



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 POLISH STATE ARCHIVES GET AGREEABLE! *****

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

Probably the biggest and most significant news lately in Polish genealogy is the announcement made on Friday, February 15 of a new multi-year agreement between the Polish State Archives (PSA) and the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) that will make Jewish records accessible to family historians. But that wasn't the only good news. The Polish State Archives also announced an initiative to make records more accessible to researchers in general.

The text of the announcement by JRI-Poland of its agreement with the PSA can be read on JRI-Poland's Website at <<http://jri-poland.org/>>. The two had an agreement beginning 1997 that proved beneficial to both parties; but for some reason, the State Archives pulled the plug on it in 2006. So there's reason to rejoice that this new agreement has restored that cooperation. Congratulations are due to Stanley Diamond, Judy Baston, Mark Halpern and Michael Tobias, as well as Hadassah Lipsius

This agreement probably should be viewed in the framework of PSA's announcement that they are beginning a massive effort to digitize all vital records in their 30+ regional archives, to be made available for free on their national and regional websites. So it's especially good news for Jewish researchers.

For them, the benefits started appearing almost immediately. On February 17, Mark Halpern, JRI-Poland AGAD Archive Coordinator, announced that the first addition to JRI-Poland's database is a collection of 2,000 birth indexes for Rohatyn covering 1898–1911. This is only a start, however. He said, "In the coming months, we plan to expand our indices of Jewish records from the following towns: Drohobycz, Jagielnica, Jaworów, Kozłów, Lwów, Mielnica, Nadwórna, Skałat, Stary Sambor, Tarnopol, and Żółkiew." Furthermore, the towns of Chodorów, Monasterzyska, Podkamień, Przemyślany, and Śniatyn will appear in the JRI-Poland database for the first time. [*Editor*—I added the Polish characters to the names listed, which are the Polish names of towns now in Ukraine.]

He added, "There are 93 towns with Jewish vital records at AGAD. Many need a volunteer Town Leader to ensure that indexing for that town will be done. The table at <<http://www.jri-poland.org/agad/galiciatowns.xls>> shows all vital records available for towns in eastern Galicia (most now in Ukraine) from multiple sources. The column 'AGAD Archive Holdings: Records Over 100 Years Old' shows the records for these 93 towns.'"

The developments that will affect all researchers were explained in an announcement posted on the Polish State Archives (in Polish). To summarize, the initiative will make access easier to archives in all state archives; proof of your reason for doing research is no longer required; and you can make as many photocopies of records as needed. The Archives administration also hopes to make copies of archival materials available online, with an adaptation period up till June 1, 2014. It mentioned in particular <<http://szukajwarchiwach.pl>> as a portal for accessing these materials.

Before we get too giddy with joy, however, let's recall that this is the real world, and every silver lining has its dark cloud. News of this initiative on the part of the Polish State Archives is most welcome, of course. But in the February 17 issue of *Nu? What's New?*, Gary Mokotoff wrote that FamilySearch has run into more roadblocks in the effort to digitize all their microfilm records make them accessible for free on their Website. "Under a newly revised contract with Cook County, Illinois (Chicago), they have removed all images of vital records for the county from their website. People can get copies of these vital records by paying Cook County, or at no charge by using the FamilySearch Photo Duplication Service mentioned in the last issue of *Nu? What's New?*" Gary also mentioned that the French government had asked FamilySearch to remove all digital images from their site—and "'France' is conspicuously missing from the list of countries in Continental Europe on the FamilySearch home page."

I'm not trying to rain on anyone's parade. Just keep in mind that we're still not quite to the point where everything you want and need is available on the Internet. Things are definitely getting better, though; it's an exciting time for genealogists. I never thought I'd live to see any of this!

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

Subject: UPGS

Editor—The news of the February 15th agreement between the State Archives and JRI-Poland led to some discussion of why Polish-Americans never seem to pull off this sort of coup. Some stated that leadership is lacking, which led to an attempt to identify potential leaders who could spearhead similar efforts. This brought up the question of who and what the United Polish Genealogical Societies may be, and whether leadership might be expected from that quarter. Ceil Jensen, who has been chairperson for several UPGS conferences, posted a response, and I asked if I could repeat it here. I think it may be useful for you to know just what UPGS is, and what can and cannot be expected of it.

The United Polish Genealogical Societies is an ad hoc group—the 2012 event was developed with a team from the PGS groups in Chicago, LA and Detroit who worked together with my group (PARI) at the Polish Mission (Orchard Lake, MI) to host the seminar. The event is open to all PGS and any interested researchers, with or without society affiliation. I have been the chairperson for three events (2008, 2010, 2012). There will be a new chairperson for 2014.

In 2012 we hosted a range of speakers in Salt Lake City, including Dr. Barbara Berska, who, at the time, was the Deputy Director of the National Archives of Poland. The Familysearch.org leadership were gracious and gave her a tour of their Granite Mountain where they keep the microfilm masters and process orders. (LDS has over 28,000 rolls of microfilm of Polish records). She mentioned that the National Archives of Poland has the same standards for digitizing as LDS.

She was impressed by the interest and range of locations represented in our group of 125 researchers. We mentioned the success of the JRI/Poland project and the leadership of Stanley

Diamond. Personally, I have always thought of his work as the benchmark for creating indexes. I went to a conference several years ago specifically to meet him and get insight into the project.

The release of 2.3 million records coming online in 2013 from the National Archives of Poland indicates a new way of sharing data. The National Archives reports they are working with Polish genealogists in Poland, as well. The JRI-Poland format is working for them because it was established in 1995. It may not be the model for 2013 and beyond. We can see the success of new indexing on the <<http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl>> site.

I see that some interested researchers have banded together on social media (Facebook) and started pages for their ancestral villages.

The National Archives has heard our request for records and has witnessed our work ;-). They are in dialogue with the Catholic archives, since the National Archives does not have jurisdiction over the parish sacramental records. I know this is an area where we would like to see progress as many books have not been microfilmed and sit in a cabinet in the rectory. Debbie has made a valiant project of traveling to her parishes and obtaining permission to digitally capture the data.

I hope this gives you an overview of UPGS and our work as advocates for Pol-Am genealogists.

Ceil Wendt Jensen

Author, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy*

Director: Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI)

<www.polishmission.com>

Editor—Thanks for the information, Ceil. And folks, don't overlook another of the projects Ceil's involved with, the March 15 Panorama Gala at Orchard Lakes School, mentioned below in Upcoming Events.

Subject: Fundraising for the Paderewski Scholarship Fund

Editor—Edward Rowny, President of Paderewski Scholarship Fund, sent this note out to a number of people, including me. It seems to me this fundraising drive certainly deserves as much attention as we can give it.

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your continuing support of the Paderewski Scholarship Fund over the last few years. Today I am writing to ask for your support for our 2013 fundraising drive. As you know each year the Fund sponsors a Polish college student to come to Georgetown University for a semester to study American style democracy. To learn more about the Paderewski Scholarship Fund go to: <www.paderewskischolarship.org>.

I am very excited about this year's Fundraiser, which will be held on **Sunday, April 21, 2013**

at 3:00 pm at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland Auditorium, located at 2640 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009. The American Virtuosi (Borowsky Family) have offered their performance free of charge to benefit the Fund. Please see <www.theamericanvirtuosi.com> for information on this marvelous group, which has won worldwide acclaim.

This year's venue will be smaller (120 seats) so I have made all of the tickets one price in order to raise as much money as possible for the Fund. We will not have to incur rental costs for space or equipment as we did last year. The Embassy of the Republic of Poland has donated their auditorium and reception space for this event and I am very grateful for their contribution as it will save us a good six to eight thousand dollars in rental fees this year.

Last year, John Robilette donated his brilliant piano performance and the Fund was able to raise \$16,000 after expenses through ticket sales, ads in the concert program and through donations. I would like to raise even more money this year to expand the scholarship program. I have set a goal to raise at least \$25,000 through ticket sales, program ads and donations. Since there won't be any rental fees this year, I am positive that this goal can be reached. Please support our Fund in any way that you can.

You can place ads in the concert program, purchase tickets for the performance, and donate to the Fund by going to <www.padpiano.org> or by filling out the attached flyer and mailing it to me.

For an ad you, may want to advertise your business, promote yourself through your business card, place a congratulatory ad, or pay tribute to a family member or friend. Information on how to place an ad, pay for it, and specifications are listed on the web site. The deadline to place an ad in the concert program is **March 27, 2013**.

Please purchase your tickets to attend the concert as soon as possible, as again, tickets are limited to 120 seats.

I hope you will be able to attend the concert and I look forward to enjoying time with you at the reception that will follow.

Warm Regards,

Ed Rowny
President
Paderewski Scholarship Fund

***** DO YOU KNOW DOTNETNUKE? *****

Editor—PolishRoots Webmaster Don Szumowski sent out an e-mail to registered users of PolishRoots, and asked me if I could repeat it here. Of course, I was glad to comply.

Dear registered PolishRoots user,

We hope that you have enjoyed your visits to our site. As many of you have noticed, our searchable databases have been out of commission for some time now.

The PolishRoots team is looking for one or more persons who have a strong working knowledge of DotNetNuke so that the much needed site changes can be implemented.

If you possess experience with this CMS system, please contact me privately to discuss the project further.

Regards,
Don Szumowski
PolishRoots, Webmaster

Editor—Perhaps, like me, you don't even know what DotNetNuke is. If so, I sort of suspect there's no need to reply...

***** A NEW GUIDE FROM ROSEMARY CHORZEMPA *****

by *Fred Hoffman* <wfh@langline.com>

When the Genealogical Publishing Company decided to publish Rosemary Chorzempa's book *Polish Roots*, it was something of a breakthrough for Polish genealogy. I can't imagine how many people have used this book to get off to a good start tracing their roots!

Now, the same copy has brought us a new product that deals with the same subject, but in a much simpler form—also much cheaper. It's part of the *Genealogy at a Glance* series, and it's called *Genealogy at a Glance: Polish Genealogy Research*. It's not a book, but a laminated guide consisting of four 8.5 x 11" pages (folded). It sells for \$8.95, and you can learn more here:

<<http://goo.gl/AoQ61>>

If that doesn't work, here's the original URL:

<<http://www.genealogical.com/products/Genealogy%20at%20a%20Glance%20Polish%20Genealogy%20Research/982.html>>

I have not had a chance to put my hands on this yet, so I can't say too much about it, one way or the other. I realize it probably does not offer nearly enough information for the people likely to be reading *Gen Dobry!* But I think there is a place for a guide of this sort. Many folks are interested in learning more about their family history, but don't want to spend the money to buy a

full-sized book, or to invest the time reading it. A guide of this sort might be just what they need to get started, as it doesn't cost much and is short and sweet. Once they're hooked, they'll realize they need something in greater depth. But this may not be a bad way to start.

If you get hold of a copy and wants to share your thoughts, I'd love to hear from you. The only thing I'd say is, judge it for what it is. It's a short, compact guide, not a big, detailed book; and this much is obvious to anyone who considers buying it. So judge it for how well it does the job it sets out to do.

***** TRANSLATION APPS AND PROGRAMS *****

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

We've talked about this subject before, but I thought it might be time to do a brief update. The reason I thought about it is because our own Dr. Paul S. Valasek mentioned to me a translator app he'd been told about by a lady he works with, Celeste Fulton. She had a high opinion of this app, which is called Talking Translator and is available from Google Play; so Paul wanted to try it out. He knows enough Czech that he could speak a sentence in English and judge whether the Czech translation was comprehensible. To his surprise, it was respectable—not perfect, but good enough to be potentially useful. He suggested I take a closer look.

Fortunately, I have a couple of Android tablets, so I downloaded the free app from Google Play. Its default mode seems to call for typing in a sentence, and when you finish, it translates it to or from a number of popular languages. But it has a feature that lets you speak a sentence out loud, which it will record and then translate. I felt I could try it out with Polish, German, and Russian and judge the results decently.

German is probably the language in which my pronunciation is best, so that's what I tried first. I tested English to German and German to English, dictating sentences of varying complexity. More than anything else, I tried to focus on saying things a person might say in everyday life; I doubt anyone would use this app to translate poetry, after all! I was impressed. It recognized the words I said fairly well, and then did a fair to middling job translating them. The results varied, sometimes spot on, sometimes pretty far off. But overall, not bad at all.

Then I tried Polish, and the results were pretty good, especially going from English to Polish. The grammar was not perfect, by any means; but it was as good as you get from Google Translate. I was especially surprised when I said "Polska jeszcze nie zginęła, kiedy my żyjemy" and it nailed the translation! When you consider that my pronunciation is only fair, that's really kind of impressive. I was less impressed when I set it on "English to Polish," and tried to get it to handle "Poland has not yet perished, so long as we still live." It kept interpreting my "perished" as "parish," which produced "Polska jeszcze nie tak długo, jak parafia nadal żyjemy." Try saying that to a Pole and take a picture of the bewildered look on his or her face!

I also tried Russian, but that was not terribly successful. I'm not sure if it was the app's fault

or mine, however. It is more than thirty years since I spoke much Russian, and I imagine my pronunciation is less than perfect...

As you might expect, the results tend to be better when you key in the sentence you want translated. There are still plenty of misunderstandings, however.

I must stress that you need to have your phone or tablet connected to a WiFi or 3G or 4G network for this app to work. This makes sense—the app itself is not nearly large enough to be a self-contained translating unit. Rather, it takes advantage of the “cloud.” You type or speak, the captured text or sound file gets sent to some powerful processing center, which performs voice recognition to decide what you said, then translates it and sends the result back to you. This is a promising approach, one that could theoretically improve quite a bit in time.

All in all, I think it’s worthwhile for most folks who are going to visit Europe to download this free app. It won’t allow you to converse on the highest levels, of course. But you can select English to the desired language, type or speak an English sentence, then show the translation to the person you’re talking to. As long as you keep sentences short and your vocabulary simple, it might work pretty darned well!

Incidentally, I saw an interesting item along similar lines in the February 5 issue of *Nu? What’s New?* Gary Mokotoff wrote, “Recently I had an amazing conversation on Skype with a woman who lives in Poland regarding a project she is doing to commemorate the Jews of the town of Przedecz. What was amazing was that she does not speak English and I do not speak Polish. We communicated using Google Translate (<<http://translate.google.com>>). Google Translate has an option to listen to the translation. I typed my words in English and clicked the speaker icon on the Polish side, allowing her to hear in Polish what I had to say. She then typed her response in Polish and clicked the speaker icon on the English side giving a verbal translation to what she said. Through Skype, we heard each other’s words in our native language.”

Again, you’re not going to be able to use either Talking Translator or Google Translate to coach someone through performing brain surgery. But as an aid to conversation in a normal setting, it could work decently. Both you and the person you’re talking to will quickly realize that there will be some mistakes, some inaccuracies, and make allowances. I think it will also help if you get a little practice, as that will give you a feel for what kind of words and sentences the translator app or program handles best.

Incidentally, Alan Kania posted a note to the LithGen list, saying that he has “Fodor’s Travel Phrases” as an iPhone app. He said, “It is basically a phrase book of many languages that can be individually downloaded. Since it’s held in residence on your iPhone, it doesn’t require an internet connection. Google translate is also available as an app, but it would require at least a WIFI connection, although it will remember some key phrases.”

Alan continued with a very interesting suggestion. “The best translator I use is a laminated fold-up card that has universal pictures that I have used in restaurants. If the waiter is not terribly busy, it can be a fun game with a non-English-speaking waiter. You merely point to the different

pictures and combine them: The red circle with a slash through it and the picture of the fish obviously means you don't want fish. The picture of a cow, a steak; and the pictures of a small flame, medium flame, or large flame simply means you want a beef steak cooked rare, medium or well done. Most stores that carry suitcases will also sell these laminated translators that fold up small enough to stick in your pocket. They come in two sizes—I strongly recommend getting the larger version with the most number of pictures. They both fold up small enough to put in a shirt pocket. No WiFi, cell signal, or batteries needed.”

As usual, there's more than one way to skin a cat. I like Alan's idea because you're not out of luck if you can't connect to the Internet. He says it can be kind of a fun game using the card. People tend to get into it and enjoy the intellectual puzzle.

So you have some options. What's more, using these resources will probably motivate bright young men and women to put their brains to work improving these translation aids. Let's get the smart folks interested in helping us communicate better, rather than finding new ways to kill each other!

PRESERVING YOUR RESEARCH ON “THE CLOUD”

by Alan Kania

Editor—I just mentioned Alan Kania in the preceding item. Alan posted the following note to the Polish Genius list on February 17. I asked him if I could repeat it here, as I think it provides a lot of good information. He said it was fine with him, so here it is.

Many of us have been researching our family history for many years and have collected more clutter than we have dust-bunnies under our beds. For me, the amount of background print-outs about the meaning of margin notes on ship manifests, methodology for determining Enumeration Districts on census reports and other miscellaneous stuff has become almost as imposing as the number of family pictures we've liberated from acid-based photo albums and placed into sleeves of acid-free sheets. The question comes up, what happens if another stray asteroid or a chunk of airline blue ice hits our homes and destroys all that work?

There are a growing number of services that operate under the umbrella of “the cloud.” These are services that essentially rent space on their servers throughout the country (and outside the country). I have 50 years worth of journalism notes, all of my father's black-and-white and color slides, all of my own photographs and recordings, and hundreds of one-of-a-kind family photographs and over 12 years of genealogy research in my office. I also live in an area susceptible to wildfires. For the last year, I've been gradually scanning all of my paperwork and photographs to digital formats. The background paperwork about villages, genealogy history in general, etc. gets tossed out (reducing the clutter in my office). The original material gets returned to acid-free folders and envelopes to minimize the amount of handling I have to do with them. And here's the cherry on top of the sundae --

ALL the information I scan gets uploaded to “the cloud” where there is triple redundancy -- the same material is automatically stored in three different buildings throughout the world. If one cloud-building gets hit by an asteroid, the two other buildings of servers (huge banks of computer hard drives) will have the exact same information as the first and will be able to step up if one “cloud service” breaks down. I leave my computer running and the cloud service backs up my computers (and even my external hard drives if I leave them attached). My sensitive information (banking and other financial, legal, and medical information) is kept on an external hard drive that I don’t attach to the computer during backup). I’ve had my hard drive on a computer break and have been saved by a cloud-service that automatically keeps my backups up-to-date.

If you’ve collected years of family history research, it’s a good idea to consider one of these cloud services. “Carbonite” is a good one that is well advertised. A Danish friend turned me onto “CrashPlan” because it allows you to back-up external hard drives as well as your primary computer -- and it costs less than “Carbonite.” There are smaller sites like “DropBox” and “SkyDrive” but if you’re backing up your entire computer or large photograph files, you may want to consider Carbonite or CrashPlan because it will be less expensive. The initial back-up can take many months to complete, depending upon your internet upload speed. But once that has been uploaded, update maintenance of your computer can be accomplished very quickly. Consider the low monthly fees to be an insurance policy for preserving your one-of-a-kind documentation.

I keep my genealogy software file on “DropBox” so that I can access it from my iPhone, laptop or desktop computers. If I make a change while using any one of those computers, the same change will be available if I switch to a different computer. I learned the hard way if you forget to update your core file of information, you could end up with several different versions of your family research. My external hard drives and my desktop and laptop computers are being backed up to CrashPlan’s paid service. Smaller stuff is on the smaller storage services that are free -- my iPhone is backed up to Apple’s “cloud;” my music is on iTunes’s cloud and my reading books are on the Kindle cloud.

The next time an asteroid aims toward my house, I want to make sure that a life-time of research and more than a decade of genealogy research and family-history preservation doesn’t get lost in the rubble. These cloud servers are more secure than most of our own computers, but considering even government servers are not 100% exempt from cyber attacks, you do have to make some common-sense value judgments and make sure your most sensitive personal information is not permanently stored on your computer -- a couple of copies on separate disks stored in a safe-deposit box and/or fire-proof home safe is a safer way of storing that information.

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

Pulaski Day - Monday, March 4, 2013
Polish Museum of America
984 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL

The public and members of the media are invited to attend the observance in honor of this great Polish and American hero. The presence of distinguished leaders of national, state, county, and city government is anticipated, as well as leaders of Polonia. A short program of speakers will take place.

General Casimir Pulaski is recognized as the “Father of the American Cavalry.” He offered his services as an experienced military leader to the American Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Even before he was officially commissioned by Congress, Pulaski joined the American Army as a volunteer. At Brandywine, in 1777, he greatly distinguished himself by leading a daring attack against the British, thereby saving the retreating American Army.

At the insistence of General George Washington, Pulaski was made a Brigadier General and the first Commander of the American Cavalry. He established the Pulaski Legion, a corps of Frenchmen, German Hessians and Poles, who were instrumental in saving the City of Charleston, South Carolina, from British occupation in 1779. In October of 1779, at the age of 32, General Pulaski paid the ultimate price for freedom: he died from mortal wounds received while leading a cavalry charge in Savannah, Georgia. The General’s mortal remains were ceremoniously reinterred at the Pulaski Monument at Monterrey Square in Savannah, GA in October of 2005. Posthumous honorary US citizenship was granted to General Pulaski in 2009.

Admission and parking are free. Parking is available in two lots to the west of the building. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Social Hall on the first floor. Additional information may be obtained from the PMA website <www.polishmuseumofamerica.org>.

[From the February 2013 PGSA Notebook]

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Friday, March 15, 2013

POLISH MISSION OF ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

PANORAMA GALA

Honoring Our Conservators and Donors

3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, Michigan

Wotta Building (Building II)

The Panorama Gala is a restored Polish pageant made up of 106 figures representing 1,000 years of Polish history. It is located in the Genealogy Research Room at PARI. Join us at 5:00 p.m. for a Polish Buffet. Call 248-683-0323. Please RSVP by March 11. For more information visit the Website, <www.polishmission.com>. You might also like to watch this clip made by a local TV station that came to campus before the renovation, back in 2011: <<http://goo.gl/0ktTH>>.

[From an e-mail sent by Ceil Jensen]

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March 21, 2013
“LOCATING FAMILY RECORDS IN POLAND”

Church of the Latter Day Saints Family History Center
584 West Street
Ludlow, Massachusetts
6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Polish Genealogy Society of Massachusetts

Pat Welliver of the LDS Family History Center in Ludlow will speak on using the resources of the Center to conduct genealogy research, and **Joe Kielec** will illustrate the Internet techniques that he used to locate Parish records and map his family in Austria - Poland (Galicia) back to 1801. Bring the name or one of the villages that your Polish ancestors emigrated from and we'll show you how to see if there are parish records for your research, too.

This event is free and open to the public.

Look us up on Facebook or on the internet at <<http://www.pgsm.org>> for more information.

[From a note sent by Joseph Kielec]

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Sunday, April 23, 2013

FUNDRAISER FOR THE PADEREWSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

3:00 pm
Embassy of the Republic of Poland Auditorium
2640 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

The American Virtuosi (Borowsky Family) have offered their performance free of charge to benefit the Fund. Please see <<http://www.paderewskischolarship.org/>> for more information on this event, and to order tickets.

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Saturday, May 4, 2013

WASHINGTON D.C. FAMILY HISTORY CENTER ANNUAL CONFERENCE

10000 Stoneybrook Dr.
Kensington, Maryland

The LDS Washington DC Family History Center will be having its annual genealogy conference on Saturday, 4 May 2013. The URL for their Web page is <<http://www.wdcfhc.org/>>. The sign-up page for this conference is not up yet, but should be within a week or two.

One of the presenters will be **Tom Sadauskas**, speaking on the International Tracing Service (ITS) archives and how best to use their 50 million documents to help with East European research, especially when it comes to displaced persons (DPs) and Holocaust victims & survivors. Here's the write-up for Tom's presentation:

The International Tracing Service—The Closed Archive That's Been Finally Opened After More Than 60 Years

The International Tracing Service (ITS) was created in the closing days of World War II. The ITS collected more than 50 million German and Allied records containing information on over 17.5 million persons. These persons included both Holocaust victims and survivors, forced laborers, and more than 8 million displaced persons (DPs). For more than 60 years, the ITS archives were closed to outside researchers and only accessible to ITS staff members. Not until late 2007, because of outside pressure by numerous groups, was the decision made to open these records to outside researchers. The first organized group of outside researchers to access these records occurred in May 2008. The presenter was part of this first group. Topics to be covered include:

- Brief History of the ITS
- How the ITS Archives Came to Be Opened to the Public
- What Records Are There & How They Can Be Accessed
- What Records Are Not There
- How These records Can Aid Your Genealogy Research
- My Personal Experience As Part of the First Group of Outside Researchers to Visit the ITS Archives

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August 4 – 9, 2013

33RD IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

This annual event—which is almost always a magnificent success—will be held in 2013 in Boston on August 4 through 9. Learn more at <<http://www.iajgs2013.org/>>.

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October 23 – 26, 2013

CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL 2013 GENEALOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) will hold its 14th Genealogical

and Cultural Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois, October 23–26, 2013. Hotel reservations can now be made for the Conference at the Westin Lombard Hotel in Lombard, Illinois. Click on the Reserve icon when you get to the Hotel page.

The keynote speaker will be our own Paul S. Valasek! Other notable speakers are Lisa A. Alzo, Grace DuMelle, Leo Baca, Lou Szucs, and many more.

For more information on the program, see this Web page:

<<http://www.cgsi.org/content/2013-genealogical-and-cultural-conference-program>>

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November 13 – 14, 2013

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA CONFERENCE

The 2013 Conference will be held at the Hilton Lisle in Naperville, Illinois. In the months ahead, the Website, <<http://www.pgsa.org>>, and the *PGSA Notebook* will post additional details.

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

<<http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=a4bee4896d2253bc13fbfada1&id=af83fcce99&e=b8ef62724d>>

On the Polish Genius list, Maureen Mroczek Morris posted a link to this link to the first issue of the monthly newsletter of Marie Curie Living History. If the above link doesn't work, try <<http://goo.gl/DSiG3>>. And if you'd like to know more about that project, visit <<http://www.mariecurielivinghistory.com/>>.

<<http://genealogyindexer.org>>

Logan Kleinwaks announced, in a note on the JewishGen newsgroup, that a Galicia and Bukovina business directory for 1907-1913 is now searchable and viewable at this site. "This is volume 19b of the 10th edition of Leuchs' *Adressbuch aller Laender der Erde der Kaufleute, Fabrikanten, Gewerbtreibenden, Gutsbesitzer, ...* The directory is included in all searches by default. You can restrict searches to it, excluding other directories, by appending {d667} to your search term (e.g., Lichtbach {d667}) ... To find a town's section (rather than searching by surname), you can use the town index beginning at <<http://genealogyindexer.org/view/190713Leuchs19b/681>>. The numbers next to the town names are the printed page numbers, to which you should add 20 to get approximately the corresponding image number in the online presentation. You can jump to image number X with the URL <<http://genealogyindexer.org/view/190713Leuchs19b/X>>."

<<http://tinyurl.com/ahhxn8>>

A post by Jan Meisels Allen to the same newsgroup gave this link to an explanation of the differences between the European Union and the United States on privacy laws may be of interest. If the TinyURL doesn't work, this is the original: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/03/technology/consumer-data-protection-laws-an-ocean-apart.html?_r=0>.

<<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LidaRoots/message/3672>>

S. Rudziecki posted a note to the Yahoo group LidaRoots, stating that church books and other material from Żółudek, Belarus (called Жалудок, Zhaludok, in Belarusian), had now been made available at <<http://www.epaveldas.lt/vbspi/content/simpleSearch.jsp>>. “Romans500” responded by putting up a brief guide to help researchers understand exactly what can be seen there. The note is too long to repeat here, but those with roots in Żółudek parish really should copy this info. It's this kind of detailed info that is making research online a reality, even for people with roots in areas that have been previously very hard to study.

<<http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/author/judy-g-russell/>>

With all the legal matters pending that can affect genealogical research—including the bills affecting SSDI access before Congress—it's getting to be a full-time job keeping up with them! I've noticed a number of sources lately that suggest Judy G. Russell's “The Legal Genealogist” blog is a good way to stay in touch with what's happening.

<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Photoduplication_Services>

The February 10 issue of *Nu? What's New?* mentioned that for years, the Family History Library provided a service to “to make printed copies of microfilm images at no charge if you identified the film number and allowed them to quickly locate the record of interest on the film.” The article added that now this service offers digitized images, with some restrictions. The above URL takes you to a page with complete instructions on how to use the service.

<<http://nac.gov.pl/node/682>>

On the Polish Genius list, RomanS wrote: “One more reason to start learning Polish - the National Digital Archive (NAC) disclosed their very ambitious plans for publishing on-line digital images of vital records (in March-June 2013).” This is the same announcement I discussed in the lead article—but Roman added that this page gives details in Polish, including a link to a PDF with a detailed list of planned publications at this address: <http://nac.gov.pl/files/D'ASC1_02_2013v.3.pdf>. I should mention that when I tried to use that link directly, it wouldn't work for me. I had to go to the one listed above, the “node/682” URL, and then go down to where it says “załączeniu lista” in blue and underlined. Click on that link and you get to the right page. Note that the first page <<http://nac.gov.pl/node/682>> says that this year, they are concentrating on publishing the scans on the Website <www.szukajwarchiwach.pl>.

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

I should add that Vera Miller also posted an announcement with the <<http://nac.gov.pl/node/682>> link in a note on the Poland mailing list. At the end of her note is a link to the “Find Lost Russian and Ukrainian Families” blog. I don’t recall running across this before, and thought I should mention it here. Just looking over the blog entries quickly, I saw a number of items that looked quite useful, including an FAQ on “Understanding Russian Regional Archives” and a whole page on free databases for information in Russian.

<www.fbc.pionier.net.pl>

On the Posen German-language list, I was intrigued by a post from “Hannes” that gave this link to the Federacja bibliotek cyfrowych, Federation of Digital Libraries, which includes online versions of numerous volumes of *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch*. This is a series called *Genealogisches Handbuch bürgerlicher Familien*, Genealogical Handbook of Bourgeois Families, before 1943. I did not know individual volumes of this series were available on the Internet. Note, you do need the browser plug-in DjVu to see the scans. It can be downloaded free at <<http://www.caminova.net/en/downloads/download.aspx?id=1>>. I’m constantly referring to various online publications that use this plug-in, and have had no problems with it.

<<http://www.odessa3.org/collections/land/wprussia/>>

This is the online site that contains the data of Reuben Drefs’ “West Prussian Land Register 1772/1773.” I’m pretty sure I’ve mentioned it before; but over the years, every so often, someone online asks where to find this material. So clearly there are folks who find it very useful, and it’s a good idea to let people know where it is.

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