



Gen Dobry!

Volume X, No. 3

31 March 2009

ISSN 1555-774X. Copyright © 2009, PolishRoots®, Inc.
Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, E-mail: <wfh@langline.com>

CONTENTS

I Love It When People Help Me Do My Job!
Letters to the Editor
Polish Miners of Allegheny County, PA in the 1920 and 1930 Censuses
A New Book and Research Services
Another New Book
Upcoming Events
More Useful Web Addresses
You May Reprint Articles...

*** 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_3.pdf

***** I LOVE IT WHEN PEOPLE HELP ME WITH MY JOB! *****

by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com>

Trying to keep up with all the sources that are becoming available these days is a full-time job. Fortunately, there are a number of kind, well-informed people who like to spread the word of new resources. I'm pleased to say they often write to me, so I can pass the news along to you.

Both Edward Luft and Bill Rutkowski took the time to tell me about a fascinating discovery, which is discussed in an article here:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7940540.stm

It tells of the discovery in the basement of the Red Cross headquarters in Geneva of records that have been left, virtually untouched, since 1918. There are perhaps 20 million sets of them, and they are thought to give information on casualties from over 30 nations drawn into World War I. The Red Cross hopes to have this data online by 2014, the 100th anniversary of the war's start.

Incidentally, if I had been paying attention, Dick Eastman's *EOGN* [Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter] mentioned this story back on March 13th. I saw it several weeks ago, but somehow nothing clicked in my brain until I was reviewing material for this issue of *Gen Dobry!*

While not of immediate value to researchers, that discovery has a lot of potential, once the Red Cross is able to get that info online. There is another site that may be of immediate value to researchers with Michigan roots. Ceil Jensen posted notes about it a couple of weeks ago. This has info on death certificates in Michigan during the period 1890-1927. It can be accessed via the Seeking Michigan site:

<http://seekingmichigan.org/discover>

You can also access it through an older link:

<http://haldigitalcollections.cdmhost.com/cdm4/search.php>

Ceil gave this URL for a list showing the counties currently online:

<http://seekingmichigan.org/look/2009/03/16/million-record-march>

Ceil says it will eventually have about a million records available; right now, the number is about a quarter million.

I appreciate hearing from anyone who has come across good information and wants to share it with other researchers. If you write to me, I will be glad to pass it along to our readers.

*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Subject: April movie on Irena Sendler

As I watched the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie in January, a promo appeared for their next feature. It was to be “Miss Irena’s Children” to be shown on CBS. You can check it out at <http://www.andrejsala.lv/16/1877/>. When I tried checking it out by putting in Hallmark Hall of Fame, however, it appears that the name has been changed to “The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler,” <http://true-blood.net/?p=1171>. Both sites agreed that the movie was filmed in Latvia. Thought your readers would like to know about this.

Armela Hammes

Editor—There’s no doubt in my mind some of our readers will appreciate this info, so they can mark their calendars. I just saw a note on the Polish Genius list from Kuba mentioning that this film will premiere on CBS on April 19th at 9 p.m. Eastern time, and it stars Anna Paquin as Irena Sendler.

Subject: Polish S.S. Units

Editor—I received some very interesting responses to Jerry Ceasar’s note in the last issue, saying there was never a Polish S.S. unit. For instance, Ed Mucha had this to say:

Re: the article about Polish S.S. units. I’ve never read anything about there being one either. But on another note, I vaguely remember reading a book many years back which mentioned that a Polish unit fought with the Brit troops against the Afrika Korps in Egypt and Libya. I believe they were involved also in the defence of Tobruq. Unfortunately, can’t remember the book.

Re: Polish troops fighting in Italy. It’s kind of ironic when you tour through Poland to see many street names in cities and towns named after the campaigns or cities the Poles fought in. Polish troops were known to be tough and not afraid to take casualties as long as they killed Germans in return.

A book recently published, *Searching for Schindler*, by Thomas Keanally, author of *Schindler’s List*, describes how he got involved in the writing of the book. Also describes very well a major trip he took to Poland in 1980s under the guidance of Leopold Pfefferberg, and the research into Schindler’s factory in Kraków. As interesting as the novel itself.

Ed Mucha

Editor—Here’s another comment:

For the most part, Jerry Ceasar’s comments are right on the mark. He reminds us of the substantial accomplishments made by the Polish armed forces made during World War II that for 50

years went unreported or heavily censored by the Soviet government controlling Poland. Military historians generally agree that the crucial air battles of September 15, 1940, were a turning point in the war. Seventy Poles flying in two squadrons, plus those attached to British units, made up 20% of the total RAF force flying that day. They were credited with 25% of the kills made during the battles. The Luftwaffe had thrown everything it had at the British but failed to accomplish its mission: end RAF resistance. More importantly, it ended the Luftwaffe's myth of invincibility. Two days later, Hitler cancelled plans for the invasion of Britain and turned his attention eastward toward the Soviets. Churchill called it "one of the decisive battles of the war."

There has been little official recognition of the vital role played by the pilots and the rest of the Polish armed forces. In June 1946, the British put on a massive victory parade. Two million people wildly cheered 10,000 men and women from the British armed forces marching twelve abreast, along with military units representing thirty other victorious allied nations. It was quite a celebration. Yet, despite the fact that they may have saved the nation, the Polish pilots and others who had fought under the British command during the war were betrayed and deliberately barred from participating by the British government. They did not want to offend Joseph Stalin. That decision was made despite the fact that there are nearly 2,000 Polish airmen who died while fighting under British command in World War II buried in cemeteries throughout Britain.

Anyone interested in learning more should read *A Question of Honor* by Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud.

Bill Rutkowski

Editor—I also received a note from a lady who didn't give her name, but was sure there was no Polish S.S. unit because survivors of World War II told her things had a way of happening to anyone who did seem to show interest in collaborating with the Nazis. But much of what is now Poland was formerly German territory, with a large German population; and John Nieurzy-la says they were a different matter:

Whilst I cannot put my hand on heart and say there was not a Polish S.S. unit, I can say there were many Poles in various S.S. units.

I have two uncles (which I'm not proud of) who were in the S.S. They were born in Silesia, and though not of "Aryan" blood were allowed to join, as they were "*Volksdeutsche*" [*Editor—ethnic Germans living outside the Reich*]. But it is my understanding that this happened throughout the German-occupied area.

The following figures come from a British interrogation of Gottlob Berger, Chef SSHA, dated 23 August 1945; these figures are what Berger recalled:

French - 12,000-14,000

Walloons - 16,000

Flemings - 18,000 (Walloons and Flemings "includes also those who served eventually with the Police as they were not up to the S.S. standard.")

Dutch - 25,000-28,000 (“composed roughly of 60% working-class ex-communists, 10% upper class and 30% from Mussert’s Landstorm. This latter was about 12,000 strong.”)
Danes - 8,000 (“composed of 10% upper class, 70% middle class and 20% working class.”)
Norwegians - 6,000
Estonians - 18,000
Finns - 3,500
Latvians - 30,000
Lithuanians - “comparatively few”
Poles - 6,000 (“These served in the Army and not in an S.S. unit. [Berger] states that after the fall of Warsaw last year nearly all the survivors immediately volunteered to enter the German service, but for some reason Hitler refused to accept them.”)
Croats - 18,500 (“All Moslems”)
Rumanians - 62,000 (“exclusively *Volksdeutsche*”)
Yugo-Slavs - 24,000 (“exclusively *Volksdeutsche*”)
Slovaks - 6,000 (“exclusively *Volksdeutsche*”)
Hungarians - 50,000 “Hungarians nationals”
and 90,000 “Hungarian *Volksdeutsche*”

The following is for Waffen S.S.:

Volksdeutsche from West Europa - 16,000
Volksdeutsche from Hungary - 40,000
Volksdeutsche from Danmark - 2,000
Volksdeutsche from Croatia -20,000
Volksdeutsche from other Yugoslav -15,000
Volksdeutsche from Rumania - 60,000
Volksdeutsche from B. u. M. - 39,000
Volksdeutsche from Slovakia - 6,000

In total nearest 198,000

My “uncles” were in the S.S. Police Battalions in Kraków, and they also served in Belarus. I have an official war record from Germany.

I hope that the above helps somewhat, it also leads onto many more questions.

John Nieurzyla

Editor—Thanks for some very interesting information. I suspect Mr. Ceasar was thinking of people who would identify themselves as Poles, not German, when he made his statement. It wouldn't surprise me if some people identified as Volksdeutsche were willing to collaborate with the Germans; but I doubt Poles would claim them....

Subject: Horsebreeders in Poland

Editor—I also received two responses to Monica Rzepka’s note in the last issue, asking for information on a family of horsebreeders in Poland.

Family stories relate that my paternal g’grandfather, Piotr Pikowski, from the area near Pułtusk (listed as Krsewo, Russia on his immigration paperwork - June 1909), raised and trained horses for the Russian (?) army. After a neighbor supposedly stole his horses, he immigrated to the U.S. in 1909 to work in the coal mines in West Virginia. His goal was to raise money to start over.

In 1913 he returned to the US with his wife and 5 children and settled in Hamtramck, MI.

I don’t know if this unsubstantiated story is of any value to fellow researchers like Monica.

Georgette Kwong

Editor—You never know what bit of info might prove helpful. Here’s another input:

I wonder if the Warsaw Zoo would be of help in tracing the history of breeding these horses? I just finished reading *The Zookeeper’s Wife*. Considerable discussion about the horses in the pre-World War II Zoo and the forest in Eastern Poland in this novel. Might be a long shot but I thought it worth mentioning.

Eleanor Ritchie

Editor—I passed all this along to Monica. Thanks to all for sharing any insights or suggestions that came to mind.

***** POLISH MINERS OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA IN THE 1920 AND 1930 CENSUSES *****

by Shirley Maynard

Editor—Paul S. Valasek happened to come into contact online with Shirley Maynard, who is going through the 1920 and 1930 censuses for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and extracting information on Czechs and Americans with parents born in Bohemia. Paul asked Shirley to send along any material she found dealing with Poles, and Shirley kindly sent this material.

PA, Allegheny Co., Elizabeth Twp., Smithdale village, District 104, 1920 census. Extraction of those heads of household who declared themselves laborers in the coal mine. Some items will not be included, such as residence number and the sex of the coal miner. * Indicates unable to verify spelling.

The abstract begins at Image 1 of Ancestry.com's 1920 census.

Items to be abstracted

Name

Relationship: head of household assumed unless more than one miner in the group.

Color or race

Age at last birthday

Marital condition -- Md for married, S for single, Wd for widower, D for divorced

Home O(wned) or Rented. B is boarder.

Place of birth

Place of birth for both parents

Mother tongue or language spoken

Year of immigration

Naturalized or Alien -- Na or Al

US Veteran extracted and which war. Vet. and WW for World War (1917)

Image 1.

WIENIESKIE, Louis: Wh, 41, Md., Rent. Poland, Poland, Poland, Polish, 1907 Al.

Image 2.

KADZZLUSKY, Toney: Wh., 40, Md. Poland, Poland, Poland, Polish, 1896 Na.

Image 3.

ZAPERT, Roman: f-i-l, Wh., 57, Md. Poland, Poland, Poland, Polish. 1893, Al.

SWYDEK, George: Wh., 40, S. B. Poland, Poland, Poland, Polish, 1895, Na.

DEMNCITSHI, George: Wh., 42, Md. B. Aus. Pol. Pol. Polish. 1909 Na.

Image 12.

HYZY, Adam: Wh., 25, Md. Rent. Russian Poland, Rus.Pol. Rus Pol. Polish. 1896 Na

1930 Census

PA, Allegheny Co., Elizabeth Twp., Smithdale village, District 592, 1930 census. Extraction of those heads of household who declared themselves laborers in the coal mine. Some items will not be included, such as residence number, farm resident, whether the miner attended school the previous year, and the sex of the coal miner.

The abstract begins at Image 21 of Ancestry.com's 1930 census.

Items to be abstracted

Name

Relationship: head of household assumed unless more than one miner in the group.

Color or race

Age at last birthday
Marital condition -- Md for married, S for single, Wd for widower, D for divorced
Home O(wned) or R(ented) and value of home or rental, adding dollar sign. B is boarder.
Place of birth
Place of birth for both parents
Mother tongue or language spoken
Year of immigration
Naturalized or Alien -- Na or Al
US Veteran extracted and which war. Vet. and WW for World War (1917)

Image 21:

SIMTOSKY, George: Wh. 54, Md., R. \$5 Poland, Poland, Poland, Polish, 1903, Al.

Image 24:

VALKO, John: Wh., 25, S. B. PA, Poland, Poland, Polish. Vet. WW.
BILLA, Albert: Wh., 30, S. B. Poland, Poland, Poland, Polish. 1912, Al.
SERSEN, Benjamin: Wh., 39, S. B. PA, Poland, Poland. Vet. WW.
DORMTHO, Steve: Wh., 36, S. B. Poland, Poland, Poland, Polish, 1912, Al.
**STEPENSKI, John: Wh., 39, S., Poland, Poland, Poland. Polish, 1912, Na. Vet. WW.
**STEPHANSKI, John is the spelling on his WW I Draft registration.

Image 25:

ROJANSKI, Stanley: Wh, 50, Wd. Poland, Poland, Poland. Polish, 1900, Al.

Image 27:

LEPCHUISKY, Charles: 25, Md. R. \$10. PA, Poland, Poland.

Image 29:

LENIN, Walter: Wh, 27, Md., R. \$10. Poland, Po. Po. Russian. 1907, Al. Vet WW.

***** A NEW BOOK AND RESEARCH SERVICES *****

Barbara Starkey <barb@thestarkeys.com>

Editor—I was contacted by Barbara, who wished to share word with our readers of a new book she's done, and also of the professional research services she offers. I explain that we don't do advertising per se in Gen Dobry! Instead, we print information on books and services for free, usually on a one-time basis. The rationale is that we exist to inform people about sources on Polish genealogy, culture, history, etc. Our members want to know about books on these subjects, and it's perfectly appropriate to share information about such books with them. We don't recommend them or vouch for them; we just pass along information for our members to evaluate and use as they see fit. So here's the information Barbara wished to pass along.

First the book:

From Poland to Washington County, Illinois. This book of my personal history highlights the immigration stories of the Barczewski's, Kitowski's, Wieczorek's, Lukaszewski's, and Stawicki's who came from the Poznań, Poland area and Gdańsk and settled in Washington County, Illinois. More than just that, however, the book suggests ways to search immigration into the U.S. in order to find the exact place of origin. The exact place is needed if a researcher wants to find and search Polish records. Also, there are suggestions on what records may be available in the US that could help add to a pedigree or family group sheet. There is a collection of stories about several of the families and their life as immigrants in Washington County, Illinois.

Cost: \$27.50 US; pay by check to author

Size: Printed on 8 ½ x 11 inch paper, 70 pages, numerous pictures and records

Author: Barbara Starkey, 1839 N. 600 W., Mapleton, Utah 84664; e-mail: <barb@thestarkeys.com>

Research services provided by Barbara Starkey

I am a professional genealogical researcher doing work in Poland, Croatia, and several other Eastern European countries. I have had ten years of experience and I have contacts in Poland and Croatia. In addition, I live close to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Because of this, I can search the huge collection of records available there without the cost of sending for these records. I have been a presenter at numerous genealogical conferences and have authored several books on records and research.

Please contact me for information about services and rates at Barbara Starkey, <barb@thestarkeys.com>.

***** ANOTHER NEW BOOK *****

Editor—Here's info that Ceil Jensen posted on the Polish Genius mailing list.

No Greater Ally: The Untold Story of Poland's Forces in World War II

Michigan resident, Ken Koskodan, authors important work:

<http://search.barnesandnoble.com/No-Greater-Ally/Kenneth-Koskodan/e/9781846033650/?itm=1>

Synopsis

There is a chapter of World War II history that remains largely untold, the story of the fourth

largest allied military of the war, the only nation to have fought in the battles of Leningrad, Arnhem, Tobruk, and Normandy. The story of millions of young men and women who gave everything for freedom and in the final victory lost all. In a cruel twist of history the monumental struggles of an entire nation have been forgotten, and even intentionally obscured. This book redresses the balance, giving a comprehensive overview of Poland's participation in World War II. Following their valiant but doomed defense of Poland in 1939, members of the Polish armed forces fought with the Allies wherever and however they could. With previously unpublished first-hand accounts, information never before seen in English, and rare photographs, this title provides a detailed analysis of the devastation the war brought to Poland, and the final betrayal when, having fought for freedom for six long years, Poland was handed to the Soviet Union.

Biography

Ken Koskodan graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Communications. The emphasis of his degree was in Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations. Of Polish descent himself, he has researched Poland's participation in World War II for many years, and in the course of his research has interviewed many surviving veterans. This is his first book. The author lives in Detroit, MI.

Editor—Here are a few facts from Amazon.com on this book, to be published this June:

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Osprey Publishing (June 23, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1846033659

ISBN-13: 978-1846033650

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

April 18, 2009

TINLEY MORaine GENEALOGISTS CONFERENCE 2009

Robert Morris College Campus
Orland Park, Illinois

“All Things Genealogy”

Paul S. Valasek will give a lecture, “Why My Austro-Hungarian Ancestors Were Neither Austrian nor Hungarian!” at 10:15 a.m. Also, the keynote address, at 8:45 a.m., will be by Eric Basir of Photo Grafix. Registration is on-site, but space is limited, so register early! The fee is \$35.00 for TMG members, \$40.00 for guests. For more information, visit <http://www.tmgenealogists.org/>.

=====
April 22 - 26, 2009

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Manchester Radisson Hotel & Expo Center
Manchester, New Hampshire

“Discovering Family Treasures”

Jonathan Shea, of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, will lecture on “Researching Ancestors in Poland and Eastern Europe.”

=====
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)

Many people have thought about researching their ancestors: who they were, when they immigrated, where they came from. But Polish roots offer a challenge for many reasons, such as:

- * The family has no paper trail for previous generations;
- * Life in “the old country” was never discussed;
- * Records in Poland may have been destroyed;
- * Current generations don’t speak/read Polish.

To help you with this seemingly insurmountable task, PRCUA and PGSA have teamed up to help the novice researcher find the path to a family’s past. You will learn:

- * What historical event is key to knowing where to look for your Polish ancestors?
- * What U.S. documents exist that might offer clues?

- * How can you deal with foreign records if you don't know the language?
- * With all the devastation caused by wars, did any records survive?

In a series of presentations you will find the answer to these questions. The program will include a Polish lunch, with time to visit with other new researchers. PGSA volunteers will be available for brief translations and general consultation.

Participation will be limited to the first 40 interested parties. For registration your check for \$30.00 should be made out to The Polish Roman Catholic Union of America and sent to: Path to the Past, c/o Mrs. Joann Ozog, 984 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642.

Deadline for registration is April 11. No refunds after April 18. Check Mapquest on your computer for driving directions. Adequate parking is available in two lots adjacent to the building.

[From the 15 March 2009 *PGSA Notebook* e-zine.]

=====

May 9, 2009

GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF BERGEN COUNTY, NJ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Bergen County Community College
Paramus, New Jersey

Jonathan Shea, of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, will speak on Polish research. For further information, please contact <gerimola@aol.com>.

=====

July 4 - August 10, 2009

Summer Study-Tour at Catholic University in Lublin, Poland

As in past years, Professor Michael Mikoś of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is leading a Summer Study-Tour in Lublin, with a 100-hour course of the Polish language at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. Also available is a three weeks/6 credit course in Polish Culture and Polish Language from July 6-24. The trip includes excursions to Warsaw, Kazimierz, and other places of interest, with optional trips to Kraków and Białowieża National Park.

Program fees:

- \$2,515.00 for Five Weeks, All Inclusive
- \$1,417.00 for Two Weeks, All Inclusive

The program fee includes lodgings and all meals in Poland, lectures, language classes, performances, and health insurance; it does NOT include round-trip air transportation from Chicago to Warsaw. For detail, contact Professor Mikoś at 414-229-4151 or write via Dept. of Foreign Languages & Linguistics, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI

53201, e-mail <mikos@uwm.edu> or visit www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour/.

=====

August 2 - 7, 2009

29TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

**Sheraton Philadelphia Center City Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

The annual conference of the IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) is always the premier event in the United States for Jewish genealogists. This year, there's an interesting twist: the keynote speaker is a Catholic priest! Father Patrick Dubois, author and humanitarian, will speak on "The Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 million Jews," which is also the title of his recently published book. Fr. Dubois is best known for his work in searching for and uncovering mass graves in Ukraine.

The fascinating people who will be there include Dorin Dobrinu, the Director General of the Romanian National Archive system, and Deputy Director Olga Muzychuk, a representative from the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine, who will be giving a talk. Among the huge roster of speakers, names that may be familiar to our readers include Matthew Bielawa, Logan Kleinwaks, Gary Mokotoff, Stanley Diamond, Stephen Morse, Kahlile Mehr, and Warren Blatt. Check out the entire program at <http://www.philly2009.org/program.cfm>.

For more info, visit the Website <http://www.philly2009.org/>.

[From a posting to the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup by Mark Halpern]

=====

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://jewishworldreview.com/0309/bodek_intro.php3

Martin Bodek recently started a new column in Jewish World Review in which he discusses name origins. He welcomes questions about Jewish surnames. He says, "Please e-mail your last name, and as much family history as possible, to <onsurnames@gmail.com>. I in turn

pledge to do my best research and to publish my findings here. If your inquiry does not appear in a future column, it is probably because of a backlog or because your name requires extensive research.”

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=PyEfGzM27gTTavwaSGXTRA_3d_3d

Ceil Jensen posted a note on several lists asking people to take a moment and click on this link, where you can take a survey offered by the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI). PARI is “a new department of The Polish Mission on the historic campus of St. Mary’s of Orchard Lake, Michigan. We are developing classes, seminars, and workshops for Family Historians. While Polish is our specialty, we are planning sessions for genealogists in general, as well. Please give us feedback on our tentative topics.”

<http://www.funtrivia.com/trivia-quiz/History/Poland-1807-1813-106897.html>

James Birkolz posted this link on the Posen mailing list. It’s an online quiz about Polish history during the Napoleonic Era. I’ll warn you, though: it’s tough!

<http://forvo.com/languages-pronunciations/pl/>

James also posted this URL for a Website that helps you learn a little about how to pronounce Polish. It’s a series of random words; you guess how to pronounce each one, then hear a native speaker say it correctly. If you feel up to a real challenge, try <http://forvo.com/languages/pl/tag/tonguetwisters/>.

James gave this link for similar help with German:

<http://forvo.com/languages-pronunciations/de/>. This page lists the various languages for which pronunciation help is available: <http://forvo.com/languages/>. I’d never seen this site before, but it’s the kind of thing I could spend hours on.

<http://cosmopolitanreview.com/index.php>

Maureen Mroczek Morris sent me a note to let me know the second edition of this new publication is available at this URL.

<http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en&gl=us>

On the Polish Genius list, Dolores Brown posted a note about a Google service I knew nothing about: you can post your surnames on the Google Alert lists via the above URL. “Every time that surname is posted or comes up on the Internet, you will get an alert e-mail. If you have a very common polish last name this might not be a good idea as you would get far too many e-mails. In my case they are not too common, so I would not get quite as many. You just don’t know where one of these alerts may take you - perhaps a good family connection ... You enter your surname in the search box. I’ve selected the COMPREHENSIVE OPTION from the drop down. Enter how often you want to receive the e-mails - daily or weekly. Enter your e-mail address. Click on Submit. You will get a confirmation e-mail & you have to click on the link in that e-mail to confirm you added your name to the list. If you have a junk e-mail folder set up,

you might want to add the google alerts e-mail address to your safe senders list.” What a great idea!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Quld5950v6w>

Another post on the Polish Genius list, from Maryellen, directs is to a YouTube video with a 10-minute presentation on Polish history. She also mentioned a Website with a surprising selection of photos for towns and villages all over, <http://www.panoramio.com>.

<http://www.treasurehuntyoureuropeanroots.com/Genealogy/>

On the Posen mailing list, Jerry Slominski gave this URL for his new genealogy research Website. This link is to the English version; there’s also one in Polish. He wrote, “Feel free to contact me if you need research help finding Polish or German Polish families who immigrated to America.”

<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/RoadToVictory.htm>

This link provides information on a new book published by Avotaynu, Inc. Gary Mokotoff posted a note to the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish, explaining that many overlook the participation of Jews in Eastern Europe as partisans or members of regular armies that fought the Germans. “Such a book is *Road to Victory: Jewish Soldiers of the 16th Lithuanian Division*. The book contains first-person accounts of the participation of Lithuanian Jews who fought in the 16th Lithuanian Division of the Red Army. Through their accounts they represent the large corps of 4,500 Jewish fighters-men and women alike-who took arms in the battlefields of World War II in order to destroy the enemy as well as to liberate the remnants of Lithuanian Jewry-the survivors of the Shoah. A good number of stories are written by or about women who fought in the war.” Fascinating!

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/bizdir/start.htm>

Another note posted on that newsgroup, from Howard Fink, tells of an extensive list of terms dealing with businesses and occupations compiled by Jewish Records Indexing - Poland from the *1929 Polish Business Directory*. “You can download a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet of these in English, French and Polish from the project page ... About halfway down the web page you will find a section labelled ‘Table of industry/Business,’ and in this section is a link to download the complete file.”

<http://www.ieg-maps.uni-mainz.de>

A note posted on the Posen mailing list quotes a Mr. Paul Baxter who learned of a free German map Website at this address. He said shows a digital history of German-speaking areas beginning in 1500, and English translations are given for much of the text. He credits reading of this in the April/May 2009 edition of *Der Blumenbaum*, the publication of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society, <http://www.sacgensoc.org/index.html>.

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/census/>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy mailing list, Tom Sadauskas said this was “a great URL for federal census information. You can break out the numbers by all sorts of characteristics including place of birth. I was able to find out how many persons in the 1920 Census were listed as being born in Lithuania (131,147). The 1920 Census was the first one taken after Lithuania regained its independence in 1918. You can break the total out by state as well as by county. Illinois was first with 30,358 closely followed by Pennsylvania with 30,227. Massachusetts was third with 20,789.”

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2009/mar/21/polish-pride/?newswatch>

<http://www.vindy.com/videos/2009/mar/19/688/>

Aundrea Cika Heschmeyer sent us these links in order to share the good coverage for Polish Youngstown! The second link shows video of young dancers carrying on Polish traditions, and some explanatory remarks from Aundrea, the director of <http://PolishYoungstown.com>.

<http://stanislawow.net/index.htm>

Edward Rozyłowicz told me of this Polish-language site that is “a treasure trove of information on Stanisławów (now Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine).” In the menu near the top of the page, click on “Linki” (Links) to find connections to a variety of Websites on various places in the former Eastern Borderlands or *Kresy*.

<http://spuscizna.org/spuscizna/galeria-beskid-niski.html>

Paul Valasek brought this site to my attention. It has photos of Greek Catholic and other churches in the Beskid Niski region.

YOU MAY REPRINT articles from *Gen Dobry!*, PROVIDED: (1) the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes; and (2) the following notice appears at the end of the article: Written by [author’s name, e-mail address, and URL, if given]. Previously published by *Gen Dobry!*, Vol. X, No. 3, 31 March 2009, PolishRoots®: <http://www.PolishRoots.org/>.

If you send *Gen Dobry!* an item for publication and that item contains a previously unpublished item from a third party, please also include permission from that party to reprint the item in *Gen Dobry!* We cannot republish private correspondence or copyrighted material without express permission unless it is already clearly in the public domain. If we do publish such private correspondence or copyrighted materials, your submission of it constitutes your agreement to hold the editor, *Gen Dobry!*, and PolishRoots®, Inc. harmless in the event of a valid claim as a result of such unauthorized publication. Such agreement includes, but is not limited to, all litigation costs.

Copyright 2009, PolishRoots®, Inc. All rights reserved.