



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/gendobry_index.htm

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

http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_VIII_6.pdf

*** MORE ON INPUTTING POLISH CHARACTERS ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

I have written before on the subject of how to input Polish characters when working online or when entering text with a word processor. In fact, I wrote an article “Why Can’t I Key In Polish Letters?” in the June 2001 issue (http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/GenDobry_vol2_no6.htm). I had hoped by now, six years later, this problem would be among the many made obsolete by advances in hardware and software. In fact, the situation is better now than it used to be. But it’s still not good enough.

I was reminded of this when I received a note from Edward David Luft, a skilled, experienced researcher, and a very intelligent man. He referred to the article in the May 2007 *Gen Dobry!* on a text-searchable version of the massive 19th-century Polish-language gazetteer, *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego*. Edward quickly spotted one of the problems with using this site:

- > Can you tell me if there is an article or other
- > posting on how to enter Polish letters when
- > doing a search? Thanks in advance for the
- > citation to any such article or URL.

As he realized, using the correct Polish characters matters. If you go to that site (located at this URL: http://www.dir.icm.edu.pl/dirop/index.php/Słownik_geograficzny/Tom_I/1) and search for “Czestochowa,” for example, you’ll find nothing. You’ll surely wonder “What the hell is wrong with this site that it doesn’t tell us anything about a town as important as Czestochowa, for crying out loud?” But the town wasn’t omitted, and hasn’t disappeared; you just have to search for it under its proper Polish spelling, *Częstochowa*. That nasal E makes all the difference! To use this feature well, it helps a lot if you can input the Polish characters, *ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ź, ś, ż, and ż*.

Granted, if you look at the help page for the site in question (http://www.dir.icm.edu.pl/dirop/html/help_slownikgeo.html), it tells you use can use ? as a wild card replacing any one letter, and * to replace any number of letters. So a search for Cz?stochowa would get the job done. The problem is, you have to be able to read Polish to use the help site! Also, for some searches, using wild cards leaves way too many options open; it returns so many matches as to be unusable. The more accurately you can search, the better your results — no surprise there, right?

Now as I say, things are better now than they used to be. For many Internet features, you can search without the special Polish characters and do just fine. Many Websites are set up to ignore the diacritical marks in languages using variations of the Roman alphabet. The Polish map site located at <http://mapa.szukacz.pl>, for instance, will let you search for “Czestochowa” and find *Częstochowa*. Google will do the same, finding plenty of sites for both with and without the nasal e. A Google search for *pinon* will find pages spelling it that way as well as its proper Spanish spelling of *piñon*; a search for “Czesky” will also find pages with the proper Czech spelling, *Český*. The great thing about this is, if you’re not quite sure how a foreign word is properly spelled, a Google search for the version with no diacritical marks will probably locate pages where it is spelled with the diacritical marks. So you not only get what you were looking for, you also get the right spelling, which you can note down for future reference.

Why bother? Because some sites, such as the *Słownik geograficzny* site mentioned above, require the spelling that is standard in the appropriate language. Also, specialized search engines will sometimes give better results if you spell words properly. Besides, you often need to know the correct spellings to find what you're looking for. In the *Słownik geograficzny*, for instance, the entry for Lachowicze starts on page 55; the entry for Łachowce is on page 566!

Another nice development is that some Polish Websites include an onscreen keyboard that allows you to input the Polish characters. One example is at <http://portalwiedzy.onet.pl/tlumacz.html>. Their Polish-Russian phrasebook at <http://portalwiedzy.onet.pl/10119,rozmowki.html> even includes a keyboard that lets you input Cyrillic characters as well. That's what I call service!

Still, if you can input Polish letters with your keyboard alone, it is useful. Often people ask me "How on earth did you find this or that?" Well, it's tempting to tell them I succeed because I'm a genius; the truth is, I know some tricks that help me find things. One of those tricks is, I always try, whenever possible, to search for words in their correct spellings in the appropriate alphabet. There's just so much you miss if you approach things by expecting the rest of the world to speak English....

So how do you input the Polish characters?

As I said before, the answer is not as simple as it should be. Unfortunately, software designers still haven't made full use of Unicode the standard, trouble-free feature that it should be. This complicates things. But maybe I can point you in the right direction.

I'm told the procedure for this is very different for Macs and for PCs, and I know nothing about Macs. This page appears to give some help with inputting foreign characters on the Mac:

<http://homepage.mac.com/thgewecke/mlingos9.html>

This page has some info on configuring a PC to insert foreign characters:

<http://www.stellimare.com/articles/Inputting%20International%20Characters.pdf>

It doesn't deal with Polish characters, because most of them are not included in the character set for which Windows is configured by default, at least in America. But the basic procedure is the same. Click on the Windows logo (in Vista) or Start (in Windows XP) in the lower left corner of your desktop; select "Control Panel"; and click on "Regional and Language Options." Once there, click on the tab that says "Keyboards and Languages" (Vista) or "Languages" (XP). One of the options is "Change Languages" (Vista) or "Details" (XP). Click on it, and you have a window that lets you select a language already installed, or add a new one. You can choose from a long list of input languages to add, and one of them is Polish. I'm told the Polish (Programmer's) keyboard is the easier one for most folks to use; don't select Polish 214, as it reverses the Y and Z and has a few other funky surprises.

Installing support for Polish via changes to "Regional and Language Options" is the best method I know of. Generally speaking, it will allow you to use the Polish characters in word processors, in e-mail, on Websites, etc.

One word of warning: not all applications will work with foreign letters. E-mail, for instance, is still iffy. The codes won't display properly if the person on the other end doesn't have his/her system set up to allow proper display of Unicode. I still sometimes get e-mails that turn foreign letters into gibberish if I view them with the AT&T/Yahoo mail program (with which I check mail first because it helps me weed out the spam). But once I use Windows Mail (Vista) or Outlook Express (XP) to view the mail I've preserved as legit, I can look at the same notes, and the foreign characters display just fine. That's because I configured those programs to display Unicode (UTF-8 coding). So we're making progress with e-mail, mailing lists, etc. But it's still not a sure thing that the letters you type will display properly on everyone else's screen.

Some people buy fonts designed to show foreign characters correctly on their screens, and to print out correctly on their printers. That approach is reliable as long as you only need it to work on your machine. But it's a "local" solution; if you try to share files, or make your work accessible to others, it may not display properly on their machines. The only way what you type shows up correctly on other machines is if the computers on both ends recognize the codes used and handle them the same way. That doesn't always happen, especially if you rely solely on "Polish fonts." Installing support for Polish via Windows' "Regional and Language Options" is more likely to work than anything else I know, because it sets your computer up to use the Unicode values that specify the character you mean, with no ambiguity. I'm glad to say these days more and more font sellers are including support for Polish and other European languages as part of the package you buy.

To sum up, this whole business of using letters not included in the English version of the Roman alphabet is still more complicated than it should be. But things are getting better. Many Websites now ignore diacriticals, so that you don't have to specify Polish *ę* to find Cześćochowa, *ł* to find Włocławek, and so on. Other Polish sites that do require use of the forms with diacriticals provide an easy way for you to input them, with a nice little onscreen keyboard. But the solution that works best, at least for me, is adding language support via the Control Panel. As with so many things in Windows, the process seems harder than it needs to be. But once you complete it successfully, it's usually not too long before you can't remember a time when inputting Polish characters was a problem!

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

Subject: *Gen Dobry!* Goes Global

Though I am sure many people from around the world read *Gen Dobry!* I thought I'd share my recent experience.

I received an e-mail from the authors of the Polish folk costume book, *Polskie stroje ludowe*. "Peter Branekov" (as spelled in his e-mail address) evidently found the July, 2005 Vol. VI, No. 7 issue of *Gen Dobry!* on the internet. I had posted information about the book on the Poland Roots' list and you kindly included it in *Gen Dobry!*

What a surprise for me! Peter wants to know about my interest in this type of book. He mentioned that two more volumes have since been published (how did I miss them?) and he had no idea there was an interest for an English-language version of the Polish folk-costume book. Needless to say, I set him straight. I have to say I hesitated because I didn't want him to spend all kinds of money publishing a translation, only to sell a dozen books; on the other hand, I think if the book is in a good price range, it would do well in English.

So, there you go. This did get me thinking about how "we" could let Polish publishers know that some books would do very well in English and of course, not just in the U.S. I don't need another project right now. ;)

Your story reminded me of an e-mail I received recently in French asking why I had the right to "publish" his parents' headstone. He didn't give me his name, his parents' names, nor where he saw this. I responded asking him all of the above, in French of course, but he didn't write back.

Sometimes it's not worth chewing through the restraints.

Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>

Editor – Well, some days you're the windshield, and some days you're the bug. I don't know how to say that in French, but it seems to be a universal truth. I can understand why he might want to ask the question; but I don't know what he gained by ignoring your civilized attempts to respond. For another perspective on "publishing," see the article "Boo, NokTree.com" below.

Subject: Poles at Jamestown

Editor—Armella Hammes sent me this note, referring to the brief history of Jamestown in our last issue, and the fact that Poles at Jamestown went on strike for better working conditions:

Thought you might like to hear my husband's suggestion for Polish-Americans in 2008. Since the Poles performed the first strike in America, he thought it would be appropriate for them to dress in period costumes at Jamestown and walk around with posters saying, STRAJK!

Just a thought.

Armela Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

Editor—That would make for a really interesting clip on the news! Maybe a few of them could also carry Solidarność banners!

Subject: Contact Joseph Hludzenski

*Editor—This note came in reference to my reply some years ago to a gentleman named Joseph Hludzenski, regarding the surnames **Chludziński** and **Karwowski** posted on the PolishRoots Website at http://www.polishroots.org/surnames/surnames_7.htm.]*

Hello, I have a different request of you. When I was looking at this web site the following information came up, which I believe you answered. This person was looking for relatives and I know this is my family that he is speaking of. If you have another way of contacting this person, could you please give him my e-mail address. The e-mail address given is no longer in use? I wonder when this was written to you?

Aniela <aneilaj@hotmail.com>

Editor—I'm afraid I don't have any more information than what appears on the Website. I can't say for sure when the note was written, but I'm sure it was at least three or four years ago, maybe longer. I have not heard from this gentleman again, so I don't have a current e-mail address. All I can hope is that one of our readers knows Mr. Hludzenski or can contact him and help you two get together. Folks, can any of you help?

Subject: Storks

My sister sent more bocianki videos - this time on Youtube at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_XZJ0roYiE

Have you seen any of these? There are dozens of videos here.

John C. Jernigan <heritage-arts@att.net>

Editor—No, I hadn't seen those; thanks for sending them along. Actually, I was pretty sad and lost some interest in viewing storks when the nestlings at the Ustroń nest — the offspring of the birds named Beskidek and Czantorka Ustroński by their fans — died. I guess we sometimes need to be reminded: Mother Nature plays for keeps, and she isn't always gentle.

***** POZNAŃ PROJECT UPDATE *****

by *Lukasz Bielecki* <bielecki@rose.man.poznan.pl>

[Editor – Here is the latest update on the Poznań Marriage Record Indexing Project from Łukasz Bielecki.]

Dear friends of the Poznań Project,

As every two months, just a few notes on the progress of our Poznań/Posen Marriage Indexing Project.

On May 31, a new layout was created for the page with presentation of the Project database contents. Please find it under:

http://www.discovering-roots.pl/poznan_project/dbase.htm

Now, not only the parishes present in the database are listed but also those for which volunteers are still “wanted.” The status of each parish is shortly described and studying the progress of each area you are interested in is facilitated.

In future, the volunteers will only be annotated in that site and no more on the long list which exists now.

The following new parishes have appeared over the last two months:

Catholic: Babimost, Lisewo Kościelne, Gębice, Kruszwica, Szubin, Kleszczewo, Izdebno, Ryszewko, Kleczew, Niepart, Kunowo, Środa, Poniec, Łęgowo-Tarnowo, Łukowo, Keblowo, Roznowo, Ptaszkowo, Sadki

Lutheran: Gniezno/Gnesen, Kłęcko/Kletzko, Witkowo, Szydłowiec/Schidlowitz, Poznań Holy Cross/Posen-Kreuzkirche

Some additions have been made to parishes present in the database for a longer time already.

Also, a major rectification has been done in order to unify some aspects of the format, etc. This will not much affect the users, but will certainly make it easier for me to include new parishes in future.

More and more people are reporting finding their ancestors and relatives in the database. This is due to the growing number of records, which now approaches 150,000; and 151 Catholic parishes are now included (29 Lutheran). The percentage of Catholic records covered from the Project time frame is close to 1/4 now. Please note that the areas from which emigration was most massive in the 19th century are actually even better covered, usually in about 1/3 of records already indexed. On the other hand, we still have very little from the Southern districts.

I wish all of you successful hits in your future Poznań Project database searches.

Thank you very much for adding new indexes to our database. Also, I appreciate all the donations sent to support the Project and all new declarations to index parishes and/or providing scans of microfilms.

The database search site is available under:

<http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/~bielecki/search.php>

With best regards,

Lukasz Bielecki

***** CHECK THE WEATHER IN POLAND *****

Editor—Debbie Greenlee posted this note to the Polish Genius mailing list, and I thought it was worth passing along to all of our readers. Consider it advice from one who's been there and knows what she's talking about

I know some members of Polish Genius will be going to Poland this summer. I just wanted to suggest that those lucky folks check the weather for the areas they will be visiting. Poland has had an unusually hot spring/going into summer. Unless you stay in 5-star hotels (very expensive and only in the really big cities) you won't have air conditioning (see below for caveat).

To compensate for the lack of coolness, you might want to buy a couple of battery-operated hand-held fans, along with a supply of batteries. These were invaluable to me on several trips to Poland.

Rental cars with air conditioning can be requested either in an automatic or manual transmission, but it does add to the cost of the car. If you have extra space in your suitcase and are renting a car, consider packing and then using a nylon car shade so you can sit on the seats of the car after it's been parked in the sun.

There are malls in the larger cities of Poland, as well as large, new supermarkets which also have air conditioning. Don't expect your relatives to even have table fans, though these can be purchased for about \$10.00 and up. That makes a nice gift when you leave.

Web sites with Poland weather information:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ds57j>

Click on the Polish cities of interest.

General weather map of Poland:

<http://tinyurl.com/yph7ow>

Scroll down for a list of more cities with weather information.

Keep in mind villages won't be found on any of these web sites, only the larger cities. Also, check to see at what time the temperature was recorded. Poland uses "military" time or a 24 hour clock.

Pogoda = weather

Once you find the temperatures you might need a conversion chart. Poland's temperatures are in Celsius whereas the U.S. measures in Fahrenheit. Here is one conversion Chart:

<http://www.metric-conversions.org/temperature-conversion.htm>

Caveat: check with the hotel to make sure it has "U.S." air conditioning. I stayed in a new, expensive Warsaw hotel in 2005 that supposedly had air conditioning. Au contraire! I had to use the cool setting on my hair dryer for relief!

Enjoy yourselves!

Debbie <daveg@airmail.net>

[Editor— Debbie also posted a very good note to the Polish Genius list on 29 June, full of with pointers on traveling to Poland. It's a little too long to quote here, but if you're planning a trip to Poland soon, I strongly advise you to read it. You should be able to access it if you click on this link: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polish_genius/message/6415.]

*** 1829 DESCRIPTION OF PRUSSIA ***

submitted by Julian J. Hoppe, Posen, MI <jjhoppe@gmail.com>

Editor—Julian Hoppe very kindly sent me the following item, which quotes an 1829 work describing various nations and peoples. In the last issue we printed the entry on Poland; here is the entry for "The Prussian Dominions."

THE PRUSSIAN DOMINIONS

The Prussian states consist principally of two territories, entirely detached from each other. The eastern and much the largest division is bounded N. by the Baltic; E. by Russia and the new kingdom of Poland; S. by Austria, the kingdom of Saxony and the Saxe dutchies; and W. by Hesse-Cassel, Hanover, Brunswick, and Mecklenburg. The western division is bounded N. by the Netherlands and Hanover ; E. by Waldeck, Hesse-Cassel, Nassau, Hesse-Darmstadt, and the Bavarian circle of the Rhine; S. by France, and W. by the Netherlands There is besides, the canton of Neufchatel in Switzerland, which is subject to Prussia. The eastern division contains 87,169 square miles, the western division 18,271, and the canton of Neufchatel 330; in all, 105,770. Population 9,904,549. Population on a square mile 94.

Persons and Dress of the Prussians

The manners and customs of a country, composed of such various inhabitants, recently united under one sovereignty, must of course be discordant. Silesia and the Slavonic regions, however, contain many peculiarities, which distinguish them from the German territories. The reign of the Great Frederick, who entertained a predilection for the French language and manners, contributed to impart a similar tinge to his subjects.

Modern travelers do not appear to have been much impressed with any striking dissimilitude in their persons between the Prussians and the common Germans. In comparison with the Saxons, who are a lively and contented people, the Prussians appear dull and gloomy; a character which is imputed partly to the military government, and partly to the general anxiety which has been excited by the dangers to which their country has been exposed, when contending with the powers of Russia and Austria, and in latter years we add with France.

The Poles, of whom nearly three million have been subjects of Prussia, are full of life and action, but their features have more of the Asiatic cast than the European. Men of all ranks wear whiskers, and shave their heads, leaving only a circle of hair upon their crown. The summer dress of the peasant consists of nothing but a shirt and drawers of coarse linen, without shoes or stockings, without shoes or stockings, with round caps or hats. The women of the lower class wear upon their heads a wrapper of white linen, under which their hair is braided, and hangs down in two plaits. Several of them have a long piece of white linen hanging round the side of their faces, and covering their bodies below their knees, which makes them appear as if they were doing penance.

The dress of the higher orders, both men and women, is uncommonly elegant. That of the gentlemen is a waistcoat with sleeves; over this they wear an upper robe of a different color, which reaches down below the knee, and is fastened round the waist with a sash or girdle; the sleeves of this upper garment are, in warm weather, tied behind the shoulders; a saber is a necessary part of their dress as a mark of nobility. In summer the robe is of silk; in winter of cloth, velvet, or stuff, edged with fur; they wear fur caps or bonnets, and buskins of yellow leather, the heels of which are plated with iron or steel. The dress of the ladies is a simple polonaise, or long robe edged with fur. The Polish peasants differ widely in their dress from the Russian: the former in particular shaving their heads, leaving on a circle of hair in the middle, while the Russians wear their hair down to the eyebrows, over the eyes, and cut around the neck.

Of the Climate and Products of Prussia

During four months in summer the air is temperate, warm, and pleasant, and the weather is generally favorable for bringing the fruits of the earth to maturity; but the winter is long and severe, and the autumns are often wet and stormy. The soil is fruitful in corn, flax, hemp, fruit, hops, and pasture.

Prussia also abounds with cattle, a good breed of horses, sheep, deer, and game: wild beasts, such as bears, wolves, lynxes, wild boars, and foxes, are not uncommon in this kingdom. The lakes and rivers furnish a supply of fish; and on the coasts of the Baltic are found great quantities of amber, in which are often enclosed leaves, minerals, insects, grains of sand, &c. from which it could seem that it was once a fluid state, at which time the insects that alighted upon it were caught, and by their struggles to get loose, soon work themselves into its substance, which hardening around them, they are for ever preserved in the greatest perfection.

Under the polite administration of the late sovereign of Prussia, every art and manufacture improved and increased; and those of glass, iron works, silk, cloth, camblet, linen, stockings, paper, powder, and copper and brass are very much increasing. Being well situated for trade, the extension of which

is promoted by a college of commerce and navigation. Prussia carries on a considerable foreign traffic; and to allure foreign merchants and artisans to bring their ingenuity, industry, and monied capital into Prussia, it has been the customs of the present sovereign to offer the most flattering privileges to strangers of this character who will settle in his territories.

Of the Manners and Customs of Berlin

Berlin consists of five wards, exclusive of large suburbs, and the wards are usually separated by canals: the streets are broad and spacious, and some of them are from a mile to two miles and a half long. The houses are neatly built of white freestone, generally one, or at most two stories high. It is one of the finest cities of Europe, and has nothing of that uniformity which is so apparent in most of the new and regular built towns. The architecture, the distribution of the building the appearance of the squares, the plantation of trees both in these and the streets, every thing exhibits taste and variety. The contrast of this beauty and magnificence, with the circumstances of the people, is very striking. Sometimes, while a person stands gazing at the beauty of a building finely stuccoed with a magnificent front, and all the outward appearance of the habitation of a prince, on a sudden a window opens in the lower story, and a cobbler hangs out a pair of boots; on the second story a tailor will hang out a waistcoat; or other parts of the male dress; or a woman will empty a dish of potatoe-paring on the passengers. A few steps farther, from the top of a house, in appearance a palace, a Jew will salute you from the attic, asking you if you have anything to exchange; in the next story you see linen hanging out to dry, which belongs to an officer, shaving himself by the side of it, and who appears in great poverty.

In all private houses a rigid economy prevails in the kitchen, cellar, &c. ; the only article of expense is dress, and the ladies deny themselves common indulgences for the sake of powder and millinery. They dress very fashionably, and some with great taste and magnificence.

Source: *A Geographical View of the World, embracing the Manners, Customs and Pursuits of Every Nation; founded on The Best Authorities.* By Rev. J. Goldsmith. Author of *Grammar of Geography, Grammar of British Geography, &c.* Second American Edition, Revised, Corrected, and Improved by James G. Percival M.D. Illustrated by Eight Copperplate Views New York D.M. Jewett 1829. Pgs. 50–52.

Editor—Many thanks to Mr. Hoppe for submitting this very interesting item!

***** BOOK: FOR YOUR FREEDOM AND OURS *****

Editor—We always like to spread information about Polish-related books, and Paul S. Valasek passed along this item on a book you may not have heard about.

For Your Freedom and Ours

CASIMIR PULASKI 1745-1779

by **Antoni Lenkiewicz and Ted Kwiatkowski**

130 pages, illustrated, with maps and index

Edited by Regina Gorzkowski-Rossi.

Cover Design by Victor Guirard.

Sponsored by Pro Arte Associates.

Oficyna BWT , Wrocław, Poland 2004

ISBN 83-88826-29-8

5'12" x 8'4" -- \$ 15.00 (plus postage)

Available from Pro Arte Associates

Museum Towers, Suite 1513

1801 Buttonwood Street

Philadelphia PA 19130

Tel. 215 563 6669, E-mail: proarterg@yahoo.com

This commemorative issue was published on the 225th anniversary of Pulaski's death. It was released on Pulaski Day, October 3 in historic Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and on Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 8-11, simultaneously in Pulaski's birthplace, Warka, Poland, and the site of his heroic death, Savannah, Georgia. This new book covers both periods of Pulaski's life, in Poland and in America. The author, a historian with legal training, revised the proceedings of the politicized trial against Pulaski. By pinpointing flagrant procedural lapses, he cleared Pulaski's name of the charge of "regicide" that had lingered for centuries. Exiled from Poland, Pulaski traveled, via France and Turkey, to America where he found a new purpose defending the American Colonies against the British.

A soft-cover pocket book edition, complete with maps and illustrations, it offers sound, breakthrough scholarship on Pulaski at a price calculated for a student's wallet and festival sales.

Antoni Lenkiewicz, a historian and a doctor of law, was a Solidarity activist, political prisoner and then, with the change of fortune, a councilman and publisher in Wrocław. A prolific writer, he has published hundreds of articles and several biographies. A watcher of the current political scene, he has been publishing his monthly bulletin, "Wrocławska Gazeta Polska," since 1994. Ted Kwiatkowski, California architect, translator and writer, was the author's principal English adopter and consultant.

"The book is written with an understanding and sympathy for Pulaski's life," Leszek Szymański, author of *Casimir Pulaski: A Hero of the American Revolution*.

"It is both a popular, almost fictional work for a pleasurable pursuit and, at same time, a sound work of history," Ted Kwiatkowski, author of *Serendipity*.

"I am convinced that the book will contribute to increasing interest in Pulaski among broader circles

of Polish Americans,” Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska, Consul General of the Polish Republic, New York, N.Y.

*** **BOO, NOKTREE.COM** ***

Editor—Barbara Proko <lida_ancestors@yahoo.com> passed along this exchange of e-mails with prominent genealogy writer Dick Eastman, publisher of EOGN [Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter] regarding a genealogy site called NokTree.com. Barbara thought we might like to see it.

Original note:

Wed, 30 May 2007 16:59:51 -0700 (PDT)

“Barbara Proko” said:

Hello Dick Eastman,

I just stumbled upon something extremely disturbing online, and am wondering if you’re familiar with NokTree.com. I read *EOGN* every day and don’t recall reading about this site.

Basically, I just Googled myself (“Barbara Proko”), which I do occasionally to keep tabs on possible comments/reviews of my Arcadia Publishing books. Lo and behold, the first hit on the list was this:

[URL deleted - we should respect Barbara’s privacy, even if NokTree.com doesn’t...]

Which is personal data about me, my children, my parents, my ex-spouses, you name it, that I have never never never submitted to any Web site. Given that all of us are living (except my dad), you can imagine how horrified I was to see everyone’s birth data. The submitter was listed as “nokbot,” which might as well be “anonymous.” The “families” associated with “nokbot” have nothing to do with me—totally meaningless strange names.

For all kinds of obvious reasons, I want my family’s data deleted from this site, and I can’t find any way to do it or contact anyone.

Are you familiar with this? I am horrified, shocked, disgusted, and I feel thoroughly violated — not just for myself but for my children, sister, mother, etc.. etc., etc.

If you know of any way to have data removed from this site, I would very much appreciate reading about it on *EOGN*.

Many thanks for your great work,

Barbara Proko
New Britain CT

=====
[Dick Eastman's reply:]

Dick Eastman <richard@eastman.net> wrote:
Thank you for writing.

I am not familiar with the site but just took a quick look at it. I looked at the information about you. It appears that all the information is public domain and I suspect all that is available elsewhere as well. Birth records, marriages records, property transfers, many telephone directories and more are all public domain and can be published most anyplace. There are many other publishers of public domain information about living persons other than NokTree. I see you are listed on ZabaSearch, the only other site that I took time to look at.

Many people are concerned about privacy but are not able to do anything without changing our laws. By the way, these are the same laws that genealogists often rely on to find information about our ancestors.

I know that is not the answer you want but it is fact.

- Dick Eastman

=====
[Barbara answered:]

Dick Eastman,

Thanks very much for taking the time that you did and responding so quickly.

While data on individuals might indeed be very easy to come by online, especially if they want to pay money for something like an Intelius search, there are two things that trouble me about seeing it displayed this way on a public genealogy site.

1. "Mother's maiden name" — this bit of info has been used for decades in all kinds of financial contexts as one of the "passwords" that confirms a person as the owner of a bank account, credit card account, etc. Displaying several living generations within a family tree online makes it ridiculously easy to see what someone's mother's maiden name is, thus facilitating identity theft and access to their bank/credit accounts. (Granted, in the past couple years, people are now often advised not to use their m.m.n. anymore, but it is still in very wide use.)
2. I have always been under the impression that it is common courtesy, for general protection of family members' privacy, for a genealogist not to publicly share detailed info about living persons in their family tree, and particularly not online.

I did some more digging into NokTree.com and realize that all this information was first put online in 1999-2000 by one of my cousins (now deceased), who set up what was then a password-protected family site on Ancestry. To me, it seemed very naive on his part, and I resented the fact that he displayed all my family's data this way, but he was confident that no one would be able to access it outside a select few people he invited to view the site. Well, eight years later, the whole world can see it.

I also found NokTree's privacy policy, which is rather horrifying. I am going to have to go to great lengths to remove my family's data from their site. I can't believe that the world needs a genealogy site like NokTree. I think an operation like NokTree does serious disservice to the ethics that should be inherent in genealogy. This is exactly the kind of operation that fuels the fire of legislative proposals to limit public access to records.

Barbara Proko

Editor — It's a dilemma, all right. I wish I could suggest something brilliant. But I have a feeling we're all going to have to work this out, one painful step at a time. In the meantime, let's end on a positive note: Barbara's new book, Worcester County's Polish Community, will be released Monday, Sept. 17. So keep your eyes open for that!

*** POLISH TRIVIA QUESTIONS ***

Editor: In the last issue we gave 5 questions from a Polish trivia game PolishRoots Vice President Paul Valasek <paval56@aol.com> came across. The answers to those questions appear below, followed by this month's questions, the answers to which will appear in the next issue. We want to thank Tom Bratkowski for permission to reprint these.

Answers to the Questions in the May Issue:

Category: General

— Q. What church was founded by Fr. Francis Hodur?

— A. The Polish National Catholic Church

— Q. Who wrote, "To be vanquished and not surrender - that is victory"?

— A. Marshall Piłsudski

— Q. At what university did Pope John Paul II teach?

— A. The Jagiellonian University

— Q. What Polish king is an ancestor to most European royal families?

— A. King Kazimierz the Jagiellonian

- Q. What did Kościuszko direct to be done in his will with his American property?
— A. That proceeds be used to free and educate American slaves.

New Questions for the June Issue

Category: History

1. What calamity struck Poland in 1362?
2. Who said, “I could not submit to stoop before the sovereigns of Europe, so I came here to hazard all for the freedom of America?”
3. Under whose rule was the University of Kraków founded in 1364?
4. What was the nickname of the 58th Regiment of New York Volunteer Infantry in the U.S. Civil War?
5. With what two countries did Poland form defensive alliances in 1921?

Reprinted with permission from Polish American Trivia & Quadri-ivia, Powstan, Inc. If interested in learning more, contact Paul Valasek <paval56@aol.com>.

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

July 14, 2007

***WYCINANKI* WORKSHOP**

at the **Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, Illinois**

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Reservations are required. Call 773-384-3352 ex. 104

[From the Website <http://pma.prcua.org/eventsen.asp>]

Sunday, July 15 - Friday, July 20, 2007

27TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Salt Lake City, Utah

Website: <http://www.slc2007.org> (online registration, all event details)

Contact: <information@slc2007.org>

Hosted by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (www.iajgs.org), this year's premiere Jewish genealogy event includes the following highlights:

- Networking with international researchers, experts and Eastern European archivists
- A film festival with Jewish and genealogical themes
- Breakfasts with Family History Library regional resource experts
- Popular computer training workshops in basic/advanced essential skills for researchers
- Special photographic exhibits
- Resource room with access to many specialized databases and other materials
- Special interest group meetings and luncheons
- Utilizing the FHL's extensive resources
- Vendor room
- Tours and more.

The intensive 5 1/2 day program of lectures, panels, tracks and workshops will cover the following research areas:

- Eastern/Central/Western Europe
- Israel (pre/post-1948)
- Genetics/DNA
- Holocaust
- Immigration/naturalization/migration
- Jewish history/sociology
- Methodology
- Sephardic/Mizrahi
- Non-European (e.g. India, China)
- Photograph/document preservation
- Rabbinic research
- Repositories
- South/Central America
- Technology/Internet resources
- U.S./North America (includes specific locales), and
- Yiddish theater/Jewish music.

For all event details, including easy online registration, go to the frequently updated website, <http://www.slc2007.org>.

[Based on information provided by Schelly Talalay Dardashti <publicity@slc2007.org.>]

August 11, 2007

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA
FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR**

Guest speaker: Ceil Wendt Jensen, CGRS

Weingart Senior Center, 5220 Oliva Avenue, Lakewood, California
(Located 2 miles north of the Long Beach Airport, near the intersection of Lakewood and Del Amo
Boulevards)

Check-in: 9:00 a.m.

Seminar: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Lectures:

- 1) Strategies for Locating Ancestral Villages: Four Case Studies
- 2) Understanding Migration and Immigrant Communities
- 3) Professional Techniques for the Family Genealogist
- 4) Planning a Trip for Polish Research

Registration fee includes a morning snack and a delicious catered Polish luncheon

Members PGS-CA \$40.00

Non-Members \$50.00

Late registration [after July 28] add \$10.00

Send check payable to PGS-CA, with registration form to:

PGS-CA Seminar

c/o Janice Lipinski

5319 Via del Valle

Torrance, CA 90505-6239

Info - Phone: 310-378-0877

E-mail: <President@pgsca.org>

Website: www.pgsca.org

A confirmation letter, map and directions will be sent in July.

September 26-28, 2007

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
“BRIDGES TO THE PAST”**

At the Schaumburg Marriott in Schaumburg, Illinois

Speakers will include:

- Steve Morse, speaking on the various tools at his One-Step site, www.stevemorse.org;

- Matthew Bielawa, Webmaster of www.halgai.com, speaking on these subjects: Finding Your Village, Gazetteers, Vital Records, and Repatriation and Resettlement of Ethnic Poles;
- Chita Hunter, speaking on the use of Photoshop Elements and Adobe Acrobat;
- Marg Nowaczyk, speaking on genetics and DNA studies, and diseases from *Libri Mortuorum* [death registers] as they pertain to our ancestors;
- Dirk Wales, speaking on Kazimierz Pułaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko, heroes of the American Revolution;
- and our own Paul S. Valasek, speaking on Haller's Army.

Check the PGSA Website at www.pgsa.org, where details will presumably be posted as they become available.

Friday and Saturday, October 3-4, 2007

PGSCTNE 2007 POLISH GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut

Sponsored by the Polish and Polish American Studies Program, Central Connecticut State University. We will be featuring **Dr. Stephen Morse**, who will be lecturing on "Searching the Ellis Island Database on the One-Step Website."

There will also be a Polish history lecture by **Dr. Mieczysław Biskupski** and a Beginner's Workshop.

October 20, 2007

PGS-MICHIGAN'S ANNUAL POLISH RESEARCH SEMINAR

American Polish Cultural Center -Hall #2
 2975 E. Maple Rd. (15 Mile Rd)
 Troy, Michigan 48083
 (use Dequindre entrance)

Here are the speakers and their topics:

Ceil Jensen, "Detroit Polonia's Photo Studios and Finding Aid"

Paul S. Valasek, "Haller's Army, aka Polish Army in France" and "Tracing the 20th Century Immigrant"

Bill Gorski, "The J. William Gorski Collection at the Library of Michigan and Michigan State Archives and Slide Presentation of Southeastern Michigan Polish Churches"

Registration: 8:30 a.m., Seminar: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Includes a Delicious Polish-Style Lunch

**First 100 registrants receive a free workshop packet

Registration fee: \$50.00 before October 10 (after that date it's \$60.00)

For the registration form and more information visit this PGSM Website page:

http://www.pgsm.org/index_015.htm

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/>

On the Poland-Roots mailing list, Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> mentioned this site, which offers an online Polish course. She added, "It is from the University of Pittsburgh and has audio and small video clips imbedded. There are supplementary stories and a glossary. It is a well thought out program, and, best of all, most features are free online." I think we've mentioned this site in *Gen Dobry!* before, but it bears repeating.

<http://www.sejmwielki.pl>

On the Herbarz list, Marek Jerzy Minakowski, Ph.D., answered a question about updating information to his database online at this site. It comprises part of a larger database available on a CD-ROM, "Ci wielcy Polacy to nasza rodzina / These Great Poles are Our Family," which can be purchased from his Website, www.przodkowie.com for US\$31.00. The online database deals with "the parents of Sejm Wielki [The Great Sejm] members, all their descendants, accompanied by their spouses and parents-in-law. It is free but available only in the Internet. Today it contains almost 50 thousand people, living since 18th to 21st century." He accepts additions and corrections in any form, as he's trying to make it as comprehensive as possible. Take a look—maybe you'll find some ancestors there!

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

Paul Valasek pointed this site out. He said, "It's interesting because it emphasizes genealogy in the mining areas of Northern Minnesota. Homepage is I believe Hibbing, MN. Definitely Poles up there." Yes, I imagine there are, though Hibbing's most famous son is a gentleman named Robert Zimmerman. Most of us know him better as Bob Dylan.

<http://mypolonia.blogspot.com>

Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> wrote to mention this site, which includes her blog on Keith Famie's video "Our Polish Story." If you have Michigan roots and couldn't see the documentary, take a look!

<http://mapy.eholiday.pl/>

On the Poland Roots list, Laura Hine said she had found this, which she called “a great mapping Website for Poland today ... In the upper left-hand corner there is a search box labelled ‘miejsowość.’ Type in a town name (name has to be in the Polish spelling) and hit <Enter>. If there is just one town by that name, a map will appear. If there is more than one town by that name, you will get a listing showing the gmina, powiat and woj. Choose one and let the map load. Once loaded, you grab and scan to the left and right, up and down or use the directional arrows. Click on ‘Satelitarna’ in the upper right hand corner and see a satellite map. Or, better yet, click on ‘Hybrydowa’ and get the satellite map with the town names labeled.

<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/Content/56413/directory.djvu>

On the Polish Genius list C. Michael Eliaz mike@eliaz.com mentioned this site dealing with Haller’s Army, the group of Poles who fought in World War I (about whom Paul Valasek recently published an excellent book). It lists soldiers killed and wounded. Mr. Eliaz added that there is a searchable index of the book; he gave a very long URL, but I think the same index is available at <http://www.genealodzy.pl/name-Straty.phtml>, and also in tabular form at this site: <http://www.stankiewicz.e.pl/index.php?kat=28&sub=334>. Mr. Eliaz added, “Of my two ancestors, I was able to find that one of mine died in the war. This helped me explain what happened (since to me it looked like he just disappeared and I was wondering if he went back to Poland). The other safely returned and he was found in Ellis Island records returning from his Haller’s Army service in 1920.”

<http://www.poland.pl/archives/index.htm>

On the Poland-Roots list Alan J. Kania ajkania@comcast.net said he visited the site and found “an interesting side-bar ... These don’t include specific searches, but they provide examples of specific historic documents and overall views of documents of particular eras.” If you love Polish history, you should definitely examine this site’s offerings.

<http://genealogija.lt/>

Greg Sevelis, a recent contributor of a fine article to *Protėviai*, the Journal of the Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society, wrote a note to make sure I knew about this Lithuanian genealogical association’s Website. If you have Lithuanian roots, this site is one to keep an eye on, as it grows and improves. Unfortunately, it does not yet offer any content in English.

<http://www.mipolonia.us/testcalc/test.html>

Ceil Jensen cjensen@mipolonia.net wanted to let us know about a nice tool that Mike Smith developed and allowed her to post to her site. “You can put in a great-great-grandmother’s birth date and get an estimate when she married and how many children she had. Even when she died! Try it for great-great-grandfather, too! Try it out and let me know what you think.”

<http://www.allmend-ru.de/etc/transliteration.html>

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup, Tom Klein mentioned this site, which does “automated online transliteration from Cyrillic to Latin letters ... This is most useful for people like me who know nothing about Russian or the Cyrillic alphabet.” Since I know this issue gives more than a few researchers fits, I thought I’d mention it.

<http://www.familyreedna.com/jgene.html>

In the June 17 issue of *Nu? What’s New?*, Gary Mokotoff provided information about FamilyTreeDNA’s “Jewish DNA Central,” a central repository “where Jews can have their DNA sample matched against the thousands of samples already in the database. The company has reported that their Ashkenazic Jewish collection has grown so large that it has reached critical mass.” Gary said he and Sallyann Sack feel strongly that Jews should deal with one and only one DNA matching service; and this one has some impressive successes. For more info you can visit the site at the above address, or you can read the issue of *Nu?* at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V08N12.htm>.

<http://museumoffamilyhistory.com/sm.htm>

On the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish, Steven Lasky <steve@museumoffamilyhistory.com> wrote: “I have put online two more ‘Guides to Pronunciation,’ one for Polish and one for Romanian. This is in addition to the guides I have already created for Magyar (Hungarian) and Lithuanian. The Polish list is unusually large, with the names of 220 Polish towns and cities properly pronounced by a native Polish speaker. These four guides, replete with sound clips and tables of pronunciation, may help us all gain a better knowledge of the nuances of each language, and may help us better communicate correctly with others, whether it be with our fellow genealogists, or when we travel to a particular country. Another benefit to learning how to pronounce the name of a town correctly is that one may be able to imagine other spellings for the town name, however incorrect, that may be listed incorrectly on a ship manifest, for example. I hope to create at minimum two more lists, one for Russian and another one for Yiddish. You can find the links for these guides on my Site Map page under ‘Education and Research Center’” ... I mentioned this page in the last *Gen Dobry!*, but I overlooked the valuable guide to pronouncing Polish names, which should be of particular interest to our readers.

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2007/06/roots-for-kids-.html

In a recent issue of EOGN [Eastman’s Online Genealogical Newsletter], Dick Eastman wrote about *Roots for Kids: A Genealogy Guide for Young People*. As he rightly says, we should start paying attention to getting young people interested in genealogy. I hear all the time from people 40+ saying they wish they’d started researching when they were younger and their older relatives were still around to help them. So let’s quit whining and do something about it! This article, and the book it discusses, could be a good start. The book is by Susan Provost Beller, and is published by Genealogical Publishing Company, ISBN 9780806317779. Eastman says you can buy it online “for \$19.95 plus taxes and shipping from the publisher’s safe and secure online ordering system at <http://www.genealogical.com/products/Roots%20for%20Kids%20%202nd%20Edition/422.html>.

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2007/06/international-b.html

EOGN also ran an article recently on the International Black Sheep Society of Genealogists, which you can read here. “Membership is restricted to those who can trace a direct family line to a murderer, thief, gang member, or another among a host of reprobates.” As one who has a fair share of scumbags among his ancestors, I figure I’ve gotta love this society!

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