling alcohol?

I looked in the various books I have, but to no avail. Most dictionaries focus on Classical Latin, the language of ancient Rome, not the version used by the Church and educated Europeans for centuries. These works don't help much with the kind of Latin that genealogists encounter.

For instance, the huge (and expensive) *Oxford Latin Dictionary* defined *ustor* as “one paid to burn dead bodies” (apparently burning live ones did not pay well). The only entry relevant to *cremati* was for the verb *cremo*, “to destroy by fire, cremate”; *cremati* would be a genitive singular or nominative plural form of the past passive participle, *crematus*, “cremated” or “consumed by fire.” So as Eric said, in terms of classical Latin, *cremati ustores* would be “body-burners of the cremated one” or “cremated body-burners.” One seems redundant—why would you want to burn a body that had already been cremated? The other is absurd—it's hard to imagine how the cremated could be much assistance cremating others.

But as I said, the Latin that shows up in records of the 17th or 18th or 19th century is very different from the Latin of Cicero and Caesar. Some words had the same form as in Classical Latin, but had developed very different meanings. Other words did not exist at all in Classical Latin, and were formed to describe objects and concepts unfamiliar to the ancient Romans.

I had no luck finding anything that shed light on this question, to my frustration. But a lot of really smart people participate in the JewishGen mailing list—that's why I enjoy monitoring it—and I looked forward to seeing what info might be forthcoming.

Sure enough, a few days later, Eric posted a note to thank those who had responded, and summed it up thus:

Two scholarly resources were identified that clearly indicate the occupation of *cremati ustor* is that of a distiller. It should be noted that the Latin used in the Hungarian censuses was not truly classical Latin but a modified form of the language.

Both references list various occupations in Latin and then their Hungarian counterparts. The first document can be found at:

<http://epa.oszk.hu/01600/01610/00017/pdf/vmm_17_1984_29_rozsanelendvai.pdf>

It translates *cremati ustor* as *pálinkafőző*, meaning “brandy cooking.”

The second document has a very lengthy link ... [which he posted, with a TinyUrl link]:

<<http://tinyurl.com/yz6kjcjg>>

Then look up *cremati ustor* on page 183. It similarly translates into *pálinkafőzés*, or “distilling.” As part of the definition in Latin it says *destillatio vini adusti*, which I would loosely translate as “distilling wine by burning.” Since brandy is made by distilling wine, one could interpret such a person as a brandy maker or perhaps, more broadly, as a maker of spirits.

I thought this was useful info, and promptly added it to our Latin word list, after I found a source verifying that *crematum* can be short for *vinum crematum*, literally “burnt wine.” That is the same etymology that applies to our word “brandy” (from Dutch *brandewijn*, “burnt wine”). We cannot conclude that the term *cremati ustor* must always refer to a brandy distiller; all we know for sure is that the term can mean that in certain Hungarian documents. If you came across the term in some other context, perhaps another meaning applies. Still, if you see it used denoting an occupation, that would be the first meaning I’d try.

I doubt many of you really need to know how to say “brandy distiller” in Late Latin. My point is, look how hard it was to dig up this info! The people who helped Eric had to rummage around in a 1901 Latin-Hungarian dictionary and a 1984 article written in Hungarian. But once you recognize the value of finding just the right word, you will go to great lengths to do so. Who knows, you might even be willing to pay a fellow who majored in foreign languages....

Whether you like to drink brandy, or egg nog, or cider, or hot coffee, as your “cup of Christmas cheer,” I hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

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

Subject: Google Alerts <<http://www.google.com/alerts>>

This sorta goes with the item in *Gen Dobry!* about signing up for Google alerts on family names. The Google result for “Fick-Loui” caught my eye; that was my grandfather’s name—his older sibs and parents came 1893 from Hanover, and he was born in 1897. So you can add Zimbabwe South Africa; as you can see there is trouble brewing there, and human rights people are being denied access. The second goes more into detail. Hey, thanks for putting this out there for all to see!

Cathy Walters

Editor—We had mentioned Google alerts as a tip in a previous issue. The results Cathy showed me included info about recent shootings on a South African farm belonging to a Louis Fick. By the way, I noticed the last item in the alert was for German pornography, which didn’t surprise me; the respectable surname Fick also happens to be the German version of the four-letter word that got Ralphie’s mouth washed out with soap in *A Christmas Story*.

Subject: Photos of Austro-Hungarian soldiers

Editor—This note came in response to a question about identifying a photo of a man in a military uniform, and I thought our members might like to know about it.

I have used the following Website to get more information about military photos that were taken during the same time and geographic area as the one mentioned.

<<http://austrohungarianlandforcesdiscussionforum.yuku.com/topic/1090>>

Subject: Thanks to Paul S. Valasek and Don Szumowski!

A long overdue thank you to Paul Valasek for all of his fact-filled articles and a long overdue thank you to Don Szumowski for continuing to mastermind “Polish Roots The Polish Genealogy Source” Website that also hosts *Gen Dobry!*

Debbie Greenlee

Editor—Paul and Don appreciated your thanks very much. They put a lot of effort into providing researchers with help, and expressions of thanks such as this are their main reward.

Subject: Put a Polish-American in the Pro Bowl

To all PRCUA Members and Friends:

I am asking all of you, your relatives and your many friends to vote and vote often for our PRCUA member TOM ZBIKOWSKI.

Tom has been nominated to the National Football League (NFL) Pro-Bowl. This young lifetime member of PRCUA #408 St. Florian Society, deserves all of our support! All of Polonia should cast votes in his favor now and continuously until December 21, 2009.

Tom was born in Chicago and raised under the tutelage of Coach Weis. He dazzled the fans with his famous punt returns, interceptions and tackles. These actions on the playing field brought him to the attention of the National Football League.

For the past two years, Tom has played for the Baltimore Ravens. He participated in last year’s playoffs against the Pittsburgh Steelers. Who knows what this season will bring?

He needs our support and your votes now.

Tom is a handsome, amicable, young man who has not forgotten his roots. He comes from a 100% PRCUA family and personally contributed generously to the PRCUA scholarship fund. These funds are being one of the many charitable activities he undertook nationwide.

Please follow the instructions on how to vote for Tom Zbikowski. This is one voting system you can vote early and often. You can vote at your leisure and at any time day or night. Your votes and the votes of your friends could place Tom into the NFL Pro Bowl on the special teams.

Players in the Pro Bowl are all chosen by the public. Voting is done online and you may vote as often as you want. The procedure is simple:

1. Visit <<http://www.nfl.com>>
2. Click on Pro Bowl ballot (near the large NFL logo on the left side)
3. Click on Special Teams (mid-upper portion of the screen)
4. Click on Special Teamers (mid-upper portion of the screen)
5. Find Tommy Zbikowski and vote for him and proceed to submit your vote, and if you want to, vote again for him.
6. Click on “click here to vote again”—continue voting at any time up until December 21, 2009.

I thank you in advance for your support.

Wallace M. Ozog

Editor—You can read this online at <<http://www.prcua.org/news/newsrelease/20091112.pdf>>. I remember watching Zbikowski when he played at Notre Dame, because it always irritated me that the announcers couldn't pronounce his name correctly! In any case, Kathryn Rosypal, executive editor of *Naród Polski*, also sent out a similar note. PRCUA wants to support this young man, and why not?! Take a moment to vote for him.

Subject: Map of Bukowina

Editor—Edward Rozyłowicz is a researcher who's had excellent results from his work. He's been kind enough to share various resources with us, and I'm always glad to pass them along to our readers.

This may, or may not be, of interest to you and the readership of your journals but I have stumbled upon a number of map sites (and specific maps) that are noteworthy.

My interest in this geographic area is because my father was born in Czernowitz in 1901, the city being the heart of this Bukowina region. My research (of course) into Bukowina led me to the Wikipedia site

<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bukovina>>

where an interesting map of the Bukowina region is available. This map shows the distribution of citizenry of this region by ethnicity. I found this map very enlightening and thought perhaps that others may be equally interested in its content. This map may be displayed thru the link above but visitors may find it difficult to download and print out (being a *.PNG extension). I have taken the liberty of downloading this map and converting it into the familiar *.JPG format (attached to this message.) I have no doubt that if given credit and source, this image may be available thru your respective society Websites.

Edward Rozyłowicz

Editor—If you wish to contact Edward and ask about this map and other resources, feel free to write me <wfh@langline.com> and I'll forward your note to him. Incidentally, these days I find myself using Wikipedia more and more often. Even if an article on a desired subject is quite short in the English version, it's always worthwhile to check the left column and see if there is a corresponding article on the Polish Wikipedia—or Russian, or Ukrainian, or Czech, etc. You may have trouble reading the text, but the maps and illustrations are often self-explanatory and very helpful!

Subject: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, and Canada's Library and Archives

Editor—Maralyn Wellauer-Lenius, an experienced researcher who wrote one of the first books on Polish genealogy, sent two note to a number of folks, including me. I thought some of our readers might find the info valuable.

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County's Virtual Library has full-color Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps online, available for download. These large scale street plans include building outlines, property boundaries, and building use, dating back to 1904.

The Sanborn Maps were originally created for assessing fire insurance liability in urbanized areas in the United States. The Sanborn Company sent out legions of surveyors to record the building footprints and relevant details about these buildings in all major urbanized areas regarding their fire liability. The maps include detailed information regarding town and building information in approximately 12,000 U.S. towns and cities from 1867 to 1970. The detail is amazing; every building is shown and, in most cases, the name of the building's owner is also shown. You may find your ancestor's house and perhaps his or her place of business as well. The maps are a highly useful resource for historical research, planning, preservation, genealogical research, sociological studies and research of urban growth.

At this time, the first volumes of the Insurance Maps of Cincinnati, Ohio are currently online and more will be made available as the collection is digitized.

You can view them at the following URL:

<http://virtuallibrary.cincinnati.org/VirtualLibrary/vl_Maps.aspx>

Maralyn Wellauer-Lenius

* * *

The following announcement was written by Library and Archives Canada:

Library and Archives Canada is pleased to announce that the following pages of the Canadian Genealogy Centre Website <<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html>> have been recently updated.

Abbreviations used in French records, Bibliography, Canadian Forces after 1918 (including Second World War), Criminal Records, Divorce, Events, First World War, Genealogical Societies, Irish, Jewish, Newspapers, North West Mounted Police, Notarial Records, Provincial and territorial Archives, Provincial land records, Reference Sites.

For most of the pages, the updates are for typos, broken links and change of wording. However, please note that the First World War and Canadian Forces after 1918 pages now include contact information for armed forces of other countries. Also, the search help page for the CEF database has been updated regarding the instructions on how to order a copy of a complete file.

Library and Archives Canada is also pleased to announce that the guide *Researching Your Aboriginal Ancestry at Library and Archives Canada* has been entirely revised and is now available in html and pdf format. Updates include a section about records for the French Regime, revised web links and more book titles in the bibliography.

Maralyn Wellauer-Lenius

+ EDMUND C. IWANSKI +

I was saddened to hear that Edmund C. Iwanski, former president of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, died on November 19th at the age of 77. I have the utmost respect for any person who steps up and gives of his time to help an organization prosper, instead of sitting on the sidelines and criticizing. It is no picnic leading any organization, and Ed did his best to serve the members of PGSA. I'd like to offer condolences to his family, especially his wife, Betty, and his sister, Joy Mortell.

If you'd like to read his obituary, click on this link.

<<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/chicagotribune/obituary.aspx?n=edmund-c-iwanski&pid=136301568>>

Cześć jego pamięci! (Honor to his memory!)

***** DATABASES AT POLISHORIGINS.COM *****

by Zenon Znamirowski

Polish Genealogy Databases <<http://polishorigins.com/databases/>> - Search Polish genealogy databases and Websites in one click!

“I wanted to start researching Polish records, but I was really at a loss and didn’t really know where to start.”

“Finding family when the ancestral languages are unknown is a challenge!”

“I’ve been trying to research my grandfather’s family for years without success.(...) I did wonder about the ‘ach’ at the end of the place names & just thought he was writing in an old fashioned way or something. (...) I don’t speak Polish.”

These quotations of members of our PolishOrigins.com Website tell a lot about the problems that many non-Polish-speaking researchers encounter during their search for Polish ancestors. New, interesting, and valuable resources for Polish genealogy research become available online almost every week ... **but only in Polish!** Many of you not only find it difficult to fully understand the content but may be also not aware that such sources exist!

Those of you who have learned or have tried to learn Polish know that it is a real challenge. Our ancestors’ language is considered to be one of the most difficult in the world. But is it really necessary for you to learn Polish to be able to trace your roots in Poland?

We have developed the Polish Genealogy Databases tool <<http://polishorigins.com/databases/>> to allow you to access the increasingly rich Polish genealogy resources available online and understand (or at least “get the gist of”) the content, all by entering a keyword (surname, place) and clicking on “search.”

This is the beta version of our tool. We start with four Websites:

- * a privately owned, very rich in data and information: <<http://stankiewicz.com>>
- * a large project of digital library of old Polish historical documents: <<http://fbc.pionier.net.pl/owoc/>>
- * Polish history forum: <<http://historycy.org.pl>>
- * our own Website: <<http://PolishOrigins.com>>

(Click here to see list of indexed Websites and to suggest one: <<http://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?p=1186#1186>>).

Please send any remarks and suggestions that could help us to develop this tool and assist others to make the best use of it by e-mail or Forum: <<http://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?t=368>>.

See also Practical hints topic in our Forum for using the tool even more effectively in your searches. Click here: <<http://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?p=1185#1185>>.

NOW, START SEARCHING POLISH GENEALOGY RESOURCES in our Polish Genealogy Databases tool <<http://polishorigins.com/databases/>>!

Zenon & Team
PolishOrigins.com

Editor—Zenon and his team are doing good work, and we're glad to publicize it. As he says, there are lots of Poland-based Websites coming online to help genealogical researchers—but how many of them make a real effort to serve those who don't speak Polish? I think English-speakers feel welcome at PolishOrigins.com.

***** MISSOURI DIGITAL HERITAGE COLLECTION *****

Editor—Tom Sadauskas was kind enough to send me this info so I could share it with you. Thanks, Tom!

For those searching for ancestral information in Missouri, the State of Missouri has a digital collection of documents online. Their digital collection can be found at Missouri Digital Heritage (see URL below):

<<http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/>>

Included in the digital collection is a database of scanned Missouri death certificate covering the period of 1910 to 1958. It is still a work in progress.

<<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/#search>>

Within their Map Collection (see URL below) they have plat books showing land holdings of individuals. The holdings are described as “In 1930 W.W. Hickson and Co. of Rockford, Illinois published plat books of townships in counties throughout Missouri. The collection is held by Special Collections in Ellis Library at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The physical collection contains a total of 111 plat books, and covers all counties except Audrain, Johnson, Lincoln, and the city of Saint Louis. These volumes document the ownership and locations of plots of land in Missouri counties, plot sizes, and the owner's name for each plot of land within the townships.”

<<http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/browse.asp?id=12Click>>

They also have Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Missouri. The holdings are described as “The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company, established in 1867, compiled and published maps of U.S. cities and towns for the fire insurance industry to assess the risk of insuring a particular property. The maps are large scale plans of a city or town drawn at a scale of 50 feet to an inch. The University of Missouri-Columbia Ellis Library Special Collections Department has digitized 6,798 of the maps for Missouri cities from 1880 to 1922.”

<http://digital.library.umsystem.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?page=index;c=umcscsanic>

Editor—Maralyn Wallauer-Lenius also mentioned the Sanborn collection in her Letter to the Editor, but I figure Tom's info is helpful, too.

***** THE DANGERS OF PUTTING FAMILY TREES ONLINE *****

There was an interesting exchange of ideas recently on the JewishGen mailing list, on the subject of why one should be careful about putting family trees online. One contributor had this to say:

We should not put personal identifying information about living family members online without their permission. Many people see this as an invasion of their privacy.

Here is a link to an excellent article from Microsoft warning about potential identify theft, scam artists, credit hijackers, etc. that gain personal information from online genealogical Websites. The article is too long to paste here in full, so here is the link:

<http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/personal/genealogy.mspx>

I thought this was definitely a subject worth considering. Then another list member posted this follow-up, which really caught my attention.

Forget a danger to privacy. Posting trees online (Genie, etc) is opening the door to identity theft! Many times banks or other passwords will use family names for ID. Putting one's names and ancestry online is dangerous!

I used to work for a detective and the **first** place one goes to hunt down someone is Google. From there one finds a wealth of information including family trees, especially if one is dumb enough to put their e-mail or phone number on their personal material. (Peripherally, this is why FaceBook is such a problem. Especially if you have kids who go crazy posting the most intimate and personal items about themselves and your family all on line).

The best idea if one must post online is to start two or three generations back, with your grandparents. Use their Hebrew names. For someone researching family this is enough to find you.

On the other hand, for someone researching to rip off or scam someone, there is not enough information to connect you to that person. Especially if you are a woman and the names will be different anyway. Plus, two generations back in the old country, they spelled the names the way they did in Europe making you virtually invisible for predators of information.

Use the old country spelling and not the American spelling.

Create another e-mail address that does not have your name in it and set it to forward to your regular address. Numbers are best. (*No* Personal ID numbers such as birthdays, address, etc.)

I get very upset with people who post my name and info on line. This is the height of irresponsibility!

This forces us to ask ourselves question about weighing the benefits of the free exchange of knowledge against the dangers. If no one ever shares any info with anyone else, we might as well be living behind the Iron Curtain before 1990—and you can forget about genealogy! Still, let's not be babes in the woods. Take precautions; the bad guys are ever vigilant.

***** SIGNS YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH OF THE 21ST CENTURY *****

Dick Eastman printed this in a recent edition of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*. He said it's floating around the Internet, author unknown. I enjoyed it and thought you might, too.

Signs You've Had Too Much of the 21st Century

1. You try to enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of four.
4. You e-mail your colleague at the desk next to you to ask if they're ready to go to lunch.
5. You chat online regularly with a stranger from the U.S., but you haven't spoken to your next-door-neighbor yet this year.
6. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have an e-mail address.
7. Your idea of being organized is multiple colored post-it notes.
8. You hear most of your jokes via e-mail rather than in person.
9. When you go home after a long day at work you still answer the phone in a business manner.
10. When you make phone calls from home you accidentally dial "9" to get an outside line.
11. You now think of three espressos as "getting wasted."
12. You call your son's beeper to let him know it's time to eat. He e-mails you back from his bedroom, "What's for dinner?"
13. Your daughter sells Girl Scout Cookies via her Website.
14. You didn't give your Valentine a card this year, but you posted one for your e-mail buddies via a Web page.

You can read or add comments here:

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/11/signs-youve-had-too-much-of-the-21st-century.html>

One reader says he remembers seeing a similar list back in the 90s, called “Top Ten Signs That You’ve Had Too Much of the 90s.” Looking over this list, some of these certainly could go back that far, though some are clearly more recent.

Anyway, a lot of these points rang a bell with me. Item 12 reminded me of the funniest thing that ever happened to me along these lines. It was back in the late 90s, when we were living in the Houston, Texas area. One night I got a call from my mother at her house in Fort Worth, Texas, roughly 240 miles away. She asked me if I could contact my brother Chris, who lived three blocks away from her house. It seems Chris was online, and this was back in the days when getting on the Internet tied up your phone line. Mom wanted Chris to know dinner was ready and he was welcome to come over and eat; but when she tried to call him, all she got was the squeal of his modem. I said “No problem” and sent Chris an Instant Message, telling him to head over to Mom’s for supper. He responded immediately, thanked me, and left to chow down.

So it turned out that the best way for my mother to contact my brother, who lived three blocks away from where she was standing, was to call me in Houston, 240 miles away, so I could send him an Instant Message online! I thought that was hilarious.

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

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group - (TUGG)

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.

Kay Horiszny will speak about “The Ukrainian Shoemaker of Cabbagetown.” Members will share their personal stories of our Ukrainian families in Toronto.

Contact: (905)-841-6707

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Saturday, February 20, 2010

Introductory Genealogy Mini-workshop

Are you new to genealogy? Do you wonder what resources are available to help you get started? If so, EEGS members Lisa Haji Abbasi and Shauna Wall will be leading a mini-workshop titled, “An Introduction to East European Genealogy and Available Resources” in February 2010. Everyone welcome!

Date: Saturday, February 20, 2010

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Henderson Public Library, 1-1050 Henderson Highway, Winnipeg, MB

Cost: Free!

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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 websites, especially the very successful ones. Last but not least, Tomasz will tell you about his Website <<http://www.genpol.com>>, other useful Websites 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/>>

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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

IAJGS 2010 Conference - Call for Papers

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles invites you to submit presentation proposals for the Conference. The Call for Papers is now live.

Go to the conference Website: <<http://www.jgsla2010.com>> and click on the “Call for Papers” tab, or use this direct link:

<https://www.goeshow.com/jgsla/IAJGS/2010/call_for_papers.cfm>

We welcome proposals for presentations on topics of interest to genealogists and historical researchers as well as workshops, computer classes, panel discussions, theatrical/musical presentations and films. A complete list of suggested topics and regional interests is on the Website but it is only a guide. We welcome imaginative submissions that will hold appeal for genealogists from beginner to advanced.

If you need more information about conference programming, go to our “Conference Program” tab on the home page or click on <<http://www.jgsla2010.com/conference-program>>, which has a helpful FAQ section.

The Call will be open until January 15, 2010 and notifications will go out by February 15th. (Conference registration will open on January 15th.)

If you want to be apprised of breaking conference news, remember to subscribe to our newsletter. A sign-up subscription link is on our home page.

Pamela Weisberger
Program Chair, IAJGS Conference 2010
<info@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 ezine: <<http://www.cosmopolitanreview.com>>

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

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

<<http://www.piaaststudy.blogspot.com>>

On the Poland-Roots mailing list, Debbie Greenlee wrote, “The PIAST Institute (the only Polish think tank in North America) is conducting an online survey to obtain ‘information about the Polish immigrant experience, statistical information, cultural information, and much more.’ You can participate by going to the Website [URL given above]. If your older Polish relatives (in U.S. and Canada) do not have a computer, offer to help them with the survey.”

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

Dick Eastman’s *EOGN* (Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter) has had several good items lately. This one tell us that a service called GenQueries is up and running, and it is free. Eastman thought his readers might want to take a look, perhaps enter a few queries or post info on upcoming society events.

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/11/the-myth-of-family-coats-of-arms.html>

Another *EOGN* article, available at this URL, addressed the myth of family coats of arms. I don’t know if there’s another topic related to genealogy that has created more out-and-out misinformation than this one. If you’re curious about your family’s coat of arms, first realize that with few exceptions, only nobles had them! If your g-g-grandfather was a farmer, he did NOT have a coat of arms! For other myths, this article is a nice splash of cold water and good sense. But do realize—as Steve Danko rightly pointed out in a comment—that the situation in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth differed in many ways from that described in the article. I’d suggest first reading Eastman’s article, then learning more about the details of how Polish heraldry worked, for instance:

<http://polishroots.com/Resources/Heraldry/heraldry_intro/tabid/295/Default.aspx>

<<http://www.polskayear.pl>>

On the Polish Genius list, Andrew Babicz suggested learning about something I had not heard of. “POLSKA! YEAR comprises over 200 projects presenting the most interesting

achievements of Polish culture and showcasing works of the most outstanding Polish artists to the British public. We will exhibit extraordinary pieces from Polish museum collections and works of young contemporary artists and designers, hold concerts with Polish performers, and concerts of Polish music performed by British bands and soloists. We plan theatrical performances, reviews of Polish dramatic productions and the promotion of Polish literature at selected British literary festivals. We invite you to the galleries, theatres, concert halls and cinemas of London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Norwich, Liverpool, Oxford and dozen other cities in Great Britain.

“POLSKA! YEAR, to commence in spring 2009 and continue through 2010, is a joint initiative of the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme of POLSKA! YEAR covers cultural events prepared in strict cooperation with British partners. The purpose of the Year is to bring the communities of Poland and Great Britain closer by strengthening cultural relations and establishing new contacts between Polish and British artistic institutions, artists and organisers of cultural events.”

<<http://labs.familysearch.org/>>

On the Poland-Roots mailing list, Polish Dragon answered a question from a Brazilian of Polish descent about digitized Brazilian Catholic Church records online. “Those interested in Poles who emigrated to Brazil should be alert to the fact that the LDS family search labs site [at the above URL, click on “record search”] ... has digitized Brazilian Diocesan Catholic Church records online—browse-only mode. The Website appears to be overloaded since they also loaded new Italian records at the same time!”

<<http://books.google.de/books?id=kMc6AAAACAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=adressbuch&lr=#v=onepage&q=&f=false>>

Another note from Debbie Greenlee mentioned this site, which she found on the Website of a gentleman named Jan who contacted her. His site is <<http://www.polensite.nl/genealogie.php>> and gives info on Polish genealogy for people living in the Netherlands! The Google Books URL shows you an 1845 address book for merchants, manufacturers, and tradesmen in Russia and Poland. Who knows, it might help someone.

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

Maureen Mroczek Morris told me about this site, sponsored by Aparat Films and the Seattle Polish Home Ladies Auxiliary. It deals with the personal histories of Poles deported to the Soviet Gulag camps, and especially families who settled in the Seattle area after surviving their ordeal.

<<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=121786>>

On the Posen-L mailing list, Günter Mielczarek noted that this site allows you to download a digital copy of the *Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen - V. Provinz Posen*

Auf Grund der Materialien der Volkszählung vom 1 Dezember 1885 und anderer amtlicher Quellen [Community Lexicon for the Kingdom of Prussia: Volume V, Posen Province, based on materials of the census of 1 December 1885 and other official sources]. Perhaps we've mentioned this before, but this source could be of great benefit for those with roots in the German partition.

<<http://aerial.rcahms.gov.uk/>>

On the Prussia Roots list, John Schwandt said that he'd just come across this site, which "has some, and promises more, aerial photos of a lot of places including now Polish West Prussia."

<<http://www.jewishinstitute.org.pl/en/home/index/0.html>>

Paul S. Valasek told me about this site, the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute. It describes itself thus: "The Jewish Historical Institute focuses entirely on the study of the history and culture of Polish Jews. It is the largest depository of Jewish-related archival documents, books, journals, ritual and art objects. The preservation of collections that document ten centuries of Jewish experience in Poland allows for research and education to be carried on. We believe that education makes people aware of the history that Poles and Jews shared and helps to overcome stereotypes." Sounds like a worthy goal to me!

<<http://genforum.genealogy.com/poland/messages/48586.html>>

Paul also suggested taking a look at the message posted here by Tadeusz Wysocki, "Alfred Stovick — how to imagine and see the family road to church in POLAND!!"

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

On the Lithuanian Genealogy list, John Peters suggested visiting this Website, which "shows all the Roman Catholic churches in an area keyed to any specific location." John was specifically referring to churches in Lithuania, but I've seen a number of researchers praise this site because of info it gives for churches all over the world. John said, "Since these are current church locations, it may be that there were other parishes that were merged, eliminated, etc., but I have found them to be remarkably stable over very long periods of time (e.g. 200 years)." There's no guarantee you'll find the specific parish you want — but why not try it and see?

<http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/projects/lviv_photography_project/>

On the JewishGen mailing list, Pamela Weisberger posted an announcement from Geshet Galicia of The Lviv House & Street Photography Project, a new resource for researchers with roots in the area of Lviv (or Lvov or Lwów or Lemberg), Ukraine. "These photos are listed in alphabetical order (from A to Z) according to street name, with the address provided. In some cases there are interior and street views as well and more than one house is included ... These

photos can be downloaded to your computer, but can only be used for personal purposes as Mr. Koops holds the copyright.” While I’m sure the places photographed are of particular interest to Jews, some of them surely will interest followers of other faiths.

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