



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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Drobne Echa

Installment #13

Dateline: Bowlus

From *Kuryer Polski* 1908 – 1910 and *Rolnik*, 1911 and 1913

By Greg Kishel

<gfk1@cornell.edu>

The town of Bowlus, in southern Morrison County, celebrated the centennial of its founding this past July.¹ Bowlus is located in Two Rivers Township, which had its first Polish settlers as early as 1870; in the 1880s a large number of Polish immigrants, mainly from Upper Silesia, established farmsteads in the township.² The earlier Polish-Americans of the area did their local business and attended their church services in North Prairie, the township's first village.

¹Bob Prokott, a native of Bowlus and a former board member and longtime speaker and author for the PGS-MN, announced the celebration in the summer, 2007 issue of this newsletter.

²A.F. Koslosky, "The Polish People," Chapter XIX, 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, p. 202; Harold L. Fisher, *The Land Called Morrison* (St. Cloud: Volkmuth Printing Co., 2d ed. 1976), p. 117; Robert Prokott, "Silesia to America--A Heritage: Polish Silesian Settlement in Central Minnesota," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 4, no. 4 (Winter, 1996-97), pp. 8-9; Robert J. Prokott, "'Polanders' of Central Minnesota," in Louis Titel, James Bieniek, & Tim Jendro, *Bowlus: A Pictorial History One Hundred Years* (Bowlus, Minn.: publ. by the authors, 2007), n.p.

Bowlus Article ... continued on page 23

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PGS-MN Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 12, 2008

The society's annual meeting will be held at *Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit* Restaurant, 2300 N.E. University Ave. starting at 11 a.m. The agenda will be election of officers, resolutions, Polish meal and a short program of interest. See president's letter. Plan to attend.

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society
1185 No. Concord St.

So. St. Paul MN 55075-1187

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

Officers/Board of Directors:

President.....Terry Kita (612-927-0719)
< terrykita@earthlink.net>
Vice President.....John Kowles (612-721-7227)
< johnkow@att.net>
Secretary.....Dori Marszalek (763-535-2296)
<dorim@comcast.net>
TreasurerAudra Etzel (763-972-6639)
<etzelfamily@msn.net >
Past President.....Greg Kishel
<gfk1@cornell.edu>
Director.....Jan Bias (651-766-0147)
<genejb@comcast.net>
Director.....Mary Ellen Bruski (763-588-3801)
<Poland-MN@comcast.net>
Director.....Jerome Biedny (952-944-5905)
<jaybiedny@juno.com>
Director.....Lisa Trembley (952-941-0574)
<ltrembley@comcast.net>

Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs:

Library.....Jan Bias
Membership.....Lisa Trembley
Newsletter.....John Kowles
Program/Publicity.....Terry Kita, Jay Biedny
Research.....Greg Kishel, John Rys
Website.....Mary Ellen Bruski

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter

Editor.....John Kowles (612-721-7227)
Associate Editors.....Paul Kulas, Greg Kishel
Mailing labels.....Lisa Trembley
Surname indexing.....Kay Freund,
Mary Kowles, Dori Marszalek, Connie Waldherr

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Please use application form on advertising insert.

Items submitted for publication are welcomed and
encouraged. We require that feature-length articles be
submitted exclusively to PGS-MN. Articles, letters,
book reviews, news items, queries, ad copy, etc. should
be sent to: John Kowles, editor, *PGS-MN Newsletter*,
3429-45th 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

You are cordially invited to the Annual Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. The particulars of the meeting are as follows:

Date: Saturday January 12, 2008
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit, 2300 University Ave. N.E.
Minneapolis
Cost: \$16.50 per person, includes tax and service
Menu: pork loin, chicken, pierogi, potatoes, vegetable,
sauerkraut, dessert, and beverage
Program: A business meeting to include the election of board
members, review of the year-end financial statement, and
a proposal to increase annual dues.
RSVP: Terry Kita, 5036 Queen Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN.
55410 (by 1/7/08) – See other contacts below.

Election of Officers and Board Members

The following board positions are to be voted at this meeting:
Secretary, Treasurer, Director II (membership chair) and Director IV
(web-site). Each office has a two-year term. If you have an interest in
these positions, contact Terry Kita.

The candidates proposed by the Board are:

Secretary - Dana Halberg Treasurer - Mike Eckman
Director II - Dori Marszalek Director IV - Mary Ellen Bruski
(incumbent)

Dues Change

This must be voted upon, and approved at a general meeting as the
Annual Meeting to become effective. The Board recommends approval
to increase the PGS-MN dues as follows, effective **January 1, 2009**:

One-year: from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per year
Three Year: from \$40.00 to \$50.00

A little background: When the organization was founded in 1993, dues
were set at \$10 per year, which was increased to \$15 per year in 1997.
In 2002 we instituted the three-year payment at \$40. We propose to
increase the dues to balance our debits to receipts. Our library rent will
increase from \$569 in 2007, to \$851 in 2008, to \$1,451 in 2009, and at
a 2.5 % rate each year thereafter. This reflects the cost to relocate the
MGS Library to 1185 N. Concord St., So. St. Paul, which was
completed 10/31/07. PGS-MN rents bookshelf space and meeting
rooms from MGS, and pays an annual fee per Minnesota member. In
addition to rent, printing and postage fees will continue to increase.
If you have any questions, contact me <terrykita@earthlink.net> or
612-927-0719.

*Have a very happy and peaceful New Year, and we hope to see you at
our programs.*

Terry Kita



The Bulletin Board

PGS-MN Meetings

January 12 (11 a.m.) Annual Meeting – see page 2

February 2 (10 a.m.) New library Orientation

March 1 (10 a.m.) Onomastics – Study of the origin and history of proper names - at new library.



Other 2008 Calendar Events

Join Us in Singing Kolędy

Sunday, **January 6**, 1-3 p.m. Meet at Catholic Eldercare Atrium, 817 Main St. N.E., Mpls. Then join us for a Christmas sing-along at River Village, 2919 Randolph St. N.E., Mpls. at 3:30 p.m. Sponsored by Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. For more information, call Judith at 763-571-9602.

Frederic Chopin Society

These artists will be featured in performances at 3 p.m. at Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center at Macalester College in St. Paul. For information call 612-822-0123.

January 13 – Richard Goode

March 2 – Imogen Cooper

May 4 - Mihaela Ursuleasa

February 3 – Bal Karnawalowy

This year's event will be held at the University Club in downtown St. Paul. Contact PACIM for information.

PGS-MN Participation

The society is always looking for members to present topics at our meetings. They can be of any length. This newsletter is also in need of articles to publish. We request they be original material, i.e. not previously published in any other journals. The articles are needed no less than 30 days before the newsletter is put into the mail. The mailing dates are the first of January, April, July, and October. Try your hand. We will provide suggestions and editing support.

-JWK

St. Cloud Daily Times Obituary Index 1908-27

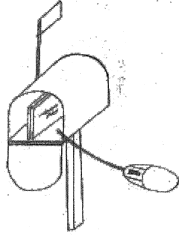
St. Cloud Area Genealogists of Minnesota have put together a CD containing more than 11,000 death notices that appeared in the *St. Cloud Daily Times*. It can be obtained from them at:
<www.rootsweb.com/~mnscag/SCAG/index.htm>
or P.O. Box 213, St. Cloud, MN 56302-0213.
Priced about \$22 plus shipping.

Leonid Hurwicz Wins Nobel Prize *Minneapolis Resident, Educated in Poland*

Leonid Hurwicz shares this year's Nobel Prize for Economics. His ancestors lived in Congress Kingdom, then part of the Russian Empire, but his Jewish family was displaced by World War I. Hurwicz was born in Moscow but soon after the family returned to Poland in 1919. He graduated from the University of Warsaw with a law degree before World War II and then was forced to flee Poland. After the war his parents were able to leave Poland and come to the United States. Leonid Hurwicz came to the University of Minnesota in 1951 and has resided in Minnesota since then.

Taken from *Longfellow-Nokomis Messenger*, December 2007 and various news sources.

Correspondence ... *Komunikacja*



Re: Germanic Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns

Ed Brandt asked to correctly point out this book was published by the Germanic Genealogy Society and had six co-authors. Ed was the chief co-author. PGS-MN members can order a book from Ed for \$50 (includes S&H), 241 Arthur Ave. S.E. or save \$5 by picking one up directly.

Re: Cemeteries in Poland

We visited several times last winter about traveling to Poland. In August my wife, Mary Ann, son Joe and I went to Poland etc. for 16 days. We landed in Berlin, and then drove to Szczecin, Gdansk, Warsaw, Czestochowa, Krakow, Prague CR and back to Berlin plus many places in between. In the "greater" Gdansk area we visited the communities where six of our great grandparents came from.

In none of the cemeteries, (Piekowo, Lipusz, Wiele) we visited were any plots and headstones before 1946. We could not communicate with the people as we did not have a guide to speak the language. We wondered what happened to the plots and headstones before 1946.

Thanks for the tips on driving!! Also the encouragement to do this ourselves. It was a wonderful trip.

God bless,

Jerry Bambenek

Unfortunately, it is difficult to find old ancestral graves in Poland. The oldest graves I have found in my ancestors' cemeteries date back to about 1920. When I inquired about this I was told when no room exists new graves are put in over the old ones. There might be some exceptions if the grave is kept up by the family. There is an exception and that is

Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw, where many famous Poles are buried. It includes Catholic, Protestant and Jewish sections as well as catacombs. You can find graves dating back to the late 1790s. If you are in Warsaw it is well worth a visit. I am not aware of Polish laws relating to cemetery preservation although there are some organizations trying to preserve Jewish cemeteries. In general I assume rules are established by those who administer them.

-JWK

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>

Re: Connections

Shirley Mask Connolly is trying to connect with some members of the Flis and Omernik families who might be in the area of Polonia. Any ideas on who to contact? Also she would like to see Ray Groshek if possible. Does anyone have a current contact for him?

<maskconn@magma.ca>

Re: Słownik Geograficzny On-line

Dorothy Pretare writes:I have found the article with:

<http://www.dir.icm.edu.pl/dirop/index.php/Słownik_geograficzny/Tom_I/1>

Link very interesting because I could find some surnames. However, I cannot determine how to download or copy or print the displayed page of the book. Do you know how? (I cannot read Polish and tried to use a dictionary to translate some of the words on the web page.)

You know, of course, that Słownik Geograficzny is a geographical gazetteer describing localities throughout historical Poland. It does include surnames, however, but those are primarily the land holders, the nobility or historical personages associated with the locality being described. If you find ancestors mentioned you will indeed be fortunate.

-PTK

See tutorial on use of the site on page 11.

Recent PGS-MN Meetings

On **September 8** Iwona Srienc provided a presentation and answered questions on the Polish language. Iwona did an excellent job on a difficult subject. Her handouts are contained on pages 6-9. Iwona can be reached for professional translations in Polish, Russian and Slovenian at: <Iwons@msn.com>

PGS-MN held its out-state seminar in Little Falls on **September 29**. The session was sponsored by Polish Echos of Little Falls and the Morrison County Genealogy Society. About 80 people were in attendance. Bob Prokott, our Silesian and central Minnesota expert, discussed Silesia and local immigration. His handout is published on pages 10-11. Greg Kishel provided an interesting talk entitled *Beginning Polish Genealogy: Techniques and Tips*. His handout is on pages 12-13. The afternoon featured a Q&A session. Thanks to Janet Retka and all those who helped make this a very successful event. The list of attendees who submitted surnames they were researching is summarized on pages 14-16. Because of space limitations it is abbreviated slightly; however, if you need a mailing address please contact the newsletter.

On **October 6** Anastasia Dzenowagis presented a session entitled *Never Give up on Your Journey* with more than 40 in attendance. This was a follow-up on her article of the same name in the Summer 2007 issue except with more emphasis on what she did, how to go about difficult research and how to overcome the proverbial "brick wall." Anastasia's quest was complicated by her relatives originating in Poland, Belarus and Lithuania. Some questions to ponder and tips are contained on page 17. If you are researching in Lithuania, as some people at the meeting indicated, you might want to consult Anastasia's article in the Autumn, 2006 issue which deals with researching in the Lithuanian archives. You could also contact her at: <Anastasia_Dzenowagis@yahoo.com>

PGS-MN had its **November 3** meeting at the LDS Library in Crystal with about 35 attendees. Deb Vevea, Center Director and member of PGS-MN presented her interesting and serendipitous story of Polish research. She also provided information on

changes which are in the works for the web site. Most exciting is the indexing of millions of records they now hold. This will involve a huge volunteer effort but is expected to be complete in seven years. You should go to: <www.familysearch.org> and click on News for updates. Attendees were allowed to tour the library, ask questions and do some individual research in the afternoon. The Minneapolis/Crystal Family History Center is a valuable local resource for genealogical guidance. Your attention is called to their hours:

Monday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tuesday and Wednesday 6-9 p.m.

Thursday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.

CHURCH MICROFILM AND INDEXES

Microfilm: Records from many Catholic churches of the Archdiocese of St. Paul are available on microfilm at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library in South St. Paul. The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGS-MN) has been purchasing microfilm for Polish churches for this collection.

Indexes: A companion index project is in progress for microfilm records for five Minneapolis Polish churches. The indexes (up to 1935) are available at the MGS Library under shelf number MN, H-1, 217 Rys.

Reports: The above indexes may be searched in detail. Upon request customized "Family Ties" reports can be prepared for individual surnames. This customized report finds all occurrences of a particular surname whether as primary participant, parent or witness. This "Family Ties" report can be requested from John Rys by E-mail at john@john.rys.name. Label your e-mail subject with "**Family Ties**". A \$15.00 donation to the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota for each surname report is suggested.



Terry Kita introduces Anastasia Dzenowagis

WHY WHAT I HEAR IS NOT WHAT I SEE?

LETTERS vs. SOUNDS

I. Polish has 32 single letters that represent 31 sounds (u=ó)

There are also sounds that are represented by so called diagraphs; they are combination of letters:

sz	like in 'shoe'
cz	like in 'chalk'
dz	like in 'woods'
dź	like in 'jam'
dź(dzi)	like in 'jeep' but softer
ch=h	like in 'hockey'
rz=ż	like in 'measure'

II. VOWELS

i 'meet'	y 'bit'	u/ó 'book'
e 'met'		o 'on', 'walk'
	ę	ą
	a 'none'	

1. **o, a, e** are mostly like in English
2. **u/ó** both represent one sound
3. **i, y** difficult for non-Polish speakers to hear the distinction between them, e.g., 'miła' vs. 'myła' 'Pilica' vs. 'pylica'

**** 'y' can follow all consonants except **k, g** and **l**
 'i' can follow all consonants (it makes them soft), except: **l, sz, ż, cz, dź, rz**

**** when **i** follows **t, d, r** it is always pronounced as [j]

partia [partja] dialog [djalog] radio [radjo] historia [historja]

4. ę , ą the most complicated

a) only ą is pronounced as a true nasal and only at the end of a word 'sa ą ', 'czytają', 'mogą'

b) ę at the end of a word is pronounced as [e] 'imię' [im'e]

c) ę		[en]	Sulęczyno	[sulencyno]
	+ t, d, c, dz, cz, dź	→	Jędrzejów	[jendzejuf]
ą		[on]	Nowy Sącz	[novy sonč]
			Grudziądz	[grujondz]

d) ę		[em]	Dębno	[dembno]
	+ p, b	→		
ą		[om]	Ząbkowice	[zompkowice]

e) ę		[eń]	Kędzierzyn	[keńjeżyn]
	+ ć(ci), dź(dzi)	→		
ą		[oń]		

f) ę		[eŋ]	Węgorzewo	[veŋgoževo]
	+ k, g	→		
ą		[oŋ]	Mragowo	[mroŋgovo]

g) ę		[e]		
	+ l, ł	→		
ą		[o]		

h) ę		[ě]	Ciężkowice	[c'ěškovice]
	+ s, z, sz, rz, ż, ś, f, w, ch	→		
ą		[õ]	Zbąszyń	[zbõšin']

III. CONSONANTS

1. *Soft vs. hard*

Soft consonants have no phonetic equivalent in English, that is, their pronunciation differs from that of the closest English sounds. They are distinctly 'softer' than their English counterparts.

Softness of a consonant is marked by

a) 'i' , if a soft consonant is followed by a vowel

ni – Gdynia; Hania

mi – Miechów; Mietek

si – Sieradz; Stasio, Basia

zi – Zieloniewo; Kazia

ci – Cieszyn; Wojciech

dzi – Grodzisk; Dziewoński

ki – Kielce;

gi – Giewont; Gienek

pi – Rypin; Piotr

bi – Bielsko-Biała; Sobieski

fi -- ; Zofia

wi – Oświęcim;

b) or a diacritic “ ‘ “, if a soft consonant is followed by a consonant

ń -- Kamińsko

ś -- Świdnica

ź -- Kuźnica

ć --

dź --

c) What about: Jaśliska, Legnica?

Suffixes –iska, -ica, -ik,

d) at the end of a word both markings are possible

Lubień Kujawski, Ryki;

differenced based on grammatical form: -ski (-ska) is an adjective ending;

Ryki is a Nominative plural of 'ryk' (roar)

Jasień; Toruń; Łódź; Zamość;

nouns in Nominative singular form

2. *Voiced vs. voiceless*

a) always voiced: m/m', n/n', r, l, ł, j

b) always voiceless: ch/ch' h/h'

c) devoicing at the end of words

b → p d → t w → f z → s dz → c g → k

ż → ś dź → ć

rz/ż → sz dź → cz

Leśmierz [les'm'eš]

Kołobrzeg [kowobżek]

Starogard [starogart]

Wiśniew [vis'n'ef]

Raciaż [rac'oš]

Sieradz [s'erac]

d) Polish consonants take the voicing of the second consonant

Voiced + Voiceless → Voiceless + Voiceless

babka [bapka]

Trąbczyn [trompčyn]

Voiceless + Voiced → Voiced + Voiced

Kluczbork [kludbork]

Exception: w and rz become voiceless if they are either followed or preceded by a voiceless consonant

Chrzanów [hšanuf]

Przedbórz [pšetbuš]

wtorek [ftorek]

Przasnysz [pšasnysz]

Kwidzyń [kfidzyn']

Świdnica [s'findn'ica]

Biała Rawska [b'awa rafska]

e) **ł** between consonants at the end of words is mute :

jabłko [japko]

poszedł [pošet]

Little Fall Presentations Handouts

TRACING OUR SILESIAN ROOTS

In the latter part of the 19th century there were many persons who migrated from Upper Silesia to locations in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The largest settlement of these Poles was in central Minnesota, in Morrison, Stearns, and Benton Counties. Smaller settlements were in Trempeleau County, Wi., Wright County, Mn. and Todd County, Mn. Upper Silesia was then a part of Prussia, was under Prussian rule from 1741 until 1945. The principal city in Upper Silesia was and still is the city of Opole. Upper Silesia was then known by its German name, Oberschleisen, and Opole's German name was Oppeln.

Opole is also the name of the district in which the city of Opole is located. Many descendants have been told by their ancestors that they had come from Opole and conclude that this means they came from the city of Opole. Nothing could be further from the truth. These persons who came to Minnesota and Wisconsin between 1870 and 1900 were all farmers who came from the Opole district, however, had lived in small towns and villages located mainly to the north and northwest of the city of Opole. The city of Opole has about 125,000 people and quite a number of parishes. **DO NOT START YOUR SEARCH IN POLAND BY REQUESTING RECORDS FROM A PARISH IN THE CITY OF OPOLE UNLESS YOU ARE SURE THAT YOUR ANCESTOR DEFINITELY CAME FROM THAT PARISH.**

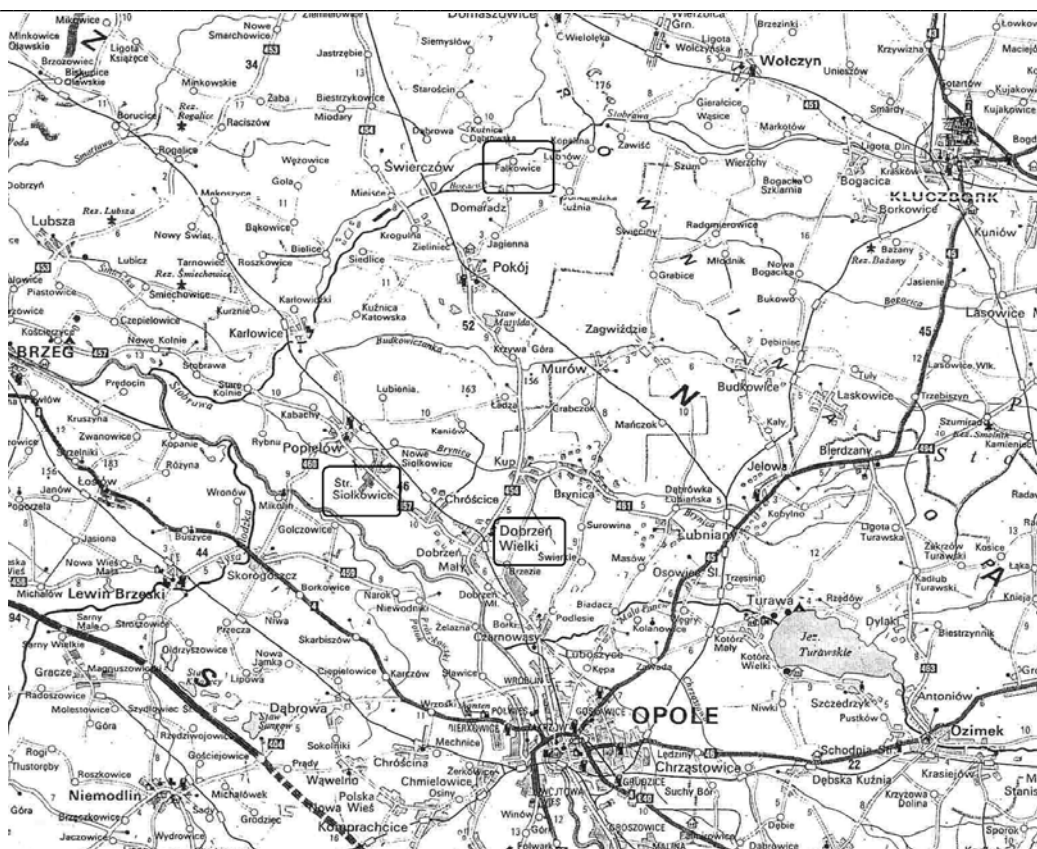
The majority of Silesians who settled in central Minnesota came from the parishes at Falkowice, Stare Siolkowice and Dobrzen Wielki (then known by their German names of Falkowitz, Alt Schalkowitz and Gros Dobern). The parish at Falkowice included the villages of Domaradz (Damratsch), Lubnow (Liebenau), Zawisc and Dambrowka. The Stare Siolkowice parish includes the villages of Popielow (Poppelau), Chroszice (Chrositz) and Kaniow (Hirschfelde). The Dobrzen Wielki parish included the villages of Ladza (Salzbrunn) and Kup (Kupp). In 1898 Kup became a parish and Kaniow and Ladza became a part of the Kup parish. Other parishes in the area are located at Charnowasy, Pokoj, and Bakowice. A smaller number of persons came from those parishes.

Obviously, the best way to begin your search of Polish records is to establish the village from which your ancestors came. If that cannot be done, try to establish the village from which their neighbors came since persons who settled in this country often settled next door to persons who had been their neighbors in Silesia. If you can establish the general area from which they came, consider ordering the marriage records for the nearest parish from the LDS Family History Center. Starting your search by checking marriage records increases your chances since those records usually include names of parents, also include the name of the village where the other party in the marriage lived. Nearly all marriages took place in the parish of the woman who was being married.

Marriage records for the Falkowice parish for the years from 1766 to 1870 are on LDS History Center Tape# 0923442. Dobrzen Wielki marriage records (1765-1870) are on Tape# 0937159. Stare Siolkowice marriage records on Tape# 0937164 indicate that the records cover years from 1766-1863, however, they actually cover from 1766-1801 and 1829-1866. Records from 1801 to 1829 apparently were missed when the copying was done, were not copied.

The information shown above is provided in the hope it will be of help to persons searching for their roots in Silesia.

Robert L. Prokott <prokott@peoplepc.com>



Map adapted from *RV Reise- und Verkehrsverlag and Kartographie: Geo Data, 1995-96*

Słownik Geograficzny – On-line

Słownik Geograficzny is the almost-15000 page, late 19th century gazetteer of the Kingdom of Poland. It provides a description and history of places. Recently it became accessible on-line thanks to the University of Warsaw, Department of Mathematics, Information and Mechanics. The current site I use is:

<http://www.dir.icm.edu.pl/pl/Słownik_geograficzny/Tom_I/info> One of our members inquired about how to print out pages so I offer the following tutorial:

- 1) In the latest version in the upper right you have two options: *w tekście* (in text) or *w indeksie* (in index). Click *szukaj* (look for) on what you want.
- 2) It will bring up *Tom* (Volume) and *Strona* (Page) where the entry can be found – might be on many pages.
- 3) Scroll through and click on page you want.
- 4) If the city has a Polish letter, you must use a “wild card.” For example for Suwałki you must enter Suwa%ki.
- 5) When it displays the page you can print it out by clicking *Podierz skan* (Run scan) and then run, then print. (It prints in the TIF format so the files are fairly large.)
- 6) The text is in Polish but heavily-abbreviated and guides are available for translating. For those with a little Polish there is a Help (*Pomoc*) section. So far there is no English translation.

For those without access to a computer or need further help, the MGS library has the PGSA CD which can be accessed. The instructions might be different. Google is also scanning some volumes but they are not complete.

Source: Some of the information taken from articles written by Fred Hoffman <wfh@langline.com> and Ola Heska <ola@hwwd.com>. Previously published by Gen Dobry!, Vol. III, No. 10, 31 October 2007, PolishRoots® <<http://www.PolishRoots.org>>. -JWK

BEGINNING POLISH GENEALOGY: TECHNIQUES AND TIPS

Presented by Greg Kishel

gfk1@cornell.edu

At Little Falls, Minnesota, September 29, 2007

The Complex History of Poland

- *Origins*: the *Polanie*, Christianization in 966, formation of the Polish nation-state
- *Early Dynasties*: the Piasts and the Jagiełonians
- *The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth*: an elected king and a “democracy of gentry,” the Counter-Reformation, religious toleration, the Constitution of 1791
- *The Partitions among Prussia, Austria, and Russia*: 1772, 1793, 1795
- *The Exodus to the New World*: 1850-1920
- *The Reconstitution of the Polish State*: 1918
- *The Turbulent Twentieth Century*

Resources for Polish Genealogy

[*Abbreviations for sources*: *BMC*, Borchardt Map Collection, Wilson Library, West Bank Campus of U of M, Minneapolis; *FHC*, LDS local Family History Centers; *IHRC*, Immigration History Research Center, Andersen Library, U of M, Minneapolis; *MHS*, Minnesota Historical Society’s History Center, St. Paul; *PGS-MN*, PGS-MN Library Collection at MGC, Golden Valley (moving to South St. Paul, 10/07)]

- *Parish and diocesan records in the U.S.* [consult diocesan archives and parish offices; Polish parishes of Archdiocese of St. Paul-Mpls. available on microfilm at *PGS-MN* and those of Diocese of New Ulm available through *FHC*]
- *Church histories* [*PGS-MN*, *MHS*, *IHRC*]
- *Wiarus, Nowiny Minnesockie, Kuryer Polski, and Rolnik*: Polish-language newspapers from MN and WI [*MHS*, *IHRC*]
- *European and American church and civil records*: as filmed by the LDS [*FHC*]
- *Słownik geograficzny* [*FHC*, *PGS-MN*, available for purchase at www.pgsa.org]
- *Słownik nazwisk* [*PGS-MN*, on-line, available for purchase at www.pgsa.org]
- *Topographic maps of Poland*: historical and recent [*BMC*, *PGS-MN*]
- *PGS-MN Library Collection*: dictionaries, atlases, modern gazetteers, translation guides, indexes, other PGSs’ newsletters [*PGS-MN*]

Polish Settlement in Minnesota

- *c. 1855 to 1870*: from Kaszubia and Silesia; to Winona and Delano
- *c. 1870 to 1890*: from Pomerania, Silesia, and Poznan in German Partition; to St. Paul, Duluth, Wells, southwestern and central MN (incl. Morrison County)
- *c. 1885 to 1914*: from Russian and Austrian Partitions; to Minneapolis, Duluth, Iron Range, some central MN settlements
- *Internal migrations*: Stevens Point to Winona to ND; Winona to Morrison County; Chicago to Minneapolis and Superior; Gogebic Range to Mesabi Range; Sturgeon Lake to points north; Browerville to points north and east; Superior to Buyck

- Church (sacramental) records, esp. Roman Catholic marriage records
- Naturalization records, post-1906
- Obituaries (check Polish-language newspapers for members of immigrant generation)
- Ancestral papers that have survived (passports/visas, birth certificates, letters, funeral cards, records of official acts from European sources, etc.)
- Ship's passenger records (sometimes)
- Local employers' recruitment materials (rarely)
- Fraternal benefit societies' records [PRCUA through www.pgsa.org; Polish White Eagle at IHRC]
- Alien registration records [MHS, a resource unique to MN]; WW I draft registration [FHC]
- Haller's Army (Polish Army in France) recruitment materials [FHC]
- "OVER THE BRICK WALL" solutions to locating the ancestral village:
 - Just try the name-search function on www.familysearch.org;
 - Always, always, always pursue collateral relatives' origins
 - Onomastic triangulation: collect as many ancestral surnames as possible, spelled in original Polish phonetics; then use these, which link Polish names to specific geographic locale, watching for joint incidence in particular places:
 - Słownik nazwisk (Dictionary of Surnames...)*: Original version, at province (*województwo*) level, at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL/slownik.htm>; original ten-volume hard-copy, PGS-MN. 2002 version, at county (*powiat*) level, available for purchase from www.pgsa.org
 - The name search function at www.familysearch.org, leading to entries in the LDS International Genealogical Index and other databases with place-identification for extracted records for specific individuals

After that...

- Locate the local parish using atlases, maps, or *Słownik geograficzny*
- Use the Family History Library Catalog at www.familysearch.org to see if the LDS has microfilmed records for that parish (85% of Polish localities filmed already)
- Order the films at your local Family History Center and start researching
- Always use LDS and other U.S. resources to the max before writing to Poland

Translation Guides and Aids

Shea & Hoffman, *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents* (New Britain, CT: Language & Lineage Press), 2 vol. publ. so far: *Volume I, Polish* (2d ed. 2007) and *Volume II, Russian* (2002); purchase from PGS-MN, or see www.langline.com

Polish-English dictionaries: see www.polonia.com; the PWN-Oxford edition of *Wielki Słownik* is pricey, but one of the most comprehensive; Kościuszko Institute's recent American publication is also comprehensive

**Polish Heritage Seminar Surnames Being Researched by Attendees
10-09-2007**

Last Name	First Name(s)	Surnames	Contact
Backowski	Mary Jane & Roxanne	RINGWELSKI, SMUDA, LASHINSKI, PUSHELKA, PESHEKLA, PASHELKA, LAMPERT, BURSEY, STILLER, SKROCH, BACKOWSKI, YANDOVIA, YANDA, JAUDA, JAZDREWSKI, KLEPIN, FIETEK, DRZEWICKA, RANDOW	RBackowski@sytekcom.com 320-632-5094
Biniek	Laurie	BINIEK, PATRIAS	lbiniek@frontiernet.net 320-279-1109, -532-4421
Boelz	Tom	HETMAN/HATMAN, ROBAK, MIKROT, ZIEMBA	emilietru@aol.com 320-743-2698
Brezinka	Leo	WITUCKI, PROKETT, GALLOS	320-584-5325
Brezinka	Betty	BREZINKA, BIENIEK, KOSTREBA	320-584-0044
Bryniarski	Bernardine	SMIEJA, BENUSA, WALETZI, BRYNIARSKI, BIELINSKI	651-641-1759
Delk	Loretta	JANISZEWSKI	1881 - 29 th St. S. St. Cloud MN 56301
Eckman	Michael	ECKMAN, COPA	mceckman@msn.com 952-944-4008
Freund	Kay	JANISZEWSKI, TYKWINSKI	kay.freund@medtronic.com 763-505-2717
Grell	Bernie	JENDRO, PEKA, LASKENSKI	grell@littlefalls.net 320-632-9610
Hendrickson	Ed	POZORSKI, PODARZA	218-575-2925
Hoeschen	Rita	KORUS, SWIDER	lrhoeschen@peoplepc.com 320-616-5965
Jurek	Donald	JUREK, KAMPA, POPILEK/POPIOLEK	deerun@u.s.family.net 651-415-0409
Kolodjeski	Mary	KOCIEMBA, KOVALSKI, KOŁODZIEJASKI, KOŁODZEJSKI	kreykoldjeski@msn.com 320-248-5594
Kowalczyk	Albert	PUCHALLA, SCHWIENIEK, SOBIECH, KOWALCZYK, GAMROTH	ajkoyal009@comcast.net 763-315-0520
Kowles	John	KOWALEWSKI, JAWORSKI, FORTUNA/FORTUNSKI, SOVELL/SOWUL	johnkow@att.net 612-721-7227
Kruzel	Joseph	PROKETT, WITUCKI, GALLOS	320-730-6076
Kruzel	John & Tony	GALLUS, PROKETTS, WITCUKI, KRUZEL	320-632-1925
Kulas	Paul	KULAS, JUNIK, KOŁODZIEJSKI, DUCZMAL, KOKOT, TALAGA, MORAS, BIELAWNY, STOCZYNSKI, SAKTYS, KARAKOW, OWCRACK, MAZUR, GMUR, WITEK	763-427-4523

Polish Heritage Seminar Surnames (continued)

Last Name	First Name(s)	Surnames	Contact
Kurpiers	Ron	KURPIERS, KURPIERZ, KURPIERUS	rKurpiers@earthlink.net 651-224-8180
Lasch	Ellen	SOBANIA, KUPKA	lasch@usfamily.net 651-552-9626
Lashinski	Gene & Irene	GWOZDZ/GWOST, LASHINSKI	320-584-8399
Lewandowski	Kathleen	METKOWSKI, MATKOWSKI	320-255-1886
Lisson	Joanne	LISSON, LYSON, ZIMNIEWICZ, DERDOWSKI	651-489-1181
Magdziarz	Diane	RETKAS, HOLTZ, PLAKUT	320-573-2250
McGuire	Becky	DEPPA, O'KOTTA, WALETZKO, SLUESS	320-623-3969
O'Brien	Helen	WIELINSKI, WENGLER, RUTZ	quiltinghelen07@yahoo.com 320-632-2349
Opatz	Shirley	OPATZ, SMIEJA, TRETTEL, KLOSS	tripleO@littlefalls.com 320-632-3087
Poser	Renalda	SOBANIA	dupa111947@yahoo.com 218-575-2041
Prokott	Daniel	PROKOTT, GALLUS	proksimity@yahoo.com 763-571-8090
Prokott	Robert	PROKOTT, GALLUS, LAZINKA, KROLL	Prokott@peoplepc.com 763-571-8090
Retka	Gene & Michael	RETKA, CICHAN, PIETROWSKI	gmil@fallsnet.com 320-632-3642
Retka	Janet	BRYNIARSKI, BIELINSKI, BARON	gmic@fallsnet.com 320-632-3642
Retka	Loretta H.	WOZNIAK	320-632-8153
Richard	Helen	KRZESZEWSKI, SOBIECK, ROSINSKI, NOWAKOWSKI	JAHMRichard@Juno.com 320-285-5925
Schilling	Rachel	SKWIRA, SKWIERA, PATYK, RUDOPH, STRONCEK	rschil@brainerd.net 320-745-2552
Smith	Katy	DEPPA, O'KOTTA, WALETZKO, SLUESS	9ksmith@fallsnet.com 320-632-3969
Stanefski	Gene	BRODKORB, RAUDZIS, LEFFEL	shargene1@comcast.net 651-451-3062
Szczeck	Kathy	SZCZECH	kszczeck@msn.com
Trang	Pamela	QUILITZ, GUDERIAN	ktrang@centurytel.net 320-468-6729
Trushenski	Emilie	HETMAN/HATMAN, ROBAK, MIKROT, ZIEMBA	emilietru@aol.com 320-743-2698
Wimmer	Joann	MAGDZIARZ	320-573-2057

Polish Heritage Seminar Surnames (continued)

Last Name	First Name(s)	Surnames	Contact
Wotzka	Sylvester & Jerry	WOTZKA, JENDRO	320-632-9588
Young	Claire	DEPPA, O'KOTTA, WALETZKO, SLUESS	320-632-3969
Ziebol	Gloriann	KOTOWSKI, SZUKA	320-251-3704
Zimniewicz	Florence	DERDOWSKI, ZIMNIEWICZ	651-415-1569



Bob Prokott is shown presenting emigration from Silesia to central Minnesota lecture before the large crowd attending the Heritage Seminar in Little Falls

Missing Branches...*Continued from page 28*

RENEWALS: *The following member indicated updated information on her renewal form:*

Kathy Zawislak, 2144 Case Ave., St. Paul MN 55119 <kczawisl@ties2.net> is researching TARARA, KALUZA, SIKORA, JAGUSCH in Luginian, Opole and in St. Paul and Rochester, MN; ZAWISLAK, OWCA, WRONSKI, PAPCIAK in Jodlowa, Galicia and in St. Paul, Chicago and New Jersey; DANIELSKI in Exin, Posnan and in St. Paul; RYCHICKI in Poznan and in St. Paul and Chicago.

Never Give Up On Your Journey

Questions for Your Journey

When and why did you become interested in your family's history?

What were your goals when you started? Have they changed?

What have you achieved so far? What roadblocks have you encountered?

How has your journey changed your life?

What is still undone? What are your goals going forward?

When You May Have Given Up

On Your Journey

- Get back in touch with your purpose as a powerful driver. Why are you doing it?
- Document everything you already know. Make a list of questions to be answered.
- Consider starting over from scratch with new eyes. Question old assumptions (Terry Kita).
- Approach your search as a project. Set short and long term goals. Keep a notebook and good records.
- Pick a short period of time to work on it intensively (ex. 1-3 months).
- Go places to restart. For example Ellis Island. If you are looking in Poland, you need the name of the town. If you have it and it is small enough, go there.
- Talk to others in the group about what has worked for them. Try new approaches.
- Hire professionals either here or in Poland. It can be worth the money you will spend.
- Create a family support system via e-mail and family informational letters. Others can start to assist and contribute.

Anastasia Dzenowagis, Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, Oct. 6, 2007

SS. Peter and Paul Church Records from Lipinki, Poland

Allen Stahlberg from our sister Pommern group, thought we might be interested in his family research in the church in Lipinki (see map). This area was in the Löbau Kreis located in the extreme south of West Prussia until World War I. It now lies in the Warminsk-Mazorskie Wojewódstwa (province) of Poland. By 1905 about 80% of the Kreis was Polish. As I understand it the list contains his surname relationships (Marcinkowski, Bronzek, Stahlberg, Brinzek, etc.). They are alphabetically arranged except for the original Marcinkowski entry. While it is in German I have provided the legend and keywords so it can be understood. Note that dates are in day.month.year. The records span from 1742 to the mid-1900s. The information was assembled by Marianne Stanke from Bonn, Germany. She provided the following introduction for Al.

-JWK

The name Marcinkowski was first mentioned in the church book in 1742, three girls were baptized. Further Marcinkowskis did not appear until 1765. One can assume that this family was a "mixed marriage" and the male descendants were baptized in the Evangelical church in Bischofswerder (three kilometers away) [now Biskupiec - was the major city in this area]. The evangelical church existed since the 16th century. There was an Andreas Marcinkowski mentioned who came from Lippinken [now Lipinki], probably baptized Evangelical but at his marriage Roman Catholic was mentioned. In Lippiken there was an Evangelical cemetery which no longer exists, only the gateway. It can be assumed that the first Marcinkowskis belonged to the family but one ought to be able to prove it (Evangelical church in Bischofswerder).

Translations Key:

Places		Words and Phases used	
German	Polish	German	English
<i>Bischofswerder</i>	<i>Biskupiec</i>	<i>als</i>	as
<i>Frycowizna</i>	?	<i>Angeheirat und Anverwandte</i>	Related by Marriage or Related
<i>Lippinken</i>	<i>Lipinki</i>	<i>aus</i>	from
<i>Lonkorsh</i>	<i>Łakorz</i>	<i>bei</i>	by
<i>Papiermühle</i>	?	<i>den</i>	the
<i>Stendsitz</i>	?	<i>erwachsene</i>	adult
<i>Suminek</i>	<i>Sumin</i>	<i>gennant</i>	named or alias
Symbol Legend		<i>im</i>	in that
* Birth		<i>kinder</i>	children
~ Baptism		<i>unterschiedlich</i>	different
oo Marriage		<i>unehelich</i>	illegitimate
+ Death		<i>vor</i>	before

Familie Marcinkowski aus Westpreußen

Erste Marcinkowski im KB Lippinken:

Marcinkowski, Melchior; oo Eva

- Anna, * Gaj 1.4.1742
- Marianne, * Sendsitz 31.1.1747
- Marianne, * Suminek 6.7.1755

Zweite Marcinkowski im KB Lippinken:

Marcinkowski, Mathias; oo Marianne,

Kinder * in Sendsitz:

- Marianne, * 8.12.1765
- Benedict, * 21.3.1767
- Ursula, * 26.10.1769

I.

1. **Josef**, * (1812 o. 1807), aus Papiermühle, 1.oo Lippinken, Kr. Löbau 27.11.1838 **Kobylska**, 2.oo Lippinken 15.10.1843 **Kowalski**

II.

- 5 (1 + 4) Kinder von 1, */~ Lippinken
2. **Marianne**, * 1., ~ 10.5.1840, + Lippinken 24.12.1915, Erben: 3 erwachsene Kinder; oo Lippinken 27.2.1862 **Bronzek**
3. Michael, * 23., ~ 27.9.1845
4. Peter, * 29.7., ~ 2.8.1849
5. Josef, * 3., ~ 6.8.1950
6. Catharina, * 11., ~ 13.11.1857

Angeheiratete und Anverwandte

Bronzek, der Name kommt bei den Kindern unterschiedlich vor: siehe Bronzkowski

- Bronzkowski**, Andreas, * (1745), + 20.12.1819 (70 J.); oo Lippinken 27.11.1775 Zoładek, Kinder, * Lonkorsch:
- Catharina, * 29.9., ~ 1.10.1785
 - **Bronzkowski**, Mattheus, * 15., ~ 16.9.1787, + Lonkorsch 17.1.1852, Erben: Frau u. 3 Kinder; oo Lippinken 16.10.1814 **Krekora**, bei den Geburten der Kinder als Krekorowska
 - Anna, * (1788), + 7.12.1799
 - Eva, * 28.12.1791
 - Hedwig, * 31.8.1794
 - Joseph, * 24.3.1797

Kinder von Mattheus, * in Lonkorsch, ~ Lippinken:

- Anton, * 16., ~ 19.10.1815
- **Bronzkowski**, Catharina, * 21., ~ 22.6.1817
- **Bronzkowski**, Johann, * 27.3., ~ 3.4.1820
- **Bražkowski**, Marianne, 29.6., ~ 6.7.1823
- **Bražek, Franz**, */~ Lippinken 20., ~ 21.6.1830, + Lippinken 3.10.1890, Erben: Frau u. 7 Kinder; oo Lippinken 27.2.1862 als Bronzek

Marcinkowski 2

- **Bražek**, Eva, * 30.1., ~ 10.2.1833

Kinder von Franz gennant **Bražek**, */~ in Lippinken:

- Rosalie, * 22., ~ 23.12.1863
- Marianne, * 8., ~ 9.12.1864; oo Kle-szewski
- Anna, * 9., ~ 12.1.1867
- Antonie, * 8., ~ 13.3.1870
- **Johanna**, * 4., ~ 6.3.1872; oo Lippinken 28.4.1896 **Stahlberg** (bei Heirat Bronzek)
- Franz, */~ 17.12.1873
- Rosalie, * 8., ~ 10.9.1874
- Franz, * 3., ~ 4.10.1876
- Ottilie, * 14., 17.6.1883

Sohn von **Johanna**, unehelich:

- **Johann**, * Lonkorsch 6., ~ 7.5.1891
- Daliszewska**, Marianne, * (1758), + Lonkorsch 9.4.1813; oo Krekorowski
- Fafkowna**, Barbara, * (1752), + Lippinken 22.7.1792; oo Kobylski
- Grabowski**, Eva, aus Lippinken, * (1779), + Lonkorsch 30.10.1830 (60 J.), Erben: Witwer und 3 Töchter; oo Kowalski
- Jankowski**, Jacob, aus Lonkorsch, * (1793); oo Lippinken 12.4.1818 Krekora, Kinder * in Lonkorsch:
 - Johann, * 10., ~ 17.1.1819
 - Catharina, * 13.1., ~ 8.2.1823
 - Johann, */~ 5.6.1825

Karski, Catharina; oo Lewandowski
Kilian, Hedwig, * (1770), + 31.1.1846;
 oo Kobylski
Kleszewski, Anton, aus Stendsitz, * (1862)
 oo Lippinken 4.9.1892 Bronzek
Kobylski, Johann, * (1741), + Lippinken
 11.12.1821, Erben: Frau und 7 Kin-
 der; 1.oo Fafkowna, 2.oo 8.10.1792
 Kilian, Kinder */~ Lippinken:
 - Bartholomeus, * 24.8.1769
 - Anton, * 30.1.1773
 - Marianne, * 25., ~ 29.9.1776
 - **Franz**, * 2., ~ 10.10.1779, + Lippin-
 ken 1.10.1831 an Cholera; oo Lippin-
 ken 12.11.1804 **Polkowski**
 - Ludwik, * 2., ~ 8.10.1782
 - Marianne, * 9., ~ 11.10.1785
 Kinder aus 2.oo:
 - Dorothea, * 9.2.1794
 - Catharina, * 26.4.1795
 - Catharina, * 7.6.1796
 - Martianna, * 5.2.1798
 - Johann, * 14.5.1800
 - Joseph, * 20.3.1802
 - Johann, * 25.4.1804
 - Anna, * 2.10.1806
 - Marianne, * 30.7.1809, + 10.4.1895;
 oo 17.11.1834 Sobotka
 - Victoria, * 25.11., ~ 1.12.1811, +
 Lippinken 16.5.188, erben 3 Kinder;
 oo Lippinken 26.11.1835 Marcinkowski
 Kinder von Franz, */~ Lippinken:
 - Thomas, * 21.11.1805, + Lippinken
 24.10.1852 an Cholera; oo Lippinken
 22.11.1840 Wilemska
 - Catharina, * 9.10.1808
 - **Marianne Elisabeth**, * 31.1., ~ 3.2.
 1811, + Lippinken 16.8.1841; oo
Marcinkowski 1
 - Anna, * 8., ~ 3.2.1814
 - Joseph, * 27., ~ 28.5.1817, + Lippin-
 ken 26.2.1871; oo Lippinken 18.11.
 1844 Ziolkowski
 - Anton, * 10., ~ 16.4.1820
 - Catharina, * 25.8., ~ 1.9.1822
 - Franz, * 3.4.1824, + 28.3.1899; 1.oo
 Lippinken 27.11.1849 Wisinski, 2.oo
 Lippinken 12.5.1856 Lewandowski
 - Franz Andreas, * 23., ~ 24.8.1829

Kowalski, Casimir, Milite; * (1776), +
 Lonkorsch 15.5.1831 (60 J.)Erben: 4
 Töchter; oo Lippinken 15.10.1798
 Grabowska
 - Marianne, * Frycowizna 21:7.1800
 - Elisabeth, * Lonkorsch 1., ~ 4.10.1811
 - Matheus, * 14.1.1815
 - Hedwig, * 30.04., ~ 3.5.1818; 1.oo
 Wisniewski, 2.oo Marcinkowski 1
Kowalski, Catharina; oo Taranowski
Krekora, siehe Krekorowski
Krekorowski, Michael, * (1753), + Lon-
 korsch 23.12.1810; oo Lippinken
 30.10.1780 Daliszewska

Kinder, * Lonkorsch, ~ in Lippinken:

- Eva, * 10., ~ 14.12.1783
 - Adam, * 10., ~ 14.12.1783
 - **Marianne**, * Lonkorsch 15., ~
 17.3.1787, + Lippinken 6.5.1866,
 Erben: 4 Kinder; oo **Brozkowski**
 - Thomas, * 7., ~ 10.12.1789
 - Casimir, * 4., ~ 6.3.1791
 - Krekora Catharina, * 27.10.1796; oo
 Lippinken 12.4.1818 Jankowski
Lewandowski, Paul; oo Karski
 - Anna, * Lippinken 27.7., ~ 5.8.1829
 - Marianne, * Lippinken 26.12.1830, +
 6.4.1900, Erben: 5 Kinder; oo Ko-
 bylski
Marcinkowski, Andreas, aus Lippinken,
 (1807), + Lippinken 19.2.1872,
 Erben: Frau und 6 Kinder; oo Lippin-
 ken 26.11.1835 Kobylska, Kinder */~
 Lippinken:
 - Joseph, * 6., ~ 12.2.1837, + Lippin-
 ken 18.5.1877; oo Taranowski
 - Johann, * 8., ~ 12.2.1839
 - Marianne, * 24., ~ 27.10.1840
 - Catharina, * 2., ~ 11.11.1842
 - Johann, * 1., ~ 4.8.1844
 - Anna, * 16., ~ 19.8.1849
 - Franz, * 1., ~ 9.6.1851
 - Andreas, * 25., ~ 27.10.1852
Polkowski, Ludwika, * (1760), + Lip-
 pinken 13.12.1833 an Cholera; oo
 Kobylski
Sobotka, siehe Sobocinski

Sobocinski, Joseph

- Joseph, * Lippinken 18., ~ 20.4.1809;
oo als Sobotka - Lippinken 17.11.1834
Kobylska

Stahlberg, Franz, aus Lisewo, * (1875); oo
Lippinken 28.4.1896 Bronzek**Taranowski, Mathias; oo Kowalski, Kin-**
der * in Lippinken:

- Johann, * 19., ~ 20.4.1852
- Anna, * 27.7., ~ 4.8.1853, + Lippin-
ken 1.12.1875; oo Marcinkowski
- Marianne, * 5., ~ 7.8.1857

Wilemski, Joseph; oo Polkowska, Kinder
* in Lippinken:

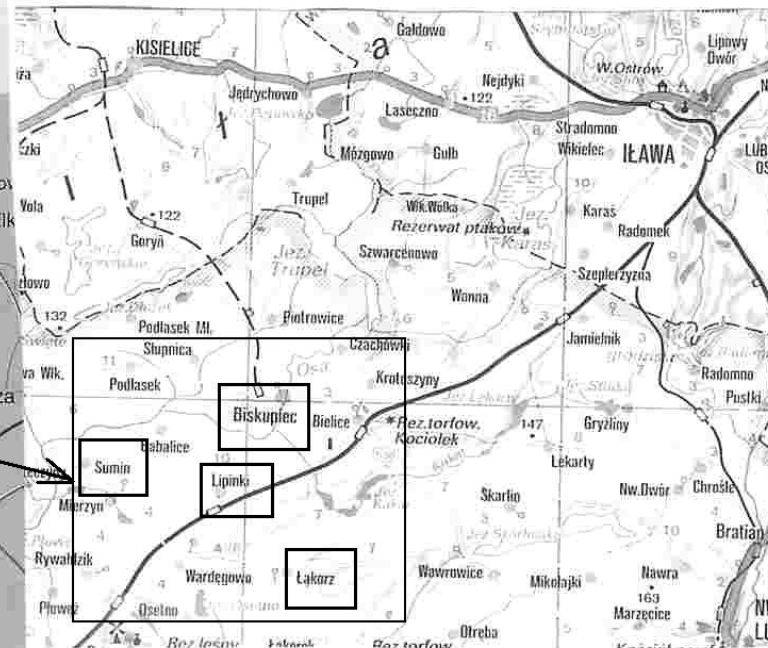
- Marianne, * 11.7.1806
- Michael, * 15.1.1809
- Anna Elisabeth, * 28., ~ 29.7.1817
- Catharina, * 3., ~ 6.4.1814, + Lippin-
ken 29.1.1866, Erben 4 Kinder; oo

Kobylski

- Victoria, */~ 26.3.1817
- Johann, * 28., ~ 31.5.1821

Wisinski, Catharina, Witwe, * (1823);
1.oo ...; 2.oo Kobylski**Wisniewski, Bartholomeus, * (1817); oo**
Lippinken 31.5.1842 Kowalski**Ziolkowski, Friedrich; oo Chelminski,**
Kinder * in Lippinken:

- Anna, * 25., ~ 26.11.1809
- Marianne, * 26., ~ 29.1.1812
- Eva, * 15., ~ 19.6.1817, + 25.10.
1867; oo Kobylski
- Justine, * 21., ~ 24.3.1821

Zolondek, siehe Zolądek**Zolądek, Brigitte, * (1755), + 12.5.1813**
(50 J.); oo Bronszkowski

Maps adapted from *RV Reise- und Verkehrsverlag and Kartographie: Geo Data, 1995-96, and Orbis*
Polish Travel Bureau promotional literature

Ten-year Members:

The following is a listing of members who joined PGS-MN during membership year 1998 and who remain members through membership year 2007.

Valarie Anderson, Roseville
Jeanette Bias, Vadnais Heights
William Bonk, Kamuela HI
Vernon Broll, Annandale
Col. James Ebertowski, Chester VA
Audra Jean Etzel, Buffalo
John Felcyn, Plymouth
Veronica Freihammer, Rice
Dolores Herrmann, Bellingham WA
Linda Huggard, Canton MI
Pauline Jagusch, Red Wing
Michael Jarmuz, Hudson WI
Janet Mitchell, Eagan
Corrine Schultz, Albert Lea
Donna Skovran, Burnsville
Daniel Zinda, DeWitt IA

Thank you all for your continued loyalty to PGS-MN.

Fifteen-year Members:

PGS-MN adopted its constitution in late 1992 and was accepted as a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society in January 1993. We also published the first issue of our newsletter at that time. Members who joined us in membership year 1993 or before are considered to be "Charter Members" of PGS-MN. The following is a listing of members from our charter year 1993 and who remain members today:

***Ed Brandt**, Minneapolis
Kathleen Broberg, Albert Lea
Jim Dusek, Floodwood
Michael Eckman, Bloomington
Joan Gordenier, Gregory MI
Wayne Hacholski, Orange CA
Betty Joyce, Brooklyn Park
Rod Julkowski, Plymouth

Evelyn Karn, Columbia Heights
Anton & Eleanor Kasella, Woodbury
Gregory F. Kishel, St. Paul
***Dr. W. Kornel Kondy**, Minneapolis
***Blanche Krbechek**, Golden Valley
Millicent Kriske, International Falls
***Paul Kulas**, Champlin
Joan Lisson, St. Paul
Harry McOuat, Wakefield MA
Harry & Bernice Mullen, West St. Paul
Florence Myslajek, Minneapolis
Daniel A. Nedoroski, St. Paul
***Barbara Rockman**, Brooklyn Park
Adeline Copa/Sopa, Green Bay WI
Annette Stenger, Yuma AZ
Bruno & Phyllis Syzdek, Las Vegas NV
Eugene Stanefski, Inver Grove Heights
Bernie Szymczak, Columbia Heights
Florence Zimniewicz, Vadnais Heights

Those marked with an * are "Founding Members" of PGS-MN. They were part of a small group that did the needed organizational work prior to our official founding in January 1993. PGS-MN can look back on many accomplishments over the past fifteen years. Continued progress could not have happened without the support of our many members. We thank you all for your loyalty and continued membership.

Extra Contributions

We thank the following for their extra monetary contributions to PGS-MN:

Marcee Clemons
 Rt. Rev. Dr. Jan Dawidziuk
 Diana J. Gustafson
 Coco Lopata
 Dave and Diane Rapacz

We are a branch of MGS, a registered non-profit, educational organization. Contributions beyond basic membership dues may be income tax deductible.



United Polish Genealogical Seminar 2008

Friday, April 18, 2008 at 4:00 pm MT - Monday, April 21, 2008 at 11:00 pm MT, Salt Lake City, UT

Event Details

You are cordially invited to the 2008 Conference of United Polish Genealogical Societies (UPGS) which is being hosted by the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan.

Where is it? -- In Salt Lake City at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel and the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons). This world-renowned genealogy library is open to the public. The library is devoted to genealogy and holds books, maps and microfilm from all over the world.

We plan this event to allow researchers time in the library and still be able to hear and learn from the best of Polish/Eastern European genealogical researchers and speakers. The conference includes lecture sessions, conference packet including syllabus, hospitality refreshments, and banquet with a keynote address.

For more conference details: go to <<http://upgs08-emailinvite.eventbrite.com>> or contact the newsletter.

Drobne Echa ...continued from page 1

When Bowlus was platted and organized around a stop on the Soo Line Railroad as it was newly being extended through the area,³ the second (and perhaps third) generations of the same families took their place among the first residents of the village itself.

As we will see, they were among Bowlus's earliest entrepreneurs and businesspeople as well. That much is borne out by the following contemporaneous reports in the Polish-language press, which I have translated from the originals that appeared in *Kuryer Polski* (Milwaukee) and *Rolnik* (Stevens Point, Wis.). These sources document Bowlus as the last-settled locale in Minnesota to have developed a concentrated Polish-American community

³See Titel, et al, *Bowlus: A Pictorial History*, pp. 6-9 and 20; Fuller, *History of Morrison and Todd Counties*, v. I, pp. 164 and 206. The approval and filing of the plat of the "New Town of Bowlus" was reported in the *Morrison County Democrat*, July 12, 1907, p. 1.

* * * * *

From Kuryer Polski, December 17, 1908:

FROM BORLESS,⁴ MINN.

(Correspondence to *Kuryer Polski*)

Borless, December 12, 1908. – The village of Borless owes its birth solely to the Poles who settled in the vicinity of a new railroad line (the *Soo Line*) in the month of June, 1908—in this way they contributed to its founding.

The local Poles should rightly take pride in this, the more so because all of the business rests in their hands; all of the stores, saloons, grocery shops belong to our countrymen and we even have our own bank as well. After the founding of this settlement the activity in trade immediately sprang to life as well. And already it is certain that the local farmers are satisfied most of all, they who must be assured of a sales-market for agricultural products and the fruits of their husbandry and at the same time have to provide themselves with necessaries and useful housewares. The area is fertile and beautiful, and Messrs. Piotr KULIG and F. SZMIEJA are able to confirm this, they having purchased farms here to better their station in life and having not been disappointed. And Mr. Michał MICHAU and PENTAK each bought themselves a block in town, in order to establish a saloon and dance-hall.

Mr. MICHAU has an excellent mill and this is a distinctive feature for us; the farmers are very much satisfied with it, since they get beautiful flour and also even *kasza*, which we Poles love so much.

And likewise reports are going around that a new church is supposed to be built as well, since the old one is not very attractive to us due to various circumstances. Money for a church is always found among us Silesians; and there is already a donor, whom I am not yet mentioning, but there will be more about this later.

The air here is clean and healthy, and there is such warmth yet that it reminds us of our Polish *Babie*

lato [Indian summer]; whereas the harvests were good enough.

Jan FILEJ.

From Kuryer Polski, June 3, 1909:

Bowlus, Minn. Our settlement is small; it lies on the *Soo Line* in central Minnesota. We Polish farmers from the area and a number of citizens from the town have organized Immaculate Conception of Mary Parish; there have been several meetings already and so far the trustees have been elected. They are: Józef POLL, president; Józ. SZWALENKIEWICZ, secretary; Piotr FILIP, treasurer; and the directors for the one year of the construction are: Jan FILIP, Wincenty ŚWIENIEK, Tomasz BIENIUS, Jan HAJSIK, Marcin CZECH and Jan ZIELINSKI. The treasurer has raised pledges for \$4000 and the secretary for \$1000. The *Soo Company* has made a gift to us of a full block of land for the church and the parishioners already have begun hauling out the soil and carting in stone. The church is supposed to be in the Romance style, with one tower, 108 feet long and 48 feet wide, with a stone foundation to 9 feet and walls of brick. We do not have a builder yet and whoever would want to take up the construction, make application to Piotr FILIP, R.F.D. Bowlus, Minn.

A Subscriber.

From Kuryer Polski, May 14, 1910:

A NEW POLISH CHURCH.

(Correspondence to *Kuryer Polski*)

Bowlus, Minn., May 10 -- Once more, another church has joined those that were already in existence in America. On May 18 the consecration of a Polish Roman Catholic Church under the patronage of St. Stanisław Kostka took place. Bishop J. TROBEK from St. Cloud performed the consecration, with the assistance of the regional priests, with great splendor and before a large gathering of the local people. The pastor in the new parish is Father J. JANSKI. This church is enrolled at the archdiocese in St. Paul on the customary terms; it is being administered by the Bishop, the Bishop's vicar and the local priest and two from the parish, who are managing the parish treasury with the priest.

⁴*Transl. note:* Thus, in original.

The church is constructed in the Romance style; the lower part is of stone, the walls of red brick; it is of a length of 118 feet, a width of 48 feet, the height of the steeple is 135 feet. The cost of the construction, with all of the interior fixtures, will come to around \$20,000. Since we have had the greatest need for the celebration of church services, the church is the pride of the whole region. We have debt of \$4,000 for the church, borrowed with the Bishop's permission.

**John S. FILIP,
John F. SCHMUJA,
The committee.**

* * * * *

From Rolnik, February 24, 1911:

FROM BOWLUS, MINN.

Going across from place to place through the Polish settlements in the state of Minnesota, I stopped in at the village of Bowlus. This is a village which arose and expanded with the speed of a mushroom. Poles from Poznan, from Galicya, from Silesia, and from the Kingdom of Poland settled here. I observed that the people residing here are very hospitable and loving of harmony. One does not hear of any rebuke from one to another, from the Galicians, the Kaszubians, the Poznanians, those from the Russian Partition, etc. All are working hand in hand. The city was founded by a certain M.L. SCHWIENIEK in 1908, thus about three years ago. The church, to which a hundred ten families belong, was erected two years ago. The pastor is Father WOTZKA, a young shepherd; but already in that short time he has so bound his lambs together, that one hears praise and words for him from all lips, while their faces show candor and truth. The Poles here are working in such unity that one can take them as an example for oneself. In the next year a Polish bank will be established here. The arrangements for this have already been made. There are two Polish saloons here and seven stores, five Polish and two others. The surface of the land is level and thus the city has a great opportunity for expansion in the future.

* * * * *

From Rolnik, August 1, 1913:

Royalton. -- The 23 year old Jan WOJDULA, young son of Jan WOJDULA the elder from Bowlus, Minn., has died a terrible death. A passenger train ran over WOJDULA on the railroad tracks in the direction of the farms about two miles distant, and so injured him that the young man died within two minutes after the accident, on the train on which he was being carried in order to take him to the hospital. Clearly, the young man poorly reckoned the speed with which the train was rushing along, and did not get clear in time; whereas he wanted to cross to the other side of the tracks, he did not hear the approach of the train.

* * * * *

This is just a handful of reports, and its total length is not great--but it's all I have found on Bowlus in my review of the regional Polish-language press thus far.⁵ I discovered the December 17, 1908 piece in *Kuryer Polski* first, while looking for something else several years ago. I was both excited and nonplussed about this "Borless," a place name identified to Minnesota that was unknown to me and that I could not find on maps. Hearing Bob Prokott again mention his hometown a few months later made the light come on for me, revealing the spelling error in the article's dateline.

⁵I have only been able to get through three years' worth of *Kuryer Polski* thus far, 1908-1910; that newspaper was a *daily*, and largely focused on Milwaukee and small-town Wisconsin, so it's been slow going! I've been more deeply into *Rolnik*, a weekly, having reviewed 1905-1913; but the bulk of its correspondence from Polish-American communities outside central Wisconsin was published in 1906-1908, a bit too early to feature our late-coming colony. As John Radziłowski found in his research a decade ago, by 1908 Winona's *Wiarus* was featuring relatively little correspondence from the regional Polish colonies, and almost no news from Minnesota outside Winona.

Which leads me to wonder whether the text of that item contains another error, one that slighted the pioneering Silesian family of Morrison County and the leading family of Bowlus Poles, the SCHWIENTEKs.⁶ *Kuryer Polski* names one “PENTAK” as the prospective founder of a saloon and dance hall. However, the foremost history of Morrison County identifies Matt SCHWIENTEK as the first saloon operator in Bowlus.⁷ More directly, the “town tattler” column in the newspaper published closest to Bowlus covered the construction of SCHWIENTEK’s saloon and social hall throughout the summer of 1908, as well as early events held in it in 1909.⁸ Perhaps a travelling agent for *Kuryer Polski* phoned the report in to

Milwaukee, and the publisher made an error in transcription.⁹

Regular readers of this series will recall how correspondents from other Polish-settled locales puffed up the prominence of their countrymen among their towns’ earliest settlers. So it is with Bowlus here, and again perhaps somewhat to exaggeration. Nonetheless, it does seem that there was a significant Polish presence among the earliest entrepreneurs of the town; and I am guessing that the generational experience of these families in Morrison County and other nearby areas of Silesian settlement enabled the second and later generations to stream up into the middle class of these central Minnesota towns.¹⁰ It is interesting to note from our 1911 *Rolnik* report that Poles from all three of the Partitions settled in the vicinity, however.

⁶Bob Prokott identifies John SCHWIENTEK and his family as “the first of these immigrants” from Silesia to Two Rivers Township, in 1870. “Polanders of Central Minnesota,” in Titel, et al, *Bowlus: A Pictorial History*, p. 26.

⁷Harold L. Fisher, *The Land Called Morrison* (St. Cloud: Volkmuth Printing Co., 2d rev. ed. 1976), p. 119.

⁸That newspaper was the *Royalton Banner*. The *Banner*’s first Bowlus-bylined “town tattler” column appeared in its November 5, 1908 issue, p. 4, mentioning the completion of “SCHWINTÉK’s” saloon and hall and its upcoming grand opening. Before then the “Route 4” tattler column had items from the vicinity of the newly-established Bowlus, including reports of the progress on SCHWIENTEK’s project, in the issues of June 18, 1908, p. 8; Sept. 10, 1908, p. 8; and October 15, 1908, p. 1. Per the December 24, 1908 issue, p. 1, SCHWIENTEK had already bought out two early local saloonist-competitors, STODOLKA and KALIS, and was now pouring them out at two locations in the town. Other Polish surnames appear frequently in the *Banner*’s Bowlus-bylined column in these early years. PGS-MN members with roots in this community would do well to review this material!

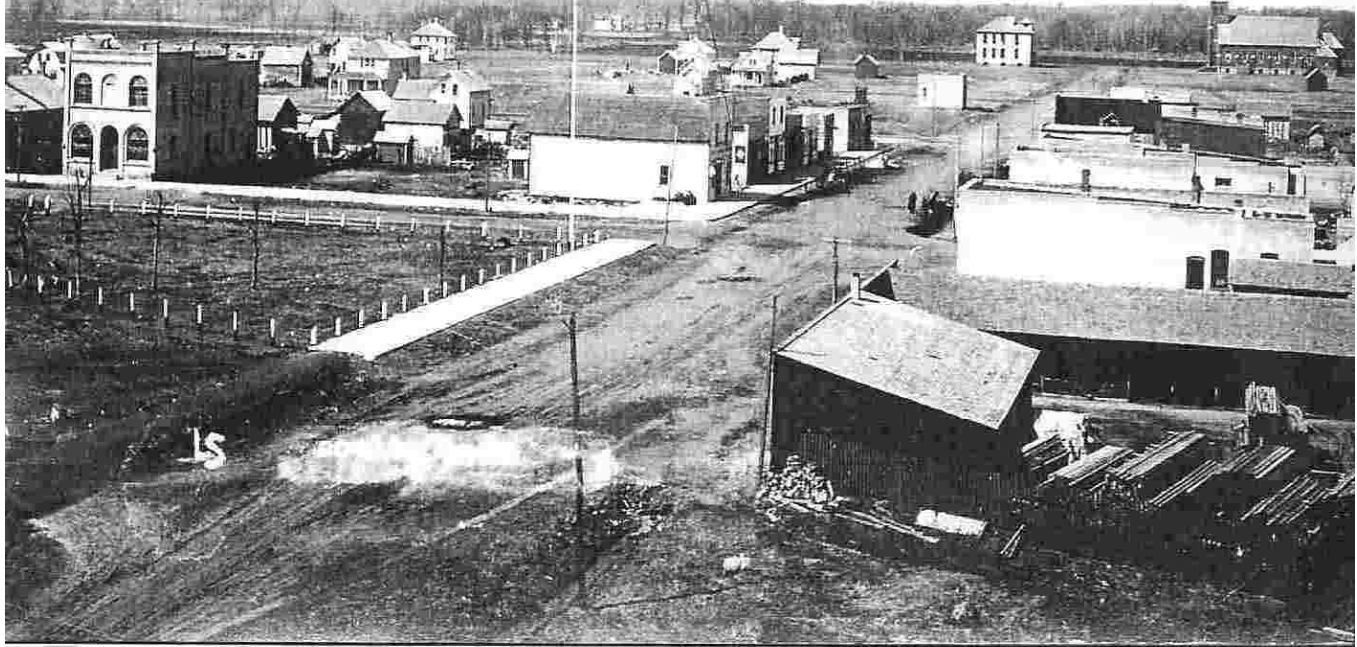
Other than the founding and first development of Bowlus, the other major event noted here is the establishment and dedication of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, an initiative launched and consummated solely by the Polish Roman Catholics of the village and vicinity. Before 1907 the Poles on the area farms attended Mass at North Prairie (four miles southwest of Bowlus’s townsite) or Swan River (now Sobieski, eight miles to the northwest). The geographic nexus of a platted village with lots rapidly taken up by Polish-American owners prompted the founding of a new parish, and made the case for it with the diocesan authorities.¹¹

⁹He might have mixed up his days. SCHWIENTEK was almost certainly ŚWIĄTEK, “Sunday,” in the original Polish. PIĄTEK, “Friday,” another common surname in Poland, is pretty close in pronunciation, spelling, and general essence.

¹⁰Bob Prokott has said that portions of Morrison County, including this one, received in-migration of people from the Silesian Polish community of Delano, among other places in Minnesota.

¹¹“St. Stanislaus Kostka Church,” in Titel, et al, *Bowlus: A Pictorial History*, pp. 70-72.

At its inception, St. Stanislaus Kostka was served as a mission church by Father JANSKI, then resident at North Prairie; but in October, 1910, Father Vincent J. WOTZKA became the first resident pastor in Bowlus.¹² St. Stanislaus Kostka parish had a succession of priests of Polish descent through 1983. The church is still active and open to this day, a testament to the strong ongoing loyalty of Bowlus-area Catholics, the great majority of whom are descended from those pioneering *Polski* families of a century ago.



Bowlus Main Street looking SW early 1900's. Note the new sidewalk.

Left: Long time Saloon. Bowlus businesses on both sides of the street.
New school & church at the top right. Part of existing lumber yard on lower right.

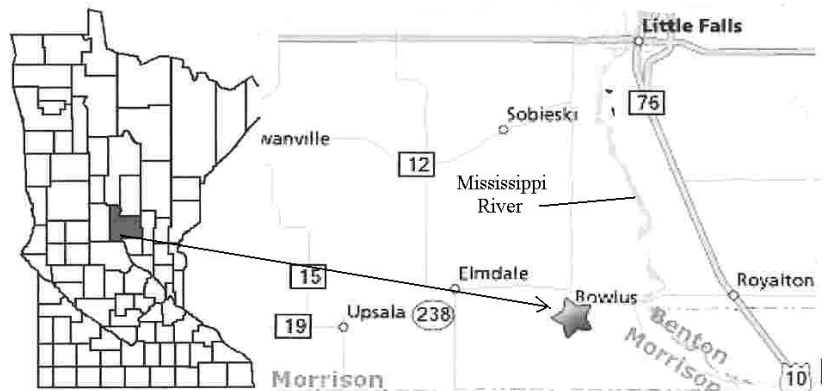
Source: *Bowlus, A Pictorial History, One Hundred Years* Louis Titel, James Beniek & Tim Jendro

The work on the new church begins.

Source: *Royalton Banner*, June 17, 1909

Open Bids Wanted.

For the erection of a catholic church at Bowlus, Morrison, county Minn. Building is to be 125ft. x 44ft. with basement. Material is to be of stone and brick. Date of hearing said bids will take place Saturday at 2 o'clock p. m. June 19, 1909, at Bowlus Minn. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids. For plans and particulars call or write to the secretary of Polish Catholic Church Bowlus, Minn.



¹²Titel, et al, *Bowlus: A Pictorial History*, p. 73. See also "Bowlus--St. Stanislaus Kostka," 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. 569-570. The dedication of the church was reported in the *Royalton Banner*, May 12, 1910, p. 8.

Missing Branches

QUERIES, 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:*

Mary Anne and Robert Backowski, 17384 Riverwood Dr., Little Falls MN 56345. They are researching: BACKOWSKI, JASDREWSKI, LASHINSKI, PASHALKA, RINGWELSKI, SMUDA, STILLER, SKROCH, LAMPERT, BURSEY surnames.

Loretta Delk, 1882 29th St. S., St. Cloud MN 56301 <lidelk@mtaonline.net> is a new member.

George Hamernick, 1323 Manomin Ave., West St. Paul 55118 <Ghamernick@comcast.net> is researching HAMERNICK/HAMERSKI, PROZINSKI/PRONDZINSKI in Brzeźno and Borzyszkowy in Poland and in Milwaukee, WI.

Ed Hendrickson, 1839 - 320 St., Cushing MN 56443 <ejs@brainerd.net> is researching POZORSKI, PLACZEK in Appleton, MN.

Peter & Joyce Kamrowski, 18181 River Wood Dr., Little Falls MN 56345 <PetenJoy@Charter.Net> are researching the KAMROWSKI, LEASON, SALASKI surnames.

Pat Zych Kile, 328 Blair Ave., St. Paul MN 55103 <studiopK@prodigy.net> is researching ZYCH, SYSKA, ZONDLO, SLABIAK in Toporzysko and Spytkowicze in Poland and MN and WI.

Mary Kolodjeski, 23776 70th Ave., St. Cloud MN 56301 <KreyKolodjeski@msn.com> is researching KOCIEMBA, KOLODZIEJSKI, KOLODZSKI in Poznan Poland, St. Anna MN.

Ron Kurpiers, 484 Temperance St. #502, St. Paul MN 55101 <kurpiers@augsborg.edu> is researching KURPIERS, KURPIERZ surnames.

Kathleen Lewandowski, 952 Willow View Circle, Waite Park MN 56387 is researching METKOWSKI, MATKOWSKI in Silver Lake and Glencoe, MN.

Clay Moore, 4635 Kingbury Drive, Eagan MN 55122 <amc09m@aol.com> is a new member researching CIESLAK and GRYZIAK surnames.

Russell W. Ruzynski, 7176 Ivy Ridge Court, Lino Lakes MN 55014 is a new member.

Rachel Schilling, 25751 185th Ave., Fort Ripley MN 56449 <rschil@brainerd.net> is SKWIRA, SKWIERA, PATYK, STRONCEK, RUDOLPH in Poland and in Opole, Bowlus and Sobieski in Central Minnesota.

Toni Seroshek, 10410 Kahler Ave NE, Monticello MN 55362 <tsseroshek@tds.net> is researching SEROSHEK, SERASZEK, WOROCH, LETCHI in Washington State. Also PRACYK/PROCYK.

Donald Taschner, 4314 Tower View Lane NW, Hackensack MN 56452 is researching in Keynia, Poland and in Wisconsin and Iowa.

Connie Viere, 28300 Kelp Rd., St. Joseph MN 56374 <eviere@communitygiving.org> is researching SKAJA, BARDONSKI, KLODZINSKI, and PODALSKI surnames.

Stan Wielinski, 205 SW 4th St., Little Falls MN 56345 <dlemay65@msn.com> is researching MAY, RUDEK, WIELINSKI, RICHTER, RUTZ, OLIC in Poland, Germany and in Elmdale, Swan River and Pike Creek in Minnesota.

Missing Branches...continued on page 16

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