

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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NUMBER 4

DROBNE ECHA

Installment #18

Dateline: Wilno, Minnesota

From *Wiarus*, 1886 - 1887

By Greg Kishel

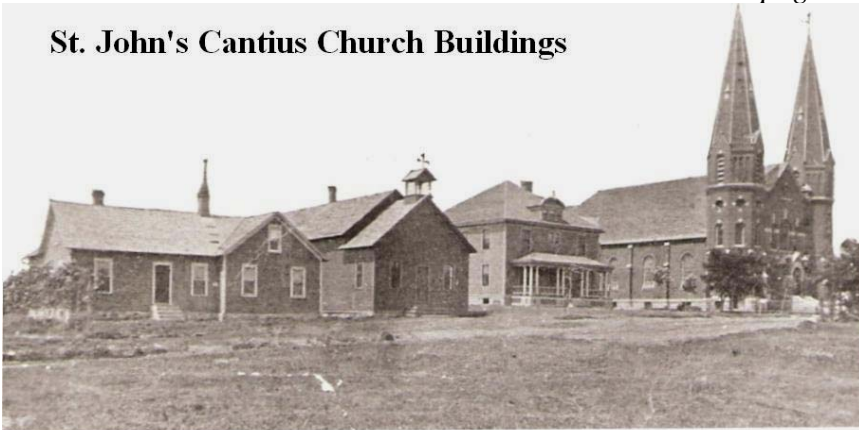
<gfk1@cornell.edu>

This year the PGS-MN held its annual out-state conclave in Marshall, in southwestern Minnesota, on October 3. As a promised followup to that successful meeting, this installment features historic Polish-language journalism from the village of Wilno and vicinity, in Lincoln County.

The founders and promoters of Wilno named it after the ancient urban center of Polish civilization and culture that is now within the boundaries of Lithuania, bearing the name *Vilnius*. Almost immediately after *Wiarus* commenced publication at Winona in the spring of 1886, it began featuring commentary and reports from the recently-founded colony. Here are my translations of the Wilno-dated material published in *Wiarus* in 1886-1887.

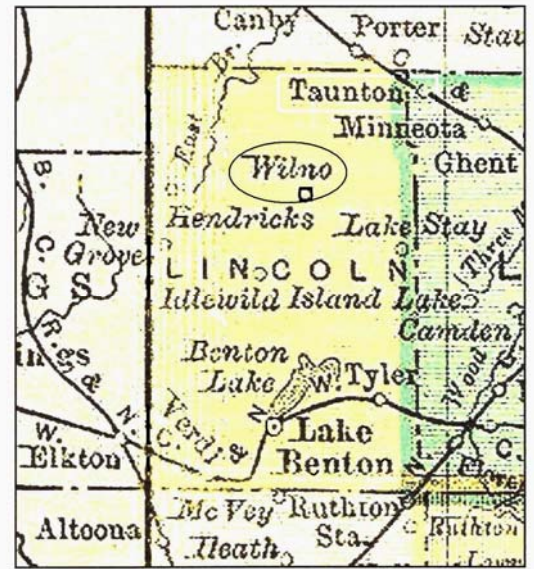
Wilno Article ...continued on page 16

St. John's Cantius Church Buildings



On left is first church and rectory (later school and boarding house); then second church (later parish hall); third building was rectory, school, convent, boarding house and later CCD center; and then brick church built in 1901.

Photograph courtesy of Josi Meyer



**1895 Map of Lincoln County and
Adjacent Areas**

Source: www.MemorialLibrary.com –
used with permission

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society
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<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>>

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The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is included with membership. Dues are \$20 per year 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, etc. should be sent to: John Kowles, editor, *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 3429 - 45th Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55406-2924, or e-mail: <johnkow@att.net>.

Address/e-mail changes or membership questions?

Contact: Dori Marszalek, Membership Chair
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President's Letter

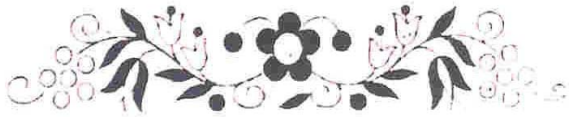
Can you believe that all the hoopla regarding the new Millennium, Y2K, etc. happened a decade ago! Where does time go? If you are like me, I can assure you that my genealogical goals of getting that book published for the family, finding that one lost branch, and contacting that cousin of a cousin doesn't always happen as quickly as one plans. But, we genealogists have a tortoise, rather than a hare, mentality and so we plod on. I mention this because I know that our genealogy research heats up as the winter cold sets in. We have some news to share to help you plan your winter's work.

We would love to see any of you that live in the metro area at the Annual Meeting this month. It is great fun. The food is excellent, and I put it on the top of the list as "Best Genealogy Value" of the year. The Society's Board has also planned out the rest of the 2010 meetings for the spring. They include great opportunities—and even an out-of-town guest speaker. We are trying to organize the meeting with multiple topics and presenters to build on our base attendance. In addition to this fine newsletter, the meetings are our second great asset. Please check for exact meeting dates and topics elsewhere in this issue.

Our third great asset, the library collection, is growing by gifts and purchases all the time. If you haven't visited the MGS Library in South St. Paul lately, then plan a trip this winter. Check their web site for current hours. Volunteer staffing issues have forced them to reconsider the evening hours now offered. A change in time and/or days of operation may be coming soon. So, check before coming out. We are also making a new effort to update our web site with new links to great sites of interest to you. Our site is hosted free of charge, so it doesn't have the glitz of Amazon or Google—but it delivers what we need.

Good luck to you all in your winter research. Don't forget the many ways the Society can help you through it.

Sincerely,
Jerome Biedny



The Bulletin Board

PGS-MN’s Annual Award

Lisa Trembley received this year’s PGS-MN service award at the MGS Annual Awards Ceremony on September 19. Lisa served on the PGS-MN Board of Directors from 2001-2007. In 2001 she became Membership Chairperson and was responsible for membership updating, member communications and mailing labels – all critical functions to the organization. In her role she was noted for her organization skills, dedication to accuracy. She completely reorganized the membership data. Congratulations, Lisa.



Lisa shown here at Awards Dinner with husband Gregg

PGS-MN Meeting at Southwest Minnesota State University – Oct. 3

PGS-MN held its first meeting of the 2009-10 season at SMSU in Marshall. The meeting was jointly-sponsored by the SMSU History Center, Prairieland Genealogical Society, Society for the Study of Local and Regional History and PGS-MN. (Kay Freund was PGS-MN’s organizer for the event.) There were 43 in attendance to hear sessions by Stephen Barthel, “The Gazetteer and Map Goldmine: Finding Localities in Germany/Poland” and “Breaking the Sound Barrier: Working with Phonetics.” Jan Louwagie was the local on-site organizer. She presented the local resources available in the local library. These

included many lesser-known records from early churches, townships, tax, law enforcement, prison and many other types from the area. The library has scanned 152,000 obituaries. Greg Kishel gave a preview of research he is doing for the feature article included in this issue. PGS-MN members also provided hand-out aids and fielded questions. Some attendees toured St. John Cantius Catholic Church in Wilno. Stephen’s and some of the other handouts are reprinted in this newsletter starting on page 10. A complete copy can be found in the library, or request one from us.



Jan Louwagie talks about the many resources available at Southwest Minnesota History Center.



Greg Kishel piques everyone’s curiosity with a preview of his Polish translations from letters from the early Wilno settlers.

Immigration History Research Center Meeting – November 7 Haven Hawley, IHRC Director of Programs provided a talk to 30 attendees on the records available at the center which is located in the Wilson Library on the West Bank campus of the University of Minnesota. The Polish collection is fairly extensive. An interesting segment was on copyright and fair-use issues. Members are encouraged to check the catalog online at <www.ihrc.umn.edu>.

PGS-MN Future Meetings

Annual Meeting – 11 a.m. Sat., January 16, 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** - Treasurer and secretary 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 MN 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).
- **Members** are encouraged to bring up any other business for discussion. *The theme of the meeting will be “open mic,” where members are encouraged to speak on any related subject.*

Please **RSVP** by January 10 to Terry Kita at above contact information for the buffet.

Saturday, February 27, 10 a.m. at MGS Library fourth floor board room. Several members will speak on their path to ancestral research with a Question and Answer session to follow.

Saturday, April 10, 9:30 a.m. at MGS Auditorium

Professor Michael Mikos from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will be here for a presentation. The topic will be “Visiting Poland: The Glory of the Past and the Promise of the Future.” His well-illustrated presentation will focus on the crucial events in Poland’s history and its religious and cultural heritage from 966 to the present. Professor Mikos is a native of Poland and made a presentation at the Polish Genealogical Society of America in Chicago last September.

United Polish Genealogical Societies Conference – April 28 to May 1, 2010

UPGS will be holding its conference in Salt Lake City. PGS-Michigan has planned this event in conjunction with the National Genealogical Society assuring there will considerable emphasis on the Polish connection. All lectures will be at the Salt Palace Convention Center – a short distance from the Family History Library. The NGS sessions will feature big-name speakers and a chance to meet veteran genealogists. Rooms have been arranged with four hotels. The four-day conference cost is \$175. For more information check:
<www.ngsgenealogical.org/cs/conference/info>.

Events of Interest Around the Twin Cities

Bal Karnawalowy – February 13

See invitation and details on next page.

Sauerkraut Supper – February 17

The pre-lenten meal will be served in the auditorium of John Paul II school at Holy Cross Church, 17th Avenue N.E. and 4th St. N.E., Minneapolis. For information call 612-789-7238.

Polish Music Celebration – February 28

PACIM is offering a Chopin – Paderewski birthday celebration 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, 1621 University Ave. N.E., Minneapolis. The music will be provided by talented piano students. Admission is \$5 at the door.

Membership Notes

At year-end we will mail out over 325 newsletters which is an increase over the last six months. This increase bucks the trend of many of the other branches of our MGS parent organization. Special thanks to Terri Di Carlo and Dori Marszalek who were instrumental at the Polish Festival and Soup Supper in promoting and recruiting. Thanks to all for your continued support and note your membership might need renewal if your name is highlighted in yellow on the address label. A three-year membership offers a great savings. The upcoming Annual Meeting January 16 is good time to express your opinions and ideas in person but you can always send an e-mail to any of the Board members.

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota Presents
A Polish Formal Ball



Bal Karnawalowy!

Fine Food, Entertainment,
Dancing with The Retractions
Historic Saint Paul Hotel

350 Market Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Saturday, February 13, 2010, 6 PM

Fifty Five Dollars per Person

Celebrate with Your Friends

Reserve a Table of Eight for Four Hundred Dollars

Register Online at www.PACIM.org

Or Call PACIM at 612.378.9291 and Leave a Message For Phyllis

Special Overnight Group Room Rate Available

Call the Hotel at 651.292.9292

UWM ANNOUNCES SUMMER STUDY IN POLAND – Starting July 3

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee announces its 2010 annual Summer Study program in Poland at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.

The five-week Polish language course (July 3-August 9) includes 100 hours of instruction at beginning, intermediate or advanced levels, plus lectures on Polish culture and sightseeing. Cost estimate: \$2,850, including tuition, room and board, and 5 UWM credits, plus round-trip air transportation Chicago-Warsaw-Chicago. The program is open to students and the general public. Also being offered are two, three, and four-week courses as well as two, three, four, and five-week intensive and highly intensive courses of Polish language.

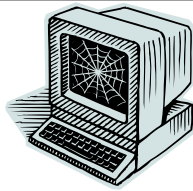
For information and application materials contact:

Professor Michael J. Mikos

Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201

(414) 229-4151 or 4948, fax (414) 229-2741, e-mail: mikos@uwm.edu, www.lrc.uwm.edu/tour/



http://

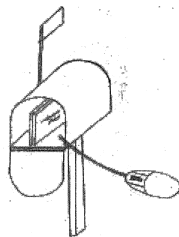
Polish American Congress <www.polorg.com>

This is a new web site, still under construction, whose aim will be to compile information from Polonia organizations. Currently the site consists largely of news.

Naturalization Indexes on Ancestry.com

Ancestry is proceeding to get all U.S. naturalization records on its web site. They have a number of states including New York, Pennsylvania and Minnesota. I checked the Minnesota index and it appears to be complete— at least with my ancestors. Go to ancestry.com, where available, or at the MGS library and click on immigration to get a drop-down with naturalization listings. Information is somewhat limited but it will tell you where the record can be found.

Correspondence ... *Komunikacja*



Memories

Your article “A Polish Community Goes to War” brought back lots of memories.

My father was career Navy. My father’s ship was sent to Shanghai, China and he sent for us. From birth to 1-1/2 years we had lived with my mother’s Polish parents. My grandmother did not want my mother to take that baby (me) to that heathen country! We went by train, then ship to Shanghai. We were there for 3 years, Manila for 6 months. On the way home we stopped in Hawaii – only hotel was the Royal Hawaiian! We went through the Panama Canal back to Connecticut. My father had seen California so we moved to Southern California where I grew up, married, etc.

I was in elementary school Dec. 7, 1941. My father’s ship was in Pearl Harbor near the Arizona.

We didn’t see him for 4+ years. Meanwhile, rationing--sugar, gas, stockings, etc. Thanks again.

Dolores Herrmann
Bellingham, Washington

Polish History

I thought you might like to look at the following link to the History Museum. Yes, there is a link to English so you can read about the history of Poland.

<<http://www.niepodleglosc.muzhp.pl>

Dorothy Pretare



New Library Book

Kujawsko-Pomorskie Województwo is in Polish and English and contains 100 pages of great pictures of the province.

MGS Election

PGS-MN member Lois Mackin was elected to the MGS Board and will serve as the chair of the Education Committee.

Newsletter Deliveries

Occasionally members report they have not received their newsletter. Generally we find this a problem with the Post Office or summer/winter addresses which have not been updated. If you do not receive your newsletter by the following dates please let us know and we will send a copy.

Spring - by April 15

Summer - by July 10

Fall - by October 10

Winter - by January 10

City Directories in Library

These are the most-used materials in the MGS library. The directories, comprising 150 feet of shelf space, are not only available for the metropolitan area but for many cities around the state. They can be a valuable resource for locating your ancestors but also for writing family histories. The St. Paul directories go back to 1876. The library now contains over 28,000 books and offers many of the duplicates for sale.

Missing Branches ...continued from page 32

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

Valarie C. Anderson, 402 Iona Lane, Roseville MN 55113 is researching the Joseph John SOIKA family. Joseph, 1872 (NY) – 1951 (MN). Parents: Johann (John) Joseph Soika, 1842 (Poland) – 1908 (MN) and Mariann (Mary) BUCHOLZ Soika, 1851 (Poland) – 1941 (MN). Grandparents: Anton Bucholz, 1807 (Poland) – 1899 (MN) and Marianna (Mary) Bucholz, 1848 (Poland) – 1903 (MN). Also, Pauline FABIANSKI, 1879 – 1958 (MN) family. Parents: Michael Lorenzo Fabianski, 1839 (Prussia) – 1937 (MN) and Josefina (Josephine) LANG/LANGE, 1850 (Poland) – 1903 (MN).

J. Bias, 14599 Europa Way, Apple Valley MN 55127 (Winter address [Dec 27 through Feb 20]: 208 West Kingfish St., #D202, South Padre Island TX 78597-7069) <biasj52@gmail.com> is researching BIAS, WANZEK, DULAS, KUROPKA, PIETROK, STENZEL in Silesia, near Sycow and in Minnesota.

Adam F. Geron, P.O. Box 302, West Point VA 23181 <geron93@msn.com> is researching BUCZEK in Mircze in Poland and in Corry PA and GIERON in Austria, Poland and in Little Falls MN (see query page 8). He writes concerning our newsletter: “Great reading – good information – Keep up the good work!”

William R. Graczyk, 2131 West Appleseed Rd., West Valley UT 84119 <wrgraczyk@netzero.net> is researching GRACZYK/GRACZ in Januszkowo/Jaroszewo, Zinn, Poland and in Silver Lake, McLeod, MN; NOWAK/NOVAK in Marcinkowo dolne, Gasawa and in Silver Lake and in Alberta Twp., Benton, MN; PIOTROWIAK, SWENDRA in ? in Poland and in Silver Lake; KIELAS/KILINSKI/KELASH in Jaroszewo/Sarbinowo, Zinn, Poland and in Silver Lake.

George Hamernick, 1323 Manomin Ave., West Saint Paul MN 55118-2040 <ghamernick@comcast.net> is researching

HAMERNICK/HAMERSKI/HAMMERNICK, TYBORCZYK in Kashubian Borzyzkowy and in Wisconsin – Stevens Point? Milwaukee? and in Winona MN; PROZINSKI/PRONDZINSKI in Poznań Brez and in Pike Creek MN, Morrison County; GRAMZA in ?. He writes: “Thank you for the work you do for this organization.”

Dennis D. Kulas, 720 N 4th St., Grand Forks ND 58206-3282 <dkulasd@yahoo.com> is researching KULAS in Bak, Poland and in Warsaw ND; DERDOWSKI in Bak/Wiele, Poland and in Warsaw ND; KRYZSKO in Posen, Poland and in Alpena MI to Greenbush MN to Drayton ND; MARCINIAK in Poland and in Alpena, Greenbush and Drayton.

Donald Kupillas, 70 Palm Dr., Lehighton PA 18235 <kupillas@hotmail.com> is researching KUPILLUS, FEJA in Wolczyn/Constadt in Poland; KUPILAS in Falkowice/Falkowitz; WASIELEWSKA in Golaszewo/Gross Golle and all in NYC.

Dean M. Oborski, 8191 - 255th Ave. N.W., Broton MN 56316 <oborsky@tds.net> is researching OBORSKI (OBORSKY) in Pommern and in Wisconsin; KINTOP in Minnesota.

Dona Paris, 420 Lake Aires Rd., Fairmont MN 56031 <jdparis@midco.net> is researching PIOTROWIAK/PIETROWIAK/PETROWIAK in Turostowo; MADEJ/MADAY in Turzyn; SZUKALSKI/SUKALSKI in Poland; LUBINSKI in Nassadel and Trebaczow; WIERZBICKI/VIERBICKI in Polchino and Jarusyn; FELCMAN/FELZMAN in Ujazd – all listed localities are in Poland. She is also researching in Chicago IL, and in Martin Co. and Roseau MN.

G. Grace Thomas, P.O. Box 358, Marysville WA 98270 <dupiedotyou@yahoo.com> is researching DABROSKI in the Plock area in Poland and in IL and MI; MACHOTA, LISIK in Galicia and in IL; LAMPARSKA in Torun? and in IL; PIECHOTA, CHODOR in Galicia and in IL and MI.

Vincent Zotkiewiicz, 3100 Timber Brook Dr., Plano TX 75074-8742 <vinzot@att.net> is researching ZOTKIEWICZ in Poland (Russian sector); ARASIM/ARASIMOWICZ, CZARNIECKI in Woznawies in Poland and in Virginia MN and Mt. Carmel PA.

75 Years Ago in Poland (1935)

A new constitution was passed by the *Sejm* on April 23, 1935. It created a presidential system of government, strengthened the president's authority while limiting the powers of the *Sejm* and *Senat*. It has some similarities to the U.S. model. It allowed the president to choose a successor in case of war which was the legal basis for the Polish Government in Exile during World War II. It is believed to be heavily-influenced by Józef Piłsudski who died just afterward on May 12. The constitution was officially abolished in 1944 by the Soviet-backed communist authorities.

Piłsudski was imprisoned by the Germans near the end of WWI because he would only support Poles fighting against Russia. He later returned to Poland to lead a successful war (without support from Western Europe) against the Bolsheviks in 1919-21. He returned to leadership in 1926 in a coup d'état in response to the ineffectiveness of the Government. Piłsudski's leadership was often authoritarian and controversial. Today he is given a hero's status in Poland.

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> or with new or renewal membership forms.

Adam F. Geron, P.O. Box 302, West Point VA 23181 <geron93@msn.com> writes: "Looking for any information on my grandfather – Michael J. GIERON (GERON), born Sept. 7, 1867 in Austria (Poland). Came to U.S. in 1891 – 24 yrs old. Warranty Deed to 80-acre farm in Little Falls, MN – Morrison County, Culdrum Township. Application for marriage – April 28, 1898 to Hattie Mary ADAMSKI (ADAMCZYK). They had 5 children – the first died at birth, then the following:

Adam (my dad), Amelia, Florence and Mary. They were baptized at Sacred Heart Church in Flensburg, MN."

I assume you are looking for where Michael was born in the Austrian Partition or Galicia. In the U.S. sometimes the priest will record where the marriage participants were baptized. This would be one thing to check. In this time frame I am not sure what other U.S. records might yield the birthplace. Gieron in Poland was no doubt of Germanic origin and spelled Gieroń coming from Gerhard. There are still about 1000 people in Poland today using the name and most of them live in the south which agrees with your information. If you go to <<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa>> and put in Gieroń (you must have the diacritical accent on the n – use a character map); you will find the powiats (counties) where they live today. From what I saw they are in the larger cities such as Tarnow and Rzeszów which might not help. This is still somewhat a "needle in a haystack." A mail list query on internet might also yield some information which could link up the surname with one of these places. See article "Sharing Information Electronically" in the Summer 2009 newsletter, page 30.

–JWK

George Koleas, W156 N10640 Cobbler Lane, Germantown WI 53022

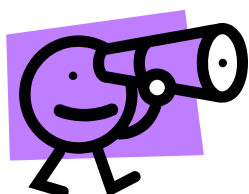
<GeorgeJK676@wi.rr.com> writes: "I am seeking information on Jacob MANKIEWICZ, born 1 June 1827 in Lubnia, Brusy, Chojnice. He married Mary BARDON, daughter of Andrew Bardon in Brusy, Chojnice on 9 January 1860. They left the Port of Hamburg on 2 May 1868 aboard the *S.S. Atlas* bound for Quebec and arrived at the Port of Milwaukee in June, 1868. The Quebec passenger list records their name as MANCZEWITZ. There are no Port of Milwaukee records. Jacob's sons were Vina, John, Jacob, Joseph and Valentine. Jacob and his son, also named Jacob, changed their names to MANSAVAGE or MANSAVITZ. The family lived in Stockton, Polonia, Fancher, Plover, and Stevens Point, all in Portage County, Wisconsin.

Jacob Mankiewicz's father, Andreas Mankiewicz, was born about 1793. He married Susanna KUKLINSKI, born about 1796 in Lubnia, Brusy, Chojnice. Mary Bardon's father was Paul Bardon. He married Rosaliam KIEDROWICZ on 28 January 1838 in Lubnia,

Brusy, Chojnice. Rosaliam was the daughter of Joannis Kiedrowicz and Josephine KREYSKIE. I would like to extend the MANKIEWICZ, BARDON and related KIEDROWICZ and KREYSKIE lines farther back in Poland.”

Have you searched the LDS Brusy records? Amazingly the Brusy records go back to 1643. If the records you are looking for are not there, a second choice would be to search the surrounding area in villages such as Lesno and Wiele which also have records extending into the 1700s. A way you might be able to cut through a lot of searching is by going to <<http://www.ptg.gda.pl>> from a Pomeranian Genealogy Group which has indexed 1.2 million baptisms, marriages and deaths from Pomerania. To get access to the records I believe you have to be registered but I am not sure about memberships fees, if required. At this date I have not had a chance to fully check out the web site.

–JWK



Scanning Polish Publications

PACIM PolAm

Vol. 31, No. 10, October 2009

“Twelve Significant Moments in Polish History (966-1989)”

By John Radziłowski

PGS of Texas Polish Footprints

Vol. XXVI, No. 2, Summer 2009

“Newspaper Research”

By Lynna Kay Shuffield

Germanic Genealogy Journal

Vol. 12, No. 3, Fall 2009

Contains several articles on Germanic genealogy research

Family Tree Magazine

Vol. 10, Issue 6, November 2009

“Express Shipping”

Quick guide to online Immigration Sources

By Rick Crume

Vol. 10, Issue 7, December 2009

“DNA Fact or Science Fiction”

By Lauren Gamber

The article discusses DNA misconceptions. There is also a glossary of terms, list of testing companies and online databases. (SMGF, where a number of our members sent their DNA sample, say they now have 31,000 Y-DNA and 63,000 mtDNA listings.)

“Deutsch Lands”

Tracing your ancestry in Prussia, Bavaria and Germany’s Historical Regions.

By James M. Beidler

Includes a large part of Poland in the 1880s

PGS of Greater Cleveland Our Polish Ancestors

Vol. 18, No. 3 July/September 2009

“Is Circumstantial Evidence Enough in Genealogical Research?”

By Trina Galauner

Die Pommerschen (The Pomeranian People)

Volume 32, Issue 3, Fall 2009

“A Day in Castle Garden” (final installment of excerpts of book by Louis Bagger)

KANA Przëjòcél Lëdu Kaszëbsczégò (Friend of the Kashubian People)

Vol. XIII, No. 3, Fall 2009

“The Kaszubs” By Czesław Rokicki

Translated by Renata Stachowicz and Blanche Krbechek

An interesting article published in a Warsaw weekly in 1924 which reflects the thinking at the time

“Westerplatte First of September 1939 – First of September 2009”

By Blanche Krbechek

PGSA Rodziny

Vol. XXXII, No. 4, Fall 2009

“Should You Have Your Genealogical DNA Tested?”

By David Greenlee

This is an in-depth article which assesses the usefulness of DNA for various tasks. Mr. Greenlee emphasizes that DNA testing deals with likelihoods and probabilities, not absolutes.

“Gostynin” Translation from *Słownik Geograficzny*
By William F. Hoffman

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

Handouts from October 3 Conference at SMSU

Gazetteer Goldmine: Finding Records in Poland

Stephen Samuel Barthel, Genealogist <ssbarthel@q.com>

Check <<http://www.familysearch.org>> to see if records are available for your village. Since Poland has had many border changes, you may need to use German, Austrian, as well as Polish gazetteers, along with maps, to be successful in finding a records locality. Gazetteers are books listing villages and information on the villages. Some gazetteers will tell you where a church was located. Gazetteers are necessary, because the Family History Library in Salt Lake City catalogs the records under the name of the locality that originally kept the records.

Use detailed maps with your research, as a town name may have been written phonetically in a church record. Online maps are helpful, but do not list places that are found in old detailed military maps. Town names may have changed, so you may need to check maps from different time periods and name-change gazetteers listed further in this writing.

The following maps and gazetteers may be helpful to you:

Maps

An excellent set of military maps of the former German Empire, which includes the western and northern part of Poland (in German) is found on LDS microfilm 0068814. Another map that covers Middle Europe (most of Poland) with German locality spellings is available on web site

<<http://www.pgsa.org/geomaps.php>>. Select the military maps that mention Galicia. The specific web address is <<http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm>>. Another helpful site that converts German locality names to Polish locality spellings is <<http://www.kartenmeister.com>>. There are mistakes and it is not complete, but it is quite helpful. By using <<http://www.familysearch.org>>, you can type in the German spelling of the parish locality and find it is already converted to the Polish spelling. Records were cataloged under other jurisdictions. Perhaps the best site for Poland maps is <<http://www.zumi.pl>>. It is similar to other online maps, but if you place the word *Parafia* in the first field, and the town in the second field (whether it has a church or not), it will show the surrounding parish localities and their addresses.

Meyers Orts-und Verkehrs- Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs (commonly known as Meyers gazetteer) is the standard gazetteer used by the Family History Library for cataloging records of the former German Empire. It is available on LDS Microfiche 6000001-6000029 at family history centers. It is also found on <<http://www.Ancestry.com>>. The web site gives instructions on using Meyers gazetteer. Click on **Research Helps**, then **Articles**, then **Sorted by Place**. Then click on the letter **G** for Germany. Scroll down the page and find **Germany**. Then look for **How to Use the Meyers Gazetteer**. You may print the instructions, if you desire. If your ancestors were from the German part of what now belongs to Poland, and if Meyers gazetteer does not indicate a church for your village, note the Kreis (district) and Province and check a more specific gazetteer for the appropriate province of Prussia:

Brandenburg	LDS Microfilm 0806635, item 1
Pommern (Pomerania)	LDS Microfilm 0806634
Posen	LDS Microfilm 806634, item 5
Schlesien (Silesia)	LDS Microfilm 1183537, item 5
Sachsen (Saxony in Prussia)	LDS Microfilm 806634, item 3
*Ostpreussen (East Prussia)	LDS Microfilm 1187921, item 2
*Westpreussen (West Prussia)	LDS Microfilm 1187921, item 3

The format for the Prussian gazetteers is the same for each province. Example: The village of Brinnitz was in Schlesien (Silesia) and is listed in the index under “Brinnitz 51.14.” The “51.” is not a page number, but the 51st county listed alphabetically in the Schlesien gazetteer. The “14” is the town listed in alphabetical order under the 51st county. Check the columns for church and civil records localities.

If the index shows the village of Grobek as 51.14, but Grobek is not shown in the side column, it is located at the bottom of the page. Grobek belongs politically to Brinnitz. Check the Family History Library Catalog for listings of Brinnitz, as the listings of Grobek are contained in the Brinnitz records.

*The former provinces of East and West Prussia gazetteers, showing church and civil jurisdictions, have been indexed and are available online. Free access is available through:

<<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/prussia/index.html>>.

Spis miejscowości Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej is the standard gazetteer used by catalogers at the Family History Library. This gazetteer is available at family history centers under microfiche 6000369-6000383. It does not give parish jurisdictions. You may want to use *Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich*, which is on microfilm and microfiche through family history centers and the Polish Genealogical Society of America. You may want to check out the <<http://www.pgsa>> web site for purchasing a CD, or check the <<http://www.familysearch.org>> web site under Poland-Gazetteers for film and fiche numbers (too numerous to list). For the area of Poland between WWI and WWII, based on the 1921 census, use *Skorowidz miejscowości rzeczypospolitej polskiej*, which is on LDS microfilms 2037057 and 2037058. For the former Austrian area of Galicia, check <<http://www.familysearch.org>> for the *Gemeindelexikon der im Reichsrat vertretenen Königreiche und Länder : bearbeitet auf Grund der Ergebnisse der Volkszählung vom 31. Dezember 1900*, and specifically look for the digitized volume for Galizien (Galicia).

Due to wars and border changes, a good locality name-change gazetteer for between WWI and WWII is *Deutsch-fremdsprachiges (fremdsprachig-deutsches) Ortsnamenverzeichnis*. This is on LDS microfilm 0590387. It is for areas lost from Germany to Poland after WWI, such as Posen, and north. For Schlesien (Silesia), which Germany lost to Poland after WWI, use *Amtliches Gemeinde- und Ortsnamenverzeichnis der deutschen Ostgebiete unter fremder Verwaltung*. It is on LDS microfiche 6053256. This type of gazetteer shows that Falkowitz, Kreis Oppeln, Silesia became “Germanized” to Falkendorf during the Hitler era. It also shows that the locality name was changed to Falkowice, Opole, Poland after WWII.

There are other maps and gazetteers that are favorites among researchers, some available on paper, microfiche, microfilm, and online. Not all can be listed in a handout. Check with your genealogical society for help and advice.

Google Users Tips - The *MGS Families* Newsletter pointed out some helpful, time-saving tips when browsing on Google. Below is a summary of what I found as useful. I tried the examples with the results shown.

- Use a + sign before words which are critical to your research e.g. **Kowalewski + John** instead of just Kowalewski (75% reduction in hits but you get about the same number with Kowalewski, John).
- Use a – sign before word you want excluded. This will reduce the number of hits you get with an associated word e.g. in searching the surname Michiewicz use **Michiewicz – Adam** (50% reduction).
- Use quotes around a phrase you want to appear together exactly as you have entered it – also reduces the number of hits e.g. **“Polish corridor”** not polish, corridor (50% reduction).
- Don’t use small, common (and, where, the, etc.) words in your search to avoid results that are not meaningful. However, if very pertinent to your research include them in a phrase with quotes.
- If you don’t know the correct spelling Google asks you what you mean and suggests an alternate.

Basic Genealogical Websites

FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDS)

Family History Library (Home Site)	http://www.familysearch.org
Family History Center near you	http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp
Library Catalog (Microfilmed Records)	http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp
Pilot Site (Digitized Records)	http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start
Genealogical Word Lists	http://www.familysearch.org

Click Research Helps, Articles, Sorted by Title. Click L for a Latin Word List; G for German, and so forth

ILLINOIS

Statewide Vital Records Indexes	http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases.html
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MINNESOTA

Minnesota Historical Society Birth Index – about 1900-1934	http://people.mnhs.org/bci
Marriage Index – (not yet complete)	http://www.mncounty.com
Minnesota Historical Society -- Death Index – about 1904-2001	http://people.mnhs.org/dci
Minnesota Historical Society – State Census	http://people.mnhs.org/census/

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Historical Society	http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Phone Directories	http://www.whitepages.com and switchboard.com
Peoplefinders – Names, ages, localities, and related people	http://www.peoplefinders.com
ZabaSearch – Names, addresses, possibly mo/yr of birth	http://www.zabasearch.com
Obituaries	http://www.legacy.com/Obituaries.asp
Social Security Death Index – Interactive Search	http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com
Passenger arrival lists for New York	http://www.castlegarden.org or ellislandrecords.org
Surname Distribution Map	http://www.gens-us.net/map
US Gen Web Project	http://www.usgenweb.org
Links to other genealogical websites	http://ii.org/pub/subtopic/2033

DENMARK

Parish Registers and Censuses on the Internet	http://www.arkivalieronline.dk/English/
Dansk Demografisk Database	http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm

GERMANY (See also Poland)

Eifel Region – Search by surname or town	http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~eifel/pick/pickindex.html
Online Gazetteers to find parish/civil records localities	http://www.progenealogists.com/germany
Surname Distribution Map (Includes link to Austria)	http://christoph.stoepel.net/geogen/en
Gazetteers – Online to determine location of church records	http://www.progenealogists.com/germany

LUXEMBOURG

French Republican Calendar	http://www.an.etat.lu/registres-paroissiaux/calendrier-republicain.htm
Luxembourg Ten-Year Tables Civil Registration – 1853-1863	http://www.stthomas.edu/libraries/special/lux/LuxDec/search.cfm

NORWAY

Digital Archive	http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/cgi-win/WebFront.exe?slag=vis&tekst=meldingar&spraak=e
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POLAND (See also Germany)

Translations – English-Polish or Polish-English	http://www.poltran.com/
Kartenmeister – German-Polish or Polish-German localities	http://www.kartenmeister.com
Gazetteers – East and West Prussia (now in Poland)	http://www.progenealogists.com/germany
Maps – Enter “Parafie” above town field to show parishes	http://www.zumi.pl/
Maps – Middle Europe – Grid and detailed German WWI Maps	http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm
Posen/Poznan – Database	http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/search.php/
Pomerania (Includes parts of West Prussia – Database)	http://www.ptg.gda.pl/index.php/
Roman Catholic Dioceses	http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgv/dioceses.html

SWITZERLAND

Swiss Roots	http://history.swissroots.org/swissroots/en/stories/heritage/Genealogy.html
	http://www.genuki.org.uk/

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

INTERNATIONAL

Phone Directories	http://www.infobel.com/teldir
Maps – Great Britain and Continental Europe	http://www.multimap.com
Translation Guides for many languages	http://www.freetrans.com/
World GenWeb Project	http://www.worldgenweb.org/europe.html

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Basic Polish Genealogy Research Resources – 10/3/09

John Kowles <johnkow@att.net>

I. MINNESOTA SOURCES**A. Minnesota History Center (MHC) – St. Paul <<http://people.mnhs.org>>**

1. Birth Records (currently 1900-34) – Index online/can be ordered or viewed/copied at MHC, 2700 pre-1900 available on cards.
2. Death Records (currently 1908-2001) – Index online/1900-03 available on cards but must search by county, mother's maiden name listed 1904-07 and 1955-2001
3. Naturalization – At MHC/must search by county
4. Minnesota Censuses (1849-1905) – Index online/to 1930 but not indexed
(MHC will take orders for many records for a fee.)
5. Virtually all Minnesota newspapers, court records, etc. are available on microfilm.
6. Divorce Records – must go to county or <www.ancestry.com> (subscription required)

**B. Immigration History Research Center – University of Minnesota West Bank, Minneapolis-
<<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu>> Large Polish collection of national newspapers, church records
(including Wilno), personal collections, etc.****II. EMIGRATION RECORDS****A. Hamburg (5 million emigrants from 1850-1934)**

1. Ancestry.com has complete list (digitized index 1890-1912)
2. Family History Center (FHC) has Klüber List (1850-71) and complete emigration microfilms and Hamburg Police records on microfilm

B. Bremen (7 million emigrants) 1875 to 1908 records were largely destroyed.

1. 3000 records (1920-39) at <www.passengerlists.de>
2. Concordia University Library – St. Paul has books covering 1847-1871.

III. IMMIGRATION RECORDS

For A. and B. go to STEVE MORSE ONE-STEP WEB PAGE <<http://stevemorse.org>>. Web site also has many links and aids. These are free but some require ancestry.com subscription – denoted with \$.

A. Ellis Island Index (1892-1924 except 1897-1900), also at <www.ellislandrecords.org>**B. Castle Garden (1855-91) – 10+ million in database, also at <<http://www.castlegarden.org>>****C. Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston ports of entry – Try STEVE MORSE or ancestry.com.****D. Canada <<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>>****E. *Germans to America* (66 volumes covering 1850-97) – Polish in Prussia may be covered and *Russians to America* (1834-97) – Polish in Russian Partition may be covered.****IV. GOVERNMENT SOURCES**

- A. WWI Draft Registration (1917-19) – 23% of population, check FHC, historical societies or NARA #M1509 tells how to obtain.
- B. WWII Alien Registration (1940) – Request form G-639 from NARA.
- C. Passports (1797-1925, except during Civil War) – Available on Ancestry.com or NARA (fee).
- D. Social Security Index – Many URLs have links like <ssdi.roots.ancestry.com>

V. POPULAR U.S. INTERNET SOURCES

- A. Family History Center (FHC): <www.familysearch.org> 2.5 million microfilms
- B. Polish Genealogical Society of America: <<http://www.pgsa.org>> good general information and links
- C. Cyndi's List: <<http://cyndislist.com>> 264,000 links, click to Poland (367 links)
- D. World Genealogy Web: <<http://www.rootsweb.com>> many links
- E. Polish Roots: <<http://polishroots.com>> promotes Polonia
- F. Ancestry.com – need subscription but you can get a free trial <www.ancestry.com> or available free at MGS library and many local libraries

VI. POPULAR POLISH INTERNET SOURCES

- A. Surname Locator (39 million names) – Current surname locations to *powiat* (county level), must use Polish diacritical letters <<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa>> Click on *szukaj* (look for)
- B. Polish State Archives <<http://www.archiva.gov.pl>> Click to *Pradziad* (great-grandfather) to tell you what records are held by the Polish State Archives.
- C. Polish Gazetteers - *Słownik Geograficzny* – Place descriptions – 1880-1902 time frame (in Polish but Translation guides available)
 - *Skorowidz Miejscowosci* – Index of Place Names – 1934 time frame
 An easy way to get to these sites is go to <<http://www.halgal.com>> and click on Gazetteers and follow instructions – need free DjVu software download
- D. Poznan Marriage Project – Indexes 419,000 Catholic and Lutheran marriages of Posen province and Eastern Greater Poland covering the years 1820 to 1889. Currently about 50% complete overall but 67% for Roman Catholic churches <bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/search.php>
- E. *Powiat* (county locator): <<http://maxpages.com/Poland>>
- F. Catholic church address locator: <<http://www.katolik.pl>> Click on *parafie* or *katalog parafii* – must use Polish diacritical letters.
- G. Detail road maps: <<http://www.mapa.szukacz.pl>> similar to mapquest
- H. Polish Search Engines – like Google but might have new sites in Poland (generally in Polish) <<http://onet.pl>> or <<http://www.wp.pl>>
- I. Cross reference between German and Polish place names: <www.kartenmeister.com>

VII. Church Records

- A. St. John Cantius, Wilno (1883-1974) – at IHRC
- B. St. Peter and Paul, Ivanhoe – at FHC
- C. New Ulm Diocese – at FHC
- D. St. Paul Archdiocese – 12 Polish churches in Twin City Area (prior to 1935) – Index online at <<http://www.pgsa.org>> Go to databases. Actual microfilm records are at MGS Library, So. St. Paul.

VIII. Other

- A. Don't forget to interview your relatives first.
- B. Newspaper obituaries and marriage articles
- C. Online postings or mail lists
- D. Genealogist help in Poland – a last resort?
- E. Books – Most popular for research guidance.
 - 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
 - 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, *Going Home: 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 also available for sale at the library.

Tips on Researching Polish Documents

Diacriticals

Nine Polish letters have diacritical marks. You will need to use them on Polish web sites: **ą ć ę ł ń ó ś ź ż**. Remember there is no **q v x** in Polish. V is replaced by W. Microsoft WORD will have a character map to allow you to insert them. Don't use in e-mail because it will substitute a surrogate symbol in its place and look like gibberish. Some examples of surnames going from Polish to English:

Dąbek → Dombek
 Sowul → Sovell
 Beliński → Belinski
 Masłowski → Maslowski

Suffixes

Polish endings change depending on case, gender and whether singular or plural. If the name is **John Nowak** in America, how many ways can this and his wife **Ann** names be written in Polish documents - probably 30 or more. However note in the example below **Jan** and **Nowak** show up in all of the cases. A good source to look up variations is Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*.

Subject (John)	Jan Nowak
Possessive (of John or John's)	Jana Nowaka
Dative (indirect object - to John)	Janowi Nowakowi
Accusative (John as direct object)	Jana Nowaka
Instrumental (by/with John)	Janem Nowakiem
Prepositional (about John)	Janie Nowaku

Also note feminine takes a different form: Ann, as a subject, would be Anna Nowakowa. For most names ending in "ski" the feminine name ends in "ska" i.e. John Kowalewski but Mary Kowalewska but together they are *Państwo* (Mr. and Mrs.) Kowalewscy but they are members of the Kowalewskiego (adjectival) *Rodzice* (family).

Research Words (Most commonly encountered)

Records in Prussia or Silesia will usually be tabulated in German or Latin.

Records in Russian Partition will usually be in a standard paragraph format in Polish or Russian.

English	Polish	German	Latin	Russian
Baptism	<i>Chrest</i>	<i>Taufe, Taufen, Unterschiedlich</i>	<i>Baptize (to baptize)</i>	<i>КРЕЩЕНИЕ</i>
Born/birth	<i>Urodzić się</i>	<i>Gerbuten, Geburtsregister, Kinder</i>	<i>Natus, nata (nat.)</i>	<i>РОЖДЕННЫЙ/ РОЖДЕНИЕ</i>
Marriage or Wedding	<i>Małżeństwo Ślub</i>	<i>Heiratin, Trauungen, Unehelich</i>	<i>Copulatio</i>	<i>БРАЧНЫЙ БРАК</i>
Death	<i>Umarł</i>	<i>Tote, Vor</i>	<i>Mor, mortis</i>	<i>БЕЗ ПЕРЕВОДА (died) СМЕРТНЫЙ (death)</i>

Wilno Article ...continued from page 1

* * * * *

From Wiarus, April 15, 1886:

WILNO, April 6, 1886

Esteemed Editor of Wiarus

I request the kind placement of this correspondence in the pages of your newspaper:

Esteemed Countrymen!

We have already announced to our brother Poles several times, that in Wilno we have a church and a resident pastor in the person of the Rev. Fr. JAŹDŹEWSKI. Thus once again we hasten to share our joy, that through the effort of that pastor Fr. J. Romuald BYZEWSKI came to Wilno from Winona, Minnesota, and over three days—that is, on March 28, 29, and 30 of the current year—a mission took place in the local church, with solemn services, the word of God was delivered from the pulpit zealously and tirelessly, and many parishioners participated in the sacrament of confession, such that over the three days the church was filled with faithful listeners. The parishioners pay thanks publicly to the Rev. preachers for the labor undertaken for them. Above that, thanks to our local pastor Fr. JAŹDŹEWSKI; though he has ministered among us barely one year, he works ceaselessly in the Lord's Vineyard, and under his guidance much has been achieved already.

With full respects
Your Countryman
Marcin A. MAZANY

* * * * *

*From Wiarus, May 6, 1886:***A SCANDALOUS AFFAIR IN THE AMERICAN WILNO.**

WILNO, LINCOLN CO., MINN., April 23, 1886

ESTEEMED SIR EDITOR!

We ask you, Esteemed sir, to insert the following correspondence in the pages of your publication:

Citizen Marcin A. MAZANY has resided in Wilno since May 1, 1885, carrying on a retail trade. Over the short time of his residence—through his polite and honest behavior—he has won for himself universal esteem and trust here—so much so, that through the holding of a general meeting in Wilno on March 19 of this year, the whole Polish colony, along with all of the neighboring citizens of other

nationalities, fully memorialized in writing their desire that citizen M. A. MAZANY receive the office of postmaster in Wilno, which the Postmaster-General in Washington D.C. offered to him several weeks later.

Hence citizen MAZANY accepted this office, after which his nomination for postmaster in Wilno came from Washington, and today Mr. MAZANY received the said office from his predecessor Franciszek KLUPP.

It behooves us to take note with genuine pleasure that the postal office is currently entrusted to a deserving citizen, which all had wished already without exception.

So when citizen M. A. MAZANY possessed the qualifications required for that occupation, we are consequently certain that he will work by administering for the public good.

So then it was a welcome time, that Fr. KLUPP bolted from Wilno on April 23 of the current year. Against that wretched, limping creature, handicapped by nature, we must raise this warning for the information of our Esteemed Countrymen, that Franciszek KLUPP is capable of anything in the world. Moreover, he was a disrupter of the parishioners against every single pastor here, and even against the revered current pastor Fr. JAŹDŹEWSKI as well, using the very most immoral utterances in the English language for that, because he had learned to babble in English a little bit.

So be on guard, Esteemed Countrymen, of this man who is corrupt and dangerous in every respect!

We have had sufficient evidence that mistrust of the jurisdiction of the local courts was the reason that this scoundrel Fr. KLUPP escaped various minor offenses, fraudulent and crass, with impunity even though he violated God's seven injunctions frequently. We would advise him then, that if he supposes to settle in Chicago, that instead he should pick a place in the state of Ohio, where justice certainly would catch hold of him.

Józef SOKOŁOWSKI,
Andrzej JEŹAK,
S. DOMBROWSKI,
M. JANKOWSKI,
Fr. JANISZEWSKI,
S. GRZYBOWSKI,
M. FELCYN,

and, later in that same issue, at the end of an unattributed article:

Whirling winds, a terror of farmers and townspeople

[After discussing recent damage from tornadoes in the St. Cloud area, the author concludes with:]

Our Winona, thank God, is safe from whirling winds, because it is protected by the heights of land rising and running parallel to both sides of the Mississippi River valley; on the other hand, the regions of Minnesota on which trees do not grow at all, namely the *prairie*, like for example the Polish settlement Wilno, are exposed to devastation. Smaller gales occur there practically the whole year, knocking over small buildings. Citizen NAPIERAŁA from Grand Rapids, Mich., told me that not long ago, when he was together with his family in Wilno, wishing to buy a farm for himself there, the wind took hold of his child, a five-year-old girl, and lifted her several paces into the air. After that incident he lost his wish for a farm and returned to where he had come from with all haste.

The late KLUPP did not make his countrymen happy, by leading them out to a region where, as it appears, they most of all are afflicted with whirling winds.

From Wiarus, May 20, 1886:

A first defense of Wilno.

(An example of the unique farmer style.)

Wilno, May 10, 1886.

Dear Master Editor!

My ears buzzed dreadfully, as I read that article about whirling winds.

All the same, this wind is not sweeping away this man, who has a strong soul! This, rather, is how it is: The one who put this lie into a newspaper, had not said his prayers; thus the devil wanted to snatch him and his child, because the child did not know yet how to pray well. Thus the father should pray for her, or should feel ashamed, if she does not know how to pray.

I, Stefan DOMBROWSKI, settled in Wilno, Lincoln County, five years ago, and to my memory there has not been such a wind here like the one someone informed Master Editor about there. Why, this guy must not have a soul in himself! He certainly is soulless, like a little gall-less pigeon! Just as a gall-less pigeon easily flies across the

ocean, so also the wind blew this soulless man away from Wilno and drove him across the wide lake to Michigan.

If Master Editor does not wish to believe me, then ask our priest, because he is traveling there to Winona.

Simply stated: he did not want to work on a farm; and besides, he did not know anything about farmers' work. The benefactor thought to himself, that on a farm he would be stuffing his belly full, and then would stay in bed; and here he saw how the farmers spread manure on the fields! The stinking reek drifted to him, and he did not care for this!—Let him now gather *rags*, because that is light work!

Please, Mr. DERDOWSKI, make this letter of mine better in quality, because I am a peasant; I have hands tired from the flail, they are shaking and I am not able to write well. Thus it would be well, if Master Editor published this in *Wiarus*.

Stefan DOMBROWSKI.

From Wiarus, May 27, 1886:

A second defense of Wilno.

Wilno, Lincoln Co., Minn. May 20, 1886.

Esteemed Mr. Editor!

Having read the article “Whirling Winds” in your publication, I myself have put together the facts relative to the communication of Citizen N. from Grand Rapids, and to clear up matters concerning our colony, as conscience and duty demanded of me.

The author of the said article complained in it that the late KLUPP (as the agent of the North Western Railroad Company), introduced our countrymen to this region afflicted with the seething of gales and hurricanes, about which he should have told citizen N. from Grand Rapids; and, supposedly, the wind lifted a five-year-old child several feet through the air.

Citizen N. arrived here last year with the intention of purchasing land for himself; and indeed he bought 80 acres of government land from a certain widow of another nationality, and subsequently through his agent he sold it for twice as much.

No fields had been prepared for cultivation on that land; and consequently N. assented to accommodate his wife, and to return where he had come from; he

conceded the aptness of his wife's belief, that it was better for her to walk with her little basket to town and to buy provisions in a grocery store or at the marketplace—and at the same time to be able to meet with the gossips every day in town and to chat about the town gossip and scandals—than to impoverish themselves through heavy work in the fields.

As for the local women in Wilno who have already started running a farm operation, they certainly do not think at all about the cities; they are happy with raising the livestock, breeding the hogs and the different kinds of fowl, all of which give satisfying life to the whole family.

But what can one demand from a Polish farmer who arrived in Wilno barely 4, 3, or 2 years ago, bringing little capital? – And still it was possible for some people to put themselves almost on a par with the farmers of other nationalities who had settled on “homesteads” before then. The Poles and Czechs who settled here are establishing virtually faultless agricultural production, as well as livestock husbandry.

Several thousand people reside in Lincoln Co. and still not one has had an incident such as citizen N. described. The Minnesota wind, it appears, met up with a child of straw from the city—but it was not that way!—and it is denied here most strongly. N. is shaming his countrymen by attributing the reason to the wind, after he returned to Michigan. Since he returned to the city whole and well, may he now be careful, that his last drop of sweat is not sucked out by the gyrating leech called “a boss,” or that he is not snatched up by the twirling wheel of some machine.

And in his old age N. will come to the conviction, that it would have been better to have kept his own freedom, than to be eternally dependent on “the bosses” as a result of the whims of his wife.

With esteem
M. A. MAZANY.

From Wiarus, July 1, 1886:

A funeral.

Wilno, Lincoln Co., Minn., June 24, 1886.

Anna FELCYN, the wife of the local citizen Michał FELCYN, died on June 20 of this year, having been given the holy Sacraments after a long and serious infirmity.

On the 22nd of last month, the removal of the remains of the late Anna FELCYN from the house, and lastly to the cemetery, took place.

This sad funeral march lasted from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; around 30 wagons of the Polish families accompanied it, and besides them we saw many of other nationalities as well, our good and accommodating neighbors.

After a sung requiem Mass was celebrated in the church there was also a ceremony at the cemetery—our pastor, Rev. Fr. JAŹDŹEWSKI moved all present to true sorrow and tears through a moving speech at the grave. Through it he thanked the assembled parishioners and non-parishioners, who had left their work in the home and the fields to bring themselves there in such numbers in order to give the deceased Anna a last service.

M. A. MAZANY.

From Wiarus, April 7, 1887:

The elections in Wilno.

Wilno, Lincoln Co., Minn., March 20, 1887.

Esteemed Editor!

I request the kind placement of this letter in the pages of your weekly newspaper.

The following citizens were chosen to serve in the local offices:

1. For township secretary, a certain American who had already held that office for several years previous; [At first citizen Marcin MAZANY was elected as *town-clerk*, but he resigned from that position for the reason that he is the postmaster and carries on a retail business—hence, he thought that he would not be able to carry out the secretarial duties appropriately.]
2. For justice of the peace citizen Jan HOFFMAN was elected;
3. For treasurer of the city and constable, citizen Franciszek DOMEK;
4. For city counsellor citizen Marcin WRZYSZCZA [FRESKE].

These elections came out unanimously on a motion brought by the local Americans—to which they and we also agreed because through it the Poles would take part in the township government.

In closing, I report to interested persons, that 9 families came to Wilno for farms in the month of March.

Jan POLITOWSKI.

From Wiarus, May 19, 1887:

FROM WILNO.

[Lincoln Co., Minn.]

May 6.

This year's spring planting in the colony of Wilno turned out the best possible, even though it was in soils heavier than are known in many States in America; we had awaited the beautiful spring, and after the sowing there were warm rains, and because of that the wheat, barley, oats and other crops are coming up well, and we will have such harvests as will be the will of the Almighty Heavenly Creator.

And so, with the intention of thanking Almighty God for such blessings received, our beloved pastor, the Reverend Fr. JAŹDŹEWSKI announced to us a three-day mission service. On May 3, 4, and 5 of this year it was celebrated with every possible magnificence with the help of the Rev. Fathers D. MAJER from St. Paul and Fr. ZAWADZKI from Silver Lake, Minn. Every day the parishioners filled the church to the very brim. Practically all the parishioners took part in confession and communion.

During the services we heard about the inconceivable forbearance and the kindness of the most high Creator, about the evanescence of worldly things, likewise about the love of almighty God and our neighbor. The sermons of the preachers were proclaimed with such power, that many of those present were moved to tears.

To you, venerable Spiritual Shepherds, for you in token of your persistent toil for our spiritual well-being—*niech będzie Bóg zapłać!*

M. A. MAZANY.

From Wiarus, May 26, 1887:

The Polish kings in Wilno.

Wilno, May 18, 1887.

Esteemed Editor: I read in number 19 of *Wiarus* that you could send all of the Polish kings on one picture for one dollar.

Since I do not have a paper dollar at the present time, I consequently am sending postage stamps of the value of one dollar, for which I request you to forward the said beautiful Polish picture.

Even though I am a young man, 26 years old and raised in the United States (since I have been here 16 years already), I am still a Pole in heart and soul,

and I will be glad to display such a precious patriotic keepsake in my store.

I remain a warm-hearted friend of *Wiarus*.

M. A. MAZANY

postmaster.

[I sent the picture to Wilno on May 20. *Master.*]

From Wiarus, June 30, 1887:

FROM WILNO.

The Polish colony of Wilno in the state of Minnesota is made up of 200 Polish families, who are engaged in agriculture. The soil is exceptionally fertile, the water healthy and clear like crystal; a man is quite free and unrestrained here, the land sustains all who come to work in the fields; and being in the clean out-of-doors, it is more pleasant to live than in those large, crowded cities where one gets poisoned by the factory fumes.

For the satisfaction of our souls' needs we have a beautiful chapel and a pastor in the person of Fr. H. JAŹDŹEWSKI, who though a Pole is widely esteemed by those of other nationalities.

Lands here are still for sale for moderate prices.

I remain with true esteem,

M. A. MAZANY.

son of Ignacy MAZANY, and brother of Michał MAZANY, in Dunkirk, N.Y.

My address: M. A. MAZANY Wilno P.O. Minn.

From Wiarus, July 7, 1886:

**Inexpensive Lands
in WILNO, MINN.**

On behalf of the late KLUP, I have 245 acres for sale for the price of \$5.50 per acre; but the Company is still charging \$8.00 per acre, and this in a region located far from the Polish settlement.

The one buying will be issued clear title [*warranty-Deeds*] immediately, if he is able to pay it all in advance—otherwise a contract will be given under which the price is paid on credit.

I also have 50 lots for sale in the town of Wilno, for 100 dollars each.

Jos. GILLMAJSTER

509 Noble Str., Chicago, Ill.

[Agent for Mrs. E. E. KLUPP.]

One may also inquire of Hieronim DERDOWSKI, the editor of *Wiarus*.

From Wiarus, September 1, 1887:

A successful harvest in Wilno.

Wilno, Lincoln Co., Minn.,
August 18.

As far back as the spring of this year I announced to our Esteemed Countrymen, my acquaintances and friends, that through the effort of our Reverend Pastor a restaurant, and a needed enlargement of the church's area, were undertaken in Wilno, Minn.

At present so much work has been done on this construction, which our Pastor directed in person, that it is being completed. The heart of a man is actually moved with joy, seeing this superb temple of the Lord with its tower; it is so attractively and neatly built and painted that the eye rests on it with gusto for as long as possible.

Also, the Lord did not stint us in his inconceivable favor this year.

We had about the best possible forthcoming from the harvesting of grain and hay this year, to such a degree that even the less wealthy farmers managed to buy themselves machinery needed for harvest.

There are already three threshers in Polish hands here; one is steam-driven and two horse-driven; and this is for our farmers' own convenience, though not the less in competition with our neighbors of other nationalities.

M. A. MAZANY

From Wiarus, September 29, 1887:

From the American Lithuania

Wilno, Linkoln Co., Minn.
September 20, 1887.

The Wilno colony can feel honored by a new farmer, such as has arrived here in the person of the Rev. Fr. GRABOWSKI, pastor in Polonia, Wis. He has purchased 520 acres of land around Wilno, which is the rest of the full Section on which the church is built; and besides that he was supposed to purchase 25 lots in the same Wilno for very low prices, with the intention of erecting buildings on those lots or reselling them for moderate prices, so as to redeem them to our countrymen—through all

these means to facilitate the settlement of our countrymen in Wilno and their conduct of various businesses, greatly desired for us.

Pastor GRABOWSKI is carrying on a very outstanding operation here, because close by the selfsame Wilno his former agent, SMÓLKOWSKI, built a very pretty building, consisting of a kitchen, a pantry, 6 spacious rooms, a basement—likewise a stable for livestock and a pump, and for the convenience of a permanent manager and the current one Mr. LEPAK, he bought one acre of forest about 4 miles away from Wilno.

Already in the spring of this year, proprietor Father GRABOWSKI sowed wheat on recently-harrowed ground, consisting of 90 acres, which after gathering and threshing produced 700 bushels in yield. For this exemplary husbandry the Rev. Fr. GRABOWSKI maintained 4 strong oxen, several cows and young cattle—and eventually he equipped this operation with every possible farming implement, such as wagons, plows, harrows, machines for mowing and raking hay and a reaper.

It has to be admitted, that the Rev. Fr. GRABOWSKI owns the largest farm in Lincoln Co. currently, for which he paid more than \$7,000. And while through this exemplary husbandry he must support and cover the cost of a manager, it is expected that with every year this farm will bring handsome profits—because the Rev. Fr. GRABOWSKI truly took this manager in hand with great relish, and moreover he gave an opportunity to less wealthy people to earn a few dollars for themselves on that farm, since it is not possible for one man to cope with the work on such an expanse.

Countrymen! Come quickly to Wilno then, and buy land, because soon Wilno will need you. They say that Father GRABOWSKI from Polonia intends to buy back the land neighboring his farm from several farmers of other nationalities, in order to bring his property to not less than 1000 acres.

L. WIŚNIEWSKI

Former PGS-MN board member Professor John Radziłowski has described Wilno as the clearest example of a planned and executed Polish-ethnic

farming colony in Minnesota.¹ As a result of John's work, Wilno is the one Polish immigrant community in Minnesota to receive a thorough, modern scholarly treatment of its founding, development, and growth.²

The principal promoters of a Polish colony in Lincoln County were brothers Grzegorz and Franciszek KLUPP of Chicago, whose surname we have seen in terse references and vilifications in the early correspondence in this installment. In the early 1880s the KLUPPs were ambitious immigrant entrepreneurs; they published the Polish-language newspaper *Gazeta Chicagoska*, and Grzegorz KLUPP was one of the proprietors of a Chicago-area colonization bureau that was the agent of the Chicago and North Western Railroad Company for the recruitment of settlers to purchase lands along its lines.³

The KLUPPs' Wilno colonization enterprise was well underway in 1881; by February, 1882, it had

resulted in the first purchases by Polish-Americans of land in Royal Township, Lincoln County.⁴ Over the ensuing several years, the KLUPPs' recruitment extended to Polish-American communities over a large swath of the lower Midwest and mid-Atlantic states, enticing Poles working in factories and mines with the attractions of a return to farming. Local agents were used; and Franciszek KLUPP solicited the Polish coal miners in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania himself, in person.⁵ This effort was successful; a majority of Wilno's colonists left first American homes in Pennsylvania, Chicago, and LaSalle, Illinois, for the southwestern Minnesota prairie.⁶

Our *Wiarus* correspondent of May 6, 1886, makes reference to a KLUPP being deceased, and to Franciszek KLUPP leaving Wilno under public opprobrium and after an ouster from the local postmastership. Grzegorz KLUPP had indeed died in 1885, after which *Gazeta Chicagoska* ceased publication; and brother Franciszek did leave the colony he helped found.⁷

¹John Radziłowski, *Poles in Minnesota* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2005), p. 10. See also Frank Renkiewicz, "The Poles," in June Drenning Holmquist, ed., *They Chose Minnesota: A History of the State's Ethnic Groups* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981), p. 365.

²Starting with his undergraduate days as a history major at Southwest State University at Marshall, continuing through his Ph.D. dissertation at Arizona State University, and on into his first years as a professional historian, John researched the early years of the Wilno colony. He approached his topic from diverse perspectives: institutions, demographics, and individual settlers' experiences. He condensed his results into several published forms. They are the bulk of the sources I used for the backdrop on this first Wilno-themed installment.

³John Radziłowski, *Out on the Wind: Poles and Danes in Lincoln County, Minnesota, 1880-1905* (Marshall, Minn.: Crossings Press, 1992), p. 22; and John Radziłowski, "A New Poland in the Old Northwest: Polish Farming Communities on the Northern Great Plains," *Polish American Studies*, v. LXIX, no. 2 (Autumn 2002), pp. 84 and 89-90. See also Renkiewicz, "The Poles," p. 365.

⁴John Radziłowski, *One Community, One Church, Two Towns: The Poles of Southwestern Minnesota, 1882-1905* (Marshall, Minn.: Department of History, Southwest State University, 1991), p. 2.

⁵Radziłowski, "A New Poland in the Old Northwest," pp. 88-90.

⁶Radziłowski, *Out on the Wind*, pp. 72-76, has a demographically-oriented analysis of the marketing campaign and its results. The first populating of Wilno via several separate streams from within the United States can make genealogical research more challenging. The availability from the LDS Family History Library of parish records from Wilno and the Archdiocese of Chicago alike gives researchers some vectors to pursue.

⁷Radziłowski, "A New Poland in the Old Northwest," p. 90 and n. 36. John states that contentions between the surviving KLUPP and the local priest, as well as complaints from purchasers of land, were among the precipitants of his departure. (John cites our *Wiarus* reports as his principal sources.) Grzegorz KLUPP had invested personally in local land, leaving his widow to sell it in mid-1887. *Id.*, n. 35.

As our *Wiarus* reports attest, the KLUPPs were replaced in their local leadership role by Marcin

MAZANY, the author of the “booster” correspondence presented here.⁸ The young, western New York-raised storekeeper must have had a winning way about him, judging by his political successes whether sought or not.

These earliest *Wiarus* reports say relatively little about that most central institution in Polonian communities, the local Roman Catholic parish. In Wilno, the Church of St. John Cantius was founded in 1883.⁹ The land for the church and a cemetery was donated by the Winona and St. Peter Railroad, which held real estate in Royal Township but which had not yet laid a rail line through Wilno.¹⁰ The very first church structure was built soon; it was a modest one, enhanced in 1886-1887 by reinforcement, the addition of a steeple, and the construction of a rectory.¹¹ (See photo page 1.) Though early correspondents from other Minnesota Polish settlements often first touted their immediate

⁸MAZANY was an early example of a pattern I have seen in Minnesota’s Polonia: those Polish-American settlers who established Main Street business in newly-founded rural communities, assumed local political roles, and exploited the Polish-language press to increase Polish immigration to their communities, had invariably lived elsewhere in the U.S. for years, or were members of the first American-born generation of their families. MAZANY was an example of another phenomenon, the restlessness of such ambitious sorts; as John Radziłowski found in his research, MAZANY left Wilno for South Dakota within several years.

⁹Radziłowski, *One Community, One Church, Two Towns*, p. 2.

¹⁰Radziłowski, *One Community, One Church, Two Towns*, pp. 3-5. As we will see in future *Drobne Echa* installments, Wilno never did receive railroad service directly to it, despite the efforts of its residents.

¹¹This was noted in our September 1, 1887 correspondence. See also Waclaw Kruszka, *A History of the Poles in America to 1908, Part IV: Poles in the Central and Western States* (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2001), p. 119.

efforts to build a church, with close descriptions of its dimensions and fittings, our Wilnans chose instead to report early on their use of the institution for devotions and novenas.

Our early Wilno correspondents laud the development of their community in its secular and spiritual dimensions alike; and these two themes intertwine in a striking and puzzling way in the September 29, 1887 report. The description of a very large-scale, almost audacious project at physical and economic growth for the Polish community in Wilno, *undertaken by a parish priest from another state*, seems entirely anomalous to me. And, for the following seven years there is no mention in any *Wiarus* correspondence of the effort or its furtherance—or even of a continuing local presence for Father GRABOWSKI himself. Lack of time prevented me from further investigating the basic accuracy of this report, let alone the story of its subject matter. Was this just an instance of boosterism-gone-wild in the ethnic press? Does anybody out there know anything more about this?

As we have seen, the early correspondence to *Wiarus* from Wilno was intense enough that we’re able to feature only two years’ worth of it in a first, fair-sized installment. I have already translated most of the material for a second chapter, which will go through the mid-1890s; it will cover the Wilno Poles’ struggle to get a railroad line into their community, and their dogged efforts to grow their little farming village and its area in the American way while maintaining their Polish ethnic traditions and identity. With luck, we will feature that in an issue during 2010.¹²

* * * * *

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS:

John Radziłowski’s exploration of this little community is unique in the historiography of Polonian settlement in Minnesota, thus far; but he’s been a tremendous inspiration to several of us! And, once again, John’s early research into *Wiarus* enabled me to recover all of the letters and reports I

¹²Even at that, we will only be approaching the years of another achievement of the Wilno Poles: the construction in the late 1890s of the brick “Cathedral in the Cornfields,” the beautiful sanctuary of St. John Cantius parish that survives to this day.

translated for this installment.

Finally, my thanks once more to Anna Kuroczycka Schultes for helping me with a few puzzling words and passages in our old Polish-language texts!

THE POLISH ORIGIN OF THREE RELATED ST. PAUL FAMILIES

Part I - Kiszka Family

By Patricia A. Metsch <pmetsch@cox.net>

The serendipitous discovery of the Polish origin of the Łażewski/Strzyzewski, Kiszka and Najtkowski families of St. Paul, Minnesota, was due to the search by this author for the birthplace of her immigrant ancestor Adalbert Kiszka, who arrived in America in 1881 and settled in Albany, New York.¹

The author had been searching for the Polish origin of her Kiszka family for about ten years and even having obtained her ancestor's Hamburg emigration records which gave their *Bisherger Wolmort* [past residence] was unsuccessful in confirming their place of origin in Posen, Germany, now Poznań, Wielkopolski province, Poland. A breakthrough occurred with a search of the Poznań Marriage Indexing Project (<bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/project.php>) which revealed the potential marriage of her 3rd-great-grandparents. Sponsored by PolishRoots.org and organized by Lukasz Bielecki, the goal of the Project is to create a free online searchable database of all recorded marriages from all parishes in the Posen/Poznań region for the period of 1835-1884. It is anticipated that the index will help researchers who know only that their ancestors came from somewhere in Posen/Poznań be better able to pinpoint a parish of origin either by finding applicable records or distinguishing where surnames of interest were concentrated. It is an endeavor she wholeheartedly supports.

¹ For the earlier Kiszka ancestry see the forthcoming article by this author in the New York Genealogical and Biographical RECORD. Thanks to the collaborative research effort of the author and Kay Blaha, information was uncovered which connected the St. Paul families to data found in Polish records and showed that Adalbert Kiszka was a 1st-cousin to Catharina (Kiszka) (Łażewski) Strzyzewska, Victoria (Kiszka) Najtkowski and Francis Kiszka.

The Register Style or System

Patricia has formatted the genealogy presented in Register Style and referenced her findings as required by this format. Basically, every statement of fact should be followed by a source citation. The narrative is also a style of genealogical reporting that adheres to a standardized numbering system (using both Arabic and Roman numerals) in which each descendant of a primary individual is assigned a consecutive number. Children are in lower case. It is intended to simplify tracing of all descendants of a primary individual. The system was created in 1870 for the *New England Historic and Genealogical Register* and has been adopted by many periodicals. The style is explained in Henry B. Hoff's book *Genealogical Writing in the 21st Century: A Guide to Register Style and More* (NEHGS: Boston, Mass., 2002). "A Template and Suggestions for Writing in the Register Style in Microsoft® Word" by Helen Schatvet Ullman, CG, FASG can be found in the *Encyclopedia of Genealogy* at <www.newenglandancestry.org/pdfs/template.doc>. Note: There are several other genealogical numbering systems for presenting family trees and pedigree charts in text format.

-JWK



Approximate Area Enlarged on Page 26 Map

1. **CATHARINA¹ KISZKA** (*Michael^A, Mathias^B*) was born in Węgieńskie, Czerlejno parish, Schroda/Środa, Posen, Prussia, on 16 April 1840; and, baptized 20 April 1840, as the daughter of Michael Kiszka and Margarethe Zawitaiąna [Zawitai/Zawitay], with Laurentius Jaskowiak and Hedvigis Konczolka as her godparents.² Katherine Strzyzewska, “age 96 years and 9 months,” daughter of Michael Kiszka, and wife of Thomas Strzyzewsk[i], died in St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota, on 31 January 1932; and, was buried in Calvary Cemetery, St. Paul, on 3 February 1932.³ Her death was noticed in *The St. Paul Pioneer Press* on 2 February 1932.⁴ Catharina Kiszka, “age 30,” was married first in Kostrzyń, Schroda/Środa, Posen, Germany, on 9 July 1871, to **ANDREAS ŁAŻEWSKI**, age 27.⁵ He died after 10 February 1874 (birth of child), presumably in Germany [Poland]. She married second by say 1876 (estimated birth of child), **THOMAS STRZYZEWSKI**.⁶ He was born in Poland on 8 December 1854; and, died at Ancker Hospital, St. Paul, on 2 November 1938.⁷ His death was noticed in *The St. Paul Dispatch* on 5 November 1938.⁸

Although the family’s immigration records have not been found,⁹ Catharina (Kiszka) (Łażewski) Strzyzewska and her children appear in the 1885 Minnesota State census (enumerated as *Strishaski*) with the following data:¹⁰

Catherina Strishaski, age 48, born in Poland, both parents of foreign birth; Stanislava, age 13; John, age 11; and, Stanislav, age 9.

The whereabouts of her husband Thomas Strzyzewski has not been determined. By the time of the 1895 State enumeration, Thomas Strzyzewski had joined the family and appears as head of the household at 848 Case Street, St. Paul, through the 1930 US census.¹¹ Living next door at 850 Case Street in 1895 and 1900 was Frank Kiszka, Catharina’s brother, and his family (see below).

² Roman Catholic parish registers, Czerlejno (FHL #2,121,490, items 2-4 [*akta urodzeń* [births] 1801-1841]).

³ Katherine Strzyzewska death certificate, #1932-MN-22871, MN Dept. of Health, St. Paul. Microfilm copy held by the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul. The informant was Thomas Strzyzewski [her husband]. Photocopy courtesy of Kay Blaha. Her death was also recorded in the burial records of the Church of St. Casimir, St. Paul, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Archives, St. Paul.

⁴ “Strzyzewska, Katherine, in her 97th year at 848 Case Street. January 31st. Survived by her husband, Thomas. Mother of Stanislawa Bulera, John Lazewski and Stanislaw Strzyzewsk[i], also 20 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Funeral from the home of John Lazewski, 850 Case Street...” Katherine Strzyzewska death notice, *The St. Paul Pioneer Press*, St. Paul, 2 February 1932, page 14.

⁵ Roman Catholic parish registers, Kostrzyń (FHL #1,199,979 [*akta małżeństw* [marriages] 1847-1878]).

⁶ Her death certificate and death notice both identify Catharina’s surviving husband as Thomas Strzyzewski.

⁷ Thomas *Strzyzewski* death certificate, #1938-MN-025674, MN Dept. of Health, St. Paul. Microfilm copy held by the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul. Photocopy courtesy of Kay Blaha. The informant was Charles *Strzyzewski* [his son].

⁸ “Strzyzewski – Thomas, Nov. 2nd, in his 85th year. Beloved father of Charles, Mrs. John [*sic*] Bulera, and John Lazewski.” Thomas Strzyzewski death notice, *The St. Paul Dispatch*, St. Paul, 4 November 1938, page 38.

⁹ Census data is inconsistent and reports their year of immigration as: 1882 (1895 MN State census, 1900 US census and 1920 US census); 1885 (1905 MN State census); 1884 (1910 US census); and, 1880 (1930 US census).

¹⁰ Catherine *Strishaski* household, 1885 MN State Census, 5th Ward, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 9, #76 (Ancestry.com, *Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905*).

¹¹ Thomas *Sewski* household, 1895 MN State Census, 1st Ward, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 4, #24 (Ancestry.com, *Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905*). Tho. Strzyzewski (indexed as *Stezygeweki* on Ancestry.com) household, 1900 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 64, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 3B, line #89 (NARA T623, roll 782). Thomas *Strzyzeski* (indexed as *Strzyzcski* on Ancestry.com) household, 1905 MN State Census, 1st Ward, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, sheet #10, #4 (Ancestry.com, *Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905*). Also at this address are: John and Magdalena *Lazeski* (see below). Living next door at 850 Case Street are Joseph and Stella (Najtkowski) Urban (see below). T. *Strzyzewski* (indexed as *Stezyzewski* on Ancestry.com) household, 1910 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 29, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 6B, #96 (NARA T624, roll 717). Living next door at 850 Case Street is Catharina’s son John Lazewski and family (see below). Thomas Strzyzew[ski] (indexed as *Strzyzew* on Ancestry.com) household, 1920 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 13, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 5A, line #35 (NARA T625, roll 852). The family is listed at 850 Case Street in this census while the son John Lazewski and his family are listed at 848 Case Street. This would appear to be an error on the part of the census enumerator, as in 1910 and 1930 John Lazewski appears as head of the household at 850 Case Street. Thomas *Stozyzewski* household, 1930 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 13, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 15A, line #29 (NARA T626, roll 1115).

 Children of Andreas and Catharina (Kiszka) Łażewski:

4. i. **STANISLAWA [STELLA]² ŁAŻEWSKA**, born in Warsaw [*sic*], Poland, 23 April 1872; died in St. Paul, 6 February 1954; married in St. Adalbert's Church, St. Paul, 29 April 1890, **FRANK BULERA**.
- ii. **JOSEPHUS ŁAŻEWSKI**, born in Kostrzyń, 10 February 1874; baptized 15 February 1874;¹² died before the 1885 MN State census, probably in Germany [Poland].
5. iii. **JOHN FRANKLIN ŁAŻEWSKI** aka **LASKY**, born in Poland about 1874 (1885 MN State census) or 26 March 1880; died in St. Paul, 3 May 1952; married there 14 November 1904, **MAGDALENE "MAGGIE" JOSEPHINE MALECKA**.

Child of Thomas and Catharina (Kiszka) (Łażewska) Strzyzewski:

- iv. **STANISLAUS [aka CHARLES] STRZYZEWSKI**, born in Germany [Poland], 1876 (1885 MN State census) or 8 May 1880;¹³ died in St. Paul, 3 October 1859, unmarried.¹⁴

2. **VICTORIA¹ KISZKA** (*Michael^A, Mathias^B*) was baptized in Świszulkowo [this manorial farmstead no longer exists], Krerowo parish, district Schroda/Środa, Posen, Prussia, on 17 December 1848, as the daughter of Michaelis Kiszka and Margaretha Zawitay, with Joannes Konczolki and Agnes Piata as her godparents.¹⁵ Victoria Nitkowski or Najtkowski,¹⁶ daughter of Michael Kaska [*sic*], and widow of Nicholas [*sic*] Nitkowski or Najtkowski, died at St. Luke's Hospital, St. Paul, on 30 July 1933, "age 78."¹⁷ Her death was noticed in *The St. Paul Pioneer Press* on 1 August 1933.¹⁸ Victoria Kiszka, age 30, of Trzek [Czerlejno parish] was married in Czerlejno on 2 February 1879, to **IGNATIUS NAJTKOWSKI**, age 25, of Sokolniki Gwiazdowskie [Kostrzyń parish].¹⁹ He was the son of Adalbertus Najdkowski and Francisca Baranowska, born and baptized in Siekierki Wielkie, Siekierki parish, district Schroda/Środa, Posen, Prussia, on 10 July 1853, with Antonius Witkowski and Marianna Skrzypczarska as his godparents.²⁰ Ignatius Naitkowsky died

¹² Roman Catholic parish registers, Kostrzyń (FHL # 1,199,980 [*akta urodzeń* [births] 1871-1890 and *akta zgonów* [deaths], 1872-1897]).

¹³ Charles Strzyzewski death certificate, #1959-MN-025143, MN Dept. of Health, St. Paul. Microfilm copy held by the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul. The informant was L. Lovelace. States he was the son of Thomas Strzyzewski and Katie. Obviously, one or both of the birth dates recorded for John Łażewski and Stanislaus/Charles Strzyzewski on their death certificates must be in error if both men are natural sons of Catharina Kiszka.

¹⁴ Charles Strzyzewski death certificate.

¹⁵ Roman Catholic parish registers, Krerowo, Środa, Poznań, Poland (FHL #1,201,004, item 1 [*akta urodzeń* [births] 1843-1859). Najdkowski-Kiszka marriage record, 1879, #5, Kotschin [Kostrzyń], Standesamt, *Zivilstandregister, 1874-1884* (FHL #1,457,336 items 5-9 [*gerbuten* [births], *heiraten* [marriages], *tote* [deaths] 1878 and *geburtten* [births], *heiraten* [marriages] 1879]). Translation provided by Lukasz Bielecki. This source states she was born 17 December 1848 in "Schmiszulkowo" [*sic*].

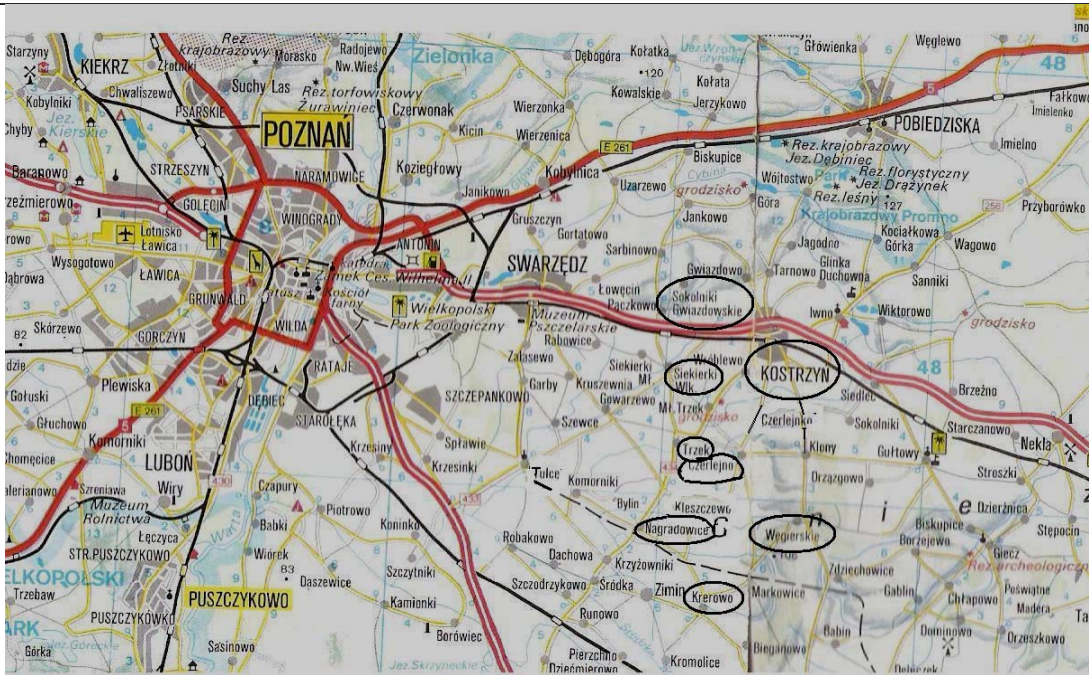
¹⁶ This surname appears in Minnesota records as *Nitkowski*; *Nitkoshey*; *Nitkoskey*; *Nijthouski*; *Nitkouski*; *Nytkowsky*; *Nichowski*; *Naitkowski*; and, in some instances in the truncated versions of *Kosky*/*Koskey* or *Kasky*/*Kaskey*.

¹⁷ Victoria *Nitkowski* [aka] Najtkowski death certificate, #1933-MN-024200, MN Dept. of Health, St. Paul. Microfilm copy held by the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul. Photocopy courtesy of Kay Blaha. The informant was Nicholas *Nitkowski* [her son] of 445 Upper Levee.

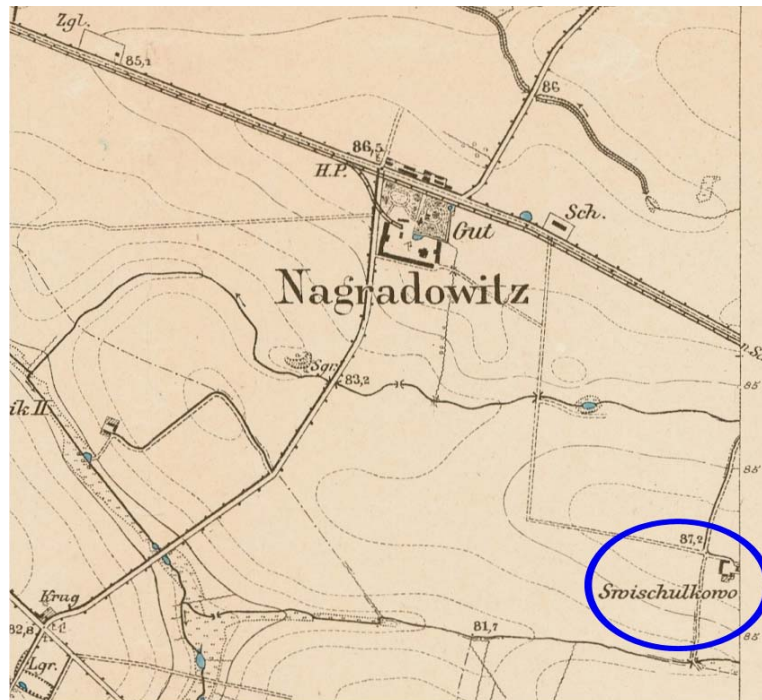
¹⁸ "NITKOWSKI – Victoria, at St. Luke's hospital, July 29th, residence 445 Upper Levee. Survived by 5 daughters and a son, Mrs. Katherine Besky, Mrs. George Urban, Mrs. Harry Flenner, Mrs. J. Tucie [*sic*], Mrs. Peter Sadowski, and Nicholas Nitkowski, all of St. Paul." Victoria *Nitkowski* death notice, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, St. Paul, 1 August 1933, page 16.

¹⁹ Roman Catholic parish registers, Czerlejno (FHL #2,121,491, items 2-6 [*akta małżeństw* [marriages] 1696-1735 and 1801-1886]). Najdkowski-Kiszka marriage record.

²⁰ Roman Catholic parish registers, Siekierki Wielkie, Środa, Poznań, Poland (FHL #2,212,553, item 2-6 [*akta urodzeń* [births] 1639-1868). Najdkowski-Kiszka marriage record. His marriage record gives his date and place of birth and states he was the son of Wojciech [used interchangeably with Adalbert] *Najdkowski*, deceased, and Francisca Baranowska, deceased.



This map locates the villages identified in the article.
Map adapted from: RV Reise- und Verkehrsverlag and
Kartographie: GeoData, 1995/96 (Scale: About 1:300,000)



The circle locates Świszulkowo on this 1903 Prussian map (then called Swishulkowo). It is the actual manorial farmstead where Victoria Kiszka was born. It was close to the village Nagradowice (then called Nagradowitz)— located on the larger map above.
Map provided by Marcin Braszak. Marcin is the author of the web site for Środa Wielkopolska which is a larger city just south of this area shown on the above map.

in St. Paul on 8 October 1926;²¹ and, his death was noticed in *The St. Paul Pioneer Press* on 10 October 1926.²²

According to his Declaration of Intention dated 19 March 1918, Ignasi Najtkowski of 48 Upper Levee, St. Paul, then aged “63 years,” immigrated through Bremen and arrived in the port of New York City in April 1880. The document names his wife Victoria and describes him as being of fair complexion; 5’ 6” tall; 175 pounds; with gray hair; and, blue eyes. It was signed by mark.²³

Victoria (Kiszka) Najtkowski appears with her husband (enumerated as Nicholas, Nic and Nick) and children residing on Upper Levee Street in St. Paul in the 1900 thru 1920 US census.²⁴ Victoria (Kiszka) Najtkowski’s whereabouts at the time of the 1930 census have not been determined. The family is not found in the indexes for the Minnesota State census of 1895 nor 1905.

Children of Ignatius and Victoria (Kiszka) Najtkowski, all events in Minnesota unless otherwise noted:²⁵

- i. **KATHERINE² NAJTKOWSKI**, born in Germany, 31 October 1879 [*sic*];²⁶ died in St. Paul, 23 February 1953;²⁷ married **MICHAEL BESKY**,²⁸ born in Illinois, 15 September 1871,²⁹ died in St. Paul, 30 June 1931.³⁰
- ii. **STANISLAVA [STELLA] NAJTKOWSKI**, born in Trzek, Czerlejno parish, Schroda/Środa, Posen, Germany, 2 November 1879;³¹ died in St. Paul, 31 May 1962;³² married by say 1901

²¹ Ignatius *Naitkowski* death certificate, #1925-MN-025168, MN State Dept. of Health, St. Paul. Microfilm copy held by the Minnesota Historical Society. Photocopy courtesy of Kay Blaha. The informant was Victoria *Naitkowski* [his wife] of 445 Upper Levee. This source states he was the son of Albert [the Anglicized version of Adalbert/Adalbertus] Naitkowski; and, incorrectly gives his date of birth as 14 July 1865.

²² “NITKOWSKY – At family residence 445 Upper Levee street. Ignatius, in his 67th year. Beloved husband of Victoria and father of Mrs. M. Besky, Mrs. Geo. Urban, Mrs. H. Flenner, Mrs. J. Tucci, Mrs. P. Sadowski and Nick Nitkowski.” Ignatius *Nitkowski* death notice, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, St. Paul, 10 October 1926, page 14.

²³ Ignasi Najtkowski Declaration of Intent, 19 March 1918. Ramsey County, MN, District Court, *Naturalization Records, 1849-1931*, (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1986), SAM 48; Reel 22; 41:119. Photocopy courtesy of Kay Blaha. This source incorrectly gives his date of birth as 31 July 1855.

²⁴ *Nic Nitkoshey* household, 1900 US Census, 5th Ward, Enumeration District 96, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 11A, line #2 (NARA T623, roll 784). *Nick Nitkoskey* (indexed as *Nitkukey* on Ancestry.com) household, 1910 US Census, 5th Ward, Enumeration District 65, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 9B, line #69 (NARA T624, roll 717). Inexplicably, the family appears to have been enumerated a second time in 1910 under District 62, although at the same address (48 Upper Levee), with conflicting data. The household was said to include a daughter Matilda, 16, and a daughter Katie, age 14. While there was a daughter Katherine (see below), evidence suggests she was far older than age 14 in 1910. There is no other evidence found for a daughter Matilda; she is not found with the family in 1900, when she would have ostensibly been 6 years old (*Nick Nitkowski* household, 1910 US Census, 5th Ward, Enumeration District 62, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 19B, line #75 (NARA T624, roll 717)). *Nicholas Nythouski* household, 1920 US Census, 5th Ward, Enumeration District 54, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 2B, line #98 (NARA T625, roll 853). The household at this time included: Harry Flenner, son-in-law, age 39, born MN; and, Mary [Flenner], daughter, age 37, born NY.

²⁵ There may have been additional children born to this couple, say between 1884-1889, who died young as the 1900 US census indicates Victoria was the mother of 9 children/6 living.

²⁶ Katherine Besky death certificate, #1953-MN-026621, MN Dept. of Health. Microfilmed copy received from the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul. States her father was Ignatius *Nitkouski*; mother unknown. Obviously the date of birth from her death certificate is incorrect given the record of the birth of her sister Stanislava/Stella on 2 November 1879.

²⁷ Katherine Besky death certificate.

²⁸ Victoria *Nitkowski*’s death notice mentions daughter Mrs. Katherine Besky; Ignatius *Nitkowski*’s death notice mentions Mrs. M. Besky; Katherine Besky’s death certificate states she was the widow of Michael; and, Michael Besky’s death certificate (#1931-MN-24259, MN Dept. of Health. Microfilmed copy received from the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul) states he was the husband of Katherine *Kasky*. See also the Michael *Beski* household, 1920 US Census, 5th Ward, Enumeration District 54, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 8B, line #57 (NARA T625, roll 853); and, Mike Besky household, 1930 US Census, 5th Ward, Enumeration District 50, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 16A, line #8 (NARA T626, roll 853).

²⁹ Michael Besky death certificate. States he was the son of John Besky.

³⁰ Michael Besky death certificate.

³¹ Roman Catholic parish registers, Czerlejno, Środa, Poznań, Poland (FHL #1,194,687, items 6-7 [*akta urodzeń*] [births] 1875-1887)].

³² Stella Urban death certificate, #1962-MN-029859, MN Dept. of Health. Microfilmed copy received from the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul. Gives her father as Nicholas [*sic*] *Kaskey*; mother as Victoria.

- (birth of child), **JOSEPH URBAN**.³³
- iii. **MARIE/MARY NAJTKOWSKI**, born in NY, 18 November 1882;³⁴ died in Dakota County, MN, 27 December 1967;³⁵ married **HARRY FLENNER**.³⁶
- iv. **IGNATIUS** [aka **NICHOLAS**] **NAJTKOWSKI**, born 26 July 1884;³⁷ died 31 August 1965.³⁸
- v. **JENNIE HATTIE NAJTKOWSKI**, born 5 September 1889;³⁹ died 18 August 1976;⁴⁰ married **JAMES TUCCI**.⁴¹
- vi. **ROSE D. NAJTKOWSKI**, born 18 July 1891;⁴² died 26 December 1956;⁴³ married **PETER SADOWSKI**.⁴⁴
3. **FRANCIS¹ KISZKA** (*Michael^A, Mathias^B*) was born in Trzek, Czerlejno parish, Schroda/Środa, Posen, Prussia, on 29 September 1852; and, baptized as Franciscus on 3 October 1852, the son of Michael Kiszka and Margaritha Zawitai, with Lucas [Lisiak?] and Marianna Kiszka acting as his godparents.⁴⁵ Frank Kiszka, son of Michael Kiszka and Margrette, and husband of Catherine Malecki, died at his residence, 848 East Magnolia Street, St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota, on 22 December 1928, at “age 78 years, 3 months;” and, was buried in Calvary Cemetery, St. Paul, on 27 December 1928.⁴⁶ His death was noticed 25 December 1928 in *The St. Paul Dispatch*.⁴⁷ Franciscus Kiszka, age 27, of Trzek, was married in Czerlejno on 26 October 1879, to **CATHARINA MELECKA [MALECKA]**, age 19, of Trzek.⁴⁸ She was the daughter of

³³ Stella Urban’s death certificate states her husband was Joseph Urban, while Mrs. *George* Urban of St. Paul is mentioned in the death notices of both Ignatius *Nitkowsky* and Victoria *Nitkowski*. This couple appear in the 1905 MN State census with their son George, age 4, residing at 850 Case Street next door to the Thomas Strzyzewski family (Joseph Urban household, 1905 MN State Census, 1st Ward, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, sheet #10, Ancestry.com, *Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905*). Joseph Urban household, 1920 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 13, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 2B, line #91 (NARA T625, roll 852); and, Joseph Urban household, 1930 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 13, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 8B, line #71 (NARA T626, roll 1115).

³⁴ Minnesota Death Certificates Index (people.mnhs.org/dci/) [hereafter MNDCI] for Mary Flenner (death certificate #1967-MN-030459; gives dob as 18 November 1882; mother’s maiden name as *Kiechka*). Place of birth from census data.

³⁵ MNDCI for Mary Flenner.

³⁶ Victoria *Nitkowski*’s death notice mentions daughter Mrs. Harry Flenner; Ignatius *Nitkowsky*’s death notice mentions Mrs. H. Flenner; and, the *Nicholas Nythouski* household in the 1920 US census included: Harry Flenner, son-in-law, age 39, born MN; and, Mary [Flenner], daughter, age 37, born NY (1920 US Census, 5th Ward, Enumeration District 54, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 2B, line #98 (NARA T625, roll 853)).

³⁷ Register of Births, Registered in the City of St. Paul, #3042, page 163 (FHL#1,309,042). His recorded name was Ignatius, but he appears as Nicholas (or variants) in all other records.

³⁸ MNDCI for Nicholas *Nitkowski* (death certificate #1965-MN-029552; gives dob as 20 [*sic*] July 1884; mother’s maiden name as Kiszka).

³⁹ MNDCI for Jennie H. Tucci (death certificate #1976-MN-021671; gives dob as 5 September 1889).

⁴⁰ MNDCI for Jennie H. Tucci.

⁴¹ Victoria *Nitkowski*’s death notice mentions daughter Mrs. J. Tucie [*sic*]; and, Ignatius *Nitkowsky*’s death notice mentions Mrs. J. Tucci. See also the James Tucci household, 1930 US Census, 2nd Ward, Enumeration District 182, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 18A, line #9 (NARA T626, roll 1116).

⁴² MNDCI for Rose D. Sadowski (death certificate #1956-MN-029645; gives dob as 18 July 1891).

⁴³ MNDCI for Rose D. Sadowski.

⁴⁴ Victoria *Nitkowski*’s death notice mentions daughter Mrs. Peter Sadowski; and, Ignatius *Nitkowsky*’s death notice mentions Mrs. P. Sadowski. See also the Peter *Sadowsky* household, 1930 US Census, 6th Ward, Enumeration District 62, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 36B, line #51 (NARA T626, roll 1117).

⁴⁵ Roman Catholic parish registers, Czerlejno (FHL #2,121,491, item 1 [*akta urodzeń*] [births] 1842-1859)).

⁴⁶ Frank Kiszka death certificate, #1928-MN-026074, MN Dept. of Health, St. Paul. Microfilm copy held by the Minnesota Historical Society. Photocopy courtesy of Kay Blaha. The informant was Mrs. Catherine Kiszka [his wife] of 848 East Magnolia Street. His death was also recorded in the burial records of the Church of St. Casimir, St. Paul, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Archives, St. Paul.

⁴⁷ “KISZKA – Frank, in his 78th year. Dec. 24 [*sic*]. Beloved husband of Catherine and father of Mrs. S. Urban, Mrs. A. Helminiak, Mrs. M. Pilarski, Michael, Rose, Mrs. M. Sobkowiak, and Mrs. A. Tierney...” Frank Kiszka death notice, *St. Paul Dispatch*, St. Paul, 25 December 1928, page 12.

⁴⁸ Roman Catholic parish registers, Czerlejno (FHL #2,121,491, items 2-6 [*akta małżeństw*] [marriages] 1696-1735 and 1801-1886)). Kiszka-Malecka marriage record, 1879, #36, Kotschin [Kostrzyń], Standesamt, *Zivilstandregister, 1874-1884* (FHL #1,457,336 items 5-9 [*gerbuten*] [births], *heiraten*] [marriages], *tote*] [deaths] 1878 and *geburtten*] [births], *heiraten*] [marriages] 1879)). Translation provided by Lukasz Bielecki. This marriage also appears in the Poznań Marriage Indexing Project <bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/project.php>.

Wojciech Małecki and Marianna Maćkowiak, born in Trzek on 26 October 1860.⁴⁹ Catherine Kiszka died in St. Paul on 5 March 1942.⁵⁰ Her death was noticed 6 March 1942 in *The St. Paul Dispatch*.⁵¹

Francis Kiszka is listed as *Frz. Kiszka*, age 31, on the passenger list for the *Fulda* that sailed from Bremen, Germany, and arrived in New York on 19 April 1884.⁵² His wife and children did not accompany him at that time and the record of their immigration has not yet been found.

On 27 June 1917, at the age of 65 years, signing as “Frank Kiszka,” he filed a Declaration of Intention to become a citizen of the United States in Ramsey County, Minnesota, District Court. At that time, he was described as having a fair complexion; brown hair and blue eyes; was 5’ 6” tall; and, weighed 165 pounds.⁵³

As Frank Kiszka, he is found as head of a household in the 1895 Minnesota State census and 1900 US census (living next door to his sister Catharina and her husband Thomas Strzyzewski); and, in the 1910 US census.⁵⁴ The family has not been found in the 1905 Minnesota State census nor the 1920 US census. At the time of the 1930 enumeration, Katherine Kiska [*sic*], widow, age 68, was at 848 East Magnolia Street with her son Michael Kiska [*sic*], age 38, as head of the household. Living with them was Francis and Catharina’s unmarried daughter Rose, age 33.⁵⁵ At the same address, but as renters, were Ray F. Sobkowiak, age 31, and his wife Martha [Kiszka], age 30.⁵⁶

Children of Francis and Catharina (Małecka) Kiszka, all events in Minnesota unless otherwise noted:

- i. **STANISLAWA [STELLA]² KISZKA**, born in Strumin [now part of the city of Kostrzyń], Kostrzyń parish, Schroda/Środa, Posen, Germany, 12 April 1882;⁵⁷ died in St. Paul, 14 August 1962;⁵⁸ married first by 1905, **FRANK J. URBAN**,⁵⁹ born about 1880 (census),⁶⁰ probably the Frank Joseph Urban who died 18 January 1925;

⁴⁹ Kiszka-Małecka marriage record. There is a gap in the microfilmed Czerlejno parish birth records between 1859-1875.

⁵⁰ Catherine Kiszka death certificate, #1942-MN-23669, MN Dept. of Health, St. Paul. Microfilm copy held by the Minnesota Historical Society. This source gives her father’s name as Albert [the Anglicized form of Adalbert, used interchangeably with Wojciech]; and, incorrectly gives her date of birth as 15 October 1863.

⁵¹ “KISZKA – Catherine, March 5, in her 79th year. Beloved mother of Mrs. Stella Karpiesuk, Mrs. Celia Helminiak, Mrs. Peter Pilarski, Michael, Mrs. Ray Sobkowiak, Rose and Mrs. Ivan Tierney. Also survived by one sister, Mrs. John Lazewski, 12 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Funeral from family residence 848 E. Magnolia ave...” Catherine Kiszka death notice, *St. Paul Dispatch*, St. Paul, 6 March 1942, page 30.

⁵² According to his 1917 Declaration of Intention (Ramsey County, MN, District Court, *Naturalization Records, 1849-1931* [St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1986], SAM 48; Reel 20; 43:295), Frank Kiszka emigrated through Bremen on the vessel *Fulda* and arrived in NY “on or about” the 23rd of April, 1884. Ancestry.com, *New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957* [Ancestry.com database] from Records of the US Customs Service, *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1820-1897* (NARA M237, Roll 475), line 49, #419.

⁵³ Declaration of Intention for Frank Kiszka.

⁵⁴ Frank Kiszka household, 1895 MN State Census, 1st Ward, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 4, #28 (Ancestry.com, *Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905*). F. Kiszka (indexed as *Fred Kisgke* on Ancestry.com) household, 1900 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 64, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 3B, line #80 (NARA T623, roll 782). Frank *Kiske* (indexed as *Kiski* on Ancestry.com) household, 1910 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 29, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 2A, line #22 (NARA T624, roll 717).

⁵⁵ Michael *Kiska* (indexed as *Michard Kiska* on Ancestry.com) household, 1930 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 13, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 1A, line #30 (NARA T626, roll 1115).

⁵⁶ Ray F. Sobkowiak (indexed as *Roy F. Sobkovisk* on Ancestry.com) household, 1930 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 13, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 1A, line #33 (NARA T626, roll 1115).

⁵⁷ Kostschin [Kostrzyń], Standesamt, *Zivilstandregister, 1874-1884* (FHL #1,551,865).

⁵⁸ MNDCI for Stella Karpiesuk (death certificate #1962-MN-030627; gives mother’s maiden name as *Maleski*).

⁵⁹ Frank Kiszka’s death notice mentions daughter Mrs. S. Urban. See also the Frank Urban household, 1905 MN State Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 5, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 28, #3 (Ancestry.com, *Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905*). Frank J. Urban household (does not appear in the Ancestry.com index; indexed as *Frank V. Urban* by HeritageQuest), 1910 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 29, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 1B, line #97 (NARA T624, roll 717).

⁶⁰ MNDCI for Frank Joseph Urban (death certificate #1925-MN-022802).

- married second after the 1930⁶¹ census but before 6 March 1942 — **KARPIESUK**.⁶²
- ii. **CECILIA M. KISZKA**, born in Trzek, Czerlejno parish, Schroda/Środa, Posen, Germany, 2 November 1884;⁶³ died 22 July 1969;⁶⁴ married about 28 January 1905 **ALBERT J. HELMINIAK**.⁶⁵
 - iii. (**CHILD**) **KISZKA**, born say between 1885-1887; died before 1895.⁶⁶
 - iv. **MARY R. KISZKA**, born 4 February 1889;⁶⁷ died 6 April 1970;⁶⁸ married **PETER P. PILARSKI**.⁶⁹
 - v. **MICHAEL KISZKA**, born September 1889;⁷⁰ died 22 August 1952.⁷¹
 - vi. **JOSEPH KISZKA**, born 7 December 1892; baptized at St. Casimir's Church, St. Paul, 8 December 1892;⁷² died 8 November 1916.⁷³
 - vii. **ROSALIA/ROSE DOROTHY KISZKA**, born 15 January 1896; baptized at St. Casimir's Church, St. Paul, 20 January 1896;⁷⁴ died 15 June 1983, unmarried.⁷⁵
 - viii. **MARTHA C. KISZKA**, born November 1898; baptized at St. Casimir's Church, St. Paul, 18 December 1898;⁷⁶ died 12 October 1949;⁷⁷ married **RAY F. SOBKOVIAK**,⁷⁸ born 28 February 1896; died 9 September 1977.⁷⁹
 - ix. **AGNES M. KISZKA**, born 28 November 1901; baptized at St. Casimir's Church, St. Paul, 8 December 1901;⁸⁰ died 10 December 1996;⁸¹ married **IVAN TIERNEY**.⁸²
 - x. **FRANK KISKA** [*sic*], born 29 June 1904 (calculated); died 1 July 1904, age 2 days, of bronchitis.⁸³

To be continued in Spring 2010 Newsletter

⁶¹ In the 1930 US Census, Stella Urban appears as head of household, age 45, widow (Catherine S. Urban household, 1930 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 12, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 30B, line #95).

⁶² Catherine Kiszka's death notice mentions daughter Mrs. Stella Karpiesuk.

⁶³ Roman Catholic parish registers, Czerlejno, Środa, Poznań, Poland (FHL #1,194,687, items 6-7 [*akta urodzeń* [births] 1875-1887]).

⁶⁴ MNDCI for Cecylja aka Cecelia Helminiak (death certificate #1969-MN-018083; gives her mother's maiden name as *Mawecki*).

⁶⁵ Under "Marriage License": "Albert J. Helminick, Celia M. Kiszka" (*The St. Paul Globe*, St. Paul, 28 January 1905, page 9). Frank Kiszka's death notice mentions daughter Mrs. A. Helminiak; and, Catherine Kiszka's death notice mentions Mrs. Celia Helminiak. See also Albert J. *Helminiach* (indexed as *Helmincach* on Ancestry.com) household, 1930 US Census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 11, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 4A, line #28 (NARA T626, roll 1114).

⁶⁶ The 1900 US census reports Catharina was the mother of 8 children/7 living. It seems possible a child was born in the 5-year gap between Cecilia and Mary, although the lack of children born during that period might also be explained by the fact Francis/Frank emigrated before his wife and it is uncertain when she joined him in St. Paul.

⁶⁷ MNDCI for Mary R. Pilarski (death certificate #1970-MN-010826; gives dob as 4 February 1889; mother's maiden name as *Kiska*).

⁶⁸ MNDCI for Mary R. Pilarski.

⁶⁹ Frank Kiszka's death notice mentions daughter Mrs. M. Pilarski; and, Catherine Kiszka's death notice mentions Mrs. Peter Pilarski. See also Peter P. Pilarski household, 1930 US census, 1st Ward, Enumeration District 12, St. Paul, Ramsey County, MN, page 30B, line #65 (NARA T626, roll 1114).

⁷⁰ MNDCI for Michael *Kiska* (death certificate #1952-MN-026873).

⁷¹ MNDCI for Michael *Kiska*.

⁷² Baptismal records, Church of St. Casimir, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Archives, St. Paul.

⁷³ MNDCI for Joseph Kiszka (death certificate #1916-MN-024515).

⁷⁴ Baptismal records, Church of St. Casimir, St. Paul.

⁷⁵ MNDCI for Rose Dorothy *Kiska* (death certificate #1983-MN-016067; gives mother's maiden name as *Malecki*).

⁷⁶ Baptismal records, Church of St. Casimir, St. Paul.

⁷⁷ MNDCI for Martha C. Sobkowiak aka Sobkowiak (death certificate #1949-MN-027291).

⁷⁸ Frank Kiszka's death notice mentions daughter Mrs. M. Sobkowiak; and, Catherine Kiszka's death notice mentions Mrs. Ray Sobkowiak.

⁷⁹ MNDCI for Ray F. Sobkowiak (death certificate #1977-MN-023317; gives mother's maiden name as Turchin).

⁸⁰ Baptismal records, Church of St. Casimir, St. Paul.

⁸¹ MNDCI for Agnes M. Tierney (death certificate #1996-MN-035217; gives mother's maiden name as *Maleck*).

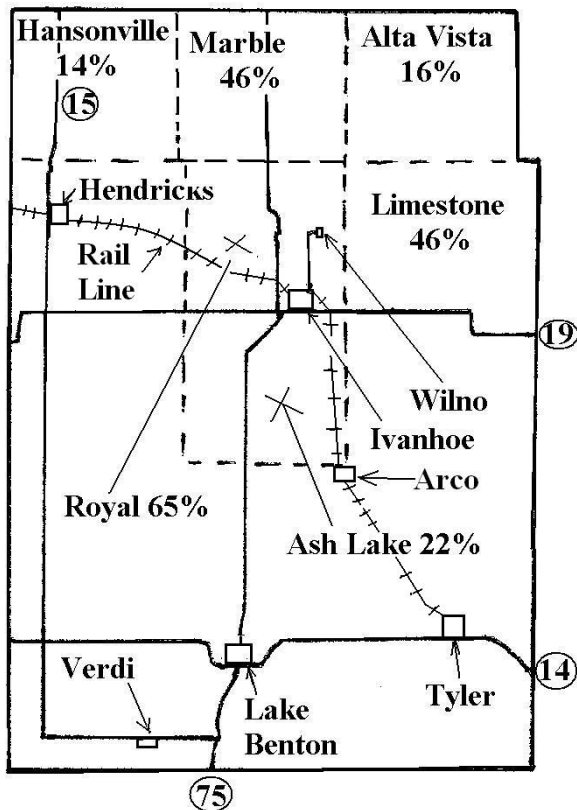
⁸² Frank Kiszka's death notice mentions daughter Mrs. A. Tierney; and, Catherine Kiszka's death notice mentions Mrs. Ivan Tierney.

⁸³ Frank *Kiska* death certificate, #1904-38-295, MN Dept. of Health. Microfilmed copy received from the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul. Provides no information regarding his parents. However, his death was also reported in the *St. Paul Globe*, St. Paul, 3 July 1904, page 32: "Frank Kiska, 848 Magnolia [emphasis added], 2 days, July 1."

Errors!



A couple of errors were noted in my article: “A Polish Community Goes to War.” **First**, sharp-eyed reader Edmund Contoski pointed out in footnote 2 the Treaty of Versailles, which awarded Poland the Polish Corridor, was in **1919**, not 1918. **Second**, the Lincoln County map which indicated the estimated of residents with Polish ancestry in 1940, left out the village of Arco. The Arco community, which straddles four townships, was incorporated in 1903 and originally named Arcola for a city in Italy. It was located on the railroad spur line which connected Tyler and Astoria, South Dakota. We apologize for the omission. The corrected map is shown below along with the controversial rail line that gave rise to Ivanhoe.



A Couple of Addenda

In Anastasia Dzenowagis’s article “Never Give Up on Your Journey” it was noted the accompanying map did not reproduce well. The map was intended to show where Anastasia’s ancestors came from and also the current Lithuanian borders and how it is sandwiched in by four countries. We have reproduced a slightly enhanced version below. The original boundaries of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, established in 1569, included all of present-day Lithuania, most of Latvia, Belarus and the Ukraine and parts of Estonia and Russia. Subsequently the boundaries changed until the Partitions of the 1700s systematically dismantled the state. Poles are still the largest minority in Lithuania representing about 6% of population.



In William Crozier’s article “Part I – Early History and Social Development” of Winona’s Kashubes a question was asked as to what the 1976 sample size was in the table. He reported it was 127. At that time 16% of Winona’s population indicated they were Polish. The table indicated the trend from 1905 to 1976 dramatically increased from unskilled occupations to proprietary and professional.

-JWK

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Minnesota Genealogist, *Summer 2009 p. 30*).
-JWK

Deloris M. Citterman, 67 South Chicago Ave., Mundelein IL 60060 <dmr656sbglobal.net> is researching ZITTERMAN, GORECKI in Poland; DANKOWSKI in Poland and Michigan; GLADYS/GLADYZ, GAWARECKI, RATAJCZAK in Poland and Illinois; KAPOLCZYNSKI/KAPALCZYNSKI in Poland and in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. She writes: "I enjoyed the Polish Conference at Marshall. I am originally from Lincoln County, Minnesota. I am looking forward to receiving your quarterly newsletters."

Carla Grausnick, 4150 - 37th St. W., Rosemount MN 55068 <Kgrausnick@aol.com> is researching Carl SLOWIK.

Michael L. Hull, 6967 Upper 35th St. Circle N., Oakdale MN 55128 <mlhullmn@yahoo.com> is researching HUL (HULL) in maybe Budy Glogowska; STOPA in Budy Glogowska; ZIAJA in Pogorska Wola; MACHALSKA in Wal Ruda – all in Galicia, now Poland and all in Detroit, MI.

Barbara Kelly, 3026 Benjamin St. N.E., Minneapolis MN 55418 <barbkelly1@msn.com> is researching CIESLA in Nowy Targa [Targ] in Poland and in Minneapolis and GRACYASZ in Minneapolis.

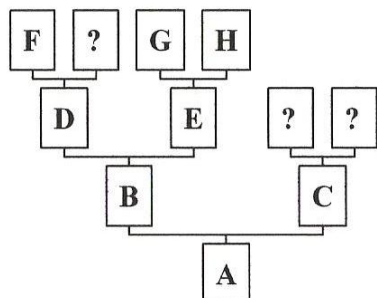
Nancy Lyslo, 1893 - 190th St., Russell MN 56169 <nlyslo@yahoo.com> is researching BABULSKI in Galicia.

Jill Tomaszewski Miller, 3894 - 160th Ave., Cottonwood MN 56229 <jill-robert@mvtvwireless.com> is researching the TOMASZEWSKI and SIK surnames.

Janel Andrzejewski Wartner, 1216 Westwood, Marshall MN 56258 <janel5nelly@yahoo.com> is researching the ANDRZEJEWSKI and SKIERECKI surnames.

Joseph M. Zdon, 555 N. Main St. #204, River Falls WI 54022 is a new member.

Missing Branches



Send updates to: **Paul Kulas**, Associate Editor, *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316-2145 (e-mail: <kkulas@ties2.net>) or with new or renewal membership forms.

NEW MEMBERS – We welcome the following:
Joseph Amato, 202 Park Ave., Marshall MN 56258 <amatojc@chartermi.net> is researching BAWELSKI (BAVELSKI) and LINDSDAU in Neudorf, West Prussia and in Menasha, Wisconsin. Also researching the BAWOLACK from Sviatkova Mala near Jasło, POLANSKY, AMATO, NOTARO, SAYERS (multiple spellings), BOUDROT surnames.

Joe is the author of numerous publications, many currently at the MGS library. He donated two additional books he authored which will be available in the library early next year, Jacob's Well: A Case for Rethinking Family History (Reviewed in Minnesota Genealogist, Summer 2008, p. 36-37) and Coal Cousins (Reviewed in

Missing Branches ...continued on page 7