



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(R). If you missed previous issues, you can find them here:

<<http://polishroots.org/GenDobry/tabid/60/Default.aspx>>

ONLINE GENEALOGY: THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH

Paul S. Valasek <Hallersarmy@aol.com>

Every few years, genealogy gets a boost to its image and also comes up with incredible approaches to research. The Mormons made a great step forward starting in the 1960s when they began filming Polish church records and making them available for researchers throughout the world at their local Family History Centers.

Later, the Internet became available to the public, and organizations as well as individuals were able to put up information for the world to look at—PolishRoots is a direct result of this. As technology advanced, these organizations developed not only websites but also e-zines (such as our own *Gen Dobry!*), giving out information to subscribers at little to no cost. Researchers should appreciate what good these websites and e-zines have done in making their research much simpler than before; but of course, someone had to take the time to locate the material, type up or scan the information, and then compile articles for consumer consumption.

At roughly the same time as the spread of the Internet, the fall of Communism and the opening up of the old Eastern Bloc allowed Polish researchers to develop and display materials that for decades had been hidden, frowned upon, and out-and-out banned. With the large response (and pestering) from Poles in Polonia, Poles in the homeland are now taking genealogy of the average man more seriously than ever. This is good, as the tracing of genealogical roots in Europe had previously been considered only for the rich and famous. Now, millions of descendants of farmers are finding out that while the King and Queen were living nearby, they too had a family history that was playing out a few kilometers away; the family may even have interacted with royalty, though at a level of lord and worker. So now, a rancher from Paris, Texas can now find out about his ancestry as well as a Count from Paris, France.

Well, in the past few months, my personal research has tremendously advanced, with 400+ new family members and just getting started. Not for my Polish half but for my Czech half, as well as my wife Andrea's Slovak side. Now if you read Czech and Slovak, and not Polish, and are about to skip the rest of this article, you are already behind in your research. Granted, most of our readers do not need Slovak or Czech research in their trees—**BUT** this is the beginning of what is to come. Sooner or later, Polish records will be online, if not directly via the Polish archives themselves, then through the enormous records of the Family History Library. The FHL is gearing up to place its records online (yes, those that have been microfilmed), with plans to do likewise with images yet to be captured.

So my advice is to take a look at the following pages just to see what is in the future. Chances are that the Mormons will be putting material up sooner than the Polish archives; but obviously that is out of my control, and no one knows what may show up and when. Then again, that is why we have such things as monthly e-zines to notify subscribers as soon as things happen. Jewish researchers are well ahead of the rest as they promptly notify their subscribers as soon as material is spotted and seen. This is something to which all researchers need to pay attention; sooner or later, the material you need will be there. It would be a shame to be left behind.

For those interested in Czech research, actually looking at the original records on line from home, the site for the archives of Brno and Plzeň are at this location: <<http://www.actapublica.eu/registrace>>.

For the efforts of the Family History Centers and what European records may be seen in the comfort of your home, the site address is <<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#r=1&p=allCollections>>.

Share the information with your Czech and Slovak fellow researchers. Not only will they appreciate it, but they in turn may find something Polish for you.

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

Subject: Response on *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Editor—My comments on this show produced several really good responses I wanted to pass along to our readers.

After having watched two episodes of this NBC program, I completely agree with you. My first reaction was that they do not really show how to search for genealogical information and used a professional to find all their forebears. And as you mentioned, they only searched one branch of the family. Actually, I just thought it was one big promotion for Ancestry.com. Thanks for listening.

Alexandra Coughlin <isgrock@cox.net>

Editor—Well, I'd like to think it may grow into more than that. But I have to admit, that's the impression I got. By the way, Alexandra sent me a follow-up note that I thought was worth sharing:

By the way, my husband and I are going to Poland in September, and Zenon from Polish Origins will be our guide for part of our trip as we search for my maternal grandparents records in Nagoszyn.

Editor—How cool is that! I've yet to hear from anyone who was displeased with Zenon's work. I hope he does a superb job for you, and you have a glorious time.

Subject: More on *Who Do You Think You Are?*

I just finished reading the *Gen Dobry!* dated 31 March 2010. Your article "So Who Do We Think We Are?" was great. There is not one thing that I disagreed with in your article. In my opinion, most Hollywood movies are terrible, and TV, just as bad. I suppose if you have a lot of money,

why do the research yourself? Doing genealogy is time-consuming, and sometimes you want to pull your hair out; but you not only learn a lot about your family, you also learn a lot about yourself. I am still doing research on my family, plus helping my husband do his family research. It will never end.

You mentioned that some reacted by saying, “Why do they only talk about the Jews? Hitler tried to kill millions of Christians too!” There were three million Jews in Poland before World War II. After the war there were only 300,000 Polish Jews left. I do not blame Jews for focusing primarily on the injustice done to them. I have, however, been in situations that I was asked, “Why did the Polish people not help the Jews?” My blood boils. There were Poles who hated the Jews, but there were so many Poles who helped save many Jews. In the Nazis’ mind, the Poles were just one step higher than the Jews; if a Pole was caught helping or protecting a Jew, they were most times executed, and members of their family were executed. Many times, when Poles left their house in the morning, they never returned home that evening. Of all the European countries, Poland had the highest rate of helping and saving Jews.

The battle of Vienna took place on 12 Sept. 1683. Jan Sobieski marched for Austria with an army of 30,000 Poles. The Polish infantry fought to clear the wooded hills around Vienna from Turks. Towards the evening enough space had been made on the Vienna plain for the Polish-Austrian army to be deployed. On a signal from Jan Sobieski, the cavalry led by 3,000 Polish “winged” hussars smashed through the Turkish army led by Kara Mustafa, and poured into the Ottoman camp. The Turks fled. Not only was Vienna saved but all of Christian Europe was saved. If this battle had not been won Islam would have taken most of Christian Europe, including Poland. There is much the Polish people can be proud.

Cathy Duprey

Editor—I can’t blame anyone of Polish descent from being fed up with how Poles’ contributions always seem to be overlooked. The Poles helped save Christian Europe at the Battle of Vienna; they saved Europe again when they stopped the Soviets’ westward advance in 1920-1921. And yes, while many Poles dealt viciously with Jews, a surprisingly large number risked everything to save Jews, out of simple humanity. That fact deserves more attention. But Shakespeare wasn’t fooling when he had Mark Antony in *Julius Caesar* say, “The evil that men do lives after them, The good is oft interred with their bones.” Most of the Righteous Among the Nations are dead or close to it; at least Yad Vashem has tried to do right by them! <http://www1.yadvashem.org/righteous_new/index.html>

Subject: An Alternative—*Faces of America*

A very worthwhile three-part genealogy program on PBS called *Faces of America* aired recently. Its host is Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates. (Yes, he’s the one who had a beer with President Obama on the White House lawn to smooth over a racism charge.) It is available for viewing

online at: <<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/facesofamerica/>>. I thought it was remarkably well done!

Elaine <efc3011@comcast.net>

Editor—Yes, I mentioned this in the January issue of *Gen Dobry!*, in my article “Another TV Boost for Genealogy?” I haven’t had a chance to watch any of the episodes of *Faces of America* yet, but I hope to find time soon. The feedback I got from those who did watch it was that it focused more on entertainment than information, and that surprised me. I would have expected the PBS program to have more substance than the one on NBC. Of course, that may just have been the opinion of a few people; perhaps most viewers would disagree. As I say, not having watched it yet, I don’t have an opinion, but I hope to change that. And I’m glad to have this opportunity to remind people they can still watch this show, commercial-free and at their convenience, online.

Subject: Hammer/Kuźnica Czarnkowska Jubilee

Editor—Actually, this note was sent to Paul S. Valasek, and he shared it with me. For those who read German, the original appears first, followed by my translation.

In diesem Jahr Hammer (im Netzekreis) feiert sein Jubiläum, auf diesem Grund suchen wir nach Personen, die mit unserem Dorf verbunden waren, d.h. Personen die über irgendwelcher Informationen (Familiengeschichten, Fotos, Dokumente, Bücher, Publikationen) verfügen, mit denen Hilfe würden wir Geschichte unserem schönem Dorf und Landkreis Hammer (heute Kuznica Czarnkowska) besser kennen lernen. Schon die winzigsten Infos werden für uns sehr wertvoll.

Bitte um Eine Antwort. Vielen Dank.

/Monika aus Hammer

This year, Hammer (in the Netze [Noteć] district) celebrates its jubilee, and for this reason we are looking for people who were connected with our village, that is, persons who have access to any kind of information (family history, photos, documents, books, publications), with which help we would better learn to know the history of our beautiful village and the district of Hammer (today Kuźnica Czarnkowska). Even the slightest information will be valuable for us.

Please respond. Many thanks.

Monika from Hammer

Editor—As I’m sure you’ve gathered, Hammer is the German name of the village Poles call Kuźnica Czarnkowska (literally the smithy of Czarnków). This village is in Czarnków *gmina*, Czarnków-Trzcianka *powiat*, Wielkopolskie voivodeship, some 40

miles northwest of Poznań. If you have anything you'd like to send Monika, contact me and I'll provide her e-mail address. I imagine the language barrier is not a big problem; if she doesn't understand English, I'll bet she can find someone who does! By the way, if you contact Monika, be sure to tell her you heard of this through Paul S. Valasek. Let's give credit where credit is due.

***** WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF MY FAMILY NAME? *****

by Edward David Luft <luft1111@hotmail.com>

A very perspicacious genealogist in Berlin has pointed out a whole series of websites for finding maps of the geographical distribution of any family name. Although not every country is covered, in addition to the United States at <<http://www.dynastree.com/maps>>, the following countries are selectable, or you can go directly to the indicated website, listed in the order in which they appear on the American website:

1. Canada [<http://www.dynastree.ca/maps>]
2. United Kingdom [<http://www.dynastree.co.uk/maps>]
3. France [<http://www.familleunie.fr/cartes/>], which offers analysis both by region and department
4. Netherlands [<http://www.verwant.nl/kaarten/>], which analyzes both by province and postal code
5. Germany [<http://www.verwandt.de/karten/>]
6. Austria [<http://www.verwandt.at/karten/>]
7. Switzerland [<http://www.verwandt.ch/karten/>]
8. Spain [<http://www.miparentela.com/mapas/>], which analyzes both by region and by states
9. Poland [<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/>]
10. Argentina [<http://www.miparentela.com/mapas-ar/>]

Each of the above websites is in the local language of that country, although Google can be set to translate the page into English automatically. But since each website follows the same pattern, it is easy to follow the format from a website in your own language.

The website is based upon telephone directory entries and offers surname searches in alphabetical order or sorted by states (or by counties in the case of the United Kingdom). The main search box allows a place to enter the surname to be searched and a way to select the country to be searched. The results offer a display in absolute terms or in relative terms, but the two concepts are not explained. You can search only one country at a time.

Taking the United States as an example, the information returned when a search is input is the total number of telephone book entries under that surname and an estimate of the total number of persons who have that surname, based upon the number of telephone listings. The next entry will indicate the rank of this surname compared to the most frequently listed surname in the country. Next is the number of states in the United States where persons with this surname live [although some returns erroneously indicate that there are 51 states] and the name of the state which has the

most occurrences of that surname compared to other states in the United States. The next entry lists other states with heavy concentrations of the surname. There follows an entry suggesting similarly sounding surnames and enabling a selection of any one of them by simply clicking on that spelling.

In the next set of categories is the opportunity to search for the surname in each of the countries listed above.

Next comes the ability to sort the United States surname returns by time zone and the chance to see the occurrence of the name in each state of the United States

While the website was originally created for children and is totally free of charge, this surname search function offers many adults a time-saving way to decide where to search for potential relatives.

There are other searchable databases of surnames, such as those at <<http://www.publicprofler.org/worldnames/>> and at <<http://www.gens-us.net/>> (the latter only for the USA and Italy). They do enable searches in other countries than those listed in the Dynastree database but are not as detailed and due to the countries covered, are less useful.

Editor—Let me add one bit of info. I'm sure Edward is right and most of the sites use telephone directory data. But the Polish data on the Moikrewni site is from Prof. Kazimierz Rymut's 2002 CD *Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland at the Beginning of the 21st Century*. Prof. Rymut got his data, in turn, from the PESEL Government Information Center, which serves much the same purpose in Poland as the Social Security Administration serves in the United States. This means the data for Polish surname frequency and distribution is more comprehensive, and presumably more accurate, than that from sites using telephone directory data.

***** HOW NOT TO BE AN UGLY AMERICAN *****

Editor—Alan J. Kania posted this note on the Polish Genius list, and I thought it was great advice, both regarding general attitude and a specific must-have device.

My wife and I travel a lot throughout the world. I've learned to travel "with my mind open, my eyes open, my ears open—and my mouth shut." If you want to know what makes your own country great, you can stay home and engage in all the conversations you want with your friends and neighbors. But if you want to learn about the country you're visiting, your role is student, not teacher.

When I've adopted that scenario, I've found that the locals will invite you into a conversation that will encourage your participation with your own personal views. Just remember, situations like that should be "by invitation only—their invitation." When you're perceived as a willing

student, the locals will go out of their way to share their perspectives of their country in a way that no tour-guide could ever read off a script.

On every trip, I see what Debbie describes as the “Ugly American”—other countries will describe German or French tourists the same way. The criticism is not restricted to a particular country—we just happened to have the largest number of traveling people. A few mouthy countrymen are sufficient to stereotype all tourists from the country.

For those of you traveling to a foreign country where you don’t know the language, I have one “don’t leave home without it” non-high-tech device. When you can’t use your Smart Phone or laptop computer while trying to book a room or order a meal, there is a light-weight card with over 200 images that will cover almost any thing you may need. It’s called “PackingLight’s Kwikpoint Translation Card” (do a Google Search of the name) and it costs \$7.95. Foreign-speakers will appreciate the fact you’re making an effort to communicate even though you don’t know the language. I’ve even had waiters who found it fun and brought other waiters over like it was a game show! Because it’s just a card of pictures, you can use it in any language.

For example, if you want a room with a double bed, private bath, internet access, etc., you just point to each picture that represents those accommodations.

Alan

Editor—What really irritates me is when Americans seem to be offended that those pesky Poles insist on speaking Polish, as if they do it just to annoy us. My first response is unprintable. My second is that there are always ways around the language barrier. Alan shows how one person with experience and a good head on his shoulders can find a way!

***** PARI COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT *****

Editor—Ceil Jensen posted this note on the PolandBorderSurnames list, and I thought it was worth repeating here.

The Polish Mission associates its history with the founding of SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary which was opened in Detroit in 1885. The institution moved to Orchard Lake, Michigan in 1909 and shares the grounds with St. Mary’s Preparatory High School and the Central Archives of Polonia. The Polish Mission organizes programs and events that highlight Polish and Pol-Am culture and accomplishments. The private archives of Orchard Lake Schools has opened its holdings to the public via the 501(c)(3) Polish Mission and the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI). The Research Institute is a subsidiary of the Polish Mission and functions under the direction of Cecile (Ceil) Wendt Jensen, Certified Genealogist. PARI offers lectures, seminars, society visits, and individual research packages.

PARI is currently accepting materials relevant to genealogy. The scope covers a diverse range

of materials produced by North American Polonia together with key institutions—churches, schools, organizations, and the press. Specific items of interest from these institutions include: jubilee books; parish histories; prayer books; parish bulletins; materials pertaining to the Roman Catholic and Polish National Catholic Church; Polonian school yearbooks, anniversary brochures, school programs, student albums, publications of Religious Orders; newspapers; magazines; flyers and books in both English and Polish; biographical materials; correspondence; memorabilia; obituaries; and funeral cards.

Additionally, PARI is interested in: vintage photos as well as digital scans of photos and negatives; maps; postcards; passports; and civil and religious certificates. Families are encouraged to submit family histories and family group sheets. At this time, PARI is not purchasing materials, and asks that a donation accompany the collection to purchase the appropriate archival materials for proper preservation. Staff members can be consulted with regards to related costs. Please call 248.683.0412 or visit <<http://www.polishmission.com>>, e-mail: Marcin Chumiecki, Polish Mission Director, at <mchumiecki@orchardlakeschools.com> or Ceil Wendt Jensen, PARI Director, at <cjensen@mipolonia.net>.

***** SUMMER LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE COURSES IN MADISON, WISCONSIN *****

Editor—Anne Hasiuk posted this note on the LithuanianGenealogy mailing list. I know it deals with Lithuania, not Poland, and some of you may wonder why we give so much attention to Lithuanian resources (and Ukrainian and German and so on). But the very first time I started to learn a little about the history of a Polish family, I found they lived in what is now Lithuania and I had to learn a little Lithuanian to get started. Poland's history is such that you often *must* pay attention to a lot of areas not within the borders of modern Poland! So this is info that may prove useful to some of our readers.

I am sending this from a posting I got:

The Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) and the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will host the Baltic Studies Summer Institute (BALSSI) in the summer of 2010 (June 14-August 6, 2010). Courses in elementary- and intermediate-level Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian languages will be offered, as well as lectures (in English) on Baltic history and culture and a rich program of cultural events related to the Baltic countries. Information and application materials are available on the BALSSI Web site: <<http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/balssi>>. (Deadline to apply is May 12, 2010.)

Language courses:

first- and second-year

Estonian

Latvian

Lithuanian

**We have received a generous grant from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) to fund the teaching of first-year Estonian and second-year Latvian at BALSSI for 2010.

The program fee (tuition) for first-year Estonian and second-year Latvian will be waived for graduate students specializing in East European studies in any discipline. (Students will still be responsible for paying UW-Madison segregated fees in the amount of \$255.50).

BALSSI is sponsored by a consortium of twelve US universities and receives additional support from the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies. For further information about BALSSI 2010, please contact Nancy Heingartner, BALSSI program coordinator, <balssi@creeca.wisc.edu>, 1-608-262-3379.

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

4 May 2010

SCREENING OF *IRENA SENDLER: IN THE NAME OF THEIR MOTHERS*

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco

3200 California Street, San Francisco, California

7:00 p.m.

This film tells the story of Irena Sendler and a group of young Polish women who risked their lives to save 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto. The director of the film, Mary Skinner, will attend for Q&A session after the film. There is no charge, but seating is limited. RSVP to 425-292-1233 or e-mail <arts@jccsf.org>.

[From an e-mail sent by Maureen Mroczek Morris.]

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Tuesday, 11 May 2010

MEETING OF THE TORONTO UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY GROUP

Frank Cedar will speak on “Doing Ukrainian Genealogy Research in Poland.”

St Vladimir Institute – 620 Spadina Avenue – Toronto, Canada

Contact: 905-841-6707

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16 May 2010

MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Chicago, Illinois

The speaker will be Ola Heska. Her topic will be how non-Polish speaking individuals can extract information from the *Geographical Dictionary of the Polish Kingdom (Słownik*

Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego). [From an e-mail sent out by Harry Kurek.]

Editor—If I may add a personal note, I have dealt with Ola a number of times in the past, and have been impressed by her abilities; she speaks Polish as her native tongue, but her English is very good. It seems to me she's very qualified to speak on this subject. If you have a chance to go listen, I bet you'll learn something! There's more info on PGSA's website at <<http://www.pgsa.org/Calendar/calendar.php>>.

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June 4 - June 21, 2010

SECOND ANNUAL DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS TOUR TO WESTERN UKRAINE

If you are interested in tracing your roots in Ukraine, now is the time to sign up. This year the group will be limited to 20 persons. For details of the tour, go to:

<http://www.torugg.org/TUGG%20Projects/trip_to_ukraine.html>

This tour, sponsored by the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group, offers a unique service that other tours do not, including helping you with:

- * Locating the exact village of your ancestors. Often there may be several villages with the same name and there is no point in visiting or researching the wrong village.
- * Letters you may wish to write to the village head and parish.
- * Planning side trips to ancestral villages.
- * Arranging for any drivers, guides and translators you may require.
- * Contacting the archives before the trip to let them know which files we wish to examine, so that they can have them on hand when we visit.
- * Suggesting and helping you with other side trips; you may wish to go on as tourists.

What You Can Find In the Archives

The State Archives of Ukraine, particularly the Central Historical Archives in Lviv and Kyiv, have many unique genealogical sources including thousands of Metrical Books (vital record registrations) of different religions (Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, Evangelical, Jewish) from the 18th-20th centuries. Recently, the Historical Archives in Lviv received over 700 parish registers from local registry offices since the last time their files were microfilmed by the LDS, and more are being received each day. In addition to Metrical Books there are:

- * Other original parish records
- * Census records
- * Szematisms, which were staff directories for the military, government administration, school and church administrations
- * Lists of house owners
- * Property maps, called Cadastral Maps
- * Emigration papers your ancestors filled out prior to coming to North America

- * School Records
- * Registration of property transactions
- * Family and estate papers of the nobility
- * Military records

This Tour is Tailored to Your Needs

While this is a group trip, every effort is made to tailor it to your personal needs and wishes. The goal is to provide assistance with your family history project special to your needs or, alternatively, help you find those missing pieces. The trip includes visits to various archives, guide/interpreters, time to visit and spend time in your villages of interest and tourism.

Other Things To See In Ukraine

Ukraine is home to 300 museums, seven national historical and cultural preserves as well as many different examples of culture, archaeology, unique cities, palaces, parks and a warm, hospitable people with a rich history.

For Further Information:

Jim Onyschuk

<jodanji@rogers.com>

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

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July 11-16, 2010

30TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY JW Marriott Hotel at L.A. in Los Angeles, California

Come be a part of the world's largest Jewish Genealogy conference! The 30th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Los Angeles, California at the brand new L.A. LIVE conference center. Join hundreds of other researchers as we explore our roots and build our family trees. Whether you're a beginner, just starting to trace your family's history, or a pro looking for the latest information and tips, the IAJGS conference will have something for everyone! For more details, visit the Web site:

<<http://www.jgsla2010.com/>>

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July 21 - 31, 2010

POLAND IN THE ROCKIES

Speakers and Filmmakers from Canada, the United States and Europe

History, Politics, Culture, Media, Identity, Networking, Lectures, Discussions, Films,
Hiking, Campfires, Friendships

An intensive transnational Polish experience — in the beautiful Canadian Rockies

See <<http://www.polandintherockies.com>> for application and scholarship details

PitR video: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ph-Sd63Leo>>

Alumni e-zine: <<http://www.cosmopolitanreview.com>>

NOTE: THE APPLICATION DEADLINE WAS MARCH 31, 2010!!

[Thanks to Maureen Mroczek Morris for sending in this info.]

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October 1 – 2, 2010

PGSA'S 32ND ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

The Polish Genealogical Society of America's next conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 1 & 2, at the Hilton Hotel in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The hotel is located at 9333 S. Cicero Avenue.

The Hilton Hotel and Conference center is a well-known venue for events on the south side of Chicago. It is located three miles south of Midway Airport and is accessible to major highways and expressways, the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Orange Line, and the Metro Train station. It provides easy access to much of the city and Chicago's downtown and the many attractions they provide. A scheduled complimentary shuttle is also available.

The theme is:

19th Century Research using 21st Century Technology

Changes and improvements in technology are constantly providing us with new tools to use to re-think and re-evaluate our research. Here are just a few examples of presentations that can reinvigorate yours.

“Discovering the Treasures of 19th Century Polish Language Records” - You may not speak the language, but you can still mine the records for what they can tell you.

“You're Not in Kansas Anymore: Essential Resources for Urban Area Research” - Have you used the latest tools available for this challenging topic?

“Searching Electronic Databases” - Controlled vocabulary can help you find information on line that you didn't realize existed.

“A Novice’s Approach to Using the Polish Archives: - Proving that even if you aren’t an expert, the right techniques will allow you to use these records.

“Lost Children: Orphans, Vagrants, Delinquents, Half-Orphans, Dependents, Surrendered, Adopted” - Unusual challenges may not be where you think they are. Get directions from an expert.

Please check our Web site for future up-dates: <<http://www.pgsa.org>>

[From the March 2010 issue of *PGSA Notebook*]

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

<<http://ninedaysthatchangedtheworld.com>>

On the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee said this DVD “chronicles Pope John Paul II’s (Jan Paweł II) nine days in Poland in 1979 that changed the world. Regardless of what you think of the producers of this film or the Catholic church, history was made by this pope. His encouragement helped Poland take a stand against the communism which ruled the country from 1945 (end of World War II). Poland’s actions against the communists inspired other countries to also fight for their freedom.”

<<http://travel.nytimes.com/2010/04/25/travel/25next.html?ref=travel>>

Also on that list, Eve Jankowicz gave this link to a recent *New York Times* article about Wrocław, “A Polish City Feels Its Future Has Arrived.”

<http://www.sggee.org/research/pol_translate/BowmanNapoleonicRecord.pdf>

Paul Valasek asked if we had mentioned this page. It provides good basic help on translating Polish-language metrical records in the Napoleonic or paragraph format. It used to be available at a different URL, but it seems its former home has disappeared. I know some folks had asked where it had gone, so it seemed a good idea to publicize its new home.

<<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V11N06.htm>>

The April 4 issue of Avotaynu’s free e-zine *Nu? What’s New* had several very interesting articles. One was about a new database of Auschwitz death certificates that includes the names of 68,864 individuals who died at Auschwitz and Birkenau; 30,000 of them were listed as Jews, so if you do the math, you’ll realize some 39,000 were not. The address is given in the article, which gives some very interesting information about this new database. Its accuracy has to be questioned, because it seems to be created by revisionists who question the Holocaust, the official story of 9/11, and so on. Yet a comparison with the official list at <<http://auschwitz.org.pl>> suggests the names given are genuine. So it’s not a source one can trust blindly; but it may have info helpful to both Jews and Christians.

That issue also gave details on Online Education Courses offered by the Family History Library. Take a look—there’s good stuff here!

<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V11N07.htm>

While I’m at it, I should mention that the April 18th issue of *Nu?* had another article I found extremely interesting, about an Internet site that hopes to identify every Polish citizen who suffered under German repression during World War II. The site is at <http://www.straty.pl> and can be read in five languages, including English. But before you visit it, you might want to learn more by reading the *Nu* article, available at the above URL.

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/index-e.html?PHPSESSID=eg7ivan5ikv6elu4l0u45mfmq2>

Chris Bukoski posted a note to the PolandBorderSurnames list to mention that the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) website is beginning to digitize its microform collections and make them accessible for free on the LAC website. You can learn more about this URL. Chris added that it was a good idea to click on the “Help” button beside each title for more information about it.

<http://www.epaveldas.lt>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy list, Irena posted the following note to help people search the online site Epavaldas for the records of a specific church in Lithuania, that of Pakruojis. It will work for other villages and towns if you can get the name right.

“First Google www.epaveldas.lt, then click on ‘Virtualios bibliotekos svetainė’ to open the page of ‘Search.’ Write the name of the church you are interested in—‘Tema’ (Subjects and Keywords) you write ‘Pakruojo baznycia.’ Delete ticks under ‘Bibliotekos’ and ‘Muziejai’ (Libraries and Museums); you need ‘Archyvai’ (Archives). Now click on ‘Ieškoti’ (Search) and you will see the page of contents - birth (*gimimo*), marriage (*santuokos*), and death (*mirties*) record books (*metrikų knygos*) of 1793–1805, 1805–1817 and so on. Choose the book you need and click on ‘Vaizdai’ (Images). Now on the top of the next page you will see small pictures of pages. Click on that picture and you can read the records. Records were written in Latin till 1827, then in Polish, and since 1849 till 1920 in Russian. Just try!”

In these notes, where it says “Pakruojo baznycia,” “Pakruojo” is the genitive form of the place name Pakruojis; to search for other parish record, you need to replace “Pakruojo” with the appropriate Lithuanian grammatical form of the name of the place where the parish church is located. A gentleman named Roman S. very graciously posted a follow-up note listing the appropriate Lithuanian grammatical form for a number of parishes, followed by the Polish versions in both adjectival and noun form. In a few cases below, I’ve added Polish forms that I’ve seen that were slightly different from the ones Roman listed; you might well see either spelling, given inconsistencies in rendering Lithuanian names in Polish.

Bagaslaviškio – Bohusławiszskowskie (Bohusławiszki or Bogusławiszki)
Dieveniškiai – Dziewieniszskowskie (Dziewieniszki)
Eigirdžiai – Eygirdzieńskie (Ejgirdzie)
Gadūnavo – Gadonowskie (Gadonów)
Gelvonų – Gełwańskie (Gełwany)
Janapolės – Janopolskie (Janopol)
Jiezno – Jeźnieńskie (Jezno)
Joniškio – Janiskie (Janiszki)
Kantaučiai – Kontowskie (Kontów or Kontowcie)
Kėdainių Šv. Jurgio – Kiejdańskie parafia św. Jerzego (Kiejdany)
Kelmės – Kielmskie (Kielmy)
Kernavės – Kiernawskie (Kiernów)
Klovainių – Kławańskie (Kławany)
Krakiai – Krokowskie (Kroki)
Kražių – Kroźskie (Kroże)
Kriukai – Krukowskie (Kruki)
Kurkliai – Kurklewskie (Kurkle)
Kurtuvėnų – Kurtowiańskie (Kurtowiany)
Labūnavos – Łabunowskie (Łabunów)
Lieplaukės – Leplawskie (Leplawki)
Luokės – Łuknickie (Łukniki)
Lygumų – Ligumskie (Ligumy)
Merkinės – Mereckie (Merecz)
Musninkų – Muśnickie (Muśniki)
Naujojo Daugėliškio – Nowe Daugielszki
Naujosios Žagarės – Nowe Żagory
Nemakščiai – Niemokszteńskie (Niemokszty)
Obeliai – Abelskie (Abele)
Onuškio – Hanuszyszkie (Hanuszyszki)
Pakruojis – Pokrojeńskie (Pokrój or Pokroje)
Palėvenės – Poławeńskie (Poławeńsk or Poławeń)
Plateliai – Płotelskie (Płotele)
Plungės – Płungiańskie (Płungiany)
Radviliškio – Radziwiliszskowskie (Radziwiliszki)
Šakynos – Szakinowskie (Szakinów)
Sedos – Siadzkie (Siady)
Šėtos – Szatskie (Szaty or Siady)
Šiluvos – Szydłowskie (Szydłów)
Skaistgirio - Skajzgirskie (Skajzgiry)
Skapiškio – Skopiskie (Skopiszki)
Smilgiai – Śmiglewskie (Śmigle or Śmilgi)
Subačiaus – Suboczańskie (Subocz)
Surviliškio – Surwiliszskie (Surviliszki)
Telšiai – Telszewskie (Telsze)
Tirkšliai - Trykszlewskie (Trykszle or Tyrkszle)

Troškūnų – Troškuńskie (Troskuny or Troszkuny)
Tverečiaus – Twereczowskie (Twerecz)
Tytuvėnų – Cytowiańskie (Cytowiany)
Vabalninko – Wobolnickie (Wobolniki)
Vandžiogalos – Wędziagolskie (Wędziagola or Wandziagola)
Vilniaus Šv. Jonų – Wileńskie par. św. Jana
Ylakių – Iłockie (Iłoki)

<<http://www.lask.pl/bociany>>

While we've mentioned in the past the website for watching the stork nest in Ustroń, John Mielnik posted a note on the Poland-Roots mailing list that tells of another site you can visit if you enjoy watching the storks. Go to the above URL; you can watch the video feed from Łask, or you can follow John's instructions to visit other sites:

1. Click on the word Linki on the left side of this page, it will take you to a new page.
2. Click on the top line that says Polskie kamery internetowe, etc., that will take you to the next page.
3. Click on the word Kamery near the top and to the right of the word HOME and that will take you to the next page, which has 88 webcams in Europe, of which the first eight are in Poland.

John added, "If you take your time you can find more on this site and if you read and understand Polish (I don't) it becomes much easier."

<<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/>>

On the Polish Genius list, a gentleman named Paul gave this link, which takes you to a map where you can click on an area to see the local newspaper. "Just above the map of the U.S. is a link to a map of Poland. There are a few there that you can bring up the papers from Poland. I hope you all enjoy!"

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/03/you-are-probably-descended-from-charlemagne-and-other-royalty.html>

A recent issue of *EOGN* [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter] included the article at this URL, which tells us we are all descended from Charlemagne and other royalty. It's interesting stuff, but I probably ought to write Dick Eastman and point out that Rafał T. Prinke and Andrzej Sikorski pretty much proved this exact point in their 1997 book *Królewska Krew* [Royal Blood]. Just goes to show, here are a couple of Poles who were 13 years ahead of American researchers!

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/04/who-do-you-think-you-are-renewed-for-a-second-season.html>

Another issue of *EOGN* announced that *Who Do You Think You Are?* has been renewed

for a second season. If you're interested, you can get details at the above URL.

<http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/04/packing-for-a-research-trip.html>

I usually find at least one article in EOGN that is excellent reading. This one offers great practical advice on how to pack for a research trip. It's free to read at the above URL.

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/publications/videos/interviews/about_the_ngo_home_study_course>

This video presentation (mentioned in an issue of EOGN) is about the home-study course offered by the National Genealogical Society. This course is especially valuable if you're just getting started, as it will help you do things right from the outset. In this brief video, a few talking heads explain why taking the course is a good idea.

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