



Gen Dobry!

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Editor: William F. "Fred" Hoffman, E-mail: <wfh@langline.com>

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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_VII_10.pdf

*** TRANSLATION SOFTWARE: UPDATE ***

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

Back in August 2000, in the second issue of *Gen Dobry!*, I wrote an article entitled “Polish Translation Software—Wishful Thinking?” It was a rather long article, and I probably could have shortened it to three words: “Wishful Thinking? Yes!” Still, after re-reading it just now, I think I got it more or less right. (If you’d like to read it, the text is available at http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/GenDobry_vol1_no2.htm).

A few weeks ago I received the following e-mail from a nice fellow I’ve corresponded with several times:

- > I’m emailing you because I’m frustrated beyond belief with
- > respect to our Polish language. Since you are a linguist and
- > have knowledge concerning the most difficult of subjects, I
- > have to ask: Just what is it about this language that defies
- > today’s translation software ??

So this same question is still plaguing researchers. Polish is not an easy language to learn, and as far as I know, there still isn’t reliable, affordable software to help. I thought I’d revisit this subject, and focus on the answer to the question: what is it about this language that defies translation software?

For one thing, Polish has a large vocabulary, and English has an even larger vocabulary; so there are a lot of words that have to be matched up. Also, Polish is what they call a highly inflected language; that means most of those words have multiple forms, what with all the endings that can be added. You cannot ignore those endings; the differences between them can have a huge impact on their meaning. Poles can say “Man bites dog” and mean “Dog bites man” because the endings on the words tell you who did what to whom. English doesn’t have that kind of flexibility. So just dealing with the sheer number of words, and the order in which they’re arranged, presents a huge problem for translation software, even before you start tackling all the other problems.

I don’t know of any software packages that do a decent job with the highly inflected languages such as Polish, Lithuanian, and Russian. In theory it’s possible to write programs that could handle the job. But it would require constant access to a CD or even a DVD with massive vocabulary files, plus a module that takes the translated words and puts them together while taking into account the shades of meaning expressed by the endings; and then it would have to express that in comprehensible English. The large vocabulary files, with an adequate search engine, wouldn’t be so tough; but the interpretation module would require some pretty sophisticated programming. I used to write a little assembly-language code, so I have some slight understanding of programming basics. But I haven’t a clue how you could even start to tackle this job. (And, judging by the results of the translation software I’ve seen, neither do the guys who’ve tried to, so far.)

I’m sure there are smart boys out there who could figure it out; but they’re not going to work for free. As always, money is a big factor. So far, no one I know of has made the huge investment necessary to produce great translating software for Polish—probably because no one thinks he’ll get a decent return on that investment. I figure if there ever is a breakthrough, it will come from

Poles, who may find a way eventually to write software that handles the translations decently. Sadly, I don't think most English-speaking software professionals see a large market among English-speakers needing help with Polish; and as for Poles needing help with English, that doesn't even occur to them. So if this is going to get done, I think it will be done by Poles looking for a way to help their fellow countrymen deal with English. Some Polish entrepreneur might recognize the potential market there.

So far I haven't heard of anything like this, however. I think part of the problem is, Poles generally aren't as intimidated by learning a language as we are. They grow up recognizing the value of being multilingual, so learning a language isn't quite the monumental undertaking for them that it is for Americans. If they need to deal with English, they just shrug and start learning it. They don't figure there's any need for software to do the job for them. So again, I don't know if anyone is likely to invest the kind of time and money necessary to produce workable Polish ↔ English translation software.

Note, too, that most translation software is written with emphasis on the modern forms of the language, especially for business usage; that's where the money is, after all. A lot of the terms you encounter in documents of genealogical value are archaic; most Poles alive now don't even know what they meant. For instance, ask a Pole what *komornik* means, and he'll probably say "debt collector." That term was used for officials who collected debts; but in old records it can refer to a category of peasant, one too poor to afford his own home, so he boarded with a richer peasant, whose fields he worked to pay for his room and board. Those who do Polish genealogical research run into this term a lot; many of our ancestors were *komornicy*, and I don't mean debt collectors! But I've encountered very few Poles who know the word used to mean that.

So even if a top-notch translation package is offered, it will probably focus on modern terminology and be aimed at businessmen, not genealogists—again, because of money. Businessmen will pay for something like that; most genealogists won't. Or at least that's the perception....

I wish I had better news for you, but I've never seen a translation program for Polish that didn't suck eggs. And I'm not holding my breath waiting for one. Rightly or wrongly, I don't think most of the guys who put up money for software see a large enough market to justify the expense of creating such software. And it will require a substantial investment!

That's how I see it. If you know of good, reasonably priced translation software that can do a really good job translating Polish to English and vice versa, please let me know, and I'll spread the word. This is one time I would love to be proved wrong!

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

Subject: Masculine and feminine surnames

In the August issue of *Gen Dobry!* you discuss the *-i* and the *-a* of Polish names. I have been indexing the marriage records of Poznań for Łukasz Bielecki and the periods of 1835-1885 do not have a complete consistency even back then. It appears that it all depended on the recorder.

When I thought about it a little more it seems that the scribes in the smaller churches were less careful with the spelling and the handwriting. Sometimes they also got mixed up with the Latin and Polish spelling of the given names, like *Francisca* and *Franciscus*, *Josepha* and *Josephus*, etc.

Ed Price (Przybylski) <EDWARDWP@aol.com>

Editor—Very interesting! I'd never run into that before. But then, you know, there's always been a big difference between the way people are supposed to speak a language, and the way they really do. Poles were supposed to end those names in -a, but it's not too big a surprise to hear that maybe sometimes they didn't.

Also, a possible factor in the Poznań area is the influence of German. It could be the Germans told them not to use the -a forms because German doesn't do things that way. Or the person recording the names might have spoken German as his first language, and couldn't be bothered with all this -i/-a business. Hard to say exactly what the story was, but it wouldn't surprise me if the German influence had something to do with it.

Subject: SGGEE and Danko's blog

I continue to scour the Internet for help decoding Cyrillic Polish records. Thought I would ask for ideas on SGGEE list ... Meanwhile I am enjoying <http://www.stephendanko.com/> although I wonder how long Stephen can continue daily postings!! This site was mentioned on Jerry's SGGEE mailing list which has recently also had some interesting comments on surname spellings—I recently queried a friend's claim to have found the correct spelling of his surname.

Bronwyn Klimach <bronklimach@gmail.com>

Editor—Jerry Frank's the Webmaster of the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe, <http://www.sggee.org/>. For information on the mailing list go to <http://www.sggee.org/listserv.html>. As for Stephen Danko's blog, I don't think I've ever run across it before. Thanks to Bronwyn for mentioning it!

Subject: Place Names More Important than Surnames

Thanks so much for the informative article on "Place Names More Important Than Surnames." The situation about bad spelling of the town name of Kosterowce fit my dilemma to a tee (see <http://tinyurl.com/yj5k6t>).

Unfortunately, I'd already visited Eastern Europe when I came across your article. What is funny is that my paternal grandfather came from a village (Dara, Slovakia) probably less than 20 miles from where my maternal grandfather came from in Poland. I visited Dara and used a guide named Michael Sura who even helped me find cousins nearby.

Wish I had found your article before I left. My uncle had told me that my grandfather came from Kraków. He must have used that name as it was the largest internationally recognized city near Kosterowce. This really threw me off.

Pastor John Surinchak +, OSL <jab12@prodigy.net>

Editor—That happened a lot; we run into it all the time. Actually, I understand why people did this, because of personal experience. I was born in a little town in Kansas called Paola, which is pronounced “pay-OH-la.” For years when people asked where I was born I’d say “Paola” and they’d make a face, as if to say “What kind of place would have a goofy name like that?” Then they’d ask “Where is it?” Finally I got tired of this rigmarole; these days when people ask where I was born, I just say “A little town near Kansas City.” That’s reasonably accurate, and saves me the trouble of having to explain. But you can see why, for genealogical purposes, that answer would be misleading!

There are usually reasons for these things—but some are easier to figure out than others.

Subject: LDS Projects

Editor—Mary Snow sent me this note on September 30th. The Conference she refers to has come and gone, and so far I don’t recall seeing more on this. But I thought her note was worth repeating, as it may interest some of you and give you a starting-point to learn more:

Here is the latest information about the LDS projects. I’m not sure I can believe this will occur in my lifetime. Maybe the Family History Conference next weekend will bring some news releases.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,650194998,00.html>

“The project, dubbed ‘FamilySearch Indexing,’ is drawing growing interest from volunteers in a variety of areas. A demonstration of the new technology will be featured at the Ogden Regional Family History Conference Oct. 6-7 at the Eccles Conference Center during a presentation called ‘Opening the Granite Mountain Vault.’ (For information, see <http://www.myancestorsfound.com/NorthUtah/highlights.htm>)”

Mary <marysnow@bellsouth.net>

***** ALL IS NOT HALLER’S ARMY WHEN IT COMES TO POLISH MILITARY SOURCES *****

by Paul S. Valasek <hallersarmy@aol.com>

Though my main interest in Polish military history is Haller’s Army, there are other places to look for material and material which may include non-Haller participants. One of the greatest overlooked resources of Polish genealogy are those men of Polish descent who served in the U.S. Army in World War. They either were born or naturalized Americans, had no great ties to the

Polish homeland, or were already assimilated into American culture and lifestyle. I have never seen an isolated listing of American soldiers of Polish heritage who served in the First World War. The names are available, especially through the U.S. draft records, but one would have to pick through each name and decide the probable origin of each soldier. For the Kaczorowski's, the Przybysz's, the Swierczynski's, that's pretty easy; but some names like Bryll and Koster may not ring bells of Polonia right from the start. On the other hand, a name like DeLatour would not necessary lead one to a Polish *Hallerczyk*.

Following are two lists of names as found in a dedication ceremony pamphlet dated 1929. It was for the new opening of the Sokol Hall #2 on North Ashland Avenue in Chicago. The date reflects about a 10 year period since the war and includes names of men from *Armja Polska* (Haller's Army) as well as a smaller group of names from *Armja Amerykańska* (American Army). It is unclear if these men were in attendance that day or were only supportive of the new hall. It cannot be a list of all possible names as some names I am familiar with are not listed.

=====

The following is a list of those served in the Polish or American armies from Nest No. II and other nests subsequently incorporated into it.

Polish Army

Aniol, Jozef	Klusek, Wladyslaw
Banul, Feliks	Kowalski, Jan
Bardonski, Hieronim	Kowalski, Wincenty
Bartmanski, Jan	Koza, Jozef
Bartosiewicz, Jozef	Krawczewski, Jan
Barasa, J.	Krawczewski, Wladyslaw
Basowski, Michal	Krzyzanski, Bronislaw
Bober, Kazimierz	Kulik, Boleslaw
Bogdanowicz, Alojzy	Kuraszkiewicz, Mieczyslaw
Bujakiewicz, Stefan	Kuzminski, Franciszek
Chrobak, Wojciech	Kuzniar, Jan
Cwik, Jozef S.	Kwasniewski, Tadeusz
Cyma, Antoni	Lechowicz, Franciszek
Cymek, Aleksander	Lewandowski, Kazimierz
Cymek, Juljan	Lewandowski, Michal
DeLatour, Bronislaw	Lada, Boleslaw
Dobkowski, Boleslaw	Lukaszewski, Juljan
Dolbinski, Jakob	Mallek, Jan
Dubinski, Aleksander	Maslinski, T.
Dymidas, Joachim	Mazur, Piotr
Fik, Jozef	Mickiewicz, Narcyz
Galus, Onufry	Milewski, Jan
Gibula, Franciszek	Misiewicz, Mieczyslaw
Gibultowski, Jozef	Morlewski, Boleslaw
Grabowski, Wladyslaw	Mrugala, Jan
Juszczuk, Jozef	Noga, Antoni
Kazimierski, Jan	Osuch, Marjan

Oszczycki, Jan
Papara, Walery
Pater, Franciszek
Pater, Wladyslaw
Pawlowski, Gabrjel
Perdan, W.
Pieprzny, Gustaw
Piotrowski, Zygmunt
Piszczek, Jozef
Prokop, Jozef
Przyprawa, Jan
Ratecki, Jozef
Rogozinski, Hipolit
Rogozinski, Stanislaw
Rosinski, Wacław W.
Rzeszutko, Jozef
Ruszczyk, Stanislaw
Saltarski, Piotr
Senicki, Grzegorz
Siedlecki, Wladyslaw
Sielski, Stefan

Sieradzki, Karol
Sokulski, Dominik
Sokulski, Marjan
Stanek, Franciszek
Stangreciak, Piotr
Sulkowski, Ludwik
Szewczyk, Wladyslaw
Szubert, Maksymiljan
Szymanski, Jan
Tobiasiewicz, Jan
Trygar, Adam
Ulbert, Marcel
Walaszczyk, Walenty
Wawrzyniak, Jozef
Wiechecki, Konstanty
Witwicki, S.
Wojciechowski, Stanislaw
Wojcik, Franciszek
Wrzesien, Franciszek
Wisla, Agnieszka E.

American Army:

Blaszczyński, Adam
Bryll, Jakob
Gargas, Antoni
Glowacki, Franciszek
Kaczorowski, Alojzy
Kaczorowski, Jozef
Koster, Stanislaw
Kowalewski, Jozef
Kozuch, Szczepan
Kwiatkowski, Mieczyslaw
Piotrowski, Wladyslaw
Plinski, L.

Przeorski, Jozef
Przybysz, Edward
Ryglewski, Tomasz
Stydziński, Jan
Swierczynski, Jan
Swierczynski, Walenty
Strzeszewski, Edmund
Walas, Jan
Zielinski, Jozef
Zielinski, W.

A total of 95 served in the Polish Army, and 22 in the American Army. That's 117 volunteers. There may be no other Polish society in America that could show such a record.

***** BOOK ON HALLER'S ARMY PUBLISHED *****

I'm always a bit uneasy when a friend or acquaintance publishes a book that I feel deserves attention. The last thing I want to do is shill for anybody. But why should you not be told about a good book simply because I'm friends with the author? This is a dilemma for many in the genealogical community. If you think about it, the people who author books are likely to be the same people active in genealogical societies. So the editor of any genealogical publication, for

instance, is probably going to know and be on friendly terms with the people who write books in that field.

The way I see it, the only way to handle this is to be upfront and straightforward. So I should explain that the book I'm talking about here is by Dr. Paul S. Valasek, Vice-President of Polish Roots®. He's a friend of mine, and I actually helped him with the book, doing the typesetting and layout. So I can't very well pretend to be unbiased about it.

We hope to print a review of the book in the next issue, a review written by someone impartial who can discuss the book objectively. For now, let me simply give a few basic facts, for any readers who might be interested.

The book is entitled *Haller's Polish Army in France*, and it includes translations of numerous items never printed before in English, including regimental histories and memoirs of two prominent officers in Haller's Army, Wincenty Skarżyński and Stanisław Nastał. It has 75 photos, 6 maps, and a flowchart depicting the Army's development; 1,600+ names of recruits from the Pittsburgh and southwestern Pennsylvania region; 715 names of casualties in France and the Eastern Front; 161 names of recipients of the *Virtuti Militari*; and much more.

For more information you can e-mail the author at <hallersarmy@aol.com>, or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Dr. Paul S. Valasek
2643 W. 51st Street
Chicago IL 60632-1559

***** PGSCTNE GETS SOME PRESS *****

The October 15, 2006 issue of the *Hartford Courant* had a rather nice article on the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, written by Joann Klimkiewicz and entitled "Bringing the Past to Life." Unfortunately the article is no longer accessible directly on the *Courant* Website at <http://www.courant.com>. You have to go to that site and search for it in the archives. That brings up either a brief, free summary (which is just the caption to the photographs in the article), or a link to purchase the article's full text (without the photos, which is a shame). You can purchase a single article for \$3.95, and if you have a Connecticut connection it might be worthwhile. Or you can get a copy of the whole article if you send a request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to PGSCTNE, 8 Lyle Rd, New Britain CT 06053.

It was nice to see the Society get some attention in the press, and the article included photos of members Jonathan Shea, Carol Carter, Diane Bojniewicz Szepanski, Barbara Gancarz, and Margaret Jenkins – as well as a photo of Jonathan's garage, where some documents are stored. There was a very interesting photo of Jonathan on his motorcycle, looking on as Margaret Jenkins sorted documents there. If you didn't know better, you might think Jonathan was a tough biker dude getting ready to harass a nice lady innocently doing her research. Looks can be deceiving!

***** LATEST POZNAŃ PROJECT UPDATE *****

by Łukasz Bielecki <bielecki@rose.man.poznan.pl>

I was asked by some to write the Newsletter on a regular basis (I hope one such Newsletter every two months would not be too much bothering) to report what parishes have been added or if there have been any new features added, etc.

In short, these are the newest modifications:

* The total number of marriages in the database now amounts to 72,251, which has thus exceeded 10% of the estimated number of all marriages contracted in the Poznań/Posen province in 1835-1884!!! 64 Catholic parishes and 11 Lutheran communities are represented.

You are encouraged to retry your searches using the extended contents.

* Polish characters and German umlauts have been added to the database search utility. As the majority of the records still do not include them (these were ignored at transcription usually), the rule is that such characters are treated as equivalent to their "Latin" counterparts in the search process. But they will be accepted in the forms and also displayed in the results wherever present.

* As the database is growing, the maximum number of 50 results per search are displayed now (instead of 30).

* The description of the project has been slightly refreshed.

* And here come the parishes added to the database since Sep. 1:

Catholic: Bydgoszcz, Dębica (near Gniezno), Sokolniki (near Gniezno), Skoraszewice, Góra near Inowrocław, Ostrowo near Pakość, Trzcinica, Choryń, Poznań - St. Martin parish, Strzelno, Szamotuły, Podlesie Kościelne, Brenno, Góra near Żnin, Serock, Łopienno.

Lutheran: Chodziesen (Kolmar).

Here is the address for the Project site in case someone has not yet bookmarked it:

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

As always, I am thankful to all of you who have submitted the transcribed marriages and/or declared donations.

***** JEWISH RESIDENTS OF WARSAW WHO CAME TO ELLIS ISLAND *****

by Steven Lasky <steve725@optonline.net>

Editor—Steve Lasky posted this note to the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup. I felt it was definitely worth repeating here, as it could be a source of great value to many researchers with Jewish ancestry and roots in Warsaw.

I have added a list to my website of more than 16,000 names of those who last resided in Warszawa before their emigration and subsequent arrival at Ellis Island. This is the twenty-seventh such immigrant list I have placed on my website. Other large lists involve residents of Vilnius, Suwałki, Łódź, Kraków, Białystok and Łomża. Each of the nine web pages of the Warszawa immigrant list are fairly large ones, so they may take from a few seconds to a minute or more to fully download to your computer (especially if you are using a slow computer.) The entries are listed alphabetically and include surname, given name, year of birth and year of immigration. Note that I have no more information on these immigrants than what appears on these pages, though you can find more information by looking up any of the names on the Ellis Island website or by using Steve Morse's search engine.

I certainly hope that many of you will make use of this list and the other lists provided. The lists generally take into account many of the various spellings for the towns/cities found on the ship manifests, e.g., Warsaw has been represented on these manifests as Varsava, Varsavia, Warsaw, Varschau, Varsevia, Varsevie, Varshaw, Varsovia, Varsovie, Warsaw, Warszawa and Warschau, not to mention all the spellings that were created/databased due to the misspelling of the ship officers, typos, and the mistranscription by those who tried to decipher the handwriting of these officers.

For those of you who are Warszawa researchers, you will find my main Warszawa page most useful as it provides links to all the material on my site that deals with Warszawa as well as links to other web sites, etc. The page is located at <http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/lee-warszawa.htm>. The link to the Warszawa immigration list I've created can be found on this page under "How Our Families Came to America..." You can also access these lists via the Site Map page under "Immigrant Lists: Destination Ellis Island."

Here is a summary of what is on my site that should be of interest to those who are researching their Warszawa roots. All of the pages mentioned below are accessible through the museum's Site Map page:

1. a list of more than 16,000 people who last resided in Warszawa before emigrating and arriving at Ellis Island through 1924;
2. a topographical map of the Warszawa region, circa 1915-22 (see Map Room);
3. a unique surnames list representing those who are buried in fifty-nine of sixty-one Warszawa-associated society plots in the New York-New Jersey metro area (I am only missing burial information for two Newark, New Jersey plots, i.e. Jersey Warshauer Cemetery and Jersey Warshauer Lodge #230 IOBA plots). These unique surnames represent more than 10,000 burials. Feel free to contact me for more info if you find a surname of interest on the Warszawa unique surnames list provided (see Cemetery Project);
4. photographs of the Warszawa society gates that have been erected at most all these society plots in New York and New Jersey, along with the names of many of the society officers and members (see Cemetery Project);

5. pre-war photographs of many of our families who once lived in Warszawa (see Postcards from Home);
6. “The Fischers of Warszawa,” who once lived in Warszawa and acted in the Yiddish theatre there, only to perish in the Holocaust (see The Yiddish World);
7. photographs of modern-day Warszawa (see main Warszawa page);
8. photographs of Holocaust memorials located in Warszawa (see Holocaust Memorials of Eastern Europe).

***** 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 September Issue:

Category: People

- Q. For what is Polish-American Mieczysław Haiman noted?
- A. He documented much Polish-American history.

- Q. What priest led a group of early Polish settlers to Texas?
- A. Fr. Leopold Moczygemba

- Q. What achievement of Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz was a world’s first for women?
- A. She was the first woman to sail around the world alone.

- Q. Who was the first American Administrator of Alaska?
- A. Włodzimierz Krzyżanowski

- Q. What was the nickname of Pol-Am Jesuit teacher and Superior Dzierczyński?
- A. Father Zero

New Questions for the October Issue

Category: Bonus

1. Who led the defense of Olstzyn Castle?
2. By legend who was blind as a child and gained his vision at his hair cutting?
3. What was Kościuszko’s full name?
4. Where did Kazimierz Pułaski go on leaving Poland in 1772?

5. Of what two territories did Polish King Kazimierz the Great's father tell him never to lose control?

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

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

November 4, 2006

The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan's Annual Seminar

At the Polish Cultural Center: **2979 E Maple Rd., Troy, MI 48083**

3 Lectures by Matthew Bielawa:

- 1. Vital Genealogy: Records across Poland (Parts I & II)
- 2. Polski Komputer & Your Genealogy
- 3. Going East: Preparing for Your Trip to Poland

Registration before Oct. 25th is \$50; after Oct. 25th it is \$60. A Polish-style lunch is included.

Mail Registration Form from Website and check to:

PGSM
c/o Burton Historical Collection
Detroit Public Library
5201 Woodward Av.
Detroit, MI 48202-4007

For more info see the PGSM Website: <http://www.pgsm.org>

November 12, 2006

Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of America

The next meeting of the **PGSA** will be Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Polish Museum of America, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. The meeting is open to the general public. The speaker, Patricia Marton, will tell how to put together distinctive illustrated family stories via the use of first-person interviews, photographs, and other memorabilia. She will also discuss field research in the U.S. and abroad. She will present illustrated examples of her work. She encourages you to bring memorabilia from your own families to show and describe.

Note also that at this meeting there will be an election of board members and officers. If you have been a member of PGSA for two years, you are eligible to be a candidate. The Summer 2006 issue of *Rodziny* included a Board Nomination Qualification Form, or you can get the form on the PGSA Website (<http://www.pgsa.org/Candidate%20Qualification%20Form.pdf>). If you'd like to help determine the future of PGSA (or any other organization), you have to get involved and take part!

[Based on information in the latest issue of *PGSA Notebook*.]

Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG)

At the St. Vladimir Institute, 620 Spadina Ave., Toronto

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Gail Skikovitz and Romana Bahry will speak on their experiences visiting Ukraine, Poland and the Archives of Lviv, Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, & two Archives in Poland.

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<http://www.bartleby.com/61/images/indoeuro.jpg>

On the Herbarz and Lithuania lists David Zincavage <jdz@usa.net> gave this location for a graph showing the relationship of the Indo-European languages, and a rough indication of each one's longevity. If you've heard of Indo-European and wondered just what it referred to, this might help you get a basic notion of what these languages are, and how they are connected.

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/>

An 1883 Atlas of the German Empire is available here. This information is from *RootsWeb Review*: 18 October 2006, Vol. 9, No. 42.

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

On the MI-Polish mailing list Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> mentioned a new site, Ancestors On Board, at this URL. It features Outward Passenger Lists for voyages leaving the British Isles from 1890 to 1960. I'm not sure if it's completely up to speed yet – they may still be working on it – but it promises to let you search for individuals “leaving for destinations including Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and USA featuring ports such as Boston, Philadelphia and New York. Passengers include not only immigrants and emigrants, but also businessmen, diplomats and tourists.”

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/immigrants>

This site uses documents held by Library and Archives Canada (LAC) to tell the story of immigration to Canada from the early 19th century up to World War II. The project is called “Moving Here, Staying Here” and helps you search passenger lists 1865 to 1935.

<http://home.versatel.nl/gerardvonhebel/>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list Laurence Krupniak <LKrupnak@erols.com> recommended this site for its maps and historical information on Austria, Germany, Bohemia, and other parts of Europe.

<http://www.mapywig.org/news.php>

On the same list Laurence also gave this URL for the Map Archive of Wojskowy Instytut Geograficzny [Military Geographic Institute] 1919-1939. These are some serious maps, and the site has much of the explanatory material in English as well as Polish. You may need to spend some time and effort getting familiar with how the site works, but the payoff could be worth it!

<http://books.google.com/>

The October 24th issue of *EOGN* [Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter] had an article on Google books and how it is making available online the texts of large numbers of books, some of which are on genealogy. If you're looking for a hard-to-find reference, why not take a moment and see if you can get lucky by finding it there? I searched for "Polish peasants" and found quite a few matches. Most were "Limited Preview," and thus did not make the full text available. But even with "Limited Preview" books you can usually scan the table of contents, the first page, and the index. That can go a long way toward telling you whether a specific book will help you and is worth trying to get hold of! For instance, you can look through the index to Dominic A. Pacyga's *Polish Immigrants and Industrial Chicago: Workers on the South Side, 1880-1922*. If you wondered whether this book could tell you what you need to know, a peek at the index is surely worthwhile.

<http://allcensusrecords.com/canada/census-news.shtml>

The October 19th issue of *EOGN* mentioned that the 1851 Census for all of Canada is now available for searching online at this site. The only problem is, you must be subscribed to either Ancestry.com or Ancestry.ca. If you have Canadian connections, however, maybe it's worth it; or you can try to find an FHC or library that has an Ancestry subscription.

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2006/10/turn_genealogy_.html

Another item in an issue of *EOGN* that might interest you is entitled "Turn Genealogy Into a Business." It is available at the address listed above.

<http://www.translit.ru>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list Ron <rmat@pobox.mtaonline.net> said a friend recommended this site for typing Cyrillic characters. This can be handy, for instance, if you know how a word is spelled in that alphabet and would like to search the Web for it with Google or some similar search engine. It allows you to key in words in Russian, Belarusian, or Ukrainian versions of Cyrillic. Ron's friend mentioned another site, <http://www.multitran.ru>; It translates words from Dutch, English, Estonian, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latvian, and Spanish into Russian.

Ron commented, “Accepting all of the built-in limitations, they still remain two tools that may help at one time or another.” Agreed!

<http://www.heraldica.org/topics/national/polish-bibliography.htm>

In response to a note on the Herbarz mailing list, asking about a list of books devoted to Polish nobility, David Zincavage <jdz@usa.net> posted this URL.

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/12/fashion/12names.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup Michael Bernet gave this link to a New York Times article on immigrants’ changing desires to Americanize their names. The article is entitled “As American as Vartan, Luis and Na.” To read it you have to register and log in, but it’s free and not terribly invasive; and the article is interesting.

<http://www.antiquusmorbus.com/International/Latin.htm>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine list, a request for an online Latin dictionary giving causes of death brought several good replies. Roman <romanka@comcast.net> suggested this site, which is short and to the point. Marilyn Hertenstein <mjhertenstein@charter.net> likes http://www.bible-history.com/latin/latin_a.html for all kinds of Latin terms in the Bible, which could prove helpful in some cases. Jim Onyschuk <jodanji@aci.on.ca> gave four links from the TORUGG site:

http://www.torugg.org/TUGG%20Links/tugg_links.html#generalresearch

<http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/guide/WLLatin1.asp#doctop> – Lists the most common Latin words used in genealogy

<http://archives.nd.edu/latgramm.htm> - Latin Dictionary and Grammar Aid. This dictionary defines about 15,600 words.

<http://www.guernsey.net/%7Esgibbs/roman.html> - Roman Numeral and Date Conversion with Roman Calculator.

Finally, I’m partial to this page on the Genpol site, which gives Polish and English translations of many Latin terms: <http://www.genpol.com/Poradnik-GenPol-art36.html>.

<http://www.albion.edu/english/calendar/easter.htm>

Along similar lines, here’s a page that helps you calculate the date of various feast days according to the Church’s liturgical calendar. Sometimes in records you’ll see that the priest dates a baptism, say, as taking place on “the third Sunday after Pentecost” of that year. If you can just find out the date of Pentecost that year, you can calculate the date of the baptism. So this site is actually more useful than you might think!

<http://www.privateeye.com>

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup, Zev Griner posted a note to remind us of this site, which can be reached directly or through Steve Morse’s site <http://www.stevemorse.org>. “Using public databases, this site will show you connections to other people in a family—parents, siblings,

spouses, children, and in-laws—in specific places.” He adds that if reach the site through Morse’s, you usually can get a date of birth, too.

<http://www.lulu.com/fgs2006>

The October 8, 2006 issue of *Nu? What’s New* (<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/v07n16.htm>) mentioned that the Federation of Genealogical Societies offers the chance at this site to download the audio of more than 200 lectures from its recent conference in Boston. An individual lecture costs \$1.99 to download, and there are \$25 packages of 15 lectures. Once downloaded, the sessions can be listened to on a computer, iPod, or MP3 player. *Nu*’s editor, Gary Mokotoff, expressed his hope this will inspire planners for other conferences to do likewise. Amen!

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