



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>>

***** KENDLER'S ORTS- UND VERKEHRS-LEXIKON CAN NOW BE SEARCHED ONLINE FREE OF CHARGE *****

by Edward David Luft

Editor—If you wish to contact the author, just send your note c/o <wfh@langline.com> and I will gladly forward it.

Researchers may now search *Kendler's Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon* online and free of charge at <http://members.aon.at/lesebuch/Inhalt_en.html>.

Readers of AVOTAYNU: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy will be aware that it has twice published articles by this author about a very useful gazetteer of the entire Austro-Hungarian Empire at its greatest extent, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, in alphabetical order. It is held in the Geography and Map Reading Room of the Library of Congress. It is von Kendler, Josef, and Carl, *Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon von Oesterreich-Ungarn: enthaltend sämtliche Orte und deren politische und gerichtliche Eintheilung, Eisenbahn-, Post-, Dampfschiff- und Telegraphen-Stationen mit Bezeichnung der Eisenbahn- und Dampfschiff-Unternehmungen, nebst den wichtigsten Ortschaften von Bosnien und der Herzegowina: ein unentbehrliches Hand- und Nachschlagebuch für Behörden, Aemter, Notare, Advocaten, Kaufleute, Reisende etc, etc. nach ämtlichen Quellen* [Location and transport encyclopedia of Austria-Hungary: Containing all the places and their political and judicial divisions, rail, postal, steamship and telegraph stations with name of the railroad and steam boat companies, in addition to the main towns of Bosnia and Herzegovina: an indispensable manual and reference book for authorities, offices, notaries, lawyers, merchants, travelers, etc., etc., according to official sources], 3. vollständig umgearbeitete Auflage, Wien: F. Rollinger und Moessmer & Schulda, 1905, 1314 p. ; 23 cm. Library of Congress call number: DB14 .K46 1905a Reference - Geography & Map Reading Room. Interested readers can see the Library of Congress record at <<http://lccn.loc.gov/94183826>>. The two articles in AVOTAYNU are:

1. "More on Polish Jewish Genealogical Research," Volume X, Number 1, Spring 1994, pp. 12-13.
2. "Resources to Find Any Location in the Austro-Hungarian Empire; Similar Resources for Imperial Russia and Imperial Germany," Vol. XXVI, No. 3, Fall 2010, pp.19-22.

There are only two available hard copies of the book in the United States (although there are many copies in Europe), both in Washington, DC, the one at the Library of Congress and another copy at the Embassy of Austria. The original Library of Congress copy was in bad condition, but a very nice copy was made from it and is available at the Library for reference use. The Austrian Embassy copy is in fragile condition.

For those who cannot visit Washington to see the book in hard copy, now a very easy-to-use Web site has been created to enable users to find any location in the Austro-Hungarian Empire with up to six versions of the name of any location, each version in a different language. The book

offers two great services: it shows the names and spellings of all locations as they appeared at the height of the Empire, and the date of the book makes it an ideal index for using the Statistische Zentral-Kommission, *Gemeindelexikon der im Reichsrath vertretenen Königreiche und Länder* [Encyclopedia of the communities of the kingdoms and territories represented in the Imperial Council], Vienna, 1903-1908, 14 vols., Library of Congress microform 39529 and available at Brigham Young University in full-text online, best accessed via PolishRoots, Gazetteer Series, <<http://www.polishroots.org/GeographyMaps/tabid/56/Default.aspx>>. No names of individuals appear in these volumes, but it is the most complete analysis of locations in the Empire. See the second AVOTAYNU article cited for an explanation of why a genealogist might be very interested in consulting the *Gemeindelexikon* in hard copy or online.

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

Subject: Book Discussion Club at PolishOrigins.com

Most of us who have been doing family search for some time now, sometimes trying to imagine our peasant ancestors' life in the Old Country. We have been asking ourselves questions like: What did they do everyday? Was it only hard work, all year long? What about holidays, family events like births, weddings or funerals? How did their houses, furnishings, clothes look? Were they free people? And if we are lucky to have our own ancestors' old sepia photos, usually without smile on their faces, we wonder: were they happy at all...?

Recently, in PolishOrigins Forum our fellow member, Michal J. Wilczewski, graduate student of modern Polish history, brought to our attention a book by Keely Stauter-Halsted, *The Nation in the Village: The Genesis of Peasant National Identity in Austrian Poland, 1848-1914*. Michal wrote in his post: "[The] book is about how peasants came to understand themselves as Polish nationals, but also gives excellent insight into everyday life."

We asked Michal to find an interesting review of the book especially for you, PolishOrigins members, and he generously agreed. You can find the review in attachment of this e-mail. [We cannot print the review without permission, but you can find it here: *Slavic Review*, Vol. 62, No. 1 (Spring, 2003), pp. 159-160.]

On our other friend Shellie's initiative, we decided to start a Books Discussion Club with the *Nation in the Village* as the first book to be discussed. As Shellie writes in her introduction post: "You don't have to be a college grad to participate in reading and discussing the book. I am not looking for a university level discussion and I don't care if you have little or no experience with Polish history. A short time ago, I had absolutely no knowledge of my Polish ancestry, so I am still at a basic learning level when it comes to understanding how my family lived ... I just want to have a chance to discuss the book with others and get a better understanding about topics covered in each chapter."

You can join the club by posting a short message in the thread or just join the discussion after we start. What will distinguish our Club from traditional ones is that we don't have to make

appointments to meet. There are no time limits or constraints for our discussion. You can join, take a break, and come back in at any time. You can read it at your own pace, and post thoughts months or even years after we begin.

You can read the first 26 pages of the book online on Google books; buy the whole, paper version at Amazon.com; or find it in any other online or offline sources mentioned in this Forum thread.

I hope that many of you will have a great time reading, and later discussing with others this first book in our Books Discussion Club :-).

Zenon & Team

Editor—You should be able to go straight to the Club by following this link: <<http://forum.polishorigins.com/viewtopic.php?t=888>>. I'm sorry to say I have not yet had a chance to read this book, but have often heard it praised. If you can find the time, I think your research may benefit from the insights this book, and a discussion of it, will provide.

***** BELARUS-LIDA REGION DUAL GEOGRAPHIC PROJECT *****

Editor—This is a note Barbara Proko posted on several mailing lists. I think many people with Polish roots would be surprised to find out they have connections to this area, which was once part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and was part of Poland between World Wars I and II. You might want to get in on this if you have roots in eastern Poland, especially northeastern Poland.

I am happy to announce that Family Tree DNA has approved a new Belarus-Lida Region Dual Geographic Project. The URL for the public Web site is:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/Belarus_Lida_Region/default.aspx>

This group is open to females who have taken a mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test, and to males who have taken a Y-DNA test and/or an mtDNA test with Family Tree DNA. Females may check their direct paternal line by testing a male relative in that line. Members should have some reason to believe that their direct maternal line and/or direct paternal line originated in the Lida area.

The Lida region has a complicated historical and political past. Over the centuries, it has been governed by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Russian Empire, the Republic of Poland, the Soviet Union, and currently the republics of Belarus and Lithuania. This project thus encompasses the area loosely bounded by Vilnius (Wilno), Lithuania, to the north; Hrodno (Grodno), Belarus, to the west; Navahrudek (Nowogrodek), Belarus, to the south; and Minsk, Belarus, to the east.

The Lida region boasts a diverse heritage. This project welcomes members of all its ethnicities—Belarusian, Jewish, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Tatar, etc.—and religious faiths—Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Orthodox, Protestant.

This project has two goals:

1. To help members identify a common male ancestor and/or a common female ancestor in the Lida area.
2. To help identify relationships between family branches that in recent generations may have become separated or estranged due to immigration, war, deportation, etc. These upheavals have scattered people with Lida roots throughout the world—to other countries in Europe and Eurasia, North and South America, Australia, and Africa.

Membership is free and voluntary; members may join or leave this project at any time. I hope the project will prove helpful and interesting.

Warm regards,

Barbara Proko(powicz)
Belarus-Lida Region project administrator
<lida_ancestors@yahoo.com>

***** POLAND, VISAS, AND YOU *****

Editor—This is a note sent out by Alex Storozynski, President & Executive Director of The Kosciuszko Foundation. Many of you may have seen it already, but I feel it deserves the widest possible distribution. I feel the way the U.S. government has treated Poles seeking visas is scandalous, and Polish-Americans need to flex a little political muscle!

POLAND, VISAS AND YOU

**A new bill would include Poland in the Visa Waiver Program,
But you must help to make sure that it becomes law**

Dear Polish-Americans,

For too long, the United States has treated our friends and families in Poland as second-class citizens, requiring them to pay hefty fees to apply for visas to visit this country, while Europeans from other countries travel here without visas.

There is a bill in Congress that would change that. But it will only become law if you and your friends call and write to your Senators and Representatives. Otherwise, nothing will happen. If

you don't know your Congressman, below is a link where you can find them using your zip code. If you are not registered to vote, another link below shows you how to register.

As part of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), citizens of 36 foreign countries can travel to the United States for up to 90 days without a visa. Poland has been excluded from this because Congress changed the VWP rules for countries that have more than 3% of their citizens denied visas. At present, 9.8% of Poles are denied visas because of the subjective questions that they are forced to answer at American Consulates in Poland. But fewer than 3% of Poles who come to America stay longer than the 90 days allowed on their visas.

That's why a new law is needed to allow countries with an overstay rate of less than 3% to be included in the Visa Waiver Program. The Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2011 would do just that. The bill must pass both houses before President Obama can sign it.

The Bill, number H.R. 959, is sponsored in the House by Rep. Mike Quigley of Illinois, with nine co-sponsors.

The Senate Bill S.487 is sponsored by Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, and co-sponsored by Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois.

We must convince a majority in both houses of Congress to pass this legislation before President Obama can sign it into law.

Here's a link to help you find your Congressman:

http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=k9bymqcab&et=1105204896377&s=35001&e=001ZPUYMrD27o_yk4a5GpIIQjq0KhvolvQroKA86rkidZu-yRtzEOqONTKnCnYHdJOxx5NOjzTfni3YEynxUMdQyhDRY8s3DQRW6_X0xZsY9lx9uwzBMsypgWxbzhYxFyf3yBvaXxPyW1ajT83AWgFlew==>

[*Editor*—If that link doesn't work, try <http://goo.gl/HVaik>].

Here are some ideas for your letter to Congress

This is a way that you can start when you write and your Senators and Members of Congress:

Dear Congressman,

As a Polish American, I ask that you co-sponsor The Secure Travel and Counterterrorism Partnership Act of 2011, Bill number H.R.959.

(Don't forget to write another letter to your Senator which says that you want them to co-sponsor Bill S.487)

Here are some bullets that you can use in your letter, and please add some of your own:

- Poland is one of America's greatest allies, has fought for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, and always supports the United States.
- Visa refusal rates for Poles have dropped dramatically and Poland is a productive member of NATO and the European Union, and its citizens do not need to come to the United States to find work.
- Poland is part of the "Schengen Area" of 25 European nations that allows passport-free travel across borders.
- Poles pose no terrorist threat to America, and allowing Poles to visit the United States as tourists would encourage international trade and pump tourism dollars into our economy.
- While the U.S. requires Poles to have visas when traveling to America, Poland waived visas for Americans 20 years ago.
- By refusing visa free travel for Poles, the United States is pushing Poland closer to other European nations that are not as friendly towards America.
- Allowing Poles to travel without visas will add to our security and enhances law enforcement and crime-fighting efforts through data-sharing agreements between our respective countries.

Speak up for Polonia!

Don't forget to write to your Representative and Senators, because the bill must pass both houses. Also, please ask all your friends to write to Congress as well. The only way for Congress to respect Poland and Polonia, is if you pick up the phone, smile, and dial.

If all of the Polish-American organizations work on this, we will win.

Alex Storzynski
 President & Executive Director
 The Kosciuszko Foundation
 The American Center of Polish Culture

Editor—I noticed Debbie Greenlee posted a link in a note on the Polish Genius list, <<http://tinyurl.com/43ndowf>>, and it takes you to a Web page with this same note and a number of live links you may find convenient.

***** HEROINE'S STORY TO BE PREMIERED ON MAY 1 *****

By Raymond Rolak

Director Experienced Story through *Matka*

The presentation docu-drama *Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers* has already received the prestigious United Kingdom Film Award and now the national premiere in America will be on May 1, in honor of National Holocaust Remembrance Day. Respective PBS stations

nationwide will broadcast *Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers*, a documentary film about Polish heroine Irena Sendler. It was her wartime sorority of women who outwitted the Nazis and saved the lives of thousands of Jewish children.

Sendler was a 29-year-old social worker when the Nazis invaded Poland. After Warsaw's Jews were imprisoned behind the ghetto walls without food or medicine, Sendler and those she most trusted smuggled aid in. They then began smuggling orphans out, hiding them in convents, orphanages, and private homes, both in the city and in the Polish countryside. Before the Nazis burned the ghetto to the ground, they managed to rescue over 2,500 children.

Over the next two years, this group of women organized by Sendler would care for the children. They would disguise their identities and move the children constantly lest they be discovered and killed by the Nazis. In Poland, death was the immediate dictate if one was discovered aiding a Jew. Many joined with the underground to get assistance to feed and protect their charges. It was hoped that after the war, the children could be re-united with their Jewish families. Sendler continued her effort even after the Warsaw Ghetto was destroyed, ultimately saving around 3,000 Jews altogether. She was especially careful about recording the original and adopted names and other details that would allow for the reunion of the children with their parents after the war.

Another heroine was Zofia Kossak, who founded the Underground Council to Aid the Jews in Poland. From the beginning they were working to outfox the Nazis on behalf of the children and infirm. Soon after that they would begin to focus all their efforts on saving Jewish children, those precious jewels of Poland.

“Very quickly we realized that the only way to save the children was to get them out,” Sendler recalled.

Sendler highly praised two of her co-workers, Magda Rusinek and Jadwiga Piotrowska. Several of the hidden children also acted with great patriotism, working as look-outs and watching over the younger ones. “I’m sure I have many faults,” Sendler had said with her characteristic twinkle. Skinner added, “She could at least boast about that she was a great organizer.”

This author can personally attest to the courage of such great heroines, as I lost cousins to the Nazis, Christine Kuras, Karol Kuras, Zofia Kuras, and Joanna Kuras. Christine hid and fed two Jewish survivors in the forest until being outed by a local drunkard. The Nazis summarily executed her and her family for her charitable efforts. The State of Israel named them into the family of *Righteous Among the Nations* in 1993, an acknowledgement of those who saved Jews during the holocaust. They were related to Józef Kuraś, the *Ogień* partisan leader in the Zakopane region. Jozef Kuras had direct contact with the Polish diplomat Jan Karski during his perilous travails. (See Side-Bar Story below.)

Sendler was eventually captured by the Gestapo, imprisoned, and tortured after refusing to divulge the identities of her co-workers. On the way to her execution, she escaped, thanks to friends who managed to bribe a guard at the last moment. Irena and her supporters were silenced by the Communists who came to power after the Nazis. It was forbidden to speak about the activities of partisans and most were afraid to talk about their actions for decades afterwards.

Another anecdote lost to history is the formation of the Jewish Military Union (*Żydowski Związek Wojskowy*), which organized resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto. The World Jewish Congress did smuggle aid and money to this group for weapons and food for refugee children. Another cell was the Jewish Fighting Organization (*Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa*). Karski documented the heroic activities of these patriots, especially the activities of a lawyer and labor leader, Leon Feiner. Feiner returned to Warsaw from a Russian prison and helped the underground and Sendler's *Mothers of Mercy*.

Now their story is being told. *Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers* features the last in-depth interview with Sendler before her death at the age of 98. Rare archival footage, family photographs, and re-creations shot in Warsaw bring the lives of the hidden Jewish children front and center. The film is testament to the power of moral courage in the darkest of times.

“This documentary is a stirring tribute to the courage and ingenuity of a group of women who saved lives at the risk of losing their own,” said John Boland, KQED President. “We thought there was no better time to premiere this unknown story than on National Holocaust Remembrance Day. KQED is honored as host station to present *Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers* to our national PBS audience.”

Director Mary Skinner is the daughter of a survivor and she had the motivation to tell this award-winning story. She lived this narrative with her mother, Klotylda Józwiak. “My mother never forgot the extraordinary women like Irena Sendler that smuggled food that saved them,” Skinner said softly. “My mother was caught and sent to a concentration camp – a sub-camp of Buchenwald. She never saw anyone else in her family again.”

One of the most powerful parts of the film is how the angels had to appeal to the Jewish mothers to release their children in order to save them. Only a mother could understand this wisdom, pain, and humanism. “I just had to tell the story of these courageous women,” added Skinner.

Sendler and her associates began smuggling Jewish babies and adolescents from the ghetto with their parents' blessing. The women educated the children to non-Jewish ways and Christian church practices so they could pass Nazi interrogation.

In 1965 Yad Vashem also recognized Sendler as Righteous Among the Nations. Characteristically, she deflects the credit in her interviews during *Irena Sendler: In the Name of Their Mothers*. “I could not have achieved anything were it not for that group of women I trusted who were with me in the ghetto every day and who transformed their homes into care centers for the children,” she declared to Skinner. “These were exceptionally brave and noble people.”

This hour long docu-drama can be a compelling incentive for education and the enrichment of Judeo-Christian relations. “Save one life and you save a generation,” is the watchword, and may we never forget. Also on May 1, at the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum in Jerusalem an exhibition remembering the Holocaust will be opened.

More at <www.yadvashem.org>.

Lead underwriters of this PBS national broadcast include Taube Philanthropies and the Koret Foundation, The Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union, The Williams Family Trust, the Foundation for Polish German Collaboration, the Polish-American artist, Rafal Olbinski, the Legion of Young Polish Women, and a host of other Polonia individuals and entities. In Canada many communities get PBS on WTVS-TV Channel 56 from Detroit.

PBS Family of Stations

On May 1, 2011 at 10:00 p.m. EST.

Or May 2, 2011 at 10:00 p.m. EST.

Editors Note: Raymond Rolak is a well traveled historian and sports broadcaster.

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**At the Holocaust Memorial Center– May 1, 2011
28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan**

The annual community-wide Yom HaShoah Commemoration will be held on
Sunday, May 1, 2011, at 1:00 p.m.

We will also celebrate the 30th anniversary of C.H.A.I.M.

Following the Yom HaShoah service we shall dedicate a new permanent electronic exhibit

Portraits of Honor: Michigan's Holocaust Survivors

This Yom HaShoah Commemoration is made possible with the cooperation of:

The Shaarit Haplaytah Organization of Metro Detroit

C.H.A.I.M. - Children of Holocaust-Survivors Association in Michigan

Hidden Children and Child Survivors of Michigan

Jewish Senior Life of Metropolitan Detroit

Admission to the HMC will be waived for the day's events & complimentary valet parking will be available

For further information, contact Selma Silverman at 248.553.2400, ext. 12

<www.holocaustcenter.org>

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SIDE-BAR STORY:

DETROIT POLONIA CONNECTIONS WITH THE KURAS FAMILY

With the Passover and Easter season upon us, the Irena Sendler story resonates with the thoughts to never forget. There are many Detroit connections to the efforts of attempting to thwart the Nazi holocaust. Christine Kuras and Karol Kuras were related to the Kuras families on Junction Avenue, Cecil Avenue and St. Hedwig Street in Detroit. Also related to the author was the

Reverend Hippolite Kuras. He was the short-time pastor at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish on Martin Avenue in Detroit. Furthermore, the late Thomas Kuras, a prominent classical music composer, the late Rev. James Pomann, and Rev. Alexander Kuras were also native Detroiters and cousins.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, the Conventional Franciscan priest who was a hero and martyr at Auschwitz-Birkenau, had a connection with Fr. Hippolite Kuras, along with Walter Kuras and Stanley Kuras, who were both American GI's and POW's interred in sub-camps.

Joseph Kuras of Detroit was Fr. Hippolite's godfather when he was baptized at St. Hedwig's in 1906. The future priest went to St. Hedwig's grade school on Junction Avenue under the Felician Nuns and later became a Conventional Franciscan after seminary in Poland. Another cousin Vince Kuras said, "As patriarch, I declare we have part of *Malopolska* in this little section of Detroit."

The author personally remembers stories of *Busia* (Grandmother) sending care packages to Poland to help the displaced persons.

Kolbe was the Latin Professor for Fr. Hippolite at the Franciscan Seminary in Kraków. Saint Maximilian Kolbe was canonized on October 10, 1982, and was highlighted by Pope John Paul II, "I declare him the Patron Saint of Our Difficult Century, he (Kolbe) ... my martyr of charity." Kolbe was known to have saved 2,000 Jews at his friary in Niepokalanów, Poland by hiding them from the Nazis.

The Reverend Kuras told me many *Polonia* stories including taking care of his family near the end of 1918 during the influenza epidemic in the United States. "I was only 12 but school was closed because so many were dying. The funerals were day and night on Konkel Street," said the priest. "When I was in seminary in Kraków, I was Kolbe's best *zaawansowany student*, he was very demanding."

Another Kuras relation in Poland, Józef Kuraś, was the partisan commander in the Zakopane region under the name of *Ogień* (Fire). He was summoned to Kraków to meet with Jan Karski (aka Jan Kanicki and Jan Kozielski). Karski's older brother was a Polish Police chief in the Kraków area. It was they who planned Karski's escape to tell Churchill and Roosevelt about the horrors in the Warsaw Ghetto. Karski was eventually able to tell both Churchill and Roosevelt in person about the death factories and extermination centers.

After Karski visited the Warsaw Ghetto, he went back to the Kraków area and Kuras got him out of Poland into Czechoslovakia and then into France. Aleksander Kawalkowski was the leader of the Polish underground in France, made up mostly of miners and laborers who helped coordinate Karski's hazardous passage through that occupied zone.

Leon Feiner and Menachem Kirschenbaum, both underground leaders, met with Karski. Karski, who had perfect retention of his meetings with the Polish-Jewish Patriots, recalled the conversations. Kirschenbaum had said, "Nobody could ever understand the horrors that had

befallen the Jews.” He was crying. Feiner calmed Kirschenbaum and said to Karski, “You Poles are also suffering. But after the war, Poland will be restored. Your wounds will slowly heal. By then, however, Polish Jewry will no longer exist. Hitler will lose this war, but he will win the war he has declared against the Polish Jews. You must get out our message.” (From *Karski: How One Man Tried to Stop the Holocaust*, John Wiley and Sons, Publishers)

It was in 1942 that Karski reported to the Polish, British, and U.S. governments on the situation in Poland. Especially cited was the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto and the Holocaust of the Jews. He had also carried from Poland a microfilm with further information from the underground movement on the extermination of European Jews in German occupied Poland.

Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel said of Karski, “He was a man of absolute integrity, of extraordinary force of character. I had a feeling from the moment I saw him that he carried secret invisible wounds in him ... I saw he was fighting back the memories. These were perilous times.”

Again, “Let us never forget.”

Raymond Rolak

***** ATTENTION CANADIANS: PLEASE CLICK “YES” *****

The following article is from Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <<http://www.eogn.com>>.

The 2011 Canadian Census questionnaire to be filled out in May contains a question that permits you to be part of the history of Canada. If you check “yes” to this permission question, your descendants will be able to do family and genealogical research on you and your family in the future.

The amended Statistics Act permits the release of historical census records from 1911 to 2001 after 92 years. Equally important, beginning with the 2006 Census, Canadians will have the choice to decide if they want their census records released to the public after 92 years.

For those who give explicit permission for the public release of their 2011 Census information, Statistics Canada will transfer that information to Library and Archives Canada in 2103, which in turn will make it publicly available. For those who do not give permission, their personal information will not be transferred.

Do you want to provide information to future genealogists?

Editor—You can read this article, with live links, here:

< http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/04/attention-canadians-please-click-yes.html>

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

May 7, 2011
2011 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
Washington DC Family History Center
10000 Stoneybrook Drive
Kensington MD 20895

9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: James Sweany, Director, Local History & Genealogy Reading Room, Library of Congress. The Library of Congress: "Pursuing Your Family History in the National Library"

This conference is FREE of charge. Detailed descriptions can be found on our Web site: <www.wdcfhc.org>

LUNCH: Please bring a bag lunch that does not require refrigeration. We regret that we are not able to offer pre-paid lunches.

REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- Online registration at our Web site <www.wdcfhc.org> is preferred.
- Phone: Call Family History Center at 301-587-0042.

SYLLABUS: A syllabus will be available on CD. Cost: \$5.00.
Payment by cash or check at registration desk.

CLASSES – CHOOSE ONE PER HOUR

OPENING SESSION & KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 9:00 – 9:50
"The Library of Congress: Pursuing Your Family History in the National Library"
Presented by: James Sweany, Director, Local History & Genealogy Reading Room

SESSION 1: 10:00-11:00

- #1-1: Beginning Census Research – Lorraine Minor
- #1-2: Planning a Family Reunion – Nathania Branch-Miles
- #1-3: Research at the DAR Library – Julia Coldren-Walker
- #1-4: Obituaries, A Treasure Trove – Adrian Gravelle
- #1-5: Virtual Genealogy Education: Online Options – Angela McGhie
- #1-6: A History of Ellis Island: Separating Myth from Reality – Tom Sadauskas

SESSION 2: 11:15 – 12:15

- #2-1: Beginning African-American Research – Bill Shelton and Ed Washington
- #2-2: Beyond the Death Certificate – Phyllis Legare
- #2-3: A Genealogical Treasure Hunt in Federal Records – Angela McGhie
- #2-4: American State Papers – Julia Coldren-Walker
- #2-5: Using Court Records in Genealogical Research – Robyn Smith
- #2-6: How to Be an Effective Family History Consultant – Mary Jean Sokolowsky

SESSION 3: 1:00 – 2:00

- #3-1: How Did Your Family Get There and Why Did They Go? Migration Routes to 1850 – Sharon Hodges
- #3-2: The 5 W's of Genealogy: Preserving Family History – Roberta Benor
- #3-3: Double Count: Find Ancestors Listed Twice in Census – Natonne Kemp
- #3-4: FamilySearch Indexing – Mary Jean Sokolowsky
- #3-5: Producing a Reliable Family History: An Appellate Judge Discusses Genealogical Evidence – Adrian Gravelle
- #3-6: Native American Research – Margo Williams

SESSION 4: 2:15 – 3:15

- #4-1: Using Federal Land Records – Bernice Bennett
- #4-2: Saving Private Memories – Pamela Loos-Noji
- #4-3: What Can I Expect to Find at the National Archives – Rebekah Fairbank
- #4-4: Overcoming “Brick Walls” – Phyllis Legare
- #4-5: Conducting an Effective Search on Ancestry.com – Sabrina Petersen

[Forwarded by Tom Sadauskas, who, you'll notice, is giving one of the talks.]

May 10, 2011

**SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISTRICT LIBRARY
130 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, Illinois**

Dr. Paul S. Valasek will present his talk on “Why My Austro-Hungarian Ancestors Were Neither Austrian nor Hungarian.”

For additional information contact Tony Kierna, Genealogy Coordinator

<<http://genealogywithtony.wordpress.com/>>

May 15, 2011

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEETING

**“How Creative Filenames & Excel Pay Big Organizational & Research Dividends”—
Robert M. Pine**

2:00 p.m.

Social Hall of the PRCUA, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL

Do you have hundreds of scanned photos, FHC microfilm downloads, electronic records, and more, but have trouble quickly finding what you need? Have you found a couple hundred records with your surnames from your family town, spanning a century or more, but do not know how, or even if, they relate to each other or to you?

These are some of the common organizational problems Robert Pine will help you to unknot. His straightforward solutions range from using folder and file names to organize electronic data logically for easy identification and location, to building a highly flexible, multi-level Excel database for documenting, organizing, and correlating large amounts of raw event data for analysis.

With his handout he will walk you through samples from his own databases to illustrate these techniques and how you can take them home for immediate application to your needs.

Robert M. Pine – A lifetime Chicagoan, and graduate of St. Patrick HS and double graduate of De Paul University, he has been researching his Polish and Lithuanian roots for several years. Some of you may recognize him from his involvement in English immersion camps in Poland and Lithuania, and his article and poem in the Summer 2010 issue of *Rodziny*. His organizational techniques grew out of his background in math, physics, and computer programming, and the needs of his business consulting career. He has spoken on genealogy at the Family History Center in Naperville and other groups.

May 28, 2011
PGS-CALIFORNIA MEETING
Los Angeles Family History Library

Research Assistance: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

- 1 p.m. Class: TBA

- 2:30 p.m. General Meeting

Speaker: Annette Gathright Lecture: “Documents Online for Genealogy”

June 5-10, 2011
GENEALOGY “SUMMER CAMP”

Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Genealogy “Summer Camp” is a unique program for adults offered by the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society that brings out-of-town family historians to Toronto for an intensive week of tutorials and hands-on research at the city’s many archives and reference libraries. Local family historians are also welcome to participate as “day campers.” Some tutorials will emphasize Toronto sources, but most repositories have holdings from a much broader area, so researchers with ancestors anywhere in Ontario will benefit. We take full advantage of Toronto’s great public transit system and we keep the group small to allow lots of help from our local experts.

The 2011 Genealogy “Summer Camp” – scheduled for the week of June 5 to 10 – will be our 15th! More than 100 participants from England, right across Canada and many U.S. states have attended the 14 previous Summer Camps – some more than once!

The fee for 2011 is \$220. This covers approximately 7 hours of lectures and tutorials, 25 hours of hands-on instruction and all worksheets and handouts.

For complete details, including lists of venues, resources and tutorials and accommodation information, and to download an application package, please visit <<http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/summercamp.html>>, call 416-733-2608 (voice mail) or e-mail info@torontofamilyhistory.org.

Applications should be postmarked by 1 May 2011.

Gwyneth Pearce, Ontario Genealogical Society - Toronto Branch

Friday, September 30, and Saturday, October 1, 2011

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFERENCE *PUZZLED BY THE PAST? PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER!*

Among the features offered at this year’s conference will be a day-long series of lectures on all aspects of Polish-American Genealogical Research Methodology, presented by Jonathan D. Shea and Matthew Bielawa. [*Editor—You’re not going to find two better-informed and more articulate speakers on this subject!*]

There will also be an optional Polish Chicago Bus Tour on Friday, September 30. For more information, visit the PGSA Web site <<http://www.pgsa.org>>.

14 – 15 October

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

**Central Connecticut State University
New Britain, CT**

Presentations at this event will be given by an impressive array of speakers, including Stephen S. Barthel, Matthew Bielawa, Daniel Bućko, Romuald K. Byczkiewicz, Donna Pointkouski, Patrick Raycraft, Thomas Sadauskas, Jonathan Shea, and our own Paul S. Valasek!

For details, visit <<http://www.pgsctne.org/2011%20Conference/index%20page.html>>.

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

<<http://www.metryki.genealodzy.pl>>

On the Polish Genius list, Sharon Roesler (nee Kielczewski) mentioned an article in the April 11 issue of *Nu? What's New?* e-zine from Avotaynu that caught my eye as well. It reported that Polish metrical records are being digitized by the Polish Genealogical Society of Poland, and are available at the above URL. The site is in Polish, and only 51 items have been finished so far—but the potential value of this resource is enormous! Point toward a province on the map on the home page, and on the right side, a list comes up of the *województwa* or provinces. Provinces with no records available are grayed out; the ones that do have records have numbers in parentheses that tell how many sets are available. Right now, for instance, Mazowieckie provinces has 42. Click on Mazowieckie and you get the list of powiaty, and again, those available are marked. Then you can check what is available for specific localities ... As I say, what is available right now is not impressive. But I think this is a site we all want to keep our eyes on!

<<https://familysearch.org/search/image/show#uri=https%3A//api.familysearch.org/records/collection/1867931/waypoints>>

Charles Chase sent out a note stating that the LDS FamilySearch people have assembled a file with excellent photos of Roman Catholic church books, 1600-1950, for specific places in the provinces of Katowice, Kielce, Lublin, Opole, and Łódź. He was very impressed with the quality of the images, and urged researchers to take advantage of this resource.

<<http://linia-polnocna.internetdsl.pl/SGKP/index.html>>

Tin Ellis posted a note to the PolandBorderSurnames list, saying “The above Web site gives the descriptions of the villages and cities in Suwałki county, Podlaskie province. They have listed them all alphabetically. Some are missing. Those which are missing may be names of newer villages, or they were accidentally omitted. To find them, you can still use the online *Słownik geograficzny* at this site: <http://dir.icm.edu.pl/pl/Słownik_geograficzny>. Naturally, you can use this site for locating the parish or gmina for other places throughout Poland. These are the places you need to know to find records. They were not all kept in the village. They had and still have government agencies where records are sent. After 100 years they are sent to the archives in the city of Suwałki. Catholic church records are sent to the Archdiocese of Łomża.”

<<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CheneToHamtramck/>>

On the Polish Cooking e-mail list, John Blacha said he had started a new “Yahoo group based on the neighborhoods from the lower east side of Detroit--Chene Street and going north into Hamtramck, Michigan.” You can visit it at the above URL.

<<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/index.html>>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy list, Arleen Gould posted a note telling us the National Archives will release the 1940 census over the Internet on 2 April 2012. You can read more about it here.

<<http://www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/28462/>>

Also on that list, Aldona Vaiciunas posted a note suggesting people visit this site, about a new exhibition of ancient maps of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy. It also says, “The new English-language 408-page book *Lithuania on the Map*, which presents Lithuania’s maps from the first findings on the Baltic tribes’ area till the beginning of the 20th century, with the main accent on maps of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy, is on sale in the National Museum of Lithuania.” I know not many of us can drop by the National Museum of Lithuania on the way home from work. But **knowing** a book exists is the first step toward getting your hands on it!

<http://www.thenews.pl/business/artykul153384_mobile-phone-and-washing-machine---poles-objects-of-desire.html>

It’s not unusual to see notes on mailing lists asking what would make good presents for Polish relatives. On the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee passed along this link Bronwyn Klimach had sent here that gives some interesting insights, whether you’re looking for a present or just curious about modern Polish life.

<<http://www.one-name.org/>>

A recent issue of *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter* (EOGN) had an interesting item of the The Guild of One-Name Studies, often called GOONS (ya gotta love the humor in that name!). “The Guild is dedicated to promoting the public understanding of one-name studies and the preservation and accessibility of the resultant information. A one-name study is exactly what it sounds like: studying the origins and migrations of all people who share a particular surname. The individuals being documented may or may not be related to each other. The study often includes documenting several families that share a surname but are not related.” Learn more at the GOONS Web site.

<<http://www.youtube.com/user/familysearch#p/u>>

Maralyn Wellauer-Lenius sent out a note mentioning this YouTube clip from

FamilySearch that talks about recording and sharing your family history. Most of our readers are probably far beyond needing this training video; but you might use it to inform and recruit newbies.

<<http://rememberme.ushmm.org/>>

On the Polish Geniuses list, C. Michael Eliaz posted a note about a new program at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, “Remember Me?” It is meant to help connect lost or displaced persons from the Holocaust, or World War II in general, by their baby/children pictures and name (if any) when they collected the image (66 years ago). Mike thought this program deserves a lot more publicity than it is getting, and even wrote about it in his blog: <<http://mikeeliaz.wordpress.com/2011/04/06/remember-me/>>. It’s a fascinating story, and well worth out attention.

<<http://www.wakefieldfhs.org.uk/Forms%20&%20Charts.htm>>

A recent issue of Avotaynu’s e-zine *Nu? What’s New?* mentioned a site with genealogy forms in PDF format that researchers may find useful, including an Analysis Sheet, Research Checklist, Research Journal, and Correspondence Log. There’s even a Relationship Chart “for those who cannot figure out what makes a person your second cousin twice removed.”

<https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/FamilySearch_Online_Family_History_Research_Lessons>

The April 24 issue of *Nu?* mentioned the growing number of online lessons offered by the Family History Library at this site, including various lectures on Polish records and a Handwritten Records series for German, Polish, and Russian, among other languages.

<<http://www.polishclubsf.org/In%20Search%20of%20Zagloba.pdf>>

This link opens an Adobe Acrobat file with a very interesting article by Maureen Mroczek Morris from the *Polish American Historical Association Newsletter*, Vol. 68(1). The title is “In Search of Sienkiewicz’s Zagłoba: Clues From Genealogy Records.” It looks into the life of Captain Rudolf Antoni Józef Korwin Piotrowski, thought to be the inspiration for Sienkiewicz’s character Jan Onufry Zagłoba.

<http://www.pgsa.org/paidmembership/toledo_polonia/index.php?>

If you have any Polish connections with Toledo, Ohio and are a paid member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, you should take a look at the resources now available on this page. Rosemary Chorzempa has done extensive research on Toledo’s Polonia, and the results of her work are presented in maps, articles, and a database here.

<<http://www.digital.wienbibliothek.at/periodical/structure/5311>>

Paul S. Valasek sent along this link, which he was shown by Peter Clausen, who shared

info on the artist Tytus Pilecki in the March 2010 issue of *Gen Dobry!* It brings up a page on the Vienna Digital Library with address books for Vienna covering 1859 through 1942. You never know who might benefit from a source like this, so Paul thought we should pass the link along to you.

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