



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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## **DROBNE ECHA**

Installment #15

**Dateline: Gnesen**

From *Wiarus*, 1886-1888

**By Greg Kishel**

**<gfk1@cornell.edu**

After the historic events of this fall, elections are still on everyone's mind. We'll use that theme for this installment of our coverage of Minnesota's past in the Polish-language press. This time we go to Gnesen Township in St. Louis County just north of Duluth - an early Polish agricultural settlement and probably the only place in the United States that can be said with certainty to have been named after the ancient capital of the early Polish kingdom.<sup>1</sup> From Winona's *Wiarus*, the first Polish-language newspaper published in Minnesota, we present breaking news of the township elections in the late 1880s. It's a tale of immigrants' experiences with American democracy on the local level, the ethnic competition that tinged the events, and an accusation of perfidy within the Polish-American community at Gnesen. And it's told with the verbal bombast that *Wiarus* editor Hieronim DERDOWSKI favored.

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>1</sup>We have featured Gnesen Township in these pages on several prior occasions. See Greg Kishel, "A Transcription of St. Joseph's Cemetery, Gnesen, St. Louis County," Parts I (*PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 7, no. 4 (Winter, 1999-2000), p. 9) and II (in v. 8, no. 1 (Spring, 2000), p. 12); Greg Kishel, "The Patterns of Polish Settlement in Minnesota: Rice Lake and Gnesen Townships, in St. Louis County, 1870-1920," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 8, no. 1 (Spring, 2000), p. 1; Greg Kishel, "Gnesen and Rice Lake: A Postscript," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 8, no. 3 (Autumn, 2000), p. 20.

*From the issue of March 17, 1887:*

**A German has hookwinked the Poles.**

Gniezno [Gnesen], March 15.

Dear Master Editor!

Deign to publish these several words, which I relate from our Polish farming colony of Gnesen. It lies 15 miles from Duluth, and hitherto only Poles have resided here; but a couple of months ago a Kraut settled here, and since then quarrels immediately broke out among us, about which I will inform Master Editor at greater length.

On March 8 speeches were held here for the election of clerks for our township. Thus the Kraut fell to  
**Gnesen Article** .... *continued page 27*

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

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society  
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The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is included with membership. Dues are \$20.00 per year for 2009 or \$50 for three years.

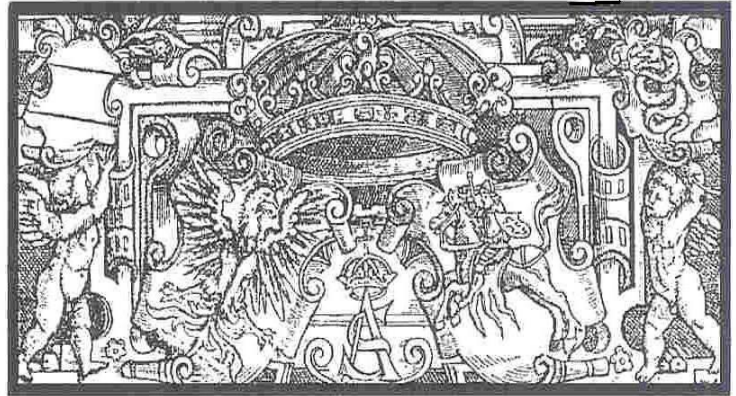
#### **Please use application form on the insert page.**

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**

I think it a coincidence that both George Bush and I will depart the office of president on about the same date in January, having served approximately the same number of years in office. It would be impractical to compare the two positions, but suffice it to say that my elections have never been questioned, and I leave the organization in better fiscal condition.

One of my goals, when I became PGS-MN president some years ago, was to turn over the Board of Directors to bring in new members. With my departure this will have been completed. I think it very important that new members be added to the board, as well as to the society, on a regular basis. Our membership has remained fairly constant for the past few years after having increased significantly over the past eight years, which we consider a success.

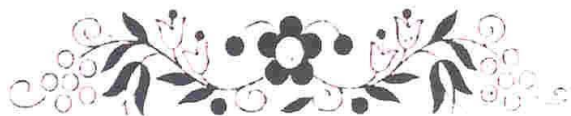
The PGS-MN Board has nominated Jay Biedny for the office of president, and Jason Waldowski as a director. We invite members, as Jay did several years ago, to volunteer for a board position.

The society continues to struggle with attendance at our program meetings. We attempt to discuss topics of interest to all but have not been able to increase attendance, and have not seen many of our members who live in the twin city area. PGS-MN has over 200 Minnesota members but perhaps less than half have attended a program. We will continue to conduct programs which we think will be of interest to and benefit our members.

We welcome your input about our newsletter and our programs. This can be done by contacting a board member, or the newsletter editor, John Kowles.

I hope to continue to see more of you at future program meetings.

Terry Kita



## *The Bulletin Board*

**Blanche Krbechek** received Poland's bronze medal *Zasłużony Gloria Artis* from the Polish Minister of Cultural and National Heritage. The medal is awarded to Polish and foreign nationals distinguished in the fields of artistic creation, cultural activities and the protection of cultural and national heritage. It was presented at the Kashubian Folklore Festival in Brusy last summer. Blanche is president of the Kashubian Association of North America and a member of PGS-MN.

**Terry Kita** began his term as First Vice President of our parent organization, Minnesota Genealogical Society.

### **Poland Left Off Visa Waiver Program**

In October President Bush announced the addition of seven more countries (now a total of 27) to the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). The program allows individuals from these countries to enter the U.S. for 90 days without first obtaining a visa. However in Poland a visa must still be obtained in Warsaw or Kraków at an expense of \$100 (non-refundable). This has been a sore point with Polish officials, Polish-Americans and a number of Polish members of Congress and those representing significant Polish-American constituencies. The president did express his support for eventually adding Poland and other European Union members. A number of conditions have to be met to be included in the program. Apparently, a sticking point is that the number of visa refusals must be less than 10%. The Polish embassy reported this number to be less than 14% now. Other rules include a Machine Readable Passport. President-elect Obama indicated to *Nowy Dziennik* (Polish Daily News, New York) he supports the addition of Poland to the VWP.

*-taken from various new sources*

### **Copernicus' Grave Positively Located**

Polish archaeologist Jerzy Gassowski is now believed to have discovered the final resting place of Nicolaus Copernicus. It is an unmarked site under the floor of the Catholic cathedral in Frombork, Poland. Frombork (then Frauenburg, Prussia) is located on the Baltic on the south shore of the Vistula Lagoon. The confirmation was made with the use of DNA. Copernicus (or Mikolaj Kopernik in Polish) was born in Toruń in 1473. He died in 1543 in Frombork but apparently because of his controversial theories, the grave site was unknown.

**Polish Kulig (Sleigh Ride)** – 2 p.m. Saturday, January 17 at Bunker Hills, Andover (\$10) Contact Aneta at [andzius@hotmail.com](mailto:andzius@hotmail.com) for details.

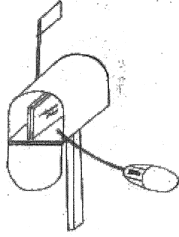
### **Members Please Note**

**DUES** – For calendar year 2009 they are \$20 but a great deal is three years for only \$50. This is made necessary by the increase of printing, mailing and library rental expense. If your dues were received or postmarked by December 31, 2008 the older dues schedule will still apply. If you have not renewed please do so by March 31, 2009 so as not to miss the Spring, 2009 issue. You will still receive all the 2009 newsletters if renewal is after that date but we then must mail first-class which is an added expense.

**ADDRESS CHANGES** - Let our membership chairperson know about mailing or e-mail address changes so you will receive all mailings and e-mails in a timely manner. Our membership software can program your mailing addresses for a seasonal delivery and then revert back to your original address. Contact: Dori Marszalek, 3901-61<sup>st</sup> Ave. No., Brooklyn Center MN 55429-2403, Tel. (763-535-2296) or e-mail <[doripgs@comcast.net](mailto:doripgs@comcast.net)>.

**GENEALOGICAL HELP** - We endeavor to answer inquirers, as best we can, and publish those which might be of general interest to researchers. Sometimes we can only steer you to an approach or finally a professional genealogist. We also would like to hear about your successes.

## Correspondence ... *Komunikacja*



Thank you very much for your transcription of Polish records for Myslajek and Migacz and variations in spelling that you sent me.

We had some of this information but your copies were much clearer and the maps were the best we had ever seen. You also gave us additional information such as sponsors and witnesses at baptisms and marriages.

I heartily endorse the project.

Thank you again. I did include a donation of \$15 to PGS with my renewal of membership

Florence Myslajek  
John Myslajek

*This is in regard to work done by John Rys of our research committee (see page 22).*



*Scanning Polish Publications*

### **PGS of Michigan, *Polish Eaglet*, Vol. 28, No.2, Summer 2008**

"Polish Pioneers at Jamestown, Virginia"  
By Betty J. Arnold Guziak

### **PGS of Texas, *Polish Footprints* Vol. XXV, No.2, Summer 2008**

"The Village of Lipusz Also Known as  
Lynderpusch and Lippusch"  
By Peter von Pazatka Lipinsky

### **PGS of California Vol. 20, No.4, October 2008**

"Poles of Ashland, WI"  
By Edward Pinkowski

### ***Die Pommerchen Leute* (The Pomeranian People)**

**Vol. 31, Issue 3, Fall2008**

"A Day in Castle Garden, Part 3"

### **PGSA *Rodziny***

**Vol. XXXI, No. 4, Fall2008**

"Emigrants' Letters, Part II"

By Iwona Dakiniewicz

Editor's Note: *This article details a list of senders and places (as available) of letters not received-approximately 1890 time frame. Most of the letters were written to people in localities in the powiaty of Rypin, Golub, Lipno, Nieszawa, Sierpc, and Aleksandrow, Kujawski (northern part of Plock gubernia, which bordered Prussia). As Iwona pointed out maybe one of these letters will find its way to a descendant.*

*The Rodziny editor noted PGSA has a web site with an index where copies of the letters can be ordered:*  
<<http://www.pgsa.org/writinghome.php>>

-JWK

### **PGSMA *Biuletyn KORZENIE* Vol.19, No.2, October 2008**

"Tabula Registers: An Untapped Genealogical Resource in the L'viv Archives"

By Alexander Dunai <dunai@dunailviv.ua>

Editor's Note: *This is a little-known source for Galician researchers in the L'viv State Archive. The Tabula (Register) began in 1780 and contains documents relating to property, notes, marriage contracts and various business contracts. It houses literally thousands of documents from 1632 to 1939 with the majority dating from 1780 to 1896. The author, a professional genealogist living in L'viv, indicates the information may be a good source for genealogical information, especially when older metrical records are not available. The article contains a large list of cities and villages for which Tabula Registers exist. The author indicates the registers are written in an odd mix of Latin, Gothic, and Old Polish which makes them difficult to read and understand. Suffice to say help would be needed to research them.*

-JWK

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These publications and many others can be found in the Polish section of the MGS library. There are numerous other noteworthy articles.



## PGS-MN Recent Meetings

### Joint Meeting with Pommern Regional Group - October 4, 2008

The meeting, held in the MGS library auditorium, had about 60 attendees.

John Rys from PGS-MN gave a short presentation on DNA and the details of PGS-MN's cooperation with the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation. (PGS-MN has collected about 25 samples.) John emphasized that if your DNA is used it may not show up in the database for six months or more.

Sandra Van Erp from the Pommern Group provided an interesting overview and slide show of her trips to Germany and Poland. Survivors and descendants of Germans expelled from the *kreis* Rummelsburg make a bi-annual trip to the area now in Poland. Today the area is generally described as northeast of Miastko, southeast of Slupsk and east of Bytów.

Blanche Krbechek (President of the Kashubian Association of North America and a PGS-MN member) presented her insights about the history and modern day Kashubia. Blanche has been a yearly traveler to Kashubia. Her handout was a translation of an historical article: *West Pomerania in the First Half of the Sixteenth Century*.

The common interests of the two groups and success of this meeting will likely result in another joint meeting in 2009.

### Seminars by Stephen Barthel - November 1, 2008

Stephen Barthel, an accredited genealogist, reference consultant and public affairs specialist from 1983-2004 at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, presented three interesting sessions in the MGS library auditorium with about 55 in attendance. Special emphasis was placed on using internet sites, passenger lists, gazetteers and maps. The final afternoon session concerned publishing a family history book at home. Stephen is very knowledgeable on this subject having published 26 family history books. He also related he has researched genealogies of many famous people. Handouts from this meeting are contained on pages 15-22 of this newsletter.

### MGS Family History Fair-April 18, 2009

MGS will host its spring event at the library. The theme and details have not yet been determined.

## PGS-MN Future Meetings

### Annual Meeting – 11 a.m. Sat., January 17, 2009

PGS-MN will hold its Annual Meeting at *Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit*, 2300 N.E. University Ave., Minneapolis. The agenda will be as follows:

- **ELECTIONS** - President, vice president and two directors will be elected. If you would like to be considered for one of these positions please contact Terry Kita at: <terrykita@earthlink.net>, 612-927-0719 or 5036 Queen Ave. So., Minneapolis 55406.
- **BUSINESS MEETING** - Review year-end finances.
- **POLISH BUFFET** - Pork loin, chicken, pierogi, potatoes, vegetable, sauerkraut, dessert and beverage (cost is \$17 which includes tax and service). Please RSVP by January 11 to Terry Kita at above address for the buffet.
- **PROGRAM** - We ask attendees to bring an item or story that reflects Polish ancestral history or research, such as documents, memorabilia, oral history, costumes or photos- be creative. These will be displayed at the meeting.

### Presentation of PGS-MN's "Silver Star" Collection - 10 a.m. Saturday, March 14, 2009

MGS has asked PGS-MN to highlight the best resources of our collection, identified as "Silver Star" items. Various PGS-MN members will provide an overall summary of these resources which include books, CDs, microfilms and internet sites. We will highlight our extensive map collection at a future meeting.

### Mapping Your Health History-10 a.m. Saturday, April 4, 2009

Dana Halberg-Ridley will present the methodology for tracing health history while doing genealogical research. Knowing trends or patterns in your ancestors' medical history can help benefit the current generation as well as future generations.

### Using Timelines in Your Research -10 a.m. Saturday, May 2, 2009

Lois Mackin will present use of a timeline to organize your facts. If you don't know what to do next - try a timeline to reveal the gaps in your research and show you the next steps. If you want to write some family history - try a timeline to get started. Timelines are a powerful tool for genealogists and family historians. Learn how to put them to work for you.

*The final three meetings will be held in the MGS Library Board Room on the fourth floor.*



Blanche Krbehek is Shown Making Presentation at the Joint PGS-MN/Pommern Meeting



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J. Pomorze zachodnie w dobie Reformacji. Reprodukacja z książki J. Mitkowskiego: "Pomorze Zachodnie w stosunku do Polski Południowej 1916"

West Pomerania in the 16th Century

Editor's Note: This map was in one of the handouts from the presentation. The translation of the accompanying article is published in the *Przejecel Ledu Kaszebsczego* (Friend of the Kashubian People), Fall2008, Vol. XII, No.3. Contact: <www.KA-NA.org>

**Poznan Project: Search the Marriages Database**  
*A Success Story for the Wilebski/Januzik Family*  
**Part II**

**By Kathryn Wilebski Schafer**  
<dkschafer@wiktel.com>

*Editor's Note: This article provides a good look at records of the 1700s and some difficulties in researching them. -JWK*

Researching the Wilebski family history has been a priority for second cousins Frank, Fred and me - our surname from birth. As a child and young adult, the mispronunciation of my Polish name at school or over a loudspeaker during extracurricular activities left me dismayed. Not always appreciating my surname at the time I did wonder about it. Who was I? Where did our family come from? Why is WILEBSKI my last name?

I did ask my dad about his grandparents and great-grandparents - he never knew them. His grandmother, Antonia Wilebski, died before he was born and his grandfather, Franciszek, died when he was three years old. His parents didn't talk about Poland. He never asked - their lives were concerned with survival, World War II, carrying a gun, hunting, trapping, and providing for the family. Poland was left behind - and maybe because of the political situation with Germany and Russia - they wanted to forget.

My dad's parents did speak Polish though, within the family, and my dad spoke Polish with other Polish people of the community. Being a third-generation American, the Polish wasn't passed on to me. As a youth it wasn't important to me. It is important now in my life, only now it is too late.

After I married I still wondered. My Grandma Wilebski's trunk had been passed on to my aunt. She allowed me to take the old pictures and copy them. In 1980 I made a trip to Lancaster in Kittson County and met with Dad's cousins, showing them the old photographs and asking if they could identify the people. Great-aunts and uncles' names were put to the faces on wedding pictures. My research commenced.

With that initial trip I was connected with some of the surviving aunts of my dad's family and asked more questions. Still no one knew the home village of our family in Poland. About this time second cousins Frank and Fred Wilebski became interested as well. Szubin/Poznanskie was the closest we could come to a home village. This had been written in a family Bible of my Grandpa Sam's cousin, Catherine Wielebski Dalke (Peter Frank Dalke). Frank and Fred met with her son in the 1990s. They found the ship record with the emigration of our great-grandparents, Franciszek and Antonia Wilebski (the spelling on the record) from Bremen, Germany to the Port of Baltimore, Maryland, dated May 7, 1880. Further migration in the U.S. was to LaSalle, Illinois, then Lincoln County, Minnesota, and finally Kittson County, Minnesota in 1895.

After discovery of the village Kosztowo, Poland, great-grandmother Antonia's birthplace, it was logical that her husband, Franciszek, had to live near enough to court her. So using the Poznan Project website, I plugged in the surname Wielebski - the Polish spelling of our name. Using <mapquest.com> I looked to see which villages listed were closest to Kosztowo. Sadke/Sadki (Wyrzysk) and Morzewo (Chodzież) were the LDS films I ordered as well as two from the Szubin area.

Lukasz Bielecki's Poznan Project is a work in progress. Throughout the year of my research new Wilebski couples and new villages were added to the database. As I viewed the LDS films, Lukasz was always willing to help me with any questions I came across on the records, like Polish spelling and grammar. His e-mail is accessed through the contact link on the website and he answered promptly, which I appreciated.

Franciszek and Antonia's marriage and village are still not on the Project's website, nor his brothers' marriages in Poland. However the Sadke/Sadki (Wyrzysk) LDS film did reveal Franciszek's birth village in Żelazno, Poland on November 15, 1854 (see record page 10). We knew this date of birth from his death record in Kittson County, Minnesota. Żelazno is to the southeast of Kosztowo.

Franciszek's older siblings' births were not on this film however. Franciszek's father, Simon, died in Żelazno in 1864. Surviving children on his death record were Joannes 22, Peter 18, Agnes 10, Franciszek 9?, and Thomas 3. Also Simon's wife and Franciszek's mother, Marianna Donajkoska Wielepska (spelling on this record) remarried a Czarapata in Sadke/Sadki in 1865. Where the Czarapata family moved in Poland from the time Franciszek was 10 years old I still have not discovered, a period of 15 years, but I assume it is somewhere in the vicinity of Kosztowo where Antonia was born. Through oral tradition we have information that Franciszek was a deserter of the German army before fleeing to America. There even could be a possibility of his marriage taking place in Germany because of this, but I still hope to track the 15-year lapse of his life in Poland through the Poznan Project marriage database as it progresses.

On the Morzewo LDS film I found Simon Wielepski's oldest brother, Valentinus (Valentine), and his marriage and children. Another brother, Joannes, who married Catharina Lewandowska (the Wisconsin Wielepskis), was married in Smogulecka Wieś. My great-great grandparents Simon Wielepski and Marianna Donajkoska were married in Laskownica, Poland (see record page 10), where Franciszek's older siblings were born as well- the missing births from the first films in Żelazno. This information is also on the Poznan Project website and Smogulec (Wągrowiec) LDS films. Simon's mother, Margaritha Wielebska's death record was in the village Mieczkowo where she lived near or possibly with her daughter, Agnes (Stanley Dereszynski) until she was 78. Agnes and Stanley were also married in Smogulecka Wieś. Other children in the family were found as well as marriages and deaths through the LDS film research.

From this point I was able to find Simon's parents, Casper and Margaritha Nawrot Wielebski's marriage record in 1807 in Silec/Sielec, and his grandparents, Andreas and Barbara Wielebski who were married in 1779 in Pawłowo, both villages near Jutrosin, Poland. I spent considerable time on the Jutrosin LDS films from this period. Eventually, by the year 1828 Casper had relocated quite a distance north from Jutrosin to the Ślesin/Bydgoszcz-land district. A child, Martin, was born in Goncarzewy and Casper died in Samsieczno in 1836. The spelling

Wylepski was used on these records. We were told they were on the run from the German authorities (the reason for the name change) by Maria Wielebska who lives in Poznan, Poland. She helped Frank, Fred and me with this research in the later part of the 1990s.

A problem researchers run into prior to the 1800s is that the surnames were not recorded, but occupations are given instead. So Andreas is listed as *ovilionis*<sup>1</sup> or *opilionum* (shepherd) and his wife's last name is not recorded. The exception to this is that if the family, female or male, were of the wealthier classes their surnames were recorded.

The Nawrot family may have been stewards to an estate because on Casper and Margaritha Nawrot Wielebski's marriage record the word *Wludazonka* follows Margaritha's name. Inquiring to Lukasz Bielecki he replied: "The record says she was 'Margaritha Wludazonka' which would normally mean that her father's name was 'Wludarz' but at that time the surnames were still not fixed and maybe they just meant her father was a *wludarz* (*włodarz* in correct spelling), i.e. a manor steward. Note one of the witnesses is a Nawrocki which might have something in common with the fact that as you say, her surname was really Nawrot."

In a 1788 birth record in Silec (Jutrosin) for Margaritha her father, Simon Nawrot (surname) is recorded. However, on a 1785 birth record for Casper in Pawłowo (Jutrosin), Andreas is only recorded with his occupation "Opilionum." On both records (see record page 11) only the wives' first names are used.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Ovillus* means "of sheep." in Latin.

<sup>2</sup> I do have to note that on Casper's 1785 birth record (see record p. 11) his mother is not recorded as Barbara, but Sophia. However, I feel it is an error on the part of the priest, because the same situation occurs with a Thomas Wielebski's wife whose name was Eva (from the Poznan Project website)- again the name Sophia was given to his wife by the same priest on the birth of one of their children. Also, because the godparents for Andreas and Barbara's children were the same for Casper as for the sibling born before and after him I feel I am correct that this is indeed our Casper's birth record in spite of the error. I noticed that in this time period, many of the children within a family were given the same set of godparents.



Fortunately, the first child, Elisabeth, born to Andreas Opilionum and Barbara, had the surname "Wielebskich" in a different handwriting added at a later date following the godparents' names (see record page 11). On inquiring again to Lukasz Bielecki he wrote the "ich" ending means the "Wielebski family" or the plural of Wielebski family. Had this surname not been added, I may not have found the next generation back of our family history! Subsequent children born to Andreas and Barbara did not have the Wielebski name recorded, only Andreas Opilionum and Barbara. On the death record of their child Martin, who died in 1811 at the age of 22 (which was on a different Jutrosin LDS film containing death records), the parents' surname is recorded, however - Andreas and Barbara Wielebskich.

So I am grateful to the Poznan Project marriage database, Lukasz Bielecki, and all the volunteers who are giving of their time to make these Polish records accessible to the public. Without it we would never have accomplished all that we have in the genealogical research of the Wilebski/Januzik family history in Poland.

*Records referenced are contained on pages 10-11.*



**New Library Books**

**Highlander Polish**

By Jan Gutt-Mostowy

This is a Highlander Polish-English Dictionary. Highlander refers to the Tatra Mountain region of Poland known as *Podhale* which can be located as the area from Nowy Targ to the Polish-Slovakian border. The Highlander dialect (*gwara góralska*) can be described as different and colorful. The book also contains some Highlander sayings and riddles. The book was donated by member Janet Mitchell. I compared some common words in the dictionary with conventional Polish which you might find of interest. (Call Number P200)

<u>English</u>	<u>Polish</u>	<u>Highlander</u>
August	<i>sierpien</i>	<i>jakóbski</i>
aunt	<i>ciotka</i>	<i>ujno</i>
cold	<i>zimno</i>	<i>ryma</i>
cow	<i>krowa</i>	<i>statek</i>
devil	<i>diabe</i>	<i>ciert</i>
fire	<i>ogień</i>	<i>gore</i>
potatoes	<i>ziemniaki,</i>	<i>gruel,</i>
	<i>kartofele</i>	<i>rzepa</i>
vodka	<i>wódki</i>	<i>gorzokal</i>

Note: I am not aware of any Polish words which start with the letter combinations of "jakó" and "ujn." *Statek* is a ship and *Ryma* is a turnip in standard Polish.

**A Highlander Saying:** *Dobrego Karoma nie zepsuje, zlego i kościol nie prawi.*

**Translation:** "A good man won't be ruined by a tavern, a bad man won't be fixed by a church."

**Dzieje Skorca (History of Skórcz)**

By Alojzy and Rafał Kosecki

This 200-page book, published in 2005, is a history of Skórcz, Poland (Skurz when part of Prussia). It is now a city of about 3500, located about 15 miles south of Starogard. The book traces the political history from the 1300s to the present and has Catholic and Evangelical church histories. It is written in Polish which might lessen interest but it contains numerous lists of early inhabitants which might be valuable to researchers of this area.

-JWK



Note: The entire MGS library catalog can be found online by going to <<http://www.mngs.org>> and clicking on "library."

Saskowica Simon	Juvenes	28.	21.
Wielebski Marianna			
Donajkoska			

**1843 Marriage Record of Simon Wielebski and Marianna Donajkoska**

Wielintona. Donajkoska	
Michael Ritter	

46.	November 15	11	46
		grave	

Wielintona	19	Franciszek	26.
------------	----	------------	-----

Simon Wielebski	Marianna	26th
Donajkoska		

Franciszek Wielebski	1854
Simon Wielebski	

**1854 Birth Record of Franciszek Wielebski**

na ex Pawtore.  
 d 22 Junii 1788 <sup>Margaritha</sup>  
 Ego idem baptisavi infantem nre Margaritha Si-  
 monis Nawrot Elisabetha consortis eius P.C. Filiam  
 Patris fuere Joannes Mintorni Rosalia ex Siles  
 d. d. Julii Introsin

A 8: gbris Pawtore. <sup>Nov</sup> 1780  
 Ego Carolus Wawelki Pmtz Pmi Scapuz  
 huiusmodi nre Elisabetha Andreae  
 et Barbarae Epilionum P.C. filiam. Pa-  
 trini fuere Casimirus Nieborck Lemici  
 de villa Pawtore, et Catharina uirgo  
 de Symonli. Wielebskich

Finis Anni 1784 <sup>Birth record</sup>  
 et sequitur Annus <sup>Casper</sup>  
 1785. <sup>Wielebski</sup>  
 8. Januarii Pawtore  
 Ego Carolus Wawelki Pmtz Pmi  
 Scapuz huiusmodi nre Cas-  
per Andreae et Josphie Pmi  
 P.C. filia. Pmi fuere Pa-  
 trini Wielebski et Magdalena Olu-  
 pna uirgo de Pawtore.

Top: 1788 Birth Record of Margaritha Nawrot  
 Middle: 1780 Birth Record of Elisabeth Wielebska (Wielebskich)  
 Bottom: 1785 Birth Record of Casper Wielebski

## Queries ... Pytania

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

### *E-mail from Poland!*

*Our newsletter's distribution ranges far and wide and makes contact with distant relatives - even if it does sometimes take awhile. Below is e-mail correspondence from Poland that I received recently:*

DEAR Mr. P. KULAS.

Przeczytałem dopiero teraz Numer 4 Winter 1997-98 Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER a w nim (Page 12) The Kulas family n Jankow Zalesny compiled by Paul Kulas.

Od razu poznałem tutaj moją Rodzinę: Andrzej i Franciszka Kulas (Kokot) to byli moi pra, pra, pradziadkowie! A Twój Pra, Pradziadek Wojciech Kulas był bratem Ignacego Kulasa, mojego Pra, Pra Dziadka.

Proszę potwierdzić te pokrewieństwa w celu wymiany dalszych wiadomości!

Pozdrawiam - Edward Sobczak  
51-144 Wrocław, ul. Krasickiego 4  
POLAND

*Here is a translation of the above e-mail (courtesy of Dawid Chabowski, an international student from Poland at St. John's University):*

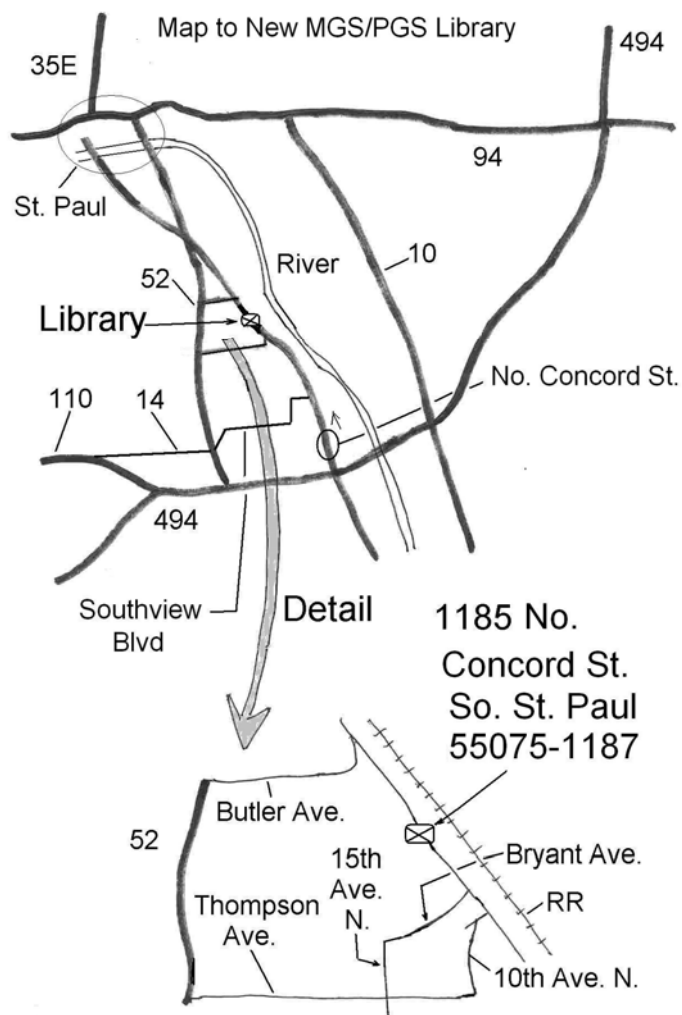
I have just read Number 4 Winter 1997-98 "Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter" and in that letter on Page 12 there was "The Kulas Family from Jankow Zalesny" compiled by Paul Kulas.

Right away I recognized my family: Andrzej and Franciszka Kulas (Kokot). They were my grand, grand, grandparents and your grand grandfather, Wojciech Kulas was brother of Ignacy Kulas who was my grand grandfather.

Please, confirm this relationship in order for us to exchange further information.

*It was exciting to receive this e-mail. It is amazing that a newsletter of ours would reach a distant relative in Europe ten years after its printing. Edward Sobczak is my 3rd cousin! We have common great, great, grandparents. The item in the newsletter that he is referring to is reprinted on page 13, opposite. I have replied to Edward. It will be interesting to see how this new contact develops.*

--PTK



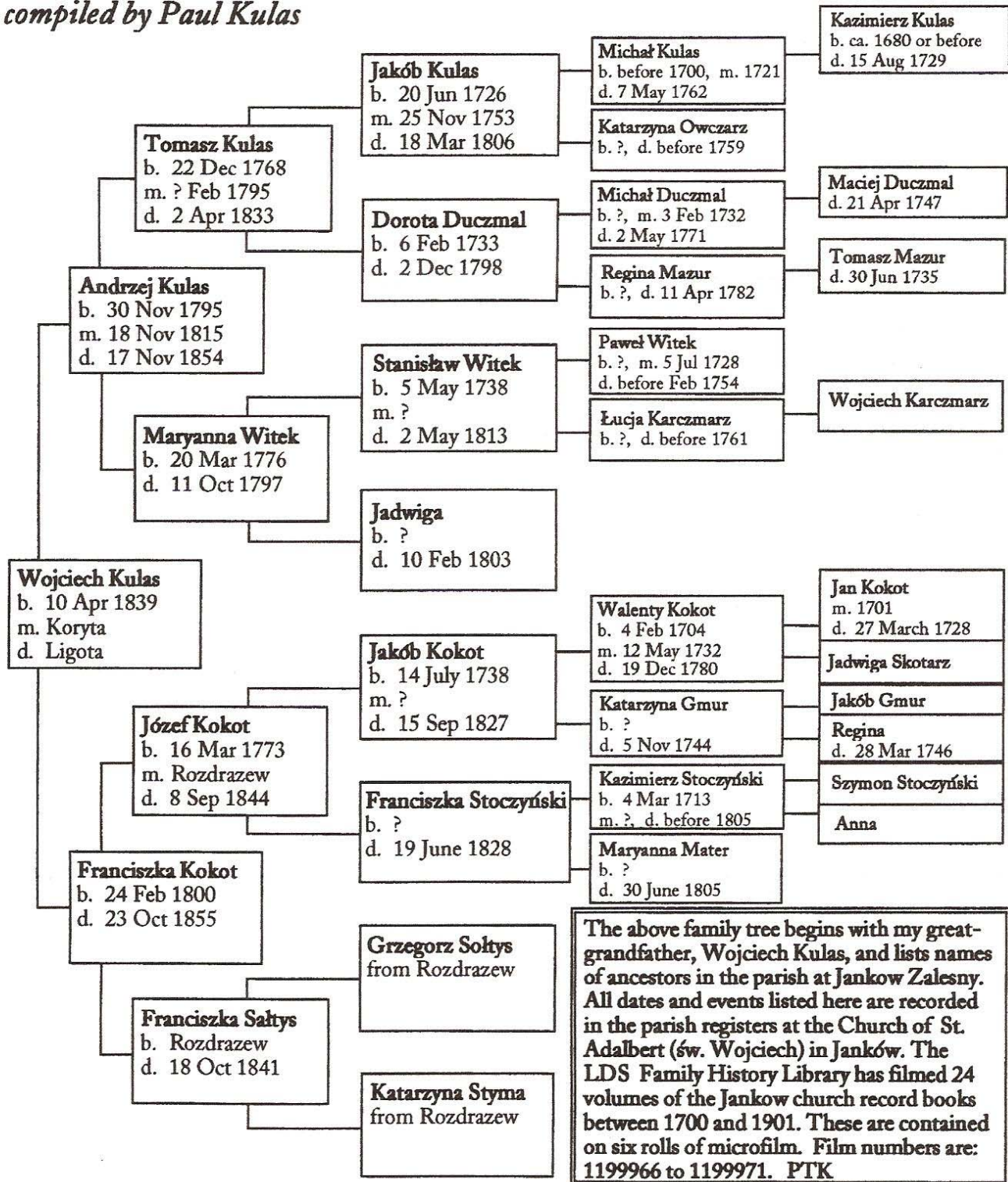
### *200 Year Ago in Poland*

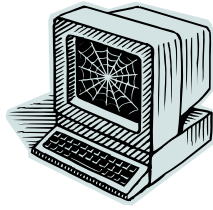
In 1809 Austria invaded the Duchy of Warsaw (a French Protectorate) during the Napoleonic Wars. At the Battle of Kock (located 28 miles north of Lublin), Polish Army Colonel Berek Joselwicz died in the fighting against the Austrians. Ironically Kock was also the location of the final Polish Army operation after the invasion of Poland at the start of WWII in October of 1939.



# The Kulas family in Janków Zalesny:

compiled by Paul Kulas





**http://**

This fall PGS-MN presenters provided attendees with a number of useful web sites. Below are some we have not listed before or are worth repeating. We have tried to do a cursory check to make sure they are still active and are the correct URLs.

#### **JEWISH**

<<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/brochure>>

This site contains a guide for searching for Jewish birth, marriage and death records from Poland and surrounding areas.

<<http://jewishgen.org>>

This is a Jewish surname and community database. It is a search engine for variant spellings.

<<http://www.jewishinstitute.org.pl>>

The Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw helps with inquiries to research Polish Jewish families in person or by e-mail (in Polish).

#### **PRUSSIAN/POMERANIAN**

<<http://www.landesarchiv-griefswald>>

This is the site of a library in Griefswald, Germany. It has records from West Pomerania. You can e-mail your question in English.

<<http://www.progenealogists.com/Germany/Prussia>>

This site offers research service but also has Stephen Barthel's East and West Prussia Gazetteer. Only German place names are used. It is useful to identify the location of Catholic and Evangelical parishes. It has selected birth, marriage and death records for a limited number of parishes and links to many web sites.

#### **GENERAL**

<<http://www.archiwa.gov.pl>>

This is the database of church and civil records available at the Polish State Archives and some church archives. Click on English and search database. You can't search for your ancestors here, only for the location of records.

<<http://www.polishroots.org/genpoland>>

This is a good compendium of Polish research information including doing research in Poland.

<<http://www.parafia.gliwice.pl>>

This site contains contact information for Polish Roman Catholic parishes. You need to write place name in *Miasto* and click on *Szukaj*, then click on *Nazwa parafii*.

<<http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/data.php>>

This site contains Evangelical and Catholic marriage databases for the Poznań (Posen) province for the years of 1835-1884. It is not complete but contains 232,000 marriages from 318 parishes.

<<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa>>

You can search for the distribution throughout Poland of over 300,000 surnames. Enter surname (must include diacriticals) and click *szukaj*.

<<http://mapa.szukacz.pl>>

This is an online atlas of Poland at very high definition. It is in Polish but not too difficult to navigate.

#### **LOCAL**

<<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/vitalrecords>>

This site contains pre-1907 birth, marriage and death records in Wisconsin. Fill in the search boxes - usually do only last name and first name. If you are looking for a marriage record, search for the bride as well.

<<http://www.pgsa.org/database.php>>

This is PGSA's directory for Chicago Polish parish marriages before 1915. Scroll down to Marriage Index. Search for the groom first and then the bride.



In the Fall issue we indicated Fred Hoffman in *PGSA Notebook* identified a couple of web sites which might be of interest to members. Fred noted, while *PGSA Notebook* does occasionally quote his information, the e-zine is a service of PGSA. For the record Fred is editor of PGSA's *Rodziny* and Rootsweb's *Gen Dobry!*.

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## Handouts From Stephen Barthel Seminar, November 1, 2008

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### Passenger Lists on Microfilm and the Internet

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Stephen S. Barthel, Accredited Genealogist  
2008

#### Reasons for accessing passenger lists

- Historical documentation
- Adds interest and credibility to your work
- Photos of the ship and the ship's history may be available on the Internet
- Weave historical information into a narrative on the family
- Locate place of origin to further research

#### Passenger Arrivals and Departures

The *Germans to America* immigration books by Filby/Glazier are easy to use. These books may be available at major libraries and historical societies. They contain the names of more than Germans. If you do not know the time period, check the 1900 census, which gives a year of immigration. The passengers are listed, the name of the ship, the arrival date and ports of arrival and departure.

As with any indexing project, there are errors in the transcription of names. My great grandfather's surname is GNITKA, but the name was transcribed as GUITKA. The handwriting of the 'N' and the 'U' are hard to distinguish one from another. Be creative in figuring out other possible spellings. Remember that the letters 'B' and 'P' and 'D' and 'T' are sometimes phonetically interchangeable. My Gnitka ancestor's name in naturalization records was listed under Knitka.

The arrival list shows the family, the port of departure, name of the ship and the date of arrival. It does not show the date of departure, so subtract perhaps two to three weeks in estimating when the ship may have departed Hamburg (if they departed through Hamburg), then look for the name of the ship that the arrival list mentioned.

#### Family History Library

For microfilms of the actual passenger lists, check the Family History Library Catalog in the [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) website. The microfilm numbers are listed under Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany with the topic of Emigration and Immigration. Arrival lists of Philadelphia, New York, Galveston, as well as other ports, are available on microfilm. They are also cataloged under the port city and topic of Emigration and Immigration. The passenger name index is in alphabetical order, but only by the first letter of the surname. Ancestry.com contains names of many emigrants.

#### The Klüber Collection

This little-known source lists names from both the Direct and Indirect Lists and covers the 1850-1871 time period. This index is in strict alphabetical order by surname - names mostly typed. **Even though the ancestor may not have come through the port of Hamburg, someone else with the same surname may have**, thus providing you a clue as to where *your* ancestor may have come from. For microfilm numbers, search the Family History Library Catalog under the author's name of Karl Werner Klüber.

**Ellis Island Records** — Log on to [www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org). This site is free and covers many of the turn-of-the-century names, but does not include all names for all time periods.

**Ancestry.com** is a good site for locating people on passenger lists for the United States. It is a commercial site.

## Gazetteers of Prussia Finding Parish and Civil Records Localities

by Stephen S. Barthel, Accredited Genealogist  
2008

**Prussian Gazetteers** - The instruction is the same for all Prussian gazetteers. Go to familysearch.org and click on the Family History Library Catalog tab. Then click on the PLACE button and type in 'Germany' in the first block. Hit ENTER. Now click on the Germany - Gazetteers hyperlink. Look for the terms 'Gemeindelexikon' and '1905'. Note the microfilm numbers for the Province in Prussia you need. Check the indefinite loan drawers at the family history center to see if any of the films (there have been alternate filmings) are at your family history center. If not, you will need to order the film.

Briegau	69. 10	2
Brille	21. 99	23
Brinnitz	56. 40	23
—	56.121	23
—	67. 8	2
Brinnitz	31. 13	2
—	31. 72	2
Brinnitz	51. 14	2
—	51.162	23
Brige	48. 77	23
Brochau	5. 17	2

Figure 1 - Index

The index (see Figure 1) for the Province of Schlesien (Silesia), for example, will show Brinnitz 51.14. The numbers are NOT page numbers. The '51' is the 51<sup>st</sup> Kreis/District listed alphabetically in this gazetteer. The '14' is the 14<sup>th</sup> town listed in the 51<sup>st</sup> county. The format is the same for all Prussian gazetteers. Leave the index and go to the 51st Kreis/District and look for the 14<sup>th</sup> town.

Line 14 in Figure 2 is for Brinnitz. Intersect line 14 with the column headings to locate parish localities. If the ancestors were Catholic, look for the column headed under 'katholisch' and go to line 14. Brinnitz is the parish locality for the Catholics.

51 Landkreis Oppeln.				51 County of Oppeln			
f), Karlsruherf) und Krappitz f)							
Kirchspiel				Standesamtbezirk			
evangelisch				katholisch			
überhaupt				Town			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	—	—	Oppeln, Stadt	Oppeln, Stadt	Natbendorf	Natbendorf	9
—	—	—	Karlsruhe	Karlsruhe	Karlsruhe	Wutrow	10
—	—	—	Kruppau	Boguski	Stroh Schinnitz	Dombrowka/D.	11
—	—	—	Krupp	Garnowang	Garnowang	Garnowang	12
2	—	—	Oppeln, Stadt	Tambrow	Hopallno	Chroszczina	13
32	—	1	Krupp	Brinnitz	Brinnitz	Krupp	14
—	—	—	Oppeln, Stadt	Oppeln, Stadt	Chmielowitz	Chmielowitz	15
—	—	—	Friedrichsdorf	Krajcow	Friedrichsdorf	Krajcow	16
29	—	—	Oppeln, Stadt	Oppeln, Stadt	Dambrowang	Wibitz	17
—	—	—	Oppeln, Stadt	Chroszczina	Chroszczina	Chroszczina	18

Figure 2 - Main part of Gazetteer

If the ancestors living in Brinnitz were Protestant, check the column heading of 'evangelisch' (left of katholisch) and drop to line 14. Note that 'Kupp' is the parish locality for the Protestants of Brinnitz.

The Standesamtbezirk (civil records office) column is shown to the right of the katholisch column.

If Grobek were listed using the codes of 51.14, and only Brinnitz appears on line 14, rest assured that Grobek belongs politically to Brinnitz.



### Gazetteers of the Former German and Austrian Empires, Including Congress Poland

The following list shows the microfilm numbers for gazetteers that are currently on indefinite loan at the St. Cloud, Minnesota family history center. This list can vary from one center to another. Check the Family History Library Catalog under the topics of Germany-Gazetteers or Germany-Directories for those not found at your family history center.

1346210, Item 1	Hannover
1346210, Item 2	Westfalen, Waldeck, Pyrmont
1346210, Item 3	Hessen-Nassau
1346210, Item 4	Rheinprovinz (Rhineland)
1346210, Item 5	Hohenzollern
0806633, Item 1	Oldenburg
0806633, Item 2	Schlesien (Silesia)
0806633, Item 3	Württemberg
0806634, Item 3	Sachsen (Province of Saxony)
0806634, Item 4	Pommern (Pomerania)
0806634, Item 5	Posen
0806635, Item 1	Brandenburg
0806635, Item 2	Hohenzollern
0806635, Item 3	Schleswig-Holstein
0806635, Item 4	Posen
0496640	Meyers Orts, for localities A-K (Standard gazetteer for the German Empire)
0496640	Meyers Orts, for localities L-Z (Standard gazetteer for the German Empire)
6000001-6000029	Meyers Orts (Microfiche copy)
0583457	Deutsch-fremdsprachiges Ortsnamenverzeichnis (German areas lost between WWI and WWII.) Spellings of former German towns into other languages.

#### Detailed Army Maps

0068814	German Empire Maps
1181580	Central Europe

#### Austrian Empire Gazetteers

1186708	A-G localities
1186709	H-M localities
1186710	N-Serti localities
1186711	Serto-Z localities

#### Congress Poland (for boundaries between WWI and WWII)

2037057	A-Wiktorowo localities
2037058	Wiktorowo-Z localities

**Online German Gazetteers** - Go to <http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/prussia/>

## Some Basic Genealogical Websites

2008 - Stephen S Barthel

Websites literally number in the tens of thousands and cannot be covered in a handout. These are some of the sites I use frequently:

**Phone Directories** - Today's online phone directories can be used to help locate living and deceased people. For example, if your ancestor's name was Rullmann, and he came from Ortenberg, you may find more than one Ortenberg in Germany. You can narrow the search to see which Ortenberg contains the Rullmann name today, then order microfilm for that particular Ortenberg. If you are searching for an unusual surname, you may want to see what towns or areas in Germany are concentrated with people with the surname, then search the area from microfilmed church records.

<http://www.whitepages.com>

<http://www.switchboard.com>

<http://www.infobel.com/teldir> International

### Locating Living People (whose names may not be published in directories)

<http://www.peoplefinders.com>

Gives ages of husband and wife and may list other family members with their ages and places of residence.

<http://www.zabasearch.com>

Often gives month and year of birth for husband or wife. Helpful when doing descendency research.

### Maps

<http://www.maps.google.com>

<http://www.multimap.com>

<http://mapa.szukacz.pl>

<http://www.kartenmeister.com>

Poland

Although not a map, it gives many (not complete) former German and present Polish spellings of localities — then check online maps.

### Minnesota Births/Marriages/Deaths

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

Online Minnesota Death Certificate Index

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

Online Minnesota Birth Certificate Index, 1900-1929

<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/research>

Click on Family History (many links)

<http://www.griver.org>

Internet Links to Heritage Quest, newspaper obits, Cyndislist, USGenWeb, FamilySearch.org and many more links. Also includes link to the Stearns County History Museum.

For other states, type in your search engine: Wisconsin Historical Society, Illinois Marriage Index, or California Death Index. If the site is one you wish to access frequently, add it to your favorites.

### Other State's Vital Records Indexes (samples)

Arizona: <http://genealogy.az.gov/>

Illinois: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html>

Utah: <http://historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/index.html>

“Google” using search terms such as **Wisconsin Historical Society** or **California Death Index**.

Government sites are often free, so beware of pay sites that offer the same information as free sites.

**USGenWeb Project**<http://www.usgenweb.org>

Has all counties of each State of the US listed. You will find many tombstone inscriptions on this site and much more.

**Family History Library Catalog and Family History Centers**<http://www.familysearch.org>

Access to World's largest collection of genealogical records. Lists microfilm numbers and a catalog description of Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish records, as well as Civil Records (Vital Records) for most European countries and countries throughout the world. These films can be ordered for a nominal rental fee through most of the 4500 Family History Centers (branches of the Family History Library). Research microfilmed records using microfilm reader machines. (Records are currently being digitized and will be available online in the near future.)

**Ancestry.com**<http://www.ancestry.com>

(Commercial site) Available free at some libraries

**Social Security Death Index**<http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com>

Free searches using the Interactive Search. Also contains pre-written letter to request a copy of the original application, which often contains much more information.

**Online Passenger Lists Sites**<http://www.castlegarden.org><http://www.ellislandrecords.org><http://www.ancestry.com>

Commercial site

**Family History Archive**<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc>

Family History books that have been digitized. This is a cooperative venture with Brigham Young University, the Family History Library, and the Allen County Public Library of Fort Wayne, Indiana. A link to the Allen County Public Library can be accessed from this site.

**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 the 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.

Stephen can be contacted at [<gergen@earthlink.net>](mailto:gergen@earthlink.net)

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## Publishing Your Family History Book

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Stephen S. Barthel, Accredited Genealogist  
2008

With computers, printers, scanners in your home, you can publish your family history at home.

### Key factors that help promote and sell your family history

- **Include photos, documents, maps, and history to add interest**
- **Create Ownership by involving EACH descendant family**
- **Timing** — Complete in time for an upcoming event, such as Christmas — Advertise as gift idea.

### Select your subject *and* know your audience

If grandparents are the subject of the book, are *enough* descendants around to buy the book? If not, to broaden mailing list by using your great-grandparents as subject of book. People lose interest if the descendancy is too large and the people are not known by the family.

### Understand what will make sense to your audience and what sells

Include Pedigree Charts, and Family Group Records with recent descendant photos. Cousins want to see what their cousins look like. Use a simple format. Text versions save space, but are confusing to those not genealogically-minded. Photos are a great selling feature. If possible, visit the land of your ancestors and take pictures of ancestral villages for your book.

### Gather information from the descendants

In your initial letter to cousins, ask for addresses of their children or other cousins. You may find it helpful to use [switchboard.com](http://switchboard.com), [zabasearch.com](http://zabasearch.com), and [peoplefinders.com](http://peoplefinders.com) to obtain an address. Mention who you are and how you fit into the family and that you need their help, whether they buy the book or not. They are potential buyers. Enclose a copy of your own printed Family Group Record which shows photos printed on the form. This gives them the idea of what you want. Request *recent* photos of their immediate family that you can scan. Give them your e-mail address and mention to them that they can communicate via e-mail.

In your second letter, return photos along with a finished copy of their Family Group Record. Ask them to proofread it and make sure the photos are printed with the right people. Ask for addresses of their children. The relatives are now part of the project and generate interest, which translates into sales. It is costly to go back and forth through the mail, but the sales pay for the postage.

Keep track of your expenses from the beginning, so that you can determine what you charge for your book. Keep in mind any profits. Do not make it so expensive that no one will want to buy it. This is a treasure, so keep quality in mind!



## Sensitive Issues

**Be sensitive and respectful of the religious beliefs of others.** Descendants may have another religion, or none at all.

**How to handle matters of marital status.** Talk with your relatives. Let the individual families be responsible for the content of their information.

**Recording divorce and children from previous marriages.** As a matter of history, encourage them to include previous spouses, but *exclude* information they do not want in the book.

## Give credit where credit's due

If you've used records from an archive or library in your research, give credit to these institutions.

## Tips in interviewing

Preparation is key. Let the person know in advance that you wish to conduct an interview. If he or she needs help, give a sampling of things to talk about before the actual interview. Build rapport through prior contact helps the individual to open up. Always ask first before you record an interview. If they can't remember anything, share what you've learned about your ancestors through your research. Show photos to help trigger the mind. Ask open-ended questions. The information may come. Be prepared!

Do not interrupt what the person is saying. Interruptions are annoying and are hard to transcribe from tape. You may never get a second chance to have the person finish their thought. Allow them to talk!

## Elements to Include in Your Book

- **Title page** (Use the name of the subject within the title, preferably a family surname that can be searched for as a key word.) Mention the publication place and date. Name of the author.
- **About the Author**
- **Preface & Acknowledgments** (If you are unsure of what to say, look at what others have done.)
- **Table of Contents**
- **Pedigree Charts & Family Group Records with photos** (You may want to have an Ancestors section and a Descendants section.)
- **Historical material and narratives** (Include scanned documents, maps, photos of people, places, and things.)
- **Index** (Always index the names - at least of the descendants.)

## Determining the cost

Estimate your costs. Give a deadline for the money to be in, and allow time for the printing, binding, and mailing. After the money is in, print the number of books based on the number of orders received - and perhaps add a few copies. For tax purposes, keep a log of all expenses, which may include, postage, envelopes, letters, forms, phone calls, car trips, equipment, research, paper, toner, bindery, padded mailing envelopes or boxes, and so forth. For quality, use acid-free paper. After you are through with the sales, see that the work gets preserved. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City can microfilm or digitize your book at no charge, so that it can be accessible to others through their family history centers for many years to come. Do your best. The book will be a reflection of you!

## Genealogy

### Personal Ancestral File (PAF) Software

by Stephen S Barthel, Accredited Genealogist

To download, go to <http://www.familysearch.org>. Note the tabs HOME, SEARCH, SHARE, and LIBRARY. After clicking the HOME tab, select "Order/Download Products". Then select "Software Downloads - Free". Click on Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18.0 - Multi-Language (9.7 MB). Click DOWNLOAD and follow the instructions to completion. (This is the latest version.) If you need help, call Product Support at 1-800-346-6044.

Once the software is loaded and opened, click HELP on the toolbar, then you can select any of the following:

- Getting Started Guide
- User's Guide
- Lessons

#### CHANGE PREFERENCES

In the **Edit Individual** window, you will notice a section on 'LDS Ordinances.' In you are not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (and after you have clicked the **Save data** button to end the edit), you can turn off that section by going to your tool bar at the top of the screen. Click on **Tools**, then **Preferences**. Click on the **General** tab and click off the check mark in the box by the words **Use LDS Data**. LDS Data will no longer appear in your Edit Individual Block or on printouts.

While still in the **Preferences** window, click on the **Names** tab and click in the circle before the words **RIN (Record ID Number)**. RIN numbers are automatically generated by the computer for every person added. This is helpful in working with the data, especially when you need to merge duplicate individuals that have been entered more than once. You can always change the preference at any time to disengage viewing the RIN or Record Identification Number. Other preferences can also be changed.

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## POLISH CHURCH MICROFILM AND INDEXES AVAILABLE

### Polish Churches from the Archdiocese of St. Paul

#### MICROFILM

Records from many Catholic churches from 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 to add to this collection. Microfilm records were purchased for the twelve (12) ethnically-Polish churches listed below.

#### INDEXES

PGS-MN member John Rys is indexing this Polish church microfilm collection from the Archdiocese of St. Paul. The baptismal and marriage indexes are a work in progress and as the database grows, so will these two indexes.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1) A printed index of <b>BAPTISM</b> records<br/>by surname for five (5) Minneapolis<br/>Polish churches available at the MGS Library.</p> | <p>2) A printed index of <b>MARRIAGE</b> records<br/>by surname for five (5) Minneapolis<br/>Polish churches available at the MGS Library.</p> |
|---|--|

The five Polish churches from Minneapolis are: 1) All Saints Church; 2) Holy Cross Church; 3) St. Hedwig's Church; 4) St. Philip's Church and 5) Sacred Heart Polish National Catholic Church. The indexes are available in the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library, among the Minnesota materials under library call number MN, H-1, 217 Rys.

#### CUSTOM REPORT

Customized reports from these five Minneapolis churches can be prepared for surnames upon request. 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 the e-mail with the subject as "Family Ties." A donation to the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota of \$15 is suggested for each surname report.

All Saints	Minneapolis	St. Hedwig	Minneapolis
Holy Cross	Minneapolis	St. John the Baptist	New Brighton
Holy Trinity	South St. Paul	St. Joseph	Delano
Sacred Heart	Rush City	St. Joseph	Lexington
St. Adalbert	St. Paul	St. Mary Czestochowa	Delano
St. Casimir	St. Paul	St. Philip	Minneapolis

**POLISH SPIRIT: POLISH NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
BASEBALL AND WINONA'S POLONIA**

**By Richard V. Kowles, Professor Emeritus in  
Biology, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota,  
Winona, MN <dkowles@smumn.edu>  
William L. Crozier, Archivist, Saint Mary's  
University of Minnesota, Winona, MN  
<bcrozier@smumn.edu>**

Winona, Minnesota, a thriving river town on the banks of the upper Mississippi River, is the site of a significant Polish community. The city proudly recognizes the successes and achievements of the Polish people who settled there. They brought the Polish traditions, culture and faith with them when they settled in Minnesota over one hundred fifty years ago. Polish immigrants taught the history, heritage and memory of the homeland to their children and grandchildren and it matured into the Polonia that is a knowledge and identification with their Polish origins and a culture that still exists today. The first Polish immigrants arrived in Winona during the 1850s, and this small stream of people turned into a torrent in the seventies and the eighties. By 1880, Polish ethnic-stock people made up 11 percent of the people of Winona. Shortly after the turn of the century the number of Polish people almost doubled. Even though more German people lived in the city, the Polish religious, social and cultural institutions made a more defined and permanent mark on the history and heritage of the city. Most of the Polish people lived in the Fourth Ward in the east end of the city where three large lumber companies provided employment for Polish workers.

A majority of the Polish people who came to Winona were Kashubians from north-central Poland along the Baltic Sea. Poles from other parts of Poland also contributed to the building of Polonia in Winona, but Kashubian heritage and customs mostly influenced Winona's Polonia. This culture nurtured its historic, religious, literary, musical, athletic, and social traditions by establishing parishes, schools, a newspaper, and social, dramatic, and mutual-aid societies.

The first Polish parish was formed in 1872. By 1890 the skyline of Winona was dominated by the dome of St. Stanislaus Church, sometimes called the "Polish Cathedral." St. Stanislaus school was

established in 1888, and classes were taught in both English and Polish into the 1930s contributing to a strong religious and ethnic identification. The hierarchy in the Catholic Church at this time was largely in the hands of bishops of Irish descent - often called the "hibernarchy." Polish interests, traditions and tenacity at times clashed with the dignity and decisions of the Bishop of Winona. Usually the issue was the selection of a pastor for St. Stanislaus Church. When the pastor selected did not meet the standards of the congregation that included most Poles throughout the city and the surrounding area, the Polish people made clear their position to church authorities and did not rest until a satisfactory solution was achieved. Some bishops, including the great Archbishop John Ireland, thought the Winona Poles were stubborn, but in fact they were only applying the faith, grit and perseverance that enabled them and their traditions to survive in a society that sought to suppress their sense of Polonia.

In the 1890s, the Poles actively opposed the Irish bishop's appointed pastor. Over six hundred Polish women signed a document politely requesting the bishop to appoint a pastor who was acceptable to the members of St. Stanislaus Church. When this was ignored, over 1,000 Polish protesters marched from the East End to the bishop's residence on the western side of the city to present their case in person to the bishop. A committee of Poles also called on the Apostolic Delegate to the U. S. who happened to be visiting St. Paul. Eventually the brouhaha was settled when Rev. James Pacholski was appointed pastor and peace returned to the East Side.

Another significant factor in forming and amplifying the Polish sense of ethnic consciousness and identity was the Polish-language newspaper *Wiarus* published in Winona under the astute editorship of Hieronim Derdowski. The weekly newspaper declared its policy in its first issue:

*Our slogan is God save 'Polonia,' under this slogan we wish to unify our forces so as to be firm against our adversaries, to preserve our holy faith in its purest form, to save our ethnic traditions, to educate our youth and to secure for ourselves a respectable position in the United States in political and economic fields.*

During its existence the *Wiarus* consistently promoted Polish-American issues and positions in its writings.

An important institution in the immigrant experience in America was the fraternal insurance company based on the national origins of its members. In addition to insurance, these companies also sought to promote education, ethnic-owned businesses, health, and political activity with reverence for the old country and allegiance to America.

As with many Polish associations, if there is one organization established, soon there are two. The Polish Roman Catholic Union (PRUC) was founded in 1873. The Polish National Alliance (PNA) was founded in 1880. The PRUC, although independent, often acted as a branch of the church. The PNA was independent and invited all those of Polish descent to be members. In 1900 it invited women to be insured members. Probably of greatest importance for Polish-American young people was the establishment of PNA-sponsored baseball teams.

Winona Polonia's accomplishments in scholarship (Fulbright, Marshall, and Rhodes Scholars) and entrepreneurial success (Peerless Chain and Fastenal) are well known, but little has been written about the Polish impact on America's original and greatest game, baseball, and its influence in southern Minnesota and beyond.

A Polish National Alliance baseball team (PNAs) was formed in the summer of 1935. This baseball team complemented another amateur baseball team made up of many Polish players called the Roses and managed by W. T. "Rose" Joswiak. Every summer a series, sometimes consisting of five games, was played between the PNAs and the Roses. The series became traditional and made for a great rivalry. Most of the PNA team consisted of players with a Polish ancestry on one side of the family or in many cases on both sides of the family. The team played their home games in the east end of Winona, the predominantly Polish neighborhood. Contests between the PNAs and the Roses made for a rivalry beyond the baseball field. For the fans, it was the East Enders against the West Enders.

After World War II the baseball field formerly called "East End Park" was permanently named "Gabrych Park" in honor of Gene Gabrych, the

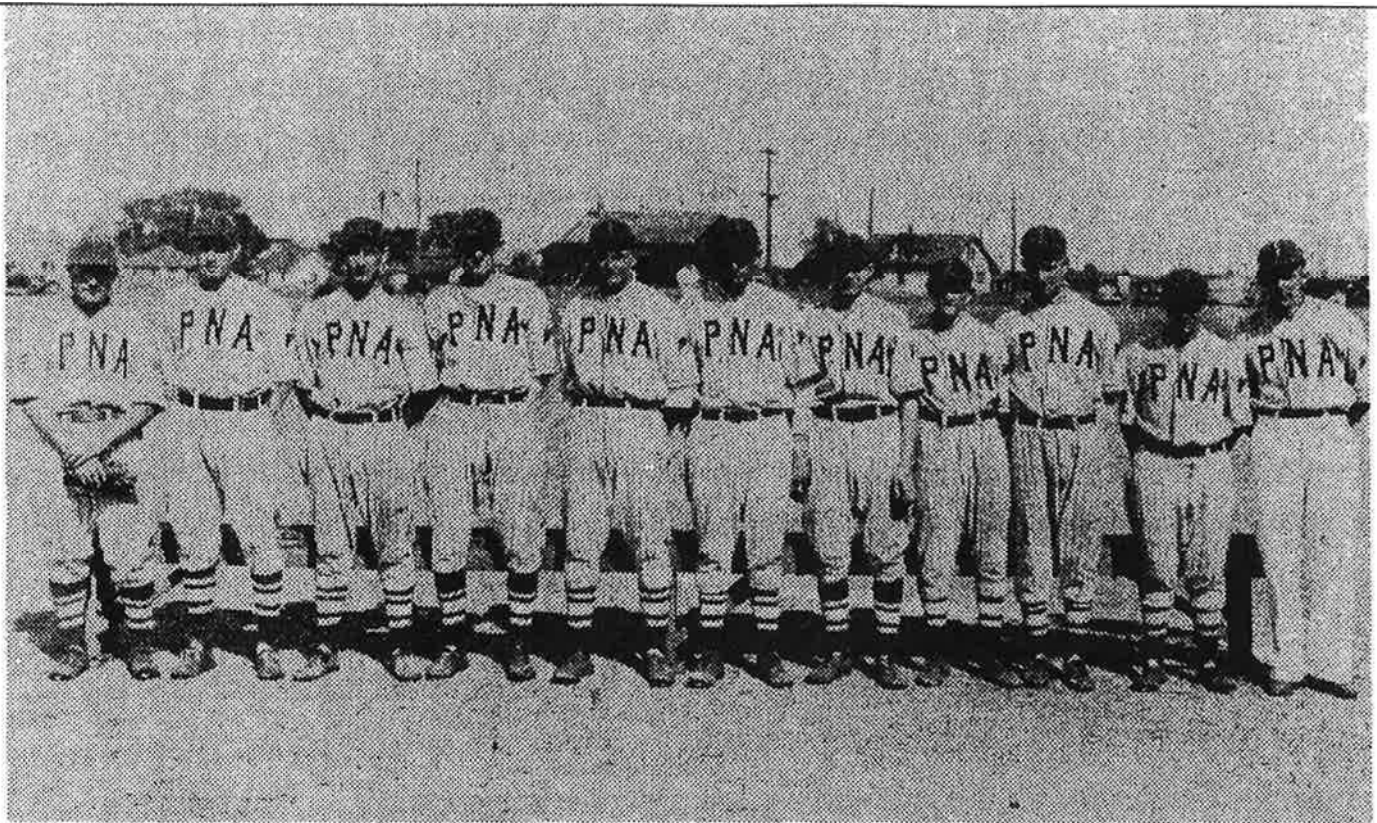
second baseman on the PNAs team. Gene Gabrych was killed in action in France on July 5, 1944.

The PNAs started their first couple of seasons slowly as far as wins were concerned, but they soon became a talented baseball team, amassing winning records year after year. In 1938, they had a record of 18 wins and only three losses. They also won some of the Bi-League championships (Minnesota-Wisconsin). The team played numerous baseball teams from the southeastern Minnesota region and western Wisconsin, amounting to over thirty-five different opponents, including teams from Saint Paul and Milwaukee, among others. Their opponents also included teams fielded by the military installations at Camp McCoy (Wisconsin) and Fort Snelling (Minnesota). The PNA baseball team was willing to take on all comers. Attendance soared over the years from about 500 spectators per game to greater than 2200 for some games. East Enders, as the PNA fans were called, along with many others in the Winona community, looked forward to these contests at Gabrych Park.

Some games resulted in serious feuding. In a 1942 game, the PNA team walked off the field in the middle of the eighth inning and forfeited the game because of the umpiring. In 1944, the Whitehall, Wisconsin team asked for police protection to be present at the game before they would play. The two teams always had bitterly contested games over a couple of years that often broke out into scuffles, some of little consequence, but others with intense fisticuffs. PNA baseball was a serious sport not for the faint of heart.

Lambert Kowalewski, son of the founder of the famous (and former) Hot Fish Shop in Winona, was one of the team's home-run sluggers. Seldom would a game go by without the left-handed swinging Kowalewski launching a missile into an east end street or parking it in someone's yard. The East End Park didn't have fences until much later. Sometimes he would hit two home runs in one game, and occasionally even three round trippers.

The PNAs had many other talented ball players, both in the field and at the plate. Some of these players made other significant impacts in the Winona community. Max Molock, who played for the Roses before the PNAs, was the baseball coach at Saint Mary's College (now Saint Mary's University of Minnesota). He eventually added



### Original PNA Club, Organized June 1, 1935

M. Cieminski, F. Dorsch, H. Bambenek, L. Dorsch, C. Langoswski, W. Palbicki, S. Sadowski,  
G. Gabrych, G. Heftman, C. Lukaszewski, F. Henning *-Winona Post*

coaching of the college's first hockey team to his accomplishments. Molock became an icon at that institution. Clint Wager attended Saint Mary's College where he starred in several sports. Dick Czaplewski, George Vondrashek, and Bill Wiczorek later played baseball for the Winona State Teachers College team (now Winona State University). Winona State was a perennial winner in those years of both the Minnesota College Conference and the Bi-State College Conference. George Vondrashek advanced in professional baseball all the way to Kansas City, a Triple A farm club of the New York Yankees. At that time there were only 16 major league teams, all east of the Mississippi River. Dick Czaplewski also played professional baseball in the minor leagues. Max Kulas, a PNA's shortstop, became the head of maintenance at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Upon retirement, the University named a building after him. Many others stayed and worked in Winona throughout their lifetimes.

In 1946, the PNA team joined the tough Southern Minnesota League consisting of teams from Mankato, Austin, Albert Lea, Waseca, Owatonna,

Faribault, and Rochester. The Southern Minnesota League played a near-professional brand of baseball. Teams recruited semi-pro and minor league players from around the country. And a certain number of these players could be paid - within the rules of the League. Although many of the PNA players remained on the club, the team expanded its roster to other players from Winona and the surrounding area. In the early 1950s, the name of the team was changed from PNAs to Chiefs. About this time, the Winona Chiefs also began bringing in "ringers." In order to be competitive in the not-so-amateur Southern Minnesota League, the team slowly lost its proud association with the Polish National Alliance.

Even before the establishment of the PNAs, Winona produced many stellar baseball players. One of them, Julian Wera, earned the right to wear the 1927 world championship ring as a member of the New York Yankee team known as "Murderers Row" because of such sluggers as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Tony Lazzari on the team. This was a team that many baseball authorities believed to be one of the greatest in the history of the game.

Julian (Julie) Valentine Wera was born in Winona in 1902. He grew up near the present-day Gabrych Park. Wera entered organized baseball with the Wausau, Wisconsin team. He later signed a contract with the Saint Paul Saints of the American Association League in 1926. Following a successful season proving that he had major league potential, the Saints sold him to the Yankees for \$25,000 and two players, a substantial deal for an untried minor league player. News of the sale was the front-page headline of the Winona Republican-Herald for December 21, 1926.



**Julie Wera, New York Yankees Infielder in 1927**  
*Winona Daily News*

The legendary Miller Huggins managed the Yankees and took a special interest in Wera, personally coaching him in batting. Wera played in 38 games that year and had a .238 batting average with one home run. That home run was hit on July 4th in front of a crowd of 76,000 fans, one of the largest fan turnouts in baseball at that time. Wera received a full share of \$5,000 for being a member of the 1927 World Series champs. In an interview

with the Winona Republican-Herald, Babe Ruth was confident that Wera had the stuff to stay in the big show. Injuries, however, slowed Julie after that 1927 season. He again played part of the 1929 season with the Yankees, and over the next few years he played with several Triple A franchises. Julian Wera retired in 1939. He is still a baseball legend in Winona.



**Ray Gabrych in Front of Gabrych Park (Named After His Brother Gene)**  
*Winona County Historical Society*

Two other native Winonans made it to the major leagues. Eugene Louis Czaplewski-Corbett played with the Phillies before the PNA team was established. Paul Giel, probably Winona's most famous athlete, signed with the New York Giants (now San Francisco) after his brilliant career at the University of Minnesota. Giel also played with the Minnesota Twins following his time pitching for the New York Giants.

Baseball and the PNA team in particular certainly made a substantial contribution to Winona's Polish pride and spirit. Winona's Polonia continues to be nurtured by the many accomplishments of its members. These accomplishments and the Polish spirit are preserved and enhanced today by the work of the Polish Heritage Society, The Polish Cultural Institute, and the Polish Museum of Winona.



*Drobne Echa* ••continued from page 1

agitating, that he should be elected *road commissioner*, because he was thinking to himself: *Dummer Pollack muss schaffen unter mich*<sup>2</sup> And he promised that if they elected him to that office, that he would make roads, and thus he so whipsawed the heads of some Poles here and there, that every possible sensible persuasion was utterly ineffective. Then he gave one single dollar for our chapel. Then our good-hearted souls thought that the Kraut had come to us from Heaven, and cast more votes for him.

But they got scorched horribly!

The German, already having seen quickly that he had a great status for himself, began to ridicule the Poles; and he said, that he would make the roads only if they gave him enough money. But if a Pole did the very same thing, enough money would be obtained.

Years ago Marcin KUSNIEREK was *road commissioner*, but this did not please them; because to the one he rushed to the work too much, and to the second not enough, whereas to the third he did not make the roads according to his wishes, to the fourth he did not scrape down the high places, and to the fifth locks<sup>3</sup> were laid that were too thick, and once more other livestock got stuck in the mire in the swamp if they had gone into the forest - and all as if Marcin KUSNIEREK had been at fault for all of that.

The Kraut is doing nothing now, and from Duluth he is only vilifying the Poles, saying that they are not able to agree among themselves to meet the road officer.

The Poles are regretful, but now it is too late.

In the end one should not be surprised by the boors who do not know how to read and write; but, to speak of that, it is a surprise that our teacher as well, an educated fellow (because he is paid 55 dollars a month in salary) had his eyes pulled astray, and when they asked him alone for advice he cast ballots for the Kraut for them also.

<sup>2</sup>Transl. note: "The stupid Pole must labor under me."

<sup>3</sup>Transl. note: The original word here, *lowsy*, is obviously *Polish*. I do not know what "locks" would be, in late-19th century road-making.

I think, that this Sir Teacher does not have five cents' worth of oil in his head, since he should have said differently: "Come together, Brothers! Do not vote for the German, but for the Pole, for our countrymen- not for that one, but for this one!" Since our Polish countrymen brought him in to instill affection for all things Polish in the young hearts of their children, he likewise should have said, that it was not fitting for Poles to vote for a Kraut, when it is easy to elect one of their own.

Respectfully,

*The farmer from the swamps.*



Detail From Map of St. Louis County, Minnesota  
Undated (c.1900?)

Source: NEMHC, Duluth, Minnesota, S3150, 3:89

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*From the issue of March 22, 1888:***The Elections in Gnesen.**

Gnesen, Minn., March 14, 1888.

Esteemed Master Editor of *Wiarus!* I must again inform you what's happening among us in Gnesen. Yesterday we again had the annual elections for offices here. But all of this turned out differently from last year, because the Lord sent us a different teacher in place of that one, who last year so sold a Hun to Poland.

Our present teacher is an open-hearted Pole; and already during the few days before the elections, he urged all of the local Poles to harmony and unity, heatedly and with tears in his eyes.

But the Kraut again pulled the wool over our eyes, taking last year's teacher to his aid - who, though he now lives in a different township, came here to us for the election and again urged further that the Kraut would make the best candidate. Perhaps some people would have listened to him; but our teacher so bestirred himself, that within a couple of minutes neither the Kraut nor the other teacher, who taught among us last year (and he had said, that he is *szlachcić* and a Pole, but he sold a Hun to the Polish colony), was to be seen; they slipped away, because they were afraid of the peppery reaction,<sup>4</sup> which they certainly would be encountering.

Under the guidance of our current local teacher, the elections came off thus, that nobody could be sure who was the winner - whether that Hunnish party, or ours. But imagine! We opened the ballot-box for the count of the votes, and now all of the ballots were unanimous - not even one vote for the Kraut, and better yet a vote for a change of candidates; all voted on that ballot like an iron wall.

*Vivat!* Long live our unity! Begone with the Krauts!

The following were elected to the offices:

Marcin KUSNIEREK,	
Pawel LEPAK,	
Antoni TARNOWSKI	Supervisors
Marcin LEPAK	Clerk
Józef LABUDA	Treasurer

<sup>4</sup>*Transl. note:* The word used in the original was *pieprzówka*, lit. "pepper-flavored vodka."

Frank TREDE <sup>5</sup>	Assessor
Walenty TOBOLA	Road commissioner
Dr. SLOMIŃSKI,	Justice of the peace
Jakob LABUDA,	Constable

Good and hearty greetings to all old faithful ones.  
Remaining respectfully  
*The farmer from the swamps.*

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*From the issue of March 21, 1889:*

IN GNESEN, the Polish agricultural settlement not far from Duluth, elections for the township offices were held on March 12, in which the Kraut known to our readers from earlier correspondence came out the best once again. To the one he promised beer and to the second a couple of piglets, if they would help to elect him as town-clerk, inasmuch as M. LEPAK supposedly had had this office for too long and supposedly there were no other Poles competent for that office - and thus the Kraut caught the Poles in his snare. From the correspondence through which we heard about Gnesen, we were not able to tell if the said Kraut attained his goal through all this, i.e. whether he was elected secretary of the township. Nonetheless, it did convince us that the behavior of a certain brother of the [Polish National] Alliance brought shame to the Poles. - The following were elected to offices: Marcin KUSNIEREK, chairman; Antoni TARNOWSKI, supervisor; St. KOŚLAKIEWICZ, supervisor; Fr. TREDER, assessor, Ludwik SOPCZYK, road commissioner.

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Publication of these three reports in the early years of *Wiarus* was a very interesting thing, not least because the newspaper published no other correspondence from the township for years after that.<sup>6</sup> It is not clear why the Gnesen Poles,

<sup>5</sup>*Transl. note:* So in original. Undoubtedly should be TREDER.

<sup>6</sup>My lead to these items was Professor John Radzilowski's early research into *Wiarus*. He noted nothing else from Gnesen for the remaining run of the newspaper, through 1918. My own review of its pages, now done through the end of 1896, shows the same so far.

having used this means to get their community some attention in the regional Polonia, did not continue to do so - the more so if (as I suspect) these three reports had more than one author over their short run. Clearly, the community at Gnesen included literate, proactive people who had a sense of American institutions.<sup>7</sup>

But even this small slice is historically significant, not to mention entertaining. It's the only surviving record of these little elections and their results that I've been able to find so far.<sup>8</sup> It shows that these immigrants vigorously threw themselves into the exercise of their rights as Americans. The strong streak of ethnic rivalry in local politics is striking, as is the author's sense of recrimination against those Poles who did not maintain ethnic loyalty in their political choices.<sup>9</sup> Unfortunately, I have not been able to identify the German interloper into Gnesen politics, nor the teacher-turncoat who is so excoriated in all three years' reports. However, I have identified the successor-teacher who rallied the

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<sup>7</sup>The Polish immigrants who pioneered Gnesen in the 1870s got their township government organized on their own initiative in 1879, with the help of St. Louis County Auditor George BERGMAN. Barbara Jean Tarnowski, "Southern Gnesen Township with a particular emphasis on the Anton TARNOWSKI family" (unpubl. ms., 1972, on file at Northeast Minnesota Historical Center, University of Minnesota-Duluth), p. 2.

<sup>8</sup>The springtime local elections in 1887-1889 were reported briefly in the three major Duluth newspapers of the day, but the content as to preliminary proceedings and results was limited to races within the City of Duluth.

<sup>9</sup>My use of the ethnic jibe "Kraut" is straight from the original. There, the word was Szwab, lit. "Swabian," alternatively defined in my copy of *Wielki słownik polsko-angielski* (Warsaw: Philip Wilson, 1995) as "Hun; Fritz; Boche; the detested German invader; Jerry." I have used a variant ethnicism, the one most accessible to modern-day Americans.

Gnesenites in 1888, as the Doctor SŁOMIŃSKI who was then elected local justice of the peace.<sup>10</sup>

However, the successful Polish-American candidates are familiar to us; most of these people lived in Gnesen all their lives, and they lie at rest in St. Joseph's cemetery there.<sup>11</sup> And, for those half-dozen of our members who have roots in Gnesen, I hope my translations give you a little something to liven up the family histories you are writing!<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>The August 16, 1888 issue of *Wiarus* carried a *List z Kalifornii*, datelined at San Diego and attributed to a Władysław SŁOMIŃSKI. SŁOMIŃSKI identifies himself as a *Doctor Medecyny*. He opens by reporting that, after he had left Winona (when is not specified), he had gone to Gniezno, in northern Minnesota, and there had carried on the instruction of the children in the local public school. "After the end of school," however, he had hied himself to San Diego. From there, only a few months after his impassioned role in the 1888 Gnesen election, he was exhorting the readers of *Wiarus* to forsake the *kamienny grunt Minnesoty* (rocky soil of Minnesota) and its *straszne zimno a często i niedostatek* (terrible cold and frequent privation as well), to start a Polish colony in far southern California. In an addendum to this letter, *Wiarus* editor DERDOWSKI chides SŁOMIŃSKI for leaving his wife and children "suffering dreadful poverty" in Duluth. (Clearly, there's more to the story here; but I haven't translated most of the text of this letter or the two followups published several weeks later.) This evidence supports the inference that this is the same "Dr. SŁOMIŃSKI" chosen a few months earlier to be j.p. for Gnesen Township.

<sup>11</sup> Just take a look at my cemetery transcription, cited at n. 1 *supra*.

<sup>12</sup>Unfortunately, it's not possible to identify our correspondent; there are no internal clues, and the choice of *nom de plume* does not help either. (As anyone who's driven through Gnesen knows, there's swampy ground everywhere there. Clearly, the author was trying to cast himself as a northeastern-Minnesotan-Polish everyman!)

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

**Bernadine Grell**, 14844 Timber Trail, Little Falls MN 56345 is researching JENDRO, PEKA(PYKA) in Silesia, GOLOMBECKI in? in Poland and all in Morrison County MN.

**Robert Gruchala**, 242 Gillespie Ave., Minto ND 58261 <bobgruchala@mailstation.com> is researching GRUCHALA, MISZEWSKI, WIECZOREK, KRECKA, STIPP(STYP), REKOWSKI, GOSTKOWSKI, CZARNOWSKA, WESIEIRSKI in Kaszubia and the Opole region in Poland and in Winona MN and Fried ND. He suggests that we compile "a list of surnames common to the Cassubian region."

*We have in our collection at the MGS Library an item (call number: P078) by Father Aloysius Rekowski entitled: Anthology of Kashub-Polish Family Names in Poland, Canada and the United States. Perhaps you can order this title through inter-library loan at your local public library. We also published an article by Shirley Mask Connolly ("Your Canadian Kashub Cousins and their trek from Wilno to Winona," Autumn 1995, pp. 5-8) that contains an extensive list of Kashub surnames common to the Wilno, Canada area and Winona, Minnesota. Also check the website:*

*<<http://www.pgsa.org/Kashub/kashub.php>>.*

*-PTK*

**Bette Jayne Haak**, 1817 Mary Jo Lane, N. St. Paul MN 55109 <BJLou@msn.com> is researching Martha, Stanley and Ed ALBRIGHT (ALBRECHT) in Benton County/Foley, MN.

Wayne Hacholski, 256 S. Wrightwood St., Orange CA 92869 <mathac@earthlink.net> is researching CHOCHOLEK, CZAJKA, MICHNAL, TRZNADEL, BAJOR, BASARA in the Galicia area in Poland and all in Chicago IL.

**Bobbi (Roberta) Hoyt**, 22 E. 10th St., Duluth MN 55805 <bobbihoyt@aol.com> is researching WALKOWIAK, BRONIKOWSKI, SOBCZAK in Lekno, Wagrowicz, Posnan and in Duluth MN. \_Regarding our newsletter, she writes: "Love it! Read it cover to cover when it arrives, then save/share it. Maybe (publish) something on the Sturgeon Lake settlement."

*Thank you for your kind words. We hope that all of our members read the newsletter "cover to cover ... then save/share it." There is much useful information in each issue!*

*I am sure you are aware of the article on Sturgeon Lake by Greg Kishel in Winter 2005-06 issue ("Drobne Echa, Dateline: Sturgeon Lake, From Wiarus, 1886-1891," pp. 11-19). See also the article in the same issue by Mark Dobosenski ("A Survivor's Guide to Finding Ancestors in Poland: Researching the Magdziarz/Labak families from Pilzno, Galicia to Sturgeon Lake," pp. 1, 20-24 and the article by Diana Gustafson in the Summer 1999 issue ("A Family Saga" [re: Diana's story of her ancestors journey from Poland to Sturgeon Lake to Oregon], pp. 6-7).*

*-PTK*

**John Kowles**, 3429 - 45th Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55406-2924 <johnkow@att.net> is researching FRANKEWITZ in Skurcz (now Sk6rcz), Poland; MALKOWSKI, KRZEWINSKI POLAKOWSKI in Dzierzo and Gogolewo in Poland.

**Donald Kupillas**, 70 Palm Dr., Lehighon PA 18235 <Kupillas@hotmail.com> is researching KUPILLAS/KUPILAS, FEJA in Wolczyn, Opole, Silesia (Konstadt, Prussia); WASIELEWSKA (and variant spellings) in Gross Golle, Prussia - Wielkopolski and all in NYC.

**Gilbert Mros**, 5025 Johnson St. N.E., Columbia Heights MN 55421 <gil.mros@att.net> is researching MROS in Cupel/Myszyniec, GUTOWSKI in Lomza and both in Wyandotte, Michigan.

**Florence Myslajek**, 1425 W. 28th St., Apt. 208, Minneapolis MN 55408 <flomys@aol.com> is researching MYSLAJEK in Miedzibrodse in Poland, MIGACZ in Polna, Galicia and both in Minneapolis MN. Florence suggests "increased publicizing of the baptism and marriage records that we have on microfilm."

*Good suggestion! See article on page 22. Our organization (PGS-MN) has obtained the microfilmed records of all the historical Polish parishes of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul-Minneapolis. These microfilmed records are available for use at the MGS Library in South St. Paul. The baptismal and marriage records (to 1935) of five Polish parishes in Minneapolis have been indexed by our Research Committee co-chair, John Rys. This index is also available at the MGS Library (call number: MN, H-1, 217 Rys).*

*I hope that you noticed the marriage record printed on page 6 of our Summer 2008 issue. The bride on this record is Elizabeth MIGACZ and it lists her father as Bartholomais MIGACZ. Rosalia MIGACZ is listed as the mother of the groom. Are these any relation to the people you are researching? The home parishes in Poland of both the bride and the groom are listed on this record*

--PTK

**Stephanie Nilsen**, 615 4th St. N.E., Little Falls MN 56345 <stephnilsen@yahoo.com> is researching MODRZEJEWSKI in Borzyszkowy in Poland and in Winona MN, CIEMINSKI in Pike Creek MN and Winona, RINGWELSKI in Little Falls MN.

**Shirley Opatz**, P.O. Box 342, Little Falls MN 56345 is researching OPATZ, TRETTEL, KLOSS, SCHLICHTING in Silesia and in Benton and Morrison counties.

**Veronica Peterson**, 4428 Cambridge St., Duluth MN 55804-2106 <viqtorja@clearwire.net> is researching CEGLA (CEGŁA), WALCZYNSKI, WLASYNY (WŁASYNY) in Poznan (Posen) and in Sturgeon Lake and Duluth MN.

**Charles Ponagai**, 34442 Munger, Livonia MI 48154 <cchuck@msn.com> is researching TARGOSZ, TARGOS, SWIDER in Stryzawa, Poland and in MN, WI, and MI.

**Helen Richard**, 1894 Ermine Dr., Burtrum MN 56318 <jahmrhichard@juno.com> is researching KRSZESZEWSKI, SOBIESCEK in German Poland, ROSINSKI, NOWAKOWSKI in Russian Poland and all in Minnesota.

**Kathryn Schafer**, 30222 County Road 6, Strathcona MN 56759-9557 is researching WIELEBSKI/WIELIPSKI in Jutrosin, Pawlowo, WIELEBSKI in Zelazno, DONAJKOSKA in Laskownica, NAWROT in Jutrosin and Sielec, JANUZIK in Koszkowo - all in Poland.

**Irene E. Smith**, Unit 1, 716 4th St. N.E., Minneapolis MN 55413 is researching Mike KURKOWSKI and Anthony and Dorothy MELKOWSKI in ? in Poland and in Silver Lake MN.

**Muriel Smith** of Price, UT sent a three-year renewal for her daughter, **Lora Gabbitas**. Muriel writes: "We enjoy the newsletters so much. We are saving them, of course, for future reference."

**Lisa Trembley**, <ltrembley@comcast.net> is researching BEDNARSKA, RAFINSKI, ZIWICKI in Leśno, Bydgoszcz and in Palmer, Sherburne Co. MN. She writes: "Loved the Fall newsletter and the variety in it!"

**Connie Viere**, 28300 Kelp Rd., St. Joseph MN 56374 <cviere@communitygiving.org> is researching SKAJEWSKI, SKAJA in Chicago IL to Benton Co. MN, also BARDONSKI, KLODZINSKI, PODALSKI, ZABINSKI, BUTKOWSKI.

**Darlene Vowels**, 627 Elton Hills Dr., Rochester MN 55901 <vowelsjd@aol.com> is researching KUK/KUCK in Sławki in Poland and in Milwaukee WI, MASSOW in Łęgi Dolne and in Milwaukee, KASPEREK in Nowe Borowe and in Blue Earth MN.

## *Missing Branches*

**NEW MEMBERS:** *We welcome the following.*

**Janet Arth**, 2421- 31st Av. South, Minneapolis MN 55406-1457 <arth.jm@gmail.com> is researching TURCZYN in the Pila region in Poland, SOBKOWIAK in Poland(?), and both in St. Paul (USA).

**S. J. Espino Giordano**, 2194 Tiger Links Drive, Henderson NV 89012 <samepin@gmail.com> is researching KASZUBIKI, TOMAZEWSKI in Poland; PIEKARSKI in Zalesie, Kosobudy (West Prussia) and Brusy Kr. Chojnice, West Prussia; POLAKOWSKI in Gruta, Poland; ZAWADZKI in Czarnowo Polonia, Prussia; BARTKUS, SHIMKAITIS, TRILIKAUSKIS in Lithuania; SADAUSKIS in Luoke, Lithuania.

**Diane Falardeau**, 1059 Oak Ln., Lino Lakes MN 55014 <D.Falardeau@comcast.net> is researching RUSIN in Novy Targ in Poland and near Scranton PA and then Strugeon Lake MN; KLARA in Pominikiwice or Koblylnka near Gorlice in Poland and near Scranton and Sturgeon Lake; PALUCH in Novy Targ.

**Janet Magnuson**, 46 Garden Drive, Burnsville MN 55337 (May 1 to Nov. 1), 8240 E. Lakeview Drive, Mesa AZ 85209 (Nov. 1 to May 1) <janetmagnuson@comcast.net> is researching KOCIKOWSKI, DANIELESKI in St. Paul MN.

**Jim Neuenfeldt**, 6330 Lamar AveS., Cottage Grove MN 55016 <neuan334@msn.com> is researching KUSZ (KUTZ) in Junczewo, Posen and also LUKASZEWSKI and JAKUBINSKI.

**Pat Rychter**, 5410 Dewey Drive, Stevens Point WI 54481 <Patricia.rychter@ces.uwex.edu> is researching JACH/YACH, GORZKOWICZ/GOSKOWICZ, BULCZAKIBUNCZAK, GINSKI/GENSKI/GESK/GANSKI, FLEES/FLIS/FLISS/FLEACE, STROJK/STROIK, MERONK/MERONKE, BIGUS, HELDEBRANT in the Kaszuby region of Poland.

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

**Walter Bennick**, 524 W. Wabasha St., Winona MN 55987-5207s researching SREGINSKI, MAKOWSKA in the Russian partition and BIENIEK, PUSTELNIK in the Austrian partition and all in Virginia MN.

**Vivian Chamberlain**, 34675 Fountain Blvd., Westland MI 4818-9436 <vivdonchamberl@ameritech.net> is researching JARNOT, MORÓN in Kety, Katowice and in Holdingford MN; WODNICZAK, WIZNER in Fabianow, Ociąz, Biskupice, Poznan and in Superior WI, Duluth MN and Lehigh ND.

**Dolores K. Gombold**, 2371 -15th Ave. E., No. St. Paul MN 55109-2322 <dgombold@netzero.net> is researching KASPRZAK in Poznan and in St. Paul MN and Chicago, MATYSIK in Poznan and in St. Paul and Wisconsin.

**William R. Graczyk**, 3810 S. Redwood Road, #1122, West Valley UT 84119 <wrgraczyk@netzero.net> is researching GRACZ/GRACZYK/GRACHEK in Jarozsewo, Znin, Bydgoszcz and in Hale, McLeod and Benton Counties MN; KIELAS/KELASH/ KILINSKI in Jarozsewo and in McLeod; NOWAK/NOVAK in Marcinkowo Dolne, Gasawa, Znin, Bydgoszcz and in McLeod and Benton; PIOTROWIAK, SWENDRA, JASINSKI in Hale, McLeod MN.

Missing Branches ...continued on page 30

Minnesota Genealogical Society  
*Polish Genealogical Society*  
*of Minnesota Branch*  
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