



# 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://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/archives.htm>

If you’d like *Gen Dobry!* in PDF form, this issue is available for downloading here:

[http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry\\_IX\\_12.pdf](http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_IX_12.pdf)

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\*\*\* THE LDS AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH \*\*\*

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

I suspect most of you are familiar with a story that made quite a stir in genealogical circles earlier this year: the Catholic Church's directive to bishops not to cooperate with the filming agents working for the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). If you need a reminder, this is the best account I have seen so far:

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0802443.htm>

The key point is that a letter was sent in April by the Vatican Congregation for Clergy to episcopal conferences, directing all bishops to keep the Genealogical Society of Utah, which actually does the filming for the LDS, from microfilming and digitizing information in parish registers.

As you can see if you read the article, the Church has a serious problem with the Mormon practice of baptizing deceased ancestors, which it regards as invalid. The Church does not wish to cooperate with the LDS's filming efforts because the primary motivation for filming old records—including parish sacramental registers—is to determine the names of the deceased so that they may be baptized by proxy. The Mormons believe this allows ancestors to choose to accept baptism, and accepting baptism allows the ancestors to return to God and lets families be reunited in the afterlife. Mormon belief in the vital importance of this practice is the primary motivation behind the LDS's massive investment in genealogy.

If you wish to learn more on this Mormon belief, and prefer to get info straight from the source rather than trust my description (which would be very smart of you!), there is an explanation here that would seem to be definitive:

<http://www.ldschurchtemples.com/mormon/baptism/>

Readers of the Jewish genealogical journal *Avotaynu*, or its online e-zine *Nu? What's New?*, are well aware of the problems Jews have had with this practice. Jews regard it as outrageous that their ancestors are being baptized posthumously, especially since many of them were killed precisely and solely because of their faith. The LDS and Jews have tried to come to some agreement over this, but the controversy continues because Jews charge that the Mormons keep right on baptizing Jews who have died, despite promises to quit doing so. It's not just the Catholic Church that has a problem with the LDS in this regard.

Why does all this matter to genealogists? Regardless of your religion, it is quite possible that the only surviving traces of many of your ancestors lie in old documents drawn up by religious leaders. Those leaders began keeping track of the members of their parishes or congregations long before civil authorities got involved. If the Family History Library is allowed to preserve those documents on film or digital media, you have a chance of finding your ancestors by accessing the FHL's copies of those documents. If the FHL's filming agents are not allowed access to them, you will have a much harder time getting hold of them. It may even be impossible.

A number of researchers have expressed the opinion that this is much ado over nothing. If the Catholic Church regards LDS proxy baptism as invalid, what does it matter if Mormons want to mouth some mumbo-jumbo including our ancestors' names? It doesn't change anything, and why should we give up very real benefits to us over something that has no effect? Furthermore, the LDS insists that our dead ancestors are offered a free choice to accept proxy baptism, so that no one's faith is being suppressed or denied.

But many can't help reacting to all this on a gut level, feeling it's outrageous to do this to people who have passed on. Perhaps this doesn't make sense from a strictly rational point of view; but it just doesn't seem right.

In all honesty, when I first heard about of the Church's directive, I wasn't sure how much practical effect it would have. An awful lot of the older records have already been microfilmed, especially for Europe. True, there are specific areas of Poland in which Church authorities have never allowed the FHL's agents access to records, especially in former Galicia. And of course the prohibition on filming records less than 100 years old has affected the availability of records from the 1870s on, with fewer and fewer available as you approach 1908. Still, I thought maybe the Church had latched the barn door after the horses had already escaped.

But maybe not! Recently I received a note from Christa Shukaitis, a researcher whose repeated trips to Poland and close study of original sources in Polish archives command a lot of respect. Christa had something interesting to say, and gave permission to share her experience with you.

I was in Poland in September. I was to go to a parish in the Białystok diocese with a Polish friend to look at some *akty metrykalne* [records in sacramental registers]. In order to look at the records, the priest informed us that we had to have a letter from our parish priest stating that we were current good members of our parish. This is the result of the parishes being notified that the LDS was not to microfilm any more records. Many of the parishes in this area that had never sent their *akty metrykalne* to the Białystok church archives were asked to send all of their records to the archives. One of the parishes, Trzcianne, has already sent all of their records. Unfortunately, the priest archivist from Białystok will not do any lookups. He was very cordial to me and allowed me access to the records, but informed me that if anyone wanted information, they would have to come to Białystok.

The LDS was never allowed to film any of the records from the Białystok church archives. There are records in this archive that go all the way east to Grodno parishes.

Needless to say, as soon as I returned home, I obtained my good standing letter.

Christa provided additional information in a follow-up note:

This permission letter was also required of my friend from Poland. So they are also asking for this letter from Poles as well as others.

It would be dreadful to get to Poland, planning on going to a parish, and then be denied access, all for a letter from your pastor.

I don't know what the standard would be for a non-practicing Catholic.

I agree with Christa that we must spread the word of this new requirement, or many people traveling to Poland to do research are going to be bitterly disappointed! So please pay attention to this, and tell anyone you know who might be affected. We've always advised researchers *not* to just show up at parishes and expect cooperation; it was just good sense to contact the parish pastor in advance and make sure he was expecting you and would allow you reasonable access to his records. Now that is even more important than ever before. And if you're not a Catholic, and a parishioner in good standing, you may have to do some fast talking....

I will certainly be following this story, and will let you know what, if anything, I hear. I welcome information from readers who can tell us more, or correct any errors of fact I may have inadvertently made. This is one story I want to be sure I get right.

Let me close by wishing you a Happy New Year! May 2009 bring you joy in your lives, and success in your research!

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

Subject: Whoops! Bad math!

*Editor—My face was pretty red when I got two notes about a mistake in the last issue.*

I always enjoy *Gen Dobry!* even though I'm Dutch and it's my wife who is interested in a few Polish Jews in her ancestry who came to the USA around 1900.

I noticed a case of bad arithmetic in an article titled "600th Anniversary of Poles at Jamestown." And then quoting from the actual article: "My note to you regarding the observance ceremony at Jamestown settlement on October 1, 2008, commemorating the 600th anniversary of the arrival of the first Polish craftsmen on October 1, 1608 ...."

2008 - 1608 = ?

Keep up the good work.

Ed Spaans

*Editor—And I also received this note.*

Re: the article about the first Poles at Jamestown. There's a problem with the math. If you add 600 years to the year 1608 it comes out to 2208. The proper anniversary is 400 years.

Thanks for the great and informative newsletters.

Elaine O'Neill

*Editor—Thanks to both of you for pointing that out. Now you can see why I became a writer and editor, not a historian or accountant! Incidentally, Debbie Greenlee mentioned in a recent post to the Polish Genius mailing list that the Polish Post Office issued a stamp commemorating the 400th anniversary of Poles' arrival in America. She gave this URL where you can find more info, about a quarter of the way down the page:*

<http://www.poczta-polska.pl/znaczk/en/index.php>

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Subject: Information on Books in Lists

*Editor—Ed Spaans also had another comment:*

In the last *Gen Dobry!* was a list of books, one of which caught my attention, *Polish Immigrants 1890-1920*. My wife can count at least a dozen Jewish Poles in her tree who came here in that time period. When I got a copy of it through an interlibrary loan, I was very surprised to find out that it was written for children. I would like to suggest, if at all possible, that some indication goes with book suggestions the audience for which it is intended.

Ed Spaans

*Editor—That's a reasonable request, and I will do my best to comply. I must admit, however, that I don't feel I was totally derelict in my duty. The article listing those books provided a link for each one to a page on Amazon.com that gave a detailed description of the book. A quick glance at the page for Polish Immigrants 1890-1920 shows that it specifies "Reading level: 9-12." So I don't feel too guilty. Still, I like to save our readers as much trouble as possible, and in the future will attempt to keep Ed's request in mind.*

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Subject: Polish Literature in English Translation Website

*Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!*

A while ago (Jan. 2005) you included a note in *Gen Dobry!* about my Polish Literature in English Translation Website. I thank you and hope that the site has been a useful tool for those interested in reading Polish literature.

The URL for that site has just changed to <http://home.roadrunner.com/~polishlit>, after Roadrunner reorganized its hosting arrangements. Unfortunately, its forwarding instructions may not be

helpful for many. If you'd be able to run a short notice about this change, you might do a service to those who've suddenly not been able to find the site.

Constance J. Ostrowski

*Editor—I'm glad to have a chance to spread the word. I think this is a Website many of our readers will benefit from visiting.*

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Subject: Non-Jewish Poles Who Helped Jews

*Editor—I received this forwarded note from Bill Krul, President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, [www.pgsm.org](http://www.pgsm.org). He received a request for help from a graduate student in Israel. Bill asked if I could pass the word along to our readers, and I said I'll be happy to do so.*

I am a Doctoral graduate student at the Faculty of Education, University of Haifa, Israel. I am working on my dissertation with Dr. Hadas Wiseman from the Department of Counseling and Human Development.

As part of my research I am looking for sons and daughters of non-Jewish Polish people whose parents rescued Jews during World War II. May I ask for your help in locating children of Polish rescuers who currently reside in the United States?

All sorts of information will be appreciated. Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Lilach Ashoulin <[ashoulin@maaganm.co.il](mailto:ashoulin@maaganm.co.il)>

*Editor—If you can provide Lilach with some information, you will be doing her a favor, and also preserving the memory of someone who deserves to be remembered.*

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**\*\*\* POLES TO POLISH-AMERICANS TO AMERICAN POLES: PAVA/SWAP ARMY POST 130—BYDGOSZCZ/NEW YORK \*\*\***

by Paul S. Valasek <[hallersarmy@aol.com](mailto:hallersarmy@aol.com)>

Following the theme of last month's article dealing with Polish-American photos being located in Poland, this article reveals another unusual incident where people and locations seem to be mixed up at first, but logical explanations are available.

A few years ago, while in New York City, I had the pleasure of visiting the headquarters of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America (PAVA), also known by its Polish name, Stowarzyszenie Weteranów Armii Polskiej w Ameryce (SWAP), <http://www.pava-swap.org/>. While I was spending a few days researching Haller's Army, Dr. Teofil Lachowicz, editor of their monthly magazine *Weteran*, pointed out what he found was unusual and interesting.

On return to America after World War I and the subsequent Polish Soviet war of 1919-1920, soldiers of Haller's Army found they had no veterans' benefits from serving both Poland and the United States in conflict. When discharged at Ft. Dix or Camp Meade, many received only \$5.00, a ticket to their final destination, and a hearty "Thank You!"

There was little provision made for the wounded, the veterans themselves, after initial treatment, or for families who lost their sons, fathers, or husbands. They were basically left on their own. Thus the formation of PAVA/SWAP, and the building of an organization on which the veterans could rely for help of all kinds, though limited, was begun.

Formation of *placówki*, or posts, started in 1921, in Cleveland, and eventually their number grew to 178 posts for the World War I-era veterans. Additional posts came into existence as World War II Polish-American veterans entered the scene, though veterans of that war were readily accepted into existing posts started in 1921. Also, Polish-Americans after 1945 may have chosen either American Legion posts or Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) posts to join, both of these being more American than Polish.

What caught the eye of Dr. Lachowicz was the single post formed in Poland. Of the 14 post-World War I posts created outside the United States, 12 were located in Canada, 1 in Havana, Cuba (that's another story), and 1 in Poland, specifically in the city of Bydgoszcz. From the sign-up cards of the men, it appears the post was formed in May 1937—a relatively long time after the wars of 1917-1921, but in advance of the upcoming conflict that would begin in 1939.

These men, now living in Poland, preferred to support a Polish-American organization rather than a Polish group close to their homes. There were Polish veteran organizations within Poland which were flourishing in the interwar period, but for some reason, these men felt an allegiance to the U.S. well after war service was over—and in spite of now living once again in Poland!

Of the following names, at least 23 had signed up in the United States en route to the fields of France and Poland. Where the other men came from is not evident without further research, possibly Haller's Army forming in France, those recruits from Italy or Holland or England, or even Brazil. But what is for certain, these men still had an allegiance to the Polish-American dream in spite of relocating to Poland after initially leaving Poland and relocating to the United States.

It has to be assumed that these men lived out their lives in Poland, and thus locating them would be more difficult, as their deaths are most likely recorded somewhere in Poland, and some, undoubtedly, during World War II. It was not unusual for the Nazi regime to eliminate anyone who stood up to Germany in 1914-1918 and was proud of it.

Once again, we have Polish-Americans who came from Poland, leaving families, resided in North America for a period, left family here in the U.S. to fight, and returned to Poland to finish out their lives, yet retained strong ties to their adopted country.

For a more detailed history of PAVA/ SWAP, please read the article in *Gen Dobry!* from December 2006, [http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry\\_VII\\_12.pdf](http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_VII_12.pdf).

### MEMBERS OF PLACÓWKA / POST #130, BYDGOSZCZ, POLAND

<i>SURNAME</i>	<i>FIRST NAME</i>	<i>RECRUITMENT CENTER</i>
Adamek	Jan	x
Baskiewicz	Felix	Detroit
Bednarski	Tomasz	Buffalo
Birowski	Jozef	x
Ciecierski	Waclaw	Chicago
Deptalo	Jan J.	Stevens Point
Dolegowski	Ignacy	x
Gasior	Marcin	Chicago
Glica	Jan	Cleveland
Gorzynski	Stanislaw	Detroit
Kaczmarek	Jozef	x
Kalina	Jan	Cleveland
Kempinski	Jan	x
Kloc	Franciszek	Chicago
Knollek	Piotr	x
Kociolowicz	Jan	x
Kowalec	Wincenty	Toledo
Krezel	Tomasz	Philadelphia
Kumor	Stanislaw	x
Kuraszkiewicz	Stanislaw	x
Kwiatkowski	Franciszek	Chicago
Lewandowski	Michal	x
Linkowski	Adam	Buffalo
Maj	Wincenty	Schenectady
Mamrot	Boleslaw	Cleveland
Mareinek	Jan	x
Miecznikowski	Wincenty	x
Mulak	Josef S.	Buffalo
Pasieka	Jan	x
Pawlowski	Wladyslaw	x
Pikul	Franciszek	Philadelphia
Poplawski	Piotr	Boston
Poszczolkowski	Konstanty	x
Samsel	Ludwik	Cambridge Springs



Sielawa	Stanislaw	x
Stec	Jozef	Detroit
Szutkowski	Stanislaw	x
Szwed	Jozef Ignacy	Boston
Wiacek	Antoni	Pittsburgh
Wieslaw	Jan	x
Wisniewski	Wincenty	x
Zakrzewski	Andrzej	x
Zuchowski	Leon	Milwaukee

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**\*\*\* POST YOUR FAMILY TREE \*\*\***

*by Allen James Krueger*

*Editor—Mr. Krueger posted a very interesting note to the Posen mailing list, summarizing a number of Websites to which you can post your family tree. Some we all know; others I'd never heard of. I thought some of our readers might like to review it, and maybe become familiar with some hitherto unknown resources.*

Help others find their relatives, post your family tree at these Websites:

1. <http://www.myheritage.com> — MyHeritage focuses on genealogy community building and networking.
2. <http://www.geneanet.org/> — A collection of family trees, community, and submitted records.
3. <http://www.ancestry.com/search/> — Ancestry.com is the leading genealogical data site, with some articles, instruction, and reference help.
4. <http://familysearch.org/> — This is a major data Website sponsored by the LDS Church, and includes with instruction and reference help.
5. <http://www.tribalpages.com/> — Family trees hosting and charting program.
6. <http://www.familyhistorylink.com/>
7. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> — Rootsweb is a major data site, with free instruction and reference help.
8. [http://www.genealogy.com/index\\_r.html](http://www.genealogy.com/index_r.html) — This is major data site, with instruction and reference help.
9. <http://www.onegreatfamily.com/Home.aspx> — This is primarily a family trees sharing and collaboration Website.
10. <http://www.geni.com/> — Web 2.0 and focuses on genealogy community building and networking.
11. <http://www.kindredkonnections.com/> — Grassroots created data site with compiled family Trees, and some extracted records.
12. <http://www.saxonyroots.com/>
13. <http://www.gencircles.com/>
14. <http://www.familysearchindexing.org/en/home/home.jsf?pname=homeTab> — Volunteers extract family history information from digital images of historical documents to create

searchable indexes that assist everyone in finding their ancestors.

15. <http://www.webgenealogie.de/>
16. <http://ancientfaces.com/> — Share genealogy research, community pages, family photos and records, more, for free.
17. <http://foko.genealogy.net> — Dominant German research database.

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**\*\*\* COMPARE FAMILY SEARCH AND ANCESTRY.COM MANIFEST IMAGES \*\*\***

by Debbie Greenlee <[daveg@airmail.net](mailto:daveg@airmail.net)>

*Editor—Debbie Greenlee posted this note to the Poland mailing list, and I thought it provided a really useful tip we could easily overlook.*

I know a lot of people are excited about the LDS digitizing records. I found a problem, however. This is just a heads-up that it might be a good idea to check other image sources when using Family Search.

Family Search is using images provided by the Ellis Island Website. I am sure this is because LDS was instrumental in transcribing the Passenger Arrival Records for the Ellis Island site.

Here's the problem, at least in one case. If you follow the Family Search link to an original manifest image, which is provided by Ellis Island Website, you can barely read anything on the manifest.

If you use Ancestry.com to search for the same Passenger Arrival Record, you find that the actual manifest page is almost perfect and very easy to read.

Family Search:

<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html?datestamp=1205453198656#>

Using the name Ignacz Chociaj (which is an incorrect transcription) takes you to this manifest image:

<http://www.ellisland.org/search/shipManifest.asp?plD=102635050569>

Click on "CLICK TO ENLARGE MANIFEST."

Using Ancestry.com, search on the name Ignacz Chociaj, arrival 1903 at the port of New York (the given name is still transcribed incorrectly). Note the incredible difference between this image and the one provided by Ellis Island web site.

I am not suggesting that Ancestry.com is the best or that anyone should buy a subscription to that database. I'm merely making an observation.

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\*\*\* THE POLISH MISSION'S FIRST ANNUAL WIGILIA DINNER \*\*\*

by Ceil Wendt Jensen <[cjensen@mipolonia.net](mailto:cjensen@mipolonia.net)>

The Polish Mission's First Annual Wigilia Dinner was held on the campus of Orchard Lake Sunday, December 7, 2008. In attendance were members and friends of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (PGSM), <http://pgsm.org>; the University of Michigan's Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES), <http://www.ii.umich.edu/crees>; the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Association (WSDPAHS), <http://www.detroitpolonia.org>; and alumni of St. Mary's of Orchard Lake. The event drew attendees from across the state and even alumni from Indiana.

Laurie Palazzolo, Vice President and Executive Director/ Secretary of WSDPAHS, and Bill Krul, president of PGSM, helped advertise the event, which followed the monthly Polish Mass in the shrine chapel. The room was transformed into a festive setting, complete with a Christmas tree, poinsettias, and red tablecloths and napkins. Each guest received a handful of symbolic hay and a program from Michelle Chumiecki, the Director's eight-year-old daughter. While Marian Owczarski, Galeria Director, couldn't attend, since he was busy in the Galeria greeting children in his St. Nicholas garb, he did loan one of the many *Szopki* from the Galeria collection for display.

Marcin Chumiecki, director of The Polish Mission, welcomed the attendees, and asked those present to contact him with ideas and suggestions on how the Mission could serve them. He introduced Chancellor Whalen, who wished everyone a happy and holy season. He also shared his childhood memory of tasting the *Oplatek* at his grandmother's home years before he made his First Communion. As a young boy, he was delighted to be able to taste the host-like wafer and thought it was a wonderful treat. Karen Majewska, Director of the Polish and Rare Books Collection and The Central Archives of American Polonia Archives, spoke about the *Księga Pamiątkowa* recently found in the archives—letters written by Polish school children in 1922 to thank the U.S. for its support during World War I. The inspiration for the gift was the popular schoolroom custom of presenting a classmate or teacher with an album inscribed by each child with good wishes, drawings, a favorite poem, or a signature, in commemoration of some special occasion. Please see: [http://web.mac.com/polishmission/Site/1922\\_collection.html](http://web.mac.com/polishmission/Site/1922_collection.html).

Similar letters, entitled "Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship for the United States, 1926," were sent to the United States to honor the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. They can be found on the Library of Congress Website: <http://international.loc.gov/intldl/pldehtml/pldechome.html>.

Ceil Wendt Jensen, professional genealogist, <[mipolonia.net](mailto:cjensen@mipolonia.net)> who is developing the Polonica Americana Research Institute on campus, spoke about the workshops, classes, and seminars that will be offered in 2009.

Rev. Stanisław Flis of the Polish-American Liturgical Center, <http://liturgicalcenter.org/>, gave each guest a copy of his publication, the bilingual missalette, *Pan z Wami*. The bilingual version of the prayer book is published to help the many Polish parishes and numerous Polonian communities that, due to the interaction of natural processes of assimilation and integration, lose their knowledge of the proper Polish language and are, therefore, unable to benefit fully from the liturgy conducted in their native language. Fr. Flis also lead the group in prayers preceding the sharing of the *Oplatek*. Steve Frayer, organist at St. Steven's parish and WSDPAHS member, accompanied Fr. Flis in the ceremony, and lead the group in *Kolędy* after the meal.

Guests agreed that sharing the traditions of the Wigilia dinner and sipping mulled wine was the perfect way to meet the Polish Mission Director and hear the plans to revitalize and enhance the programs and buildings on the campus of Orchard Lake.

Interested in the programs of The Polish Mission? Contact Marcin Chumiecki at 248-683-0412, or by e-mail, <[mchumiecki@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:mchumiecki@orchardlakeschools.com)>. Visit the Website here:

<http://polishmission.com>

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**\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\***

**Monday, January 19, 2009**

**MEETING OF THE EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**7:00-9:30 p.m.**

Millennium Library, Buchwald Room, 2nd floor, 251 Donald Street, Winnipeg, Canada

“A tour of the Millennium Library and resources.”

The Library staff will conduct a selected tour of resources pertaining to family history research.

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**June 5 to June 22, 2009**

**“DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS TOUR” TO WESTERN UKRAINE**

Join us in this one-of-a-kind trip to Ukraine. The Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group is hosting another “Discover Your Roots Tour” to Western Ukraine where we will search the Ukrainian Archives for our ancestral records as well as visit our ancestral homes.

The “Discover Your Roots Tour” runs from Friday June 5 to Monday June 22, 2009. We will spend a number of days in Lviv, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil and Kyiv, both as researchers and tourists. In addition to visiting the archives and ancestral villages, we will also tour these cities and other historic places.

As in our previous tour, we will contact the various provincial archives with a list of genealogy-related files we wish to examine. We will inform them when we will be visiting their archive so that the requested genealogical information will have been prepared and readied for our visit. We will also arrange for side visits to the villages of your ancestors.

It is yet too early to determine the costs for 2009. In 2007, the Tour cost \$3,555.00 Air/land rate per person in Canadian funds, based on double occupancy. An additional \$600.00 was added for single occupancy.

To learn more, visit the TUGG Website, <http://www.torugg.org/>, and click on the link “Click Here to find out more about the 2009 Tour”

*[Posted to the Galicia\_Poland-Ukraine mailing list by Jim Onyschuk.]*

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

[http://www.muzhp.pl/index.php?art\\_id=524&lang=2](http://www.muzhp.pl/index.php?art_id=524&lang=2)

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Ceil Jensen posted a note about a call from the Polish History Museum in Warsaw for the exhibit “Families Separated by History.” She said if your family was separated by World War II, visit this site and consider downloading the form (see the bottom of the page) and filling it in, as well as sharing data and photos.

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

Also on that list, Ceil mentioned this site, Names in Stone, “a growing collection of intercemetary maps that allows visitors to search a listing of multiple cemeteries, view actual grave locations on a map, and see the record for a deceased person by clicking on the grave.” Membership is free. Ceil also mentioned a blog designed to help people create their own interactive cemetery maps at Names in Stone. The blog is at <http://www.gravemappers.blogspot.com/>.

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<http://www.archivaria.com/EmigList/>

On the Posen mailing list, James Birkholz mentioned this Website providing information from a 1943 book about Old Lutheran emigrants, many from Posen, during the years 1835 to 1854. You can also see the full text at <http://www.archivaria.com/EmigList/EmigListFullTextSearch.html>. He suggested using your browser’s search tool to find specific names, as the amount of info presented might otherwise be overwhelming.

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<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>

Also on the Posen list, Gerd Müllenheim mentioned Europeana, which gives multilingual access to two million digitized books and other items from the states of the European Union. He thought as this collection grows, it may become a great genealogical resource.

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<http://www.thelocal.de/sci-tech/20081204-15913.html>

Researcher Edward Luft pointed out this page, from *The Local* (Germany's News in English), telling how the German Bundesarchiv (National Archive) is posting millions of photos to Wikipedia. The images include "documentation of the Holocaust, Weimar Republic era, public demonstrations and other important events in contemporary history." It may take a while for the project to be completed and for us to learn how to access the specific photos that show us what we want to see. But this has got to be good news for students of family history, or German history, for that matter.

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<http://www.hullnumber.com>

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Debbie Greenlee mentioned seeing info on this site in her local newspaper. Inspired by the death of his best Navy buddy at age 40, ex-sailor Dave Schultz created this Website that provides access to more than 8,700 ship and command rosters, with e-mail addresses. I know I sometimes hear from ex-servicemen trying to find lost buddies, so from now on I'll be mentioning this site to anyone who was in the U.S. Navy.

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<http://calumetmi.blogspot.com/>

If you have links to Calumet, Michigan, you will definitely want to take a look at this project by Joseph Martin and Ceil Jensen.

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[http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts\\_example.php](http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/tts_example.php)

We've mentioned this site before in *Gen Dobry!*, but it's worth another look. It allows you to get a notion how to pronounce words in different languages, including Polish. You can type in Polish names, for instance, and get some clue how to pronounce them. You have the option of hearing words pronounced by a cyber-male, Krzysztof, or two cyber-females, Zosia and Agata (who are, apparently, cyber-twins). It's not bad, especially if you haven't the faintest notion how a name or other Polish word is pronounced. Note, however, that it really helps if you enter correct spellings using Polish characters.

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[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2008/12/google-your-fam.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/12/google-your-fam.html)

*Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter (EOGN)* recently had a very favorable review of Dan Lynch's new book, *Google Your Family Tree*. Eastman said this book's 340+ pages give good tips on using Google for anyone, but has particularly good info relevant to genealogical searches. If you're interested, take a moment to read the review at the above URL. Gary Mokotoff also had good things to say about it in issues of *Nu? What's New?* at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V09N27.htm> and at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V09N28.htm>.

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[http://www.newyorker.com/talk/financial/2008/12/22/081222ta\\_talk\\_surowiecki](http://www.newyorker.com/talk/financial/2008/12/22/081222ta_talk_surowiecki)

Ray Marshall posted a note to the Polish Genius mailing list about a recent *New Yorker*

article, “News You Can Lose,” which discusses “the possible/probable demise of newspapers largely due to the loss of advertising to Internet companies.” (I notice *EOGN* also commented on this article.) Ray wrote: “As genealogists, many of us use newspapers for photographs, obituaries and articles about our families and the businesses and times in which they lived. Often we just save the ‘link’ to those articles to save time and computer space. I would recommend that you begin to save complete articles and obituaries and file them on your computer. There is no law prohibiting the saving of such articles for personal use. If you don’t, some morning you will wake up and find out that none of your newspaper resources will work any more.”

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<http://delicious.com>

Researcher Chris Cowan mentioned this site to me; I’d never heard of it before. It allows you to bookmark Websites and share your bookmarks with others—more useful than you might at first think!

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<http://strangemaps.wordpress.com/2008/12/15/348-an-imperial-palimpsest-on-polands-electoral-map/>

Chris also posted a note to the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list giving this URL. I found it very interesting that certain voting trends in Poland corresponded so closely to the old borders of the German partition!

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<http://www.lithuaniangenealogy.org/files/LithLangSupportWindowsVista.pdf>

Also on the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, Richard Gostautas posted a note on adding a Lithuanian keyboard for PC’s running Windows Vista and Windows XP. The page explaining how to do this for Vista is at the above URL. To get a guide for Windows XP, just substitute “XP” where “Vista” appears in the above URL, right before “pdf.” Adding a Lithuanian keyboard makes it easy to insert Lithuanian characters in typed text. I would say you can use the same basic procedure to add a Polish keyboard; the only changes you need to make are quite obvious if you follow the explanations and just change “Lithuanian” to “Polish” in most cases. You can add all sorts of languages using this same basic procedure. Just make sure you change back to English when you’re through. It is no fun to type half a page, look up at the monitor, and realize you left the Cyrillic keyboard active and have typed half a page of pure gibberish!

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<http://www.kirkuty.xip.pl/indexang.htm>

Paul S. Valasek told me about this site, devoted to Jewish cemeteries (*kirkuty*) in Poland.

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

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup, Saul Isroff suggested a visit to this site, for “Centropa: Jewish Witness to a European Century.” He described it as “an interactive database of Jewish memory ... an oral history project combining old family pictures with the stories that go with them, they interviewed more than 1,350 elderly Jews living in Central and Eastern Europe,



the former Soviet Union, and the Sephardic communities of Greece, Turkey and the Balkans.” I feel sure some of our readers will enjoy a visit to this site.

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<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/passengers-quebec-1865-1900/index-e.html>

Maralyn Wellauer-Lenius sent me and others a note full of information on this, the “Quebec City Passenger Lists Index 1865-1900 Database” that’s now online. It’s just one of many valuable resources available from Library and Archives Canada, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>.

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<http://www.digital-librarian.com/>

In another note on the newsgroup, Dr. Josh Backon highly recommended this site, which he said has an excellent genealogy section—but that’s only one of the topics covered. I don’t think I’ve ever come across it before, but I thought we all might benefit from taking a look.

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