



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 15

FALL 2007

NUMBER 3

## ***Drobne Echa***

*Installment #12*

**Dateline: Little Falls**

From *Wiarus* and *Katolik*, 1888 - 1910

**By Greg Kishel**

**<gfk1@cornell.edu>**

To coincide with our out-state meeting at Little Falls, Minnesota in September, 2007, I am presenting my translations of reportage from the Polish-American community in that Morrison County town, that appeared in Winona's *Wiarus* and *Katolik*. To my knowledge, outside of brief church histories there is almost no published research about the Poles of Little Falls. Yet the local Polonia has much interest for us as genealogists and local historians. As you will see from these pieces, it was a place where Polish immigrants had significant economic success, where their institutional development was complex, and where the locals generated some entertaining stories as well.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of January 19, 1888:*

FROM LITTLE FALLS, Minn., our countryman Mr. FRETTEL, an attorney, informs us that 400 Poles reside in that region.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of January 26, 1888:*

LITTLE FALLS. -- The lawyer about whom there was a short mention in the last issue of *Wiarus*, is named Donat TRETTEL, not FRETTEL.

**Little Falls Article ... continued on page 14**

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*Drobne Echa*

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## ***Upcoming Fall Meetings***

**October 6 (10 a.m. – 12 noon) at  
MGS Library, Golden Valley –**

Anastasia Dzenowagis will take you through her family's journey of discovery of all her grandparents' relatives in Poland, Belarus, and Lithuania, and her family's trip to the homeland after 80 years. If you have hit the genealogy "brick wall" you may find inspiration in her story of finding her Grandmother Anastazja's relatives in Poland after giving up for 15 years, and find new ideas for continuing your own genealogy journey.

**Meetings ... continued on page 3**

**Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota**

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society  
5768 Olson Memorial Highway  
Golden Valley MN 55422 – 5014

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>

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The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is included with membership. Dues are \$15.00 per year.

**Please use application form on page 35.**

Items submitted for publication are welcomed and encouraged. We require that feature-length articles be submitted exclusively to PGS-MN only. Articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries, ad copy, etc. should be sent to: John Kowles, editor, *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 3429-45<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406-2924. or to e-mail: <johnkow@att.net>

**Address changes or membership questions?**

Contact: Lisa Trembley, Membership Chair  
15800 Post Road, Wayzata MN 55391  
or e-mail: <ltrembley@comcast.net>

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**President's Letter****MGS/PGS-MN Library Move**

The library will be moving to Suite 200 (second floor), 1185 N. Concord St. in South St. Paul (see map on page 23). Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) has negotiated a 5-year lease on the slightly-larger building. The Golden Valley location will formally be closed on Thursday, October 24. The new location will not be open until Saturday, November 10. A formal open house is planned for Saturday afternoon, December 1.

The new building will also allow the first-floor auditorium and fourth-floor meeting room to be reserved. The parking lot accommodates 100 vehicles. The library can be readily reached by the #71B,C,D,E,F bus which runs north and south along Concord St. and stops in front of the building.

Volunteers are needed to help with the move which will involve 400-500 person-hours. Please consider helping with the move. Volunteer requirements are listed on page 5. Contact Robin PanLener if you can help (by e-mail: <robin.panlener@state.mn.us>, by telephone: Work 651-297-7963 or Home 651-222-8660).

– TJK

Terry was appointed to the MGS Board of Directors and is also on the committee which is coordinating the library move. I am sure he would welcome feedback on the new facility.

- JWK



## *The Bulletin Board*

### *Germanic Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns*

Ed Brandt, a member of PGS-MN, has published this 658-page, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the subject book. While the book covers mostly German-speaking ancestors, many Poles have spouses or relatives who came from German-speaking areas as the editor's g-g-grandmother.

You can view the Table of Contents by clicking on it on Ed's website at <[www.tc.umn.edu/brandt050](http://www.tc.umn.edu/brandt050)> where you will also find information about rates to other countries and priority mail within the U.S.

The greatest amount of information is about the former German Empire (with information on areas east of the Oder-Neisse divide between Germany and Poland), Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland. There is a significant amount of information about other European countries where many German residents lived prior to World War I or II, including Poland, the Czech and Slovak Republics, the Commonwealth of Independent States (most of the former Soviet Union, excluding the Baltic countries), Romania, Hungary and the Alto Adige/South Tyrol portion of central north Italy, with at least brief coverage of more than 90 countries (more on most of those to which large numbers of German-speaking settlers migrated).

Ed is giving PGS-MN members a \$5 discount off the regular price of \$49. Therefore a payment of \$50 will include shipping and handling within the U.S. via regular mail. You can save the \$5 by picking up the book at 241 Arthur Ave. S.E. in Minneapolis. This street intersects with Franklin Ave. between the river bridge and Highway 280.

**PGS-MN Meetings...***continued from p.1*  
**November 3 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)** at LDS Family History Center, 2801 Douglas Drive No.,

Crystal, MN, Phone 763-544-2479.

Deb Vevea, Center Director, will speak about the hidden gems in <[Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org)> and what may be in store in the future with the web site, digital records and indexing the millions of films in the granite vaults in Utah. She will also review what resources are available at the Family History Center, and what to expect if planning a trip to Salt Lake City to visit the library there. She will end with the story and pictures of finding her grandmother's home in Poland in one day; she calls it her little "Polish Miracle."

The presentation will start at 10 a.m., end about noon and there will then be open library time to 2 p.m.

### **Other 2007 Calendar Events**

#### **October 6, 2007 - Sobieski Days, Sobieski**

Polish dinner and dance. Bus from Midwest Polka Association leaves about 3:30 p.m. from the Mermaid. For reservations, call Ed Budzinski at 763-428-9694 or <[edbudzinski@peoplepc.com](mailto:edbudzinski@peoplepc.com)>.

#### **October 7, 2007 - Fall Festival**

St. Casimir's Catholic Church, 934 E. Geranium, (Forest & Geranium St.), St. Paul, MN - Polka Mass at 10 a.m. and the festival 12 noon -4 p.m.

#### **October 13, 2007 - Polkathon Celebration**

St. Croix Casino, Turtle Lake, WI - John Filipczak & The CLASSICS performing 4-8 p.m. The band is performing earlier on Saturday and more Polkathon on Sunday 12 noon – 4 p.m.

#### **October 14, 2007 - Apple Days**

Sponsored by the Polish Museum in Winona. Activities run from 12 noon to approximately 4 p.m. Contact PACIM for further information: <[judytam@usfamily.net](mailto:judytam@usfamily.net)>.

#### **October 14, 2007 – Fall Harvest Ethnic Festival**

St. Katherine's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 1600 Hwy 96, Arden Hills from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The Dolina Polish Folk Dancers will perform during the festival.

#### **October 28, 2007 - Polish Soup Festival**

New day (Sunday) and it starts at 4:00 p.m. but the same great soups, Polish bazaar and pierogi to go. See details on page 5.

**November 16, 2007 -PACIM Night at the Movies**

Bring your lawn chair to PACIM's headquarters (7 p.m. indoors), 2514 Central Avenue N.E., Minneapolis and watch the movie "Pan Tadeusz." Prior to the movie, Jowita Ciepielewska Haugen will talk about the epic poem upon which the movie is based and give a little background on the times and customs. Popcorn provided.

**November 19, 2007 - Mazowsze Polish Folk Dancers**

The world-famous Mazowsze makes a dazzling comeback to the Twin Cities. Fifteen years after their last appearance in the Twin Cities, Mazowsze, Poland's preeminent national song and dance troupe, is back for a one-time performance on **Monday, November 19 at 7:30 at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul.** Mazowsze is being presented to the Twin Cities audience by Dolina Polish Folk Dancers and the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. Mark your calendars today. Order tickets at <www.ticketmaster.com>. Group tickets are available by calling 612-963-7755, Ticket Master in St. Cloud 320-253-3131 and Twin Cities 651-989-5151 or Ticket Master Retail Stores at Macy's. Ticket prices range from \$23.50, \$32.50 and \$43.50. Don't miss this show! Mazowsze won't be back for a while – perhaps ANOTHER 15 years – do you want to take a chance?

**December 16, 2007 - Wigilia Benefit for Polish Children**

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota will hold a traditional Wigilia dinner to benefit Polish children on December 16, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Gasthof Restaurant located at 2300 University Avenue N.E. This community Christmas Eve dinner celebration will feature the sharing of the opłatek, traditional foods, and singing Christmas carols in Polish and English.

**January 12, 2008 PGS-MN Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 12 at *Gasthof zur Gemutlichkeit*, 2300 N.E. University Ave. in Minneapolis. There will be a business meeting, Polish meal and a short program. Plan to attend.

**MGS Looking for Volunteers**

PGS-MN derives its tax-free status from MGS, which is the umbrella for branches such as PGS-MN. Many of our members belong to both organizations. Currently MGS is looking for volunteers in two key positions:

**Program Manager for the Metro Area**

This person will work closely with the team responsible for identifying speakers, and be in charge of all logistics for three MGS meetings held in the Twin Cities area. (Alternatively, the Program Manager may wish to form a "logistics team" and assign one major meeting a year to different members of the team.) However structured by the team's personal preferences, it is expected that the Program Logistics Manager recruit additional volunteers who will help with advertising, room scheduling, food arrangements, equipment, and the like.

**Out-state Program Coordinator**

This key volunteer will be responsible for the Out-State Meeting, held annually. He or she will collaborate with the MGS Education Committee, and other MGS leaders, and actively seek joint programming opportunities with out-state genealogy and history organizations. This role also includes coordinating the logistics for this once-a-year event. If interested, please contact Darlene Joyce <dcjoyce@comcast.net>.

PGS-MN also supports the MGS library on the first Saturday of each month (12 noon-3 p.m.). This is a good way to become familiar with resources available. If interested, please contact the Library Committee chair, Jan Bias <geneejb@comcast.net>.

**Surname Indexing Project**

Our surname indexing project continues in this issue on pp. 24 -33. This index lists surnames appearing in Volume 9 (issues published in 2001-02) of this newsletter. Previous surname indices are contained in the following newsletters:

<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Newsletter</u>
9	Fall – 2007	4	Winter – 2000-01
8	Winter – 2006-07	3	Autumn - 2000
7	Autumn – 2005	2	Spring - 2000
6	Spring – 2002	1	Winter – 1999-2000
5	Spring – 2001		

The indices covering Volumes 1 - 6 are also listed on our website at:

<www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>.

**PGS-MN Meeting Summary**

More than 30 people were present at the MGS Library for an interesting and informative presentation by Iwona Srienc. Iwona provided a primer on the Polish language related to spelling and pronunciation of Polish names and ancestral origins. We will publish some of the handout as space permits in the future. Iwona is a professional East-European translator who specializes in Polish, Russian and Slovenian. She can be contacted at <Iwons@comcast.net> or 651-779-6580 for services.

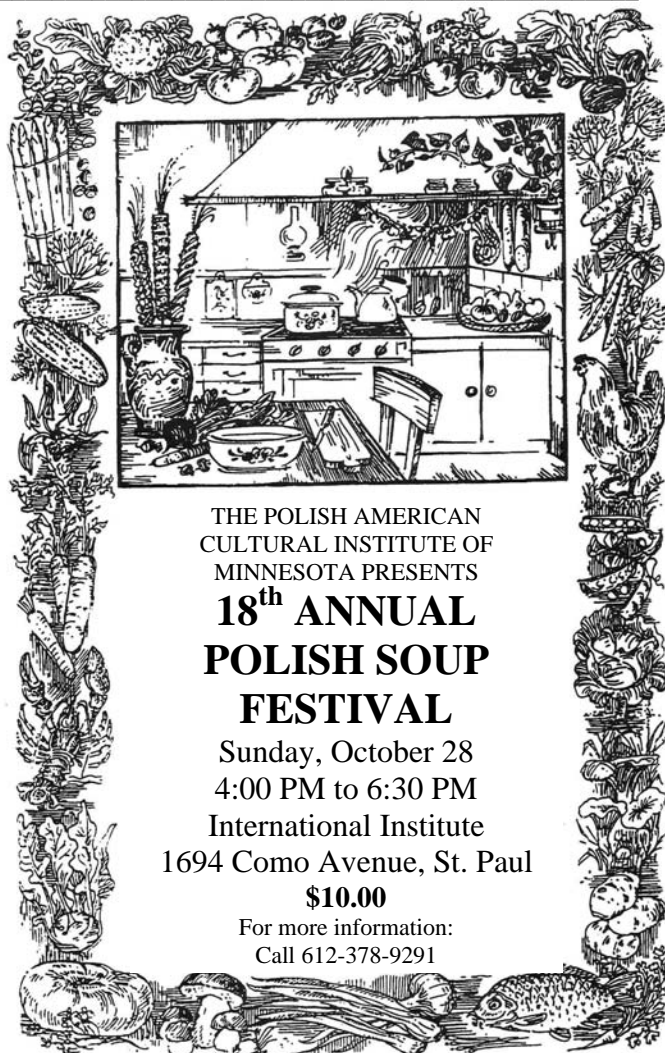
**Queries ... Pytania**

Send to: Paul Kulas, Associate Editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316-2145 or to e-mail: <kkulas@ties2.net>

My mother's name is Linda FRANZEN-GABRELCIK, though I guess in Poland its GABRELCZYK, or something close. My grandparents (her parents) are Arthur and Priscilla.

Arthur was born in 1913. Arthur's parents were Peter Gabrelcik and Frances PURKETT (or PURKOT/PORKOTT). Francis was born 10/28/1890 in Poland.

*Queries ...continued on page 13*



THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA PRESENTS  
**18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL POLISH SOUP FESTIVAL**  
 Sunday, October 28  
 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
 International Institute  
 1694 Como Avenue, St. Paul  
**\$10.00**  
 For more information:  
 Call 612-378-9291

**Volunteer Requirements for MGS Library Move**

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>No. of Volunteer-days</i>	<i>Estimated Person-hrs.</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Oct. 1 – 24	Pack MGS, Czech, Irish office and storage areas, German, Canadian office materials and storage areas	20	100	Moderate to Heavy
Oct. 25-31	Last minute packing, cleaning and tossing	8	26	Moderate to Heavy
Oct. 29 -31	Coordinate move out of GV. Empty book carts and shelf books at Concord. Direct movers to proper locations.	9	182	Light to Heavy
Nov. 1-9	Unpack, arrange, set up new library (furniture, signs, etc.)	32	160	Light to Moderate

## A Novice Researcher's Circuitous Route to Finding Her Rafinski Great-Grandfather's Parish in Poland.

By Lisa Trembley  
<LCTrembley@comcast.com>

Searching for the home parish of my maternal grandmother's family has not been straightforward. Following the paternal line did not provide clues significant enough to easily track the Rafinski family origins in Poland; however, a strange land sale and a family story that Great-great-grandmother Rafinski's sister sponsored the Rafinskis' immigration suggested another path to discovery. Using this story, resources identified by various PGS-MN programs, and the help of fellow PGS-MN members, I found the parish where my great-grandfather was baptized; the search continues for the marriage and baptism records of his parents.

My grandmother, Helen Rafinski, born in 1913, was the second child born to immigrant Leo Rafinski and orphan Theresa Isabella Lautwe. During a Christmas 1998 gathering I asked my grandmother to tell me family stories of her father's emigration from Poland to Minnesota. She was able to provide the basics; Frank and Lucy Rafinski and two sons, Leo (age 12) and John (age 10) emigrated from Prussia to the U.S. in 1898 or 1899 through Ellis Island before traveling to Minnesota (probably by train) to Duelm. She believed they were sponsored by Ed and Mary Negelski (possibly a relative of Frank's), and settled in the Duelm area where Frank purchased a small 40-acre farm. Later Frank sold the farm and the family moved to Foley in 1920, and later to the Iron Range. Duelm is a small town in southern Benton County near the border with Sherburne and Stearns Counties, and is home to St. Lawrence Catholic Church. She shared that the social life of the Polish community centered on the church and that when she began attending school at Duelm, she did not speak English as only Polish was spoken at home. Grandma was sure that she was born in Duelm, as was her older sister Mary and younger brother Tony, but she had never found

her birth certificate at the Foley Courthouse and had always used her St. Lawrence baptism record in lieu of a birth certificate.

Using Grandma's information I began an unsuccessful search of the 1900 census record for Rafinski and Negelski families in Duelm, St. George Township, Benton County, Minnesota. Deciding to start from the known and work backwards, as genealogical guidelines suggested, I located the obituaries for Frank and Lucy Rafinski, who having resettled in Wahnena,<sup>1</sup> Cass County, Minnesota about 1930, died in 1933 and 1934 in Wahnena, Cass County, and Ball Club, Itasca County, respectively. Neither obituary provided details of the origin of Frank and Lucy's births beyond being natives of Poland. Lucy died in a car-train accident along with her youngest son, John. Her obituary contains much about the accident and little on family. It does, however, contain the following mention: "She had made plans to return to Foley tomorrow." Because her only surviving son lived in Coleraine, Itasca County, Minnesota and all her surviving grandchildren lived in either Cass or Itasca Counties, the reason why she would return to Foley was unclear.

After attending the 1999 MGS Branching Out, Beginning Polish Research session I became aware of the value of naturalization records and the impact of the most recent partitions of Poland with the substitution of German names for previous Polish cities and counties in what became West Prussia. I also met Paul Kulas and Greg Kishel, speakers at the event.

An online index of Minnesota naturalization records available on <Ancestry.com>, free at that time, directed me to Sherburne County District Court records where I located both First Papers (filed 1907 and 1910 respectively) and Final Papers (filed 1910 and 1912 respectively) for Frank and Leo Rafinski.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>An unorganized territory (township) in Chippewa National Forest, Cass County, Minnesota. – Editor note, JWK

<sup>2</sup>SAM 196, Roll 1, p 2; Roll 2, pp 5 and 13, MHS, St. Paul

Aside from their birth years the papers give identical information; they arrived on the Prinz Rengent [*sic*] Luitpold, at the port of New York about 10 November 1900, and both were residents of Palmer,<sup>3</sup> Sherburne County, Minnesota (rather than Duelm, Benton County, as I had assumed from Grandma's information). Both Leo and Frank gave their foreign residence as Konitz, Germany. A request sent to the National Archives for passenger records for the Frank Rafinski family arriving on the Prinz Regent Luitpold about 10 November 1900, was returned with the notation that the record was not found. [Since that request in 1999, the Ellis Island records have gone online and I found an entry for Franz Rafinski, arriving on the Prinz Regent Luitpold, 11 November 1900; Franz's place of residence is given as "Kakube." ] The naturalization records explained why I was unable to find the Rafinskis in the 1900 census; the family arrived after the census had been conducted.

I located 1914 and 1916 plat maps of Sherburne County, Minnesota showing a land holding by F. Rafinski in section 3 and thereby the Duelm area farm my grandmother remembered. I decided to contact my grandmother's living siblings and Rafinski cousins to learn if there was any more family information available. Two responses were particularly helpful. Grandma's brother Tony provided the following information:

Frank, Lucy, Leo and John immigrated in the fall of 1900. They were from Lodi (pronounced Lochy) Poland. Leo was a bright boy and at 16 was expected to enter the military service and Frank and Lucy wanted to avoid that destiny for Leo. Two of Lucy's brothers were in Kaiser Wilhelm's Honor Guard. Frank and Lucy had lost three of their five sons

in Poland. Lucy's sister, Mary Bernarski(?) born in 1848, married a John Cziewicki(?); she sponsored Frank and Lucy's emigration. Frank and Lucy settled in the Duelm area.

After receiving Tony's information I asked Grandma about the Cziewicki family; she recalled her mother writing to the Czieviski(?) family. Like her brother, Grandma remembered this family's name phonetically and did not know how to spell it. I went back to the 1900 Soundex looking for a Mary and John Czieviski/Cziewicki (C120 and C232 Soundex codes). None of the entries were good matches.

Next, I attended a Polish night at the MGS Library and spent some time with Paul Kulas using resources there to help me better pin down possible West Prussia origins of my Rafinski forebears. Using the Polska Atlas Drogowy, the highest concentration of Rafinski surnames occurred in the Bydgoski Powiat in 1990 with the second largest concentration in Toruńskie and small numbers in Gdańskie and Wrocławskie. The largest city in the Bydgoski Powiat is Chojnice (called Konitz by the Germans) with three parishes; this is the most likely region to focus on given the Konitz origin of residence provided in Frank and Leo's naturalization First Papers. We were unable to find a city named Lodi or one that could be pronounced Lochy that fit with Rafinski surname concentration data.

Over thirteen microfilm rolls of Chojnice parish records filmed by the LDS were identified online. I decided to do more U.S. records research before starting to sort through this many microfilm records.

A review of land records in Sherburne County revealed that Frank and Lucy Rafinski bought their farm for \$2,254.40 in April 1914 and sold it in February 1921 to Frank Ziwicki for \$4,500<sup>4</sup> and the harvest of one acre of potatoes and one acre of corn cultivated, harvested and delivered to Frank and

<sup>3</sup>Polish families arrived in Palmer about 1875 (after the census) and quickly became the dominant immigrant group due to high birth rates. Surnames appearing in the 1880-1895 time frame: Bartowski, Jurek, Kampa, Koshier, Landowski, Miller (yep that's right Bartrock Miller was born in Poland), Kutz, Sakry, Stanek, Ziwicki. Palmer was, and remains a rural agricultural area. The civic structure is limited to a small village with the township. It is drive-through land that mostly was an overflow from the Polish communities of Benton County.

<sup>4</sup>Deed Record Book 41, Instrument No. 31526, Sherburne County Government Center, Elk River, Minnesota. Sold 137 acres in Section 3 of Palmer, Sherburne Co., Minnesota to Frank Zewicki [Ziwicki] for \$4,500.00....

Lucy Rafinski free of charge for the life of Frank and Lucy provided the distance did not exceed fifteen miles; if it exceeded fifteen miles, Frank and Lucy were to pay the transportation charges. Frank Ziwicki honored the agreement as granddaughter Gertrude Rafinski Villeneuve remembers the shipments of potatoes and corn arriving for Lucy and Frank while living near Ball Club, Minnesota.

In February 2000 the second bit of particularly helpful information came to me from John Rafinski's daughter Gertrude Rafinski Villeneuve and her daughter Joan Villeneuve Herfindahl. Using their Golla family contacts residing in the Foley area they located Stella Kosiek, of Foley, who claimed Leo Rafinski was a relative of hers. In March, my mother and I met up with "cousins" Gertrude and Joan in Foley to visit with Stella Kosiek. Stella, two years younger than my grandmother, grew up on a farm in Alberta Township, Benton County, Minnesota with her paternal grandparents Lorenz/Lawrence and Magdalena Ziwicki. She provided two stories, the first that her grandmother had cried, "My only sister is dead," on learning of the death of Lucy Rafinski; and the second was her only meeting with Leo Rafinski when he came to the Ziwicki family farm on a drizzly day in 1940. Her father, John Ziwicki, told her Leo was a cousin. Stella gave us a copy of the First Papers of Lorenz Zywicki, born in Prussia about 1850; he immigrated to the U.S. in May 1886. The papers were signed 27 October 1894 in District Court, Stearns County, Minnesota.

During a June 2000 trip to the Benton County Historical Society in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, I reviewed 1916-1919 tax records for St. George Township, Benton County, Minnesota for Frank, Leo and John Rafinski. There was no Rafinski surname file at the society but there was a Ziwicki surname file with several obituary notices. The notices were undated and unmarked as to source and it took some time to unravel the relationships and timeline represented by the obituaries. A stop at the Benton County Courthouse in Foley yielded the marriage record for John Rafinski to Lenora Golla, and the birth records of two children born to Leo and Theresa Rafinski (Anthony Rafinski and

Angeline Roffiski) and seven children born to John and Lenora Rafinski. Also found were death records for Lawrence and Magdalena Ziwicki. A visit to the Sherburne County Government Center in Elk River yielded the marriage record for Leo Rofinski and Theresa Loutry, birth records for my grandmother Helen and her older sister Mary. My grandmother was recorded as Helen Rapsinke;<sup>5</sup> Grandma had been looking in the wrong county for her birth record all her 87 years. None of the records provided any breakthrough information as to the Poland origins of the Rafinski family.

Another look into census records revealed the Lorenz/Lawrence Ziwicki/Zywicki/Zwireki family residing in Palmer, Sherburne County, Minnesota in 1895 and 1905 Minnesota State Population Census, and the 1900 Federal Population Census. They had four children, Frank born in Poland/Prussia (depending on the census), and Jake, Mary and John, all born in Minnesota. In the 1905 census the Ziwickis are neighbors of the Rafinskis. While Frank Rafinski continued to live in Palmer in the 1910 and 1920 censuses, Lawrence and wife Magdalena had moved to Alberta Township, Benton County, Minnesota. Based on census records and reviews of Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns County naturalization records, it appears Lawrence Ziwicki never filed his Final Papers; he is listed as a resident alien on the 1930 census (when finally released). The Benton County records did show the Declaration of Intention for Frank Ziwicki completed 19 August 1918.<sup>6</sup> Frank, who was one year of age when he and his parents emigrated, gave his foreign residence as Kashubamille, Germany.

I had agreed to manage the PGS-MN Membership database by this time. At a board meeting I asked Greg Kishel to pronounce Ziwicki/Zywicki for me in Polish. Listening to his pronunciation led me to believe that this was the possible Czieviske/Cziewicki family in Uncle Tony and Grandmother's recollection. It had been

<sup>5</sup>Sherburne Co. Birth Record Book E, p. 54, line 179, Sherburne Co. Government Center, Elk River, MN

<sup>6</sup>SAM 167, Roll 1, Vol. C, p. 6, MHS, St. Paul



nearly two years and this was as far as I had gotten: I had the death certificate of Leo Rafinski, giving his birth location as West Prussia, his father's name as Frank and mother's as Lucy Bernarski;<sup>7</sup> the informant was my Great-uncle Tony. Leo's Social Security application completed in 1936 yielded his mother's maiden name as Bednerski.<sup>8</sup> The death certificate for Lucy Rafinski gave her birth location as Poland, her father as Jacob Bednerski, mother unknown; the informant was son Leo Rafinski. Frank Rafinski's death certificate, completed by son John, gave his birth location as Germany, his father as Tom Rafinski, mother unknown. First Papers of Frank and Leo Rafinski gave their home residences as Konitz, Germany and their arrival in the U.S. in November 1900. First Papers of Lorenz Ziwicki, possible brother-in-law to Lucy Rafinski, gave his birth location as Prussia and arrival in the U.S. in May 1886. First Papers for Frank Ziwicki provided his foreign residence as Kashubamille, Germany. In addition, there were various anecdotal stories indicating a relationship between the Ziwicki and Rafinski families, a further relationship with a Negelski family, deaths of Rafinski children in Poland/Prussia, a location in Poland (Lodi) that the Rafinskis were said to be from, and the possible Honor Guard service of two Bednerski/Bernarski men for Kaiser Wilhelm. Last, there was the mention in Lucy Rafinski's obituary that she had planned to return to Foley. What I still didn't know was where in Poland the Frank Rafinski family had originated.

I wrote to Blanche Krbechek, a founding member of PGS-MN and founder of KA-NA (Kashubian Association of North America), to present my dilemma and request guidance whether the Kashubamille, Germany reference in Frank Ziwicki's Letter of Intention papers could indicate the Ziwicki family, and possibly the Rafinski family, were of Kashubian descent. Blanche wrote

<sup>7</sup>MN Death Certificate, Leo Rafinski, 1979-MN-9020, Mrs. Lucy Rafinski 1934-MN-006340, Frank Rafinski 1933-MN-002269, MHS, St. Paul

<sup>8</sup>SS-5 Social Security Application 469-05-2797, Social Security Administration, Baltimore, MD; completed 4 December 1936 by Leo Rafinski, male, white, age 48 and employed by Oliver Iron Mining Co., born 25 March 1888 in Poland, his parents are listed as Frank Rafinski and Lucia Bednerski.

back suggesting I contact Adele Sopa, another PGS-MN and KA-NA member. Adele's reply gave me the direction I needed. She suggested I check Lešno parish records as she had run across the Ziwicki surname; she even provided the LDS microfilm number for the records. The records in question are on permanent loan at the Bloomington LDS Library and I was able to review them in 2001. Low and behold, there was the baptismal record for my great-grandfather, Leon Rafinski,<sup>9</sup> born 25 March 1888 in Lešno, West Prussia to Franz Rafinski and Luiyo Bednarska. His godparents were Joseph Rorek and Elisabeth Rorek. The birth of another son, Joseph born 9 September 1886 at Główczewice to Franz Rafinski and Lucia Bednarska; his godparents were Jakob Bednarski and Roselia Bednarska. It is likely Joseph died before the family immigrated to the U.S.; however no record of his death was found. Nor was a record of the birth of son John Rafinski in January 1890 found in the records.

The birth of three and death of two children of Magdalena Bednarska and Lorenz Zywicki are recorded in Lešno Parish, Bydgoszcz Province, West Prussia registers microfilmed by the LDS library. Lucia Bednarska, sister of Magdalena, is recorded as the godmother to Albrech, born 18 April 1880 at Główczewice, Bydgoszcz, West Prussia. Over three years later, the birth of daughter Marianna at Kaszuba, Bydgoszcz, West Prussia on 28 December 1883 is recorded in parish records. Albrech would die the following March with Marianna dying in April. Son Franz Zywicki was born 24 January 1885 at Kaszuba; his godparents were Jacob Bednarski and Lucia Bednarska.

While there is no direct proof that Lucy Rafinski and Magdalena Ziwicki are sisters, there is evidence of a close relationship based on Lucy's being godmother to two of Magdalena's children born in Poland; both women share the same surname in parish records. Evidence of a relationship is suggested by the land sale to Frank Ziwicki that includes the provision of produce to

<sup>9</sup>Family History Center Microfilm #1618633, Bloomington Branch of LDS Library

the Rafinskis and the anecdotal stories of my Great-uncle Tony and Stella Kosziek. The sister relationship would also explain why Lucy was planning to return to Foley following the death of her husband Frank.

I have tried to close some of the loopholes in the anecdotal stories provided by relatives. I was able to confirm that Magdalena and Lorenz Ziwicki's daughter Mary married Edward Neidzielski and is likely the Mary Negelski of my grandmother's recollection. While Mary and Edward could not have sponsored Frank and Lucy's emigration, she was likely cousin to Leo Rafinski and lived in Palmer for several years and it is likely she corresponded with Leo and Theresa Rafinski. The date Uncle Tony gave for Lucy's sister, Mary, agrees with the birth year for Magdalena Ziwicki and Mary is a Latinized version of Magdalena. As to two Bednarski brothers serving in the Honor Guard of Kaiser Wilhelm, who knows? I am told there are many draft-avoidance stories that immigrants gave as a reason for their emigration and that there is not support for these stories.

There is little to support the belief that Lucy and Frank bore three sons in Poland as the 1920 U.S. census records Lucy as the mother of three with two living children. Magdalena is recorded as the mother of eight with four still living. Between the two sisters there were four deaths, only two being in Leśno records.

Last, following the September 20, 2003 presentation to PGS-MN by Ceil Jensen, I sent to the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division a request for maps of Głowczewice, and Kaszuba, West Prussia. They sent a very nice collection of maps, free of charge, just as Ceil had said they would.



**Głowczewice**

**Leśno**

**Kaszuba**

**Location of Villages  
Discovered by the  
Author's Research  
Scale: 1:400,000)  
Source: *RV Reise- und  
Verkehrsverlag* and  
*Kartographie: Geo Data,*  
1995-96**

My first foray trying to “cross the pond” to find my Polish ancestors’ place of origin was quite circuitous, and certainly was not helped by my naiveté of the language, geography, or genealogical research practices in general. I am grateful for the generous and professional help of PGS-MN members, as well as the leadership of the board in providing educational programs and speakers who spurred on my efforts. Thank you to all who make up the society.

Leo and Theresa Rafinski and Daughters Helen (baby) and Mary ca. 1913 →

Lorenz and Magdalena Zwicky and Lucy and Frank Rafinski ca. Late 1920s or 1930 ↓



*©Ziewiatzki's - RAFINSKIS*

**Articles about Silesia, Silesian  
Immigration and Silesian Settlement in  
Minnesota and in the U.S.**

Published in the  
*Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota  
Newsletter*

V. 2, No. 3 (Autumn 1994):

Kulas, Paul Theodore. "Polish Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis" (This issue: "Rural Polish Churches in the Archdiocese." Includes: Church of Saint Mary of Czestochowa and Church of Saint Joseph, Delano—home to many Polish Silesian immigrants). pp. 5-8.

V. 4, No. 4 (Winter 1996-97):

Prokott, Robert. "Silesia to America—A Heritage: Polish Silesian Settlement in Central Minnesota." pp. 8-9.

V. 5, No. 2 (Summer 1997):

"Panna Maria, Texas: The Oldest Polish Settlement in America" (Panna Maria was a Polish Silesian settlement). pp 12-13.

V. 5, No. 4 (Winter 1997-98):

Gazda, Dr. Gregory J. "Relatives in Browerville???" (about the Polish Silesian settlement in Browerville, Minnesota). p. 7.

V. 6, No. 1 (Spring 1998):

McOuat, Harry. "Back to Square One: A Return to Silesia." pp. 14-15.

V. 6, No. 2 (Summer 1998):

Kulas, Paul. "Origins of the JAKUBIK, SOBOSZCZYK and PLUSKWIK Surnames" (about the Silesian origins of these surnames). pp. 6-7.

V. 6, No. 4 (Winter 1998-99):

Prokott, Robert. "The Legacy of Andreas KLESCZ" (about the Silesian origins and U.S. descendants of Andreas Kleszcz). p. 9.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Records of Six Stearns County Catholic parishes are located in Opole" (Re: Records of Catholic parishes located in

Holdingsford, St. Anna, Arban, St. Wendell and Opole—home to many Polish Silesian immigrants). p. 9.

V. 7, No. 1 (Spring 1999):

Brandt, Ed. "New Films of Opole Diocese." p. 22.

V. 7, No. 3 (Autumn 1999):

Kulas, Paul. "Origins of the WARZECHA surname." pp. 10-11.

McOuat, Harry. "Full Circle: Polish Catholics in Browerville, Minnesota." pp. 8-10.

V. 7, No. 4 (Winter 1999-2000):

Bias, Jeanette. "A Dream Come True" (Re: Jan Bias's visit to Silesia). pp. 20-22.

V. 8, No. 1 (Spring 2000):

Prokott, Robert. J. "Tracing Silesian Roots." p 6.

V. 8, No. 2 (Summer 2000):

Kishel, Greg. Review of *Polonian Settlements in Texas: An Illustrated Chronology*, compiled by Earl James Lasworth and of *Silesian Profiles: Polish Immigration to Texas in the 1850s*, by the Silesian Profiles Committee. pp. 16-17.

V. 8, No. 3 (Autumn 2000):

Bias, Jeanette. "How Many Cousins Were in Your 8<sup>th</sup> grade Class: Silesian Polish settlement in south central Minnesota." pp. 1, 8-13.

Kishel, Greg. "From *Słownik geograficzny*: Homeland of the Polish Pioneers of Wells: Syców and selected nearby villages." pp. 14-18.

V. 8, No. 4 (Winter 2000-01):

Kruchowski, Lou. "A Return to the Homeland of my Ancestors: (Re: Lou Kruchowski's visit to Silesia). pp. 18-19.

Kulas Paul. "Origin of the MATROS surname." pp. 12-13.

Prokott, Robert. "The OPATZ surname in America" (about the Silesian origins and U.S. descendants of the Opatz surname). pp. 14-15.

V. 10, No. 1 (Spring 2002):

Prokott, Robert. "A Silesian experience" (Re: Bob Prokott's visit to Silesia). pp. 1, 10-14.

V. 10, No. 1 (Spring 2002)

Kulas, Paul. "Origins of the STENZEL/STENCEL and the LAMUSGA/LAMUSZGA surnames." pp. 14-15.

V. 10, Nos. 3&4 (Autum 2002, Winter 2002-03):

Kaminsky, Friedrich. "Opole, Homeland-Chronicle; For City and Province—1936: Emigration to America from the District of Opole 70 Years Ago." pp. 18-23.

V. 11, No. 1 (Spring 2003):

Brandt, Ed. "Stenzel, Silesia, etc." pp. 7-6.

V. 11, No. 3 (Autumn 2003):

Kishel, Greg. "Drobne Echa, Dateline: Delano" (about the Polish Silesian settlement in Delano, MN). pp. 12-16.

V. 12, No. 2 (Summer 2004):

Bias, J.M. "Origins of the BIAS, KUROPKA, STALOCH and PIETROK surnames." pp. 10-12.

V. 12, No. 3 (Autumn 2004):

Bias, J.M. "Origins of the WANZEK, KOZITZA/KOZICA, DULAS, and GLOWIK surnames." pp. 15-16.

\_\_\_\_\_. "An explanation about the Province of Silesia." p. 17.

V. 13, No. 1 (Spring 2005):

Bias, J.M. "Researching Trębaczków" (about Jan Bias's genealogical research trip to Trębaczków in Silesia). pp. 1, 14-15.

**Note:** Back issues of the newsletter are available for purchase. Cost is \$4.00 per issue except the issues in **bold letters** which are on sale to members for \$2.00. Order from: Paul Kulas, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316. Send check or money order payable to "PGS-MN."

**Queries ...continued from page 5**

Her husband Peter was born 9/6/1886 in the U.S.A. His parents are Martin or Marcin Gabrelczyk (which is how it is spelled at St. Mary's Church in Franklin Township). Martin was born in 1851 in Silesia. His wife, Elizabeth KOZIAL was born 10/29/1859. Elizabeth's parents were Frank Albert KOZIAL and Marya/Maria KLIMEK. It is commonly said that Martin was from Opole, but what does that mean really, as Opole is the province capital. Most people from Delano supposedly were from just north

of the city--from the parish of Czarnowazy. There are a lot of little towns surrounding the parish. Also mentioned as a place of origin is Brinnitz (Bryncia) and the small towns around it. I honestly don't know where the Gabrelcik family came from. I have seen reference to the Koziol name in Luginian. The SALONEK name is tied into our family through Elizabeth Koziol's sister, Mary Magdalena. The Saloneks are from Brynica. Our family is also distantly related to the GALLUS and FLOREK (from Biadacz?) families. I am sorry if I gave you some trivial background but maybe relating to other names can point to other places of origin in Poland. I am definitely interested in any genealogy society materials on the Opole area, and Delano with Franklin township information.

Jason Franzen <edrahil\_jf@yahoo.com>

*I forwarded this message to our Silesian expert, Bob Prokott, for a response which follows: I have no information on the persons mentioned in this e-mail, however, am aware that there were many people named PURKOTT in the Stare Siolkowice parish which includes the villages of Chroscitz, Popielow, Kaniow, Sacken, and Blumenthal. Birth and marriage records for this parish are on films #0937161, 0937162, 0937163, and 0937164 at the LDS Family History Center. Death records are on films #0923435 and 0923436. I know that some people named Purkott migrated to America but none lived in the Morrison, Benton, Stearns County area.*

*Mr. Franzen is correct in stating that the people who migrated to the Delano area did not come from the city of Opole in Poland. They were all farmers who came from the area north of Opole and Czarnowasy is one of the parishes from which they came. I have no information on any persons named GABREL CZYK, FLOREK or SALONEK. I have relatives named GALLUS but they came from the Falkowice parish and had no relatives who settled in the Delano area. KOZIOL and KLIMEK are definitely Silesian surnames and people named Klimek settled in Morrison County, MN, also in the Independence, WI area where many Silesians settled. I would suggest that Mr. Franzen look at the Family History Center records for the Stare Siolkowice parish and at Czarnowasy parish records. I believe that he will find some information on his ancestors in either one or both of those parishes.* Bob Prokott <prokott@backpack.net>

*Drobne Echa ...continued from page 1*

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*From the issue of February 2, 1888:*

MR. J. WONS, the former organist and teacher in the Polish school in St. Paul, is setting up a first-class hotel in Little Falls, Minn., in partnership with another citizen.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of March 15, 1888:*

### A POLISH HOTEL.

Little Falls, March 8, 1888

Dear Master Editor!

Traveling from Washington to Buffalo, I stopped at the city of Little Falls Minnesota. And because the hour was late, I stopped for the night at a hotel and at the closest one, the so-called *Merchants Hotel*, located on the corner of the main streets that are in the very center of the city.

At first I took a seat all by myself, so that I could have a little rest after a long trip. The hotel was crowded and lively chatting was going on; close to the same entrance stood three Americans, gazing at some sort of picture hanging on the wall. Interested in what it was, I looked--and there was a picture of our hero KOŚCIUSZKO. I looked further and saw pictures of SOBIESKI, PONIATOWSKI, and others among our national heroes!

You can imagine my joy, dear Master Editor; because I thought to myself, if Americans foreign to us are hanging up such pictures as a token of remembrance, then we Poles should recognize that we mean something after all, and that if only we could work in harmony instead of quarreling, we would follow the example of our brave patriots KOŚCIUSZKO, SOBIESKI, PUŁASKI, and many others, who worked selflessly for the national cause and who even were not afraid to risk their lives for the good of their fellow citizens.

It made me joyful in my heart that I happened upon such a place; and I inquired about the proprietor of the hotel, in order to let him know that I was a Pole

as well. Thus I went to the office and I asked in broken English, where I might be able to find the proprietor. To which I received the answer: "*Right here!*"<sup>1</sup>

He must have recognized my face as that of a Pole, because he smiled and he asked: "Surely you are a Pole?"

"Indeed I am," I answered, "I am indeed a Pole, my name is SUWALSKI." "And I am WONS," answered the affable proprietor; and thus introduced to each other we began to chat. From our talk, I found out that Mr. WONS is an excellent patriot, because he convinced me of the imperative need to belong to the Polish National Alliance, because otherwise the national cause will never be promoted effectively and it will not be advanced in position.

Thank you, Esteemed Countryman, for not being ashamed to display the images of our valiant patriots on the walls of the hotel. Thank you, that you are not ashamed of Polish nationality, and thank you, that you are working for the national interest, supporting the [Polish National] Alliance.

Mr. WONS, as I later learned, is in partnership with another citizen, ZOŁTKOWSKI. His hotel is first class, and countrymen whose travel happens to bring them to Little Falls, should want to pay him a visit, if they are upright people who understand their own interests and through that are Poles in heart and soul.

Long live our countrymen in Little Falls, Minn.!

Antoni SUWALSKI.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of August 23, 1888:*

IN ST. PAUL, MINN., THEY SAY THAT THE FORMER LOCAL ORGANIST Mr. WAŚ, who later operated a hotel in Little Falls in partnership with our countryman MILLER, has already withdrawn from that partnership, because the hotel was not able to support two families.

<sup>1</sup>*Transl. note:* Given in English, in the original.

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*From the issue of September 20, 1888:*

JAN WONS has moved from Little Falls, Minn. to Polonia, in the State of Wisconsin. Polonia is a purely Polish agricultural settlement with around 800 families. There is a Polish Orphanage there under the care of the Felician Sisters.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of March 7, 1889:*

*From Little Falls, Minn., to the farms of which an emigration of our countrymen from Winona is now headed, our subscriber Mr. WRÓBLEWSKI writes:*

Our village of Little Falls is booming. Soon in the coming year great *water power* (a dam) will be built on the bank of the Mississippi River, and together with it a canal, on which two large mills have been built; and in the upcoming summer the capitalists from the East will be building various factories. We already have two railroads here, and a 3rd and 4th will be built in the spring, and the terminus of one division will be here. Thus whoever is not able to get work there in Winona, should come here; and I think he would be able to find work enough in the sawmills and other places.

They are paying common laborers from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per day here, and carpenters 2 and a half to 3 dollars--brickmasons 3 to 5 dollars, and the same to police officers. At present they are building most of all from brick here, because there are 3 brick-kilns already here, which are making pressed brick.

No one need fear robbers here, because when someone steals something, immediately he is punished heavily. Just now two murderers sit in our *county jail*; one certainly will not evade the gallows.

The farms in the area are still inexpensive to buy, from the vicinity of the Polish parish in Swan River almost all the way up to our city. Here in the city land is expensive and the lots are going for dreadfully high prices.

Address Mr. WRÓBLEWSKI.

*August Robel*  
Little Falls, Morrison Co., Minn.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of March 13, 1890:*

In LITTLE FALLS, Minn., Mr. A. WRÓBLEWSKI has real estate in town for sale as well as 40 acres of land under the plow, only 1 ½ miles from town.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of June 26, 1890:*

Our little city is growing rather larger. Now they are beginning to build a large paper mill and a flour works, a factory for doors and frames, and others still will have to be built in a short time. We are also obtaining a fourth railroad line to Duluth, Minn. We already have electric light and presently they are installing water through the whole city and they are manufacturing the so-called water cranes for the railroads.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of April 16, 1891:*

FROM LITTLE FALLS, Minn., they inform us once more, that Mr. MROZEK wants to break company with WINCENT, well known in Winona, who will surely be returning to Winona. We do not have anything at all against him; on the contrary, it would gladden us, if we were rid of one enemy in Little Falls. On the other hand Mr. WINCENT is disposed towards us as an enemy, from coarse jealousy, of that we have proof in hand; while this sheep-dog is known in the newspapers as a wolf unto the stars, he disparages *Wiarus* wherever he can. May he only be on guard, lest *Wiarus* pour more hot lard under his collar.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of April 24, 1891*

IN LITTLE FALLS, Minn., *Wiarus* is displayed in only one saloon, that of Mr. Franciszek KUKLIŃSKI. We are raising this so that faithful patriots know where our friends are, and so that they do not support those who scorn true patriots, and who suppress patriotic Polish newspapers.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of May 29, 1891:*

Mrs. DRAŹKOWSKA, the wife of Franciszek DRAŹKOWSKI, made her way with her children on Saturday to her husband to Little Falls, where he has established a new business.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of March 31, 1892:*

*From Little Fall,*<sup>2</sup> Minn., where the citizens of Winona have many acquaintances, we are informed that saloon-keeping there is going very well for Mr. Franciszek KUKLIŃSKI. According to his mother-in-law Mrs. Augustyna BRZESZEK, he is doing particularly good business in his public hotel (*boarding house*). Mr. Wincenty LÓRBIECKI has taken ill from a nasty case of the influenza.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of October 13, 1892:*

LITTLE FALLS, Minn., October 30.<sup>3</sup> – On October 1 a horrible crime was committed in the region nearby. – Two scoundrels, Alex GRAVEL and Nicholas CASA, attacked a certain farmer, whom the Poles here called Gust ERTMAN, when he was going to his house on the road from Little Falls to Rich Prairie, and they stabbed him to death with knives. The perpetrators have already been caught. – August ERTMAN is said to have been born in Princeton, Wis., where he is supposed to have a father, four brothers and two sisters. His mother died when he was still a little boy. He was 27 years old at the time. He said that his parents were Poles. He left a pregnant wife and two children, in poverty-stricken circumstances.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Also from the issue of October 13, 1892:*

POLES in Morrison County, in Minnesota, do not listen to the betraying voice of the Republican

Pharisees, and unanimously vote Democratic on November 8.

As we have already written, the Democratic candidate for the office of guardian's judge<sup>4</sup> there is the attorney Mr. Donatus TRETTEL. All Poles should give their backing to him, as to one of their own. Mr. TRETTEL has lived in Morrison County for 15 years, and when all is said and done he is known there as a man in the prime of life, good and honorable. Up to now the Polish people have never been represented in the higher offices in Morrison County, though there are 600 Polish voters there, one-third of all voters in the county. Thus let it be the case that an educated man, forthrightly standing out as a Pole, rises to an office through the aid of Polish votes.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of December 8, 1892:*

In the local *powiat* Morrison Co., the whole Democratic ticket got elected, with the exception of one county commissioner. Not in vain did *Wiarus* give its backing to our countryman, Mr. Donato TRETŁO. He was elected as guardian's judge without a hitch.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of September 7, 1893:*

### **First Rites.**

Little Falls, Minn.  
31 August.

On Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of the current month Father August DRAŹKOWSKI, son of the greatly esteemed merchant Mr. Franciszek DRAŹKOWSKI, celebrated his first offering of holy Mass in the local Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. At 10:00 a.m. the new minister was introduced to the church—in a procession, in which marched the choir, the Society of St. Joseph and the White Eagle Society, as well as the women's society of St. Mary. The priests and a little girl in white also came in the procession.

<sup>2</sup>*Transl. note:* Thus in original.

<sup>3</sup>*Transl. note:* Date per original (obviously a mistake).

<sup>4</sup>*Transl. note:* This is a literal translation from the Polish text. The actual office was that of judge of probate. See closing text *infra*.



After the singing of *Veni Creator* the new pastor DRAŹKOWSKI celebrated Mass with the assistance of Fr. RICHTER from St. Cloud as deacon, Fr. Józef CIEMIŃSKI from Winona as subdeacon, as well as his own parish priest Fr. RASTER. After the bloodless offering the church choir sang most beautifully, with the accompaniment of an orchestra.

After Mass Fr. DRAŹKOWSKI was escorted with his guests to the Germania Hall, where an abundant dinner had been set.

For today's first rites the following, among others, were guests: Mr. and Mrs. ANDRZEJEWSKI, Mr. and Mrs. KEMPA, and Mr. and Mrs. KUBISZEWSKI from Milwaukee, as well as Mr. and Mrs. KRECZA and Józef WAŃCZEWSKI from Winona.

Fr. DRAŹKOWSKI will leave here directly for Winona, and after that to Milwaukee, where he will take his own ministry as an ordained priest for the Milwaukee archdiocese.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of February 22, 1894:*

In the local hotel of Mr. Franciszek KUKLIŃSKI guests are always warmly entertained and obligingly treated. Every possible convenience for farmers.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of September 16, 1897:*

THE FORMER Winonan organist Wawrzyniec GŁOWACKI and his son Max (a teacher!) have both finally found jobs. The first is the organist at the newly-built Polish church in Little Falls, Minn., the second is not far from his father—at the Polish church in Swan River, Minn.

The residence house of Mr. DRAŹKOWSKI in Little Falls, Minn. was consumed by fire on the

morning of September 3. All household furnishings were burned, and also those of his relatives who were living with him, Jan DRAŹKOWSKI, Franciszek KNOPIK and Piotr MILLER. Mr. DRAŹKOWSKI was well insured. This is the same Franciszek DRAŹKOWSKI who was the owner of *Wiarus* for a certain time at the beginning of its existence.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of January 12, 1899:*

**Hotel  
FOR SALE.**

The widow Mrs. Józefa KUKLIŃSKA, in the small town of Little Falls, Minn., intends to sell her hotel and restaurant, together with its stables for the farmers, right by the marketplace—only a block from the principal buildings of the city, the post office, the city hall and the municipal court.

Mainly Polish farmers reside around Little Falls, who for the most part are well-off.

Whoever would have a wish to buy, apply at the address:

Józefa KUKLIŃSKA

Little Falls, Minn.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of May 4, 1899:*

LITTLE FALLS, Minn. – Mr. Franciszek DĄBEK from Perham, Minn., a subscriber to *Wiarus*, has established a first-class saloon and *boarding-house*. – Mr. & Mrs. SZREWIER (SCHREBER) have also moved to our city, from Warsaw in North Dakota, and have purchased a full half-block here, with a hotel and saloon, but they regret that they did not buy the hotel from Mrs. KUKLIŃSKA. They still want to buy property here for their two sons.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of May 18, 1899:*

### Where is Anna KARPIŃSKA?

She descends from Małe Szwornogacy, from the parish of Konarzyna: She has lived in America 15 years. Whoever knows where she now abides, give the below undersigned to know that, and he will send the highest heartfelt thanks.

Józef DOMYSZ

Little Falls, Minn.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of May 10, 1900:*

In LITTLE FALLS, Minn., the Poles are actually building two churches at the same time, at two opposite ends of the city, although together with the surrounding Polish farms, only 100 Polish families live there. Sixty families are enrolled in the first church, forty in the second. This second one, on the south side, is supposed to be an independent parish, under the administration of Fr. WAWRZYKOWSKI, who left the hospital long ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of October 3, 1901:*

**LITTLE FALLS, Minn.,**

September 30, 1901

I hereby announce on the pages of *Wiarus*, that the Polish church in Little Falls, Minn. under the patronage of St. Wojciech the Bishop will be consecrated on October 6.

At 10:00 the Mass of *suma coram episcopo* will be celebrated, during which the Rev. Fr. Z. SUSZCZYŃSKI from Swan River will deliver the sermon. After the Mass the Most Rev. Bishop TROBEC will bless the church and bell, which he will do as founder, and Mr. Franciszek SOBOLEWSKI will be present as principal patron as well. To the aid and accompaniment of the invited guests will be the Reverend Pastors Fr. Z.

SUSZCZYŃSKI from Swan River, who will come together with a procession from his own parish; moreover Fr. Szymon DĄBROWSKI from St. Anna, who will deliver the sermon for Vespers; and the neighboring Reverend Fathers from Little Falls, from the German and French parishes, and Fr. A. RASTER from Millerville. All of the neighboring parishes that may be interested, such as those in Swan River, Flensburg, North Prairie, Alberta etc., are invited to participate in this solemnity.

Fr. Jan Stefan GUZDEK.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From the issue of August 24, 1905:*

### From the visit of Archbishop J. E. Symon.

Little Falls, Minn.

On the special invitation of the most reverend Bishop TROBEC from St. Cloud, the Most Reverend Archbishop SYMON was a welcome guest in Little Falls. The Rev. Fr. J. REKOSIAK, the pastor of the local parish, went to St. Cloud, Minn. for His Excellency. – On August 1 at 1:30 a.m. Archbishop SYMON arrived at the rectory of St. Wojciech's Church in the company of our pastor T. REKOSIAK and the reverend priests: D. MAJER, J. DUDEK, BEŁZOWSKI, GOSPADAR, PŁAECHTA, KOTOWSKI and SUSZCZYŃSKI. There the sister of the Rev. Fr. T. REKOSIAK came forward with a poem in welcome of Archbishop SYMON, and had gathered him a bouquet of carnations. His Excellency thanked her and gave her a medal and a blessing; and first of all he had asked if he could speak in Polish.

On August 2 at 8:00 in the morning, the Archbishop celebrated Mass. The Societies and the children in white gathered before the rectory; in the company of the priests they ushered Archbishop SYMON to the church, which had been beautifully decorated for those services. When they came out of the rectory guns were fired and bells rung by way of greeting to Archbishop SYMON. The Most Rev. Archbishop celebrated Mass in the company of Fr.

BELZOWSKI as deacon and Fr. PŁAECHTA as subdeacon, as well as Fathers MAJER, GOSPODAR, DUDEK, and KITOWSKI. After Mass Archbishop SYMON gave a beautiful speech; he encouraged us to use the Polish language so we would not forget it and urged us that we should likewise love our Pastor because he is a good priest. Our whole parish took pride that we had the Polish Archbishop among ourselves; and we thank our pastor for inviting him to come to us, and also all of the Reverend Priests and especially Archbishop SYMON that he deigned to come and visit us. Here as well we are already Americanized (so they say about us) but we still pray in Polish; and now by all this we will remember and preserve our Polish identity. Long may the above-described solemnity stay in our memory.

K. L.

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*From the issue of November 2, 1905:*

LITTLE FALLS. Minn. Through relatives and friends here in America as well as in the old country, we send word herewith, that the late Antoni DOMYSZ left this world on September 16 of the current year. The deceased was born in Wielki Konarzyny in Polish Prussia in 1834; he came to America in 1887. He left a bereaved wife, Weronika, and six children: Józef, Aleksander, Franciszka, Paulina, Petronella and Katarzyna. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

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*From the issue of January 18, 1906:*

We had a wickerwork party here, from which the earnings were allocated to the church. We had around \$60.00 of profit, and more merriment besides; some baskets picked up \$5.50. Mr. Adam TRAFAR did a very good business.

Mrs. KUKLIŃSKA had her own home here, which she rented out on a lease for several years after the death of her husband, and she had been living alone

in Melrose. Now she has moved back to Little Falls once again, and things are going well for her because her son Otton has taken a teaching position in Opole and her daughter, Serafina, is in St. Anna. Both of these places are not far removed from Little Falls. So much for today.

A SUBSCRIBER.

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*From the issue of November 22, 1906:*

In the parish of St. Wojciech in Little Falls, Minn., where the pastor is the Rev. Fr. Teodor J. REKOSIAK, confirmation was performed. The following Reverend Fathers arrived on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the current month to help our parish priest in the hearing of confessions: Fr. Prelate Dominik MAJER, Monsignor Fr. August GOSPODAR, Fr. Kazimierz KOBYLŃSKI, Fr. Józef DUDEK, Fr. Floryan MATUSZEWSKI, Fr. Jan BELZOWSKI.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00, the Most Reverend Bishop Jakób TROBEC celebrated a solemn Mass with the assistance of archdeacon Fr. Prelate Dominik MAJER, two deacons and two subdeacons. The first deacon was Fr. Jan GUZDEK, and the second was Monsignor August GOSPODAR; the first subdeacon was Fr. Józef DUDEK and the second Fr. Jan BELZOWSKI, the ceremonialist was Fr. Floryan MATUSZEWSKI; besides the above-named priests the Rev. Fr. J.P. ALTENDORF was present. A sermon was preached in Polish by Fr. Kazimierz KOBYLŃSKI, and in English by Bishop Jakób TROBEC. 87 people took part in confirmation; but we should not be surprised that the number is so small, because the parish was scarcely started when Fr. T. J. REKOSIAK assumed it; it numbered 90 families, there was not yet a rectory and Mass was celebrated on only one Sunday a month. Now the parish numbers one hundred fifty families, there is already a beautiful rectory, and the church was faced in brick this year, at a cost of 1000 dollars. We lack only a school; the children must go to the public (that is, the German) school.

If the Lord aids us and our pastor, we will also have our own school within a year. And we thank all of the reverend priests, who helped our pastor in the hearing of confessions. We thank our pastor as well: *Bóg zapłać*.

*One of those present.*

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*From the issue of August 11, 1910:*

LITTLE FALLS, Minn. The Grunwald anniversary was solemnly observed on Sunday in St. Cloud. Delegations of the Polish societies came from Little Falls, from Two Rivers, from Pike Creek, from North Prairie and from many other Polish settlements in Stearns County. Bishop James TROUBEC celebrated the Mass. A solemn march was conducted next, and then there was a banquet with numerous speeches by prominent local Poles.

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As you have seen, this batch of correspondence is both lively and filled with content, with a good mix of subjects both secular and sacred. These are most (though probably not quite all) of the reports from Little Falls that *Wiarus/Katolik* published during its run.

I was especially interested in the early prominence of Polish-Americans in the local business and professional community. Counselor TRETTEL, for instance, was surely among the first Polish-born licensed attorneys in the state of Minnesota.<sup>5</sup> As we

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<sup>5</sup>TRETTEL is identified as Polish-born in one of the major histories of Morrison County. "Bench and Bar of Morrison County," Chapter XIII in Clara K. Fuller, *History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota: Their People, Industries and Institutions* (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., Inc., 1915), v. I, at p. 126. He prepared for his profession by reading law in the offices of C.A. LINDBERGH, *id.*, the latter serving later as a Member of Congress (1907-1923) and being the father of "Lucky Lindy," Charles Lindbergh, Jr. For a time TRETTEL served as judge of the county probate court, undoubtedly as elected per our *Wiarus* report. *Id.* See also "Morrison County--Its Lawyers," in Harold L. Fisher, *The Land Called Morrison* (St. Cloud: Volkmuth Printing Co., 2d rev. ed. 1976), p. 129.

see, Polish-Americans also were prominent in the hotel trade in Little Falls, when it was a bustling and rapidly-growing railroad nexus.<sup>6</sup> Poles also became very active in the retail sector; they included the KOSLOWSKY family with their long-running Victor Clothing Company.<sup>7</sup> Given the proximity of several hundred Polish families on farms in northern Morrison County, these proprietors must have done good business when their *rodacy* brought grain to the mills and railroad elevators in Little Falls.<sup>8</sup>

For our genealogically-minded readers who actually have roots in northern Morrison County, this selection names places of origin in the Polish lands in Europe, for a couple of the local families. This was a relative rarity in *Wiarus*'s local Minnesota reportage.<sup>9</sup>

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As to Democrat TRETTEL's election victory over a long-seated Republican incumbent, see Morrison County *Democrat*, Nov. 5, 1892, p. 1 and Nov. 12, 1892, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup>See Fuller, *History of Morrison and Todd Counties*, v. I, p. 181, for the identities of the several railroad lines and spurs that came together at Little Falls.

<sup>7</sup>See *Rolnik*, September 26, 1913, p. 8, for a write-up on this shop and the large new store building that made it the most prominent men's clothier in early-20th century Little Falls.

<sup>8</sup>Fuller notes that flour milling--using those same "little falls" for their power--joined lumber milling and the brickyards we have just read about, as Little Falls' main in-town industries. *History of Morrison and Todd Counties*, v. I, pp. 194-197.

<sup>9</sup>More recently, I discovered another, for one of the more prominent members of the Polonia of Little Falls--Franciszek DRAŻKOWSKI, who had served as the first editor of *Wiarus* before he moved to Little Falls to take up the grocer's trade. DRAŻKOWSKI's death announcement, published in Milwaukee's *Kuryer Polski*, April 2, 1907, p. 4, states that he "came to America from Łęg, in the 20th year of his life," settling straightaway in Winona and residing there for "a long time" before moving to Little Falls around 1890.

Then we have the complex parochial history of the Roman Catholic community in Little Falls, as to which our Polish correspondents give a brief hint. The first Roman Catholic parish in Little Falls, initially named San Salvador/Holy Redeemer and later renamed St. Francis Xavier, was founded in 1867, for a congregation mostly composed of French Canadians. In 1886, more recent German-speaking arrivals split off to form Sacred Heart parish, named in our September 7, 1893 *Wiarus* report. After that, Polish-Americans in both of these parishes resolved to found a church where they could worship and receive the sacraments in their own language; thus St. Adalbert's/St. Wojciech's, the dedication of which is reported in our October 3, 1901 *Wiarus* piece.<sup>10</sup> The rapidly-growing St. Adalbert's became the city's largest Catholic parish in 1910-1920.<sup>11</sup>

It seems that the Little Falls *rodacy* had the Polish-American tendency toward fractiousness, however.<sup>12</sup> This eventually led in one direction to

<sup>10</sup>The dedication of St. Adalbert's was reported in the several local English-language newspapers. See Morrison County *Democrat*, Oct. 10, 1901, p. 1; Little Falls *Herald*, Oct. 4, 1901, p. 1 and Oct. 11, 1901, p. 1; Little Falls *Daily Transcript*, Oct. 7, 1901, p. 3. The Morrison County *Democrat* quoted the praise that Bishop TROBEC had for the Little Falls Poles, who "with small numbers and limited means, erected such a fine church building." For more detail on the organization of St. Adalbert's, see "History of St. Mary's Church," accessible at <[www.stclouddiocese.org/parishes](http://www.stclouddiocese.org/parishes)> [viewed May 5, 2007].

<sup>11</sup>See "Little Falls--St. Mary," in Vincent A. Yzermans, *The Spirit in Central Minnesota: A Centennial Narrative of the Church of St. Cloud 1889-1989* (St. Cloud: The Diocese of St. Cloud, 1989), v. II, pp. 671-673.

<sup>12</sup>In his short treatment of Little Falls, Father Kruszka observed in 1908: "Little Falls should have had a church a long time ago. They began to build two churches at the same time. The issue was where the church was to stand, and there was some quarrel over this, so the bishop was brought in as judge and he went along with the majority. Out of anger, the losing side did not want to contribute a

the founding of a Polish National Catholic parish that had a brief life, from 1928-1932.<sup>13</sup> In another, it led to the founding of Our Lady of Lourdes parish across the Mississippi River, on the west side of Little Falls. Its first congregation was a group of 120 families from that side of the city, who "felt it was too far and inconvenient for them and their children, especially during the winter months, to cross the bridge."<sup>14</sup>

penny towards the construction." Waclaw Kruszka, *A History of the Poles in America to 1908, Part IV: Poles in the Central and Western States* (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2001), p. 128. This may be a variant reference to the competing construction projects noted in our *Wiarus* report of May 10, 1900. (Perhaps the prospective non-Roman affiliation cited in this report was a development from the Bishop's decision. But apparently this early project for a second Polish parish fizzled out after that.)

<sup>13</sup>So far, my only hard evidence on the tiny Sacred Heart of Jesus PNC parish in Little Falls is the "Church History Form" for it, dated April 28, 1940, that was completed for the WPA historical records survey in Minnesota. It is now on file at the Minnesota History Center as item 43 in the Morrison County boxes for the survey. The May 10, 1900 *Wiarus* report has that cryptic mention of plans for a Polish "independent" parish in Little Falls. In Polish-language newspapers of the time, this could be a code-phrase to signify a PNC parish in the making. But I have not found any indication that those plans were executed at that time...which leaves the intriguing thought that the memory of a frustrated impetus toward Polish parochial independence remained with some Little Falls Polish families for two decades or more. Does anyone out there know anything about this?

<sup>14</sup>See "Little Falls--Our Lady of Lourdes," in Yzermans, *The Spirit in Central Minnesota*, v. II, pp. 669-671. For more, see "History of Our Lady of Lourdes Church--Little Falls," again accessible at <[www.stclouddiocese.org/parishes](http://www.stclouddiocese.org/parishes)> [viewed May 5, 2007].

As the multiple Roman Catholic parishes of Little Falls were consolidated in the later 20th century, St. Adalbert's was attached to and then merged into St. Mary's parish, the successor-union of St. Francis Xavier and Sacred Heart, and its building was abandoned.<sup>15</sup> But the grand, ornate, and well-maintained structure of Our Lady of Lourdes still stands on the west side of Little Falls, supported by a large and loyal congregation. And it is still a very, very Polish place in its plaques, windows, decorations, and traditions.

This installment of *Drobne Echa* is another hefty one in length, and I certainly hope it has value for those members and readers who sprang out of the Polonia of Little Falls. Nonetheless, I have made only a sketchy first stab at documenting the history of a Polish-American community that clearly was one of Minnesota's most vibrant and interesting. *Drobne Echa* will move on to other Minnesota locales, per its mission. But we in the PGS-MN certainly invite anyone who has roots in this community to take up the reconstruction, to research Little Falls in other sources, and to write us a comprehensive narrative with a long historical scope!

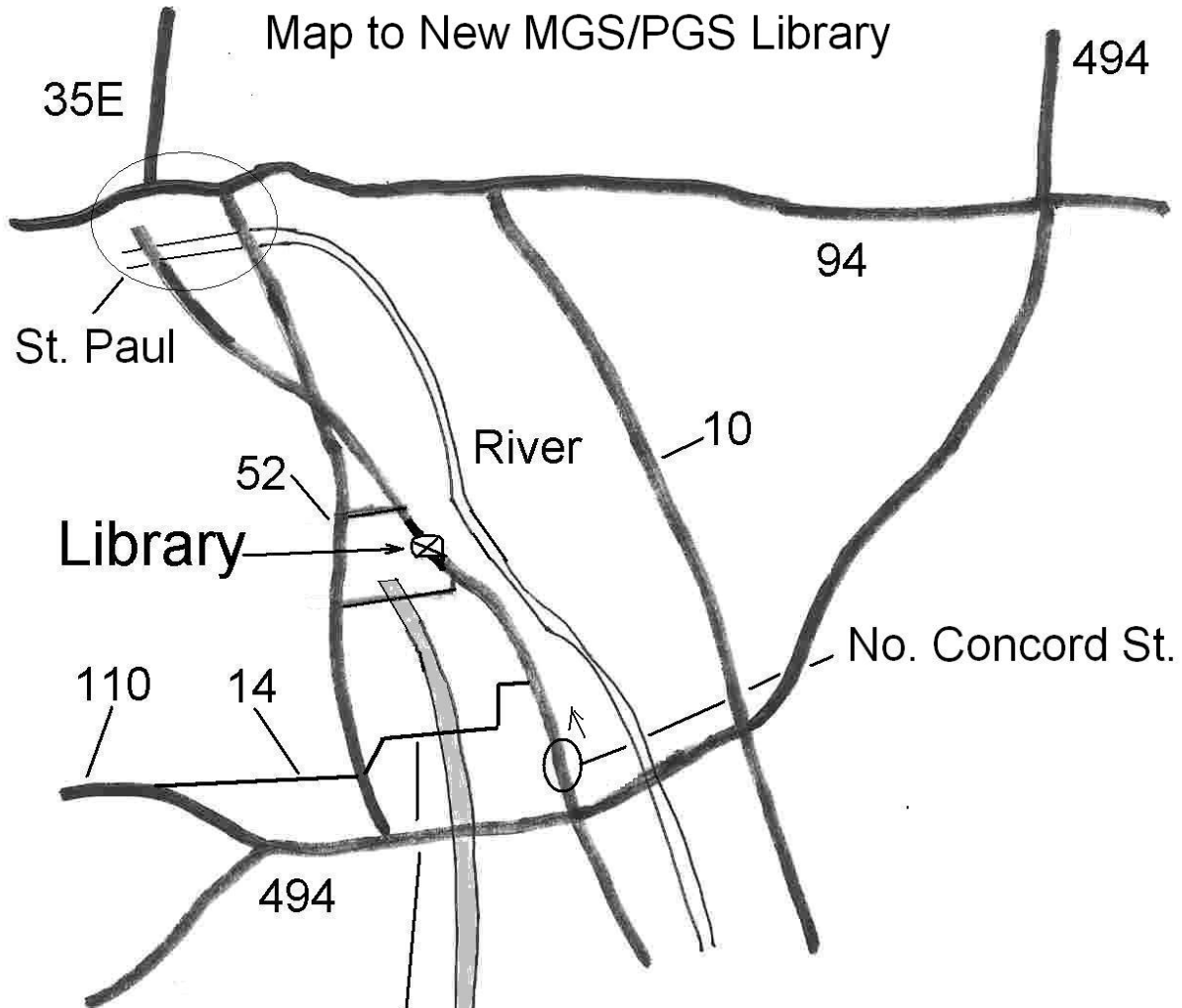
\* \* \* \* \*

**WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS:** Again, I located most of these items by using the index of Minnesota-dated correspondence in *Wiarus/Katolik* assembled some years ago by John Radziłowski, Ph.D. and now assistant professor of history at the University of Alaska--Southeast in Ketchikan. Keep in touch, John! This time I had translation help from Izabela Szalkowska Holmes, a student of mine at the UNESCO English language camp in Toruń, Poland, in 1995, and now a resident of the Baltimore area. Iza very painstakingly reviewed my draft translations of several of our longer *Wiarus* reports. She not only answered my questions as to particular words and expressions, but she (properly) challenged and corrected some of my assumptions and phrasings. Thanks, Iza! We also thank Mary Warner and Ann Marie Johnson of the Morrison County Historical Society for making available the photo of St. Adalbert's Church--the original of which was donated to the MCHS in 1979 by Val Kasparek, that society's first president.



**St. Adalbert's Church and Rectory, Little Falls, Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century**  
**Source: Morrison County Historical Society**

<sup>15</sup>See "Little Falls--St. Mary's," in Yzermans, *The Spirit in Central Minnesota*, v. II, pp. 673-674.



Southview Blvd

Detail

1185 No.  
Concord St.  
So. St. Paul  
55075-1187





### ***Surname Indexing Project--Volume 9***

We are continuing to index the surnames included in the past issues of the **PGS-MN Newsletter**. The following listing includes all surnames that appeared in Volume 9, Nos.1-4; Spring, Summer, Autumn 2001, and Winter 2001-02. The code used in this listing is as follows: the first number is the volume number, the second number is the issue number, and the third numbers are page numbers (volume:issue:page). We are indebted to Dori Marszalek for the indexing of this volume. Back issues of Volume 9 may be ordered from: Paul Kulas, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316. The cost is \$4.00 per issue. Make check payable to PGS-MN.

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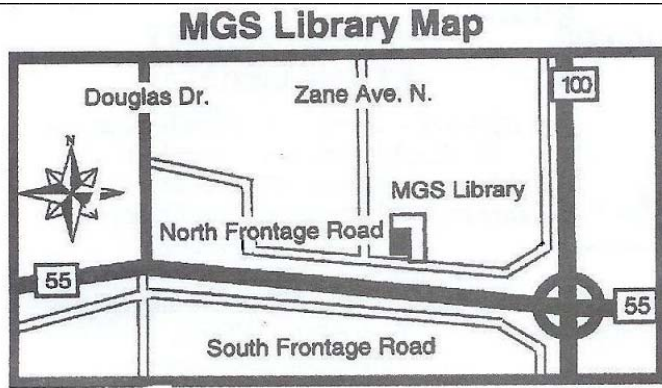
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### St. Josephat's Celebrates 100 Years

On August 5, Greg Kishel and Paul Kulas attended the CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF ST. JOSEPHAT'S POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH in Duluth, on behalf of the PGS-MN. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jan Dawidziuk, Bishop of the PNCC's Western Diocese, traveled from Chicago to Duluth to celebrate the Mass of Thanksgiving. At the dinner after Mass, Father John Kutek, who currently ministers to St. Josephat's, recognized and thanked the PGS-MN for the publication of historical materials on the 1907 founding of St. Josephat's, in the Summer 2007 issue of our newsletter. A copy of the centennial jubilee book for St. Josephat's will be deposited in the PGS-MN's Church and Local History Collection.



### **Directions to the MGS Library:**

Take Highway 55 (Olson Memorial Highway) to Douglas Drive. Go north on Douglas Drive to the north frontage road. Turn right. Follow the frontage road to the Minnesota Genealogy Center. The entrance to the rear parking lot is on the east side of the building.

### **Library Hours:**

Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9 am to 3 pm.

Tuesday and Thursday: 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

Phone: (763) 595-9347 Website: <mngs.org>

### **The library at this location will ONLY be open through Thursday October 24, 2007**

### **Missing Branches ...continued from page 36**

**Rita Rose Mauermann**, 2805 S. 33<sup>rd</sup> St., Milwaukee WI 53215-3618 is researching:

On her Paternal Side (1840s-1850s): 1. Piotr RAJEWSKI from Lasiń (Lessen) near Grudziące. 2. Anna (ARENT) RAJEWSKA from Grudziące. 3. Josef RODA (RHODA/RHODE) from Wejherowo (Neustadt). 4. Matilda (PIONEK) Rhoda (?), Gdańsk area (Danzig). 5. R. C. Bishop Pawel Piotr RHODA from Wejherowo (He left Wejherowo at 18 mos. of age after his father died of smallpox. His father was "Secretary to the Prussian Court."). Note: these above listed were from West Prussia and were Kaszubian--not German.

On her Maternal Side (around 1810-1820): 6. Wencł ZICH (ŚICH, ZYCH) from Tabor, Austrian Empire (southern Czech Republic) (the Zich name was originally Polish). 7. Weronika (JORDEK) ZICH

from Tabor. 8. Philip ZICH (ZYCH) (1840s) from Tabor or Prague, Austrian Empire (Czech Republic). 9. Anna BONK (BAK) ZYCH from Gromadno (Gromden), Bydgoszcz area, W. Prussia. 10. Antonin BONK (BAK) from Brzoże (?) near Mińsk Mazowiecki, Kingdom of Warsaw and then Gromadno. 11. Josef MROTEK from Piotrkowo--southeast of Warsaw and then Gromadno. 12. (?) STEFANEK (STEFANIAK) maybe from Gromadno too. 13. (?) MELLA (MILLA, MYŁA) not sure from where--maybe Gromadno. Note: In Polish the "Ł" sounds like an English "W."

She also has one surname from W. Prussian Poland that is Polish but sounds Italian! There is a Polish Coat of Arms for MORENDA (any help?)--probably from Gromadno (1860s).

She writes: "There seems to be confusion about 'Kaszubian'--they are Slavic--descended from a 'proto Baltic Slavic tribe'--very closely related to Polish (who are also descended from different 'tribes' ie: Polanie, Wislanie, Kujawy, etc.). Kaszubian people are not genetically German, although there have been mixed marriages and other 'influences' due to the history."

**Eunice B. Larson**, 57 Aalapapa Place, Kailua HI 96734 is researching REKOW, LUECK, MATHEWS (family from England to Poland), THOMASZEWSKI ("Thomas" Polanized) in Posin in Poland and in WI and MN.

**Dan Nedoroski**, 2470 Beverly Rd., St. Paul MN 55104-4904 <dnedoroski@aol.com> is researching BABIAK, BARNOWSKI in Barnowiec, Poland, JONECZKO in Xabowa, NEDOROSCIK in Andrejovka, Slovakia and all in Wisconsin.

**Daniel Zinda**, 1115 - 6th Ave., DeWitt IA 52742 <dbzinda@iowatelecom.net> is researching ZINDA, MADAY in Posen, BRANDYS, PIETROWSKI in Krakow and all in Minnesota and Chicago, IL.



*Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota*

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society  
5768 Olson Memorial Highway  
Golden Valley MN 55422

**POLISH NIGHT  
AT THE LIBRARY**

PGS-MN's **Polish Collection** (books and maps) is located at the MGS Library, 5768 Olson Memorial Highway (Highway 55) in Golden Valley (see map and directions to the library on page 34). "Polish night at the library" continues on the **second Thursday of the month** from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

One of our experienced genealogists is available to assist you with your Polish research problems on these nights. **Note:** Library closed Thursday, December 13.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON  
AT THE LIBRARY**

One of our members is now available at the library on the **first Saturday of the month** from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm, to help you with your Polish research. **Note:** Library closed on Saturday, December 1, (MGS Meeting).

**Items for sale by PGS-MN:**

- The Catholic Spirit, *Gather us in: A History of the Parishes of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis* \$8.50
- Chrozempa, *Morbus—Why and How Our Ancestors Died* \$3.50
- Delaney, ed., *Zupa! Favorite Soup Recipes from the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota and Friends* \$10.00
- Hoffman, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* \$25.00
- Litak, *The Latin Church in the Polish Commonwealth in 1772* \$17.00
- Millerowa, *Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish Peoples Republic in 1984* \$20.00
- Ortell, *Polish Parish Records of the Roman Catholic Church* \$12.00
- Polanie Club, *Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans* \$10.95
- Radzilowski, *Poles in Minnesota* \$13.95
- Radzilowski, *A Traveller's History of Poland* \$14.95
- Shea & Hoffman, *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Guide To Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents*, Volume I: Polish \$35.00, Volume II: Russian \$30.00

**Order from:** PGS-MN Newsletter, c/o Paul Kulas, Associate Editor, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316. For shipping and handling please add 10% of the total cost. Minnesota residents add 6.5% sales tax. Make check payable to PGS-MN.

**Membership Application:**      New       Renewal       Past member and rejoining

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Winter and Summer addresses? Please indicate both addresses and dates each time you renew.*

Individual/Family--\$15.00\_\_\_ Sponsor--\$25.00\_\_\_ Three-year renewal--\$40.00\_\_\_ Library donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

List Surnames from Poland                      List locality in Poland where                      List locality in North America  
that you are researching:                      each surname originated:                      where immigrant settled:

Do you have suggestions for improving PGS-MN?

I consent to the publication of this information in the newsletter. (Please check one.) Yes       No

I consent to the publication of this information on the PGS-MN web page. Yes       No

*Please make checks payable to Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and mail to Audra Etzel, Treasurer; 3487 Darrow Ave. S.E.; Buffalo, MN 55313*

## *Missing Branches*

Send to: **Paul Kulas, Associate Editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316-2145** or e-mail to: <kkulas@ties2.net>

**NEW MEMBERS--***We welcome the following:*  
**Janice Breth**, 209 N. Birch St., Royalton MN 56373 <janice@wdemail.com> is researching ZAPZALKA/ZAPRZALKA in Chicago and then Swan River Twp., MN.

**Jason and Anna Franzen**, 133 Shadywood Ln., Delano MN 55328 <EDRAHIL\_JF@yahoo.com>. They are researching Jason's g-g-grandfather, Martin (Marcin) GABRELCIK/GABRELCZYK – born 1851 and his wife, Elizabeth KOZIAL – born 1859 near Opole, Poland. They emigrated in 1874 and are buried in St. Mary's cemetery in Delano. They need the village of origin. The area N.E. of Opole seems most likely. They are looking for articles about Silesia and Delano Polish people.

*See listing of articles about Silesia and Silesian immigration on page 12 and 13 . Polish-speaking Silesians were among the early immigrants to Minnesota. They are prominent in the Polish settlements around Delano in Wright County, Wells in Fairbault County and in the Polish settlements in Morrison, Todd, Stearns and Benton counties of central Minnesota.*

**Lora Gabbitas**, P.O. Box 242, Cleveland UT 84518 <Jeep@etv.net> is researching WINDORPSKI (WINDORSKI), ROLBIEKI (ROLBIEKA), MOLSKA (MOLSKI), RZEPINSKI in Leśno, Poland and in MN, WI and IL.

**Nancy Gagner**, 8025 Dakota Ave., Chanhassen MN 55317-9638 <gncdsk75@mchsi.com> is researching in Poland and in Chicago (Milwaukee Ave.).

**William R. Graczyk**, 2131 West Appleseed Road, West Valley UT, <wrgraczyk@netzero.net> is researching GRACZYK, GRACZ, KILINSKI (KIELAS) in Jaroszewo, Znin, Bydgoszcz, NOWAK, PRYL in Gasawa, Znin, Bydgoszcz, also PIOROWIAK, SWENDRA, and all in Silver Lake, McLeod County, MN.

**Louise Kabot**, P.O. Box 81, Wood Dale IL 60191 <LouiseKab@SBCgobal.net> is researching KABOCSY MLIR, LACKOWSKI, KABAT in Posnan and in eastern Poland--Ukraine and in Newton Twp., Marquette Co., WI and Wilno - Royal Twp., MN.

**Donald Kupillas**, 70 Palm Dr., Lehighton PA 18235-5709 <Kupillas@hotmail.com> is researching KUPILLAS/KUPILAS in Wolczyn, Opole, Silesia, WASILEWSKA (and spelling variants) in Golaszewo, Wielkopolski and all in N.Y.C.

**Darrell F. Stonina**, 1321 - 45th Ave N.E., Columbia Heights MN 55421 <STND05@mac.com> is a new member.

**Frank and Charlotte Szczepanski**, 1731 – 121st Lane N.W., Coon Rapids MN 55448-7578 <CFSczepans@AOL.com> are researching SZCZEPANSKI in Debница in Poland and in Bay City, Michigan.

**RENEWALS--***The following members indicated updated information on their renewal forms:*

**Renee Jones**, 20 - 126th Lane N.W., Coon Rapids MN 55448-1539 <reneejones@visi.com> is researching DULINSKI in Posnan?, MALESZKA in ?, NIEZGODKA, OLSZANOWSKA in Skrzebowa? and all in Duluth, MN.

**Missing Branches ...continued on page 34**

Minnesota Genealogical Society  
**Polish Genealogical Society**  
*of Minnesota Branch*  
 5768 Olson Memorial Highway  
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