



SEARCHERS



DEDICATED TO POLISH AMERICAN FAMILY RESEARCH

"Preserving Our Past Since 1988

No. 21 Fall 1998

Poland, Overground

[The following excerpt is from an article that was published in Harper's Magazine in November of 1862. Its author is unknown. It was submitted by a member, who wishes to remain anonymous. This member felt some readers might find the article offensive. However, it is the impression of a traveler who visited Poland and the city of Cracow almost 140 years ago. Those of you who have visited Poland's beautiful former capitol can attest to the sharp contrast of the depressing scenes the writer portrays and the lively urban center of today.]

It is early spring. I am an American tourist traveling through Germany to Cracow, Poland, for a pleasure trip. My departure by train, with a third-class ticket from Breslau, took place at 5 a.m. Smoke and dirt grew thicker than ever as I approached the borders of Poland. The tract of country lying between Breslau and Myslowitz does not present any compensating views for me, being a lover of the picturesque. It is for the most part a desert of sandy plains. Occasional columns of black smoke rise from the zinc foundries and iron factories in the distance. It was a dreary journey. Most of my fellow travelers were Polish Jews, Galician traders, and Russian peasants; their rude dialects were altogether unintelligible to my inexperienced ear. Silence would have been more congenial.

A few hours journey through the pleasant valley lying along the range of the Carpathian mountains, the snow-capped summits of which were visible to the right, brought us in sight of the immense line of fortifications extending for miles around the city of Cracow. Much of the country through which we passed was well cultivated, and early in the season as it was, numerous bands of peasants were out in the fields hoeing the earth in their primitive way and

attending their sheep on the hillsides. The appearance of the men was wild and picturesque, in their loose sheepskin coats and tall conical hats; and the women, though not remarkable for beauty or grace, presented a rather striking picture with their many-colored head dresses, short petticoats, and big boots. They all seemed of a ruder and more savage cast than the peasants of Prussia and Mid-Germany. Something in their strong Slavonic features indicated a fiercer and more restless character; and when I looked from the railroad cars at the troops gathered by the wayside, and studied the faces that gazed up moodily at us, I could not but feel that these people belong to the untamable races of mankind. Oppressed, downtrodden, and soldier ridden they may be, but the fire that burns in their veins cannot be utterly subdued by Austrian military despotism.

The houses in this part of Poland are constructed generally of wood, owing I suppose, to the abundance of that material. The roofs are straw, and by constant overlapping of the thatch, become enormously thick in a few years. Compared to the farmhouses throughout Prussia, they are rude and comfortless, though not destitute of picturesque effect. Nothing of the neatness and order observable in Germany is to be seen in Poland. The farmyards are dirty, the implements of agriculture scattered carelessly about the fields, and but little attention is paid to regularity in working of the land. Everything, in fact, apparent to the casual tourist, indicates the character of the people—slovenly, reckless, and impatient of restraint. Much of this, doubtless, is due to the oppressive system of taxation under which they labor—compelled to support a government that they detest.

(Continued on page 3)

Due to the large amount of mail received, please take note when writing us for assistance:

The PGSNYS will answer ONLY correspondence that includes a self-addressed, stamped reply envelope. All correspondence should be directed to:

The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State, 299 Barnard Street, Buffalo, New York 14206.

If you wish to contact one of our committees, please write the committee name on the front of the envelope. *Thank you*

For submission to the Searchers, deadlines are as follows:

Summer Edition—April 15 for June mailing;

Winter Edition—October 15 for December mailing.

Submissions may be sent directly to the editor—either hard copy or disk (Microsoft Works or Microsoft Word)

Dues are \$15 a year. All Members will receive all published editions of the Searchers. New members receive an information package to help them get started. Annual membership dues are to be paid in January.

Officers for 1998

President:

Daniel Kij
1200 Electric Avenue
Lackawanna, New York 14218-1417
E-mail: tghd67a@prodigy.com

Vice President:

Lynn Mycek-Rzepecki
60 Greeley Street
Buffalo, New York 14207-2204
E-mail: EQNJ55A@prodigy.com

Secretary:

Florence Witul
56 Humason Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14211

Treasurer:

David Newman
12645 Strykersville Road
East Aurora, New York 14052
E-mail: akdave@webt.com

Trustees:

Janice Bartoszek
60 A3 Garden Village Drive
N. Tonawanda, New York 14227

Dorothy Cook
15 Cecil Street
Buffalo, New York 14216-1709

Dorothy Krantz
88 Floradale Avenue
Tonawanda, New York 14150

Edward Prabucki
20 Pine Court North
West Seneca, New York 14224

Joseph Welch
25 North Spruce Street
Batavia, New York 14020

Searchers Editor:

Laurie Bialoglowicz
1064 Reynolds Road
Corfu, New York 14036-5216
E-mail: whitwood1@juno.com

Reporters (This Issue)

Janice Bartoszek
Michael Drabik
Edward Prabucki
David Newman

MEETING REMINDER:

The PGSNYS meets the second Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria College cafeteria, 240 Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga, at 7 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

Poland, Overground

The peoples' hard earnings are wrested from them to support a despotism that crushes them down; they feel no hope for the future, and no hope is held out for them to better their condition. The whole country is a network of fortresses and military defenses. At every station, large bodies of officers and soldiers are seen. Even the smallest villages are not exempt from the presence of the military forces to keep the people in subjection.

Approaching Cracow, we see an enormous fortress, with a raised embattled crest on the right, said to be designed as a defense against the Russians. In my opinion, Russia has enough to do with her own Polish subjects without undertaking the control of those under Austrian dominion.

The first view of Cracow is rather imposing. At the distance of a few miles the enormous spires of the churches, the towers, and palaces, the dark, peaked roofs of the houses, scattered in rich profusion around the grand old castle of Zamek, give the city an appearance of grandeur an extent which it scarcely deserves in reality. The winding waters of the Vistula glisten through a series of extensive promenades, and the undulations of the neighborhood are strikingly picturesque. All pleasing illusions quickly vanish upon entering the dark old gateways of the city. Soldiers are stationed at every point. The clang of armor and the rattle of drums fall gratingly upon the ear. Passing along the principal thoroughfares, all that strikes the eye indicates oppression and decay. The streets are thronged with soldiers; the houses are of a dingy and ruinous aspect, the people stroll about idly in their rags, or lie on the doorsteps brooding over their wrongs. Filth and misery are everywhere visible. In all my travels, I had seen nothing to compare the degraded and beggarly appearance of the common people here. Yet, an affectation of style is not wanting among the better classes and it makes the prevailing poverty and filth all the more striking.

In former times, Cracow was the headquarters of the sovereign of Poland and contained a population of eighty thousand. The ruins of the palaces and

churches, and the grand old gateways which still mark the principal entrances into the city, are now nearly all that remains of its former grandeur. War, pestilence, and famine have reduced its population to less than forty thousand. The streets are badly paved with round, rough stones; the houses are dingy, and the doorways filthy. Hundreds of lazy-looking, half-savage vagabonds lounge about the steps of the churches and public places, begging for alms. At the entrance to every hotel, a horde of Jewish moneychangers, guides, and beggars lie in wait for every newcomer, who can neither enter nor leave without being persecuted by their importunities. Some of these wretched creatures will follow him wherever he goes, insisting on being employed, or appealing to his charity in some form or another; and it is difficult to get rid of them without giving them a few krentzers in the way of tribute. The stranger seems to be regarded as legitimate game, especially by the moneychangers. I had occasion to change a few gulden at the hotel, and being unable to accomplish my objective through the attendants, was forced to call in the services of one of these accommodating bankers, who allowed me about two-thirds the current value of the money. To call them an unmitigated set of swindlers would but faintly express the character of these slippery fellows who deal in *wechsel*.

In Cracow, with an apparent laxity of morals in many other respects, both in high and low life, there is no feature more prominent than the prevalence of external forms of worship. While the decayed nobility drive around in their dingy old carriages, with their liveried servants and emblems of departed grandeur, stopping from time to time to do homage to some saint, I note that the prayers of the poor wretches who are forever gathered around the church doors and street shrines mingle sadly with the rattle of drums. It is seldom that one hears the peals of organ music or the chants of singers without the accompaniment of Austrian swords jingling on the pavements, or the heavy tramp of the guards marching to and from their respective stations.

The churches are numerous, and some of them

(Continued on page 6)

Family Search

Maria J. Frodyma, 1398 Fields Road, Feura Bush, NY 12067-1709, (518) 439-9188, e-mail: MaJeFr@aol.com.

Seeking information on: John **Frodyma**, b. December 10, 1885, and Anthony **Chmiel**, b. circa 1886, arrived in New York April 25, 1905. Catherine (Frodyma) **Chmiel**, b. circa 1877. Tekla (Frodyma) **Jankowski**; Sophia **Frodyma** (m. Joseph **Raszkowski**, b. circa 1894); Andrew **Frodyma**, b. circa 1888 (m. Catherine **Kochmanska** in 1911). John Frodyma visited cousins in Buffalo and Niagara Falls as a child. I would like to reconnect with this branch of the family and find more information on ancestral birthplace—Fryszak, Galicia (Austra-Poland).

Cheryl Ruminski, P.O. Box 159, South Casco, ME 04077, (207) 655-2918, e-mail: car-jcr@cheerful.com.

Seeking information on Bartłomiej **Ruminski**, b. August 8, 1861, in Gormany Co. or Poland (m. Marya **Jagodzinska**), d. 1934. Children were: Michal, Cecylia, Agnes, Wladyslaw, Jan, Ludick, Feliks, and Franciszek. Bartłomiej is buried in St. Stanislaus Cemetery. Marya is not buried with her husband.

Eleanor Ritchie, Box 3702, Melford, SK, Canada, e-mail: eritchie@sk.sympatico.ca.

Seeking information on Jacob **Kroczyński** (m. Marya **Tkacz**), Frank **Kroczyński**, b. November 5, 1870, d. October 23, 1903, birthplace Kopyczyńce, Husiatyn, Galicia (m. Katryna **Tkacz**, b. April 4, 1882, d. September 1961). Vincent **Tkacz**, d. 1909 (m. Theodora **Storzynski**) d. 1928.

Marilyn Collins, 19610 N. 97th Ln., Peoria, AZ 85382

Seeking information on John **Gniot** (1862-1944) and Emilia (nee **Mylnrek**) (1862-1944) of Sadki, Poland (Germany).

They sailed from Bremen with four children and arrived in the USA in 1903 and went to Milwaukee, where John worked for the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad. Their children were: Lorenz, Frank, Konstancya, Mary Marcelle (born in Poland), Ludwik, Anastasza, Jennie (Jeanne) born in the USA. Emilia (Emily) had a sister, Josephine, and a brother, Valentine, who may have lived in Rochester, Syracuse, or Utica, NY. Cousins may have settled in or near Albany, NY.

From the Editor

I apologize for the delay in getting this newsletter out to everyone.

In March of 1998, my husband became ill and most of our time was devoted to keeping medical appointments for tests and treatments. He passed away three months later, and due to the many time-consuming tasks which are required in this kind of situation, I was unable to publish this edition at the scheduled time.

Thank you for your understanding.

Laurie Bialoglowicz

(Editor's note: If you sent in a request that has not been published, please resubmit it for publication in the next issue. My sincere apologies for this inconvenience. Again, I thank you for your understanding.)

MEETING REMINDER:

The PGSWNY meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria College cafeteria, 240 Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga, at 7 p.m.

POTPOURRI

PGS of Australia

The PGS of Australia has ceased functioning as a society; however you may still write to them at the old address for information.

Salt Lake City

At the biannual meeting of the united PGSs held in Salt Lake City, it was learned that a new PGS is forming in the state of Arizona. Witamy!

Summer Picnic

Once again, our social committee—Ed and Rita Prabucki—did a fine job of organizing and providing a delicious hot meal at the society's annual summer picnic. This year, we were joined by members of the Ignacy Jan Paderewski Singing Society, so you know what happened!! Dan Kij, president of the PGS and the Paderewskis masterminded the affair.

Villa Maria Lawn Fete

Chairperson, Florence Witul, and a hardy crew of volunteers, manned a booth at the Villa Maria Lawn Fete for the Felician sisters. This is our way of saying "Bog zaplac" for the use of the college facilities. Plan on volunteering next year. It's fun, too!

Polish-American Folk Festival

A table at Cheektowaga's Polish-American Folk Festival was manned by members of the PGS, who provided answers to the usual questions on basic research and Polish surnames and locations. Janice Bartoszek, Lynn Rzepecki, Dave Newman, Keith Kazubik, and Ed and Rita Prabucki manned the booth this year. Thanks for a great job!

St. Hyacinth's Lawn Fete

On Sunday, August 16, Mike Drabik and Lynn Rzepecki made a trip to Dunkirk, New York, to participate in the St. Hyacinth parish lawn fete. They answered questions concerning Polish fam-

ily research and surnames. The new pastor, Father Michael Parker, was on hand to greet them and extended a warm thank you to them for making the trip down. We were fortunate to get a new member as a result of this trip, and several interested parties questioned our staff on where to search for material. Jim Lyons, our local PGS member, made the arrangements and also assisted. Thanks Jim!

Lockwood Library

Thanks to the great enthusiasm of membership chairman, David Newman, the society had a very informative and interesting tour of the Polish Room at the Lockwood Library of the State University of New York at Buffalo. Librarian Jean Dixon, an old friend of our group, served as guide. With David's assistance, a computer was available for a demonstration of Polish genealogy on the Internet. All those who participated had a great experience. Thanks Dave!

The Polish Union of America

The Polish Union of America, the only national Polish fraternal organization to be headquartered in Western New York, held its Grand Convention in Buffalo in August. There was a concelebrated mass at St. Casimir's Church, with Bishop Henry Mansell participating. This was followed by a banquet in the ballroom of the Sheraton East Hotel in Cheektowaga.

Dedication

The Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski Center was dedicated by the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church from Scranton, Pennsylvania. Bishop John Swantek blessed and dedicated the facility, part of the cathedral complex built on Broadway in Lancaster, New York, under the guidance of Buffalo-Pittsburgh Bishop Thaddeus Peplowski. On that day Bishop Peplowski also celebrated the 40th anniversary of his priesthood. Sto lat Ks. Biskupie!

(Continued from page 3)

Poland, Overground

highly interesting. Adjoining the Palace is the Cathedral, built in 1004-1102, which contains numerous treasures of art and the remains of the most eminent of the Polish sovereigns and heroes. Around this, are circled a number of chapels, one in which lies the remains of Thaddeus Kosciusko. The whole number of churches in Cracow is now thirty-six. That of St. Mary, in the marketplace, built in 1276, is a fine specimen of Gothic architecture. The Cathedral of St. Francisco is also a picturesque edifice, remarkable chiefly for its colored windows and massive walls.

The principal part of the city is situated on the left bank of the Vistula. Across the bridge is the Jewish quarter, which is inhabited almost exclusively by Jews. I thought I had seen something of filth before entering this part of the city, but after a brief ramble through its tortuous streets, I became satisfied that there is filth positive, comparative and superlative. Here were houses black and slimy all over, inside and outside; slops in front of doors, of every possible quality and odor; beggary and rags in all their disgusting features, with an occasional show of dirty finery. Here were Jews of every grade, bearded and unbearded; Rabbinical and diabolical; Jew priests, bankers, merchants, and traders; Jew peddlers, tinkers, and tailors; Jew nobles and Jew beggars—all bearing unmistakable evidence of their origin in the length and magnitude of their noses and the shallow color of their skins. The better classes wear fur caps, or rather turbans, and long silk robes. There is something in the gravity of their movements that give them a rather oriental aspect. To describe the costumes of the lower classes, composed as they are of cast-off rags of all textures and colors, predominant only in a single quality of filth, would be impossible. I can only content myself with attempting a rough pencil sketch, which is at your service.

A few hours in this quarter quite satisfied me that there were other parts of the world equally pleasant, if not more picturesque. As I rambled

back late in the afternoon, and once more crossed the large square in front of the St. Francisco Church; it was a marvel to me where so many idle people came from. Nobody seemed to have any particular purpose in life. Even the entrance of the Grand Hotel de Russie was thronged with idlers and beggars lying outstretched on the wooden benches or reclining drowsily against the stone steps. At every point and turn, there were groups of hard-favored peasants gazing into the shop windows. Soldiers walked idly about, smoking their cigars. Officers amused themselves dragging their swords along the pavements. Old carriages, bearing the remnants of nobility, rumbled dismally to and fro with their armorial mockeries. Students, rouses, and shabby genteel adventurers of all sorts, sauntered about the cafes; pale women of questionable appearance glided stealthily along the byways.

Wherever I looked was something to be seen characteristic of a fallen and degraded people. It may well be supposed that I received no very pleasant impressions of Austrian rule. "What future can there be for these Poles?" was a question that repeatedly presented itself to my mind. No less than six hundred spies, as I was credibly informed, are stationed by the Austrian government in the city of Cracow alone. These men are dressed in citizen clothes, and are supposed to be engaged in various industrial occupations. They mingle freely with all classes of the people, and their business is to keep an eye on every person within the limits of the city—including, of course, strangers. They penetrate into the customary haunts of the Poles in various disguises; listen to every conversation; follow up all suspicious persons; visit the hotels, restaurants, and cafes, and take note of the occupation of every stranger and customer; in short, they are obliquitous. Walls have ears, it is said; but in Cracow the very air listens! Of course, where such a system of espionage prevails, there can be no such thing as justice! Corruption in public places, malicious persecution, cruelty, and arbitrary dealing are the inevitable consequences. It is, in truth, a sad and impressive spectacle—so many human beings, made in God's image, placed in such an absolute

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Poland, Overground

condition of bondage, subject to all the injustice that can grow out of an arbitrary and corrupt system of government.

Some idea can be formed of the condition of affairs in Austrian Poland just from the general inquisitiveness manifested toward a stranger the moment he crosses the frontier. In my own case, it was both amusing and annoying. The idea of an American coming to a country like Poland—especially at a time and season such as this—merely on a tour of pleasure, was not sufficiently probable to be entertained for a moment. It was, to say the least of it, a legitimate matter of suspicion!

(It is quite obvious from this article that the author was well educated. Also, he must have been fairly wealthy, since he was able to take a lengthy pleasure tour to Germany and Poland. He also implied that he traveled extensively to many other parts of the world.)

Amber, Gold of the Baltic Sea

By Laurie Bialoglowicz

Amber is the fossilized resin of pine trees which grew in tropical forests around 45 million years ago. Amber comes in such a variety of forms that scientists have been unable to come to any definite conclusions as to the cause of this assortment. This may be due to different conditions which existed during the formation of the fossil, or the resins may have come from many different species of trees.

Most amber is golden yellow to golden orange, as well as brownish yellow, but green, red, violet, and black amber has also been found. It may be transparent, translucent, or opaque and usually is found in small, irregularly shaped masses, often with a cracked and weathered surface.

Amber may contain insects (and more rarely frogs, toads, and lizards), moss, lichen, or pine needles that were trapped millions of years ago while the resin was still sticky. When rubbed, amber produces a negative electrical charge that attracts dust. "Ambroid" is a product which is formed by heating and pressing scraps of amber together.

Amber-like minerals can be found through the world; however, the most famous deposits are in the Baltic region, particularly along the coasts of Poland and the former USSR. The uniqueness of Baltic Sea amber is the abundance of the deposits, the size of the pieces, and its beauty. Amber from Myanmar is called burmite; Sicilian amber is known as simetite. Other localities where amber is found include the Dominican Republic, Mexico, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Romania, Canada, Czechoslovakia, and the USA.

The tropical forest in which Baltic amber was created grew near a prehistoric river known as the Eridan. It originated in what is now known as North Scandinavia and its mouth was located in what is presently the Bay of Gdansk on the Baltic Sea. Some scientists believe that these prehistoric pines produced so much resin because they suffered from disease or had parasites. The resin from these trees was carried by streams to the Eridan River and deposited at its mouth. The richest accumulation is found on the Sambia Peninsula, which now belongs to Russia. Baltic amber (known as succinite) may reach as far as the coasts of England, Norway, and Denmark.

The oldest piece of amber, formulated by man, was found in the area of Hannover (central Germany), and was determined to be approximately 30,000 years old. The discovery of amber in archaeological digs throughout central Europe indicate that it was used for embellishment and religious rituals.

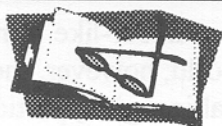
Greek mythology describes amber as being formed from a nymph's tears dropping into water. In the Odyssey, Homer describes an amber necklace, which belonged to a Phoenician merchant. Articles made from Baltic amber were also found in the tomb of King Tutankhamon and in Mesopotamia. The ancient Greek word for amber is *electron*, meaning originating from the sun. The Greeks were the first to discover the electrostatic properties of amber.

Ancient Romans also owned decorative articles, dice, and amulets made with amber. It was very expensive and possessed only by the rich. The size of the amber trade can be illustrated by the fact that

(Continued on page 8)

Book Review

By Nancy Adamski Martin



Germanic Genealogy

Why would a book on German genealogy be a part of the PGSNYS Library? Someone new to genealogy may ponder the reasoning behind this find in the society's library. After all, ours is a Polish Genealogical Society.

The Germanic Genealogy is a comprehensive guide for the advanced, as well as the beginning, genealogist. It does not matter what cultural/ethnic group is searched; it touches on all areas of research. It boasts a wealth of information and sources with an extensive bibliography for further research at the end of each chapter.

This book has an easy guide and getting started/initial organization section for the novice to utilize as the first step in their search for roots. More experienced researchers will find it useful to update foreign search sources with numerous updated addresses on U.S. and foreign correspondence. For those unfamiliar with Soundex records, it has an easy guide to understanding the numerology of the turn-of-the-century census.

Those with access to a computer will find its extensive list of search sites on the web helpful. It offers suggestions for getting information on the web and adds cautions to consider before turning to this method of search. The book states that the computer is not an infallible source of reference but only an aid and short cut in looking for documents. Computer generated reference cannot replace the actual touch and sight of an actual document pertaining to our own personal history.

Although the book stresses Germanic research, the history section also contains brief histories of all Polish partitions. Because of the 18th century partitions of Poland, much of the western part of Poland became German land, while Russia and Austria took the other

two-thirds. Because of this, it does have histories of these adjacent areas, with related maps.

Another chapter lists the German and East European migrations. Many sources throughout the world, which pertain to these patterns of migration, are also listed. These are sources where invaluable information to genealogists can be found. Again, references and bibliographies at the end of the chapters add extra direction to one's search.

Although I am a relative novice in ancestral research, I feel this book is a very useful tool and a handy guide for all genealogists.

(Continued from page 7)

Amber, Gold of the Baltic Sea

more than 70,000 ancient Roman coins have been found in what is now Poland.

Amber was also believed to have healing powers. In the past, it was powdered and mixed with honey, oil, and alcohol as a medication. Many people still believe that an amber bracelet will ease rheumatic pain. It has been imitated by plastic, glass, synthetic resin, and other natural resins, like copal.

[As a teenager, I had a choker made of dark yellowish-brown beads. I was told that if a person were to wear them when they weren't feeling well, it might make them feel better. At the time, I did not realize their value, and I don't know what ever became of the necklace.]

[Some of the above information is from a printed sheet which was enclosed with the purchase of amber from Amber, Forever Amber, at a local mall.]

Memorial

Edward N. Bialoglowicz

Died June 23, 1998

In memory of Edward N. Bialoglowicz, who was a member of the society for the past seven years. Ed served on the Board of Directors for two years. He designed and delivered the portable bookcase for the library and helped to organize the books. Since I became editor of the Searchers, he assisted me in editing and mailing each edition. He was my spouse and best friend and will be greatly missed by his family and members of the society.

Polish Genealogy on the Internet

By David Newman

The Internet is just one more tool that genealogists can use for their research; however, not all records are available through this resource. We still have to get our hands dirty in some deep, dark archival basement to acquire copies of actual records.

Why, you might ask, should one use the Internet in conducting genealogical research? This is what my column is all about. A few of the resources available through the Internet are: Electronic mail, newsgroups, mailing lists, and web sites. The key to finding the information you desire is knowing what tools are available and how to use them.

Electronic Mail (E-mail)

Electronic Mail is a form of sending messages, via the computer, through a modem which connects it to your telephone. It is a means by which you can send messages, instantaneously, from your computer to another computer anywhere in the world.

An e-mail address is made up of three parts: A user name, domain name, and type of account.

The user name identifies you as the person sending the message. It is generally chosen by you and is limited to a specific number of characters (8). You might choose to use part of your surname (or the whole name if it is short enough), your initials and your house number, the area in which you live, a nickname, or an activity with which you are associated.

The domain name is the company you choose to handle your account. Internet accounts are available at colleges, at work, or through an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Some of the better known ISPs are: America On-Line (AOL) and Prodigy. Two local ISPs are: Web Technologies and Buffnet. You can also get an account through your local cable company. Aldelphia is now providing network services.

The most common types of accounts are: Gov-U. S. Government, Org-Organization, Com-Commercial, and Net-Network. E-mail addresses outside the U.S. will also include the name of the country; i.e., Pl-Poland, Au-Australia.

Most Internet accounts cost \$15-\$20 per month. If you're not interested in the web but would like to have the capability of sending and receiving e-mail, you can sign up with Juno, a company that provides free e-mail service.

How can the Internet help you with your Polish genealogical research? Mailing lists offer users the ability to communicate with a group of people. Instead of sending the same electronic message to several people, individually, a mailing list allows you to send one message to one e-mail address that, in turn, forwards your message to all the e-mail addresses that subscribe to the mailing list. This is how people can get hundreds of messages in their mail box.

Newsgroups

Newsgroups offer individuals the ability to communicate with a group of people. However, this method of communication is a little different. When a person posts an electronic message to a newsgroup, it is like posting a note on a bulletin board in a public area, except this one is electronic. After a person reads the posted message, the individual may post a reply or send a message directly to the poster's e-mail box.

There are about as many newsgroup topics as there are mailing list topics. Some that I have found to be useful in Polish genealogical research are: soc.genealogy.german, soc.genealogy.surnames.german, fido.ger.genealogy, soc.genealogy.slavic, and soc.genealogy.jewish.

To post messages to a newsgroup, you must use a program called a newsgroup reader. Since

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Polish Genealogy on the Internet

there are several newsgroup readers on the market, it would not be feasible to discuss all of them in this article. If you are interested in posting a message to a newsgroup, I would be more than happy to walk you through the steps involved.

Mailing Lists

The following information is being reprinted here with the permission of coauthors Chris Gaunt and John Fuller.

There are a wide variety of mailing-list topics available today, ranging from basket weaving to genealogy. There are a few mailing lists relating to Polish genealogy. Below is a listing of them and how to subscribe:

1. **GENPOL** – A Mailing List for discussions of Polish genealogy. Postings are made in both English and Polish however, there is no guarantee that postings in English will receive replies in English. Mailing address for postings is genpol@plearn.edu.pl. To subscribe, send the following to listserv@plearn.edu.pl: subscribe, genpol, firstname, lastname
2. **GEN-SLAVIC** – Gatewayed with soc genealogy Slavic newsgroup for the discussion of Slavic genealogy. This means messages sent to this mailing list will also be posted on the soc.genealogy.slavic newsgroup. (See newsgroup section) new mailing address for postings is gen-slavic-l@rootsweb.com. To subscribe, send "subscribe" (without the quotes) as the only text in the body of a message to: gen-slavic-l-request@rootsweb.com (mail mode), gen-slavic-d-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode), or gen-slavic-l-request@rootsweb.com (index mode).
3. **HERBARZ** – A mailing list for the discussion of Polish and Lithuanian heraldry, the history of the armorial clans, and the genealogy of noble families. Mailing address for postings is herbarz-l@rootsweb.com. To subscribe, send the word "subscribe" (without the quotes) as the only text in the body of a message to herbarz-l-request@rootsweb.com (mail mode) or herbarz-d-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode).
4. A mailing list of surnames for anyone researching genealogy in the former historical borders of Poland, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Moravia, Hungary, Russia, the Balkans, and East Prussia. Submissions should include surnames in all caps and include any possible locations and dates known by you. Additional information can be found on the Poland Border Surnames Helper web page (<http://maxpages.com/poland>). Mailing address for postings is polandbordersurnames-l@rootsweb.com. To subscribe send the word "subscribe" (without the quotes) as the only text in the body of a message to polandbordersurnames-l-request@rootsweb.com (mail mode) or polandbordersurnames-d-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode).
5. **Poland-Roots**. A mailing list for anyone with a genealogical interest in Poland and the Polish out of Poland. You must be a subscriber to post to the list and posting instructions will be provided when you subscribe. To subscribe, send the word "subscribe" (without the quotes) as the only text in the body of a message to poland-roots-request@rootsweb.com (mail mode) or poland-roots-d-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode).
6. **PolishLessons** – A mailing list to assist Poland researchers in translating Polish documents and to further their research while visiting/researching Poland. Basic vocabulary lessons and pronunciation will be stressed. Mailing address for postings is polishlessons-l@rootsweb.com. To subscribe, send the word "subscribe" (without the quotes) as the only text in the body of a message to polishlessons-l-request@rootsweb.com (mail mode) or polishlessons-d-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode).
7. **POMMERN-L** – A mailing list for those interested in sharing and exchanging information on

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

genealogy and history which has a connection to Pommerania, both the current Polish part and remaining German parts of the former Prussian province. This is an English-German multilingual list. Mailing address for postings is pommern-l@genealogy.net. To subscribe, send the following in the body of your message to majordomo@genealogy.net: subscribe POMMERN-L.

8. SCHLESIEN-L. A mailing list for those with a genealogical interest in the former Prussian province of Schlesien (Silesia), which is now mostly in Poland. This is an English-German multi-lingual list. Mailing address for postings is schlesien-L@genealogy.net. To subscribe, send the following in the body of your message to majordomo@genealogy.net: subscribe SCHLESIEN-L.

[For current listing of Polish Mailing Lists, check out Genealogy Resources on the Internet by John Fuller's http://members.aol.com/gfsjohnf/gen_mail_country-pol.html.]

In the next issue, we will discuss the World Wide Web and the Gen Pol Web Project. If you have any comments about this article, or questions about the Internet and Polish genealogy, please send them to membership@pgsnys.org.

Internet Service Providers

Following is a list of ISPs, telephone number, and web page address.

America On-Line	888-265-8001
http://www.aol.com/	
Prodigy	914-448-8000
http://www.prodigy.com/	
Web Technologies	716-694-2700
http://www.webt.com/	
Buffnet	716-825-1300
http://www.buffnet.net/	
Adelphia Cable	800-233-5638
http://www.adelphia.net/	
Juno	800-654-JUNO
http://www.juno.com	

Poland's Changing Map

(This article appeared in the *Polish-American Journal*)

The Sejm passed a bill on Poland's division into 16 provinces to replace the current 49 administrative departments. It was a compromise worked out by the ruling coalition and the leftist opposition.

An initial plan by the ruling parties, to divide the county into 12 or 15 provinces was approved by parliament but vetoed by President Aleksander Kwasniewski, who backed proposals for 17 provinces. The majority parties rejected this because it would have reestablished exactly the same administrative division that existed under Communism.

(The following article also was published in the *Polish-American Journal*)

"Polish Wedding"

A lot of empty seats in movie theaters showing "Polish Wedding" will belong to Polish Americans who are staying home as their way to protest the anti-Polish and anti-Catholic film.

"We're holding our wallets and pocketbooks closed for this one," said Frank Milewski of the Polish American Congress Anti-Bigotry Committee. His discussions with Polish Americans in various parts of the United States reveal not only are they boycotting it, they are also contacting everyone else they know and asking them to do the same.

As the Congress sees it, Polish ethnics have every reason to be offended by "Polish Wedding". Besides negatively stereotyping them, it misrepresents the Catholic religion which is such a fundamental element of their culture. "The Hollywood crowd generally uses the Irish and Italian nationalities to typify American Catholics. This time they picked us to play that role and, as to be expected, not in a complimentary way," the committee stated.

The film has an agenda and makes no effort to conceal it. Catholics, as represented by the fictitious Polish family from Hamtramck, live a lie. The cheating wife and the promiscuous daughter

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

"Polish Wedding"

engage in illicit sex at the same time they are holding themselves out publicly as practicing Catholics. Everything builds up to the closing segment in which the immoral pregnant daughter is selected to be the one to place a crown on the statue of the blessed Virgin because she was supposed to be a model of chastity and purity." She ends up placing this crown on her own head instead. Then, in one of the most ridiculous scenes imaginable, she walks through the assembled congregation as a "Madonna" and all the people around her kneel down and bless themselves in adoration.

But there's a silver lining to this cloud. The people who produced this film were so intent on demeaning the religious beliefs and practices of Catholic ethnics, they overlooked creating an interesting story. Everything is so silly, contrived and boring, that it should die a quick financial death with our help, according to the Congress.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for the wonderful article *East Side Nostalgia* by Mr. Edward Prabucki. I am the granddaughter of Julian Kowalewski, owner of Kowalewski's Tailor Shop and I attended Transfiguration School in the late 1950s. This article brought back some pleasant memories of that time, too. I've also shared the article with some of my surviving aunts and uncles. They, too, were grateful for the memories of a "finer time". Thank you.

Sharon (Kowalewski) Presutti
Seneca Falls, New York

Thanks for a helpful and interesting publication and all the dedicated work you and the other officers and members do to keep us in touch with, and better able to delve into, our heritage.

My maternal grandparents and a great uncle were married in Olean and lived in the area. Hence, my interest in WNY Polonia.

Mrs. Dorothy J. LeGeyt
East Hartland, Connecticut

Research Source

Mike Drabik

The purpose of this brief article is to draw your attention to a little-used, but very important, source of genealogical information, which is sitting right under our noses and not many of us use it. I am referring to our own society's library and the newsletters we receive from other Polish genealogical societies.

Each Polish genealogical society prints a newsletter and we exchange ours with them. Since the origin of our society ten years ago, we have published a newsletter biannually and our sister societies in America do the same. Since these newsletters arrive at my address, I am the first to view them so I know the value of the material they contain. Aren't you jealous of me?

If you are looking for tips on research, sites to search on the Internet, new books available, or other topics, you will be quite likely to find them in one of these newsletters. In our newsletter, queries from members inform us of the surnames and areas they are searching. Brief reports on the various conferences held around the country are also included. There are articles written about various Polish parishes/communities across the country. Perhaps one of these will provide you with the information you are seeking.

Don't make your search any more difficult than it is. Use the materials available to you and remember, there are no dumb questions. It is only dumb not to ask! Our society exists so that we might help one another in our research. We may not know all the answers, but there is a good chance that someone in the organization will be able to help you out and direct you to additional resources.

The Americanization of Our Polish Forefathers

(This article is from William Radlinski's family newsletter.)

Our Polish forefathers, who came to this country around the turn of the century, were quick to Americanize while immigrants of today are not.

1920s

Earlier in this century, people came to the United States mostly from one continent—Europe—but they were by no means homogenous, ethnically or linguistically. In a time before people could easily phone, fly or fax home, it was not easy to retain ties to the motherland, and the need to assimilate into America was more compelling. Transplanted Europeans spoke at least 20 languages and came from as many countries.

Following is a breakdown of foreign-born Americans in 1920, by place of origin.

Germany	14%
Italy	14%
Russia	13%
Great Britain	10%
Poland	10%
Ireland	9%
Other	30%

1990s

Now, half of the country's foreign-born are from Latin America, most of them from Mexico. With their home countries a flight away and many speaking the same language, keeping a firm hold on one's ethnicity—and in turn, keeping from total "Americanization"—is easier. Following is the breakdown of foreign-born Americans in 1990, by place of origin.

Mexico	55%
El Salvador	6%
Other Central America	8%
Cuba	6%
Dominican Republic	4%
Jamaica	4%
Other Caribbean	6%
South America	11%

Americans born in Asia come from several countries and speak several languages.

Philippines	18%
China	12%
India	12%
Vietnam	11%
Korea	8%
Other	39%

Ships Manifest Passenger Lists

By Janice Bartoszek

What information can I get from a Ship's Manifest Passenger List?

Following is information that is frequently given. The full name of the passenger, age, nationality, race, last permanent residence, nearest relative in the country of origin, final destination—state and town, whether able to read and write, has a ticket to a final destination, by whom passage was paid, money in possession of, if ever before in the USA, year, where, whether going to join a relative or friend—name and address, condition of health, height, complexion, color of hair, color of eyes, marks of identification, place of birth—country, town, and whether born in almshouse or prison.

How do I find my ancestor's Ship's Manifest Passenger List? (Don't know the date, do you? No problem!) Order the specific Soundex microfilm with your ancestor's name on it to identify the name of ship and date of arrival. National Archives will notify you whether they found the specific name on the list. They will request payment within ten days. You will receive one oversize page on which the requested name appears. Study it in its entirety.

Follow this procedure to identify specific film to order and to review. No matter how long a surname is, its Soundex code is always the first letter of the surname and three numbers.

Soundex coding guide

Numbers replace the rest of the letters in the name. 1 = B P F V, 2 = C S K G J Q X Z, 3 = D T, 4 = L, 5 = M N, 6 = R. Disregard the letters A E I O U W Y H.

Examples:

WASHINGTON	W252 (Disregard the additional letters in the name)
PADEREWSKI	P362
KLOC	K420 (Fill in last space with zero)

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Ships Manifest Lists

LIS L200 (For short names, add zeros to end of code)

*Additional rules stand regarding prefix names and double letters. Count letters, side by side, with same number value as only one number. P and F in Pfister are 1, so use P, skip 1 for F, go to next usable letter, and so on. Since you are picking the first letter, you skip its companion number above and cannot use the number if it was alongside a letter representing the same number. This might seem a bit confusing until you put it into practice.

Researching Records

By Edward Prabucki

While perusing records of my ancestors at the LDS research library, which have taken me through the first three decades of the 19th century, I became drowsy one day, laid my head down on the desk, and dozed off.

The next thing I knew, I was in a field adjacent to a forest near Udrzyn—the village of my ancestors. I was lost in these surroundings and cried out several times. Then, a male figure came toward me out of the darkness and extended his hand to me. I noticed he had long, sensitive fingers when he grasped my hand as he whispered his name to me, “Jozef”—son of Walenty and Anna. I excitedly replied, “Edziu”, and we carried on an emotional dialogue. He implied that he, along with cousins, Michal and Franciszek, were Poland’s last hope of banishing intruders from Polish soil. I zealously followed him for hours until we met Michal and Franciszek. As they all rushed toward a large group of Polish and Lithuanian youths, I ran after them, stumbled, fell, and picked myself up. When I arose, they had vanished into the darkness.

At that moment, I felt a hand rubbing my shoulder. It was the librarian who looked puzzled as she said, “You were whispering, ‘Wait, wait for me!’” I timidly continued my research that began in 1831 and extended through the next four decades (1840-

1880). Ironically, there are no church records available for these three ancestors—Jozef, Michal, and Franciszek. They appear to have vanished without a trace.

(This really happened. It is not a fabrication.)

Immigration Information

(Buffalo, N. Y., District Court Federal Court Building)

The Federal Court Building has an alphabetical microfiche index on immigration papers filed in Buffalo, New York, for public viewing. Another index of names can be found in the basement of the old Erie County Building, in a file cabinet. It’s a good idea to check both indexes because neither is complete.

You can put in a request for papers, in writing, to the Federal Court Immigration Office after you have found the reference numbers. They will send you copies of papers on file, at no charge. County Hall records are immediately available at a cost of \$1 per page.

If you have the port of entry and arrival date of your ancestor, you can write to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., for the passenger ship manifest page. This will give you information on who your relative came to stay with in the U.S.A. and whether other individuals traveled with him or her on the ship. (That was quite probable.) You may delay sending money to the National Archives. When they locate the records, they will notify you to send the money within a specified period of time. One page of a ship manifest costs \$10, but if other papers are found; i.e., Petition or Declaration of Intention, they will also be included.

Sometimes the handwriting of a customs officer is not easy to decipher or a relative’s name may have a different spelling. If you know any families in Buffalo that may be interested in any of the following names, please pass on the information to them. You might get someone else interested in starting their own family research!

Following is a list denoting the passenger’s

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

name, date and place of birth, name of ship, and date of arrival.

Mateun Lesniewski; Dec. 27, 1886; Galicia, Poland; Carmania; Jun. 15, 1907; N.Y.

Jozef Jaroha; Feb. 04, 1895; Czyzow (Chrzew), Poland; SS Neckar; May 05, 1913; N.Y.

Antonina Grabowska J.; Feb. 18, 1896; Czyzow, Poland; May 05, 1913; N.Y.

Szymon Wisniewski; Oct. 25, 1880/81?; Ramion (Kamion?), Russia; Pretoria; Mar. 25, 1910; N.Y.

Helen Pariszewski W; Mar. 23, 1879; Kamion, Russia; Mar. 25, 1910; N.Y.

Frank Lesniewski; Oct. 30, 1881; Vestrovich, Mrs. Antonia Lesniewski; not given; Vestrovich, Pol-Rus.; Mar. 27, 1905; N.Y.

Michael Wisniowski; Aug. 10, 1895; (G) or Crzymalow, Galicia; G. Washington; Aug. 06, 1913; N.Y.

Jozef Wisniewski; July 10, 1873; Czechanow, Russia; Weimar; Jul. 06, 1893; N.Y.

Mary Yong? Wisniewski; Mielec, Austria; (147 Sears St., Bflo.); Jul. 06, 1893; N.Y.

John Lesniowski; Jan. 26, 1892; Kobalano, Galicia; Brandenburg; May 24, 1907; N.Y.

Ludwik Wisniewski; Aug. 09, 1881; Radom, Pol-Rus; Baltic; Jun. 07, 1913; N.Y.

Julia Gerwinska Wisniewski; not given; Radom, Pol-Rus; Baltic; Jun. 07, 1913; N.Y.

Bronislaw Wisniewski; Dec. 20, 1894; Ponislovo/Powislovo?, Pol-Rus; unknown; May 19, 1914; N.Y.

Roman Staron; Mar. 28, 1894; Rzeszow/Roszezow/Roszesuw?; King Albert; Jul. 03, 1910; N.Y.

Joseph Bartoszek; Mar. 17, 1893; Pniow, Poland; G. Washington; Jul. 09, 1912; N.Y.

John Cyrek; Jun. 24, 1886; Stara Niwa/Stary Niewa?, Rzeszow; Victor; Jun. 01, 1905; MD.

Stefania (Mrs.) Cyrek; Feb. 02, 1894; Staromiescie, Rzeszow, Poland; Jun. 01, 1905, MD.

Jan Baran (Lackawanna); Jun. 24, 1883; Stubnitz, Pol-Rus; (476 Center St.); Kroonland; Aug. 13, 1905; N.Y.

Mrs. Barbara (Jan) Baran; not given; Warsaw, Pol-Rus; Aug. 13, 1905; N.Y.

Andrew Kawa; Oct. 27, 1887; Kielecha, Pol-Rus;

Kaiser Wilhelm II; Nov. 15, 1903; N.Y.

Mary Zuneka Kawa; not given; Volna, Pol-Rus; Nov. 15, 1903; N.Y.

Jozef Jarosz; Sep. 31, 1884; Wiewiorka, Galicia; Main; Apr. 22, 1905; N.Y.

Wm. Bozyli Jarocki; Mar. 19, 1881; Hnylicki, Zbaraz, Male, Poland; Zeeland; Feb. 06, 1905; N.Y.

Mary Antochow Jarocki; Dec. 1887; Jacowce (Jacowicy, Zbaraz), Poland; Lapland; Aug. 08, 1910; PA.

Stefania (Anna) Wisniewska; Mar. 14, 1889; Serpa, Poland; Patricia; Nov. 24, 1907/ N.Y.

John Wisniewski (husband); Apr. 20, 1885; Rypen, Poland.

Steny Kavwark; Dec. 12, 1888; Bodusut, Pol-Rus; Lapland; Jul. 04, 1906; N.Y.

George Dugos; Apr. 23, 1885; Piwniczna?, Galicia, Poland; May 05, 1910; N.Y.

Apolonia Zabawa Dugos; not given; Gaslo, Galicia, Poland; May 05, 1910; N.Y.

Janina (Jadwiga) Pawlowska Wisniewski; Feb. 3, 1901; Warsaw, Poland; SS Marine Tiger; Mar. 23, 1948; N.Y.

Boleslaw Wisniewski; Nov. 28, 1899; Warsaw, Poland; SS Marine Tiger; Mar. 23, 1948; N.Y.

John Szalwinski; Oct. 12, 1897; Maryjanki, Poland; SS Nordam; Nov. 04, 1913; N.Y.

Piotr Bartosiewicz*, Mar. 03, 1889; Stepkow/Siedlce (puzzling); Amsterdam; Aug. 17, 1909; N.Y.

Piotr Szyzgelski*; Mar. 03, 1889; Stepkow/Siedlce (puzzling); Noordam; Jul. 27, 1909; N.Y.

*Wife's maiden name is given, when available. If no mention of wife's arrival date was on record, an assumption was made that arrival date was same as husband's. This was not always true. Review of passenger record or additional documentation can confirm that. If no whip name was included on papers reviewed, none is listed above.

Memorial

Norbert C. Lonczak

Died November 13, 1998

In memory of Norbert C. Lonczak, who was a member of the society for several years. He was a valued member of the society because of his knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Our condolences to his wife and family.

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF NEW YORK STATE**

299 Barnard Street
Buffalo, New York 14206

