



Gen Dobry!

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*** WELCOME! ***

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

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

*** ELLIS ISLAND INDEXING — GONE MAD! ***

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

For the past several years, I've been indexing and matching the returning ship manifests for Hallerczycy, and slowly am working the pages, one by one. I usually access them through Dr. Morse's search parameters, which then link to the Ellis Island site. All fine and good.

Recently, I was working the return voyage for my grandfather on the *President Grant* leaving Danzig and arriving at New York City, February 16, 1921. It was at this time I came across some images which had problems. Approximately half of the passengers on a given page had unreadable listings. Names, towns, occupations, all were unreadable because they did not scan or film well. Yet, Ellis Island had "names" for these men. There simply was no way one could read names that were barely visible as dots and scratches on a film.

Then I remembered reading Debbie Greenlee's comments in the December 2008 *Gen Dobry!*, on how images of the same manifest appeared differently on the Ellis Island site as compared to the Ancestry version.

<<http://polishroots.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=OHiaYALLXdA%3d&tabid=60&mid=377>>

(I guess I was naïve when I thought that for such a massive indexing project, the names would have been indexed once, checked and verified, and then used as those in power saw fit. Soon I learned differently.)

For the most part, Ellis Island had a version which was readable, yet there are truly some indexing nightmares, as I discussed in my article "Did Ellis Island Change My Name" in the August 2007 issue of *Gen Dobry!*:

<<http://polishroots.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=dmZd5zd1mqI%3d&tabid=60&mid=377>>

Well, I remembered her article and found the same page in Ancestry, and YES! the image was better—maybe not the greatest, but better and much more readable. Now for the screaming part: some of these names are not indexed the same way, especially the ones which were butchered to begin with, on both Ellis and Ancestry.

I typed in a name I was having trouble with and couldn't find the same page on both sites. So I went back to the original page on Ellis, found a name on the page that was bold and quite readable, and then I found it on Ancestry. But the wacky images were not indexed the same way. So if you are looking for a wacky version of your name, apparently it may show up differently in the index for both Ellis and Ancestry! I would have thought that they'd use the same index; but it appears that somewhere along the way, some names may have been entered differently, and both are wrong!!!

On the Morse-Ellis Island site, the name is Peter GIELAKOWSKI. When you look at the Ellis page, *no way* can you read it, it's much too faint. On Ancestry, if you type in his name, Peter Gielakowski, under searching for NYC Arrivals, nothing shows up—because on Ancestry, he's

listed as Peter BOLAKOWSKI. And in reality, thanks to my 10 years of typing, I know he was really Peter BIELAKOWSKI.

I have, in the past, offered both Ellis Island and Ancestry my versions, which are usually better than those available from either of these Websites, though I, too, have names that show several variations. Nobody bothered to respond to my e-mails, so I'm content that my names are better recorded than either Ancestry's or Ellis Island's. What a shame tht with all of this modern technology, we still have flaws due to human error! We surely produce data faster than ever before, but we also produce more mistakes just as quickly.

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

Subject: Norman Davies and Polish Surnames

Editor—I saw my friend Tom Sadauskas at the recent conference of PGS-Connecticut/the Northeast; he was one of the speakers at this excellent event. We got to talking about Polish names, and he asked if I was familiar with a book on World War II by Norman Davies in which he simplified the names of the Poles. This is the same man who wrote *God's Playground*, the most popular English-language history of Poland, and a book I often refer to! I told Tom I hadn't heard about this, and asked him to send me a little more info. Here's what he wrote:

Here's the info on that book by Norman Davies. I still can't understand why he believed that Western readers couldn't handle Polish surnames.

Davies, Norman (2003). *Rising '44: the Battle for Warsaw*. New York: Macmillan. ISBN 0-333-90568-7.

NYT Book Review

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/25/books/review/25DESTEL.html>>

Tom Sadauskas

Editor—I wrote Tom, "When I got home, I looked for info on it. Not that I didn't believe you, but I was just flabbergasted by this! What on earth was he thinking???? And I'm almost as surprised by the fact that there wasn't more of an uproar about this in Polonia circles." If you'd like to know more about this book, and read comments by people on his treatment of Polish names, as well as other remarks, the Amazon page is interesting:

<http://www.amazon.com/Rising-44-Battle-Norman-Davies/dp/0143035401/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1251665752&sr=8-1>

Or try this TinyURL: < <http://tinyurl.com/l4g76l>>

Subject: The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

Editor—Edward Rozyłowicz sent along this link to a very interesting article for those who want to know about events leading up to World War II. This is particularly appropriate now, of course, with the 70th anniversary of Germany's invasion of Poland.

See this article: "August 23, 1939 - The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact."

<<http://www.redstate.com/skanderbeg/2009/08/23/august-23-1939-the-molotov-ribbentrop-pact/>>

Edward Rozyłowicz

Subject: Lipka Tatars

Editor—This note was sent to our Webmaster, Don Szumowski, apparently as a response to info I posted about the surname Budrewicz on the Polish Roots site.

I have some additional info about last name Budrewicz, that I would like to share with you. You've mentioned the village near Suwalki called Budrowo, but I believe most of Budrewiczes come from area of what is now Belarus and Lithuania. My grandfather's last name was Budrewicz and he was born in 1917 in the small village called Budrewicze near Lida (now Belarus). It's very close to the border of Lithuania and not so far from Wilno. The village still exists and I was even able to trace it on one of the Internet maps.

I'm interested in the subject as I believe that the origins of the name Budrewicz come from Lipka Tatars, that were invited to settle and given the land and noble titles in Lithuania over several centuries (small piece from Wikipedia below <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lipka_Tatars>, retrieved 31 August 2009).

The migration of some Tartars into the lands of Lithuania and Poland began during 14th century and lasted until the end of the 17th ... According to some estimates, by 1591 there were about 200,000 Lipka Tatars living in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and about 400 mosques serving them. According to the *Risāle-yi Tatar-i Leh* (an account of the Lipka Tatars written for Süleyman the Magnificent by an anonymous Polish Muslim during a stay in Istanbul in 1557-8 on his way to Mecca) there were 100 Lipka Tatar settlements with mosques in Poland. The largest communities existed in the cities of Lida, Navahradak and Iwye. There was a Lipka Tatar settlement in Minsk, today's capital of Belarus, known as Tatarskaya Slabada.

Just thought I'll share this with you. I find your website very informative and educational. Keep up the good work! Please let me know if you need more info on the subject.

Monika Talarek

Editor—It is certainly possible a given Budrewicz family could be descended from Lipka Tatars. This is a fascinating subject, one not too many people know about. Googling “Lipka Tatars” leads to a number of Websites with information on the subject. There are also online sites such as this, from the Podlaska Digital Library, with the Polish text of a monograph on the “Lithuanian Tatars,” as they were also called.

<<http://pbc.biaman.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=1987&from=latest>>

Subject: Google Name Alerts

FYI You can sign up for Google alerts with a surname and receive world wide news about that surname. Once a week I receive news (you may have to read Polish) about any Przybylski’s in the world who are making news. I never knew how many Przybylski’s were making news and that some are quite famous. It is an interesting way to track your relatives.

Ed Price

Editor—We mentioned these alerts in the March 2009 issue, but this option is worth mentioning again. I can definitely see how it could prove very helpful in research. Go here: <<http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en&gl=us>>.

***** 90,000 NEW RECORDS IN JRI-POLAND DATABASE *****

Editor—Stanley Diamond posted this announcement to the newsgroup soc.genealogy.jewish, and the Jewishgen mailing list. I thought it should be passed along to any and all who might benefit from the knowledge.

90,000 new entries have been added to the JRI-Poland online searchable database from 32 towns. For 19 towns, it is entirely new data. In other cases, data for later years from previously indexed towns has been added.

The new record indices are from Shtetl CO-OPS (records indexed by JRI-Poland volunteers from LDS/Mormon films), Polish State Archives (PSA) projects (data previously indexed under the PSA project for which fundraising has been now completed and eligible to go on the database), and a few projects from other sources (to be announced separately).

Note: The Online Status column in the Your Town pages has not yet been updated and so the new data is not yet reflected. [*Editor*—This note was distributed on August 3rd, so by now those pages may have been updated.]

JRI-Poland now has indices to more than 3.56 million Polish Jewish records in its searchable database <<http://www.jri-poland.org>>.

Before you start searching

We know you will be eager to start searching the new data. But, before doing so, please remember...

You can search by surname and town or surname and geographical area. For hints on maximizing your search results by using geographic coordinates, please refer to: <http://www.jri-poland.org/hints_strategies.htm>.

Do ****not**** search by Town name only as this will not generate results!

Special thanks

As always, our appreciation goes to JRI-Poland's Database Manager Michael Tobias, as well as to Shtetl CO-OP and Transliteration Coordinator Hadassah Lipsius, Shtetl CO-OP leaders and Volunteers, Archive Coordinators, Town Leaders, and valued supporters whose efforts and kindness have helped the JRI-Poland database continue to grow.

Towns for which there is data not yet online

If you want to know more about the status of your town, go to the "Your Town" link on the JRI-Poland Website at <<http://www.jri-poland.org>> and contact the Town Leader for your town. If a Town Leader is not listed online, contact the Archive Coordinator under whose Archive project the town falls.

If information for your town is not shown or if you cannot reach the Town Leader or Archive Coordinator, please write to <questions@jri-poland.org>.

Reminder: The Online Status column in the Your Town pages has not yet been updated to show this newly searchable data.

JRI-Poland is an independent non-profit tax-exempt Organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Under special arrangement, the JRI-Poland web site <www.jri-poland.org>, mailing list, and database are hosted by JewishGen. JRI-Poland data is displayed on JewishGen as a service to researchers.

Stanley Diamond
Executive Director
On behalf of The Board of Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

***** CRUSADING WELSHMAN DEFENDS POLAND'S IMAGE *****

Robert Strybel <strybel@interia.pl>

Editor—This article by Rob Strybel was apparently posted by Rob to the Polish_Media_Issues mailing list <Polish_Media_Issues@yahoogroups.co.uk>. As best I can determine, it was printed originally in the *Polish Times/Czas Polski*, <<http://www.mypolishtimes.com/index.php>>, issue 33/2009. Since it appeared on a mailing list, I see no problem reprinting it here; but we should acknowledge where it appeared originally.

Although examples of those idiotic “Polack jokes” still occur at times in movies and books as well as on the Internet and TV, they are nowhere as common as they once were. More typical of today’s anti-Polish distortions are persistent media reports on alleged “Polish concentration camps.” School textbooks and popular culture often ignore or misrepresent Polish topics. One person who is doing something about it is 44-year-old Jan Niechwiadowicz of Cardiff, Wales, whose quadrisyllabic Polish surname has twisted many an English tongue.

Jan, an IT consultant in the business intelligence-sector, several years ago set up the Polish Media Issues Web site to counteract anti-Polish content in the media. The group scours the worldwide media for signs of anti-Polish slurs and distortions and works to rectify them. Together with a following of like-minded associates, over the past four years PMI has waged more than 150 successful campaigns to correct errors and extract apologies. The vast majority have dealt with correcting wording such as “Poland’s Auschwitz death camp” or “Polish gas chambers” in articles dealing with Hitler’s extermination program in German-occupied Poland. You can contact it via <pmi@supportpoland.org>.

Now Jan has decided to branch out by setting up a companion portal, <<http://www.supportpoland.org>>, which he hopes will step up the fight against Polonophobia, anti-Polonism or Pole-bashing, as it has also been called. The new site provides useful links to open letters you can sign, including one against use of the term “Polish concentration camp.” It is available in English, Polish, German, French and Spanish. [*Editor*—When I attempted to access this Website on 31 August 2009, it came up blank. I assume this is a temporary situation and will change.]

Support Poland, <<http://www.supportpoland.org>>, also encourages Poles and Polonians to read up on Polish history, including books by such historical falsifiers as Jan Gross. The portal contains constantly updated information on anti-Polish activities, including Ukrainian allegations ranking Poles alongside the Soviets and German Nazis as that country’s worst enemies.

The site also urges visitors to arm themselves against anti-Polish slander by reading “Exposing Polonophobia” and “Anti-Polish Bias in Holocaust Materials” by Chicagoan Jan Peczkis, who has written hundreds of book reviews for online book-seller Amazon. The portal appeals to net-surfers: “Pressurize your local Polish community to join the fight. The Polish community must as a whole must be active in the cause.”

Surprisingly, Jan speaks hardly any Polish, even though the paternal side of his family has Polish roots. “The Soviets arrested and murdered my Grandfather. The rest of the family were deported to Kazakhstan,” he told this writer recently. Asked what had inspired him to become involved in the defense of Poland’s good name, Jan pointed to different things that got him going.

“I was eight years old when I started to take an interest in Poland. Poland beat England to knock them out of the football (soccer–RS) world cup. I was bullied at school as a result, hence I started supporting Poland in sport,” he explained. “When I was a teenager we gained a Polish Pope, then Solidarity came along, so suddenly there were books on Polish history. Today I have hundreds of books on Poland.”

Prior to then, Jan couldn't help but notice the paucity of books on Polish subjects. In particular, Poland's contribution to the allied victory over Nazi Germany was routinely ignored, downplayed, or distorted. Both the US and Britain had effectively consigned Poland to Soviet enslavement. Free Poles were not invited to march in London's 1945 victory parade, because Britain did not want to antagonize Stalin. Nor was Poland represented in San Francisco when the United Nations was being set up.

Ahead of a conference on Poland's role in World War II, Jan met up with several similarly interested individuals. One thing led to another and at one point he offered to run an online discussion forum. And that, in a nutshell, is how PMI was born.

Asked why he had retained his Polish first name, Jan replied: “Actually there was a fight between the Welsh and Polish side of the family. A compromise was reached in that my first name would be David but I have always been called Jan. The priest wanted to baptize me John but my Dad insisted on Jan, and so it has remained.”

At his British school, teachers had referred to their students as Mr. Brown, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Winters, etc. Only he was referred to by his first name, Jan. With a last name such as Niechwiadowicz, it's no wonder!

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

Week of September 1, 2009

**IT ALL BEGAN IN POLAND
SEPTEMBER 1, 1939 COMMEMORATION
Orchard Lake, Michigan**

You are invited to participate in our weekend event designed to commemorate those who witnessed World War II in Poland. We want the community at large to know of Poland's suffering and strength during World War II.

TUESDAY PROGRAM 6:00 p.m.

The September 1939 COMMEMORATION begins with a sunset *Wypominki* and candle service. The Polish Scouts will provide a color guard as Fr. Whalen and Seminarians reads the names of those who died during World War II. The scouts will help participants set candles on the pond to

symbolize Poland's loss of six million citizens. Fr. Whalen will celebrate Mass.

SATURDAY PROGRAM 10:00 a.m.

Anthony Walawender, one of the "Chłopy z Polski," speaks at the breakfast reunion for the Sybiraks (families exiled to Siberia during World War II). Peggy Grant, Art Curator, leads a discussion on the art of her husband survivor Adam Grochowski. An art historian (TBA) will speak about the work of survivor / artist Jan Kowski. Poet John Guzowski, born in a Displaced Persons camp in 1948 reads his work. Guests sign Pewabic tiles and the *Księga Pamiątkowa* book. Music by Curtis Posuniak. Guy Stern will speak about Irena Sendler.

SUNDAY PROGRAM 1:00 p.m.

The community is invited to attend the Polish Mass with the Home Army and 2nd Corps veterans. They came to Michigan as Displaced Persons and lived their adult lives in Michigan. Poet John Guzowski reads his work. We will record the oral histories of the surviving veterans and Sybiraks throughout the month. Polish and American reenactors will be in attendance. Music by the Filaret Chorus.

SPEAKERS

John Guzowski, PhD, Poet
Peggy Grant, Art Curator
Cecile Wendt Jensen MA, Author
William J. Krul, PGSM
Colonia Santa Rosa Residents
Boys of Poland Alumni
Grzegorz Dąbrowski
Sue Krolkowski, PhD
Guy Stern, PhD

ART EXHIBITS

Adam Grochowski Grant, Survivor
Artist Jan Kowski, Survivor
Artist Marcin Chumiecki, Photographer
Guided Tours WWII Museums

MUSIC

Filaret Chorus
Curtis Posuniak

ACTIVITIES

Service to return remains to Auschwitz
Sunset *Wypominki* & Candle Service
Polish & American Military Reenactors
Time Capsule—Collection and Sealing
Personalization of Pewabic Memorial Tiles
Księga Pamiątkowa—Guest Book Signing

Ancestry.com Military Databases

TEACHER SB-CE UNITS Teachers earn continuing education credits

[from an e-mail sent by Ceil Jensen]

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Tuesday, September 8, 2009

THE TORONTO UKRAINIAN GENEALOGY GROUP is commencing its 11th year of meetings. Our first speaker for the season will be:

Maryka Wodoslawsky - "Following the Route of the Ancestors from Poland to Ukraine" - a 6 ½ week journey the summer of 2009.

From 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
St Vladimir Institute
620 Spadina Avenue, Toronto.

Contact: (905)-841-6707

[From a note posted to the PBS mailing list by Jim Onyschuk.]

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September 18 – 19, 2009

**FALL CONFERENCE OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
(PGSA)**

"UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES"

Friday, September 18th (1/2 day) and Saturday, September 19th (all day).

Location: Chicago Marriott Schaumburg, 50 North Martingale Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173

For more information and updates visit <<http://www.pgsa.org>>.

Speakers confirmed to date:

- * **Don Litzer**, former librarian of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN
- * **Kahlile Mehr**, manager of the Slavic/Germanic Collection at the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City
- * **Michael J. Mikoś, Ph.D.**, professor of foreign languages and linguistics at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee

- * **Cynthia Piech**, Board Member and Treasurer of the PGSA
- * **Craig Pfannkuche**, president of Memory Trail Research, Inc. and genealogical archivist at the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society
- * **Julianna Smith**, editor of Ancestry.com newsletters, author of genealogy books and magazine articles
- * **Loretto Szucs**, author of genealogy books and executive director and vice president of community relations at Ancestry magazine

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October 17, 2009

**ANNUAL SEMINAR OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN
FOUR LECTURES BY STEPHEN BARTHEL**

**American Polish Cultural Center-Hall #2
2975 E. Maple Rd. (15 Mile Rd)
Troy, Michigan 48083**

The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan is proud to announce that Stephen Barthel will present four lectures at our annual seminar on Saturday, October 17th, 2009. The seminar will be held at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, Michigan. The cost is \$60 before October 1st and \$70 after October 1st.

This includes a Polish dinner, handouts and surname registry for those attending. The Dziękuję and Reymont awards will be presented as well.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Seminar: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Speaker: STEPHEN BARTHEL, Accredited Genealogist since 1981, formerly with the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah

American Polish Cultural Center-Hall #2
2975 E. Maple Rd. (15 Mile Rd)
Troy, Michigan 48083

PRESENTATIONS:

HELP I'M STUCK! - How to deal with corrupted Polish/American names & Locality spellings and finding their town in Poland.

HAMBURG PASSENGER LISTS and POLICE RECORDS - There is more to Hamburg records than meets the eye. How to find your ancestors in Poland, using records of other people who emigrated at a different time.

GAZETTEERS, WEBSITES AND MAPS - Records are catalogued by the locality that created them. Since there are many villages belonging to a parish, it is essential to use gazetteers to find the parish for a given village name. This presentation covers not only the online Meyers gazetteer of the German Empire, which modern Poland was half, but also other online gazetteers, maps and resources.

WHERE ARE WE HEADING? Family History Centers, Public Libraries, Historical Societies and the New FamilySearch Site - An orientation on the LDS Family History Department, including changes that affect us. The remaining time will be for questions and answers.

Includes an Authentic Polish Lunch. *Smaczne!*

Mail with check/ money order to: Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (PGSM), c/o Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward, Detroit, Michigan 48202-4007

See Website for details: <http://www.pgsm.org/index_042.htm>

[From a note sent out by Ceil Jensen.]

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November 8, 2009

**“CHICAGO STREET CAR MEMORIES”
MEETING OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**
984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago IL

Mr. Jeffrey Wien will be the guest speaker at our November 8, 2009 meeting.

The subject of the presentation will be Chicago Streetcar Memories which will cover the highlights of the history of Chicago’s streetcars. The presentation includes movies of streetcars on Milwaukee Avenue and many other locations including State Street Downtown. Mr. Wien also is knowledgeable of the “L,” and the electric interurbans that ran out of Chicago.

“Jeff Wien, 68, is a lifelong resident of Chicago. His interest in Chicago streetcars dates back to 1951 when he recalls riding an old Red streetcar. The demise of the streetcars came to his attention in the Summer of 1956 on a trip to Riverview Amusement Park. In 1957, he began taking color movies of the remaining streetcars on the Clark-Wentworth route and rode and documented the last streetcar on June 21, 1958. He has also documented on film Chicago’s ‘L’ lines as well as other electric railways around Chicago since 1957.”

A question and answer will follow the program. Mr. Bradley Criss, the “Director” of “Chicago Streetcar Memories” will also accompany Mr. Wien. In addition, a DVD that traces the history of the development of the streetcar system in Chicago from 1859 until the last car operated on

June 21, 1958 will be available at a special all inclusive rate of \$30.00, a savings of \$8.00 when compared to purchasing it from his website at www.chicago-transport-memories.com.

[From an e-mail provided by Harry Kurek.]

*** MORE USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES ***

<<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/theguide.html>>

In the 3 August 2009 issue of *EOGN* (*Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter*), an article discussed the publication of the third edition of Judith Frazin's *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents* by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois (JGSI). "This resource helps anyone with roots in Poland locate ancestral towns on a modern map, determine if old vital records exist, and learn how to acquire, decipher and translate the records. The 472-page book includes a step-by-step guide on how to divide each document into a series of 'mini-documents'; seven sample documents with important words and the information which follows these words highlighted; tips on how to locate one's ancestral town and records from that town; and fifteen topical vocabulary lists, such as Age, Family and Occupations, which include words that occur in 19th-century documents." Frazin's book was a great help to me when I first started trying to make sense of Polish documents, and I'm glad to hear a new edition has been released. You can get more info on the Web page listed above.

<<http://www.pgsa.org/index.php#payonline>>

On the Poland-Roots mailing list, Debbie Greenlee noted that joining the Polish Genealogical Society of America has become easier. "Instead of mailing in a check, you can pay online using Paypal." For more info, use the URL listed above. Incidentally, Debbie also reminded us, "While on that page, check out the annual conference which will be held Sept. 18 & 19, 2009 in Schaumburg, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago."

<<http://www.worldcat.org/search?q=no:137244795>>

Paul Valasek was intrigued to discover this page on the WorldCat site; it tells of libraries that have his book on Haller's Army, some of which he did not know about! I thought I'd mention it, not only to remind you of Paul's excellent book, but also to bring to your attention WorldCat. People with experience making full use of library resources know all about it, but maybe some of you would benefit from getting familiar with it. The home page, of course, is <http://www.worldcat.org/>.

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

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEwtrWx1oeQ&feature=related>>

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Lindy Kasperski gave these two links to videos on Youtube featuring Góral dances performed by the dance troupe Śląsk. He wrote, "In my early years I attended a one-month Polish folk dance school in Lublin in July 1974 and of course

Mazowsze and Śląsk were the premiere national groups. I have most of their records but what the Internet has brought us. To now watch on the Internet...”

http://www.iiig.org/home/lists/AVOTAYNU_XXIV_3.pdf

<http://stephendanko.com/blog/?s=describing+place+names>

On the soc.genealogy.jewish newsgroup, also available through an e-mail digest from Jewishgen.org, there was a fascinating discussion about genealogical standards, specifically, how to record names of cities and countries on one's family tree. For example, if your ancestor was born in what Poles call Kijów, Russians call Kiev, and Ukrainians call Kyiv, which name do you use? The variety of notes posted proved, basically, that there is no universally accepted standard. Bette Mas mentioned two particularly good analyses of this subject, and links to them appear above. One is Gary Mokotoff's article "A Proposed Standard for Names, Dates and Places in A Genealogical Database," published in the Fall 2008 issue of *Avotaynu*. The other is an entry by Steve Danko on his blog. This whole question is something we're going to have to work out eventually if we ever want to make exchanging information practical, and I recommend reading these articles, as well as the exchange of notes on the archives of Jewishgen's discussion group, accessible at <http://jewishgen.org/JewishGen/DiscussionGroup.htm>.

<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/doczip?id=51858>

On the Posen mailing list, Matthias Theiner's mentioned a useful book called *Geschichte der evangelischen Parochien in der Provinz Posen* (History of the Lutheran parishes in the Province of Posen), publ. 1904, available at the Wielkopolska Digital Library at the above URL. He added that there is a name index for that book that can be downloaded at a different URL, <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/doczip?id=51875>.

http://ecollections.crl.edu/cdm4/index_dz.php

On the Poland-Roots mailing list, Polish Dragon told us we can browse or search through an online collection for the newspaper *Dziennik Związkowy*, 1908-1917 at the above URL, adding "A tough search if you don't know the exact date of an event."

http://genealogia.kresowa.info/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

On the Polish Genius mailing list, John Halucha explained that a friend had recommended this site, devoted to genealogy in the *Kresy*, the Eastern Borderlands of the old Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. It is all in Polish, so it's a bit of a challenge if you don't read the language very well. But there is some good info there.

<http://www.118.lt/Pages/Residents/Default.aspx?actionId=5>

On the LithGen mailing list, Elena pointed out there is a new online telephone directory for Lithuania. "One good thing is that they are giving and cell phone numbers who use 'Bite' and 'Omnitel' + 'Teo' home phone ... (in English too)." Since vast numbers of Lithuanians don't have landlines, but rely completely on cell phones, this site may offer the researcher advantages over

the other online directory, <<http://www.zebra.lt/lt/suzinok/telefonai>>, which does not include cell phones and is available only in Lithuanian.

<http://dir.icm.edu.pl/pl/Slownik_geograficzny/>

Tom Sadauskas reminded me that the massive 19th-century Polish-language gazetteer *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego* is online here. We have mentioned that before, but more and more people are using the SGKP these days, so it's worth repeating. An advantage of this particular site is that it allows you to do a text search of any or all volumes.

Note that there are other online sites with the SGKP. This one, for instance, is a bit easier in some ways to find the range of pages where you need to look for entries:

<<http://www.mimuw.edu.pl/polszczyzna/SGKPi/indexse2.html#x3-50002>>

This one is interesting because you can download the individual volumes as PDF files:

<<http://mbc.malopolska.pl/publication/113>>

Google Books also has some of these volumes, and if I remember correctly, it does not require use of the DjVu plugin, unlike the three sites mentioned above.

<http://www.stamfordhistory.org/exh_polish.htm>

Paul Valasek asked if I had seen this page, about a traveling exhibit of the Stamford History Society, in Stamford, Connecticut. It's a little embarrassing when a guy in Chicago has to tell you about something that's more or less in your back yard....

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