



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 17

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NUMBER 2

## ***DROBNE ECHA***

Installment #16

**Dateline: Taunton**

From *Wiarus*, 1899 - 1907

By Greg Kishel <gfk1@cornell.edu>

Here's another exploration of the early years of Minnesota's Polish immigrant communities, via translations of their own reports to contemporary Polish-language newspapers. As part of the run-up for the PGS-MN's meeting and seminar in Marshall in October, 2009, we will run several installments with material on the Polish-American communities of southwestern Minnesota. The subject of this first one is Taunton, in Lyon County.<sup>1</sup>

I found the following items in *Wiarus*, using Professor John Radziłowski's early research into the Minnesota-dated reportage in that Winona-based weekly. All but one of these items is from the first decade of the 20th century. The material depicts a very interesting phenomenon: how the arrival of a *stały proboszcz* (resident Polish pastor) to a Roman Catholic parish formerly served as a mission church inspired the locals to publicly express a stronger *polskość* (Polish ethnic identity).

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, July 20, 1899:*

Good **FARMS** under cultivation

for sale. They lie not far from Wilno, where there is a Polish church, and Tawnton, in Minnesota. The price is from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per acre.

<sup>1</sup>All spellings of the town's name are given exactly as they appeared in the original published reports. Those Poles had trouble with the English-language phonetics on this one!

The publisher of *Wiarus* will give more general information about these farms with pleasure, but for more particular details one must write to:

C. M. GISLASON,  
Minneota, Minn.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, August 2, 1900:*

IN TAONTON,<sup>2</sup> Minn., on August 1, Fr. ANDRZEJEWSKI from Wilno is supposed to receive the Polish children for their First Holy Communion.

**Taunton Article ...continued on page 10**

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

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**Please use application form on page 18.**

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, etc. should be sent to: John Kowles, editor, *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 3429-45<sup>th</sup> Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406-2924 or to e-mail: <johnkow@att.net>.

**Address changes or membership questions?**

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**President's Letter**

As we enjoy the great weather that summer brings, let me assure you that the volunteers that lead this organization are hard at work planning on your behalf. We will be using the results of our recent Membership Survey (see below) to improve the benefits we offer our members.

In addition, we have chosen to staff a booth at the upcoming Polish Heritage Festival in Minneapolis, August 15 and 16. Block out that weekend and bring your family at least one day for music, dancing, food and fun the Polish-American way. At our booth, we will be casting for new members, selling publications and handing out free advice for shaking your Polish family tree.

Jerome (Jay) Biedny, Jr.

**Membership Survey:  
From Anderson to Woychick**

We received scores of replies to the Membership Survey sent out in May. You told us that over 60% of you have at least one ancestor from the Prussian Partition. Russian and Austrian Partition ancestors then each make up 20%. In addition to Poland your ancestors also came from among others: Germany, Ukraine, and Lithuania. Of the dozens of small towns your ancestors settled in Minnesota, the Wilno and Winona areas are well-represented, as is the metro area. As with many Poles, you also had relatives settle in Chicago and Milwaukee as well as dozens of smaller towns in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and other states. Generally, you enjoy your membership whether you live in the Twin Cities or in far-flung places like Hawaii or Idaho. From the responses we can make a number of summary comments.

**Membership Survey ...continued on page 17**



## The Bulletin Board

### PGS of CT and N.E. Conference – August 7-8

The organization is celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a conference on August 7 and 8. The session will be co-sponsored by the S.A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of Polish and Polish-American Studies of Central Connecticut State University. Thirteen interesting sessions will be conducted by teams of nationally-known genealogists. For detailed information visit <[www.pgscne.org](http://www.pgscne.org)> or check the mailing in the Polish section of the library.

### Sacred Heart Polish National Catholic Church Festival – Saturday, August 8 at Intersection of 5th St. N.E. and 22nd Ave. N.E. in Minneapolis

The church will host their annual festival which features Polish food and entertainment.

### Twin City Polish Festival – August 15-16

After a decade-long absence this event is back and being planned for August 15-16, 2009. Minnesota has 225,000 individuals of Polish ancestry so a good turnout is expected. PGS-MN will have a booth – please stop by. Here is the information from their flier, Polish Culture in All of its Glory: Saturday, August 15, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sunday, August 16, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Nicollet Island, Main St. to Stone Arch Bridge, Minneapolis

*Folk music and dance*

*Visual Arts*

*Polish cinema*

*Polish dog contest*

*Na Zdrowie 5k run*

*Polish Architecture and cultural showcases*

*Polka contest*

*Chopin competition*

*Beer garden*

How would you like to be involved in the Twin Cities Polish Festival this August?

More information at: <[www.tcpolishfestival.org](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org)>

### PGSA's Annual Conference – September 18-19

The conference theme “Unraveling the Mysteries” will be held on September 18-19, 2009 at the Chicago Marriott in Schaumburg, Illinois. The preliminary list of speakers includes authors, editors, archivists and academics. For further information see PGSA web site: <[www.pgsa.org](http://www.pgsa.org)>.

### PGS-MN Future Meetings

#### Joint Meeting with Pommern Group – 9:00 a.m., Saturday, September 12 in Library Board Room

Agenda:

8:30 Registration – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

9:00 Care and Handling of Brittle Documents

10:00 Presentation of the PGS-MN Map Collection

11:00 Q&A and Research in the library

Noon – Buffet Lunch in the Lobby

Cost of the optional buffet will be about \$10.

#### Out-State Meeting at Southwest State University - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 3, 2009

PGS-MN's annual out-state meeting will be held in Charter Hall on the university campus. The complete agenda is yet to be determined but will include a number of interesting presentations. There will be a registration fee which will include materials and a lunch.

### Immigration History Research Center

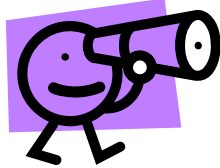
#### Presentation – 10 a.m., Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Library Board Room

### Web Site Problems

Due to a software change we have encountered problems with the Surname Listing on our web site, requiring us to take down these pages. We are striving to fix the problem which might require a complete revamping. We hope to have the problems resolved by the time you read this. If not and you have expertise in this area we would appreciate your help. Thank you for your patience and we apologize for any inconvenience.

### Newsletter Articles

PGS-MN is always looking for articles of interest. We request they be of original material, i.e. not previously published in another journal. We can help with editing and the use of copyright material which might be included.



## Scanning Polish Publications

### *Family Tree Magazine*

**Vol. 10, Issue 3, May 2009**

There are two (2) articles on DNA in this issue. It also rates Minnesota as the ninth-best state for doing genealogical research. The top state is Massachusetts. Thanks to Dori Marszalek for donating a subscription to the library.

### *Polish American Studies*

**Vol. LXV, No. 2, Autumn 2008**

“Jamestown 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”

By James S. Pula

“The Identity of the 1608 Jamestown Craftsmen”

By Richard J. Orli

(These articles discuss early Polish presence.)

### *Biuletyn Korzenie, PGS of Massachusetts*

**Vol. 20, No. 1, March 2009**

“State Administration Files in Polish Archives”  
(territorial inventories)

“What’s in the Central Military Archives”  
(from 1908)

Both by Iwona Dakiniewicz

### *Die Pommerschen Leute (The Pomeranian People)* Vol. 31, Issue 4, Winter 2008

“Who Were the Pomeranians”

By George Onrine

**Vol. 31, Issue No. 1, Spring 2009**

“Life of a 19th Century Day Laborer”

By Brad Witt

“Names Ending in \_ke?”

By Bob Kramp

“A Day in Castle Garden”

By Louis Bagger

### *Pathways and Passages, PGS of Conn./N.E.*

**Vol. 25, No. 1, Winter 2008**

“Haller’s Army: A Major Part of Polish and Polish-American History”

By Paul S. Valasek, D.D.S.

### **PGS of California Newsletter**

**Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2009**

“Translations From *Słownik Geograficzny* Puński, Fornetka, Potasznia” (in N.E. corner of Poland bordering Lithuania) By Helen Bienick

“Memoirs of Konotop, Ukraine” (Translated from Hebrew by Giora Triffon, Corner, Israel, 2004)  
By Yosef Hillel Trifon aka Yonje (1894-1980)

### *Polish Eaglet, PGS of Michigan*

**Vol. 26, No. 1, Spring 2009**

“The Katyń Massacre of April 1940”

By Agnes Buhalski

### *Searchers, PGS of New York State*

**Vol. 49, Issue 3, 2008**

“An Interesting Weather Resource”

By Denise M. Oliansky

“What Does the \_owiak mean in Polish Surnames?” By Keith Kaszubik

### *Przjòcèl Lëdu Kaszëbsczégò (Friend of the Kashubian People) KANA*

**Vol. XII, No. 4, Winter 2008**

“My Christmas in Kashubia, 2008”

By Blanche Krbechek

This issue also contains two articles from the Warsaw Business Journal related to the economic picture in Poland for 2009.

### *German Genealogy Journal*

**Vol. 11, No. 4, Winter 2008**

“Chasing Family Myth Through Canada and Germany” By Dick Lane

**Vol. 12, No. 1, Spring 2009**

“Why and How to Make a Genealogy Blog”

By Brian Trusinsky

### *PolAm, PACIM*

**Vol. 31, No. 1, January 2009**

“Castles in Poland”

**Vol. 31, No. 2, February 2009**

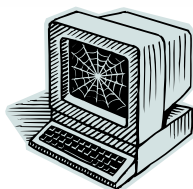
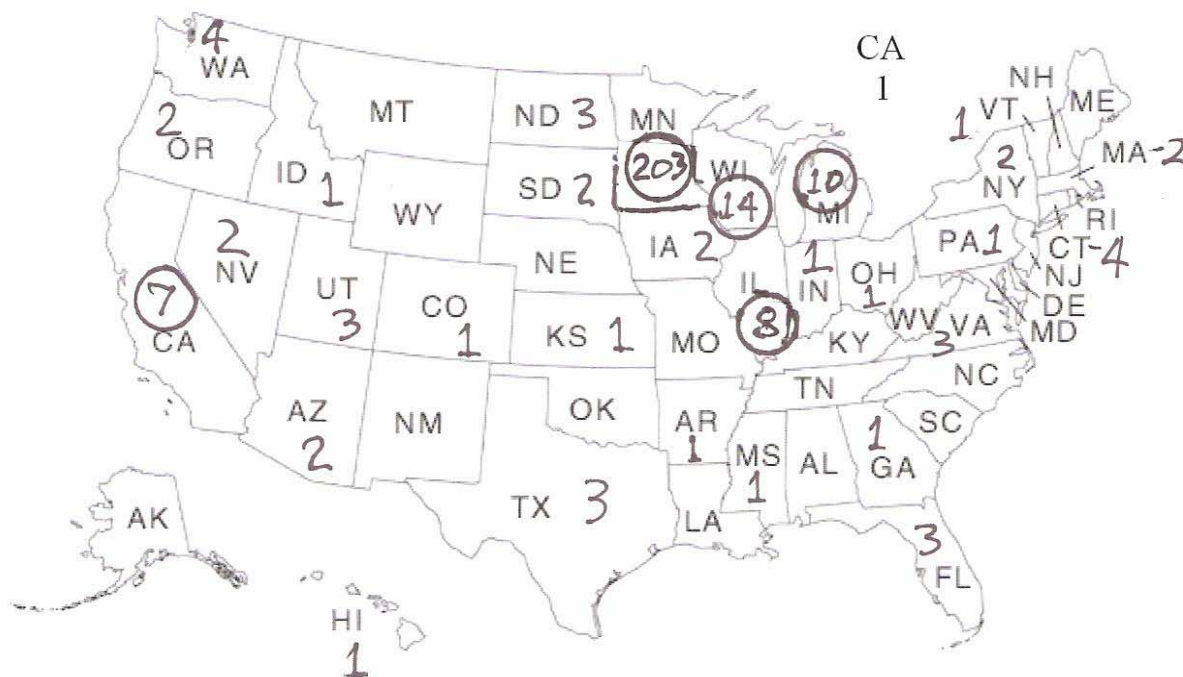
“The Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1920”

By Joseph Beben

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

## Our Far-Reaching Newsletter Mailings

About 300 copies of the newsletter are mailed each quarter to our members, sister organizations and libraries. Two-thirds go to Minnesota addresses with the remainder going to 30 other states and Canada. A significant number go to Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and California. A distribution map is shown below.



<http://>

### Polish History in 10 Minutes

Member Dorothy Pretare sent us this video/music web site which covers 1000 years of Polish history. It was made by Maximus Wielki and reloaded on youtube by XiadzBiskup's channel. It is a nicely-done segment showing some major events of Polish history. I reviewed chat line comments about it and there seems to be no real dispute about the accuracy but some say there should be more discussion. (In all fairness it had to be limited to 10 minutes.) One person said the ending was weak and another commented, "It is only 9 minutes and 59 seconds long." Check it out at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Quld5950v6w> or go to Google and put in: "Polish History in 10 minutes."

### New York Times "Immigration Explorer"

The paper has an interactive site indicating where the "foreign-born" ethnic groups were in the U.S. by state in each decade from 1880 to 2000. Polish first shows up on the Minnesota map in 1890. Go to: <http://www.nytimes.com>, then search for "Immigration Explorer," select ethnic group in drop-down and drag slide to decade you want to view.

### Roman Catholic Polish Parishes

The contact information for parishes is available at: <http://parafia.gliwice.pl>. Under *miasto*, type in the city and click on *szukaj*. Note: if several cities with that name exist in Poland you will have to select the correct diocese.

### PGSA's Genealogy Forum

The Polish Genealogy Society of America has set up a forum where you can post information or request help. You can read posts but to add or respond you will need to register. A search function is available. It can be found at: [www.pgsa.org/simplemachines](http://www.pgsa.org/simplemachines).

## Using E-mail During Genealogical Research

By Gilbert J. Mros <gil.mros@att.net>

An Internet e-mail address can be very useful during genealogical research, and it can save you a great deal of work. Here are two experiences that I had because of e-mail.

I joined the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota in October of 2003. When I filled out the application, I hesitated before I put down my e-mail address with my surname information because I didn't want to expose my computer to the possible junk mail that might result.

I don't think that I ever got any junk mail because of it, but I did get something I didn't expect.

Almost two years later, on September 27, 2005, I found an e-mail message from Agnieszka Luma in my in-basket. I didn't know anyone by that name, but I opened it anyway.

This is what I saw:

---

*witam*

*nie wiem o co chodzi z t± stron± z internetu, ale znalaz³am miejscowo¶æ Cupel i nazwisko Mróz. moja babcia by³a Mróz i mieszka³a w Cuplu. ja z reszt± te¿. jakie¶ korzenie czy co?  
pozdrawiam*

*Agnieszka Luma  
LPSA Szczytno*

---

I don't read Polish very well, and the e-mail server had garbled the Polish characters, but I did notice the word "Mroz," which is a variation of my last name, and the word "Cupel," which is the town my grandfather supposedly came from. I also recognized the word *Babcia*, or grandmother.

I replied, in English, telling Agnieszka what I knew about my grandfather and great-grandfather, and I asked her if she thought we were related.

To make a long story short, Agnieszka wrote back, in English, telling me that she lived in Cupel, about eight miles west of Myszyniec, and that my great-grandfather, Mike Mros, was her grandmother's father. She also sent photos from around the town of Cupel.

Unfortunately, before I had everything resolved, my e-mail messages started coming back with the note

that they had delivery problems, probably because Agnieszka's e-mail address had changed. I have not yet been able to communicate with her again.

But here is another story. In April of 2004, while planning a trip to Poland, I sent a letter through the post office to the pastor of the church at Sokółów Małopolski, Poland, asking for information about my wife Janet's father, Tomasz Mrocza. I included my e-mail address hoping to receive a more rapid reply. In February of 2005 I received a reply through the regular mail stating that the church no longer had baptismal records prior to 1898. Those records, according to the letter, had been transferred to the Civil Registry Office immediately after World War II and from there they had been transferred to the State Archive in Rzeszów. I was not surprised that the parish priest did not reply by e-mail.

However, I was surprised on February 12, 2009 when I received the following e-mail message from Jerzy Chorzepa.

---

*Witam!!!*

*Przegladajac stare ksiegi natrafilem na Pana prosbe dotyczaca Tomasza Mrocza ur. 9 grudnia 1893 r. adresowanej do proboszcza parafii w Sokolowie Mlp. Byc moze jest to brat mojej prababci - Anieli ktora wyszla za maza za Leona Mazgaj.*

*Proszę o podanie imion rodziców Tomasza Mrocza, abym mógł porównać z rodzicami Anieli Mrocza. W przypadku gdyby się zgadzali, to mógłibyśmy wymienić się danymi dotyczącymi tej rodziny.*

*Z Poważaniem:  
Jerzy Chorzepa*

---

I submitted his message to polishtranslator.com, and for 8 cents per word they provided the following translation:

---

**Greetings!!!**

**When perusing old books, I came across your request regarding Tomasz Mroczek born on December 9, 1893 addressed to the priest of the parish in Sokółów Mlp. It could be that he was the brother of my great grandmother - Aniela who got married to Leon Mazgaj.**

**Please provide me with the names of the parents of Tomasz Mroczek so that I can compare them to the parents of Aniela Mroczka. Should they match, then we could exchange data on this family.**

**Respectfully,  
Jerzy Chorzepa**

I replied and told him that the only other information I had about Tomasz Mroczka was that he had a sister named Rozalia. I wrote duplicate letters in both English and, apologetically, in Polish which I managed to cobble together using what I knew and the on-line translator at: <<http://www.translatica.pl>>.

It turned out that he could find no direct connection between himself and Janet, but he was kind enough to check the civil records for information about Janet's father, Tomasz Mroczka. From his research, we found out the names and birth dates of Janet's grandparents and aunts and uncles in Poland, the date of her grandparents' marriage, and the names of her four paternal great-great-grandparents. Up until that time, we had almost no knowledge at all about these people in Janet's family tree.

Via the use of e-mail attachments, Jerzy sent me a copy of the birth-record information about Janet's grandfather, Marcin Mroczka.

In exchange for his information, I provided Jerzy with information that I found on Ancestry.com about the family of his great uncle who had immigrated to the United States in 1914, and I put him in contact with two of his great uncle's daughters.

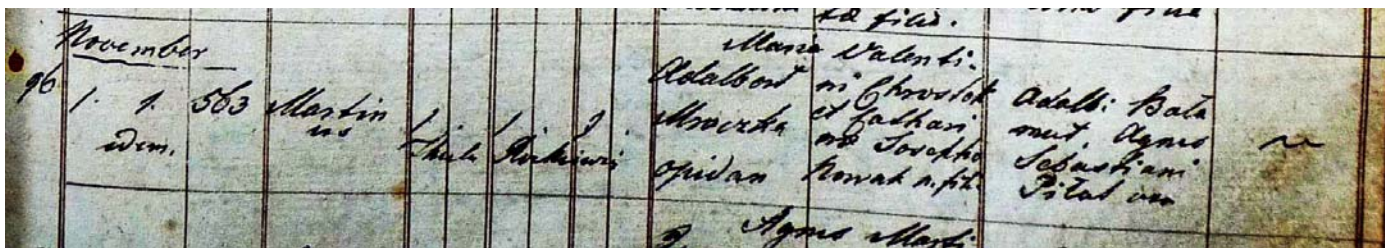
Overall, things turned out very well for both of us because of the e-mail address that I included on that letter back in 2004.

Based on my experience, I can make the following suggestions about using e-mail during genealogical research:

- Always include your e-mail address in your correspondence, even in letters sent by regular mail.
- Try to keep the same e-mail address forever, or set up a special one for genealogical research on Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo that you can keep even if you change internet service providers.
- If you have information on the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota internet surname page, keep your e-mail address updated.
- If you do establish e-mail contact with someone, ask for their post office address as well, just in case.
- If you have an internet home page or other web page where your messages will eventually be included in the Google search engine, include a request for the genealogical information you need in both English and Polish, and leave an e-mail address where you can be reached.



**Agnieszka Luma's Home in Cupel**



**November 1, 1863 Birth Record of Marcin Mroczka**

## A Visit to My Ancestral Homes in Poland

By Louis D. Welna <ojciec@comcast.net>

### Poland, September 2008

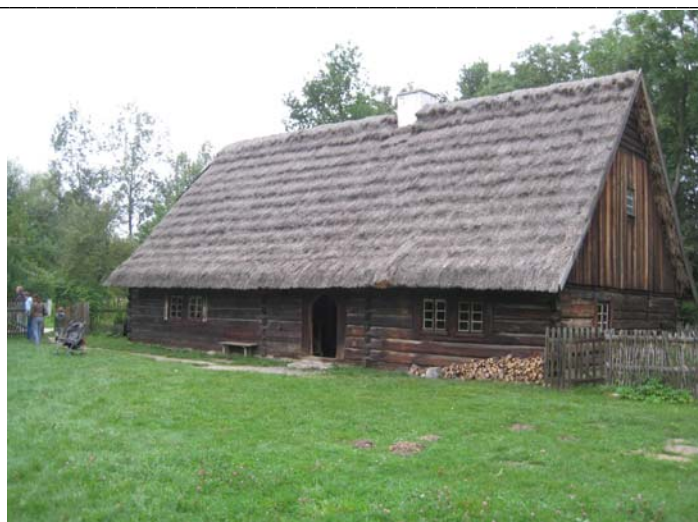
I went to Poland to meet the descendants of my grandfather John Welna's brother, August, the only sibling who remained in Poland. I had been corresponding with this family for about 15 years. I also wanted to visit the towns of all my grandparents. I had dreamed about visiting Poland since I was a child listening to the stories of my grandfather, Charles Philipsek. This past summer, I hired a driver/translator, Zenon Znamirowski, who made my trip highly productive and enjoyable.

First we went to Kobyle, the ancestral home of my grandmother, Mary Deja, near Gdańsk. At a bed-and-breakfast, I tasted the best mushroom soup ever. Then we drove westward toward Opole to Dąbrówka Dolna and met and stayed with the beautiful Welna family. The food was so good that I teased Maria Welna that she should open a restaurant. We also visited Dammratsch, the home of my great grandfather, Martin Pyka. The Welnas and Pykas attended the same church, St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, in Falkowice.

Then the best thing happened! I learned that the home of my great-great grandfather, Valentine Welna, had been chosen in 1957 to represent a peasant cottage. It is one of many in an open-air museum located in Wsi Opolskiej also known as a *Skansen* near Opole. (You can view the map at <<http://www.muzeumwsiopolskiej.pl>>.) As you move your cursor over each building, each will be identified. Valentine's house is located on the right-hand side, building Number 8. Turn on your speakers so you can hear all the sounds. When you pass your cursor over the house #8, in Polish it says: *Chalupa z Dąbrówka Dolnej 1827 r.* A rough translation is: Hut from Dąbrówka Dolna 1827 year. A hut is a peasant cottage.

The museum's goal is to collect, preserve and study the monuments of the folk culture of Opole Silesia. When the historical guide at the museum learned that we were direct descendants, she took down the barriers and gave us free access to the whole house (shown on page 9).

According to the Welnas, an old aunt named Cecilia saw the house at the museum and she said it



**The peasant cottage of Valentine Welna**

was exactly as she remembered it. All the contents are original and came from the Welna house. On the left is a spinning wheel. That is a blanket chest next to Ania. Along one of the cross-beams carved in Polish was this (translated by Zenon): "Walek Welna ordered Maciek Posh from Libna to build this house on July 19<sup>th</sup> 1827 Anno Domini. It was built in the name of Lord, in the name of the Holy Trinity, Father and Son and Holy Spirit."

On our way to Mechnica, we stopped at the National Archives in Opole to check Mechnica records. While my mother said the Philipseks came from Mechnica, except for the births of Grandpa Charley and some of his siblings, I could find no more traces in birth, death and marriage records. Zenon ordered the Mechnica microfilms and noticed that the godparents of some of those siblings were Philipseks who lived in a town called Twardawa just a few miles away from Mechnica. Zenon got the Twardawa records and, lo and behold, he found the Philipseks! Now we know that Twardawa is our ancestral town.

Then we drove southwest and stayed at a bed-and-breakfast in Mechnica. At night, we had a spirited discussion with a gentleman who was forced to leave Poland when martial law was imposed. He had been a patriot and his fate was death or Siberia, so he fled to Germany and had been living there for the past 20 years. We discussed the merits and flaws of socialism and democracy for at least two hours over beer and sausage. Poor Zenon! Not only did he have to deal with the uncle who tried to speak Polish and





**This is me with some of my Polish Welnas. My arm is around Patryk. Sitting on my left is Maria Welna, her son Waldemar and his lovely wife, Ania, holding another son, Marcel. We are all sitting at Valentine's table.**

Zenon Znamirovski can be reached at:  
<[Zenon@PolishOrigins.com](mailto:Zenon@PolishOrigins.com)>

often would lapse into German; at the same time he had to deal with Basia, the owner of the bed-and-breakfast, and her father-in-law as they would re-translate the German into Silesian Polish! What a yeoman's job he did! What a great evening it was! After, we laughed, shook hands and agreed that talking politics was everybody's favorite pastime.

We drove to Kraków and had a wonderful time just roaming the streets. There was a political rally commemorating the Russian invasion of Poland, September 17, 1939. Zenon reminded me that Stalin had a deal with Hitler, and when the war started to go bad for the Germans, Stalin changed sides. The city is beautifying itself and it is gorgeous. Next to Paris, it is the most visited city in Europe because of its festive atmosphere.

From Kraków we went to Auschwitz to see the death camps. I went there primarily to say Kaddish for my father-in-law's good friend who, while he survived this death camp, saw his wife and four children murdered at the train station. I recited out loud an English translation of this Jewish prayer for the dead (incidentally, death is not mentioned) for the mother and her babies. It began to rain gently and the ink from my script began to run both from the mist and my tears. I signed Judy's father's name, folded it up, and stuck it in the space between the post and the sign.

Zenon and I also found in the Polish records that a

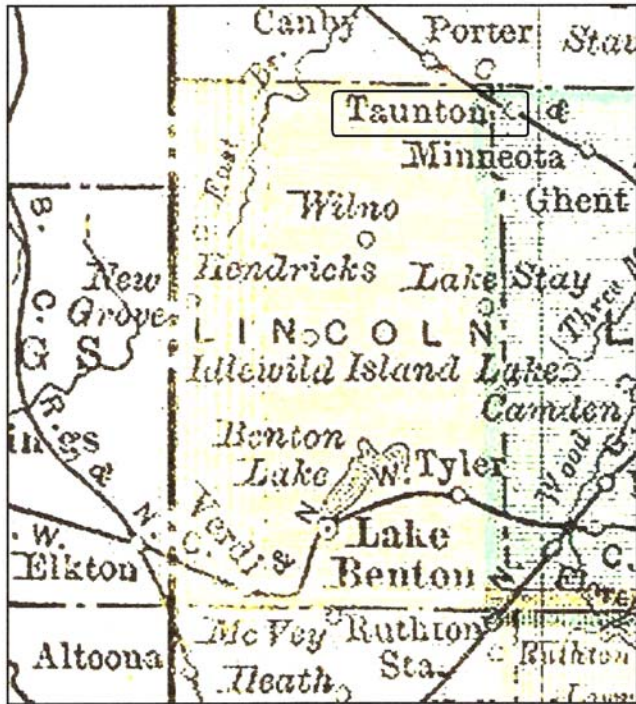
"Pyka" and a "Welna" were interred at Auschwitz. Zenon told me that there were thousands of ethnic Poles who were sent to the camps. This will need some investigating.

From there, we went up the mountains to Zakopane. Zenon wanted to take me up the tram, but it was wet and foggy, so we settled for beer and a meat-medley dish which included a tasty lamb sausage. We walked around the village and Zenon introduced me to *oscypek*, that wonderful smoked goat cheese.

The next day, it was back to Warsaw, where I spent the whole day by myself visiting the old city. I got lost three times but everyone is eager to help a lost tourist.

The next day, we visited a memorial commemorating the Warsaw Uprising. While we were standing there, Zenon said, "That man over there was here; he is a survivor of the uprising." (Having a driver/translator is a good idea! Without Zenon I never would have had this opportunity.) Zenon had overheard a conversation between the man and probably his great grandchild, who was steadying him as he was explaining his experiences. I asked to be introduced and he accepted. I told him how honored I was to meet a real hero. He agreed to have his picture taken, BUT I forgot to ask his name. I took over 630 pictures and yes, someday, I'm going back. Part of my soul is there.

**Taunton Article** ...continued from page 1



**1895 Map of Lincoln County**  
 (identifies places mentioned in article)  
 Source: [www.MemorialLibrary.com](http://www.MemorialLibrary.com)  
 – used by permission

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, December 20, 1900:*

TAUNTON, Minn. – Local citizen Antoni JASIŃSKI, the proprietor of a saddlery shop, has been married to Miss Bogumiła STEFANOWICZ, formerly a teacher.

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*From Wiarus, May 23, 1901:*

TOUNTON, Minn. – The farmer Mr. Maxymilian DASZKOWSKI with his wife are paying a visit to relatives in Winona and Minneapolis.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, February 12, 1903:*

**FROM TAUNTON, Minn.**

Taunton, February 7, 1903.

Esteemed Editor!

The sad news has come to us, that our beloved pastor the late Fr. MURLOWSKI died and is buried in Minneapolis. The Rev. Fr. JAŹDŹEWSKI sent us this news from Minneapolis. The late Fr. MURLOWSKI labored as a pastor in Taunton and Minneota for a year and six months; on January 4 he received our children for First Communion. Thus, when we received the sad news, we did not want to believe it, even if it was the truth; but that was the way it was. The late Fr. MURLOWSKI already is at rest, in the place which all of us await. Here I must add that over the short time that the late Fr. MURLOWSKI was among us, we loved him very much, because he was a true Catholic and a good Pole; thus we will not forget him so quickly, and we will remember him particularly in our prayers for his soul.

M. D.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, June 29, 1905:*

**From TAUNTON, Minn.**

Taunton is a small settlement on the North Western Railroad. The residents are predominantly Polish. There is a great opportunity here for the establishment of various businesses, and it would be well if our countrymen were to take the first places. Lots are inexpensive here. The region is lovely. A resident priest is arriving just now. Come here to have a look at this area yourself and you will not regret it. It seems to me that a Polish doctor would be able to do business here—currently the Poles are enriching one of another nationality. All Polish publications, please republish this announcement.

“An old patriot.”

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, July 27, 1905:*

**Taunton, Minn.**

July 17, 1905

Esteemed Editor!

Please publish these several words about our parish in Taunton, Minn.

Our parish was founded ten years ago. At the beginning it was very hard for us; we were not in a position to maintain a priest, and a priest only came to us from a neighboring parish. For the most part every parish already has its own priest; thus we as well began to try. But others even ridiculed us and said that they will not obtain a priest because we could not support him. Our efforts did not have success for a long time; and only when the Rev. Fr. CIEMIŃSKI from Wilno interceded for us did the Archbishop send us a priest.

Thus we are immeasurably indebted to Fr. CIEMIŃSKI, the more so because our new pastor is a true "priest of the soul," a good Pole and an exemplary chaplain. At the same time he is such a good manager, that others now envy us for him, and we all wholeheartedly love and esteem him.

The parishioners had been concerned that it would be hard for them to support a priest; but Fr. BĄCZYK consoled us, that with God's aid this all would come about, that the Lord has more than he had dealt out, and that with trust in God we would overcome all. Now everything is going smoothly, and we have no more troubles. Our pastor is urging the people to the construction of a rectory and he offered \$100 for that purpose himself; through his example others came forward, a collection poured in, and here we have gathered for this purpose \$2000 already, as well as stone and the sand needed.

There are few such chaplains like our pastor, who know that if they gain trust and respect immediately, then likewise all will readily listen to them; but others are surprised at how the Poles are already building a rectory here. This house will be erected shortly, at a cost of \$3000.

There are 47 of us parishioners here. If there are any among our Countrymen who would want to settle here, then they will find very good opportunity in Taunton. There are farms already under cultivation and with buildings here, and it is possible to buy them for prices of \$25 per acre and

higher, commensurate to the condition, and it is possible to rent farms as well. The climate here is healthful, and the water is good. There would also be a good business here for a doctor and a pharmacist.

If anyone would want to learn any more such details, he should contact the undersigned.

With esteem

Fr. SZARZYŃSKI,  
Taunton, Minn.

\* \* \* \* \*

*From Wiarus, August 10, 1905:*

**"IMPORTANT."**

I have observed that the Most Rev. Archbishop SZYMON, in all of his sermons, exhorts his countrymen to love: Faith and Fatherland, beseeching his countrymen that they work strongly in common against the loss of their national identity. But sometimes, unfortunately! many a countryman gives no thought at all to this: that he is committing an error, and I will say a national crime, when settling among those of other nationalities, when there are so many Polish colonies and Polish hearths in America.

Polish families are living, here 20 among Irish people, there 10 among Germans, somewhere else again several among persons of nationalities of every description.

These foreigners are increasing in number, they are marrying their children with ours, such that after some years they are lost for the Polish nation and often as well for the faith.

And so to all of our countrymen drifting into laziness, who are enlarging the numbers of the foreigners, I advise that if they still love the Fatherland, to sell off their property in such places, and to settle where there are: a Polish church, priest, and school!

If anyone does not want to believe me, he should go to "Wawerly, Minn.," where around 60 Polish families live. To date they have not thought of either a Polish church, or a priest, let alone a Polish school.

However, they built, for the Irish, a church, a school, and a home for the Irish nuns! Shame and ignominy to such countrymen!

Therefore, brothers, settle down in purely Polish regions, like, for example, in "Taunton, Minn." Inexpensive farms, good land, fertile, inexpensive lots in the same village, a field for the conduct of a wide range of various businesses.

A Polish doctor, operating jointly with a Pharmacist, would do a lovely business here.

Come, brothers, to Taunton, look at the area, the soils, and the village, I vouch that you will like it here, and at the same time you will be working for Poland!

FR. A. BĄCZYK.

(P.S.) Tomasz and Fr. SARZYŃSKI, Taunton, Minn., gave the fine details.

\* \* \* \* \*

*From Wiarus, December 14, 1905:*

### TAUNTON, Minn.

Our parish, which received a resident priest on June 11, is growing very successfully. Near completion, the new rectory is turning out very splendidly. Together with the heating, it is costing around \$5000; next to the rectory a new stable was built, a well dug, 140 young trees buried in the earth that we will plant in the spring. The urgings of our pastor did not go out without a result: "If our countrymen have been living in lesser numbers among those of other nationalities, they should sell off and join together with their own countrymen." Because, one such arrived from Iona, looked at the area, and purchased a farm here, satisfied with his escape from the German nest.

The city gave us pavement on the half-block from the rectory to the church, for \$150.

On November 15 we staged a "basket social"; it produced a net profit of \$250.00 for the rectory.

For the first time, we had a requiem Mass for the Polish warriors of 1830, on November 29—with a patriotic sermon. On the same day we made the following resolution:

*Gathered* for the November commemoration, we resolve to speak only Polish among ourselves at home and on the street. Our daughters are to marry only Poles, we are to write letters to our countrymen only in Polish.

As children of the great Polish nation, we deeply feel the torment of our brothers in the Muscovite and Prussian Partitions; to the first we send words of admiration, to the second words of encouragement!

As urgently as possible, we protest against the three loathsome invaders, Mother of our Fatherland; against the Muscovite, the Prussian, and the Austrian, sending them the highest contempt and the wish that, as quickly as possible, the Lord destroy their conceit.

To the Prussian Wilhelm, the obstinate German sworn enemy of the Poles, we remind: the *psie pole*, Grunwald and Płowce, sending him the wish that he will yet live to see the *psie pole*, we loathe his Teutonic majesty.

Likewise, we send a word of scorn, to those gentlemen who declare themselves Polish-national "bishops," they will bring disgrace and ignominy and what is more, harm to the Polish interest. "Away with the traitors."

We censure as well those teachers male and female, who for a bloodily-earned Polish penny are depriving Polish children of their national character, who never give extra instruction in Polish to the children. They have Polish surnames, but not a Polish heart. Further, we wish for our Polish parishioners, their own school with nuns, as quickly as possible: the Irishman and German purged!

T. SARZYŃSKI

J. GAWORECKI

K. SWIDZIŃSKI

J. KOSMAŁSKI

A. BUDNIAKOWSKI.

\* \* \* \* \*

*From Wiarus, April 12, 1906:*

**TAUNTON, Minn.**

On April 3 we had a ceremony of the blessing of the bell here. The consecration was performed by the Rev. Fr. J. CIEMIŃSKI from Wilno with the assistance of the Rev. Fr. H. DASZKOWSKI from Owatonna and our Fr. A. BĄCZYK. At 10:00 the Rev. Fr. DASZKOWSKI sang a High Mass; his parishioner, Miss Agnieszka CZERWIŃSKA, played for him very beautifully. After the High Mass he gave a sermon, taken from the text: "Justice they will receive according to their measure, which the Holy Spirit dispenses as it wishes and as everyone is qualified and all have acted." With these words of the Tridentine Council, with a talent only his own he extracted a sermon such that a tear glinted in many an eye. For a long time there will be parishioners in Taunton who will remember the Rev. Fr. DASZKOWSKI. After the sermon, the Rev. Fr. CIEMIŃSKI began the blessing of the bell; he gave it the name Ignacy, after the founder Ignacy GAWCZEWSKI from Taunton.

The Rev. Fr. CIEMIŃSKI performed this bishop's ceremony with such dignity and stateliness that the thought occurred to many a one there, "Such a one as he would be a valiant Polish bishop in Minnesota!" We wish this for him with all our hearts, for his fatherly care that always surrounded us as long as we did not have a priest of our own.

Many pretty farms are for sale here near Taunton. We would wish it for our countrymen, those who are bereft of their Polishness in German or Irish parishes, that they would have a priest as well as a church, and at the same time a good, rich region.

The blessing of the new rectory and a 13-hour novena will be held here on May 4, for which many chaplains will be coming.

A parishioner.

For more details about the farms, please write:  
Fr. BĄCZYK, TAUNTON, Minn.

\*\*\*\*\*

*From Wiarus, February 21, 1907:*

**FROM TAUNTON, Minn.**

In our Taunton a blacksmith is needed and there would be good business for him here; there is a good smithy here, which belongs to the city, and the city is looking for a blacksmith. A Pole will have priority, whether married or a bachelor; come immediately. If you want to learn anything further, write to me.

TOMASZ SZARZYŃSKI  
Taunton, Minn.

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The village of Taunton is located in Lyon County's Eidsvold Township. The first development on-site was the establishment of a post office and a station on the Chicago and North Western Railroad.<sup>3</sup> The commercial and residential infrastructure developed slowly over a 15-year period from 1885 to 1900; the population of Taunton proper hovered at the 200-mark during the period from 1900 to 1910.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>For a few months after the establishment of the post office, the locale bore the names of "Lonesome" and then "Ripon." In 1888 the name Taunton was adopted. Mrs. Max Kosmalski and Jerry Langsweirdt, "Taunton," in Torgny Anderson, *The Centennial History of Lyon County Minnesota* (Marshall, Minn.: Henle Publ. Co., 1970) (hereafter "*Centennial History*"), p. 113; Arthur P. Rose, *An Illustrated History of Lyon County Minnesota* (Marshall, Minn.: Northern Historical Publ. Co., 1912) (hereafter "*Illustrated History*"), p. 216, n. 14.

<sup>4</sup>*Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, Taunton, Minnesota 1895-1995* (Taunton, Minn.: the parish, 1995) (hereafter "*Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church*"), p. 13; *Illustrated History*, pp. 215-217. Richard S. Prosser, *Rails to the North Star: A Minnesota Railroad Atlas* (reprint ed., Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007), on the map at p. 188, indicates that the Chicago and North Western had completed its line through Lyon, Lincoln, and Yellow Medicine Counties to the Dakota Territory border by 1880.

Polish and Belgian immigrants started taking up the local agricultural lands in the 1880s, by the homesteading process and otherwise.<sup>5</sup> Many of the Poles came via an internal chain migration from Chicago, which brought them to Taunton in and after 1888. Due to the local scarcity of trees and the lack of lumber, the settlers' very earliest dwellings were often sod dugouts.<sup>6</sup> The 1902 plat map of Eidsvold Township shows farm-sized plots owned by A. BUDNIKOSKI, K. SWIDZINSKI, S. POLNINSKI, Anton KOZYNSKI, and John KOSMALSKI southwest of the village of Taunton.<sup>7</sup> Younger members of the community made their way into Main Street businesses in Taunton, an early one being saddler JASINSKI.<sup>8</sup>

For the first decade of settlement, the Taunton-area Poles traveled to the Church of St. John Cantius in Wilno to receive the sacraments in their native language. Encouraged by Father JAGER, the pastor of the Roman Catholic parishes in Marshall and Minneota, the Taunton Poles met, organized, and began building their own parish church in 1895.<sup>9</sup> On June 13, 1895, the church was

<sup>5</sup>*Centennial History*, pp. 113-114.

<sup>6</sup>The influx to Taunton was a later part of a larger phenomenon that had already populated the new settlements of Wilno and Ivanhoe in nearby Lincoln County. *Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church*, pp. 14 and 18.

<sup>7</sup>The spellings here are those used on the map, which is reprinted in *Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church* at p. 20. It shows that C. M. GISLASON, the correspondent-promoter for Taunton who authored our very first letter to *Wiarus*, held a quarter-quarter section on the southerly boundary of the village site.

<sup>8</sup>In 1912, L. P. SZARZYNSKI opened a hardware store in town. *Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church*, p. 21.

<sup>9</sup>*Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church*, p. 18. Father Kruszka gives the date of 1874 for the founding of a Polish parish in Taunton. Waclaw Kruszka, *A History of the Poles in America to 1908, Part IV: Poles in the Central and Western States*,

consecrated to Saints Cyril and Methodius, the first proselytizers of Christianity to the Slavic peoples of central Europe. Father JAGER and Father ZALEWSKI of Wilno officiated.<sup>10</sup>

Over the following decade, with only about fifty families in its flock, Sts. Cyril & Methodius was not large enough to support a resident pastor. It was served on a visiting basis by priests from a number of neighboring parishes, of Polish and non-Polish ethnicity, and as a mission parish of the main Catholic parishes in Wilno and Minneota, successively. With persistence (and, per our July, 1905 *Wiarus* report, the assistance of the Polish pastor in Wilno), the Taunton parishioners received Father A. BĄCZYK as their own shepherd in 1905.<sup>11</sup>

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(Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2001), p.120. This must have been the result of a mistranscription from his source. Kruszka devotes the bulk of his entry on Taunton to a eulogy for Father MURLOWSKI, whose passing was noted in our February 12, 1903 *Wiarus* item. The microfilmed records for the parish history survey conducted by the Archdiocese of St. Paul in 1949 reveal that the pastor in Taunton in that year was "one of ninety-five pastors who [had] not made any return" on the Archdiocesan historical questionnaire. The response to the Chancery Office's second request was one page in length--handwritten, unsigned, and unattributed. It recites only that Father A. ZALESKI was the first pastor; the first Mass at the parish had been said on the "First of August 1895"; and the first baptism had been conferred on Sept. 1, 1895. Submission under "Taunton" in response to 1949 *Questionnaire on Parish History* for Archdiocese of St. Paul (informant unidentified) [on microfilm M260, roll 13, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul].

<sup>10</sup>*Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church*, p. 19; *Illustrated History*, p. 217.

<sup>11</sup>Kruszka, *A History of the Poles in America*, p. 121.

Father Kruszkas states that Father BĄCZYK had immigrated to the United States in 1904, only a year before he was assigned to Taunton. The freshness of his ties to the old country undoubtedly had much to do with the upwelling of Polish ethnic fervor noted in our *Wiarus* reports of 1905-1906. That movement seems to have had its costs, however; local Roman Catholics who were not of Polish ethnicity resisted the exclusive use of the Polish language that seems to have been instituted with Father BĄCZYK's advent in the parish; many of them reaffiliated with St. Edward's parish in Minneota. This led to, or was accompanied by, more general financial difficulties at Sts. Cyril & Methodius. Father BĄCZYK left the parish in 1907; another resident pastor, Father L. TOMECKI, was not assigned until 1911; and the parish narrowly averted mortgage foreclosure in mid-1913.<sup>12</sup>

From 1915 through the end of the 1920s, the Taunton parish was served jointly with St. Peter's parish in Canby (in neighboring Yellow Medicine County), or the parish in Marshall, with the priest traveling in on the Chicago and North Western on Sundays and returning the same day.<sup>13</sup> Over the longer run, it is noteworthy that, for nearly the full span of years through 1960, Taunton continued to be served by priests of Polish ethnicity—a clear recognition of the ethnic self-identification of the parishioners who stayed at Sts. Cyril & Methodius, and who continued to maintain it in resonance with its origins.<sup>14</sup>

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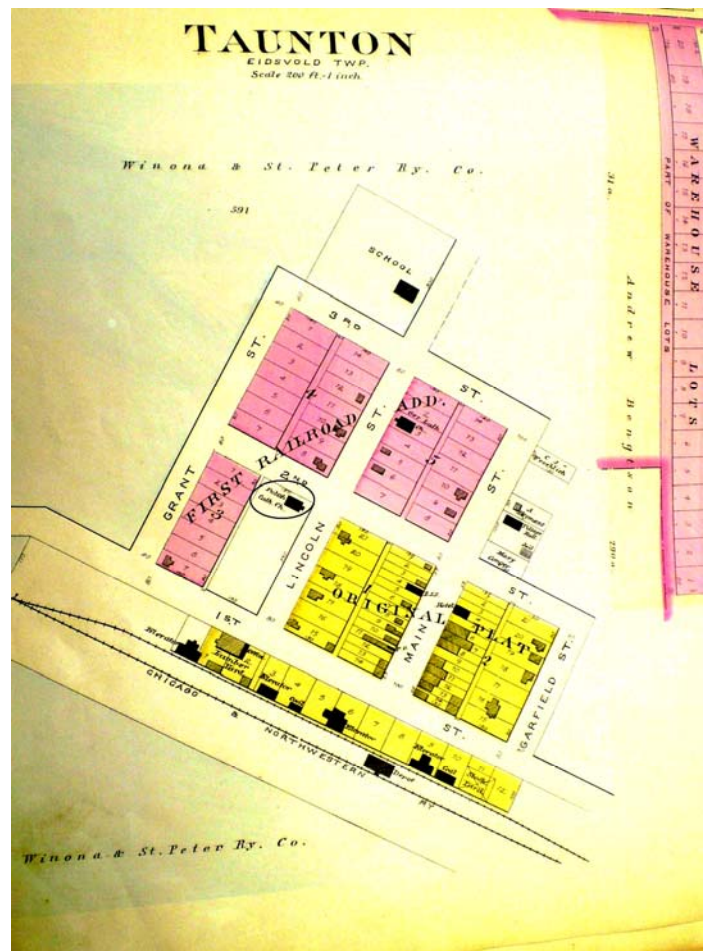
**AND COMING UP:** Throughout its first two decades of publication, *Wiarus* featured a lot of correspondence from the important Polish settlement in Wilno, Lincoln County, which is

<sup>12</sup>*Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church*, p. 21; *Centennial History*, pp. 192-193.

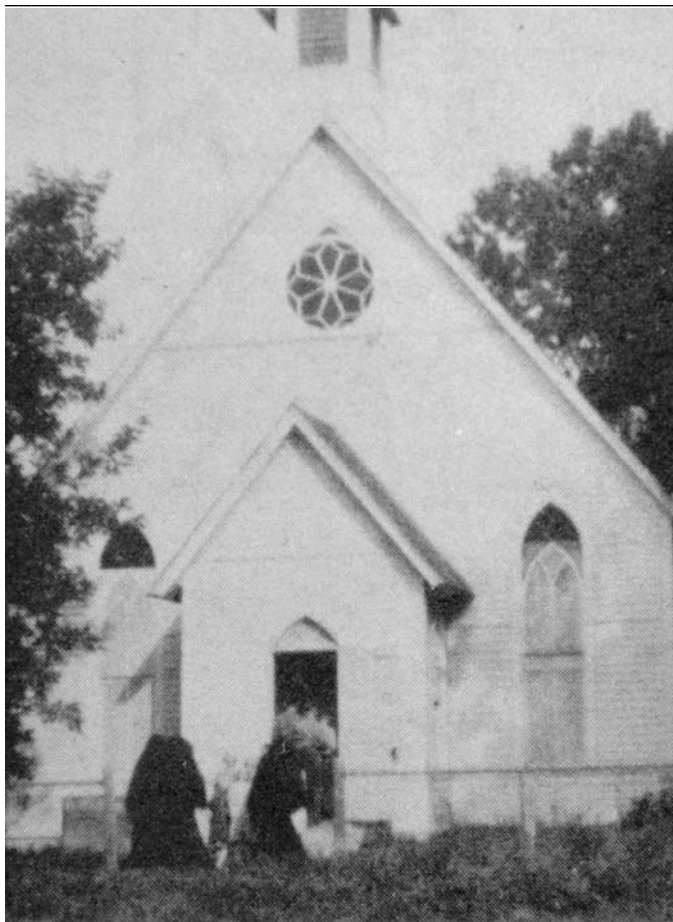
<sup>13</sup>*Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church*, p. 21.

<sup>14</sup>A listing of the priests who served Taunton through 1960, with some photos, is found at *Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church*, p. 82.

considered to be one of the very few “true” Polish colonies in Minnesota. In our next issue, Fall 2009, we will feature my translations of reports from the earlier years of the Polish immigrant presence there, in the mid- and late 1880s—to coincide with our outstate meeting in Marshall. I have been collecting material datelined at Ivanhoe, also in Lincoln County, from several Polish-language newspapers of a century ago. Reports from Ivanhoe are fewer and farther between, so it will be a while yet before I have enough of them to make up an installment of *Drobne Echa*. With luck, that will appear sometime in 2010.



**Location of Church in Taunton**  
 Source: *Lyon County 1902 Plat Map Book*,  
 Northwest Publishing Company, Minneapolis,  
 Minnesota



**First Wooden Church in Taunton and First Holy Communion Class with Sisters**  
*Source: Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Centennial History*



**Did Your Ancestor Have a U.S. Passport?**

U.S. citizens did not need a passport until World War I for travel to Europe. However, if they wished to return, they often did. Ancestry.com now has about 1.6 million passports online covering the years 1795 to 1925. These could be extremely valuable to the researcher because they provide a wealth of personal information including: birth date and place, marital status, residences, etc. A significant number also have a picture. One of the benefits of PGS-MN is use of the MGS library which has an ancestry.com subscription. At the library go to the home page and click on **ancestry**, then under **immigration** there will be a drop-down to **passport index**.

-JWK



**Passport of Polish Citizen, 1931 with Visas for Czechoslovakia, Austria, Switzerland and Italy**  
*Source: Wikipedia Commons, used by permission granted by license at: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>*



## Membership Survey ...continued from page 2 NEWSLETTER

Our quarterly publication is read and treasured by most respondents. You enjoy the feature articles, translations, and information about how and who other members are researching. You see it as a great vehicle for local small town histories and a resource to keep and read at your leisure. You gave several good ideas for constructive change:

- Add more white space and use bold or italics to increase readability
- Add more Polish history woven into the stories
- Introduce other members and their stories

Most of you enjoy getting the hard copy in the mail so you can read it anywhere and keep it for your files. However, some would like it available electronically to reduce the paper load we all have to manage. It was also understood that as postal rates keep moving up, opting for an electronic copy (if you can) might keep down membership rates. (Since most of our organization's events are self-funded, the newsletter printing and mailing costs are our largest single expense and drive the cost of membership dues.)

Rest assured, we will continue to mail everyone the newsletter, but it was nice to hear everyone's opinion.

## LIBRARY

Of the members who live in the metro area, more than half have visited the new library location in the past year. Those visiting found it brighter and better organized than the previous location with more and better computers and friendly staff. Those who have not visited had two main barriers: lack of time or long distances to travel. We even had several people show interest in helping volunteer once a month.

## COMMUNICATION

Almost everyone who has easy access to a computer prefers e-mail notices of events sent to them. We will continue to mail event notices to local members without e-mail. Of those who can access our web site, only one third visit with any regularity. You really enjoy using the Event

Schedule, Library Book List, and Links to other sites.

You suggested we add: Electronic copies of the newsletter, meeting handouts and also name-index project information to the web site. Because we see most of this information as assets, we would have to create a "members only" section of the site, complete with copying safeguards, so that these assets can be preserved. However, we are working on renovating the site to update its free content.

Two thirds of members with web access either rarely visit or don't know we have a web page. More advertisement of the web site is planned after its revision.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Although many of our local responders said that they have attended at least one program in the last 12 months, and found it very useful, the majority of you said that you are simply spread too thin to commit to regular attendance. Saturday mornings still tend to be the most popular time for meetings. We will be exploring ways to have fewer meeting days, but perhaps "double headers" where two different associated topics are covered. Also, although many people enjoy going to the library after the meeting, we may move one meeting to an evening and/or other location next year. Each season we will continue to hold one combined meeting with the Pommern Group and one "out-state" meeting. We have a long list of excellent proposed topics to explore.

## ANNUAL MEETINGS

Unfortunately, by our bylaws we need to hold this meeting in January each year. Of those living in the Twin Cities, most of you prefer a Saturday luncheon over a Sunday or weekday meeting. The time and place is acceptable and the social aspect of the meeting, where members meet face to face, is very worthwhile. For the snow birds who have to miss it--we apologize.

Thank you all for taking the time to reply to our Survey. You helped point out the things you use and like the most and those that need our attention to improve.



*Polish Genealogical  
Society of Minnesota*

A Branch of the Minnesota  
Genealogical Society  
1185 No. Concord St.  
So. St. Paul MN 55075-1150

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

- Chrozempa, *Make Your Own Family Tree* \$2.00  
 Chrozempa, *Morbus—Why and How Our Ancestors Died* \$3.50  
 Hoffman and Helon, *First Names of the Polish Commonwealth:  
Origins and Meanings* \$20.00  
 Hoffman, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* \$25.00  
 Litak, *The Latin Church in the Polish Commonwealth in 1772* \$17.00  
 Millerowa, *Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish Peoples Republic  
in 1984* \$20.00  
 Ortell, *Polish Parish Records of the Roman Catholic Church* \$12.00  
 Radzilowski, *Poles in Minnesota* \$13.95  
 Radzilowski, *A Traveller's History of Poland* \$14.95  
 Schlyter, *Essentials in Polish Genealogical Research* \$3.00  
 Shea & Hoffman, *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Guide To Polish,  
German, Latin, and Russian Documents*, Vol. I: Polish \$35.00,  
Vol. II: Russian \$35.00  
 Shea, *GoingHome: A Guide to Polish American Family History  
Research* \$35.00

**Order from:** PGS-MN Newsletter, c/o Paul Kulas, Associate  
Editor, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316. For  
shipping and handling please add 10% of the total cost. Minnesota  
residents add 7.275% sales tax. Make check payable to PGS-MN.  
Some of the books are available for sale at the library.

**POLISH NIGHT  
AT THE LIBRARY**

PGS-MN's **Polish Collection** (books and maps) is located at the MGS Library, 1185 No. Concord St. in South St. Paul (see page 19 for directions). "Polish Night at the Library" continues on the **second Thursday of the month** 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

One of our experienced genealogists is available to assist you with your Polish research problems on these nights.

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON  
AT THE LIBRARY**

One of our members is available at the library on the **first Saturday of the month** (except July 4 and September 5, 2009) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., to help you with your Polish research.

**LIBRARY HOURS**

Tuesday: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
 Thursday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
 Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
 Phone: (651) 455-9057  
 Web Site: <<http://www.mngs.org>>

**Library closed July 4 and Sept. 5**

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

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

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

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

Individual/Family--\$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Three-year renewal--\$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Library donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

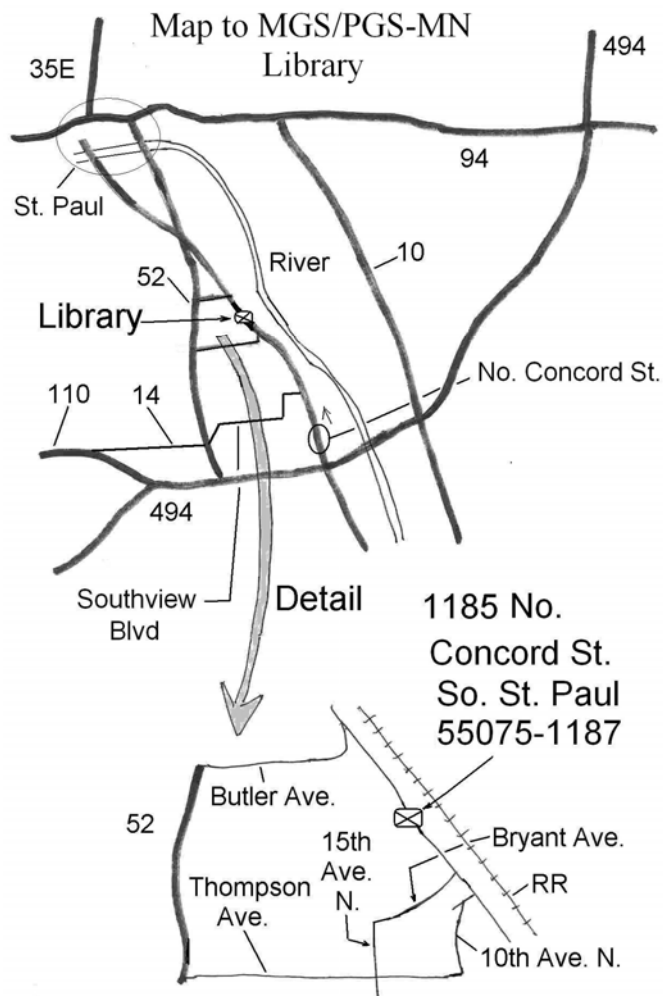
List Surnames from Poland \_\_\_\_\_ List locality in Poland where \_\_\_\_\_ List locality in North America  
that you are researching: each surname originated: where immigrant settled:

Do you have suggestions for improving PGS-MN?

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

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

*Please make checks payable to Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and mail to: Michael Eckman, Treasurer; 7222 Oak Pointe Curve; Bloomington MN 55438-3405.*



**Library - Looking south on Concord St. It is located in Suite 218 on second floor. Parking is directly across the street or in adjacent lots on weekends. Street parking is also permitted. Meetings will be in the Board Room (fourth floor) or auditorium (first floor). The library has elevators. Internet and WiFi are available in the library.**

**Directions to the MGS Library:**

From west or east on 94, go south on 52 over Lafayette Bridge to Concord, then south to the address

From west or east on 494, go north on Concord through South St. Paul to the address



**Dana Halberg-Ridley is shown presenting the session on health genealogy in the library auditorium.**

**The more unusual the surname the more ways it can be misspelled.**

Little-known fact: The month of July in Polish is *lipiec*, which derives its name from the beloved Polish tree, the *lipa* (also *lipka*). In the U.S. it is a basswood or American linden – common in Minnesota. In Europe it is called the linden but generally the lime in Great Britain.

Book Signing: *Life and Adventures of Remus*  
By Dori Marszalek <doripgs@comcast.net>

My sister Renee and I, on a beautiful sunny March day, ventured down to Winona, Minnesota, to attend the presentation and book signing of Aleksander Majkowski's *Life and Adventures of Remus* by the translators Blanche Krbechek (PGS-MN member and President of the Kashubian Association of North America) and Katarzyna Gawlik-Luiken. It was sponsored by the Polish Museum of Winona.

The famous Kashubian book, written by Aleksander Majkowski (1876-1938), has been translated for the first time into English by Blanche and Katarzyna and published by the Kashubian Institute of Gdańsk.

The action of the novel takes place in the late 1800s, the time when many of our ancestors were still living in the Kashubia/Pomerania region of northern Poland. It depicts the realities of ordinary life of the people, daily problems and background of their lives, as well as their history and political activity. All this is portrayed as the background of the adventures of the main character, Remus. The book has a deep message of universal patriotism - not solely Kashubian patriotism - with the message: "Remember your history and keep alive your heritage and traditions." Sometimes the book is just plain humorous and at other times it squeezes tears from your eyes.

My sister and I thoroughly enjoyed the light luncheon of *bigos*, a traditional Polish dish, prepared by Stanley Frymark who lives in the region of Kashubia. Stanley was also available to answer questions about his homeland. We also toured the Polish Museum of Winona and were blessed with a short tour of the beautiful Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church.

I purchased the book and am finding it very interesting; each chapter is a new look into the past and traditions of that region. I am still trying to find time to finish reading all the adventures. To me, every chapter makes me want to know more about Poland and that time in history. I highly recommend purchasing this book. It would make a great present for that Polish relative or for a young person in the family just finding out about his or her Polish ancestry.

Kudos to Blanche and Katarzyna for a wonderful job of translating this book.

The book is available from Blanche Krbechek, 763-545-7107 or e-mail her at <bkrbechek@att.net> with any inquiries.



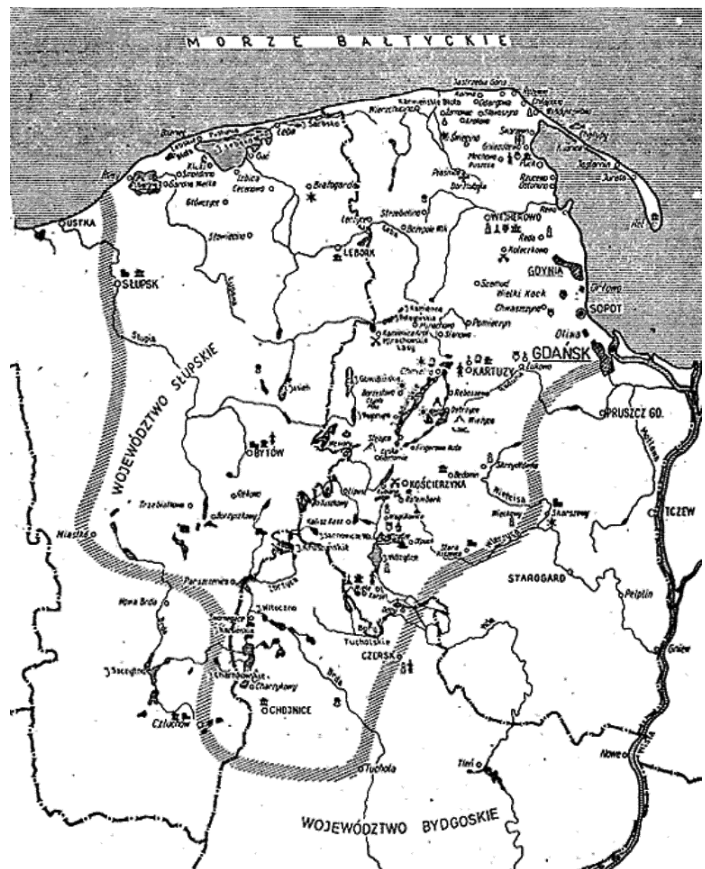
**Dori Marszalek Posing with the Translators Katarzyna Gawlik-Luiken and Blanche Krbechek**



The Translators Kasia and Blanche with Polish Folk Art Paper Cut Display Called Wycinanki

On the right is a widely-published map of the current Kashubian region.

More detailed maps of the region's geographic boundaries from the 800s to the present can be found at: <http://en.kaszubia.com/kashubian/history>. These excellent maps are based on research of Prof. Dr. Józef Borzyszkowski as published in his book *Historia Kaszubów* (English: *History of Kashubians*), Gdańsk 1999. They also reflect studies conducted by Dr. Jan Modrawski as published in *Geografia współczesnych Kaszub* (English: *Geography of Contemporary Kashubia*), Gdańsk 1999.



-JWK

**My Great-grandmother's Surname: Marianna Matkowska→Malkowska→Małkowska**  
**Why Records Need Careful Scrutiny to Ensure You Have the Right Surname**  
 By John Kowles <johnkow@att.net>

I was elated when I found my great-grandmother's birth record at the Family History Center Library in Salt Lake City. Even though the 1865 record (Exhibit 1) was faded and thus very hard to read there was no doubt it was my grandmother as all the information I had about her matched. I quickly interpreted the mother's name as **Matkowska**. I should have been suspicious because the **t** was crossed at the top. I thought this should be easy to verify by looking at other family records. Exhibit 2 is the 1877 death record of her husband (my great-grandfather) which shows his wife's name. It was written as Marianna **Malkowska**. (Incidentally, Marianna's husband died just ten days after their daughter of typhoid.)

Now I was confused so I sought out Marianna's 1884 death record (Exhibit 3) but it was written **Matkowska** or *maybe Malkowska* because the cross was again over the letter. I knew there would be more information on the civil death record which was kept in the archive in Gdańsk. On this record the father's name was written **Malkowski**. (Exhibit 4). However if the record were written in German it would be unlikely to use Polish letters so I still wasn't sure.

Now I was armed with the information on where she was born and possibly married. I thought the earlier records would be the final proof of the spelling. First I found Marianna's 1844 marriage record (Exhibit 5). To my dismay she was listed as **Malkowska**. But since I knew approximately the year she was born I located her 1824 birth record (Exhibit 6). Now I interpreted the third letter as an **I** because the cross is in the upper third of the letter definitely not an **I**. Secondly, in the entries below Marianna's the **t**'s in Catharinam and Elizabetha are written much differently with the cross very low on the letter, though very hard to detect. Subsequently I located what I believe was her father's 1781 birth record. It has the name **Malkowski** with the cross at the top of the letter.

I believe this confirmation was further reinforced (though only circumstantially) by studying the suffixes of these names (Reference: William Hoffman's excellent book *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* – available at the MGS library). Mat comes from *Mateusz* (Matthew) or a first-name variation thereof, or maybe *matka* (mother). Both Mal and Mał probably come from *Maly* (small). (Mał is also a prefix of a root Małomir, however a less likely origin.) Finally the Małkowski name is almost 14 times more prevalent than the Malkowski name in Poland today.

It took me more than five years to zero in on the correct name. Suffice to say a good researcher should be careful and always look for confirmation.

**Exhibit 1**

1865  
 ...  
 Matkowska  
 ...

Exhibit 2

J. Pct. Michael Fortuna hied i. Marianna z Matkowska.	J. J. Pct.	27
J. J. Pct. Marianna Fortuna.	J. J. Pct.	68 3

Exhibit 3

30. Kwiecień Apunkt	Marianna Fortuna z Matkowska Apunkt	16. (początek), C. J. Pct. 19. (miesiące) Juli	19. (miesiące) Juli
------------------------	---	---	------------------------

Exhibit 4

mit dem zu Verdienlich von ist die 20. April 1850  
 Arbeit Michael Fortuna  
 Tochter des Lufigen Simon Matkowski  
 und daffur Laura Elisabeth geb.

Exhibit 5

27. September	mit Diensten	1850	Maria [Name] August [Name] Gogolew.
19. Januar	Michael Fortuna [Name] [Name]		Marianna Matkowska [Name] Dierndorf [Name]
17. Februar	Joseph [Name]		Maria [Name]

Exhibit 6

1850 Krause	17. 11. 1850 I. 1. 1850	1850	Nomine Marianna Naton Simon Matkowski patrum Josephus Drigolewski Agnes Szpada gbur
1850 Krause	17. 11. 1850 I. 1. 1850	1850	Nomine Catharina Naton patrum Thomae Klein patrum Franciscus Klein, Marianna Litke
1850 Krause	17. 11. 1850 I. 1. 1850	1850	Nomine Marianna Naton patrum Josephus [Name] patrum Mathias [Name] Barbara Lis gbur

## 200 Years Ago in Poland – 1809 Expansion of the Duchy of Warsaw

**Background** - The Grand Duchy of Warsaw had been established by Napoleon in 1807 by the Treaty of Tilsit. It was made of lands formally controlled by Prussia after their defeat. Some Poles thought this was a chance for independence but many leaders saw it as an exploitation by Napoleon with the goal of raising Polish troops to continue his conquest of Europe. While having some degree of independence, the Duchy was really a French protectorate.

**Expansion and Collapse** - In 1809 the Polish (led by Józeph Poniatowski) and French armies repelled superior numbers of Austrian forces. As a consequence at the Treaty of Vienna (Schönbrunn) the Duchy was greatly enlarged with areas around Kraków, Radom, Lublin and Siedlce (see map below). It now had a population of 4.3 million of which 79% were Poles and 7% Jews. However, with Napoleon's defeat in 1812, the handwriting was on the wall for the Duchy. With the Duchy's army now stretched thin, in 1813 Russia entered Warsaw and ultimately took full control.

**Legacy** - On the positive side Napoleon instituted Polish as the official language which remained for record-keeping until it was supplanted by Russian by 1865, after the Polish insurrection. He also abolished serfdom but the nobility still maintained many privileges. For genealogists the Napoleonic Code standardized metrical records. This has been great help in their translation. This year in Warsaw the Polish and French will commemorate the 1809 victory.

-JWK



**Duchy of Warsaw (1809)**

*This map is copyrighted by Mathiasrex, Marciej Szczepańczyk, based on layer of user Kgberger. It is used here in accordance with provisions of GNU Free Documentation License. The map and further information are available at:*

*<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy\\_of\\_Warsaw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Warsaw)>.*



## PGS-MN Recent-Meetings Handouts

### Silver Star Resources – March 14

These resources at the MGS library are a good primer for those just starting their research or for the more-experienced. They are prominently marked with silver stars in the library. The map collection will be described at the September meeting.

#### CDs

<i>Słownik Geograficzny</i> (Polish name)
Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and Other Slavonic Lands

Content: *Słownik Geograficzny* provides a description and history of Polish villages and cities in the late 20th century. It can be useful in identifying nearby places, churches, history, etc.

Procedure: 1. The CD is loaded only on the libraries **XP** computers. It is also available on microfilm but is awkward and slow to use. 2. Go to “MGS Homepage.” 3. Click on “System Data.” 4. Click on “Family History and Genealogy.” 5. Click on “*Słownik Geograficzny*.” 6. On left-hand side go to “Volume” which contains the name of the village or city you want. 7. Page down to the place.

Notes: 1. At the top right-hand side there is a page search which allows you to advance to one of 960 pages. 2. There might be a number of villages with the same name so ensure you have the correct *powiat*. 3. The village description is in Polish but translation guides are available in the library (see *Rodziny* May, 2000 or *PGS-MN Newsletter* Summer, 1997 and *Słownik Geograficzny* Guide Notebook on shelf near PCs.)

<i>Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych</i> (Polish name)	
Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland at the Beginning of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century - Several PDF (Acrobat) documents	Kazimierz Rymut

The CD edition is loaded on all computer hard drives. Go to “Surnames” then “Dictionary Polish Surnames.” It is also in the book collection (Call No. P105) *Dictionary of Common Names (A-Z)*.

### BOOKS

<i>Going Home: A Guide to Polish American Family History Research</i>	Jonathan D. Shea	P199
<i>Essentials in Polish Genealogical Research</i>	Daniel Schlyter	P051
<i>In Their Words - A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents Vol. 1 and 2</i>	Jonathan D. Shea/ William Hoffman	P139
<i>Atlas Drogowy Road Atlas Polska Polish Road and Route Atlas</i>		P104
<i>Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings, Second Edition</i>	William Hoffman	P055.2

### MAPS (located in the Map Drawers labeled Poland)

Maps of the German Empire 1:100,000 19th Century  
 Topographic Maps of Poland 1:200,000 1990s vintage  
 Austrian Map Series of Middle Europe 1:200,000 19th Century Land Surveys  
*Mapa Topograficzna Polski* 1:100,000 151 detailed topographic sectional maps of Poland

### On the Internet

Where surnames exist today in Poland by *powiat* (county): <<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa>>  
 Data base of German/Polish locations: <<http://www.kartenmeister.com>>  
 Poznań Marriage Data Base (1835-1884) <<http://binweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/project.php>>

### PGS-MN Contact Persons for Area Research

Silesia	Bob Prokott <prokott@peoplepc.com>, Jan Bias <geneejb@comcast.net>
Posen/Poznań	Jay Biedny <jaybiedny@juno.com>, Paul Kulas <kkulas@ties2.net>
Pomerania (Kashubia)	Blanche Krbechek <bkrbechek@att.net>
Galacia/Austria (Poland)	John Rys <john@john.rys.name>, Jay Biedny <jaybiedny@juno.com>
Russian Partition	John Kowles <johnkow@att.net>

## Mapping Your Health History – April 4

Dana Halberg-Ridley was the presenter of this slightly different approach to family history. The session focused on the health family tree. Some of the slides presented are contained below and in the following pages. The complete handout is in the library.

# Questions and Answers

Below are answers to common questions you may have about your family health history.

### WHY IS MY FAMILY HEALTH HISTORY IMPORTANT?

Health problems that run in your family can increase your chance of developing the problem. This is because families share their genetics, environment, lifestyles, and habits. But the good news is by knowing your family health history you can make screening and lifestyle choices to lower your risk.

### What information should I collect?

Collect information on close family members, like parents, brothers and sisters, and children. Then collect information on your grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. Things that are important to collect include:

- Health problems of family members
- Age when the problem started or was diagnosed
- Age and cause of death
- Lifestyle habits (smoker/nonsmoker, diet, weight, and exercise habits)
- Ethnic background

### What health problems run in Families?

A family health history can help you understand your tendency to get just about any health problem.

These health problems can run in families:

- Alzheimer's disease or dementia
- Arthritis
- Asthma
- Birth defects
- Cancer (breast, colon, lung, prostate, ovarian, and other cancers)
- Diabetes
- Depression
- Heart disease or sudden heart attack
- Other heart problems
- High blood pressure and high cholesterol
- Pregnancy losses, stillbirths, and miscarriages
- Stroke or blood clots

### How do I know if I'm at risk for a health problem?

You may have an increased risk of getting a health problem if your family has:

- Health problems that occur at an earlier age than expected (10 to 20 years before most people get the problem)
- The same health problem in more than one close family member
- A health problem that does not usually affect a certain gender (For example, breast cancer in a male family member)
- Certain combinations of health problems within a family (For example, breast and ovarian cancer or heart disease and diabetes)

---

# 10 Questions to Ask Your Family

**1 | What traits seem to run in our family?** (You don't have to ask only about health – start with anything from your family's blue eyes or curly hair to your height and personality – just get your family talking)

**2 | Did my family members have any health problems?**

**3 | How old were my family members when their health problem started or was diagnosed?**

**4 | How old were my family members when they died?** (If you don't know exact dates, ask about the approximate age at death)

**5 | What were the reasons they died?** (Note if the cause of death was unknown)

**6 | Were there any pregnancy losses or babies born with birth defects?**

**7 | Where were my family members born?** (Ethnicity can be a risk factor for some health problems)

**8 | Did any of my family members smoke? If yes, how much and for how long?**

**9 | What other lifestyle habits did my family members have?** (For example: Did they exercise regularly? Were any overweight or extremely thin? Did any have addictive behaviors?)

**10 | What types of allergies did my family members have?** (For example: hay fever, food or medication allergies)

Name

Year of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  Male  
 Female

Has he/she ever been told BY A DOCTOR that he/she suffers from any of the following health problems?

YES	NO	NOT SURE	AGE AT FIRST DIAGNOSIS	Condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Heart Attack (hospitalized)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Coronary bypass surgery
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Rheumatic or other heart disease
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Stroke
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Breast cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Colon cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Hip fracture
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Asthma
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Alzheimer's disease
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	High blood pressure (on medication)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	High blood cholesterol
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	Diabetes

**CIGARETTE SMOKING**

- Smoker: Has smoked cigarettes regularly for at least 1 year
- Ex-smoker: Stopped for at least 1 year after smoking regularly
- Non-smoker: Never smoked cigarettes regularly
- Not Sure

IF SMOKER OR EX-SMOKER mark average amount smoked

- Less than 1 pack a day
- About 1 pack a day
- More than 1 pack a day

**USUAL WEIGHT**

- Slender or average
- 50-99 lbs. overweight
- 10-49 lbs. overweight
- Over 100 lbs. overweight
- Not Sure

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
(beer, wine, liquor)?

- Regularly
- Sometimes
- Never
- Former
- Not Sure

Vigorous **ROUTINE EXERCISE** at least 3 times per week?  
 Yes  No  Not Sure

**Your Health Family Tree**

You can make copies of this box for each member of your family to keep a record of their health history.



**Source of material on pages 26, 27 and 28 is Utah Department of Health – used with permission.**

## Using Timelines in Your Genealogical Research – May 2

Presented by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Plymouth, Minnesota <LoisMackin@aol.com>

**Timelines** are an excellent way to organize your facts, display your results, reveal the gaps in your research, and show you the next steps that will take you farthest forward in your research.

You can create a timeline using the table feature of your word processor, or you can use a spreadsheet. Here are two types of timelines:

The *Basic Timeline* (just the facts):

Date	Event (What Happened?)	Source (How Do You Know?)

The *Enhanced Timeline* (the facts, plus analysis and planning):

Date	Event (What Happened?)	Source (How Do You Know?)	Research Objectives (What Do You Want to Know?)	Research Planning (How Will You Find Out?)

You can make up your own column headings - Missing Information, Notes, Questions, Next Steps, whatever fits your needs.

**Tip:** If you start with a Basic Timeline and decide you want an Enhanced Timeline, you can easily create it from your Basic Timeline by adding columns as you need them. (I recommend landscape orientation for Enhanced Timelines!)

Here are **eight ways** to use them:

### 1. *Visually presenting information*

Extract information from a record into a timeline.

### 2. *Organizing and integrating information*

Add information from more records. Don't worry about the order - you can use the word processor or spreadsheet to sort by date.

### 3. *Analyzing information*

You may have differing information from several sources about the date or facts of an event. Use the timeline layout to examine the information. Determine which source is most reliable, and which version of the information you think is correct. When you decide what you think is what happened, you can write a proof argument and embed it in your timeline.

### 4. *Identifying gaps*

Your timeline will show what information is missing. If you have a family in one location, and they show up later in another location, there was a move (unless boundaries changed!). A move is an event and could have an interesting reason. It should have its own row in your timeline.

Similarly, if there is a census, and it shows more children than the last census, there must have been births. If there are fewer children, there could have been deaths, marriages, children boarding out - use the timeline to record your thoughts and ideas about where to look for evidence.

### 5. *Figuring out how to fill gaps*

Once you know the gaps, you can strategize what kind of records might give you the information you need and identify where and how to get the records. Practical considerations will often tell you what to do next!

### 6. *Closely analyzing events/adding context*

Sometimes, if events don't make sense, you can discern a possible rationale through time-lining. This works especially well when you are doing whole-family research.

For example, two young men move to Colorado. They are followed by their father and an uncle. Around the same time, four or five of their cousins (children of the uncle) also move to a new state. Time-lining showed that both older men lost their wives and their mother (the grandmother of the cousins and the matriarch of the extended family) within a year before the moves occurred.

Add non-family events to your timelines - wars or events within wars, economic events (crashes, booms, depressions, resource discoveries), elections or changes of administration, epidemics, droughts, town settlements, building of railroads and other transportation links, founding of churches or cemeteries. Include events significant for conducting further research - county formations or boundary changes, dates when states started keeping vital records, dates when censuses were taken.

### 7. *Creating the big picture*

Step back from the detail. What is the "sweep" and "rhythm" of events that your timeline reveals? What are the patterns that emerge within decades or lifetimes?

### 8. *Getting ready to write*

Timelines lay out what happened, in the order it happened, and include sources for the information. This is a great skeleton for your book or article! Doing the "big picture" step - thinking about whether there are themes in the lives of your ancestral families - also helps you to put "flesh on the bones" and write a better narrative.

*With thanks to Juliana Smith of Ancestry.com for advocating the use of timelines and Diane Rooney of the Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society for asking me, what do you know, and what do you want to know.*

## **Sharing Information Electronically**

**By Mary Ellen Bruski <Poland-MN@comcast.net>**

In the Fall 2008 issue of our newsletter one of our members requested a column where members might submit questions, share info, etc. This is certainly encouraged! But we do have another option already where members and nonmembers may ask questions and get an answer probably faster. Submitting questions to the newsletter, which is published quarterly, can mean a very long wait for an answer. We would like to remind our members that for a number of years we have had a Mail List option, via Rootsweb for Polish research in Minnesota at our web: <<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>> (or just Google: Polish genealogy, Minnesota). When you go to our web site look

down about half-way on the front page and you will see an item regarding Polish Mailing Lists. Rootsweb hosts thousands of Mail Lists and about 80 of them are for Polish research! Click on Polish Mail Lists (written in red) and you will go to the extensive list of Polish-interest Mail Lists hosted by Rootsweb. There are Mail Lists for Chicago, Pommern, Prussia roots, Galicia, etc. However, in our site, on the front page, we have another link for Polish research in Minnesota. The list needs *many* more members. It is open to *anyone, anywhere*, who is researching Polish genealogy in Minnesota. So you will be hearing from many others besides our own members who may have information for you when you submit a question. You can answer questions from others, or submit a new research resource you have learned about.

If you have never subscribed to a Mail List, do *not* fear it! It will not open you up to still more Nigerian princes requesting funds. Just having an e-mail address does that! That is what the Delete Button is for! You will NOT be getting hundreds of messages every week, or even every month. Mail Lists can be subscribed to in two ways. Both are listed in the site: List Mode or Digest Mode. List mode means that every time someone submits something to the list it will come to your e-mail address. Digest Mode means messages will be held a little bit until there are a few, and you can read them all at once. Sadly, I cannot remember the last time I got a message from this list. The list can be such a valuable tool for all of us! But it is sorely underused. I have previously subscribed to numerous Mail Lists for genealogy research and within a few days found connections for my research that I never would have had without the List. The only people who will send/receive messages for this Mailing List are those who have subscribed to it because they have an interest in the particular topic - Polish research in Minnesota! The only people sending you messages are the others who have subscribed. If the message you get is of no interest to you, just delete. But another day you might see a message saying that someone has discovered a previously unknown resource for exactly the information you have been looking for.

When you click on Digest Mode, for instance, you will immediately see an e-mail form with the address already in it. In the subject line just type in Subscribe - nothing else. Put nothing in the body of the form. Nobody will be reading it. It automatically goes to Rootsweb and their computer system will send you a reply acknowledging your request. There will be a message back to you that you MUST reply to verify that you do indeed want to subscribe. You will then get another message welcoming you to the Mail List and giving you instructions for sending messages/questions to everyone on the list. Keep these instructions! If you choose to unsubscribe, it is as easy as subscribing. Just send an e-mail like you did when you subscribed (that address will always be in our site) and put Unsubscribe into the subject line - nothing else.

I encourage you to give this a try. Help our list grow! Remember anyone, anywhere can subscribe to this list, not just our members, so the possibilities

for help are greater the more people subscribe. E-mail me at <Poland-MN@comcast.net> if you have questions regarding our Mail List and how to subscribe, or if you lose the directions for submitting questions.

### Extra contributions

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

**Adam F. Geron**  
**Anne Gilbert**  
**Millicent Kriske**  
**Ann Sarna**

#### Note:

*PGS-MN is a branch of MGS and thus is tax-exempt under Federal Income Tax provisions of Section 501(c)(3). Donors may deduct contributions of funds and other materials as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue code. PGS-MN will provide a receipt for all donations received at year-end.*



### Something to Think About ...

Alvin Toffler coined the term *Information Overload* some time ago but it seems to have increasing significance today. A general definition is: *excessive amounts of information being provided making processing and absorbing very difficult.* As a case in point a few years ago there were already 100 million web sites and a search of "Polish genealogy" on Google will produce over 200,000 hits. One answer was Web 2.0 (recently added to English dictionary), perceived as a second generation of the Web although some say it is just an extension. I know it has something to do with social networking, blogs and interactivity but frankly I don't completely understand it so I went to Google to find out and got 20 million hits – see what I mean?! Readers: Any thoughts on how to cope with this?  
 -JWK

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*Polish Genealogical Society  
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**Anne D. Gilbert**, 8511 Jeffery Ave. S., Cottage Grove MN 55016 <adgilbert40@comcast.net> is researching KUROWSKI in Hastings, Royalton, Little Falls and Minneapolis MN.

**M.S. Kapolczynski**, 145 N. Park Ave., Lombard IL 60148 <martykapol@gmail.com> is researching N. KAPOLCZYNSKI and F. TOMASZEWSKI in Wilno, MN. She states: "Both grandfathers were parishioners in 1900 at Saint John Cantius in Wilno and were listed in your 5:2:08 (*Summer, 1997*) newsletter."

*Note: An upcoming issue will feature an article on the Wilno church history.*

**Josi Meyer**, 1380 Hartford Ave., St. Paul MN 55116 <jmeyer1211@comcast.net> is researching the JANISZEWSKI, JANIS, JANISZESKI surnames.

**Ron Niziolek**, 12275 Rush, Elk River MN 55330 <RNiziolek@msn.com> is researching NIZIOLEK, MIKOS, KILACH in Galacia and in Jenny Lind AR and Bevent WI.

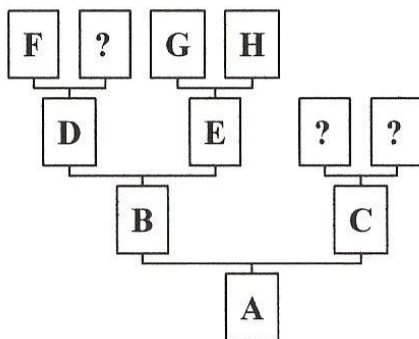
**Richard W. Snyder**, 5124 W. 95th St., Bloomington MN 55437 <dsnyder@yahoo.com> is researching SUPPLICKI in Szczepanowo, Gniezno, Bydgoszcz, Poznan, Poland and in Stevens Point WI and GORZELANCZYK in Poznan, Prussian Poland(?) and in Green Bay WI.

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

**Curtis Benoit Londroche**, 209 Mayfair Rd., Vadnais Heights MN 55127 <curt@londroche.us> is researching the JAWORSKI, PERDZIAK, SUDZIAK (SHUDA), PIRVONSKI surnames.

**Shirley J. Sorenson**, 3015 N. Cty. Rd. F., Birchwood WI 54817 <hombless@centurytel.net> is researching BUDZINSKY/BUDENSKI/BUDJENSKE, LIBUDA, VEOLEK in what was East Prussia - general area of Mlawa and Neidenburg, Narzem and Illowo - do not know the parish or parishes - and in Goodhue Co. MN.

### *Missing Branches*



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

#### **E-mail Correction**

**Sandy Nuss**, 1800 So. Prairie Ave., Fairmont MN 56031 <senuss@midco.net> is researching SOLARZ/SOLORZ in Falkawice [Falkowice] in Poland and in Holdingford and North Prairie MN.

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

**Adam F. Geron**, P.O. Box 302, West Point VA 23181-0302 <geron93@msn.com> is researching Juzef BUCZEK (father) in Mircze, Poland (stayed in Poland) and Franciszek BUCZEK (son) in Mircze (born 1870) and in West Point VA.