



# Gen Dobry!

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Volume X, No. 9

30 September 2009

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Editor: William F. “Fred” Hoffman, E-mail: <[wfh@langline.com](mailto:wfh@langline.com)>

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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>>

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**\*\*\* WORLD WAR II POLISH GENEALOGY – USED FOR HISTORY BUT OFTEN  
NEGLECTED FOR GENEALOGY \*\*\***

by Paul S. Valasek, D.D.S. <[hallersarmy@aol.com](mailto:hallersarmy@aol.com)>

Everyone with any inkling of history can understand the effects World War II had on Poland, small or large, whether causing problems or resulting from actions taken by others. During the whole period 1939-1945, most if not all Polish-American families had relatives living in Poland. I did, on both sides of my Polish heritage, but I only heard some stories that were vague about “relatives” suffering under the yoke of war and pain. These family members were not known firsthand by my family but through letters and cards; and at that time, other than by written correspondence, with and without photos, Polish Americans heard little to nothing about some of their cousins in the old country. Of course, after the war, displacement, devastation, and relocation was the norm. Many relatives who had been in our familial homes were no longer there.

As Polish-American genealogists do their research, we normally focus on immigration, which was heavy before World War I, then slowed and was restricted through the 1920s. After the 30s and 40s, it came to a grinding halt; and under Communism, the options of Poles to visit America, let alone move there, were just about nil. Thus we have a large gap of family history from the mid-20th century until current days. One good thing is, now that it’s quite easy to visit Poland, we are discovering relatives throughout that country and reuniting with them. This happened to me; but every time I go back, more and more of the older relatives are dying off, and with them, their stories of surviving World War II.

Last year, I had the special privilege to visit and do research at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Now, the popular impression—and I shared it—is that the Holocaust Museum basically highlights Jewish life and death through the war. I quickly found out otherwise. With more records being released and made available every day, it seems, the story of the war and its atrocities are coming forward for examination by everyone, not just scholars and historians. Even though our Polish-American family branches may have had no direct contact with Poland during the war years, those relatives who survived have information. That is why we need to continue our trees forward, not just backwards.

Many sites on the Internet now list archives and resources where documentation of the war years is held, both inside Poland and the rest of the world. Jewish researchers have been using them extensively and are quite familiar with the process. My experience is that most Polish-American researchers have done little or no research for this time frame, and know little about the use of its material. A brief look at this site will give you a basic idea of what is available.

<[http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/memory/index.php?va\\_lang=en](http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/memory/index.php?va_lang=en)>

If you go to a specific topic, there are many examples of what material is available. This link, for instance, leads to material from Auschwitz-Birkenau:

<[http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/memory/sub\\_listakrajowa/index.php?fileid=021&va\\_lang=en](http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/memory/sub_listakrajowa/index.php?fileid=021&va_lang=en)>

From just one page listed as an example, you can easily see the value of documents in genealogical research. Here are the names from the register of the punishment detail.

**Auschwitz Website Page  
Register of Punishment Detail (Strafkompanie) – Birkenau Camp**

<i>Surname</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Prisoner #</i>	<i>Date of birth</i>	<i>Date of listing</i>
Klimczynski	Anton	173055	January 16, 1914	Pre February 10, 1944
Galuscka	Eustachius	173056	August 20, 1923	Pre February 10, 1944
Dwornik	Rudolf	173057	October 18, 1909	Pre February 10, 1944
Dwornik	Kazimir	173058	January 16, 1917	Pre February 10, 1944
Szczyghinski	Anton	173119	March 24, 1924	Pre February 10, 1944
Kucaba	Ladisl.	906	January 10, 1922	February 10, 1944
Krawczyk	Gustaw	12536	November 25, 1911	February 10, 1944
Klimczak	Johann	18452	July 31, 1911	February 10, 1944
Repielski	Salomon	27916	January 15, 1913	February 10, 1944
Schon	Ernst	73044	October 13, 1900	February 10, 1944
Brozenski	Rudolf	93262	April 26, 1922	February 10, 1944
Piekarski	Richard	119161	June 29, 1923	February 10, 1944
Kumala	Zbigniew	67152	February 18, 1925	February 10, 1944
Dudek	Boleslaw	153562	June 22, 1911	February 10, 1944
Gawronski	Boguslaw	153577	March 22, 1910	February 10, 1944
Gilewski	Felix	153580	May 29, 1887	February 10, 1944
Karon	Stanislaw	153617	October 29, 1898	February 10, 1944
Koldej	Stanislaw	153623	May 05, 1910	February 10, 1944
Kwiatkowski	Waclaw	153658	September 4, 1890	February 10, 1944
Paszkowski	Stefan	153713	April 01, 1917	February 10, 1944
Prokop	Jozef	153718	October 29, 1897	February 10, 1944
Slomski	Stanislaw	153754	April 19, 1877	February 10, 1944
Szenderowicz	Naum	153771	January 30, 1894	February 10, 1944
Szymanski	Antoni	153778	February 16, 1885	February 10, 1944
Szymanski	Mieczyslaw	153779	September 01, 1922	February 10, 1944

The Holocaust Museum, in conjunction with the archives at Bad Arolsen, is just another source of millions of names and hundreds of thousands of pages of documentation awaiting discovery and development via family trees.

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

Subject: Re-establishing contact with relatives in Poland

*Editor*—This question from a reader illustrates the theme of Paul’s article.

My husband's grandfather emigrated from Poland in 1906. Up until 1938-1939, he corresponded with family members in Poland. After 1939 all letters stopped. After the end of World War II, he again tried to write to his family in Poland. His letters were never answered or returned.

Is there any way to find out if his family was killed during World War II? Are there lists of individuals killed in the war? My husband's great-parents were Paul and Anna Buszynski. Anna's maiden name was Kozlowski. She had a first marriage where her surname was Glaudel. His grandfather had a sister and brother who remained in Poland, their names were Vincent Buszynski and Mary Buszynski. We believe that there was also a first cousin Peter (Petra?) who served in the Polish army. We believe that the family originated in Naruciany, but we are not sure what their last known address was. Any help you could give us would be greatly appreciated.

Juliet Bushinski <[juliet\\_bushinski@yahoo.com](mailto:juliet_bushinski@yahoo.com)>

*Editor*—I told Juliet I don't know the answer, but I'll be very surprised if some of our readers can't give her useful leads.

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Subject: Google's Project 10<sup>100</sup>

I think you might be interested in this. A year ago, Google asked for ideas of (relatively) low-cost projects that could benefit the most people in the world and they would end up funding a few of them. The 154,000 ideas have been reviewed and consolidated into 16 do-able projects. It's time to vote for the one you think would help the most people. You can only vote once and voting ends Oct. 8. Read the FAQ for background info.

Chris Elias <*address withheld, editor will forward any responses*>

*Editor*—Here's the note Chris forwarded. Learn more about the project here:  
<<http://www.project10tothe100.com/>>

Hello everyone,

It's time to vote!

Last year, Project 10<sup>100</sup> invited the world to submit ideas to help as many people as possible. We received over 154,000 submissions, which we narrowed down to our favorites.

Now, you're invited to view the ideas and vote for the ones you think will help the most people.

Our advisory board will use your votes to identify the best ideas for further consideration, and we've committed \$10 million to make up to 5 of them a reality.

Hurry, voting ends October 8, 2009.

Thanks for your help. Please vote! And may those who help the most win.

- The Project 10^100 Team

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**\*\*\* APG HONORS LORETTO SZUCS \*\*\***

*Editor*—This an excerpt from an announcement that appeared in a recent issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter*. The whole announcement, which can be read at <[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2009/09/apg-honors-five-members.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/09/apg-honors-five-members.html)>, was written by the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG).

WESTMINSTER, Colo., September 24 – The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) honored five members for outstanding contributions and achievements at the 2009 Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference held September 2-5 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

APG named Loretto Dennis Szucs as the recipient of the APG Professional Achievement Award. The award was created in 2007 to recognize a record of exceptional professional achievement with contributions to the field of genealogy through individual excellence and ethical behavior. Szucs has been involved in genealogical research, teaching, lecturing, and publishing for more than thirty years. Previously employed by the National Archives, she is currently executive editor and vice president of community relations for Ancestry.com. She has served on many archives and genealogical boards, and was founding secretary of the FGS. Currently, she serves as a director on the Board of the FGS....

*Editor*—Loretto, or Lou, as she likes to be called, has made enormous contributions to genealogy, and has spoken at many events, including the recent PGSA Conference. Nor is she a “newby”: an article of hers appeared in the Fall 1982 issue of PGSA's *Newsletter*. If you haven't heard of her and her books, well, you're missing out on one of the most informed and helpful people in the whole field of genealogy. It's good to see her getting plenty of recognition; she's earned it.

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**\*\*\* AGREEMENT BETWEEN JRI-POLAND AND KIELCE-RADOM SIG \*\*\***

*Editor*—This announcement was sent out on 25 September, and I thought our readers should know of it, as it may effect some of you. You may not think it affects you, but then how do you know some of your ancestors weren't Jewish? In any case, it's always good news for all researchers when large amounts of info are made available.

On behalf of the board of Jewish Records Indexing Poland and the management of the Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group, I am pleased to make the following four-part announcement.

1. After many years of providing outstanding contributions to in-depth research of this area of Poland, the Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal ceased publication of its hard-copy journal in 2004. During and since that time, the indices published in the Journal to many of the towns were transferred to Jewish Records Indexing-Poland and became available in the JRI-Poland online searchable database.

By virtue of the new agreement, the full extracts for tens of thousands of records from all towns, originally published in the K-R Journal, as well as thousands more extracts that had not yet been published, will be integrated into the JRI-Poland database and will be freely available and searchable online. These extracts were made from the records in the LDS microfilms of Polish-Jewish records.

2. The K-R SIG web pages have now been integrated into the JRI-Poland Website and all information related to the K-R SIG data is now available through a thumbnail link at the bottom of the JRI-Poland home page at <<http://www.jri-poland.org>>.

3. All editions of the K-R SIG Journal have been scanned and are now online on the JRI-Poland web site. These journals may be freely downloaded as searchable PDF files.

4. To benefit past subscribers to the K-R SIG Journal and all researchers with an interest in the towns in the former Kielce and Radom Gubernia, and as part of the closing of its accounts, the management of the K-R SIG has made a generous grant to JRI-Poland to be used for the funding of records from these areas.

The grant funds have enabled JRI-Poland to complete the funding for the following towns originally indexed under the JRI-Poland / Polish State Archives project. The data for these towns is now searchable online.

Bodzentyn\_BMD\_1885-1904

Checiny\_BMD\_1885-1903

Daleszyce\_BMD\_1897-1904

Grojec\_BMD\_1878~1902

Konskie\_BMD\_1885-1904

Ksiaz\_Wielki\_B\_1869-71,87-99, M\_1862-1880, D\_1869-71,97-99 (includes some Krakow Archives data)

Lopuszno\_BMD\_1874-1904

Miechow\_BMD\_1870~1903+1872-74 (includes some Krakow Archives data)

Mogielnica\_BMD\_1878-1901

Radom\_Books of Residents

Radoszyce\_BMD\_1885-1904

Warka\_BMD\_1878-1901,1903

Wloszczowa\_BD\_1824~1903,\_M\_1823~1903

Wolanow\_BMD\_1878~1903

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Warren Blatt,

founding editor of the Journal, and K-R SIG Advisory Group members Debra Braverman and Carol Isaak, who made the decision to entrust JRI-Poland with their valuable work.

At the same time, I would like to offer special thanks to Hadassah Lipsius and Meira Puterman, who had the major task of adapting the K-R SIG Web pages (and PDF links) to the JRI-Poland Website and to JRI-Poland.

Also to Database Manager Michael Tobias, who processed all the new data so quickly for this special launch.

Stanley Diamond

On behalf of the Board of JRI-Poland and the K-R SIG Management.

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**\*\*\* UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\***

**Saturday, October 3rd and Sunday, October 4th, 2009**

**We're Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the SS Cyril & Methodius Seminary campus!**

3535 Indian Trail Orchard Lake, Michigan <<http://www.polishmission.com/>>

**Saturday, October 3, 2009**

**An Afternoon of Polish History**

- 1 p.m. — Pictorial time line and history of SS Cyril and Methodius Seminary  
Fr. Nicholas F. Coffaro
- 2 p.m. — History of Michigan's Polish priests, parishes, & parishioners  
Mark Bowman, DPL Burton Collection, Ceil Jensen, Certified Genealogist
- 3 p.m. — How to obtain records from ancestral villages in Poland  
Ceil Jensen, Certified Genealogist

There is no fee, but a donation made to the Polish Mission is appreciated.

Join us in the Orchard Lake Panorama Room of the Rev. Andrew Wotta Center, Building #11.

Campus map: <<http://www.stmarysprep.com/pdfs/campus%20map.pdf>>

Please call or e-mail us at <[cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com)> to reserve your seat.

**Sunday, October 4, 2009**

**Dożynki 2009**

featuring the POLANIE Song & Dance Ensemble and Polonez Chorale

We're celebrating the 100th anniversary of the SS Cyril & Methodius Seminary campus with a traditional Polish harvest festival.

**Polish Mass at 1 p.m.**

followed by the harvest festival including music and dancing. Visit our harvest tables overflowing with food, flowers, crafts, and produce in the historic Fr. John Rakoczy Gymnasium, Old Gym.

Campus map: <<http://www.stmarysprep.com/pdfs/campus%20map.pdf>>

**THE POLISH MISSION**

Since 1885 - A Prestigious Center of Faith, Culture and Excellence

3535 Indian Trail Orchard Lake, Michigan

<[MChumiecki@orchardlakeschools.com](mailto:MChumiecki@orchardlakeschools.com)> 248.683.0412

This project is funded in part by Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

*[Posted to the Polish Genius mailing list by Ceil Jensen]*

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**Sunday, October 11, 2009**

**VETERANS of the POLISH HOME ARMY (AK)**

and

**THE POLISH RESISTANCE (AK) FOUNDATION**

request the pleasure of your company at a Fundraising Dinner to benefit the Polish Resistance (AK) Foundation Endowed Scholarship at Loyola University, Chicago, and to commemorate THE 70th ANNIVERSARY of the FOUNDING of the POLISH UNDERGROUND STATE during World War II

at

The House of the White Eagle

6839 N. Milwaukee Avenue - Niles, Illinois

Cocktails: 4:00 p.m. - Welcome: 5:00 p.m.

Historical note: Dr. Marek Suszko

Artistic program: 5:25 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Artistic program performed by Soloists of the Lira Ensemble, Artist-in-Residence at Loyola University, Chicago, in a program of Polish Music of World War II

Reservations:

\$75.00 per person; Students, Veterans & Seniors: \$50.00 per person

Enclosed is my check payable to Polish Resistance (AK) Foundation

for \$.....for.....reservations @ \$75.00 and .....reservations @\$50.00.

( ) I am unable to attend. Please accept my donation.

Name.....

Address .....

City.....State.....Zip.....

Telephone reservations: Maria Tumilowicz 847-537-3071 or Albina Wojtkowski 847-677-7998  
RSVP by Monday, October 5, 2009

Choice of main course: [ ] Orange Roughy [ ] Prime Rib

Please mail reservation card to: Iwona Rzeczkowski, 511 West Noyes St., Arlington Heights IL  
60005-3641.

[Posted to the Polish Genius mailing list by Eve Jankowicz]

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**Tuesday, October 13, 2009**

**Meeting of the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group - (TUGG)**

**7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

Location: St. Vladimir Institute, Toronto

Andrew Melnyk will speak on his recently published book, *My Grandfather's Mill - Journey to Freedom*, tracing the history of two Ukrainian families.

Contact: Jim Onyschuk (905)-841-6707

[Posted to various mailing lists by Jim Onyschuk]

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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. *Smacznego!*

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](http://www.pgsm.org/index_042.htm)>

[From a note sent out by Ceil Jensen.]

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**Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

**MEETING OF THE EAST EUROPEAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (EEGS)**

7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Millennium Library, Buchwald Room, 2nd floor

251 Donald St.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Sean Patterson will present “Intersecting Histories, Unacquainted Narratives” on Ukrainian-Mennonite Relations During the Russian Revolution. The talk is based on research for his Masters History thesis at the University of Manitoba. He describes it thus: “From 1917-1921 the Russian revolution bled into civil war producing large vacuums of power particularly on the periphery of the former Russian empire. In a unique turn of events, eastern Ukraine was established as a stronghold of support for anarchism. A peasant anarchist movement, led by the infamous Nestor Makhno, mercilessly swept from power the rural elite. Especially effected by Makhno’s raids were the Mennonite colonies, which were subjected to a series of massacres in the fall of 1919. What fueled the fury of the Ukrainian peasantry? What drove young Mennonites to pick up arms for the first time in their long pacifist history? And how have these experiences been integrated into the collective memory of Ukrainians and Mennonites alike?”

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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 <<http://www.chicago-transport-memories.com>>.

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

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

< <http://tinyurl.com/rytqp3> >

On the GaliciaPoland-Ukraine mailing list, Jerzy Lucki wrote that the LDS Family History Library has added a valuable collection of items at this URL. “There are 265 microfilms relating to 5,776 separate collections of records containing the materials related to the documents and legal proceedings by which Polish nobles and foreign nobles confirmed nobility in the Austrian Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria between 1772 and 1918. They concern the whole of the Kingdom including Little Poland (Małopolska) and are organized by family. In many cases these records contain whole pedigrees that can be useful where no metrical records have survived. I’ve previously seen some of these materials and they do vary in quality and completeness and sometimes contain as little as we know who you are and in other cases are very extensive. There are among the poorly labeled miscellaneous documents lists of nobles and heraldic information.”

A follow-up note from “Joe” said, “I uploaded to the files section a spreadsheet that contains the information of the 5700+ records on this topic. When I get a chance. I’ll try to make it more user-friendly. Use Excel’s find command to location a name in Column A.” Note that you have to be a member of the list to access the Files section.

Finally, Jerzy answered a question about similar records for nobility in the other partitions. He said some records are available, but not in the FHL. “Earlier this year I learned that the records for about 1/3 of the former Rzeczypospolita are intact and untouched in the archives in Vilnius and can be photographed on-site at no cost. There are collections of records in Grodno, Minsk, Kiev and other places as the confirmations were done before local deputations in the Gubernias.”

[http://www.polskieradio.pl/thenews/international/artykul116274\\_polish\\_armed\\_forces\\_memorial\\_unveiled\\_in\\_uk.html](http://www.polskieradio.pl/thenews/international/artykul116274_polish_armed_forces_memorial_unveiled_in_uk.html)>

On the Polish Genius mailing list, Bronwyn Klimach posted a note on the unveiling of the Polish Armed Forces Memorial in UK. She quoted from an article available at the above URL: “The Polish Armed Forces Memorial <<http://www.polishforcesmemorial.com/>> has been unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, U.K. The monument is a tribute to the 120,000 Polish soldiers who fought under British command in World War Two, the largest formation being the Second Corps commanded by General Władysław Anders. The monument was unveiled by the Duke of Kent, and the ceremony was attended by the Duke of Westminster, Winston Churchill’s grandson, Baroness Kinnock, Minister of State for Europe and some 1, 500 invited guests.” If the above link doesn’t work, try this TinyURL: <<http://tinyurl.com/ydtjka4>>.

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[http://www.polskieradio.pl/thenews/national/artykul116177\\_katyn\\_museum\\_on\\_the\\_internet.html](http://www.polskieradio.pl/thenews/national/artykul116177_katyn_museum_on_the_internet.html)>

Bronwyn posted another note to the same list on a virtual museum dedicated to the massacre at Katyń. The museum will be launched next April. You can read more at the above link, or if it doesn’t work, try this: <<http://tinyurl.com/y9w6zty>>.

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<http://www.year1989.pl>>

Also on the Polish Genius list, John Nieurzyla wrote, “I would like to request all students of Polish history to check out this new (?) Website, a multimedia history site. It’s in English, and you will be amazed what you could learn. I think the site is still being developed, and there is more to add, but what they have listed now is fascinating.”

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<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=3678&from=pubindex&dirids=3>>

On the Posen list, Matthias Theiner posted this link to download the 1912 publication *Verzeichnis der Ortsnamen-Änderungen in der Provinz Posen. Nach amtlichen Quellen im Auftrage der Historischen Gesellschaft für die Provinz Posen* [Index to Name Changes in Provinz Posen. According to Official Sources, as Commissioned by the Historical Society for Provinz Posen]. This list can be a big help in trying to trace the bewildering changes of place names as used by Germans. He also suggested using another Website, <<http://www.territorial.de>>, which deals with changes in territory, administration, names, and so on, in areas ruled by Germany.

Günter Mielczarek posted a follow-up note, suggesting reference to another source on name changes in the so-called *Warthegau* or *Reichsgau Wartheland*, which was basically that part of Poland occupied by Germany in 1939: <<http://www.gross-wartenberg.de/vob/vob.pdf>>.

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<http://www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-home.htm>>

A recent issue of *Nu? What’s New?*, available at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V010N17.htm>>, announced plans to update Avotaynu’s Consolidated Jewish Surname Index (CJSI) in the next few months. This is a database that lets you find nearly 700,000 surnames that appear in different databases. These include most of the JewishGen surname databases, the surname books

published by Avotaynu, and other databases. The search goes by the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System, which helps you find names that sound similar and thus bypass many of the problems caused by spelling variation. Though, naturally, it focuses primarily on surnames borne by Jews. It's a very useful resource, even for non-Jews. Many names borne by Jews were also borne by Christians (though often the exact derivation may differ). What's more, many of the same basic linguistic factors that affected Jewish surnames also affected Christians' surnames. So if you input a name you're looking for and having trouble finding, you may very well see a whole list of names that sound similar to it. That, in turn, may help you focus on looking for name versions you never thought to examine before. It takes very little time and effort, and can prove very helpful.

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<[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=518XP8prwZo&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=518XP8prwZo&feature=player_embedded)>

Cathy Duprey sent me this link. It has nothing to do with Polish genealogy, but I guess there's a Polish connection by way of Ukrainian history. It's a performance on the TV show "Україна має талант" [Ukraine's Got Talent] by Kseniya Simonova, who uses sand and light to tell stories. Here she recreates the invasion and occupation of Ukraine during World War II! The audience was overwhelmed, with many of them in tears. It won't have the same emotional impact on most of us, but it's still amazing to watch her in action.

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<<http://www.oesta.gv.at/DesktopDefault.aspx?alias=oestaen&init>>

Paul Valasek asked if we had ever mentioned this site, for the Austrian State Archives. I imagine we probably have, but I'm not sure. Even if we have, it certainly does no harm to mention it again.

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