



Gen Dobry!

Volume X, No. 2

28 February 2009

ISSN 1555-774X. Copyright © 2009, PolishRoots®, Inc.
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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/archives.htm>

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

http://www.polishroots.org/gendobry/PDF/GenDobry_X_2.pdf

***** BORDERS: NICE TO LOOK AT AS YOU STEP OVER THEM *****

by Paul S. Valasek, D.D.S. <Hallersarmy@aol.com>

As time marches on and the world gets smaller, and populations mix more and more, the idea of racial and ethnic purity dwindles with each passing day. (Unless you belong to an isolated Amazon River basin tribe, untouched by man for centuries.) Most of our Polish ancestors lived next to Poles, married Poles, worked with Poles, spent all day with Poles, went to church with Poles, fought with Poles, and the list goes on and on. Yes, they had to deal with “the Others” (to borrow a term from ABC’s *Lost*) for centuries. But ethnic groups—not just the Poles—spent most of their time around their “own kind.”

This is very nice for genealogists because it somewhat limits our search parameters. But then along comes that thing called “progress,” and now folks wind up in a myriad of strange places, working, playing, and praying with others, with whom they sometimes can’t even communicate, except perhaps with sign language, and with whom they fight against others at time of crisis.

Being of dual ethnicity myself, I easily balance between Polish and Czech; I know no other way to exist. One moment I’m thinking in a Polish way; the next, in a Czech way. And yes! There are some great differences indeed. But it’s what I am and it works for me.

So now, let’s expand it a few generations when our descendants now claim 3-4-5-6+ ethnic backgrounds. Wow, sometimes that may prove too much! Usually, what happens is they claim to be a “mutt” or a “Heinz 57” and adopt only one way to live, flavored with spices from the minority heritages. But those who can handle and balance multi-ethnicities usually have more success, are better informed, and definitely have potential to be more interesting.

Some people, however, cannot jump outside of their nature, and prefer to stay within the comforts of what is “warm and familiar,” (Remember Helen Hayes’ comments to Ingrid Bergman about all of her family photos as Dowager Empress in the film, *Anastasia*.) But for those who expand their horizons and go down paths which may at first appear strange, yet start to reveal familiar sights along the way, success shall be increased.

You may ask, “Where are you going with this?” Well, here’s my soapbox commentary for the moment.

Once again, it reflects my need to research history as much as possible. As I continue to work on Haller’s Army, I every so often diverge for a brief moment to the Czech Legion in France. Yes, Poles were not the only ones fighting for the Allies in France; in fact, the Czechs were physically stationed not far at all from the Polish forces. They also came from the USA; they trained in Connecticut, and left for France at very nearly the same time as Haller’s. They were also issued the same French blue uniforms, but sported a larger beret (which, personally, I like better).

A quick comment. The Czech legions were made up of Czechs and Slovaks who formed three distinct legions fighting for the Allied cause. One was in France, a larger one in Italy (again, like

Haller's Army), and the largest was a contingent formed in Russia that returned from the Eastern front of World War I, two years after the Armistice, sailing home via Vladivostok, India, Mexico, and San Diego. That's right, going from Ukraine to Czechoslovakia through Mexico and San Diego. But that's another story.

Seeing that information on these armies is just now getting onto the Internet, I want to find out if any of my Czech relatives were in this force as well, and see that their story is told. Unfortunately, I cannot find the recruitment forms, at least for those men recruited from the US to fight in France; but I can find them returning to America after time served. Using Dr. Morse's search engine for passenger lists, I have, to date, located at least five ships bringing back Czech and Slovak men discharged from the French Army in Cognac. (This immediately produces images of Czechs wearing berets and drinking cognac out of large glasses, alongside their Polish counterparts from the Champagne region sipping the bubbly, sparkling wine from theirs.

What is very fascinating is that these Czech troop ships were also used to ferry Haller's Army troops to and from France. It seems the United States Navy used ships of lesser stature to transfer "foreign" allied soldiers to the Western front, inasmuch as those soldiers were not U.S. Army men. I have also recently seen a Czech photo of the *President Grant*, a troop ship that brought my grandfather home in February 1921 and had ferried Czech troops back home to what was to be Czechoslovakia in 1920.

When searching further, I cannot only locate the areas where these men fought but also find mention of other groups which I have not yet pursued. A book I very recently purchased from a bookseller in France details the many foreign armies helping France in its time of need, 1914-1918. Not only are Poles and Czechs mentioned, but also the Slovaks, the Italians, the Serbians, the Romanians, and yes, the Russians. Here is a situation where Poles and Russians are joining together under French command to fight Poles and Russians joined together by Germans and Austrians, with a sprinkling of Poles commanded by Russians helping out (or hindering) their progress. If you followed that, you just stepped over a whole bunch of boundaries and borders. Confusing, at first, but fascinating, to say the least.

And on the page for the Czech legions, Slovak leader Milan Stefanik is pictured in his French General's uniform. Yes, a Slovak who took out French citizenship to help fight for freedom and build a new Czechoslovakia after the war. (A few more borders just stepped over). General Stefanik also sat in on the peace talks at Versailles alongside Ignacy Paderewski, who represented Poland's demands for formal recognition. Unfortunately, Stefanik, destined to be Czechoslovakia's first president, was killed on a flight from Paris to Bratislava, thus causing Tomáš Masaryk, a Moravian, to be the first Czechoslovak leader, accompanied by his American-born wife (another border crossed.)

One thing I discovered previously, during Haller research, is that very near the Polish Cemetery in Auberive lies a Czech Cemetery for casualties of the Czech Legions. Also, a bit further down the road lies a military cemetery for Russian and Serbian forces. Now, of course, whenever one finds any Russian military cemetery or records prior to 1939, one has to wonder how many of the "Russians" were really conscripted Poles?

Following are three sites for additional information:

<http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/archive/index.php/t-134105.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czecho>

<http://pagesperso-orange.fr/memoiresdepierre/alphabetnew/n/neuillesaintvaastnazdar.html>

Ultimately, it would be great to find some form of records, letters, notes, photos, etc. that would link the interaction of these Slavic units serving in the French Army. It surely must have happened.

Below is a listing of some of the Czech troops returning to America. Many of these men were conscripted in the same cities as their *Hallerczycy* “cousins,” sometimes off of the same streets and even the same city blocks. I have already located one man who recruited from a house located less than one block from my office.

Don’t let any boundaries or borders stop you from expanding your research. As I’ve said before, you may find answers to your questions in a different country.

Hain, Frant
Hajek, Jan
Hajek, Vaclav
Hajivrk, Matij
Hala, Vladimir
Halenai, Theodor
Halicka, Stefan
Hamar, Martin
Hamis, Josef
Hanus, Frant
Harnik, Frank
Harny, Jan
Hatala, Karel
Helis, Stefan
Hertvich, Frant
Hibruza, Vaclav
Hlavac, Jan
Hloch, James
Hoch, Josef
Hofman, Karel
Holas, Ladislav
Holec, Josef
Holy, Jindrich
Homaras, Martin
Honsa, Karel

Horava, Joseph
Hornacik, Juraj
Hornak, Dominik
Hrdlicka, Frantisek
Hrucirik, Ladislav
Hruska, Andrej
Hudak, Albert
Hudeck, Stepan

Kacinaz, Jan
Kaderka, Ludwick
Kadlecik, Martin
Kafnek, Fred
Kajtmar, Hynck (?)
Kaleus, Joseph
Kanuch, Jan,
Kanuk, Michal
Kapecky, Jan
Kasprak, Peter
Katina, Josef
Kermiet, Jan
Kisel, Michal
Kisidaj, Andrej
Kitlyan, Georg
Klanda, Cyril

Klepal, Vaclav
Klimek, John
Klucinec, Michael
Kmap, Josef
Kneip, Josef
Knotck, Josef
Knrcina, Josef
Koberna, Jan
Kocenda, Vincent
Kodes, Joseph
Kodras, Frantisek
Kohlicek, Rudolph
Kolner, Metoder (Metodej)
Kolos, Josef
Komtrick, Harry
Konl, Adolf
Kopecky, Rudsef (Rudolf)
Kordula, Patr (Petr)
Koren, Andrej
Koreusky, Frantisek
Koruna, Jan,
Korupa, Josef
Kosbab, Alois
Kostoluy, Yan
Kostrunek, Alois
Kouby, Jan
Kovarik, Josef
Kovarik, Vaclav
Kovorik, Frank

Kozacek, Joseph
Krahula, Ludoig (Ludwig?)
Krajicek, Mois
Kral, Martin
Kri, Josef
Kristau, Jawstar
Krivanec, x
Krotovic, Andrej
Krsak, Josef
Krsek, Frantisek
Krupica, Ladislav
Kubala, Frant
Kubas, Jan
Kubecka, Jan
Kubicek, Josef
Kucera, Andrej
Kucera, Francois
Kucera, Vaclav
Kudrna, Frank
Kukuc, Jozef
Kulis, Josepf
Kunes, Jakub
Kunes, Kares (Karel)
Kurdrnka, Jan
Kure, Frank
Kurgac, Stephen
Kusela, Vimene (Viktor/ Vincenty?)
Kuvy, Josef
Kymlicka, Josef

Note: These manifests were typed, so there was little problem with reading what was listed. But there WERE some serious problems with whoever interpreted the given names in the first place. You can see the name *Jan* (the same name in Czech, Slovak, and Polish) listed as *Jan*, *Yan*, *John*, and *Jean*. For *Frank*, we see *Frantisek*, *Frant*, *Frank* and *Francois*. Francois Kucera sounds so ... French?? ... Czech??? ... Let's just say, exotic!

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

Subject: Letter to the Editor about Ukrainians

Read your answer to Ed Mucha about why so much talking about the Ukrainians. Sometimes we forget that back then people moved all the time for different reasons, intermarrying and putting roots down in one place, and then having to move to another place.

My mother's parents came from Wolka Grodzisko, located in southeastern Poland. My father came from Słupca, in northwestern Poland.

I can go back to the 1840s on my mother's side. Before that there will be some German, but I cannot get all the information. My father's side, it seems, was in Poland for some centuries but very difficult to trace.

I gave my DNA to NG on the testing they are doing for studying about our supposedly first mother out of Africa. The only hits I have received so far are from people that came from the northern part of Russia. I am not getting too many people responding that may match up with my DNA because I have a mutation in my gene system. So I do not know how much Polish blood runs thru my veins.

I am hoping that more people will give samples of their DNA in this project that will help in maybe finding out something about my blood line. The study is for five years and started in 2005, so I hope I can get more clues. It may turn out just because my family came from Poland, I may have other blood lines from people from other countries.

Your answer to Mr. Mucha was excellent.

Cathy Duprey <rcduprey@embarqmail.com>

Editor—I'm glad you liked it. In fairness to Mr. Mucha, he made it clear his question wasn't meant to be rude or intolerant. He was just honestly curious, and he said my answer confirmed the conclusions he'd already come to.

Subject: Chmielowiec and Biało Families - Horsebreeders

I am trying to do some research on a family that supposedly bred horses in Poland and sold them to noblemen and later to the Russian government. I have a friend who is vacationing in Poland currently and I'd like to send him, if possible, to some archives that might have the records I seek. There is family oral history that says during the 1950s the Biało family in the area owned land in Poland. Are there land records that my friend can search through while he is in Poland for this area? Or an archive that might have more info on past horse breeders in the area?

The family (Chmielowiec & Biało) lived during the late 1800s early 1900s in the village of Beszyce. After World War II, the Biało family lived possibly in Skwirzowa (according to the return address on handwritten letters in our family's possession).

The villages I mentioned were in Russian Poland. They are southwest of Sandomierz near Koprzywnica, Sulisławice, and Łoniów. I am having a challenging time figuring out if Beszyce belonged to the parish of Koprzywnica or Łoniów. The *Słownik geograficzny* and the Polish Wiki-

pedia say Koprzywnica. But the LDS catalog reference for Łoniów says that it includes Beszyce. And unfortunately the microfilmed records for both parishes only go to 1884. (I need records from 1889-1909 and possibly through the wars.)

If you have any suggestions or can forward this e-mail to anyone else who has knowledge of conducting research in this area of Poland, I would be appreciative.

Monica Rzepka

Editor—If anyone has info on this question, it would be best to send it to me, and I will forward it to Monica and the friend she is helping. So feel free to write me at <wfh@langline.com> and I'll gladly pass your note along.

Subject: Does Anyone Have Info on So-and-So?

Just read *Gen Dobry!* and had to comment on your article about mentioning “Does anyone have info on so and so?”

About three years ago, I read such a request. The man turned out to be a cousin. My great grandmother's sister married my great grandfather's brother and these were his great-grandparents. So his tree was my tree—complete to 1420, with hundreds of translated court documents. The gentleman did not have to leave his home or do a bit of research ever.

Also was glad to hear of the Orchard Lake Library. My uncle graduated from there in 1933 and I have many pictures from his album that I will donate to their library if they want them. These pictures were taken when he attended Orchard Lake, he was there for eight years and pictures have names. He also was the editor of their *Lake Reflections* and I have his notes and other materials that went along with the publication of that book.

Christa Shukaitis

Editor—The story of your cousin illustrates why we should not be in a hurry to make sweeping statements. You'd think the odds are huge against the chance someone will happen to read the note you post and will happen to be related to you. And yet sometimes lightning strikes. I hope that gentleman who turned out to be your cousin realizes how lucky he was!

As for Orchard Lake, it's an impressive place, and deserves to be even better known than it is. I can't imagine that the Library would not be interested in the materials you can donate.

Subject: Was There Ever a Polish SS Division?

One question that I have as someone who is interested in World War II history:

To the best of my knowledge, there was never a Polish SS division or group. True or false??

Yes there were Ukrainian SS divisions, along with French, Belgian, Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, Latvian division SS groups—but not a Polish SS group.

Many of Poland's Army and Air Force pilots managed to escape to Britain and the West somehow and played a major role in the Air Battle of Britain. Polish fighter pilots were 20 % of the RAF, the largest foreign or Dominion (Canada, Australia, etc.) part of the RAF component of the RAF. The Poles downed 25% of Nazi planes. The top air pilot in this Battle was from a Polish RAF squadron, along with another pilot in the top 10 air aces.

Polish Army divisions played a key role in the Battle at Monte Casino in opening up the stalled Allied advance up Italy in 1943 after U.S., British Gurka troops failed to capture Monte Casino from the Nazi in some of the fiercest fighting of World War II. The Polish 1st Armor Division opened up the British advance at Normandy Beach by defeating the Nazi Panzers at the Falais Gap in fighting that General Eisenhower said was some of the fiercest fighting in Normandy. And Polish divisions fighting in the Soviet Army played a key role in the final Battle of Berlin.

And we should not forget the Polish Home Army that was the largest underground resistance Group in Europe and that rose up against the Nazi in the final Warsaw Uprising in 1944, killing 50,000 Nazi with the destruction of Warsaw. How does this compare to the French collaborators?

Also, Polish code breakers played a key role in breaking the top secret Nazi Enigma code and in capturing a working Enigma machine, allowing the Allies to pinpoint U-Boats in the battle of the Atlantic by breaking Nazi messages to the U-boats. And Poles make up the largest group of any nation at the Holocaust Museum of the "The Righteous Among Nations" in risking their lives to save their fellow Jewish comrades.

Jerry Ceasar <gceasar@msn.com>

P.S. If anyone knows about the genealogy of Paul Cezar Przybylowicz from Warsaw around 1900, I would love to hear from them.

Editor— I can't say I know for a fact there was never a Polish SS division. But I would be utterly astonished if there was. I do know that many of the points you make in your note are true: the Poles' participation in the Battle at Monte Cassino and in the breaking of the Enigma code, as well as the many Poles listed among the "Righteous Among Nations." As far as I'm know, you're right on the money. But if someone has info to the contrary, please let us know!

Subject: Could use some help

My friend Nancy in Indiana suggested that I contact you. I am Polish and will give you a little background on what I have to say. I am originally from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and came

out here to the island in 1965 to work for Old Country Rentals in charge of the service dept. The wife's cousin owned it at the time. My grandfather came over from Austria (which at the time included part of Poland) with three brothers; I believe they came through Ellis Island. My uncle Anthony stayed in the States (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) and was in the U.S. Army; I have a picture of him in uniform. My grandfather joined the Royal Northwest Mounted Police and was stationed at North Battleford, Saskatchewan, where he was an interpreter for the force during World War I, as he could speak 13 different languages fluently. He homesteaded on a farm east of Prince Albert, farming with horses at the time.

I have relatives down in Florida and others all over the country. My cousin Earle in Vancouver was working on the family tree and got back to Poland, but ran into a problem, as he, like me, couldn't speak Polish—a real problem. So if you could post this maybe I could get some help from the Polish people.

Ken Sinkiewicz <k-jatwork@shaw.ca>

Editor—If anyone out there has suggestions that might help Ken learn more, please contact him.

Subject: Free info on Michigan BMD records

In case you don't already have this:

The new beta Website for the LDS (FamilySearch.org) has FREE info regarding BMD records in Michigan. The available records are:

Michigan Births 1867-1902

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=2;t=searchable;c=1459684>

Michigan Marriages 1868-1925

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=2;t=searchable;c=1452395>

Michigan Deaths 1867-1897

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=2;t=searchable;c=1452402>

Tom Sadauskas <thomas.sadauskas@tma.osd.mil>

Editor—Thanks for passing along that info, Tom. I'll bet some of our readers will find it very useful and will also want to thank you.

Subject: Book Recommendation

I recommend:

My Two Polish Grandfathers: And Other Essays on the Imaginative Life, by Witold Rybczyński (Hardcover - Feb 3, 2009).

Maureen Mroczek Morris <maureenm@sbcglobal.net>

Editor—I'm always glad to pass along word of a book our readers might want to check out! I see this title is available from Amazon.com for \$16.50, and the info given there makes it sound fascinating.

Subject: Review of the movie *Katyń*

<http://movies.nytimes.com/2009/02/18/movies/18katy.html?8mu&emc=mua1>

Jacqueline Szymanowski

Editor—Thanks for telling us about this review. I found it very interesting, as well as the comments from various readers with their viewpoints.

Subject: More at Polishorigins.com

Today, in Catholic Church is the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. The 40 days period before Easter did not necessarily mean only sad days in our forefathers' life. Click here:

<http://polishorigins.com/document/lent>

to read an article about Lent in Polish tradition.

Within only four months from starting of our Surnames & Places Databases, you have already added more than 1,000 surnames and almost 600 places:

<http://polishorigins.com/surnames>

<http://polishorigins.com/places>

As editors in PGSA's *Rodziny* quarterly aptly noted: "The databases are small now but will become more valuable as users contribute information."

So, if you know someone who could be interested in researching his or her surname, place or in finding relatives from the old country, please spread the word! We all hope that thanks to growing number of people sharing information about their research, there will be more and more opportunities for researchers and for those looking for their families to take another step forward, to

overcome brick walls, or maybe even to find distant relatives.

Pozdrowienia z Polski! Greetings from Poland!
Zenon & Team

Editor—This note was sent out to members of PolishOrigin’s forum, not just to me personally. Zenon and his colleagues seem determined to provide more and more useful resources for researchers, including a lot of material in English. If you haven’t stopped by and taken a look, I think you’re missing out on a good deal.

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

POLISH GENEALOGY CLASS

Suzan Marzec’s Simply Polish shop hosts Polish Genealogy Class:

Simply Polish, 28841 Plymouth Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154

http://www.simplypolishusa.com/classes.htm#GENEALOGY_CLASS_

Pre-Registration. Sunday, March 1st. 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Phone 734.525.2880, Fax 734.525.2881

Limited Seating. Bring paper and pen. Handouts will be given. Refreshments will be provided.

Cecile (Ceil) Wendt Jensen is a Certified Genealogist and owner of Michigan Polonia. Author, educator, and researcher, Ceil is a native of Detroit, and a board member of Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan serving as their representative to the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Ceil is a graduate of Michigan State University in East Lansing and spent thirty years in K-12 education where she pioneered multimedia technology integration in the classroom. She is currently developing the Polonica Americana Research Institute on the historic Polish American campus of Orchard Lake, Michigan. Programs begin in early 2009.

[Info posted by Ceil Jensen on various mailing lists.]

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Sunday, March 1, 2009

“Celebrate Poland!”

12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

in the Crystal Gardens at Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois.

FREE ADMISSION! ALL AGES!

“Celebrate Poland!” features six hours of continuous FREE entertainment – various styles of spirited Polish songs, dances, and music – from folk to jazz to Chopin – by some of Chicago’s top Polish-American entertainers, both adults and children, in gorgeous, colorful Polish costumes. Vendors will offer Polish and Polish-American folk art and gifts, books, CD’s, and of course, Polish food – by Kasia’s Deli, a Chicago tradition.

The Polish Consulate and the Polish Museum of America will provide information and free handouts about Poland and Polish culture. (See http://www.navypier.com/MoreInfoEvent.jsp?Event_ID=4254).

The entire afternoon will be narrated in English by mistress of ceremonies Lucyna Migala of WCEV Radio and the Lira Ensemble. Mr. Sławomir Skrzypek, president of the National Bank of Poland, will be the Guest of Honor.

This year’s featured performers are:

- * Singers and Dancers from the Lira Ensemble
- * Jazz singer Grazyna Auguscik and Eastern Blok
- * The Lechici Dancers of the Polish Scouting Organization in the USA
- * The Wici Song and Dance Company of the Polish National Alliance
- * Storyteller Barbara Kozuchowska
- * The Pytlik Brothers Polish Folk Band
- * The Little Stars Children’s Theatre Workshop
- * Agnieszka Iwańska and Her Quartet

Historic Navy Pier, the state’s top-visited tourist destination, is located on Chicago’s lake front at 600 East Grand Avenue. For directions and information about public transportation, go to <http://www.navypier.com> or call 312-595-PIER (7437).

[Information posted by Debbie Greenlee to the Poland Roots mailing list.]

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Beginning Polish Genealogy

PATH TO THE PAST/ DISCOVERING GRANDMA’S SECRETS

Sunday, 25 April 2009

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A seminar on the fundamentals of Polish Family History research for those who have considered the challenge but don’t know where to begin. Presented by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) and the Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA).

Location: Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (1st Floor Social Hall)
984 Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60642
Cost: \$30.00/person (includes lunch and research materials)

[From the PGSA Website, <http://pgsa.org/>]

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June 5 to June 22, 2009

“DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS TOUR” TO WESTERN UKRAINE

Join us in this one-of-a-kind trip to Ukraine. The Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group is hosting another “Discover Your Roots Tour” to Western Ukraine where we will search the Ukrainian Archives for our ancestral records as well as visit our ancestral homes.

The “Discover Your Roots Tour” runs from Friday June 5 to Monday June 22, 2009. We will spend a number of days in Lviv, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil and Kyiv, both as researchers and tourists. In addition to visiting the archives and ancestral villages, we will also tour these cities and other historic places.

As in our previous tour, we will contact the various provincial archives with a list of genealogy-related files we wish to examine. We will inform them when we will be visiting their archive so that the requested genealogical information will have been prepared and readied for our visit. We will also arrange for side visits to the villages of your ancestors.

It is yet too early to determine the costs for 2009. In 2007, the Tour cost \$3,555.00 Air/land rate per person in Canadian funds, based on double occupancy. An additional \$600.00 was added for single occupancy.

To learn more, visit the TUGG Website and click on the link “Sign-up for the 2009 ‘Discover Your Roots Tour’ to Western Ukraine.”

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

[Posted to the Galicia_Poland-Ukraine mailing list by Jim Onyschuk.]

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August 7-8, 2009

PGS-CONNECTICUT/NORTHEAST 2009 CONFERENCE -- 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

For detailed information on this event, visit this page on the Society’s Website:

<http://www.pgsctne.org/Conference%202009%20materials/index%20page.html>

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

http://www.rootstelevision.com/players/player_conferences3.php?bctid=11909038001&bclid=10538975001

It was a pleasure to see an announcement in a recent issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter* that Dick Eastman had recorded a video interview with Polish researcher Kasia Grycza. Much as I enjoy Eastman's newsletter, it's not exactly suffering from a glut of information on Polish genealogy. So it was good to see some attention being paid to a Pole who has worked as a tour guide and genealogical researcher. Of course, Kasia's looks had nothing to do with it....

Anyway, the video can be viewed at the above URL. Or if that URL is too long and doesn't work, just go to the home page of Roots Television at <http://www.rootstelevision.com/> and look at the list of programs to the right of the image screen. Scroll down and you'll see Kasia's interview listed. Click on it, and enjoy.

<http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/?CIDA=607>

Ceil Jensen noted on the PBS mailing list that the Polish State Archives has a new home page at this URL. This was news to me, and perhaps also to some of you.

<http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Memelland>

On the Lithuania mailing list, Lutz Szemkus mentioned this site, which is in German and provides links to a wide variety of information on the area around the city of Klaipėda, Lithuania, which was formerly in East Prussia and was called Memel by the Germans.

<http://www.creeca.wisc.edu/balssi/>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy list, Anne Hasiuk noted that the Baltic Studies Summer Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has announced its Summer 2009 program. If you're interested in studying Lithuanian, Latvian, or Estonian, take a look!

<http://stephendanko.com/blog/2009/02/08/atlas/>

On the PolandBorderSurnames list, Bronwyn Klimach recommended this and other posts on Steve Danko's blog on a series of maps available on the PGSA Website. The maps cover the Kingdom of Poland (i.e., the Russian partition) as of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The February 15th issue of *PGSA Notebook* also referred to these blogs and the map project, which has included efforts to index places shown on the maps. If you have roots in the Russian partition, these maps can be very helpful. You can directly to the PGSA Website page here: <http://www.pgsa.org/Maps/powiatmaplist.php>.

<http://www.lindykasperski.com/index.php?docID=124>

In posts to the Poland-Roots and Polish Genius mailing lists, Lindy Kasperski mentioned this link on his personal Website to try to stimulate some discussion of Polish history and how it is portrayed through cinema. “The Academy Awards prompted me, but an ‘epic movie’ like *Taras Bulba* (1962) and then the epic Polish version of *With Fire and Sword* in 1999 and now a Ukrainian remake of *Taras Bulba* (2009).” This was the first I’d heard of the Ukrainian remake of *Taras Bulba*, and that could be fascinating! (Though I have a sneaking suspicion there will be Poles who don’t care for it....)

<http://www.polishfamily.com>

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Debbie Greenlee posted a note announcing she has uploaded a large group of photos of various Polish villages from April 2008 to her Website. “The purpose of my web site was to give those who can’t get to Poland (yet) at least one photo from their ancestral villages. My routine was to stop and shoot every parish church, memorial, shrine, interesting houses, etc., that I passed while driving to specific cities in my itinerary. The photos are put up in chronological order based on my trip itinerary; new villages and old villages. That doesn’t help you, but our route started in Kraków, went south, then east to Przemyśl, then north, driving near the eastern border up to Białystok, and then west to Bydgoszcz, north to Gdańsk, and then back down to Warsaw. I’ve left out the diacritical marks.”

<http://www.ptg.gda.pl/index.php/default/lang/en-utf-8/>

On that same list, Grzegorz Brzoskowski reminded people of the resources available at the Website of the Pomeranian Genealogical Society [Pomorskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne]. “There is a database with indexes of birth, marriage and death church records and cemeteries from our area. If someone is interested in our area (especially Pelplin Diocese) I would strongly recommend to join us. As a member of our association you can participate in indexing program and you got the access to the records from Pelplin archive. I’m really sorry that the website of PTG still does not include all articles in English. It is caused that I had not had enough free time recently. Almost the whole of our website is translated only by me so I would be very thankful for finding any grammar/spelling mistakes at the website. I would like to ask you to send such info directly to my e-mail.”

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

Also on that list, Debbie Greenlee noted that according to the February issue of *Polish American Journal*, Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, Israel, declared Magdalena Grodzka-Guzkowska to be “Righteous Among the Nations.” She explained, “Grodzka-Guzkowska is from Rusinek, Poland and at age 15 joined the Polish Underground against the Nazis. In 1943 Magdalena joined with Jadwiga Piotrowska (also ‘Righteous Among the Nations’) to help Jewish children escape from the Warsaw ghetto.” Debbie concluded, “The largest group of people included in ‘Righteous Among the Nations’ are Poles” and suggested visiting this page on the Yad Vashem Website:

http://www1.yadvashem.org/righteous_new/index.html

<http://webcam.deili.info/en,1,1>

Debbie also suggested using this site to see Webcam photos from a large number of Polish towns. “Click on the Polish city of your choice (small villages not included) and then click on the Webcam photos. It’s best to look for your ancestral village’s *powiat* city.”

<http://www.warsawvoice.pl/view/19734>

Garret Mierzejewski forwarded this link, which says that “Polskie Książki Telefoniczne (Polish Telephone Directories) has completed its merger with DITEL, formerly Telekomunikacja Polska’s (TP) white and yellow pages directory provider. Publications and other products from both companies will now be sold under one brand. PKT is planning to publish 6.3 million new books this year...” Given the ongoing interest researchers have in Polish telephone directories, this news seemed worth passing along.

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

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup, Zalman Lazkovich answered a question about genealogy software for the Mac by recommending online tools, and specifically this site. He said, “It’s very flexible, easy to add, modify, change, remove, easy to add photos, to join several trees, to invite family members, friends... really pleasure to use. Photos blend very nicely in a tree. Superb. And it’s free. Today the concept is to move a lot of software online, which is also called ‘cloud computing.’ This way, anybody can use it, without limiting it to OS (oper. system).” There’s a lot of disagreement about cloud computing, with some feeling it is the future, while others really don’t trust it. But this is an option you might wish to consider.

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