



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_VI_7.pdf

***** A NEW PHASE IN GENEALOGY AT THE FHL *****

by Paul S. Valasek <paval56@aol.com>

Recently returning from a vacation/lecturing trip out west, Andrea and I had the opportunity to revisit the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. This was our fifth trip for research at the FHL, and the first since 2001. Though much looked the same, we quickly noticed some changes. Having spoken with Dan Schlyter, a co-presenter this year at Jewish Gen in Las Vegas, I knew that the number of computers was growing and the switch from microfilm to digital imaging was well underway. Not only were computers more in evidence, but free access to Ancestry and Heritage Quest were made available at this library—if I'm not mistaken, this is true at the individual Family History Centers as well.

For those who have used this digital technology, this article may not shed much light. But I know from talking with many researchers that this new approach is different and quite exciting. Let me highlight some of the changes at the FHL.

No longer are we required to carry and make small change for printing page after page of our desired documents. Now you put \$1.00 in a machine and receive a plastic card which has an amount of \$. 40 credited to it. If you need to add money onto your card, you simply put the card into the machine and add any denomination of paper money you choose. You may also add to it via the attendants who are always on duty.

With that card, you now can access the printers at any of the computer terminals and print out a page for \$. 05 or use the microfilm printers at \$. 23 a page. The debit is automatically deducted from the card and a brief message is flashed stating how much more credit your card retains. If you run out of funds, you simply reload the card. Quite easy, and much quieter than before. It is recommended you sign your card, as many times they are left behind in printers, and for printing purposes they are as good as cash.

The fourth floor of the Library is now used for books and resources; many of the offices formerly located there are now in the Joseph Smith building. This frees up additional space on the other floors for more computer terminals and microfilm files. As in the past, not all films are at hand on the floor; many will need to be brought in from the archive storage facility. But this usually only requires a day or two to do. If you plan to visit the Library for any length of time and wish to make sure your films will be there, it is strongly emphasized to call or write ahead of time so that the staff may order any films which may not already be in the files.

What I found quite astounding was the lower attendance at the Library. Not because genealogy is out of fashion—but I was told that the summer is a good time to visit, as many genealogy groups make their plans for fall and spring. It was very easy to find an open computer, and we had our choice of microfilm readers. I really don't like to travel in the summer, especially the western plains and desert; but this fact of availability may make me change my mind.

As for accommodations, we left Las Vegas on Friday morning and drove up to Salt Lake City. It's roughly 400 miles, but due to mountains and such, it took 9-10 hours. We arrived at the Best Western Plaza Hotel at about 8:00 p.m. without any reservations. I planned to stay for 5 nights and

asked what was available. I also asked if there were any genealogy groups staying at the hotel, but was told that there were only two groups staying there for that weekend: one of Christian Scientists, one for Essential Oils (not of the BP, Sun, or Shell type, but of the Eucalyptus, orange blossom, and pine). They had a room at \$90.00 per night for the weekend, which dropped to \$80.00 for Monday and Tuesday. This fare was not much more than years ago booking “off season” in a group format. Of course if this is not to your liking, the Radisson is about a block away. Since the Olympics, many hotels and motels are available. Parking was \$3.00 per day with in- and out-privileges. The convenience of the Plaza is its closeness to the Library, literally yards away.

I wasn't sure how much time I would have for research, so I did not bring any of my ancestral files with me. Regardless of that, Andrea and I had plenty of success locating anyone and everyone on the 1930, 1920, and 1910 censuses, as well as other online databases which we do not subscribe to normally. I decided to delve into the great black hole of Austrian Military records, and after sinking up to my eyeballs in confusion and limited success, I decided to try sailing through passenger lists. I was looking for my great-grandfather's 1938 return trip from Poland.

I was unable to locate him at the moment, I found it enjoyable to stumble across the voyage of Maria Magdalena Sieber and Archibald Leach on the *Normandie* in 1938. This ship was the “top of the world” for shipping at this time, and everyone who was anyone traveled aboard this great vessel. When I came home, I wanted to find more information about these two, and particularly if anything was mentioned about this specific voyage. It turned out there were several sites dealing with the party Maria threw for Archie, including a reenactment of it by a group of aficionados. Even though Maria was married and Archie single, that didn't seem to “get in the way” (<http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/discus/messages/6937/87958.html?1096011923>).

So, next time I'm at Salt Lake, the quest for great-grandfather's return trip will go on; the unpeeling of layers of confusion will go on through the Austrian military records; and maybe I can get a bit more information on Maria and Archie, who their film devotees may know as Marlene Dietrich and Cary Grant.

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

Subject: Not receiving *Gen Dobry!*

I'm a long-time subscriber to *Gen Dobry!* and love every issue. However, I haven't received the April 30, May 31, and June 30 issues. I even re-subscribed and received a subscription confirmation on June 15. Hopefully this problem can be solved and I can once again look forward to my monthly issue of *Gen Dobry!*

Barb Pardol <Barbpardol@aol.com>

Editor—Thanks for letting us know about this! We're becoming very concerned, because more and more people are being dropped from our subscriber list, just as you were, and we can't figure out what's causing it. We're looking at alternative methods of distributing Gen Dobry! in hopes of finding something more reliable.

*In the meantime, two points: 1) The Adobe Acrobat PDF version of each issue is available at http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry_index.htm, so that you can always download and read those versions, as long as you have Acrobat installed on your computer; and 2) If you don't get your copy, let us know so we can try to do something about it. Please tell your friends or anyone who might be interested that we are **not** deliberately dropping people from the list!! We're trying to fix this problem, because we don't want to lose you!*

Subject: Szczebrzeszyn, and Pope John Paul II's Mother

Editor—In the last issue we mentioned a Website on the Polish town of Szczebrzeszyn, and Marg Nowaczyk had an interesting comment:

About Szczebrzeszyn. Do you know that the family of the late Pope's mother, Emilia Kaczorowska, hails from there? This theory was recently proven—as you may know, both Lithuanians and Ukrainians claim her as one of her own, mainly because her origins were not well known.

Well, I have looked at some Szczebrzeszyn films from LDS and found some Kaczorowski's in a village nearby. A friend of mine found some other Kaczorowski's in Bielsko-Biała (in the past Bielsko) that were born in Szczebrzeszyn. The Pope's mother was born in Bielsko. The entire genealogy of the John Paul the Great (yes, this is how we call him now! ☺) is on the Genpol Website. Of course I had nothing to do with this—it is mainly Mr. Skrzetuski, who is actually a distant relative of the Szczebrzeszyn Kaczorowski's, and Tomek Nitsch who put it all together.

Marg Nowaczyk <Nowaczyk@HHSC.CA>

Editor—Fascinating! I knew the Lithuanians claimed her, but did not realize the Ukrainians also wanted her as one of their own. Of course, who wouldn't want to take some credit for helping produce a man as amazing as Jan Paweł Wielki?

The Genpol site has a chart of the Pope's family tree at http://www.genpol.com/PostWrap-page-Jan_Pawel_II.html. While browsing the site for more material I hadn't seen before, I was fascinated to notice they have a reproduction of the late Pope's baptismal record: <http://www.genpol.com/modules/Downloads/files/JPII/JPIImetryka.jpg>.

Subject: Online Polish telephone directory

Editor—In a previous issue we mentioned an online Polish telephone directory. Here's one reader's comment:

Regarding the Website <http://www.ksiazka-telefoniczna.com/>. This Website does not include some of the provinces for example, Kaliskie and Wrocławskie. Maybe others are missing also.

J. Bias <geneejb@comcast.net>

Editor—Just now when I tried to access the site I couldn't even connect. I hope that's a temporary problem.

As for the provinces, Kaliskie and Wroclawskie ceased to exist on January 1, 1999, when Poland's administrative structure was reformed. Visit this page to see how the 49 old provinces were arranged into the 16 current ones: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/49provs.html>. Former Kaliskie province, for instance, is now mainly in Wielkopolskie; and former Wroclawskie province is now in Dolnośląskie. Some online research sources let you search under either the current setup or the 1975-1998 setup; but telephone directories generally use the current setup.

In any case, when it comes to online Polish phone books, you don't have much to work with. Polish privacy laws make it difficult to list individuals, so most directories that do exist deal only with companies or institutions. Perhaps one day that will change, but for now any attempt to use such a directory is probably going to prove frustrating.

Subject: Surname Changes

I just enjoyed reading your October 2000 article on "Using Logic in Genealogy Research" in *Gen Dobry!* I wondered if there might be another factor to consider regarding surname changes at Ellis Island. What about the processors being unable to decipher different alphabets like Cyrillic used in Russia and many other Eastern European countries? There are others too.

Priscilla Pettengill <prisp36@hotmail.com>

Editor—I'm glad you enjoyed my article, and the point you make obviously can be a factor that affected the forms of names. Not so much at Ellis Island—the officials there simply processed each immigrant under whatever name showed up on the paperwork given them by the officers of the ship he arrived on. But clearly during the long journey from an immigrant's home village to the New World, there were plenty of opportunities for linguistic confusion to make a mess of their names. I'm sure different alphabets played a major role in that confusion.

Subject: Researcher in the Gdańsk area

I'm looking for a Polish researcher in the Gdańsk area to help me with my research. Can you recommend anyone?

Name and address withheld by request

Editor—I don't know of anyone in Gdańsk. I have heard some people sing the praises of a gentleman named Henryk Skrzypiński who lives in Bydgoszcz, which is not far from Gdańsk. If you'd like to contact him, here's the most recent info I have on his address:

*Henryk Skrzypiński
ul. Kijowska 13/9
85-703 Bydgoszcz
POLAND*

If any of our readers can recommend someone, or say more about Henryk, I'd be delighted to print the info in the next issue. I also heard from a researcher looking for help in the Słupsk area, west of Gdańsk, and would welcome any recommendations for that area.

Subject: *My Poland: Essays on Polish Identity*

Editor—In a previous issue I mentioned a new book, but wasn't sure where to buy it. Here's information one reader kindly sent in:

Moja Polska: Eseje o polskości/My Poland: Essays on Polish Identity by Kevin Hannan, professor at the University of Łódź, is a bilingual (Polish-English) collection of essays on Polish history, culture, language, and religion (Poznań: Wydawnictwo Poznańskie, 2005). It is available by airmail from Poland from BigBook.pl for \$22.50 (includes packing and shipping). To order, contact: [<us_contact@bigbook.pl>](mailto:us_contact@bigbook.pl).

Christopher Speller [<zebrzydowice@yahoo.com>](mailto:zebrzydowice@yahoo.com)

Editor—Thanks for the info! A couple of articles by Professor Hannan appeared in Rodziny, and I found them very interesting and informative.

Subject: Lublin University Records

In the latest *Gen Dobry!* you ran a request for information from Lublin. I have a contact there, a university professor who has been studying genealogy for 25+ years. BTW, there is in fact another university in Lublin, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, established in 1944, <http://www.umcs.lublin.pl/>.

Nancy Maciolek Blake [<NJMaciolek@aol.com>](mailto:NJMaciolek@aol.com)

Editor—Nancy was answering a request for help from Maralyn Wellauer. Nancy went on to talk to her contact in Lublin, who did some digging and came up with some info that just might tell Maralyn what she needed to know. Nothing makes me happier than seeing readers of Gen Dobry! help each other this way. We may not be the biggest group in the world, but it's something to see how often we come through for each other. Thank you!

***** SEARCHING FOR CURRENTLY PUBLISHED OR RECENTLY DISCONTINUED POLISH JOURNALS, SOME AVAILABLE IN FULL-TEXT *****

by Edward David Luft [<edwardluft@hotmail.com>](mailto:edwardluft@hotmail.com)

A very useful website for Polish journals currently published is <http://witryna.czasopism.pl/en>, which is the English-language page for the website, called in English “Journals Showcase.” Of course, a Polish version is also available.

The website is clustered around a cultural journals theme. The listings are divided on the page by frequency of publication and by category. Selection by category includes, inter alia, “History,” “National minorities,” and “Religion and The Church,” each of which lists an array of journals on the subject, some of which are listed in multiple categories, such as the periodical, *Antyfon*, which is listed under both “National minorities” and “Religion and The Church;” and *Midrasz - a Jewish Journal*, which is listed under all three categories.

Each category also allows for an advanced search for more specific topic searches. Researchers may also select “print,” “online,” and “print and online” categories of periodicals. Note that the “print and online” category is not overlapping with the other two; each of the three categories is discrete, with only those that are both in print and online listed in the last category. Researchers may even search for “periodicals discontinued” and “new titles.”

There are other categories to search, such as “regional interest,” with 20 categories listed on the homepage. An advanced search box allows for individually-tailored searches as well. At very least, you can know what is out there before going to your local research library, and you might be able to read and print the full-text of an article of interest online from your own home.

Editor— Note that a complete and up-to-date list of Edward Luft’s writings appears at:
<http://www.mylitsearch.org/mbrx/PT/99/MBR/11078005>

***** THE DREADED POLISH PLUMBER!*****

Editor—This is a slightly modified version of a note I posted earlier this month on the Poland-Roots list. I thought those of you who didn’t see it there might find it interesting.

There was an article in the July 5, 2005 *Chicago Tribune* about French fear that cheap labor from Poland will take jobs away from Frenchmen. Apparently that fear was thought to be a factor in the recent French referendum vote against the European Union constitution. The embodiment of this fear was the “Polish plumber,” a symbol for throngs of Eastern Europeans who’d supposedly flood France and work for cheap wages, putting Frenchmen out of their jobs, if the constitution passed.

So the Polish tourism office put an ad campaign on its Website, which shows a good-looking young Polish man—a model named Piotr Adamski—dressed as a plumber, and the caption reads, “*Je reste en Pologne—Venez Nombreux*” (I’m staying in Poland—Do come over!). Recently they had him come to Paris to publicize the campaign in person. Very clever, and more than a few French are admitting the Poles used humor to score some points with them.

This was the first I heard of it, but there are versions of the story all over the Internet. You can read one version of the story, and see the ad, on these sites:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4115164.stm>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/8396626/>

Read about it if you get the chance. It’s a beautiful example of Poles using wit to fight prejudice with style!

***** POLISH FOLK COSTUMES *****

Editor—This is a note Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> posted on the Poland-Roots list recently. I thought some of you might like to know the information Debbie shared with the list members.

A few months ago there were several discussions regarding Polish folk costumes for dolls as well as people. I received the “Polish Bookstore” (Księgarnia Literacka) catalog and one of the books listed under Polish History is *Polskie stroje ludowe* [Polish Folk Costumes] by Elżbieta Piskorz-Branekova. 204 pages, \$22.90.

I happen to have this book and it has wonderful pictures of folk costumes throughout Poland. Besides photos of people wearing the costumes there are smaller detailed pictures of the accessories.

This book is not as pricey as some others which have been discussed on this list, but it is written in Polish.

BTW I noticed that the book is \$23.90 on the Website (<http://www.polbook.com>), \$1.00 higher than in the printed catalog. The store is in Brooklyn. If someone lives near that area it might be cheaper going to the store for a copy. You’d save on shipping at least.

*** LDS LISTS OF GREEK CATHOLIC PARISHES***

Editor—Karen Hobbs <Lphobbs@aol.com>, a very knowledgeable researcher, posted this note to the PolandBorderSurnames list. I thought the info she provided might prove helpful to some of our readers who might not be on that list.

I understand that the LDS is now using volunteers to compile lists of which villages are on which film. Volunteers do virtually all of the cataloging. They try to find volunteers who are familiar with the languages of the region where the films originated or the language of the films.

There are two problems per correspondence with one of the volunteers working on films from Lviv.

1. Some do not know the history of the area and cannot track correctly all of the changes in place name and in nationality that some of these parishes went through. So they use the data on the films and that may not include older or more modern spellings of names of the places in question.
2. Some of the titles do not have a *noun* version of a place name in them, and the guidelines did not help volunteers recognize that those words should be identified as “place names.” That means that titles that are for the “Lemberg Region” — *Lemberger Kreis* — will not be found with a place search. In that example, *Lemberger* is an adjective. This happens in Polish and Ukrainian too.

It means that after you do a place search with Lviv you should also do a KEYWORD search using that same place name, and also with all of the other names that Lviv ever had. A KEYWORD search will find the titles that include a place name in the TITLE DETAILS or FILM NOTES as well as in the title itself. Most of the titles that have a place name in adjective form will show up with that kind of search.

You can limit the results if you use the KEYWORD place name with the name of a denomination. You can also just do a KEYWORD search with the name of a parish. It is always a good idea to do the KEYWORD for the region, too, because you never know what you might find.

RECENT CHANGES

Some of the most recent additions to the Internet catalog are titled in English, not in the language of the original text. For example, there are over 3,000 titles for East European church records that are titled: METRICAL BOOKS. Before now the same titles would have had a Slavic, German or Lithuanian word like *Matriky* or maybe *Cirkevna Matriky* as a title.

Limit the results of a Keyword search for “Metrical Books” by adding the name of a land, region, county or parish to the search string (Poland, Lithuania, Russia).

I have not yet discovered other titles in English but suspect more and more will appear as the catalog is updated.

Editor—I’ve done enough searching for obscure places in eastern Europe to know the value of the points Karen has made in this note. If you pay attention to her advice you’ll probably save yourself some frustration!

*** PHOTOS OF DETROIT’S POLONIA WANTED! ***

Editor—Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> is looking for photographs to use in a book on Michigan’s Polonia. But here, let her speak for herself:

I am compiling a photo history book for Arcadia Publishing (<http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/>). It is entitled *Detroit’s Polonia*. It will be published in early 2006—possibly Paćzki Day!

I can include up to 240 photos of the families and parishes on the East and West sides of Detroit. (Hamtramck has its own book). I have been working with archives in the state and have lined up photos, but the book still needs family photos. Photos must be scanned in August.

Colleagues have already shared some of their photos, but to get a great Polonian photo album I am putting out the call out to all of you.

The publishers only use actual photos that can be scanned. They cannot be in an album or frame. Our time span is 1875-1945.

I am looking for photos of :

- * People at work (factories, around the house, in the garden)
- * School activities (formal and informal- teams, classrooms, awards, altar boys)
- * Fraternal and other organizations: Polish Falcons, Lutnia Singing Society, Third Order of Saint Francis.
- * Soldiers: Haller’s army, WWI, WWII - male and female
- * Professionals: Lawyers, Doctors, Professors, Priests, Nuns, Architects
- * Poles and their cars, hotrods, trucks
- * Family parties
- * Photos with several generations
- * Buildings (Dom Polski) and homes, neighborhoods

- * Family businesses, shoe, candy or clothing shops, grocery , beer stores, ice houses, farms
- * All religions: Catholic, Jewish, Lutheran, etc. Does anyone have photos of Our Savior Golgotha Church?

I will need to scan the photos. The publisher has exact standards and they exceed the file size that can be emailed. Snapshots are OK.

I can arrange to meet you at the Family History Center in Bloomfield Hills, or have you send it to me and I'll return it ASAP. You will need to sign a release form allowing the photo to be used.

I look forward to hearing from you- and looking at YOUR family album!

***** 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 June Issue:

- Q. Which Polish saint did Pope Benedict XIII canonize in 1726?
- A. St. Stanisław Kostka
- Q. In what year did the November Insurrection begin?
- A. 1830
- Q. What Polish king was respectfully called “King of the Peasants”?
- A. Kazimierz the Great
- Q. In what year was Maria Skłodowska-Curie born?
- A. 1867
- Q. How many Polish Air Force pilots fought in the Battle of Britain in World War II?
- A. 154

New Questions for the July Issue

Topic: Humanities

1. In what U.S. state did Helena Modjeska make her first theatrical appearance in America?
2. In what year did Chopin leave his homeland forever?
3. What Polish-American pianist and entertainer was known for his costumes?
4. Which Polish Princess's autobiography was entitled *It Really Happened*?

5. What was the pen name of the writer Józef Teodor Konrad Nałęcz Korzeniowski?

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

Note: the PolishRoots Events Calendar at http://www.polishroots.org/coming_events.htm usually has more info than we have room for here. If you have an event coming up you want Polish genealogical researchers to know about, send as much info as possible to <Events@PolishRoot.org>.

Sunday, August 14, 2005

Polish Genealogical Society of America Meeting

The PGSA meeting will take place in the Social Hall of the Polish Museum, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Victoria Granacki will speak about Chicago's Polish community on the near northwest side, where the headquarters for almost every major Polish organization in America were clustered within blocks of each other, and about the beautiful churches in the area.

August 19–21, 2005

FEEFHS 11th International Conference

“Dare to Discover: Exploring Central and Eastern European Ancestry”

The Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) will hold its 11th International Conference in the North Star State of Minnesota in the Capitol City of Saint Paul. This enlightening opportunity to explore Eastern European ethnicities will be held 19-21 August 2005 at the Four Points by Sheraton near the capitol and several libraries including the Concordia University Library (with Germanic Genealogy Society collection), Minnesota History Center, the University of Minnesota Wilson Library and Immigration History Research Center.

For more information: <http://feefhs.org/11thintconf.htm>

September 7–10, 2005

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and The Utah Genealogical Association

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and The Utah Genealogical Association are pleased to announce the FGS/UGA Conference to be held September 7-10, 2005 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

For more information: <http://www.fgs.org/2005conf/FGS-2005.htm>

September 16 – 18, 2005

Polish Genealogical Society of America Fall Conference

“The Pillars of Genealogy”

at the Chicago Marriot in Schaumburg, Illinois.

To get more details download the flyer and registration form here:

http://www.pgsa.org/PGSA_2005%20Conf_8x11.pdf

Saturday, September 17, 2005

9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

“Discover Your Italian Roots”

A Full-Day Conference Hosted by
POINTers In Person Chicago and Chicago-North Chapters

Italian Cultural Center
1621 N. 39th Ave
Stone Park, IL

The \$40 registration includes 5 presentations geared to your level of experience, delicious family-style lunch at Casa Italia, and a syllabus of all ten presentations and more. For information, contact Dan at <italianroots@comcast.net>, or call our hotline at 763-201-3186. For conference info and registration, visit <http://www.chicagoitalian.org>.

Sunday, October 2, 2005

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The Great Eastern European Festival

Old Deerfield, Massachusetts

A celebration of Polish, Ukrainian and other Eastern European cultures with ethnic food, dancing, music, books & crafts. Polish Food. Polish Genealogy display with resources and Q&A. Admission \$5. Next to Memorial Hall Museum in Old Deerfield, Massachusetts.

October 15, 2005

- ISGS FALL CONFERENCE - ITASCA, ILLINOIS -

Illinois State Genealogical Society's Fall Conference, "Building Family Bridges: Linking the Present to the Past," will be held at the Holiday Inn, Itasca, IL on Saturday, October 15, 2005. Speakers will include Tony Burroughs, Maureen Brady, Jeff Bockman, Brother Joseph Martin, Craig Pfannkuche, Helen Sclair, Jack Simpson, and CAGG-NI (Computer-Assisted Genealogy Group of Northern Illinois). Vendors will offer their genealogical products. Genealogy societies will be present as well.

Three separate presentations will be offered at each of the four sessions—so you will be able to find a topic to interest you whether you are a beginning or experienced researcher. Several sessions on computer genealogical topics such as comparisons of genealogical software packages, video genealogy (converting home movies), and the latest trends in genealogical computing will also be available.

Registration information and online registration with PayPal on our website:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/>

Additional questions can be directed to <ISGSconference@comcast.net>.

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

<http://www.thebattery.org/castle/castlegarden.html>

Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> passed on a press release saying that The Battery Conservancy intended to launch CastleGarden.org on August 1, 2005, "to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the immigrant depot at Castle Garden on August 1, 1855. The electronic database project is led by Dr. Ira Glazier, former Director of The Center for Migration Research at The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies and Immigration. CastleGarden.org will be a vital resource for the general public and for scholars interested in the history of immigration through the Port of New York. The historical records used by Castlegarden.org are held by and available for research at the U. S. National Archives and Records Administration, New York City."

<http://e-transcriptum.net/eng/>

On the *soc.genealogy.jewish* newsgroup Linda Rakoff mentioned this translation site she recently discovered. "I'm giving it a trial run right now, the translators let you know when your material is ready and you go to a coded online site for your material. Best of all it is free!" In my experience these free translation sites are a mixed bag; but some of them are worthwhile. I thought I'd pass this along, for anyone who'd like to investigate this one.

<http://desktop.google.com/download/earth/>

I mentioned this site in the last issue—it lets you download a service that basically lets you fly all over the world, zooming in and out and up and down. But on the Polish Surnames list Patrick Bohinski <bohinski@chartermi.net> passed on a note from a gentleman named Scott Aron <rtanyon@yahoo.com> on the Misagina-L list, and I thought Scott had a brilliant inspiration. He said, "Among the many visually amazing features of this program is a tool where you can over-lay

images on top of satellite photos. As soon as I saw this feature, it hit me ... ‘Plat maps!’ I imported the 1920 Tittabawassee Twp plat map image on top of a satellite photo of the area, and just like that I was looking at a photographic map of where my ancestors property would be located today. The program lets you adjust the size, orientation, and best of all, the transparency level of the imported image, so you can make the map match the roads, rivers, etc. of the satellite image and then you simply drag the transparency guide back and forth to toggle between the map and the image to see where property would be located today. By the way, this process also did an excellent job of clarifying where local cemeteries are located today (a topic being discussed on the list a short time ago) since some of the cemeteries are identified on the plat maps.”

<http://www.google.com/apis/maps/>

In a similar vein, PolishRoots’ own Christine Clark <cclark60646@yahoo.com> passed on a note she’d seen about Google’s releasing an API for its Google Maps service, which lets you embed Google Maps in your web pages using JavaScript. There are, of course, restrictions, which are explained at the above site.

<http://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/germany/haxgermany.html>

On the German-Surnames list a researcher asked for help finding maps of the German Empire that showed changes over the course of time. Kay <MehdiFakhar@aol.com> recommended this site, saying “The individual who has created this site, has links to numerous large readable maps. I think he’s done an awesome job.” She also mentioned a map site where you can check for surnames at <http://www.rollintl.com/roll/maps.htm>, and a site with large readable historical maps of Germany at <http://www.geocities.com/vrozn/maps.htm>.

<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=11407>

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup Logan J. Kleinwaks announced that the 1926/27 Poland and Danzig Business Directory, *Księga Adresowa Polski (wraz z w. m. Gdańskiem) dla handlu, rzemiosł i rolnictwa*, is now freely available online at the Digital Library of Wielkopolska’s site at the above address. He said, “This 2626-page directory is primarily organized by place, then by business type, then by surname or business name. To facilitate searching, I have applied optical character recognition (OCR) software to the Digital Library images and incorporated the result into my Search Engine for Online Historical Directories at <http://www.kalter.org/search.php>. When searching, please keep in mind that OCR is not 100% accurate, so you still might want to manually search the directory, especially if you are only interested a few known small towns. To improve your chances of success, I encourage you to make use of all three available methods of searching. An explanation of how to access the scanned directory images at the Digital Library site can be found in the FAQ on the Search Engine site.”

A few days later Mr. Kleinwaks posted another notice, announcing that the 1930 Poland and Danzig Business Directory is now also available, at this page on the Digital Library of Wielkopolska site: <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=11649>. He has also OCR’ed these images and incorporated the result into his site at <http://www.kalter.org/search.php>.

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1895,1835857,00.asp>

This is where you can find a column for PC Magazine by John C. Dworak that discusses “The Wikification of Knowledge.” It’s a subject that fascinates me, as I often find Wikipedia to be a valuable source of information on a variety of topics. But the problem is, anyone can go in and edit the content. In a perfect world, only nice, smart people would do so; but in the real world, you have to figure it’s only a matter of time before spin doctors and other scumbags make a point of defacing anything they don’t agree with. I’d love to see this work, but like Dworak, I’m afraid it’s only a matter of time before this Utopian ideal gets dragged into the sewer. See what you think.

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,929898,00.asp>

As long as I’m mentioning *PC Magazine* articles, this one is on “Heading off Spam”—surely a subject that interests anyone who uses a computer and e-mail. I mention it just in case you’re interested in ideas that might reduce the spam in your inbox.

http://www.surfip.gov.sg/sip/site/sip_home.htm

On the *soc.genealogy.jewish* newsgroup, Jane Reifer said this site, which allows searches of international patents, can be amazingly helpful in terms of filling in information. A patent search might not seem like a promising area for genealogists; but she said you’re missing a bet if you don’t give it a try. She explained, “Just enter your surname into the Show News - Search Patents Web banner in the middle of the page. They also have a free membership level, but I found the banner search pretty comprehensive, sometimes even with images of the applications.” The sites searched are: WIPO/PCT - World Intellectual Property Organization - Patent Cooperation Treaty, IPO Singapore, European Patent Office, UK Patent Office, United States PTO, JPO-IPDL, Canada IPO, Taipei Patents Index.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/areas.html>

When I was browsing one day I visited the Rootsweb Poland Genweb Site, and noticed this page. It has a nice summary of the various regions that are or historically were part of Poland. If you’ve ever wondered where Kujawy or Kaszuby or Polesie might be, and want some leads on how to learn more, this is a page you need to know about!

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/poland/messages/31645.html>

Paul S. Valasek <paval56@aol.com> passed on this site, which has a lot of information about Poles who participated in the [1830-31 Uprising](#) and settled in England.

<http://homepage.mac.com/twozniak/SaintCasimir/Menu33.html>

Ceil Jensen <cjensen@mipolonia.net> passed on this address for a Website Tom Wozniak set up for his alma mater in Detroit, [St. Casimir](#), which opened in the 1880s and closed in June.

<http://genealog.toplista.pl/?we=jurek48&kod=789513>

For those who aren’t intimidated by a little Polish, this is a fascinating site listing genealogical sources, some dealing with individual families.

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