



Gen Dobry!

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*** WELCOME! ***

to the latest issue of *Gen Dobry!*, the e-zine of PolishRoots®. If you missed previous issues, you can find them here:

http://polishroots.org/gendobry/gendobry_index.htm

Also, if you are among those who'd like *Gen Dobry!* in PDF form, you can download this issue here:

http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_V_5.pdf

*** PHONETIC MISSPELLINGS OF PLACE NAMES ***

A few issues back I did an article on changing forms of Polish place names caused by grammatical considerations. I heard from a lot of people who loved the article. One of them, Marge Sullivan <hjmcs@optonline.net>, challenged me to tackle a related problem:

Occurs to me that something that might be helpful to people who are reading Polish place names on American records. They might need help with phonemic errors. These are the source of “misspellings” generated by U.S.-born children or immigrants stating the name (sometimes with the proper Polish endings!). Misspellings are not random but generated by how an untrained ear of a non-native speaker hears the sounds. The “mistakes” they make are probably predictable to some extent.

For example, Polish *w* might be spelled *v* or *f*. Figuring out that *Wiktoria* might be *Victoria* is a no-brainer, but people might not think about it for place names. If they see something that says *Forogu* for a birth place on a death or marriage certificate, it might not occur to them to try to find either *Foroga* or *Woroga* on the map.

So, in your “spare time,” dear editor, how about some sort of a table that could list the various ways Polish letters might be “spelled” by English speakers?

This is another one of those subjects that could easily turn into a book! And not all misspellings of place names make sense — I’ve found plenty that baffled my best efforts to explain how they happened. Some have left me asking, “Was he from Poland on Earth, or is there a Poland on Mars?”

Still, Marge is basically right: most manglings of place names have some kind of phonetic basis. As a rule, a person who said he was from “Warsaw” didn’t get recorded as coming from “Bibblyboop.” The name that got written down usually will sound somewhat like the original name, even if the resemblance is not easy to spot.

* Language Barrier_s (plural)! *

One bull we must grasp by the horns immediately is the multilingual nature of phonetic spellings. Say a Pole from Łódź comes up to an American, a German, and a Russian. (No, this is not the start of a Polish joke). Asked where he came from, he decides to keep things simple and just says the name of the town, “Łódź.”

The American would probably write down what he heard as “Wooch” or “Woodge.” The German would hesitate over how on earth to write the unfamiliar *Ł* sound, and would probably compromise by writing it as *W*, even though that’s how Germans write the sound we write as *V*. So he’d probably spell what he heard as “Wutsch.” The Russian would struggle with the same *Ł* problem, most likely scribbling something in the Cyrillic alphabet along the lines of “БуТш.” The point is, unless they were already familiar with this place name and how it’s spelled in Polish, none would come up with anything even remotely similar to Łódź. Furthermore, none of the three would come up with anything that looked very similar to what the other two wrote down.

This illustrates the problem: different languages use different combinations of letters to represent sounds. Quite a few sounds in Polish don't correspond very closely to anything in the other languages; so attempts to spell names with those sounds are likely to be especially hideous. Spelling is tricky enough when only two languages are involved; imagine when three or four get into the act!

There is a factor that saves us from utter chaos. Most Poles on their way to the New World didn't just click their heels and poof! materialize at Ellis Island. They stopped at various points along the way, where they had to deal with officials of the empire(s) they traveled through. It wasn't advisable to just show up in front of these officials with nothing but the clothes on their back. They usually — maybe not always, but usually — had some sort of papers. Typically, before they set out they had to get traveling papers in the local district office serving their old home town or village, where they were previously registered as residents. They would hand these papers to a clerk or official, who'd copy down the pertinent info and perhaps issue new papers. Those various papers or permits, collected on the way from place to place, would accompany the emigrants as they made their way toward the New World — as would the spellings of the data on them.

So as a rule, officials filling out forms did not have to rely solely on writing down what they heard and guessing at the spelling. Very often they'd say "Your papers?" and would be handed written material to copy from. That did not prevent mistakes and manglings, of course; officials might still misread, mishear, or misspell names. But having something on paper surely helped minimize errors.

Don't forget, though: this is a two-edged sword, which could preserve either good info or bad. In a best-case scenario, forms of names were copied accurately from official papers from point A to point B to point C, and so on. But if a mistake *did* get introduced in the process, that mistake perpetuated itself from that point on. In fact, small mistakes might occur at various points, through simple human error, accumulating and compounding themselves. It would be like that old game where you tell something to the first person in a line, and see how badly it's mangled by the time it reaches the end of the line. If you've ever played that game, you have some notion just how "Warsaw" can get turned into "Bibblyboop."

So the ideal answer is simple: familiarize yourself thoroughly with the orthographic and phonetic tendencies of Polish, German, Russian, and English. Trace your ancestor's path as far as possible, and draw up lists of all the possible permutations. There can't be more than a few thousand possibilities. If you're lucky, there may only be a few dozen.

Assuming for a moment that you have a life, you may not be able to spare time to approach the problem that way. Surely, you think, there is a better way. That's where Marge's suggestion comes in: surely the possibilities you're most likely to encounter can be summarized and presented in a form easy to grasp and consult. Perhaps some sort of a chart....

*** A Chart of Typical Phonetic Misspellings of Polish Place Names ***

With that in mind, let me give you my attempt at a chart that includes the changes I consider most likely, based on my experience. The letter or letter combination on the left is what we may see in English or German, or in Roman-alphabet renderings of Russian.

<i>Changed</i>	<i>Polish Original</i>
<i>an</i>	<i>ę</i>
<i>au</i>	<i>ów, owo</i>
<i>c</i>	<i>dz, k</i>
<i>ch</i>	<i>cz, ć, ci, dź, h</i>
<i>d</i>	<i>t</i>
<i>em</i>	<i>ę</i>
<i>en</i>	<i>ę</i>
<i>f</i>	<i>w, v</i>
<i>g</i>	<i>ch, cz, h</i>
<i>h</i>	<i>ch</i>
<i>i</i>	<i>y, j</i>
<i>j</i>	<i>dź, dż, dzi</i>
<i>k</i>	<i>ch, g</i>
<i>l</i>	<i>ł</i>
<i>om</i>	<i>ą</i>
<i>on</i>	<i>ą</i>
<i>oo</i>	<i>ó, u</i>
<i>p</i>	<i>b</i>
<i>r</i>	<i>rz</i>
<i>s</i>	<i>ś, si, sz, z</i>
<i>sch</i>	<i>rz, s, ś, si, sz, z, ź</i>
<i>sh</i>	<i>rz, s, ś, si, sz, z, ź</i>
<i>t</i>	<i>d</i>
<i>ts</i>	<i>c, dz</i>
<i>tsch</i>	<i>cz, ć, ci, dź</i>
<i>tz</i>	<i>c, dz</i>
<i>u</i>	<i>ó</i>
<i>v</i>	<i>w</i>
<i>w</i>	<i>ł</i>
<i>x</i>	<i>ks</i>
<i>y</i>	<i>i, j</i>
<i>z</i>	<i>rz, s, ź</i>
<i>zh</i>	<i>rz, sz, ź</i>

(You can use this space for notes)

Of course, don't overcomplicate: as Dr. Freud said, "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar" — and sometimes a *k* is just a *k*, not a *ch* or *g*. I didn't bother listing those instances, however, because when *k* = *k* you'll have no particular problem finding the name, will you?

* Categories and Examples *

That chart may be helpful, but those are still a lot of changes to deal with. Many of them can be summarized in a way that helps you see — or more importantly, hear! — how they can be changed that way. So let me group them and give examples.

– Nasal Vowels –

The nasal vowels give non-Poles fits, because it seems odd to us that an *e* can also be *en* or *em* or *an* or *on* or *om* or *a*, and vice versa. But once you "hear" a nasal vowel it becomes much easier to recognize situations where it can complicate things.

The Polish nasal *ą* (*a* with *ogonek*, a hook or tail, under it) usually sounds much like "on," especially as pronounced in French *bon*. Before either *b* or *p* it tends to sound more like "om." Since it sounds like "on" or "om," it could easily be written down that way. So the common place name Dąbrowa ("oak grove") can often be spelled "Dombrowa" — or the *ogonek* might be dropped completely, giving "Dabrowa."

The Polish nasal *ę* (*e* with *ogonek*) usually sounds kind of like "en," but in some cases it can sound more like "an" or even "uh" or "ow" — it's one of those things you have to hear from a native speaker. Before *b* or *p* it sounds more like "em." Most of the time, though, it will show up as *en* or *em*. That's why you may see the name Dębno spelled "Dembno" sometimes, even in Poland; and that's why Germans turned Kępno into "Kempen."

The nasal vowels are joined at the hip, you might say; they easily switch. Given the least bit of encouragement, *ą* in a name may turn into *ę*, and vice versa. So a name with *ą* can easily show up as *ę*, which means *om* or *on* may show up as *en* or *em*, or as *an* or *am*, and so on.

– Devoicing –

It's a feature of Polish (and many other languages, including German) that certain sounds that are "voiced" — made with the vocal cords sounding — can easily switch to their "unvoiced" counterparts. Compare *d* and *t*; the main difference is that the vocal cords sound when you say *d*, but don't when you say *t*. Same with the pairs *b/p*, *dz/c*, *dź/ć*, *dż/cz*, *g/k*, *w/f*, and *z/s*. In each case the first of the pair is voiced, the second is unvoiced. At the end of words, and also sometimes at the end of syllables, voiced sounds tend to devoice. So even though Grzyb is spelled with a *-b*, it sounds as if it ends with *-p* — and thus might be spelled that way.

Many of the items in the list come from devoicing. That's how Sieradz ends up sounding like "sheh'-rots"; the final *-dz* devoices to "ts." Elbląg sounds like "elb'-lonk," because final *-g* devoices to a "k" sound. Rzeszów sounds like "zheh'-shoof" because final *-w* devoices to "f." Once you master this little trick, a whole lot of spelling changes fall into place!

– Sibilants –

The hissing sounds represented in English by *s*, *sh*, *ts*, *tz*, and *z* are especially fragile when phonetic and orthographic considerations come into play. Consider that in German, for instance, *s* usually sounds like our “z,” except when it comes before *p* or *t* at the start of a word, when it sounds like our “sh.” Hungarian uses *s* for the sound Poles spell *sz* and we spell “sh,” and *sz* for the sound we and the Poles spell “s”! In any language sibilants are pesky critters. The Polish letters and combinations that represent sibilants — *c*, *ć*, *ci*, *dź*, *dzi*, *dż*, *rz*, *s*, *ś*, *si*, *sz*, *ź*, *zi*, and *ż* — are especially likely to be affected by spelling uncertainties.

The name of the town of Przemyśl, for instance, is actually pronounced “p’sheh’-mishl” (many people drop the final *-l*, or pronounce it so lightly as to be inaudible), but Rzeszów is “zheh’-shoof.” Sieradz is “sheh’-rots” (the final *-dz* devoices to “ts”), but Łódź is “wooch” (with final *-dź* devoicing to “ch,” although in some cases people might hear it as “dge” or “j”). Chodzież sounds like “ho’-jesh” (final *ż* devoices to “sh”). Many of the changes affecting sibilants are due to devoicing, but sometimes it just seems that sibilants like to mess with our minds. And these changes are the kind that tend to disguise the names of places we’re looking for.

– Polish Spelling Peculiarities –

Some of the spelling variations we find are simply a case of “That’s how Poles do it.” Technically Polish forbids the combinations *-ge-* and *-ke-*, insisting they should always be *-gie-* and *-kie-* (although there are plenty of exceptions). Polish spells the sound of “x” as *ks*. Over the centuries *i* and *j* and *y* have sometimes been used interchangeably; don’t sweat the difference. Poles pronounce *ch* and *h* more or less the same, so a name with *h* may have a variant with *ch*, and vice versa. Polish *ó* sounds like *u*, which we may spell *u* or *oo*. Combine those last two tips and a little devoicing, and you’ll understand why Chabówka may show up as “Habufka.”

– Germans and English-Speakers Deal with Polish Sounds –

There are a few patterns I’ve noticed in how Germans and English-speakers cope with unfamiliar letters and sounds in Polish. For instance, in older German and in English the letter *c* can be pronounced like *k*, so a Polish name with *K-* might show up with *C-*: Kamień may show up as “Cammin” or “Kammin.”

English-speakers tend to render Polish *cz* as “ch,” and *sz* as “sh.” Germans tend to spell them *tsch* and *sch*, respectively. That explains how Łomża was Germanized as “Lomscha,” Milicz as “Militsch,” Niemcz as “Nimptsch,” and Krotoszyn as “Krotoschin.” Germans may also render Polish *ci* as *tsch*, which explains how Jarocin became “Jarotschin.” Germans also may convert *ź* into *sch*, as Koźmin became “Koschmin.”

When we English-speakers try to deal with the Polish combination *dzi*, we often spell it the way it sounds to us: *j*. So Dziki can easily become “Jiki.” But a German would never do that (though he might turn *dz-* into *dsch-*). As for Polish *j*, we spell it the way it sounds to us, as *y*; but a German would leave it as *j* because Germans pronounce that letter the same way Poles do.

Germans often add *h* after a vowel to show that it’s long. This explains how Polish Góra is Germanized as “Guhrau,” and Oława became “Ohlau.”

Germans tend to turn Polish *-ice* or *-ica* or *-iec* into plain *-itz*. Thus Lubliniec became “Lublinitz,” and Trzebnica became “Trebnitz.” Germans also might turn Polish *ch* into *k*, which explains how Chojnice became “Konitz.”

The *ł* mystifies non-Poles, and they usually just drop the slash, leaving plain *l*; but people who speak English **might** sometimes spell it phonetically as *w* (although that’s fairly rare).

The Polish endings *-ów* and *-owo* tend to become *-au* in German forms, so that the German name for Kraków is “Krakau,” and Warsaw is “Warschau.” It’s also possible *-ów* might be rendered as *-off* sometimes.

English-speakers, Germans, and just about everyone else find *rz* bizarre, and tend to turn it into plain *r*. Thus Polish Brzeg can become German “Brieg”; Rzepin became “Reppen” in German; and Strzelno became “Strelno.”

* A Life-Saver: Shtetl Seeker *

As I said, I could probably fill a book with examples of spelling variations (and it would be the least-read book in the history of the human race). My best advice, however, is to familiarize yourself with the chart I gave above, and try to recognize which variations are examples of devoicing, variations of sibilants, and so on.

And if you want a tool to help you deal with spelling variations of place names, bless the folks at Jewishgen.org for providing a life-saving tool, the Shtetl Seeker:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/shtetlseeker/loctown.htm>

This site lets you search a huge database of place names in central and eastern Europe, with the option of restricting matches to a certain spelling, or listing phonetic matches. That’s what the box saying “Search using” is for. It lets you specify “Precise spelling,” “All towns starting with this precise spelling,” or “Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex.” D-M Soundex was devised by Randy Daitch and Gary Mokotoff to help researchers get around the bewildering variety of spellings they encounter. It takes into account the phonetic and orthographic tendencies of the languages of central and eastern Europe, and looks for names that **sound like** the one you want. You can cut down on the number of false matches you get by specifying the country to search in, and by specifying the latitude and longitude you want as “ground zero” for your search.

It takes a little practice to master searching on the Shtetl Seeker. You have to develop a feel for when to use D-M Soundex and when to specify a spelling, or when to restrict matches to a specific country. Your first searches might bring up a jillion matches, with the one you want hidden in there somewhere, hard to spot. But as you get used to it, your searches will become more and more accurate.

One tip that can help is to “force” matches with brackets. If I search for “Sувальки” with D-M Soundex, for instance, I get a lot of places beginning with C- and Z-. If I’m fairly certain the place in question starts with S, I can tell it to look for “[S]увальки.” That [S] restricts matches to names beginning with S-.

Well, I've gone on long enough. I hope these tips help you — I know how frustrating it is to *know* a place exists, yet not be able to find it. With luck, maybe my chart will save you a little time and trouble.

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

Subject: Place Names Instead of Surnames

Re the latest *Gen Dobry!* and a Website mentioned in it, <http://www.poland.pl/index.htm>. Instead of inserting my family surnames, I inserted the towns or villages and came up with some interesting photos and information. Proved very interesting.

Armella Hammes <armelahammes@att.net>

Editor — It seems like Armella Hammes almost always has a perceptive comment on a tip she read in Gen Dobry! and then found an imaginative way to improve on. For me this is great — it proves someone's reading our e-zine closely and looking for ways to use it. Plus I get to pass on her ideas to others who may benefit from them, which makes me look good without doing any work ☺. But fair is fair: let's give Armella some credit, as well as all the others who write in with useful ideas and suggestions.

Subject: How Did They Manage to Do It?

Would be interested in a segment in a future *Gen Dobry!* on the following subject.

For some reason I am fascinated by the fact that my Tato left Russian-controlled Poland at the age of 16 and somehow made his way to a boat in Hamburg. I have checked on the Internet and there really is not a lot of information online. He did not speak a lick of English either.

I want to know how a 16-year-old from a *wieś* [village] of probably 30 homes could find out that there was a boat to Philadelphia from Hamburg. Especially since he could not read English or Polish. I am curious as to how in the year 1913 he would travel from his little obscure village of Udrzyn on the Bug River in what is now Mazowieckie province to Hamburg. He must have been a brave soul.

He is listed on the boat registry as coming by himself. I scanned the registry and did not recognize anyone else from that area who could have been a fellow traveler.

Any suggestions or information?

I think this would make a good topic and think this would be of interest to all of us. And could be opening up new ground?

Joe <joeflip@earthlink.net>

Editor — It does sometimes seem miraculous that our ancestors managed to do what they did. As for how they managed it, some of you must have gained insights from your research on this. I'd love to hear from you, and obviously Joe would, too. If you send me your remarks at <wfh@langline.com>, I'll include them in the next issue.

***** NEW GUIDE FOR POLISH GENEALOGY *****

Editor — Ceil Jensen, a Certified Genealogical Records Specialist <<http://mipolonia.net>> and familiar figure to readers of Gen Dobry!, posted this note to the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list. I think it's something all researchers might want to know about.

I would like to recommend a new and up-to-date guide for Polish genealogy. It covers basic and advanced research techniques as well as maps, sample documents and suggested websites.

I bought my copy Saturday at the Polish Genealogy Society of Michigan's meeting. This new book is authored by experienced genealogists Kathleen Ann LaBudie-Szakall and Jan Steven Zaleski. You may recognize their names. They were founding members of PGSM and are the current president and vice president of the Society.

Finding Your Polish Ancestors – Kathleen Ann LaBudie-Szakall and Jan Steven Zaleski, 2003, 5½x8½, comb-binding, 335 pp [A4490HJ] \$23.00

The cover states: Successful Polish research is easiest when the ancestral village is known and the parish records have been microfilmed, but persistence and the right strategies can overcome many of the most common pitfalls.

You can order a copy from the author:

Kathleen LaBudie-Szakall
PO Box 5
Hepworth ON N0H 1P0
CANADA

e-mail: labuszkl@log.on.ca

Editor — I haven't had a chance to get my hands on Kathleen and Jan's book yet, so I can't comment on it. But I've know them for years, and one thing I can say for certain: they have an enormous amount of hands-on experience. I would expect a book distilling and communicating what they've learned over the years to be a valuable resource.

***** FEEFHS WEBSITE HONORED *****

Editor — At the risk of looking like a slacker who's copping everything Ceil writes to save myself some work, she posted another note, on the Poland-Roots list this time, that I

considered very informative. The FEEFHS Website deserves some attention, and the Family Tree Magazine site's list includes some links that beginners and old pros alike need to know about.

A nice honor for the FEEFHS website. (*And don't forget their conference Oct. 1 - 3, 2004)

The FEEFHS website has been named by the *Family Tree Magazine* as one of their annual 101 best family history web sites in the upcoming August 2004 issue. Look for FEEFHS in the International & Immigration category.

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/101sites/2004/international.html>

Federation of East European Family History Societies

<http://feefhs.org>

Start exploring your Eastern European roots with these links to member societies, maps and research guides. Don't miss the expanding array of databases, covering foreign-born voters in 1872 California, World War I Polish soldiers in France, and an ambitious reconstruction of vital records destroyed in San Francisco's 1906 earthquake, when the city was home to many European emigrants.

Editor — You can see the other 100 sites recognized (including PolishRoots!) at the Family Tree Magazine address Ceil gave above.

***** THE ANCESTORS' COMMANDMENTS *****

Editor — Debbie Greenlee posted these on the Poland-Roots list. I'm probably the last person to have seen them, but I liked them and thought I'd pass them on. I particularly like the motto at the end....

The Ancestors' Commandments:

Thou shalt use the same forenames for at least one person from every generation, preferably at least once in every family on every generation, just to cause confusion.

Thou shalt wait the maximum amount of time before registering births and deaths, or better still somehow forget to get them registered at all.

Thou shalt have 2 forenames, and use them both separately on official records, but never both together.

Thou shalt change thy forename at least once during thy lifetime.

Thou shalt use every conceivable spelling for thy surname, and make up a few as well.

Thou shalt never use the same year of birth or birthdate. Always vary it, adding on a couple of years here and taking away a couple of years there.

Thou shalt use the house name and county as thy place of birth, and not the village or town.

Thou shalt completely disappear without trace for at least 15 years of your life, and suddenly turn up again.

Thou shalt use at least 2 versions of thy father's name.

Thou shalt not use family members as thy witnesses at thy wedding.

Thou shalt get married somewhere that neither of you live.

Thou shalt not have all of thy children baptized, and shall not always use the same church.

Thou shalt move between counties at least once every 10 years.

Thou shalt move hundreds of miles from thy home town at least once. Better still would be to move to another country.

Thou shalt make life as difficult as possible for thy descendents when they decide to research thee.

Thou shalt use as many of these commandments as is possible during your lifetime, but not all are necessary.

“Genealogy — disturbing the dead, and irritating the living”

Editor — Incidentally, <PolishDragon@att.net> posted an interesting follow-up note:

The list of genealogical problems included the following:

> Thou shalt get married somewhere that neither of you live.

Which prompts me to bring up the subject of elopements. Yes, grandma and grandpa did elope and did *not* get married in church or had the marriage blessed afterward. Why? Well, the first guess is Grandma/pa didn't like the future son/daughter-in-law or second, the future groom/bride was of the wrong {religion, ethnicity, side of the tracks} (pick one or more).

When the naturalization of someone I was researching arrived, I was found muttering “why in the **** did he get married THERE?” and was told by a colleague that this town was a common elopement spot for that area. So if you are researching in the Middle Atlantic states of US, you probably know about Elkton, Maryland, but did you also know about Doylestown, Bucks County, PA??

*** HIDING BEHIND A -SKA? ***

Editor — Diana Grzelak Needham <carsonneedham@adelphia.net> posted a note on a simple but obvious point I never thought of. I thought it was worth sharing.

I found an interesting quirk which I never thought of before today in the 1930 census. I'm sure this happened in others also, so it isn't unique to 1930.

If a lady is a widow and **head** of household and uses the *-ska* ending, her sons living with her could be listed under her name with the *-ska* ending on the census and in the searchable databases. If you're missing any men, they may be hiding behind their moms!

Editor — As an interesting counterpoint, I wanted to add that in Poland today more and more females are hiding behind a -ski! Traditionally, females always bore -ska forms of names ending in -ski, but this is changing. Data from Prof. Rymut's recently updated Dictionary of Surnames CD proves that more and more females in Poland are going by the -ski form. You will probably never run into this with your ancestors, but it's worth keeping in mind when searching in Poland today. We can no longer assume Mrs. or Miss Kowalski will be Kowalska!

*** 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 Last Issue:

+ Geography

– Q: What river in southern Poland is popular for raft excursions?

A: The Dunajec River

– Q: What U.S. State has a Modjeska Canyon, Modjeska Mountain, and Modjeska Road?

A: California

– Q: Where is the largest Gothic castle in Poland?

A: At Malbork

– Q: What once largely Polish community was/is surrounded by Detroit, Michigan?

A: Hamtramck

– Q: What major U.S. city had a Polish-American community known as Polish Hill?

A. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

* Questions for the May 2004 Issue *

History

– Q: What did the Teutonic Grand Master send to King Władysław Jagiełło just before the Grunwald onslaught?

- Q: What is “Sobieski’s Shield”?
- Q: What carved figures surrounding the crypt of King Kazimierz the Great symbolize the grief at his death?
- Q: Which Polish princess was a youthful love of German Kaiser Wilhelm I?
- Q: Who was the first ruler of Poland to accept the Christian faith?

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

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

[Note: the PolishRoots Events Calendar <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>.]

July 17 & 18, 2004

National Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Dance Festival

at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

For more info: 319-362-8500 or <http://www.ncsml.org>

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August 5-8, 2004

THE SOCIETY FOR GERMAN GENEALOGY IN EASTERN EUROPE

- 2004 CONVENTION -

Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Center
 1316 33rd Street NE
 Calgary, Alberta, Canada
 Phone: 403-248-8888

Contact: convention@sggee.org
 Web: <http://www.sggee.org>
 Web: http://www.clickcalgaryhotels.com/coast_plaza_hotel_and_conference_center.html

SGGEE is a Poland and Volhynia genealogy group for people of German origin interested in the genealogy, culture and history of their ancestors who migrated through present-day Poland and Volhynia (now western Ukraine) and the surrounding areas.

Research opportunities, speakers and workshops will assist you in discovering your ancestral roots out of these areas. SGGEE reaches researchers not only in Canada but the U.S.A., Germany, Poland, Australia, and Russia.

More data will be available on the Website <http://www.sggee.org> as details are finalized.

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September 8 - 11, 2004

**“LEGENDS LIVE FOREVER”
CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETIES**

At the Austin Convention Center in Austin, Texas

There will be over 70 speakers, an exhibit hall, book sales, and so on. Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net>, who mentioned this conference in a note on the Poland-Roots mailing list, had an excellent suggestion: “You might even include a trip to Panna Maria for a day or so. Texas in September is still warm, no chance of snow!”

For more details see the FGS Website: <http://www.fgs.org/2004conf/FGS-2004.htm>

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September 17-18, 2004

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE NORTHEAST

presents their 2004 Conference in affiliation with the

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY POLISH STUDIES PROGRAM

More info will be given in the Spring issue of *Pathways & Passages*, and on the PGSCCTNE Website at www.pgsctne.org.

!! ZAPRASZAMY !!

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September 24 - 26, 2004

POLISH FEST 2004

Latham, New York

A Celebration of Polish/American Culture

3 Days of fun and entertainment for the whole family

Located in Latham NY, a suburb of Albany.

<http://www.polishfest-ny.org/>

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October 1 - 3, 2004

FEEFHS / PGSM International Conference

“What Is Past Is Prologue”

Three-day fee, \$150, including lunches, Single day fee: Friday fee, \$65, including lunch, Saturday fee, \$65, including lunch, Sunday fee, \$50, no lunch. Dinner \$30 per person. Syllabus \$20

Crowne Plaza Detroit - Metro Airport

Convention Chairs: Ceil Jensen FEEFHS and Jan Zaleski PGSM

For more info, visit the Website: <http://feefhs.org>

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

<http://www.viamichelin.com>

On the Poland-Roots list Thaddeus Ciechanowski suggested this site that gives mileage between towns and cities. It looks like a promising resource to me.

<http://www.legacyrus.com/rutheniannname.htm>

On the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list, Laurence Krupniak <Lkrupnak@erols.com> gave this address as a good place for learning about names such as “Ruthenian” and “Rusyn” or “Rusniak” applied to people living in western Ukraine. This is a subject that constantly confuses beginners, so if you have ancestors from that area, it might pay you to read this.

<http://www.fzp.jewish.org.pl/english/engind.html>

Debbie Greenlee <daveg@airmail.net> thought this site for a new e-zine, might interest some readers: “Though this isn’t wholly Polish, it is about Polish Jews.” That certainly means it deserves mention in *Gen Dobry!*

<http://blacksheep.rootsweb.com/shame/ancestry-cancel.htm>

On the Poland-Roots list, Rita <rrobinson13@cogeco.ca> gave this site, saying it offers “good explanations of all genealogy scams, including family crest offers. Scroll down far enough to the Ancestry.com write up.”

<http://www.genpol.com/htmlpages-display-pid-21.html>

On that same list Rita also asked if this site lists all the Catholic Churches in Poland by town? It doesn't have all of them, and it is in Polish — but it does have quite a few, and it's not hard to figure out what's given. Click on the first letter of the name of the town or village in question, and you get a list of parish churches, with their patron saint (i. e., their name), the province they were in under the 1975-1998 setup, the year they were founded, in some cases notes on the year their birth, marriage, and death records start, and so on. You might benefit from giving it a look!

<http://genealog.home.pl/>

Paul Valasek found this site and thought it was interesting — it's in Polish, but there's a link for an English version. Paul noted that this site was also recommended there:

<http://www.polishgenealogy.com.pl/about%20us.htm>.

http://www.prudential.co.uk/prudentialplc/aboutpru/wwpolish/details_04.pdf

Paul Valasek also came across this site and thought it might interest some readers. “It takes awhile to load as an Adobe Acrobat file. Maybe someone will get lucky and make a claim.”

<http://tinyurl.com/3y8aa>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, Linda Eckerd <ljeckerd@yahoo.com> gave this as the site for the Chicago Newspaper Archive, with old obituaries from Chicago newspapers. She advised, “Also look for headline articles, you never know what you'll find.” Given how many Polish Americans have Chicago connections, this seems a resource many will find useful.

<http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/startsearch.html>

Along the same lines, also on the Lithuanian Genealogy list, Tracy <stormin65@comcast.net> gave the above link for land records, saying “Cook County photographed almost every home and business and the pics are online. I found addresses from 1910-20 and 30 census, some are now vacant lots but at least I could see the neighborhoods. Very easy to navigate, put in a range of addresses on a block and you can look at the whole neighborhood.

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