



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2008

NUMBER 2

## DROBNE ECHA

Installment #14

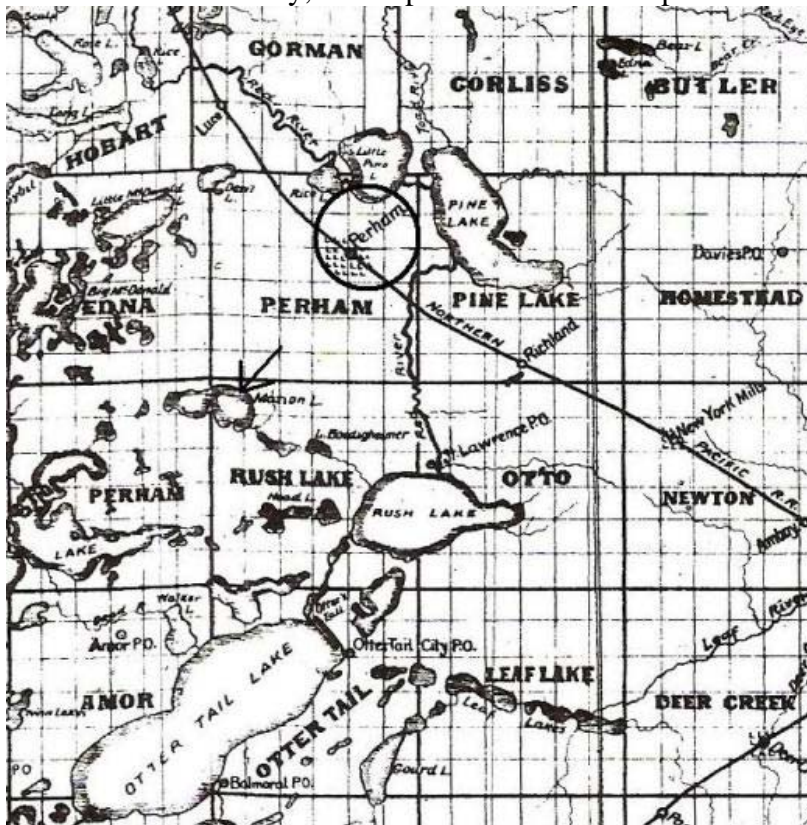
Dateline: Perham

From *Wiarus/Katolik*, 1887-1909

By Greg Kishel

<gfk1@cornell.edu>

This time, our exploration of Minnesota's past in the Polish-language press takes us into northwestern Minnesota. Perham, in eastern Otter Tail County, developed as the railroad spread into



Source of the map: *Fergus Falls Weekly Journal*, Nov. 21, 1895;  
prepared by L.A. Levorsen, Abstracter, Fergus Falls

this part of our state.<sup>1</sup>

**Perham Article** ..continued on page 20

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<sup>1</sup>See John W. Mason, ed., *History of Otter Tail County Minnesota Its People, Industries and Institutions* (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1916), v. 1, pp. 208-209 (completion of Northern Pacific line through eastern Otter Tail County in 1871 was “undoubtedly responsible for the early settlement and organization of [Perham] township”); *East Otter Tail County History*, v. 1 (Dallas: Taylor Publ. Co., 1978), p. 26; *Fergus Falls Weekly Journal*, Nov. 21, 1895, p. 20 (“Perham is unquestionably supreme in the territory traversed by the Northern Pacific” in Otter Tail County; “[a]s soon as the road was built [Perham] became an important trading center...”)

### **Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota**

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society  
1185 No. Concord St.  
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<<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 for 2008 and \$20 for 2009.

#### **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 - 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55406-2924, or to e-mail: <[johnkow@att.net](mailto:johnkow@att.net)>

#### **Address/e-mail changes or membership questions?**

Contact: Dori Marszalek, Membership Chair  
3901-61<sup>st</sup> Ave. No., Brooklyn Center MN 55429-2403  
or e-mail: <[doripgs@comcast.net](mailto:doripgs@comcast.net)>

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### **President's Letter**

The Polish Genealogical Society takes a vacation from June until August, at least from programs. The library is open year round. We participated in the MGS History Fair in June, where we collected samples for DNA analysis, and had an information table. See our upcoming Fall schedule in this newsletter. We will have one out-of-state meeting, and three at the MGS Library (see page 15 for details).

We will continue to collect samples for DNA analysis, at each of these Fall meetings - see our web site as well as that of SMGF for information and answers to your questions. For other questions please contact me.

PGS-MN has agreed to provide three volunteers for the MGS Library each month. Believe it or not, we have been unable to do this. The same people, perhaps a group of 6-7, do almost all of the volunteering, out of a population of 200 Minnesota members. You can receive a personal tutorial from several persons before you begin to volunteer. Contact Jan Bias, e-mail address listed in the left-hand column, for more information. For operating hours see the MGS web site at [mngs.org](http://mngs.org).

We are always looking for new ideas, and speakers, for our programs. This year two members spoke of their success with their research or of a topic of general interest. Consider doing this. Contact me or Jay Biedny for questions.

The Minnesota Genealogical Society, of which PGS-MN is a "branch" member, is developing a long-range plan for its organization, which will affect the MGS Library, and its branches, affiliates and other "groups" that maintain collection items at the Library. As information becomes available it will be posted in this newsletter. The intent will be to make the "groups" more of a partner with MGS.

See you in the Fall. Terry Kita



## *The Bulletin Board*

### **PGSA Fall Seminar, September 19-20**

PGSA will have their 30<sup>th</sup> annual seminar with the theme of "Honoring Our Ancestors" at the Meadows Club in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. For details check their web site: <<http://www.pgsa.org>>.

### **Genealogy Seminar at Sea**

Fly Away Travel is offering a weeklong Caribbean Cruise which features three days of general genealogy seminars. The cruise leaves from Miami on October 25. For more information you can contact <[flyawayinc@aol.com](mailto:flyawayinc@aol.com)> or 800-837-0295.

### **Resources for Polish-American Genealogy in Minnesota**

PGS-MN completed a revised version of this four-page guide. If you did not receive one when you joined or need an update please let us know.

Contact: John Kowles <[johnkow@att.net](mailto:johnkow@att.net)> for e-mail copy or Paul Kulas, 12008 W. River Road, Champlin MN 55316 <[kkulas@ties2.net](mailto:kkulas@ties2.net)> for hard-copy.

### **Member E-mail Updates Needed**

If your e-mail has changed please let the membership chairperson know. This will keep you in touch with the organization through our periodic electronic mailings and prevent a large amount of undeliverable e-mails from being returned. Thanks. Contact: <[doripgs@comcast.net](mailto:doripgs@comcast.net)>

### **PGS New York State**

We exchange newsletters with PGS NYS. They have informed us they moved to the Erie County Public Library in downtown Buffalo.

### **PGS-MN DNA Project**

Collections will be made at upcoming meetings. For information: <<http://www.smgf.org>> or <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>>

### **Anniversary of Polish Settlement in Canada**

One of our members from Canada, Shirley Mask Connelly, forwarded us this information. This year marks a number of milestones: the 150th anniversary of the first Polish settlement in Canada in the Kaszuby region west of Ottawa, the 100th anniversary of the birth of the thriving Polish community in Windsor, and the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Polish Congress, the national voice of Canadians of Polish descent.

*There were some early migrations between the Kashubs in Ontario and Winona, Minnesota and many surnames are common to both locations.*

-JWK

### **Copernicus Book Sells for \$2.2 Million**

Nicolaus Copernicus' revolutionary treatise, *On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres* (printed in Germany in 1543) recently sold for \$2.2 million. The 202-page book describes the heliocentric theory of the solar system. He dedicated the book to Pope Paul III but it was banned by the Church until 1757. Copernicus was born in Toruń, Poland in 1473. His Gothic birthplace and museum can be visited today in Toruń, located on Wisła River.

*-taken from various news sources*

### **Hennepin County Digitizing Land and Marriage Records**

Hennepin County is digitizing more than 24 million pages of land ownership and marriage licenses dating back to the 1850s. This will replace paper and microfilm records and allow sharpening of the images. Use of the database is now limited to professionals, for a subscription fee, who work in land records. The public is welcome to use the digitized information but they will have to do so at the Hennepin County Government Center. Completion will be some years in the future.

*-Star Tribune June 18, 2008*

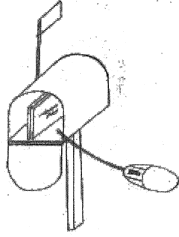
### **Pulaski Polka Days, July 17-20**

The nation's top polka bands will be in Pulaski, Wisconsin for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Pulaski Polka Days. For more information call 920-822-3869 or check <<http://www.pulaskipolkadays.com>>

### **PACIM Picnic, August 10**

The summer gathering is at the PACIM library, 2514 Central Ave. N.E., Minneapolis, starting at 1:30 p.m. **Bulletin Board ...continued on page 6**

## Correspondence ... *Komunikacja*



### *Silesia Left Out*

Good Day,

In the Spring issue of PGS, you wrote about the Index of Place Names of the Republic of Poland. Am I correct in assuming this would not include Silesia namely the Opole and Brieg area?

It seems that Silesia is not covered by the Polish as well as the Germans very much. I feel as though our ancestors live in a limbo stage with only an occasional mention. I am hoping you will correct and enlighten me that I am wrong to assume this! Thank you.

In appreciation,  
Veronica S. Freihammer

*Interesting question. Yes, you are right. The gazetteer I wrote about was generated about 1933. This would not include the Opole and Brieg (now Brzeg, Poland) areas. To be sure I checked the gazetteer and it did not cover this area. This is unfortunate history. This area was ruled by the Piast Dynasty in the 1300s and then Bohemia, which had Polish Dukes control it for many years. It was eventually annexed by Prussia in 1740 and became part of the German Empire in 1871. After WWI Silesia elected to remain German; however, there were three insurrections by Poles in 1919-1921. The dispute was eventually settled by the League of Nations in the Silesian Convention in 1922. Germany was given control of Upper Silesia which includes the area of your interest. Following WWII it was awarded to Poland to compensate for the eastern lands lost. Germans remained in the Opole area but were expelled from many other areas, eventually resettled by Polish. See the maps on page 5 which illustrate what the gazetteer covers and what part of Poland is considered Silesia today. We have many members of the society from Silesia and I am sure it will be of interest. -JWK*

## Queries ... *Pytania*

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

### *Searching for John J. LEGUT*

I am trying to track down my grandfather's side of the family. I have two different birth dates. On his draft card it says that John J. LEGUT was born Dec. 24, 1879 and on his funeral card it says he was born Dec. 24, 1885. He was Catholic. His wife's name was Elizabeth MIGACZ and I have her history back to the 1670s. My grandfather's mother was Rosalia Migacz and his father's name was Jozef Legut. I wrote to the church in Poland but gave the 1885 birth date and they didn't have anything on him. Attached is a copy of his marriage record (*page 6*).

Jeanne Hannes <jcmoby@dishmail.net>

*Here is a rough translation of the marriage record from Holy Cross Church:*

The 3rd of May 1909

The banns (of marriage) having been proclaimed three times I joined in matrimony John Legut of the parish of Holy Cross Minneapolis, Minn., Diocese of St. Paul son of Joseph Legut and Rosalia Migacz (John was) baptized in the parish at Zawoja, Post Office Zawoja, Diocese of Krakow; and Elizabeth Migacz of the parish of Holy Cross diocese of St. Paul, daughter of Bartholomais Migacz and Catharine Matuszyk, (Elizabeth was) baptized in the parish at Grybow, Post Office Grybow, Diocese of Tarnow Witnesses: Antonius Betty and Joseph Franczak

*This is a great record. It gives both the parents' names and the home parish in Poland of both the bride and the groom. I checked the web site of the LDS Family History Library at <familysearch.org> to see if the parish records for Zawoja have been filmed. Unfortunately they have not. So you will need to write directly to the parish for information. (The records for Grybów have been filmed, however [1716 to 1921]). In regard to John's birth date--I would guess that the date on his draft card to be more accurate than the one on his funeral card. Usually the date on the document closest to the event is more accurate.*

**Queries ...continued on page 7**



The map illustrates the area covered by *Skorowidz Miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polski* (Index of Place Names of the Republic of Poland) – see Spring, 2008 Issue, Vol. 16, p.12  
 The map is used by permission of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum <<http://www.ushmm.org>>

### Current Polish Borders



### It would have been nice to have a photograph.

The first daguerreotype picture in 1827 required an eight-hour exposure. A paper negative appeared in 1835. The first daguerreotype in the U.S. was made in 1839 and the first taken outdoors with people was in 1842. After this, technology advanced quickly and in the 1850s photographs were well-known in the U.S. In 1990 Kodak introduced the digital camera. What is the oldest photograph in your collection? We would like to publish it in this newsletter.

-JWK

# Registrum Matrimoniorum Ecclesiae

Diocesis

A. D.

Contrahentium  
Nomina

Die <sup>1909</sup> 3<sup>a</sup> Mensis Mayi Anni 1909

<sup>per</sup>missis tribus bannorum proclamatio in tribus

Ego in frascriptus Matrimonio Conjunxi

Joannem Legut ex parochia Stae Crucis

Minneapolis, Minn., Diocesis Sti Pauli

filium Josephi Legut

et Rosaliae Migacz baptizatum in parochia

Laroga, P.O. Laroga, Diocesis Krakow

et Elizabetham Migacz ex parochia Stae Crucis

Diocesis Sti Pauli filiam Bartholomaei Migacz

et Catharinae Matuzyk, baptizatam in parochia

Grybow, P.O. Grybow Diocesis Tarnow

Testes adfuerunt Antonius Betty et

Joseph Fronczak

*Legut,  
Joannes,  
et  
Migacz,  
Elizabeth*

Priest: Father Henricus Jajeski

Latin Marriage Record of John Legut and Elizabeth Migacz from Holy Cross Church in Minneapolis

Bulletin Board ...continued from page 3

### Blessing of the Flowers Celebration, August 15

The Feast of the Assumption celebration will start at noon at the Polish Museum Annex, 363 E. Second Street, Winona, Minnesota. The Polish Dance Troupe from Warsaw, North Dakota will perform in the afternoon and evening.

**Queries ...continued from page 4**

Searching for John J. LEGUT, continued  
*I see that a copy of your e-mail was also sent to John Rys. That's good because John's ancestral place of origin is very near Zawoja. I am sure that he will have suggestions on how to proceed with your search.*  
 -PTK

*I also received the following e-mail from John Rys regarding this matter:*

I did a search for Jeanne Hannes on the surname Legut with good results. Leguts are from villages just a little west of where my grandparents are from in Poland. I sent her the search results, with some appropriate maps. I also sent her a copy of my DVD documentary that I made of my year 2000 trip to that area, so she can see what the countryside looks like.

John Rys <jlr55@john.rys.name>

**Finding Legut Relatives in Poland**

*Jeanne also inquired about how she might locate relatives in Poland. John Rys of our research committee identified the location where many Leguts live, Bielsko Biala in the south of Poland. In communications with a Legut from Poland on a RootsWeb message board she was advised to go to <<http://www.nasza-klasa.pl>> to search. This site is not easy to work with unless you know some Polish or have some guidance. We found this free site is extremely popular in Poland, now having 13 million subscribers which is fully one-third of the country. They call it a way to locate your classmates but it can be much more useful. I waded through the rules and registered supplying the minimum amount of information. (You must provide your name, e-mail address and age and it is an option to post a picture and identify the school you attended which would be useful for people in Poland.) I got really excited when I put in one of my family names (Sowul), a very rare name in Poland, and got 20 "hits" including many from the area I believe he was born! Unfortunately I have not had time to follow up and completely test the site for the newsletter but I expect to do this for the Fall Newsletter.*  
 -JWK

**Library Listing/Online Translation**

I will be leaving next week to visit MN and WI. I want to include a visit to your library. According to the Spring 2008 issue of PGS-MN newsletter, you prepared a handout of the Library holdings for the Feb. 2008 meeting. I would like a copy of it and would appreciate it if you could e-mail it to me. That way I can be better prepared for my visit.

Also, I would like to ask another question: What "on-line translation sites" do you recommend when I am trying to communicate with people in Poland, who do not speak English? (I have located a web site for annual reunions of the Kiedrowski family in Poland and have had to use a translator to communicate.) I have only found two on-line translation sites and I can't determine which is more accurate. They are <[www.poltran.com](http://www.poltran.com)> and Google Language Tools. Of course, I want to use the one that will give the Polish translation which will be the easiest for them to understand.

**Dorothy Pretare** <[dpngen@comcast.net](mailto:dpngen@comcast.net)>

*Check the PGS-MN web site at:*

*<<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>> for a listing of our library resources. Click on "Our book collection at the MN Genealogical Library." Here is one way to check the accuracy of a translation web site: Write up something in English and have it translated to Polish. Then take that Polish translation and have that translated back into English. See how close that is to your English original.*

*I tried this process at: <[www.poltran.com](http://www.poltran.com)>. I entered:*

*"This is a test to see how accurately you can translate this sentence into Polish."*

*I received the following Polish translation:*

*"jest próbą widzieć jak dołkownie wy możecie tłumaczyć ten wyrok do Języka polskiego (blask)."*

*I then asked that Polish sentence to be translated into English. I got back the following:*

“It is see as exactly can translate for polish this sentence attempt (test) (brilliance).”

*You can see that the translation back to English is a bit garbled but I think you can still decipher the meaning of the original sentence. One should probably assume that the Polish translation is a bit garbled as well. This is likely true of any free online translation service.*

*I then tried an entry more pertinent to genealogical research. I entered:*

“My grandfather, Jan Kulas, was born in Ligota in 1862. Can you send me a copy of his baptismal record?”

*After entering the Polish translation back on the translation site, I received back the following:*

“My \* \* grandfather, january \* \* Kulas, it was born < give birth (be born) > in (to) in (to) 1862 \* \* Ligota. You can record (write down) me send copy of \* \* (record baptismal; record; record)?”

*Again, one can probably decipher the meaning of the original English entry but it seems to me that the translation results are rather disappointing. To get a fully accurate Polish translation it is probably necessary to hire a qualified real live English/Polish translator.*

### **Recent PGS-MN Meetings**

#### **Minnesota Resources – April 5**

About 35 people attended this meeting which focused on Minnesota records. Emilie Trushenski’s interesting presentation was on Naturalization. Jason Waldowski provided a general overview of the many sources available. Terry Kita and John Kowles discussed other records which are sometimes overlooked. Terry also discussed the use of plat maps. Most of the material presented (with some editing) is contained on pages 10-14.

### **Grave Inventory – May 3**

“Grave Inventory, or Looking For Uncle Frank” is Terri DiCarlo’s story of how her family tradition of cleaning seven family graves each Memorial Day led her to develop a grave inventory of five local cemeteries, with 131 family graves documented. Her project includes 101 pictures of the gravestones, done in a scrapbook style, and five cemetery lists of grave locations, done with spreadsheets.

During her presentation, she shared what she learned by doing this project. She gave tips on gathering information from the various cemetery offices and the internet. She handed out a list of a “gravestone cleaning kit” she kept in the trunk of her car. She described unexpected rewards from doing the project, meeting cousins she didn’t know existed on one branch of her family, and partially healing a family feud started by her grandparents’ generation 100 years ago on another branch.

Terri’s project will be a gift to her grandchildren and to their grandchildren, in locating their ancestors’ graves.

### **Extra Contributions**

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

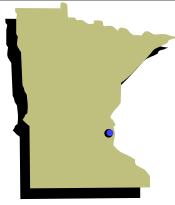
Sandra L. Batalden  
Beverly Boyer  
E.J. Farrell  
Charles Ponagai

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

### *200 Years Ago in Poland*

Napoleon had previously established the Grand Duchy of Warsaw. Historians seem to agree it was only intended to raise men and money for the Napoleonic Empire. In **1808**, conscription of Poles was introduced where all men from 20 to 28 years were called for six years of service. Thirty thousand were called that first year.





### Minnesota Turns 150

Minnesota was admitted to the Union as the 32<sup>nd</sup> state on May 11, 1858. The part east of the Mississippi was acquired at the end of the Revolutionary War when the Treaty of Paris was signed. The portion west of the river was acquired as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1818. The state eventually was carved out of the Minnesota and Wisconsin Territories. The population was only 6000 in 1850 but grew rapidly in the 1850s.

The first Polish settlement was made up of 25 people who traveled from New York to St. Louis and then by boat up the Mississippi to Winona in 1857. Just after statehood in the 1860s small Polish settlements sprang up at Marion Lake in Otter Tail County (just southwest of Perham on the page-1 map), Gnesen near Duluth and St. Anthony near the falls. St. Anthony and Minneapolis merged in 1872. If readers know of early arrivals - let us know.

-JWK

### † Florence Zimmewicz †

Florence passed away suddenly on April 6. She was one of the original charter members of PGS-MN. Her sister Joanne Lisson related she went to Poland in 1961, which was very unusual for American tourists in those days of communist rule. She was able to visit relatives in northern Poland.

### United Polish Genealogical Seminar

PGSM (Michigan) hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Seminar in Salt Lake City, held April 18-21. (Incidentally, PGSM is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary – one of the oldest Polish societies in the country.) Ceil Jensen, who gave the PGS-MN seminar at Golden Valley in September 2003, was the chairperson and put together an interesting, informative conference. PGS-MN's role was minimal

(publicity and raffle gifts) but we did have three of our members in attendance out of the 90 or so at the seminar.

The conference featured a two-track approach: traditional and technological. I attended mostly the technological sessions. A new feature was holding several live teleconferences with Polish genealogists. There are several small groups in Poland who have a number of valuable indexing projects in progress. Tomasz Nitsch, active in genealogy in Poland, coordinated these sessions and gave several presentations on genealogical activities in Poland today. A teleconference was also held with William Hoffman, noted U.S. authority on Polish names, who fielded attendees' questions submitted in advance. Other technical sessions included Web 2.0 topics (basically using the web as a platform with blogs, mail lists, social networking, etc.), footnote.com (viewing, saving and sharing original document images), Skype (voice communication through your computer), FHC book-digitization project (with easy search criteria), and genealogical gadgets to help your research. It proved to me how fast genealogical research is developing with the advent of the internet.

Stephen Morse gave an entertaining, informative keynote talk. (If you have not accessed his web site recently, < <http://stevemorse.org> >, it has many new search capabilities. He also received PGSM's *Dziękuję* Award for the development of his "one-step" internet pages for U.S. port arrivals, censuses and the Holocaust-related databases. Paul and Janice Lipinski from PGS-CA also received the award for their work with UPGS in the past.

The mild controversy was whether the first Polish community in the U.S. was Panna Maria, Texas (1854) or Parisville, Michigan (about 1850) – a new contender. Firm documentation would probably have to rely on land records for the Parisville claim. I argued maybe it should be Winona, Minnesota (25 persons) in 1857 but maybe this was a couple of years short and Panna Maria was a larger settlement. A vote was to be taken but it never came off.

The seminars are always coordinated with research in the Family History Library. For the first time in my many visits, at midday, there were no microfilm readers available on the European floor among the 75 or so which are available. I did find my g-g-grandmother's death record which placed her birth in 1763. This was quite a find after many years of reviewing hundreds of microfilms. The next seminar is planned for April of 2010.

-JWK

## PRESENTATION on NATURALIZATION

### By Emilie Trushenski <emilietru@aol.com>

## I. History

## II. Rules and Procedures

- A. Before 1906
- B. After 1906
- C. After 1922
- D. Today
- E. Women and Naturalization

## III. Where/How to find copies

- A. Courts
  - 1. Local
  - 2. Federal
- B. Genealogy Societies and Libraries
  - 1. Local
  - 2. Minnesota Historical Society Research Library – has records on microfilm. They can be copied there.  
(NOTE: Minnesota Genealogical Society Library does not have Naturalization records per their web site.)
- C. Internet
  - 1. <www.ancestry.com>
  - 2. <www.archives.gov/genealogy/naturalization>

Usually you can only get the Roll/Film Number, not the certificate copy. You can write and pay for a copy. Or try your local organizations or the Minnesota Historical Society Research Library.

## Recommended books on the Subject:

1. They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins by Loretto Dennis Szucs - Found at MGS and through Inter-Library Loan - not at MHS
2. Land and Property Research in the United States by Wade E. Hone  
This may have information on citizenship requirements to own land - found at MGS and MHS

**History**

Naturalizations in the United States have been performed by Federal law since 1790. The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization was established under the 1906 Basic Naturalization Act, and is now called the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Over 20 Acts of Congress are related to immigration and naturalization rules and regulations. Most of the acts changed the residency requirements up or down. Or they dealt with necessary new regulations relating to new territories and states as the United States grew.

**Rules and Procedures****Before 1906**

The First Naturalization Act is dated 26 March 1790, which only required a 2-year residency in the U.S. and to be free, white and 21! Women and children derived their citizenship from their husbands/fathers. This Act was repealed and replaced with the Act of 29 January 1795. It became a two-step process by instituting the Declaration of Intention and changed the residency period to five years.

Residency requirements varied through the years. Usually the Declaration of Intention could be filed shortly after the immigrant's arrival. A five-year residency, including a one-year residency in the state where applying, was usually required before the final petition could be filed. This second paper had to be filed within a certain period, usually five years, after the first paper was filed. A child who became age 21 before his/her father filed his second paper had to file his/her own final petition, but was not required to file the Declaration of Intention. Naturalization forms and records varied from state to state and county to county. Very little information was required on these forms. Usually the only genealogy help was what king or leader in what country was renounced. Usually an alien had to at least file his Declaration of Intention (to become a citizen of the U.S.) before he could purchase land, especially land under the Homestead Act of 1862. Voting privileges were only granted to citizens, whether born in the U.S. or naturalized. Some states allowed aliens to vote if they had only filed the Declaration of Intention.

**After 1906**

Naturalization forms became standardized throughout the nation with the establishment of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization in 1906. The law also required that duplicate copies of both the "first and second" papers be sent to Washington, D.C. Ships' manifests were checked to verify that the immigrant had legally entered the U.S. If the record

was found and matched the immigrant's statement, the INS issued a Certificate of Arrival and sent it back to the naturalization court. Much more biographical information was required to be entered on the forms, such as: the applicant's age, occupation, personal descriptions, date and place of birth, present and last foreign addresses, ports of embarkation, name of vessel, date and place of arrival in the U.S. Women and children who derived their citizenship from their husband/father were listed on the form. Their full names, dates and places of birth and current place of residence were given on each paper.

### After 1922

Women are recognized as humans and are granted voting privileges. Women could now apply for citizenship on their own as long as they were of age (21). Prior to this, women derived their citizenship from their husbands (or father as a child). Sometimes women lost their citizenship by marrying an ineligible alien. For further details read the article by Marian L. Smith found at <[www.archives.org](http://www.archives.org)>.

### Today

I found the following steps to naturalization on the internet:

1. Fill out and mail the application (N-400) along with payment of \$675 (as of July 30, 2007).
2. Appear for fingerprinting after receiving a letter back.
3. Interview with USCIS where you will demonstrate your basic knowledge of English and United States history and civics.
4. Attend "swearing-in" ceremony.

## Women and Naturalization

An alien wife of an alien husband could not herself be naturalized.

- 1855 Every alien woman who married a U.S. citizen automatically obtained citizenship.
- 1860 Native-born and other U.S.-citizen women would lose their U.S. citizenship if they left the U.S. to live in a foreign country with an alien husband. So a U.S.-citizen woman would only lose her citizenship upon marrying an alien if she moved out of the U.S.
- 1907 A woman would lose her U.S. citizenship if she married an alien, but she regained it if her husband was naturalized.
- 1922 September 22 – Cable Act or Married Women's Act repealed the 1907 Act. She would not lose her citizenship by any marriage contracted after 9-22-1922 to an eligible alien.
- 1931 Changed 1922 Act to any racially ineligible also (Asian).
- 1936 Resumption of citizenship if her marriage had terminated.
- 1940 The same relief to those who were still married.

**Still they had to take an oath of allegiance before a naturalization court.**

## Where and How to Find Copies

**Courts:** Go here as a last resort. They are usually too busy to help you find and copy these records. And the records are old and brittle.

**Federal:** National Archives and Records Administration – find addresses on <[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)>

**Local:** Genealogy Societies and Libraries

**Minnesota Genealogical Society Library:** Does **NOT** have naturalization records on-site.

**Minnesota Historical Society Library:** The best place to go if you don't have local places that would have this information on microfilm.

**Iron Range Research Center:** P.O. Box 392, Hwy 169 West, W. Chisholm, MN 55719-0392, 218-254-7959

**Internet:** <[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)> Look for "Minnesota Naturalization Records Index 1854-1957" and fill in your immigrant ancestor's surname. It gives you various pieces of information to find the film numbers where the actual form is available to print. Usually it gives the county, reel, code, volume, page, document type, years. This should help you find the proper roll of film at the Minnesota Historical Society Research Library. However, this is not all inclusive. Many of our naturalized immigrant ancestors were not listed there.

< <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/naturalization>> You will find interesting information on this web site. The article on Women and Naturalization by Marian L. Smith is here (Part 1 and Part 2). This leads one to the Minnesota Historical Society Research Library for the State Archives.

## Minnesota Sources and Records for Research

By Jason Waldowski  
<waldo20@aol.com>

### MN Historical Society

<<http://www.mnhs.org/index.htm>>

#### MN Death Index Minnesota

<<http://people.mnhs.org/dci/search>>

As of 3-13-08, the database indexes the death cards from 1904 to 1907 and the death certificates from 1908 to 2001. The MN Death Index has the ability to “save” a search, and import all the information into a Comma Separated Values file, that can be formatted to an Excel file.

#### MN Birth Index Minnesota

<<http://people.mnhs.org/bci/search>>

As of 3-13-08, the database currently covers the years 1900-1934 (there are approximately 2700 records indicated as “Pre-1900”).

As per the Data Practices Act, certain records such as out-of-wedlock births will not be made available through this index for a period of 90 years. Further, in order to protect the privacy of the subjects of the records and to prevent the risk of identity theft, the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Department of Health have agreed not to sell or distribute copies of the complete set or of any subsets of the records.

### **Ancestry.com**

<<http://www.ancestry.com/search/locality>>

Searching the MN databases

- If you are on the Home page click on “Search” at the top of the page
- Then scroll down to Browse by location, select “Minnesota” either the word or on the map.

#### United States Federal Census

You are able to view original document online, save it and print it out.

#### Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses

<<http://content.ancestry.com/browse/list>>

About the Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905: This database contains the census for the following years:

- 1849-1850
- 1853

- 1855
- 1857
- 1865
- 1875
- 1885
- 1905

Information available for an individual will vary according to the census year and the information requested on the census form. Some of the information contained in this database includes:

- Name
- Enumeration place
- Age
- Gender
- Race
- Birthplace
- Parents’ birthplaces

Additional information about individuals, such as their occupation, may be available on the actual census record. Be sure to view the corresponding image in order to obtain all possible information about an individual. See below for more details about each census year.

### **1849-1850**

Minnesota inhabitants were first enumerated in the Michigan Territory 1820 census and the 1836 census of the Wisconsin Territory. A census of the Minnesota Territory was ordered in 1849, which included the name of head of household and number of males and females in that household.

The 1849 census includes St. Croix and 1850 includes Benton, Dakota, Itasca, Mankatah, Pembina, Ramsey, Wabashaw, Wahnahta, and Washington.

### **1853**

A very incomplete 1853 Minnesota census exists for limited areas. Some schedules are only head of household, number of children, and total number in household, but a few include all names of inhabitants. This database contains data for two counties in 1853 – Dakota and Washington.

**1855**

The territorial census for heads of household in 1855 has been largely lost. The published schedule for Wright County has survived, as have manuscript copies for the counties of Chisago, Doty, and Superior. Winona, however, has an unusual “inhabitants by building” enumeration for that year.

This database contains data for the following counties for this year – Blue Earth, Carver, Chisago, Doty, Faribault, Freeborn, Hennepin, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Superior, and Wright.

**1857**

The 1857 Minnesota territorial census was mandated for statehood qualification and apparently included fictitious names in seven counties to boost the population.

The following counties are included for this year: Anoka, Benton, Blue Earth, Brown, Buchanan, Carlton, Carver, Cass, Chisago, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Isanti, Itasca, Jackson, Lake, Le Sueur, Mahnommen, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Morrison, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Pembina, Pierce, Pine, Pipestone, Ramsey, Renville, Rice, Rock, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, St. Louis, Stearns, Steele, Todd, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington, Winona, and Wright.

**1865-1905**

Each of the state census enumerations includes all members of the household. In 1865, “Soldier in service on June 1, 1865” was included. The 1875 census gives the birthplaces of father and mother. The 1895 and 1905 censuses may be especially helpful to the genealogist as they include the length of time an individual has lived in the state and the district.

Where to find copies: Microfilmed copies of this census are available through the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul and the Family History Library (FHL). Copies may be ordered to

local libraries through interlibrary loan, and to local Family History Centers through the FHL.

Some of the above information was taken from Maki, Carol L. and Michael John Neill, “Minnesota,” in *Ancestry's Red Book*, ed. Alice Eichholz (Provo, UT: Ancestry, 2004).

Choose a year:

Unknown	1849	1850
1853	1855	1857
1865	1875	1885
1895	1905	

Minnesota Birth Index 1935-2002

<<http://www.ancestry.com/search/db>>

About the Minnesota Birth Index: This database is an index created by the Department of Health to approximately 4.2 million births occurring in Minnesota between 1935 and 2002. Information contained in this index includes child's full name, father's full name, mother's maiden name, birth date, birth county, and state file number. With the information provided in this index, you may be able to obtain a copy of a birth certificate. If possible, it is important that you do this because oftentimes more information is provided in an original record than is provided in its index. For birth certificate ordering information visit: <<http://health.state.mn.us>>.

In 1907 the Minnesota Vital Records law was enacted, giving the state the responsibility of keeping birth and death records. Their records for births start in 1900 and deaths in 1908. Both are indexed to the present but not available for research in person. There is no statewide marriage index until 1958. The fee (\$11 for a birth record and \$8 for a marriage or death record) will include a search and a copy of the request record or a statement that the record is not on file. Send to the Minnesota Department of Health, Section of Vital Records, P.O. Box 9441, 717 Delaware Street S.E., Minneapolis MN 55440.

Taken from Maki, Carol L. “Minnesota,” in *Ancestry's Red Book*, ed. Alice Eichholz (Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992).

## Minnesota Marriage Collection

<<http://www.ancestry.com/search/db>>

About the Minnesota Marriage Collection: This database is an index to marriages in Minnesota from 1958-2001 (excluding 1996). The database is a compilation of two indexes obtained from the Minnesota Center for Health Statistics (CHS) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Information available in this database includes:

- Names of bride and groom
- Ages of bride and groom
- Birth dates of bride and groom\*
- Marriage date
- Marriage place
- State file number\*\*

\*Exact dates of birth are only available in data from the MDH. Records from the Minnesota CHS may have estimated birth years calculated from the year of marriage and age of bride or groom.

\*\*Only available for data from the MDH.

Data from the Minnesota CHS covers the years 1958-1995 (and may include a few earlier and later marriages). Data from the MDH covers the years 1997-2001. Records from the Minnesota CHS also include images of the index.

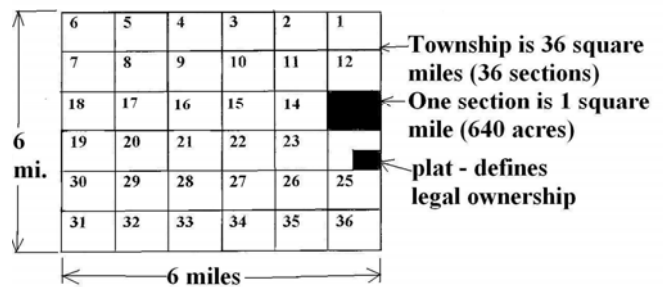
### Plat Map Sources

By Terry Kita <[terrykita@earthlink.net](mailto:terrykita@earthlink.net)>

1. MGS Library – located in map cabinets by state and county – not indexed and also atlas section on book shelves
2. MHS – indexed at <<http://www.mnhs.org>>  
Go to: /collections/search library catalogue/plat map (363 items listed)
3. John Borchert Map Library (lower level of University of Minnesota Wilson Library)  
<[map.lib.umn.edu/MN\\_plat\\_books](http://map.lib.umn.edu/MN_plat_books)>
4. Google: PLSS or Public Land Survey System for further information about townships, surveys of public domain, etc.
5. County web sites
6. Book sellers

## Typical Public Domain Township

(In Minnesota and most western states)



Each township is identified with a township and range designation. Township designations indicate the location north or south of the baseline, and range designations indicate the location east or west of the Principal Meridian. For example, a township might be identified as Township 7 North, Range 2 West, which would mean that it was in the 7th tier of townships north of a baseline, and in the 2nd column of townships west of a baseline. A legal land description of a section includes the State, Principal Meridian name, Township and Range designations with directions, and the section number.

<<http://nationalatlas.gov>>

### Other Minnesota Resources Mentioned by Various Presenters

Ancestry.com – Military Records include WWI (1917-1918) and WWII (1942) Draft Registration Cards, WWII Army Enlistment Records (1938-1946), Civil War Soldiers (1861-1865), updated social security index, border crossings Canada to U.S. (1895-1956)

Minnesota Land Records

MGS – Cemetery Records, family and history books

MHS – Newspapers, city directories, court records, alien registration

Family History Library – New Ulm Diocese birth, death and marriage records

Immigration History Research Center (In Anderson Library on University of Minnesota West Bank) – Polish newspapers from around the country and fraternal society records

## Future PGS-MN Meetings

### Stevens Point – September 6

We will kick off the 2008-09 schedule with a seminar in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The meeting will be held in the central library from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be co-sponsored by PGS-MN and the Polish Heritage Awareness Society of Stevens Point. Program topics/speakers will include Kashubian Immigration to Portage County by Adeline Sopa, Polish immigration from the Gulcz - Lubasz, Poznan area to Stevens Point and Door County by Audrey Somers and Terry Kita (a short, successful case study), PGS-MN's DNA project and a number of sessions to help attendees with their genealogical research. The cost will include a bag lunch. We will try to organize car pools and Friday-evening accommodations for those who wish to attend. RSVP to John Kowles if you plan to attend: <johnkow@att.net> or 612-721-7227.

### Research in Poland – September 20

Ms. Danuta Jampolska will present methods available for researchers in Poland and speak about her experience assisting those who are seeking Polish ancestors. She is employed by the Ministry of Culture as a Foreign Exchange Coordinator in Warsaw, and is listed by PGS-MN as a contact for those seeking research help in Poland. The session will be held in the Board Room (fourth floor) at the MGS Library starting at 10 a.m.

### PGS-MN and Pommern Society – October 4

A joint meeting will be held in the MGS auditorium starting at 10:30 a.m. with a noon lunch break. The morning sessions will include topics about Pomerania and Kashubia and PGS-MN's DNA project. The afternoon speaker will be Deb Vevea from the Crystal LDS Library. She will include a segment about her Polish family research.

### Seminars by Stephen Barthel – November 1

These sessions will be held in the MGS Library auditorium running from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The first two talks will be in the morning and the last in the afternoon.

#### 1. *Tracing Your Roots from Minnesota to Poland*

The presentation will focus on research methodology, with special emphasis on using internet sites and passenger lists.

#### 2. *Gazetteers, Web Sites, and Maps: Tools for Finding Parish and Civil Records in Poland*

The presentation will cover must-use essential tools to help you research records.

#### 3. *Publish a Family History Book? Yes You Can!*

Presentation will deal with proven ways (after publishing 26 family history books) to overcome difficult-to-work-with relatives and successfully publish your own book. This is beyond the typical "How to publish a family history book," using Stephen's Polish relatives as an example.

**Stephen S. Barthel**, an accredited genealogist in German research since 1981, has been a reference consultant and public affairs specialist from 1983-2004 at the world's largest genealogical library (The Family History Library), located in Salt Lake City. He has researched genealogies for Peter Jennings, Walter Cronkite, the Queen of Sweden, the president of Germany, and Presidents Clinton and Bush, and many other VIPs. He is a presenter for German and Polish genealogical societies throughout the United States. He has also published more than two dozen family history books. He currently works as an assistant archivist librarian at the Stearns History Museum in St. Cloud.



Steve, standing right, is shown here helping Walter Cronkite with his family research.



### Scanning Polish Publications

*Pol Am*, May 2008, Vol. 30, No. 5

“Jan Matejko,” Poland’s Master Painter and Patriot

*Searchers*, Polish Genealogical Society of New York State, April 2008, Issue No. 1

“Poles Arrival at Jamestown, VA” by Jadwiga and David Domino

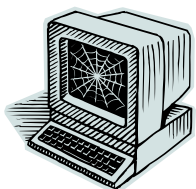
*Rodzina*, Spring 2008, Vol. XXXI, No. 2

“The Journey to America” by Iwona Dakiniewicz  
 “Moikrewni.pl – A Review of Polish Genealogical Web Site with Surname Mapping” by Robert P. Sliwinski

*Przëjòcél Lëdu Kaszëbsczëgò (Friend of the Kashubian People)*, Spring 2008, Vol. XII, No.1

“The Kashubs Today, Culture-Language-Identity, Excerpts” (Introductory Remarks and Summary) by Cezary Obracht-Prondzynski. There are also two articles on the Polish Museum and Winona Kashub immigration.

*Note: These publications and many others can be found in the Polish section of the library.*



**http://**

### Digitizing Documents of the National Archives

<[www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com)> This site has 36 million images online of National Archives documents. It advertises as combining original historical documents with social networking. It requires a subscription but certain images are free and free trials are offered. Members can also contribute original images.

### One-Step Steve Morse Portal

<[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)> This site contains a wide array of searches featuring his one-step process for faster, more defined searches. He also indicates free versus subscription sites.

### Polish State Archives

<[www.archiwa.gov.pl](http://www.archiwa.gov.pl)> When searching for records we always recommend first going to the LDS web site <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>. If they do not have the records try the Polish State archives. The two searches you will want to use are PRADZIAD (great-grandfather) or SEZAM (sesame) – sort of like “open sesame.” First click on English in the upper right. This will help you with the basic guidelines but you need to know some simple Polish eventually. In PRADZIAD to search for the availability of church or civil records in government and certain other archives, click on databases and enter place-name. In SEZAM again go to databases to identify what holdings are available in various archives – like military or education records, for example. (As Fred Hoffman points out it is more the source for dedicated researchers but can be useful.)

A couple of other points: When **fond** is mentioned I interpret this as a collection or set of a number of documents. Also they announce the archives in Warsaw is moving from Długa Street near the old town to Rakowiecka Street which is about a mile south of the centrum. Research in the archives can be done but a precaution is to allow plenty of time.

#### 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](mailto: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.



**INDEXES OF VITAL RECORDS DELIVERED  
TO  
MINNEAPOLIS POLISH CHURCHES IN 2008**  
By John L. Rys <[john@john.rys.name](mailto:john@john.rys.name)>

**Introduction**

In 2002 the author proposed a state-wide database to the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota board of directors. The vision is to make vital records from early Minnesota Polish churches more accessible. The short-term goal is to ensure record preservation and to provide indexes. The long-term goal is to have this database accessible through the internet. This article describes the printed indexes provided to five Minneapolis Polish churches.

**First Phase of Database Project**

The first phase of the proposal was a pilot study at a smaller Minneapolis Polish church (St. Philip's) to evaluate the feasibility of such a database. For privacy concerns, input conforms to the Federal Privacy Law applying to U.S. Census data requiring a mandatory 72-year waiting period. Indexing extends to 1935. Pilot study results were published in an article entitled "*Minnesota Polish Church Vital Records Database*" (Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter, Spring 2003, No. 1, pp. 1, 14-17).

**Next Steps**

Godparents were included in the database record. This provides deeper indexing and expands family access points. A "Family Ties" report was designed. The report finds the surname whether the surname is listed as the baptized person, mother, father, godmother or godfather. By finding these names, family relationships or "family ties" may be revealed. This was reported in an article entitled "*Godparents: Is There Genealogical Relevance?*" (Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter, Summer 2003, No. 2, pp. 23-25).

**Marriage Records**

Marriage records were indexed and this aspect of the project was reported in an article entitled "*Matrimony Records at the Church of St. Philip*" (Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter, Summer 2004, No. 2, pp. 20-23).

**Expansion to other Minneapolis Polish Churches**

The project expanded beyond the pilot-study church to include four additional Polish churches in Minneapolis. Microfilm for four of these churches is available at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library. Four are Roman Catholic: Holy Cross (1886); St. Philip's (1906); St. Hedwig's (1914); and All Saints (1916). The fifth church, Sacred Heart of Jesus (1914), is a Polish National Catholic Church and its records are not available on microfilm at the MGS Library. In early 2008 the indexes were delivered to the churches, which are now better prepared to help genealogists who call their offices.



*Ready to Deliver Printed Indexes to Polish Churches*

**Holy Cross Church**

On January 17, 2008 John Rys and Greg Kishel delivered the baptismal and marriage indexes for the Holy Cross Church records. Janice Frakie, Business Manager, and Janice Godlewski, Parish Secretary, received the indexes. The indexes cover years 1886 to 1935. They contain 7,955 baptismal entries and 2,123 marriage entries.



*Holy Cross Church: Janice Godlewski Receives Indexes from John Rys and Greg Kishel*

### St. Hedwig's Catholic Church

On February 16, 2008 John and Judy Rys delivered the baptismal and marriage indexes for St. Hedwig's Catholic Church. John Patricelli, volunteer church administrator received the indexes. Indexes cover years 1914 to 1935. They contain 639 baptismal entries and 144 marriage entries.



*St. Hedwig's Church: John Patricelli*

### St. Philip's Catholic Church

On February 22, 2008 John Rys delivered the baptismal and marriage indexes for St. Philip's Catholic Church. Father Patrick Griffin, pastor of St. Philip's received the indexes. Indexes cover years 1908 to 1935. They contain 2,125 baptismal entries and 432 marriage entries.



*St. Philip's Church: Father Patrick Griffin*

### All Saints Catholic Church

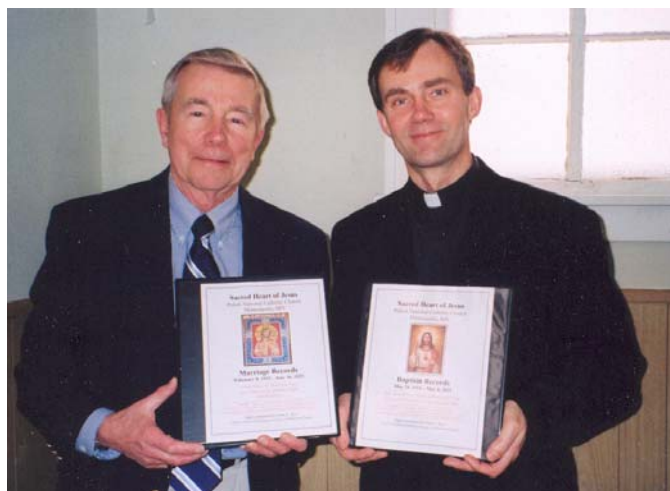
On February 29, 2008 John and Judy Rys delivered the baptismal and marriage indexes for All Saints Catholic Church. Father George Kovalik, pastor of All Saints received the indexes. Indexes cover years 1916 to 1935. They contain 1,708 baptismal entries and 257 marriage entries.



*All Saints Church: Father George Kovalik*

### Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church

On March 2, 2008 John and Judy Rys delivered the baptismal and marriage indexes for Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church. Father John Kutek, pastor of Sacred Heart received the indexes. Indexes cover years 1915 to 1933. They contain 265 baptismal entries and 56 marriage entries.



*Sacred Heart of Jesus Church: Father John Kutek*

**LDS MICROFILMING IN POLAND  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CIVIL  
RECORDS  
AT POLISH STATE ARCHIVES**

By John L. Rys <john@john.rys.name>

In the Spring issue of the *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* Vol 16, Number 1, I published an article on Latter Day Saints microfilming of Polish diocese records in Poland. With the article, a map (shown below) of Catholic Church Dioceses in Poland was included showing where the LDS have microfilmed. Source of this map is Orvill Paller, LDS Collection Specialist.



The next question is about Polish civil records. Is there a similar LDS map showing the extent of Polish State Archives microfilming? The following is an e-mail question I posted to Orvill Paller and his response.

**E-mail to Orvill Paller, LDS Collection Specialist  
(from John Rys 3/4/2008)**

Orvill Paller:

I attended your presentation at the Polish Genealogical Society of America meeting last fall (2007) in Chicago. You presented an interesting overhead showing a map of Poland indicating the Catholic dioceses microfilmed by LDS. You sent me a copy of that overhead which I shared with our local Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. It was well received and settled many questions. We appreciate this valuable information. Thank you for taking the time to send the map.

Another question: Has the LDS microfilmed any civil archival records in Poland? Is there a similar map showing the microfilming of Polish State Archive records?

We would appreciate any information on the filming of Polish civil records.

John Rys

**E-mail response from Orvill Paller, LDS  
Collection Specialist (3/4/2008)**

Hello John:

Yes, we have filmed at branches of the Poland State Archives - but, it has been many years since that filming took place. Unfortunately, I do not have such a map which shows which branches of the PSA have been filmed. However, I know, from my own personal knowledge, that areas formerly belonging to Germany were heavily filmed.

At present, there is no contract with the Polish State Archives. We are working closely to negotiate a new contract, but it may be some time before something is finalized. I'm optimistic that at some point in the future things will work out, as I'm excited about many different classes of records at the branches of the Polish State Archives which we have not historically acquired.

Sorry that this isn't more helpful.

Orvill Paller

**Who Are Your Famous (or Infamous) Relatives?**

Christopher Child (genealogist), along with researchers at the New England Historical Genealogical Society, found these connections with the presidential candidates. Obama's distant cousins include: Presidents George Bush, Gerald Ford, Lyndon Johnson, Harry Truman and James Madison and also Dick Cheney, Winston Churchill, Robert E. Lee and Brad Pitt. McCain's ancestry was more difficult to trace but it is known he is a sixth cousin of Laura Bush.

- Reported by the Associated Press

*If you can boast some similar relationships we would like to hear about it.* - JWK

***Drobne Echa ...continued from page 1***

At an early date, the surrounding farmlands began to be taken by Polish immigrants, who in turn founded their own Roman Catholic parish in town.<sup>2</sup> *Wiarus*, published at Winona, featured a fair number of letters and short news items datelined at Perham during the decades surrounding 1900. Here is a large selection of those reports, in my translation.<sup>3</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, July 28, 1887:*

IN PERHAM, Minn., it is swarming with locusts on the prairies. The harvest in Perham and in Otter Tail County is thoroughly devastated. 10,000 acres are ruined.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, June 21, 1888:*

MINNESOTA. – An enormous swarm of locusts has descended on the fields at Battle Lake in Otter Tail.<sup>4</sup> In another part of that county, in the vicinity of Perham, where there are many Polish farmers, the locust already appeared several days ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, October 23, 1890:*

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<sup>2</sup>This is borne out by the transcripts of census schedules on file at the Otter Tail County Historical Society in Fergus Falls. The 1880 federal census for Perham township shows a plethora of Polish names for residents of the rural area surrounding Perham village: GOYKE, ORZEL, KUKOWSKI, LIPINSKY, JANUSZEWSKY, ROGALLA, and many others. Father Kruszka identified the Perham Poles as “splendid Kashubians.” 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), pp. 130-131.

<sup>3</sup>I found most of these items through the use of John Radziłowski’s research into *Wiarus* (which was retitled *Katolik* for a couple of years in the mid-1890s). A couple of them were the results of my own review of the newspaper, at the Minnesota History Center.

<sup>4</sup>*Transl. note:* thus in original.

PERHAM, Minn. -- Father GRUENHOLZ left us several weeks ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, January 29, 1891:*

PERHAM, Minn. – In recent days citizen Andrzej JANUSZEWSKI arrived here, as a guest of his relatives. He intends to purchase a saloon from Mr. SCHREDER, the local brewer. – There is already a Polish justice of the peace (J. K.) and an assistant to the lawyer T.P., and as soon as the saloon has been attained Poland will be here in the full sense of the word.

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*From Wiarus, March 19, 1891:*

**PERHAM.**

The Polish settlement of Perham is located in northwestern Minnesota, in Otter Tail County--on the Northern Pacific Railroad, which runs from the great city of St. Paul, Minn., and terminates all the way west at the waters of the Pacific Ocean, at the city of Portland, Oregon.

The soil there is fertile and produces an abundant yield of every kind of grain. Also, there are large, fish-filled lakes there.

There are about 70 Polish families, occupied for the most part in farming. They arrived here 15 years ago; 10 years ago they were very poor; today, as owners of large, fine farms, they are getting on well.

In the village of Perham, seven years ago the Poles constructed for themselves a beautiful church (with a rectory), which is the ornament of the whole region.

Much fertile land is for sale for low prices around Perham. For \$4.00 it is possible to get an acre of railroad land. Various speculators are also selling land for reasonable prices, on installment payments. These lands are found 4 to 10 miles from the village of Perham.

Whoever would want to learn further details about the lands in Perham, call upon the following undersigned.

*Jan KARSNIA*

Perham, Otter Tail Co., Minn.

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*From Wiarus, July 3, 1891:*

PERHAM, Minn. On June 13 the Reverend Fr. Kl. GRUENHOLZ from Milwaukee stayed here, and visited his chapel on the Mount of Olives on the large fish-filled lake *Paint Lake*,<sup>5</sup> two miles from Perham. – On June 20 the Society of St. Stanisław Bishop and Martyr escorted the mortal remains of Mr. Jakób PELEWSKI, well-known in Pine Creek and Winona, to the cemetery. The funeral was very grand. – Fr. Jakób WOJCIK assumed the local pastorship from June 1. – This year's sowing on the fields appears well, there is rain and we can expect good harvests.

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*From Wiarus, February 25, 1892:*

In PERHAM, MINN. Rozalia WOJCIK, sister of the Reverend Fr. WOJCIK, died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the current month, in the 22<sup>nd</sup> year of life. The funeral was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of the current month.

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*From Wiarus, August 26, 1892:*

**From Perham, Minn.** August 20.

We have the honor to announce to our Esteemed Countrymen that our Polish settlement, though small because it is composed of barely 60 families, has better and better prospects for itself. Poles slowly gather here, from the Wisconsin towns, from Duluth, and from yet more distant places, in order to change their situation from heavy labor in factories to Perham farms. Because land is extremely cheap in our region, this has been to their own relative benefit.

It is possible to acquire a solid farm with buildings dirt-cheap, cleared of trees or on the local prairies. For 180 acres, arable, furrowed, and with all farmyards, the Germans are asking 1800 dollars, and the highest price thus far is 2000 dollars near the town.

Perham is located in the midst of a prairie region; it has two Catholic churches, the Polish St. Stanisław, Bishop and Martyr, and a German one.

The Northern Pacific Railroad, the principal line to California, goes in a straight line through the

district of Perham, which is to the greater value of the whole region.

This region is worthy of notice on a more particular consideration, that we have not had any great storms whatsoever in Perham. Admittedly, in the so-called Richland and a little in Pine Lake the wheat was blown over; however, the harvest will be abundant enough, and the only difficulty about it is that it will require hard work. We have not seen any hailstones either. The rains have passed through from time to time; therefore the corn, oats, and wheat thrive beautifully for us.

We say that there have been no storms among us, but to the contrary one has raged with the most elaborate fury in the Polish parish, since the departure of the esteemed Father Jakób WÓJCIK and from the beginning of the administration of the local pastor, the esteemed Father WAWRZYKOWSKI.

The parish actually does not know anything about it, so it is peaceful and content. However, there are here, and similarly in Swan River, restless souls, though only around five in number. They cause destruction whenever they can. They send letter after letter about the local parish priest to the spiritual authority in St. Cloud, and they lie and deceive in those letters, they are arrant liars, better than the Cretans themselves. And after the last two letters in August they were even blustering their threats to go all the way to the very most catholic Archbishop, with their ongoing grievances. (It is not known to whom.)

The destroyers are lying in the living stones, because they have split away two or three people on the issue of the parish money. They want to have it themselves, by force, and to manage it in their own fashion.

Nonetheless, in the Diocese of St. Cloud, in conformity with the command of the Most Reverend Bishop, the parish priest has to receive the revenues and to manage the books, and no parish board whatsoever may do that. The cocky liars from Perham do not see it this way and it displeases them very much. Their paws itch for other people's pennies, which they took in the past, but they left the parish books in such a great order. They went and sauntered with the books through the saloons; in the saloons they acknowledged the

<sup>5</sup>*Transl. note: sic in original. Undoubtedly Pine Lake, several miles east of Perham.*

parishioners who were paying for their pews; they held meetings in the saloons, they conspired in the saloons; they conducted their fun in the saloons, and all this happened as though in the name of righteousness and in the greater worship and praise of God. A pretty way of praising God, the origin of which reposes in a saloon.

Today it is the same, with the difference being that the liars and deceivers do not have the money in their claws, because the church and the record still appear as marvelously as they did two years ago.

Nothing pleases those four or five lordly liars. They also feel sorry for the current priest, and want him to stay, as long as he gives them charge of the money and the books. These calculating deceivers are not very adept in addition; thus, it would be easier for them to get out of this, in case something did not add up in the future. But they can be certain that the money will never reach the hollows of their hands.

They are able to deceive and lie further these days; but it seems to us that they would be better to hold their tongues behind their teeth and to maintain order on their own farms--and not in the church and the rectory, because they are in ideal condition.

If they do not, they will get a lot more, and will even take a real bashing.

*The farmers from Perham.*

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*From Wiarus, October 27, 1892:*

PERHAM, Minn. – On October 2, on the feast-day of St. Mary of the Rosary, the late organist Teofil LUBAWSKI died here.

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*From Katolik, October 5, 1893:*

#### **A Letter**

of momentous cause and great importance, about a model settlement in Minnesota, the name of which (if you'll excuse the expression) rings forth as Perham.

And so to the matter. One could never find better patriots than there are here. Of course, there is no [Polish] school, because why should one bother with an education; but there is a church and rectory, and from time to time a priest even stays for a while.

Here it has been the custom, that every priest, who has the good luck to deal with us, forsakes Perham,

and abandons the diocese as well.

The fact has become worthy of praise for us, that there are no drunks here. The most abstemious ones in this regard are Messrs. SINGER, BRZEZIŃSKI, and PAWŁOWSKI.

The most pious ones are: Mr. PAWŁOWSKI, because he sings; and Mr. CZAPIEWSKI, because he settled some sort of business in the brickyard with bombshells, etc.

The virtues of discipline and good manners are mirrored in the local customs here. No one steals in the daytime here--only in the night, and whatever they can. For instance, a priest was here, from whom grain was stolen from almost a whole acre, but anyway this was no big thing. And it is what it is.

The first priest came here on circuit-ride, the devout Fr. STROELKE; the second was Fr. CICHOCKI; the third Fr. CHOWANIEC; the fourth Fr. GRUENHOLZ, the fifth Fr. WOJCIK, the sixth Fr. WAWRZYKOWSKI, and currently the seventh is Fr. KAPER or KOPERA. This shows, that as a "persona grata" is given our hearth, he emigrates from the diocese.

Morality is celebrated here like nowhere else. -- Every boy and girl is always younger than what their real age would show.

Last year there was hardly any harvest because everything dried out; but anyway, the company forests were feeding us. This is all the undeniable truth.

We do not know about troubles, peace always being the order of things here; to be sure there is no debt, but we try very hard to get a great nothing.

Fr. GRUENHOLZ received what was due him, in the amount of 370 dollars to the penny, because integrity demanded it. And this is bad--I beg to say?

We do not complain about the priest to the Most Reverend Bishop, nor do we send dirty, greasy letters with signatures written in pencil, because we expect to have priests rotating often here.

And as to the stay of these rotating priests, it is added for my readers, that this was in the space of not even 11 years. Isn't that just great?

Why, this enhances our good name, giving us the kindest reputation, and this is not to the detriment of the priests. And so it is.

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*From Katolik, October 15, 1893:*

PERHAM, Minn. -- There were very poor harvests here this year. One Pole sowed 50 bushels of wheat, and harvested only 70. -- The local cigar manufacturer Mr. Franciszek POKRZYWIŃSKI is doing a very good business. Polish saloonkeepers from near and far ought to support him with the greatest strength. When selling the "seconds," he lowers a cigar to half-price. His direct address is as follows: Frank POKRZYWIŃSKI, Cigar Factory, Perham, Minn. -- Mr. Franciszek KALKA, who earlier worked for Mr. PYSIK in Minto for a long time, has established a tailoring shop here, and things are going very well for him.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Katolik, February 22, 1894:*

**A Perham ode.**

Sent forth in a far land.  
 Reverend Spiritual Father  
 O! How very tenderly I would want to welcome  
 Your Reverence--  
 With beautiful words from the depths of my soul!  
 But hardly do I want to lay hold of the pen,  
 And trembling with rapture I soon must contain  
 myself.  
 But what to write about, and the words are to no  
 avail?  
 Why, they see Your Reverence when the fire is  
 ablaze  
 In my eye – in my face, what bliss in me,  
 When we happen to be talking about Kaszubia;  
 The Reverend Fr. KOPERA has sprung up, has  
 delivered all,  
 Oj! The pastor came to us from Opole,  
 The Poles in Perham gained their freedom,  
 Only with him let us take care,  
 Let us give him praise  
*Gratis ficatis*  
 For Your Reverence we Poles in Perham therefore  
 are  
 The luckiest people in the world  
 Only an empty canvas in my pocket  
 Later everything is as it was of old.  
 With regards

A.B.C.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Katolik, April 12, 1894:*

PERHAM, Minn. – There is poverty beyond description in the local Polish settlement. For the most part the farmers do not even have grain to sow.

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*From Wiarus, March 5, 1896:*

THE FORMER CLERGYMAN Mr. Kaźmierz WELLENGER has abandoned teaching and has established a saloon in Perham, Minn., in partnership with Mr. Teofil OSOWSKI. It is said that they are doing good business.

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*From Wiarus, October 15, 1896:*

In PERHAM, Minn. The reverend Father Szymon DĄBROWSKI is currently the pastor.

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*From Wiarus, December 24, 1896:*

PERHAM, Minn. – Mr. Kaźmierz WELLENGER has already gone bankrupt on his saloon.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, August 26, 1897:*

KAŻMIERZ WELLINGER from Lubawa, in West Prussia, formerly a pupil in the grammar schools of Lubawa and Chelmno, has behaved miserably in America. He was a seminarian in various ecclesiastical seminaries, but he was expelled from every one. After that he traveled free by rail throughout America, by the freight trains, earning a living sometimes as a musician or a common laborer, until at last he pulled up in the Polish agricultural settlement of Warsaw, near the city of Minto, in North Dakota. For two years he carried out the duties of a teacher in the Polish school there; and he got married to the daughter of a farmer, who was blind in one eye, who brought him a farm by dowry. Putting the farm out for rent, WELLINGER removed himself to Perham, Minn., and there he established a tavern, on which he went bankrupt in a couple of years after all was said and done. Now they inform us from the Dakotan Warsaw, that the troublemaker has spent away his own farm on drink and has absconded, abandoning his wife. Without care, the unlucky woman has come to Warsaw, to her own brother--with a child. The father of Kaźmierz WELLINGER has a large timber warehouse in Lubawa and it is said he is a wealthy man. Earlier he sent his son money for his subsistence in the seminary, but for several years the prodigal Kaźmierz has not given him anything to know about himself.



Children's procession at St. Stanislaus Church, Perham. Date unknown. Is man on the right Jan KARSNIA?  
Source: East Otter Tail County Historical Museum, Perham.



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*From Wiarus, December 2, 1897:*

THE FARMER JAN BRZEZIŃSKI from Perham, Minn., bought his daughters a hurdy-gurdy for 160 dollars, so that they could learn music. Wanting to impress the agent of *Wiarus* with the musical talent of his children, he invited him to a so-called party; however, the ear-piercing tones of the hurdy-gurdy so irritated our agent, that he never wants to call at Perham again in his life.

IN PERHAM, Minn., the 17-year-old Miss WILKOWSKA has died; she was a well-educated young lady, the daughter of Mr. Szymon WILKOWSKI, coming from Śliwic, in West Prussia, and a close relative of the late Bishop MARWICZ. -- May she rest in peace!

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, November 15, 1900:*

Father WIPPIG, a German, feebly speaking Polish, has been taken in by the local Polish parish. He reads his Polish sermon from slips of paper. Father W. retains one Mrs. SIKORSKA, from Browerville, Minn. as a housekeeper. She forsook her husband there and now dwells with two of her children in the Polish rectory in Perham.

Beyond that, our organist ŚLIWIŃSKI was released from his position because he chattered too much about this; and instead two religious Sisters were received, one German and one Pole. The German nun also plays the organ, and the Polish nun teaches as well in Polish, 5 hours per week.

Not too long ago in the saloon of Teofil OSOWSKI, the drunks having gotten Adam POKRZYWIŃSKI intoxicated, and the lordly father of saloon-keeper OSOWSKI being pleased to retire for the night, he left POKRZYWIŃSKI lying on the floor, thinking that he would sober up by the morning. However, the following day POKRZYWIŃSKI was found, sober indeed, but mute. He speaks with people through sign language and he shows, that when the blood flows strongly in his body, it causes him pain.

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*From Wiarus, October 17, 1901:*

PERHAM, Minn. -- A month ago the Polish pastorship of Father Szczepan URBANKI was transferred here from Holdingford, Minn., and immediately he set to work on the construction of a Polish school. Going around for a collection, he got

together a couple of hundred dollars for that purpose. The building of the school is being commenced yet this month. To the building committee belong the gentlemen: Jan CZAPIEWSKI, Michał PERSZYK and Jan DEMBEK. -- The children, for whom the former pastor Father WYPYCH had delayed First Communion, are being quickly prepared and given the sacrament by Father URBANSKI.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, January 2, 1902:*

On St. Stephen's Day, the name-day of our pastor Fr. URBANK, our Polish church was packed full of people whole-heartedly endeared to their spiritual shepherd. -- Józef JANUSZEWSKI is leaving for Alberta in the spring, to get married.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, October 16, 1902:*

PERHAM, Minn. Mikołaj JEŻEWSKI sold his farm of 40 acres of land for \$1200; 7 years ago he had paid only \$180 for the same farm.

J. SCHWARTZ arrived here from Iowa, and bought a 450-acre farm from Jan KELLY for \$14,500. Many of our countrymen are arriving here from Iowa and are purchasing farms; the soils here are very good. Wheat produces an abundant yield. Through the sponsorship of the Esteemed Father URBANSKI, they are building a new parochial school here, at a cost of \$3,000.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, October 20, 1904:*

**FROM PERHAM, Minn.**

This year's jubilee services were celebrated on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the current month, that is, on Wednesday.

On Monday and Tuesday confessions were heard. In the confessionals the Reverend Fathers August GOSPODAR from North Prairie, Jan BELZOWSKI from Ledoux and Teodor REKOSIAK from Little falls assisted Fr. KRZYWONOS.

On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. was the solemn reception of the Most Reverend Bishop TROBEC, whom the parish solemnly ushered to the church. Father REKOSIAK celebrated the entire Coram Episcopo with the assistance of Father J. BELZOWSKI and Father SCHAUT from Perham; Father LENTNER and Father AMBANEN were with the Bishop. Father J. BELZOWSKI preached a beautiful sermon. 55 children were confirmed.

ONE FROM THE PARISH.

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*From Wiarus, February 2, 1905:*

**FROM PERHAM, Minn.**

It is good to read about concord and unity in the parishes. Here there is none; they do not hearken to good advice. When a certain globetrotter, fraud, and socialist arrives, they believe that one. They outshout the well-intentioned ones, they intrigue against the priest; thus every priest who comes to us, leaves before long. Now likewise we have a very good priest; but to hear it, they have already begun with him, and they will play havoc so long, until the priest tires of it and he will do the same as his predecessors, and we will again be orphaned. And that will be as much as is permitted and we will not obtain a priest at all. Would that the Lord have mercy on us and that he will not inflict a punishment on the whole parish for these unbelievers.

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*From Wiarus, March 4, 1909 [?]:*

Esteemed Editor! March 22, 1909

I request the gracious placement in *Wiarus* of the news of the death of my father, he who always was its good friend and who subscribed to it for long years.

After a long suffering of nearly six months, the late Mikołaj JEŻEWSKI fell asleep in the Lord, surrounded by his family, consisting of six children and his grieving wife Katarzyna, at the hour of 9:00 in the evening, March 13, 1909.

The deceased was born in Dąbrowa in Wielewo parish on September 10, 1840; he came to America to Chicago in 1873; from there he went to Perham, Minn. in 1887, where he engaged in farming.

He belonged to the Polish parish of St. Stanisław, Bishop and Martyr in Perham for 22 years and he was buried from that church by the Rev. Fr. BUJALSKI on Saturday, March 17, with a large gathering of family and friends.

The funeral was arranged by the Society of St. Stanisław, Bishop and Martyr, the deceased having been a member.

Having lived in the Perham area for a long time, the late JEŻEWSKI was universally esteemed as a noble Polish patriot and a model husband and father.

His body is transformed to dust, but the memory of his noble deeds, a good heart, and a virtuous life will never leave the hearts of his family and friends. May we also be able to say like he did, "Jesus, I come—I am coming to Thee," in the hour of our death, and may we also be able to be like him, to be secure in eternal bliss. Amen.

Józef JEŻEWSKI

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The scope of subject matter in this material is very broad. On the secular side, there's a very good showing for the involvement of the local Polish community in agriculture, small business, and even a bit of politics. The earliest two items report the annual plagues of grasshoppers that occurred throughout the newly-opened farming areas of Minnesota in the 1870s and 1880s. It's not revealed whether the publication of these items was the result of actual correspondence from Perham-area Poles, or editor Hieronym DERDOWSKI's reading of regional English-language media.<sup>6</sup> Several of these reports show Poles integrating into the local economy and even politics.

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<sup>6</sup>The swarming of grasshoppers around Perham in 1884, 1887, and 1888 was reported in the *Perham Bulletin*, June 14, 1888. Perham is mentioned as one of Minnesota's earliest Polish settlements in "Szkic historyczny Stanu Minnesoty," in the first issue of *Wiarus*, February 11, 1886; so it's possible that DERDOWSKI had communication with the Poles there early in his publication of the newspaper, if for no reason other than to solicit subscriptions.

Jan KARSNIA seems to have been an early leader in the local Polonia, having founded in 1876 the St. Stanislaus Society that was the nucleus for the town's Polish-ethnic Catholic parish.<sup>7</sup> He was undoubtedly the justice of the peace mentioned by initials in the January 29, 1891 report. We see how several local Poles opened Main Street businesses of the sort often started by their countrymen in small towns and small cities in the Midwest: saloons, tailor shops, and small cigar factories. This suggests that these people, at least, had lived elsewhere in the U.S. before coming to Perham, acculturating to American ways and starting to outgrow a European-born, farm-oriented peasant worldview.<sup>8</sup>

Of special attraction to us genealogists, this spread of correspondence discloses the European origin-points of three of Perham's Polish families, the WELLENGERS, the WILKOWSKIs, and the JEŻEWSKIs.

There is not too much reportage focused on the parish of St. Stanislaus, however. This may be due in part to the fact that St. Stanislaus was already a

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<sup>7</sup>See Rev. Ron Dockendorf, "St. Stanislaus Church," in East Otter Tail Historical Society Book Committee, ed., *East Otter Tail County History*, v. 2 (Perham: East Otter Tail County Historical Society, 1995), pp. 292-293. KARSNIA's seminal role is also mentioned in "Church History/St. Stanislaus Parish History," a five-page extract from the 1985 centennial booklet for St. Stanislaus that I received via fax from the folks at St. Henry's Parish, Perham, in August, 2007.

<sup>8</sup>The fact of such an internal migration into Otter Tail County is mentioned in the August 26, 1892 and October 16, 1902 reports. It is corroborated by other sources as well. The SENGIR family moved to Perham from Duluth after having borne children in the Zenith City (including Father Michael SENGIR, a priest who served several Polish-ethnic parishes in the Diocese of Duluth). The KAMINSKI family also lived in the Duluth area before resettling in Perham. "John R. PERSZYK Family," in *East Otter Tail County History*, v. 1, p. 222.

going concern by the time of the first issue of *Wiarus* in 1886<sup>9</sup>; thus, there was no joyous announcement of a parish founding as was published repeatedly in that newspaper for other locales in Minnesota over the ensuing two decades.<sup>10</sup>

Another reason lies in the apparent lack of a single, solid voice in the congregation. This body of correspondence seems to indicate that the Perhamites fell prey to that tendency all too common to American Polonia, of members being hard on each other and really hard on their priests.<sup>11</sup> Many of the acid-tongued references to fellow Poles are quite funny now, but in their day they came close to being libelous; and they certainly did not lay to rest any existing animosity between individuals and families within this community.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>The first frame structure of St. Stanislaus Church was erected in 1883, and dedicated in 1884. See Perham *Bulletin*, Nov. 27, 1894, p. 4; "Church History/History of St. Stanislaus Parish"; Mason, ed., *History of Otter Tail County*, v. 1, p. 390.

<sup>10</sup>It is a little odd that the 1895 repair and renovation of the church was not reported in *Wiarus*. That effort made the Perham *Bulletin*, Nov. 14, 1895, p. 1.

<sup>11</sup>Father KRUSZKA identified "[t]he evil spirit of opposition and stubbornness, this original sin of American Poles..." *A History of the Poles in America to 1908, Part IV*, p. 10.

<sup>12</sup>The October 5, 1893 report was an especially sarcastic skewering of everybody in sight. Its author does not stop at anything in accusing his local countrymen of bad behavior: failure to support a Polish parish school; drunkenness; immaturity; theft from a priest; neglecting parish development just to avoid debt; and maybe even poaching of game. (The reference to people being fed by "the company forests" during a drought was the most cryptic of several confusing references in this piece; there is no way to interpret it other than that.)

The savaging of Kaźmierz WELLENGER, for instance, may have had some basis in reality, at least in his business misfortunes; but there sure was no corroboration of his alleged licentiousness in the local English-language press.<sup>13</sup> The much-complained-of divisiveness among parishioners must have been a factor in the high turnover of priests at St. Stanislaus.<sup>14</sup> This pattern did not end until the time of the First World War.<sup>15</sup>

Still and all, as contentious as those early Polish pioneers may have been, they laid a very strong foundation for a parish presence that survives, in a form, to this day. In 1921-22, during the pastorship of Father KUZNIAK and under his leadership, the original frame structure of the church was removed and a small and neat brick church was built.<sup>16</sup> St.

<sup>13</sup>The Perham *Bulletin* reported in its April 22, 1897 issue, p. 8, that WELLENGER had just returned from three weeks at Minto, North Dakota, and expected to move his family there shortly. On June 17, 1897, p. 8, the *Bulletin* reported that WELLENGER's wife and child were about to relocate to Minto permanently. One wonders how much of the bile in *Wiarus*'s coverage was prompted by irate and unsatisfied local creditors of his saloon.

<sup>14</sup>A small printed card listing the parish's priests and their years of tenure indicates that there were 18 priests in residence at St. Stanislaus over a period of only 25 years, 1887-1912. (This card is in the collection at the East Otter Tail County Historical Society; I have a photocopy of it.)

<sup>15</sup>Concord between shepherds and flock seems to have blessed the parish after that, for the last three Polish-descended priests to serve there. Per the source identified in n. 14, Father S. KUZNIAK served from 1917 to 1933; Father L. OHOTTA from 1933 to 1950; and Father S. FADROWSKI from 1950 to 1969. The reverential tone and yearning of our *Oda perhamska* from 1894 shows that some parishioners, at least, were trying to placate a new priest; but this effort did not seem to "take" for two decades after that.

<sup>16</sup>See "Church History/History of St. Stanislaus Parish," "Parish Church" section.

Stanislaus is still an operating church now. And, in what might be unique throughout Minnesota for a town of this size, it maintains a distinct presence in Perham in tandem with the larger Roman Catholic church in the town, St. Henry's, originally established in German ethnicity. The two parishes were "twinned" in the 1990s, i.e. brought under the common pastorship of a single priest. However, the allegiance of the area's Catholics of Polish descent still sustains weekly Masses and other events there, a couple of blocks from the Burlington Northern railroad tracks on the north side of Perham. And during short visits during the summers of 2006 and 2007 I was told by several of those descendants that they will keep St. Stanislaus open for as long as they can.



**St. Stanislaus Church, Perham, 1922  
Structure**

*Source: East Otter Tail County Historical  
Museum, Perham*

*WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS:* Again, thanks to John Radziłowski for his pioneering research into *Wiarus*, the results of which led me to most of this material. I uncovered the rest by myself. The folks at the East Otter Tail County Historical Museum in Perham gave me a very warm and cheerful welcome--something that a peripatetic amateur historian does not always get in local archives away from home. They were a great help in identifying local resources for my background text. We owe them special thanks for the photos that serve as our illustrations. (And those with roots in Perham *must* consult the society's website: <[www.historymuseumeot.com](http://www.historymuseumeot.com)>. It has a lengthy and sophisticated index of articles in Perham-area newspapers and other sources, by name and subject. A search under "Polish" reveals several dozen entries from the Perham *Bulletin*, including some of the local reportage that I have cited.) Lina Belar, Pat Wasosky, and Martha Wilkowski: *Dziękuję bardzo, koleżanki!* Elsie Schultz, the part-time secretary at St. Stanislaus, gave me a few leads, shared pleasant conversation, and let me take pictures of the stained glass windows. And, once again, when I could not puzzle out century-old Polish idioms and archaic syntax, I had ready and expert help from my former students at the UNESCO English language camps at Toruń, Anna Kuroczycka and Izabela Szalkowska Holmes.



**St. Stanislaus Church, Perham, Original Wood-frame Structure**

*Source: East Otter Tail County Historical Museum, Perham*

**Perham derives its name from Josiah Perham, the first president of the Northern Pacific Railroad, which first came through Otter Tail County in 1871.**

**Missing Branches ...continued from page 32**

**Mike Jaros**, 3108 Minnesota Ave., Duluth MN 55802 is researching JAROS in Cieszyń, Poland; in Bosnia and in Duluth.

**James Neagbour**, 1555 Mallard Drive, Eagan MN 55122-2543 <Neagbour@comcast.net> is researching JANEK (JENIK) in Poland and in St. Louis County MN; WOJCIECHOWSKI in Jelesnia, Poland and in St. Louis Co.; STORAİK in south Poland; CZAIKOWSKI/CAIKOWSKI in German Poland and in St. Louis Co.; GOLICK, NEIGEBUR/NEUGEBAUER in Dmenin, Radomsko.

**Sandra R. Dorava Prebeg**, 6753 Starburst Drive, Sun Prairie WI 53590-9427 <beedazzled@yahoo.com> is researching DORAWA in Kashubia/Bytow and in Stevens Point and Taylor Cty. WI; BRUSKI in Bytow and in Stevens Point, Portage Cty. WI (Felix Bruski married Maryanna Dorawa). She writes: "I am interested in the meeting in Stevens Point, WI on 9-6-08."

*Editor's reply: See the Stevens Point meeting announcement on page 15. More information about this meeting will be made via our web site at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>> and by e-mail.*

**Shirley J. Sorenson**, 3015 N. Cty. Rd. F, Birchwood WI 54817-3043 <hombless@centurytel.net> is researching BUDZINSKI (BUDENSKE/BUDJENSKI) in Narzym in Poland and in Goodhue Cty. MN; VEOLEK in Narzym? (married to Budzinski); LIBUDA in Narzym? (parents of Veolek). She writes: "Narzym was in Ostpreussen, now Ciechanowskie."

**Louis D. Welna**, 632 Sodom Road, Milton VT 05468-4348 <ojciec@comcast.net> is researching DEJA in Pogodki, Poland and in Royalton/Holdingford MN and the following allied family names in Pogodki: ZYNDA, MARCZYNKE, LEWANDOWSKA, BOSKKE, DAWICKA, SMULKALA; WELNA in Falkowice, Poland and in Holdingford and allied family names in Falkowice: STOLDOLKA, WALCZOK,

MARONA, ZAWADA; PYKA in Dammratsch, Poland and in Holdingford and allied family names in Dammratsch: CZECH, DAMBOWY, JURKIN (JUREK), SOBIECH, WALTZOK, KUKIN (KUH, KUKA), KAZIMIERKIN (KAZIMIERK), PALLUCH, BLACH, SURRA (SURKIN); PHILIPSEK in Mechnitz, Poland and in Holdingford and allied family BANERT.

**Brian Wierzba**, W147N6579 Ash Dr., Menomonee Falls WI 53051-5164 <alwierz32@yahoo.com> is researching Leon WIERZBA/VIERZBA in Tuskowy, Koscierzyna in Poland and in Winona MN; Vincent Wierzba in Tuszhowy and in Portage WI; Josef Wierzba in Skierwary, Koscierzyna and in Chicago IL.

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

**Robin Brazerol**, 284 Ratika Rd., Esko MN 55733 <MamaRobinB@aol.com> is researching MOSINIAK, KUCZA in Polzin? in Poland and in Duluth MN.

**Thomas J. Draus**, P.O. Box 464, Hazel Green WI 53811 <tjdraus@mhtc.net> is researching DRAUS, OPYD, MADON in southern Poland and in Chicago IL.

**Kevin and Mary Ann Johnson**, 3210 - 139th Ln. N.W., Andover MN 55304 <kmmmkjohanson@msn.com> are researching MANIAK, CIESIELSKI from Raschkow and Bieganin, Posen, Poland and in Duluth and Split Rock Twp. in MN, in Superior WI and in Buffalo NY; also OWEZAREK, SERWANSKI, DUDA, MALECHA, NOWICKI, MYNARCZYKA, SZYATOWSKA, WITKOWSKA, GAPINWICZ, KOMOROWSKI, TOKARSKA, DROSZYNSKA--the family names of ancestors of Maniak and Ciesielski immigrants from Posen; BUTKIEWICZ, SZEDIS in the Russian Partition of Poland and in Duluth and Split Rock MN and Superior WI; KRZESZEWSKI (KRISKE), MUSOLF (MUSSOLF), KUBICKI (KUBISKI), OLSZEWSKI, KOSLAKIEWICZ (KOSLAKOWICZ), BAUZE in Posen, Poland and in Duluth and Winona MN, Wisconsin, and Buffalo NY.

**Amy Jowers**, 111 Marquette Ave., #3002, Minneapolis MN 55401  
<puma79@comcast.net> is researching WOLAK in Gilman MN.

**Bernadine Zak Kargul**, 26209 Elsinore, Redford MI 48239-3105 <bargul@aol.com> is researching ZAK in Lubez, Bydgoszcz and in McLeod Co. then Morrison Co. MN; POKOROWSKI, BIELEJEWSKI in Miecierzyn, Bydgoszcz and in McLeod Co. then Foley and Morrison Co.; TRUTWIN, KUKA in Falkowice, Opole and in Morrison Co.

**Dr. W. Kornel Kondy**, 619 S.E. 7th St., Minneapolis MN 55414-1327 is researching KONDEJ, KRÓL/KING, FURTEK, RYBICKI, STEFAŃSKI, GADELA in Ustrobnia, Austria/Poland and in Springfield, Lynn, Adams, Salem MA and Manchester NH; CYRAN, GRZEBIEŃ, ŻOŁNIEROWSKI, PASTERNAK, FRODYM, HELBIN, SIKORA, NIEDZIELA in Tułkowice, Dobrzechów, Austria/Poland and in Salem and Lynn MA, Rochester NY and Augusta ME.

**Virginia M. Kulinski**, 905 Michigan Ave., Waukesha WI 53188-3041 is researching Martin GORECKI (b. 8 Nov. 1863) in Zalesie, Bydgoszcz, Poland and in Milwaukee WI; SOBOCINSKI/SOBOCZYNSKI/SOBOCIENSKI (b. 29 Sept. 1866) in Poland, Germany and in Cudahy WI.

**Lois Mackin**, 2800 Brockton Ln. N., Plymouth MN 55447 <LoisMackin@aol.com> is researching ABROMAITIS, KRUCZKAS in Lasdijai, Suwalkija and in Schuylkill Co., PA and SAKASKY, BUSHKIEWICZ in Schuylkill Co. She writes: "Keep up the great work! Thank you!"

**Adam Mikrot**, 1969 Utica Ave., St. Paul MN 55119 <ajmikrot@usfamily.net> is researching MIKROT in Poland and in Sturgeon Lake MN.

**Gary Mis**, 642 Savanna Trail, Delano MN 55328-2832 <slg@frontiernet.net> is researching MIS in Lukawiec, Podkarpackie; GADAROWSKI/GADAROWSKA in Debowiec, Podkarpackie; OGORZALEK in

Wadowice Gorne, Podkarpackie; SZUMNO/SZUMNA in Poland and all in Chicopee MA.

**Janet and Warren Mitchell**, 1539 Stonewood Lane, Eagan MN 55122-1952 <mitch088@tc.umn.edu> are researching KOWALSKI, MACIEJEWSKI, CIRHANTEK, WODA in Slawianowo, Buntowo, Ruden, all in Kreis Flatow (now Zlotow) and in Chaska MN and Manitowoc WI.

**Sandra Nuss**, 1800 South Prairie, Fairmont MN 56031 <senuss@charter.net> is researching JARNOT in Brzeszcze and Kety in Poland and in Holdingford MN; MORON in Brzeszcze and in New York; SOLARZ in Falkowitz and in Holdingford; PHILIPSECK in Mechnitz and in St. Anna and Holdingford.

**Barbara Odette**, 8219 S. Kilbourn, Chicago IL 60652 is researching the CZUBERNAT, BATKIEWICZ, CZOP, SECOR surnames.

**Darlene Springob**, 18675 Brookfield Lk. Dr. #43, Brookfield WI 53045-6173 <rsrcher@aol.com> is researching SKUCZYNSKI in Weil and TRZEBIATOWSKI in Treptow in Poland.

**Jim Thelen**, 3169 Traci Lane, DeWitt MI 48820 <jimthelen@comcast.net> is researching CZECH in Opole, Poland and in Todd County--Hartford MN.

**Rolland Turcotte**, 5614 Lavaque Rd., Duluth MN 55803-9425 <Rollandrgt@aol.com> is researching LACZYNSKI, SNURA in Poznan in Poland and in Duluth MN (arrived in 1885 and 1883 respectively). He writes: "Keep up the good work!"

**Joan Wasilewski**, 52584 Turnbury Ct., Shelby Twp. MI 48315-2440 <lynnjoni@aol.com> is researching BOIKE, RESKE in Schmollin in Poland and in Detroit MI; PONKE in Kruswitz and in Detroit; BYSTRUM in Strelcin and in Detroit; PIECUCH in Bobrona and in Detroit; TUROWSKI in Jeglwiszki and Krasnopol and in Mt. Carmel PA; TUSZYNSKI in Mt. Carmel.

## 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:** *Welcome!*

**Jerry Beuhl**, 2912 W. Woodside Ave., Spokane  
 WA 99208-4536 <tetatree@comcast.net> is  
 researching BUHL, BARON in Opole/Silesia and  
 in Delano, Waverly in MN.

**Robert S. Biele**, 2166 Crater Lake Ave. #3,  
 Medford OR 97504-5885  
 <Robert.Biele@providence.org> is researching  
 BIELEJEWSKI in Znin, Bydgoszcz [Bydgoszcz]  
 and in Hale MN.

**Joan Brooks**, 6390 Otter Road, Mound MN  
 55364-9439 <JMRBrooks@gmail.com> is  
 researching her grandfather Jacob RUDNICKI in  
 Tuchow in Poland and in Morris MN and  
 Chicago IL. Her great grandfather Francisus  
 Rudnicki and great grandmother Theila  
 RUBINOWSKI stayed in Tuchow (House #114).  
 Joan writes: "Research records of my Great  
 Grandparents were found on microfilm from St.  
 Jakuba Roman Catholic parish in Tuchow. My  
 grandfather came from a family of about 9  
 children. I do have more records of descendants.  
 I would like to know how I could contact the  
 descendants for pictures and how life was in  
 Tuchow. Any information would be greatly  
 appreciated."

*Editor's reply: I suggest that you write a letter  
 to the parish and ask if any descendants of  
 Franciszek Rudnicki still reside in the parish.  
 List any descendants that you know. Ask them to  
 pass on any information that you wish to convey.  
 The address of the parish is: św. Jakuba St. Ap.,  
 ul. Kościuszki 8a, 33-170 Tuchów, POLAND. A  
 letter written in Polish will probably yield better  
 results than a letter written in English. In any  
 case, expect a reply written in Polish. Other  
 parish contact information: Phone: (0-14) 652-  
 55-10, e-mail: <tuchow1@diecezja.tarnow.pl>,  
 Web site: <http://www.sw.jakub.tuchow.pl>.*

*A translation of the Tuchów entry in Słownik  
 Geograficzny is found at  
 <http://www.polishroots.org/slownik/tuchow.htm>.  
 This detailed entry gives a 19th-century  
 description of the town and a summary of its  
 history. Googling Tuchow, Poland results in  
 "about 91,100" hits. Perhaps a few of these sites  
 will show "how life was in Tuchow."*

*The Spring 1999 issue of this newsletter (pp. 1,  
 14-21) contains an article entitled "Sources for  
 Reconstructing a Polish Ancestral Village:  
 Janków Zalesny, Wielkopolska." While the  
 village described in the article was not Tuchów,  
 many of the sources cited can be used to  
 "reconstruct" any village in Poland.*

**Francine Fitting**, N68W5720 Bridge Commons  
 Ct., Cedarburg WI 53012-2145  
 <francinefs@shcglobal.net> is researching  
 PALUBICKI in Ugoszcz in Poland and in  
 Winona MN; LITERSKI in Ugoszcz and in Pine  
 Creek WI; MAJKOWSKI, ORLIKOWKI,  
 SADOWSKY in Lipusz in Poland and in  
 Winona; RYMARKIEWICZ in Lekno and in  
 Winona; PIECHOWSKI, MEGIER in  
 Kiedrowice/Borzyszkowy and in Winona;  
 BARTKOWIAK in Lekno/Niemczyn and in  
 Winona.

**Jeanne Hannes**, 5356 - 441st St., Harris MN  
 55032 is a new member (see *Queries page 4*).

**Missing Branches ...continued on page 30**

Minnesota Genealogical Society  
**Polish Genealogical Society**  
*of Minnesota Branch*  
 1185 No. Concord St.  
 So. St. Paul MN 55075-1187

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