

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19

SPRING 2011

No. 1

Schwientek homestead in Bowlus becomes Century Farm

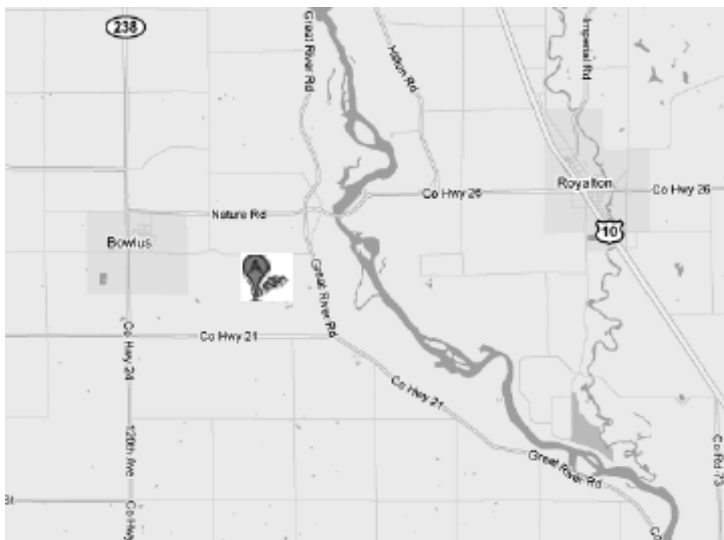
By Tina Snell



Bowlus now celebrates another Century Farm, owned by Leonard (left) and Gladys Psick. The Schwientek farm, in Two Rivers Township, has been in Gladys' family for three generations.

Bowlus couple Leonard and Gladys Psick are celebrating the 125-year-old Schwientek farm they recently added to the Minnesota Century Farm list. Even though the two have never lived on the property together, they have owned and farmed the land since 1974, when they purchased the land from Gladys' mother.

Gladys' grandfather, Vincent Schwientek, came from Krakow, Poland, with his stepfather and mother in 1868. He was only 8 years old. When they passed away in 1869 and 1871 respectively, he went to live with his brother Simon, who had immigrated to America earlier and had property in Two Rivers Township.



Courtesy of Google maps <http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>

Vincent never attended school as a child in Morrison County, but he did learn to read and write English, Polish, and German.

In 1885, he purchased 120 acres of land in Two Rivers Township, and married Albina Gamroth in 1886 at the North Prairie Catholic Church. They were married by Reverend Nagl.

The couple had 12 children: Mary, Emma, Rose, Pauline, Joe, Albert, Peter, Phillip, Simon, Frances, Isadore and Agnes, who died young.

"My sister Elsie told me Grandpa Vincent would bring candy to her when she was 2 years old," said Gladys. "He died just before I was born."

Vincent was a bricklayer and carpenter and built the first home on the property, which still stands today. He also built the building that currently houses Jordie's Trailside Cafe in Bowlus.

Schwientek farm ...continued on page 14

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

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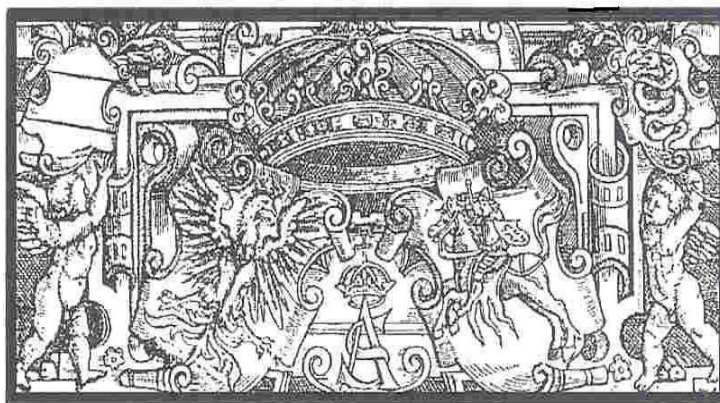
Please use application form on insert page.

Items submitted for publication are welcomed and encouraged. We require feature-length articles be submitted exclusively to PGS-MN. Articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries, etc. should be mailed to: Peggy Larson, 577 98th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 or e-mailed to <EditorPGSMN@gmail.com>

Address/e-mail changes or membership questions?

Contact: Dori Marszalek, Membership Chair
3901 - 61st Ave. N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429-2403
or e-mail: <doripgs@comcast.net>

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President's Letter

Dear Members,

We asked and you responded! In the previous issue of this newsletter, we mentioned that we were looking for someone to step up and take over as Editor. Peggy Larson did just that. Peggy lives here in the Twin Cities and has the skills and energy to get the job done. She joins a short line of long-tenured editors that have laid the groundwork in making the Newsletter one of the most important benefits to membership in our organization. Please join me in welcoming Peggy on this her inaugural edition. Check the sidebar for her contact information regarding content for upcoming issues.

We had a wonderful annual meeting in January. It was well attended- even more than in the previous year. The Society is financially healthy and plans to stay that way. The election of officers was held for two Directors as well as the Vice President and President. All incumbents were reinstated as they were unopposed. Next year we will have two other Directors and the Secretary and Treasurer positions to fill. Please think about joining the Board and help chart the future of the Society.

Please note the great meetings we have planned for this year. Also, it is not too early to put the Polish Festival on your calendar for August. Next time you read this column it will be 70 degrees- I promise.

Jerome Biedny
jaybiedny@juno.com



The Bulletin Board

Correspondence...

Polish parish indexing

I want to thank John Rys for the information he sent me. I appreciate his effort to provide some information and would like to donate \$15.00 to the society to help with costs.



Jean Payne, Brooklyn Center

Editor's note: PGS-MN Research Committee Co-chair, John Rys, has indexed baptism, marriage, and death records for the Polish parishes in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area (See article on page 22). We have microfilm of these parish records in our library. These indexes will help locate the sacramental records of your Polish ancestors in these parishes and sometimes even identify parishes of origin in Poland.

GeneaWebinars

This website, <http://blog.geneawebinars.com/2011/02/genealogy-webinar-hosts.html> has information about upcoming genealogy webinars that may interest our readers.

Near the bottom of the webpage, you will find a list of the webinars with links to learn more. They can enhance or refresh your knowledge of genealogy. Many of them are free & you can enjoy them from your home.

Dorothy <dpngen@comcast.net>

Social Networking for Genealogists

"Jamboree Extension Series: Social Networking - New Horizons for Genealogists"

I found this webinar well done & interesting. Thus, I thought that I would tell you about this free series.

All necessary links about future webinars are on the first page of the handout. The handout for this course is available for download at:
<<http://tinyurl.com/JES-05MARCH>>

Dorothy <dpngen@comcast.net>

Extra Contributions...

We thank the following for their extra monetary contributions to PGS-MN and/or its Library Fund:

- Linda Black
- Col. James Ebertowski
- Edward J. Farrell
- William R. Graczyk
- Janet Magnuson
- Jean Payne
- Nancy Sansone
- Phyllis R. Sulkowski

Dziękuję

[Thank you!]

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

Recently at PGS-MN Meetings

PGS-MN April 2, 2011 Meeting Historical Timelines and Their Impact on Migration

Presented by Dana Halberg. This topic walked through the highlights of historical moments that impacted immigration and emigration from Poland. The combination of U.S. history and Polish history allowed us to imagine what our ancestors may have been thinking as they decided to make a move to America or choose to return to their homeland of Poland.

PGS-MN March 5, 2011 Meeting From Poznan Poland to Minnesota USA – Krzyszewski Family, Kubicki Family, and Maniak Family and from the Suwalki Region of Poland to Minnesota, USA (via Wisconsin☺)

Mary Johnson presented her family tree documenting their migration from Poland to Minnesota. Her presentation was well-documented and had lots of pictures. Mary's relatives came to America from Poznan and settled in northeastern Minnesota. They were farmers for the most part and one of the main houses remains standing today.

Mary did a great job in presenting the information as she had a stand-up display board showing pictures of the ancestors along with names and vital dates. In addition, on the table she had a 3-ring binder for each main family branch. It was all displayed on top a table runner that was embroidered by one her ancestors. And, Mary's mother was in attendance who told a few "interesting" family stories too ☺

Mary said she was able to locate the Krzeszewski and Kubicki families in Poznan through the Poznan Marriage Project online. (Google "Poznan Marriage Project" for the website.) She then ordered microfilms through the Family History Center library of the Mormon Church and was able to locate marriage and birth records. To help us all with our own research, Mary shared the sources she used.

Thanks Mary!

Research Sources of Information

Mary Johnson kmmmkjohnson@msn.com

- Minnesota History Center microfilms and books
- www.ellisland.org Ellis Island records on-line
- Iron Range Research Center at the Minnesota Discovery Center (formerly Iron World)
1005 Discovery Drive
Chisholm, MN 55719
800-372-6437
<http://www.mndiscoverycenter.com/research-center/library>
- Superior, WI Public Library
- Moose Lake, MN Public Library
- Family History Libraries of the Mormon Church
- www.familysearch.org
- www.ancestry.com

www.familysearch.org

- Website has been updated and offers many more records and articles to help in your family research.
- You can sign up for a user name and password to access the new on-line records.
- Click on sign-in in upper right corner.
- Follow directions to sign up.
- A confirmation email will be sent to your email to activate your username. You must activate within 48 hours or you will need to re-register.
- To view records, go to the bottom of the www.familysearch.org website, click on "Europe" or click on "All Record Collections." Records that have a digital image on-line will have a camera picture by the name of record.
- Scroll down to "Poland" or another country, click on it.
- Click on "browse images."
- Select and click on name of city.
- If it doesn't connect you, try again later. The website is continually being updated.
- You can also click on "Help" in upper right corner for more information on records and videos you can watch to assist in your research. The videos have a link to click for a printed version of the information in the video.
- You can click on "Browse Articles" on the lower left of the home page for articles and information about Poland and other countries.

PSG-MN Members Presentations Out-of-State

"Beginning DNA for Genealogists" was a presentation made by PGS-MN member John Rys at the Polish Genealogical Society of America's 32nd Annual PGSA Conference in Oak Lawn, IL on October 1, 2010.



John Rys - PGSA Conference

This beginning DNA presentation included a basic description of the three different DNA tests (Y-chromosome, mitochondrial and autosomal tests) currently used by genealogists. The presentation described how these DNA tests are translated into understandable numeric values for use as a tool in searching DNA genealogy databases on the internet.

Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events...

Święconka: Blessing of Easter Baskets, April 23

A most enduring and beloved Polish tradition. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods are brought to church for a blessing on Holy Saturday. Baskets are traditionally lined with a white linen or lace and decorated with sprigs of boxwood or pussy willow, with ribbon woven through the handle.

- Holy Cross Church, 1621 University Ave NE, Minneapolis, 11 am (in English), 12 noon (in Polish), 1 pm (in English), 2 pm (in Polish).
- St. Cyril & Methodius Church, 1315 2nd St. NE, Minneapolis, MN 1 pm (in English).
- St. Hedwig Church, 129 29th Ave NE, Minneapolis, 3 pm (in English).
- All Saints Church, 435 4th St. NE, Minneapolis, 3 pm (in English).

PGS-MN Meetings

Preparing My Genealogy Report

May 7, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Auditorium at MGS Headquarters

Presenter is Amy Jowers. Amy is the author of the article “*Thomas and Tekla Wolak & Family*” featured in the Winter 2010-2011 PGS Newsletter. Amy will share how she chose the context for her report, what sorts of research she did and some tools she used, her results including both surprises and those dreaded roadblocks and finally, how she designed the presentation’s final look. She will also give us some tips and lessons she learned along the journey. You won’t want to miss this one!

PACIM Sponsored Programs

PACIM Trip to Chicago – May 6-8, 2011

PACIM will be offering a bus trip to Chicago May 6-8, 2011 to take part in their Constitution Day Parade and other associated activities as well as eating in Polish restaurants and shopping.

MGS Sponsored Programs

MGS Quarterly Meeting, June 25 - Winona, MN

This conference will feature two Polish/Kashubian speakers: Ron Galewski and Anne Pellowski. The conference will include a visit to the Polish Museum. The Polish Museum was founded in 1976 to preserve the rich Polish history of Winona. It houses Kashubian artifacts, family heirlooms, religious articles, folk art and more. Gift shop sells Polish items. See “Save the Date!” on page 25.

Twin Cities Polish Festival – August 13-14, 2011

Saturday August 13, 2011 – 10am – 10pm

Sunday, August 14, 2011 – 11am – 6pm

Old Main Street across from Riverplace and St. Anthony Main.

Stage performances, including dance groups, performing artists, and an evening of European-style disco, music bands, polka performances, art exhibits and delicious Polish food and beer.

Information at www.tcpolishfestival.org.

MGS North Star 2011 Genealogy Conference – October 7-8, 2011. Location TBA. Featured speaker: George C. Morgan - Author of hundreds of articles for magazines, journals, and newsletters in genealogical publications. He has written eight books, the newest of which is the second edition of *How to Do Everything: Genealogy*, published by McGraw-Hill and critically acclaimed by genealogists, societies, and libraries. George also wrote the first and second editions of *The Official Guide to Ancestry.com* and has written a chapter for the forthcoming second edition of *Professional Genealogy*. Mr. Morgan will present four topics:

- Getting the Most from Ancestry.com
- Bring 'Em Back to Life: Developing an Ancestor Profile
- Genealogy Orienteering: Using Maps to Find the Right Place
- Bits and Obits: Reading between the Lines.

For updates, www.mnps.org/calendar.htm#northstar

Missing Branches.....continued from page 26

know where Ambrose went to school (high school and college); what was his occupation; when, how and where did Ruby and Ambrose meet (she was Lutheran and I assume he was Catholic); what did their families think of their marriage; where did they live in Minneapolis; where did he work; when and why did they go to Los Angeles, and what was their life like there. Some of those questions may never be answered. But maybe some can be answered by people who may have known them or about them.

I am not doing a family history of the Jasinsky or Anderson family, just a narrow inquiry into these two people whose story is virtually unknown to the descendants of Ruby. So if you can put an inquiry into your newsletter to see if anyone has any information about Ambrose Jasinsky and his wife, Ruby Anderson, I would appreciate it.

Ivan W. Nicholson <tarheels@paulbunyan.net>

Editor's note: The Minneapolis City Directories during the time period that Ambrose and Ruby lived there and the 1940 census records (due to be released soon) may answer some of your questions. READERS: Anyone having information about this couple please contact Ivan. –PTK

Missing Branches.....continued on page 9

Bowlus Czechs live on 102-year-old farm

By Tina Snell

Stanley and Bernetta Czech, Bowlus, now rank their farm with others in the Minnesota Century Farm club. They received the plaque and certificate at the Morrison County Fair, Friday.

Traveling from Falkowitz, Prussia, Martin Czech, Stanley's grandfather, came to Two Rivers



The original Czech family stands in front of the log home Martin built in the area that is now Bowlus. Posing are (from left): Robert, Peter, Mike, Mary (mother), Martin (father), John and Stanley.



Township in 1869 with three of his brothers. Martin eventually purchased 160 acres of heavily timbered land which was later developed into the town of Bowlus. The log home Martin built still stands in Bowlus today.

"My grandfather bought another 160 acres," said Stanley. "The Soo Line Railroad purchased the first 160 for \$10,000, and the family moved to the second acreage."

Stanley remembers the stories of his grandfather as being a land baron.

"He kept purchasing land for his sons," said Stanley. "He bought acreage around Bowlus and the Holdingford area. He cleared the land and raised mostly grain."

Martin and Mary Heleva married before immigrating to the United States. The couple had nine children after they settled in Two Rivers Township. They were Anna, Bridget, Robert, Ralph, Mike, John, Peter, Frank, and Stanley.

Martin purchased 120 acres of land in 1908, which he sold to his son Frank in 1910 when Frank married Gertrude Schalbe. The couple had two children, Dorothy and Daniel. Gertrude died in childbirth and Frank later married Agnes Panek from St. Anna. They had another seven children, Walter, Celia, Lucille, Ray, Stanley, Marie, and Sylvester.

Mary died in 1918 and Martin in 1927.

"My older brothers and sisters told me Martin was always dressed up, looking more like a businessman than a farmer," said Stanley. "He died when I was only one year old."

"I only attended school through the second grade," he said. "My brothers and sisters and I were needed to work the farm."

Frank, the first mayor of Bowlus, built the home that now stands on the Century Farm. There were two rooms at first, just a kitchen and a bedroom. Mary used apple boxes to store her dishes and utensils, for there were no cabinets.

"As more kids arrived, more rooms were added," said Stanley.

Frank added a telephone, shared by 11 other families, to the home in the 1920s. It came in handy when the babies arrived, said Stanley.

When growing up, Stanley said the work was all done by hand.

"We pumped water, picked potatoes, milked cows, took care of the vegetable garden, plowed and planted the fields with teams of horses and cut and split wood," said Stanley with a smile. "Then we went to school."

Stanley remembers picking potatoes on the neighbor's farm with his brother Ray. They would split 15 cents and buy candy.

The Czechs raised beef and dairy, hogs, chickens, turkeys and geese. They grew crops for feed, grain, and clover for seed. The manual labor was aided by a tractor in 1949.

The boys could be mischievous. One winter when their parents were visiting neighbors, the kids tried to teach one of the colts how to skate.

102-year-old farm...continued on page 22

PGS-MN Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, 15 January 2011. Again, we chose to have it in the midst of a lovely luncheon at the



Gastof zur Gemutlichkeit restaurant in Northeast Minneapolis. The crisp winter afternoon welcomed more than 40 local members of our

organization for fellowship and some business. It was one of our largest gatherings in several years.

As part of our non-profit standing under the Minnesota Genealogical Society, we are compelled to have a public meeting of our membership once per year. After a feast of fine Polish food, we held



the election of officers. This year's slate was re-elected unopposed and was as follows: Jason Waldowski & Jan Bias, Directors; Rick Theissen, Vice President; and Jerome Biedny, President.

Following the elections, Mike Eckman (*photo on right*) gave a summary of our financial situation which remains strong. Please reference the chart on page 9 for specific details.



We then made an open plea for assistance volunteering at the MGS library for our Polish time slots on Saturdays and Thursdays each month.

We also discussed our Mission Statement as distributed on the agenda. Except for some "wordsmith-ing," the Mission was judged to be comprehensive and useful." The Board will be reviewing it periodically to make sure it remains relevant to our organization's goals.

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Purposes

- To create an interest in Polish ancestry and heritage;
- To promote quality genealogical research;
- To encourage the exchange of information through meetings, forums, and publications;
- To preserve the family and institutional history of Polonia in Minnesota and neighboring states;
- To work with other genealogical organizations who have similar interests and goals.

**Volunteers needed
MGS Library**

We ended the afternoon with a “show and tell” session in which people brought family mementoes, articles, and pictures that supported their research.



If you live in the Twin Cities, or just plan to be in town, we would love to see you next year at our mid- January, Annual Meeting in 2012- there is going to be Pierogi! **PGS-MN**



**Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota
2010 Financial Report**

	2009 Actual	2010 Budget	2010 Actual
Starting Cash Balance	\$8,115.19	\$4,573.89	\$4,573.89
RECEIPTS			
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Back Issues	127.00	150.00	68.00
Donations / Library Fund	118.95	250.00	191.53
Dues	3,290.00	3,500.00	4,440.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	159.60
Program Attendance	891.43	1,200.00	1,360.25
Sales (Books)	967.37	1,000.00	595.40
Sales Tax Collected	66.52	68.76	37.29
Freight/Shipping Out	8.10	10.00	12.65
Surnames/Family Ties	96.20	100.00	175.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$5,565.57	\$6,278.76	\$7,039.72
DISBURSEMENTS			
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges	10.00	0.00	0.00
CD purchased	2,000.00	0.00	(1,602.24)
Items for Resale	545.31	500.00	373.78
Library Expense	0.00	200.00	0.00
Meetings/Speaker Fees	1,394.62	1,400.00	1,949.12
Office	432.08	420.00	267.58
Supplies/Copies/Misc.			
Postage	720.50	700.00	483.34
Publishing Expense	2,661.00	2,800.00	2,793.10
Rent/Insurance MGS	1,276.00	1,372.00	1,372.00
Sales Tax Paid for Prior Year	67.36	66.52	66.52
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$9,106.87	\$7,458.52	\$5,703.20
TOTAL DIFFERENCE IN CASH	(\$3,541.30)	(\$1,179.76)	\$1,336.52
Ending Cash Balance	\$4,573.89	\$3,394.13	\$5,910.41
TCF CD	\$6,552.64	\$6,636.96	\$5,035.03
Total Ending Assets	\$11,126.53	\$10,031.09	\$10,945.44
New Members	37	30	34
Paying Members at year end	292	288	304

**Visiting Student
Could Help You!**

Monika Baczyk from Miedzyrzecz, Poland will be visiting Minnesota this summer from mid-June until the end of August. During her visit she would be interested in doing translations for people from the modern Polish or German script. She is from a small town in northwest Poland in Lubuskie Province. As a boarder town it has many German influences. She has been educated in Polish, German, Russian, and English. She is currently attending college in England.

If you would like her to work on some items before she arrives, Monika may be contacted via e-mail at: monika.baczyk1989@gmail.com.

During her summer visit, she can also be contacted by phone at 612-325-6594.

Missing Branches from page 5

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Jean Payne, 3601 Urban Ave No., Brooklyn Center MN 55429 <dj3601@msn.com> is researching WRZOS and KACZMAREK in Poland and in Minneapolis.

RENEWALS-- members updated information forms:

Georgene Leiter Angrist, 100 2nd St NE, Mpls. MN 55413 <angrist2@comcast.net> is researching MICHURSKI in Nowa Huta Cisowska, Swietokrzyskie Province and in Mpls. MN and FELON in Rzeszowa (Austria), Podkarpackie Province and in MPLS.

Missing Branches cont'd pg 14

Warsaw on the Rise

A new crop of skyscrapers symbolizes the Polish capital's effort to rebuild its downtrodden image

By Rudolph Chelminski

*Photographs by Tomas van Houtryve
Smithsonian magazine, February 2011*

It was as a student in Paris looking for a cheap travel adventure during Christmas break that I got my first glimpse of Warsaw. I had signed up with a couple of friends for a trip into Poland's Tatra Mountains, and our second-class compartment on the night train was oppressively overheated until, shortly after midnight, cars holding Red Army officers were added in East Berlin, and the heat ceased entirely for the rest of us.

Shivering and miserable, I disembarked before dawn at a bleak platform swept by fine needles of icy snow, backlit by large military-style floodlights on lofty stanchions. It was 1961. The air smelled of low-octane gasoline, the signature scent of urban Eastern Europe in those days. Warszawa, the big station signs read. The atmosphere was eerily gulag.

Many trips over the years only confirmed my initial impression: gray, patched together and woebegone, Warsaw was an ugly misfit compared with the timeless beauties of Rome, Paris and Stockholm or, closer by, the three fabulous Austro-Hungarian gems of Vienna, Prague, and Budapest.

There was good reason for Warsaw's pitiable state. Before World War II, it had been a parklike city, a picture postcard of old-world Central European architecture on a human scale. But beginning in 1939, in the war's opening days, the city suffered grievously from Nazi shelling and the terror bombing that targeted residential areas. The Nazis would destroy the Jewish ghetto, and more than 300,000 of its residents would die of starvation or disease or in death camps. As the war ground toward its final act, Hitler—enraged by the Polish Home Army's general insurrection, during which more than 200,000 Poles were killed—ordered Warsaw to be physically erased. Over three months in 1944, the Nazis expelled the city's 700,000 remaining residents and leveled nearly all of what still stood: incendiary and dynamite squads moved from building to building, reducing them to rubble or, at best, charred shells.

No other city in Europe—not even Berlin or Stalingrad—was taken down so methodically. Rebuilding in haste with the poor materials and primitive equipment available in the dreary postwar days of Soviet domination, Varsovians reclaimed a bit of their history by painfully recreating, stone by stone, the beautiful Old Town section, the elegant Royal Route leading to it, the Market Square and the Royal Castle. But the rest of the city grew into a generally undistinguished low-rise sprawl, some of it the patched-up remains of the rare buildings that escaped complete destruction, some recreations of what had existed before, but mostly quick-lick solutions for a returning population in desperate need of shelter, offices and workshops. Little did anyone suspect that half a century later Warsaw's agony would serve as an unexpected advantage over other major European cities: since it was no longer an open-air museum of stately mansions, cathedrals and untouchable historical monuments, the city could be molded into a dashing showcase of contemporary architecture.

In the meantime, though, postwar Poland was threadbare, excruciatingly poor, trampled by the economic absurdities of Marxist ideology and totally in thrall to the Soviet Union. Between 1952 and 1955, Moscow dispatched several thousand Russian workers to give Warsaw its "Eiffel Tower": the Joseph Stalin Palace of Culture and Science, a massive confection of tan stonework 42 stories high. At 757 feet, it is the tallest building in Poland (and is still the eighth highest in the European Union) and resembles an oversize wedding cake. It was billed as a fraternal gift from the Soviet people, but it sent a different message: we are bigger than you will ever be, and we are here forever. Big Brother, indeed.

I can't count the number of Poles who told me the old saw about the palace's observation platform being the most popular site in Warsaw because it's the only spot from which you couldn't see the palace. Even when Stalin's name was lifted three years after the murderous despot died, Varsovians detested the palace for the political statement it made and for its gaudy hugeness. After 1989, the year the Berlin Wall came down, signaling Communism's fall, younger citizens began to view it with the sort of grudging acceptance that one might feel toward a doddering but harmless old relative.

But what to do about it? In the euphoria of the early days of freedom from the Soviets, many assumed the palace would soon meet a wrecker's ball. But it is in the very heart of downtown Warsaw—in a way it was the heart of downtown Warsaw—and it contains offices, theaters, shops, museums, a swimming pool, a conference center, even a nightclub. It had its uses. The answer was a cold war-style compromise: peaceful coexistence.

Under the Communist regime, construction had begun on the first rival to the palace: a 40-story, glass-fronted hotel and office building completed in 1989. By then, Eastern Europe was changing with dizzying speed. In Warsaw, five decades of repressed entrepreneurial energies had been released like an explosion, and soon shiny new buildings were mushrooming from one end of the city to the other. Seizing the freedom to speculate, developers threw up office and apartment blocks of dubious quality, inevitably heavy on the basic glass box cliché. Before, people had worried about what to do with the palace; now they worried about what was happening around it.

Poland, the biggest and most populous of the USSR's former European satellites, was taking to capitalism like a Labrador pup to a muddy puddle, and the largely underdeveloped country was a good bet for future profits. Eager to secure a foothold and capitalize on low wages and high levels of skill, foreign firms rushed in. Company headquarters of a quality that would not be out of place in New York or Frankfurt began going up.

By 2004, when Polish membership in the European Union was sealed (the nation had joined NATO in 1999), the flow of foreign capital had turned into a flood. Warsaw boomed. Lech Kaczynski, mayor from 2002 to 2005, parlayed his headline-grabbing ways into the nation's presidency. (Kaczynski died in a plane crash last April.) The current mayor, an economist and former academic named Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, set out to reshape the mutilated city's downtown area, promising not simply to modernize the city but turn it into Central and Eastern Europe's principal financial address.

"We will change the downtown," she declared after taking over in 2006. "In the Parade Square area, skyscrapers will be built, which will become our city's new pride." Everyone knew what that meant:

the square is home to the palace. The time had come to bring on the "starchitects."

Gronkiewicz-Waltz knew that she could not turn Warsaw into a futuristic never-never land like Dubai or Abu Dhabi—there was too much urban history to cherish and too little oil underfoot to pay for vastly ambitious projects—but international architects and promoters could make the city's heart glitter. "Warsaw must grow up if it wants to compete with other big European cities," the mayor said. She meant "up" literally.

One illustrious architect had already made his mark on the city. Norman Foster's sober Metropolitan Building, inaugurated in 2003, was a mere seven stories high but something to behold: three cornerless, interconnected wedges, each with its own entryway, their facades punctuated by protruding granite fins that seemed to change color according to the brightness of the sky and the position of the sun. It proved to be a surprise hit with ordinary Varsovians—even parents with bored children. With a crowd-pleasing circular courtyard filled with shops, restaurants, shade trees and a fountain, the building boasts amusement park flair. A ring of 18 water jets set into the granite pavement and activated by high-pressure pumps sends spurts to varying heights, leading to a socko 32-foot burst.

But the Metropolitan was only the beginning. "We intend to build skyscrapers, yes," says Tomasz Zemla, deputy director of Warsaw's Department of Architecture and City Planning. "To be honest, we want to show off."

An architect himself, Zemla presides over the city's future in a spacious, high-ceilinged office in the central tower of the Palace of Culture and Science. "We need to get the chance to compete with Prague, Budapest, and maybe even Berlin," he says, "because it is our ambition to become an important financial center in this part of Europe. Capital in Poland is very dynamic, very strong." As for the palace, he continues, "We can't let it be the most important building anymore. You know, it's still the only really famous building in Poland. Children see it as the country's image. We need to compete with that. We have to show our ideas. We have to do bigger and better."

To anyone who roamed the barren city in the '60s, '70s and '80s searching vainly for a decent café or

restaurant—endlessly importuned by hustlers on the sidewalks, prostitutes in hotel lobbies and pettifogging officials at the airport—today’s Warsaw is an astonishing contrast. The city teems with shops, cafés, bars, restaurants, and consumer services. A passion for trade has bred an orgy of commercial graphics—taxis and buses virtually disappear under advertisements, entire building fronts are hidden by roll-down canvas billboards. Young men and women on the crowded sidewalks chatter in the chewy syllables of their Slavic tongue, inevitably larded with Americanisms and computerese like the beguiling *zupgradowac* (to improve), derived from “upgrade.” Just across the street from the palace, the *Złote Tarasy* (Golden Terraces) mall, opened in 2007, provides shelter from the elements under an enormous, impudently weird, silvery blanket of undulating triangular glass panes (like some ectoplasmic creature from the deep heaving up and down to catch its breath). In a vast central space escalators zoom the iPod generation to every chain store and fast-food joint that the world’s marketing geniuses could dream of. Dour, drab old Warsaw is turning into a polychrome butterfly.

Among the first starchitects to seriously challenge the dominance of the Palace of Culture was Helmut Jahn of Chicago, creator of One Liberty Place in Philadelphia and the spectacular Sony Center in Berlin. His elegantly classical Residential Tower Warsaw, 42 floors of apartments and commercial space, is now under construction just a block behind the old Soviet rock pile.

Closer still will be *Złota 44* at its completion. This blue-tinted, 54-story luxury residential complex is the brainchild of the Polish-born American Daniel Libeskind, designer of the Jewish Museum in Berlin and the original master plan for rebuilding the Ground Zero site in New York City. It features a dramatic arc of steel and glass swooping away as if seeking escape from the conventional, square-cornered structure to which it is attached (some calculated symbolism there). It was interrupted in mid-construction by a lawsuit filed by local residents who objected to their loss of sunlight and views. Final permission to complete the building was not delivered until October of last year.

Złota’s stop-and-start progress is typical of the obstacles facing any ambitious administration in a

hurry, but Warsaw had the further bad luck to be in full stride when the world banking crisis hit and credit dried up. Suddenly the grandest project of all—Zaha Hadid’s *Lilium Tower*—was menaced.

Hadid, an Iraqi-born British architect, planned a structure that would dominate the skyline once and for all—the first building in Warsaw to be higher than the palace. Her proposed tower of some 850 feet is destined for a site opposite the main railroad station. Gracefully curved, bowed outward in the middle and tapering at the top and bottom, *Lilium*’s four wings inescapably evoke horticultural images. There’s not a square line visible, and the building makes a stunning contrast to the palace’s plodding right angles and heavy decorations.

“I love that shape,” says *Zemla*, before extolling all three of his pet projects: “They’re beautiful.” Unfortunately, though, he and the rest of Warsaw will have to wait to see the *Lilium* grow. For the moment, the developers have put the project on hold until the economy improves.

Inevitably, some people would dispute *Gronkiewicz-Waltz*’s belief that skyscrapers are the ticket. Disdaining the race for postmodern glamour, an articulate minority calls for the city to seek instead to recapture the homey atmosphere of Middle Europe before World War II, sometimes idealized as a place of comfortable, easy living, of cobbled streets with friendly little shops, open-air markets and tree-shaded sidewalk cafés.

“When we got our freedom in 1989, I thought we would finally have real quality architecture for human society’s needs,” says *Boleslaw Stelmach*, an architect specializing in building in historic areas. “Instead, I found myself working in a huge office, not doing architecture but producing buildings like a factory. Well, I would rather see wiser than taller.”

Certainly Warsaw of the late ‘30s was a place of sharp intellectual activity, avant-garde theater, poetry readings, Chopin recitals and the like, but some critics of the skyscraper movement go further than *Stelmach* and overly romanticize the city’s past. The old Warsaw was not necessarily a civic paragon. There were also poverty, discord and social injustice—the same dark underside as any urban center.

Still, Warsaw's long history of oppression by Russians and Germans, the terrible efficiency of its destruction and its dogged persistence in reclaiming the past make it a place apart: a city that has been obliged to reinvent itself. Even as the aesthetes and the philistines argue about what it should become, that reinvention continues. Remarkably enough, a sensible compromise seems to be falling into place.

"Yes, the center of Warsaw is going to be skyscraper city," says Dariusz Bartoszewicz, a journalist specializing in urban matters at the *Gazeta Wyborcza*. "That's its destiny. Twenty or 30 of them will be built for sure. Not in the next five years, but over time. It will happen."

At the city's fringes, a second wave of innovative design is beginning to reshape the Vistula River's largely undeveloped banks. The Warsaw University Library is not only low, a mere four stories high, but meant to disappear. Topped by a 108,000-square-foot roof garden and draped with climbing plants whose greenery melds into the green of oxidized copper panels on the building's facade, this ultramodern repository for two million books is what happens when architects are willing to share glory with a gardener.

The lead architect, Marek Budzynski, is a renowned university professor, but the landscape architect, Irena Bajerska, was virtually unknown until she was brought onto the design team. Her garden has become so popular it is now part of the regular Warsaw tourist routes. Bajerska beams and points out the young couples suited up in their tuxedos, white dresses and veils posing within her foliage for formal wedding photographs, while kids romp on the winding paths and retirees take their ease, reading newspapers and enjoying views of the city and the river.

Across the street, low-rise, riverfront apartment buildings are going up, and a series of planned projects, beginning with the Copernicus Science Center, next to the library, will perpetuate the human-scale development along the riverbank: bicycle, pedestrian and bridle paths, pleasure boat wharves and reconstruction of the Royal Gardens below historic Old Town.

"Warsaw is now in the middle of great, great things going on," Wojciech Matusik assures me as he sips a drink in the posh bar of the Bristol Hotel, a five-

minute walk from Norman Foster's Metropolitan Building. Formerly the city's director of planning, Matusik was once in charge of development, a position that allowed him to anticipate much of what is happening today.

I had frequented the Bristol in the '70s when it was a shabby, down-at-the-heels palace way past its prime (and I had known Matusik when he was a modestly paid functionary). Now renovated, the Bristol is one of Warsaw's finest hotels, and Matusik, elegantly tailored, today a real estate consultant, is right at home. The man and the hotel have both prospered, and illustrate the distance Warsaw has come since I first passed through here 50 years ago.

"The past is very heavy here," said Bogna Swiatkowska, a young woman who founded an organization to bring art and artists to public places. "So much happened here—World War II, the ghetto, the uprising and everything after. We live with ghosts in Warsaw, but it's a very special place with wonderful, talented, creative people. Now it's time to get rid of the ghosts, make our peace with the past, and think about the future."

Rudolph Chelminski is author of *The Perfectionist: Life and Death in Haute Cuisine*. Tomas van Houtryve, a photographer on his first assignment for Smithsonian, lives in Paris.

Find this article at:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/Warsaw-on-the-Rise.html> PGS-MN

It's never too early to start planning!!!!

August 13-14, 2011



Schwientek farm ...continued from page 1

Besides farming and construction, Vincent was also the vice president of the first bank in Bowlus, served on the city council and was the school treasurer.

The farm passed to Vincent's son Peter in 1920, the same year the young man married Elizabeth Lyschik. The couple had two children, Elsie and Gladys.

"My father added electricity to the farm in 1935," said Gladys. "Elsie and I were thrilled to share the responsibility of turning the lights on and off."

Plumbing was added around 1947, to the kitchen and the new bathroom. Up to that point, Gladys remembers having to pump water for use in the home.

The two girls were expected to help on the farm, by taking care of the animals, the garden and the home. Gladys said she sometimes drove the team of horses during haying. As there were no bales then, the hay was stored loose. The family milked about 15 cows and raised chickens and pigs for meat. They also canned vegetables harvested from a huge garden for winter use.

Gladys' mother Elizabeth had several sisters in the Twin Cities and she would give them a lot of her canned food. "We lost a lot of jars that way," said Gladys.

She remembers that it wasn't all work on the farm. The family had lots of fun, too. "In the winter, we would go skating on the Two Rivers River, and my parents would socialize and play cards with the neighbors. There were many house parties to attend."

The farm passed to Gladys and her husband, Leonard Psick, in 1974. Peter died in 1966 and Elizabeth in 1976.

Leonard and Gladys were married June 25, 1953, with the wedding reception on the original Schwientek homestead. They moved onto the Psick family farm in Bowlus, and eventually had five children: Jim, Mary Jane, Janice, Doris, and Rose Ann.

Today, Leonard and Gladys own three farms. His family homestead, the Schweintek farm (the home is rented) and another 20 acres nearby. They

continue to raise about 20 head of beef cattle, feed, and crops.

The couple will receive their Century Farm certificate and a plaque at the Morrison County Fair in Little Falls, held July 14-17.

The Century Farm recognition program is sponsored by the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau. To qualify, the property must have been in continuous ownership by a family for 100 years or more and be at least 50 acres in size. The acreage must be currently involved in agricultural production. About 250 farms are designated each year.

To register acreage as a Century Farm, go to www.mnstatefair.org.

(Article originally printed 24 June 2010 in Morrison County Record, reprinted here with permission.) **PGS-MN**

Missing Branches cont'd from page 9

Linda Black, 14825 W 81st Terr., Lenexa KS 66215 <ljrblack@earthlink.net> is researching DZIEWIDEK in Wolka or Sokolowska in Poland and in Minneapolis; MIERZWA in Rakszawa and Baranicka and in Minneapolis and Auburn NY; OZOG and KUKLA in Poland.

Larry Chesney, 6363 Beaver River Rd., Duluth MN 55803-8413 is researching Jozef J. SZCZESNY, (born 1863, died 1934) and Katarzyna FRODYMA (b. 1871?, d. 1945). Katarzyna was born in Fryszak? or Rzeszow, Poland. They married in PA, USA? in 1889?, lived in northern Wisconsin until about 1903 or 1904. Also researching Agata (KLAHR) SZCZESNA, (b. 1831?, d. 1911-USA).

Col. James Ebertowski, 5631 Teterling Ct., Chester VA 23831 <JSluggo@aol.com> is researching EBERTOWSKI in Laq/Czersk in Poland; STOLTMAN in Bydgoszcz; KASPRICK/KASPRZYK in Galacia; DURAY in Wiele/Bydgoszcz and all in ND/MN.

Nancy Gagner, 8025 Dakota Ave., Chanhassen MN 55317 <gncdsk75@mchsi.com> is researching STANEK in Rzeszów in Poland and in Chicago; CZARNIK in the Poznań region and in Chicago.

Missing Branches cont'd on page 21

New Library Materials - Book Reviews

Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy

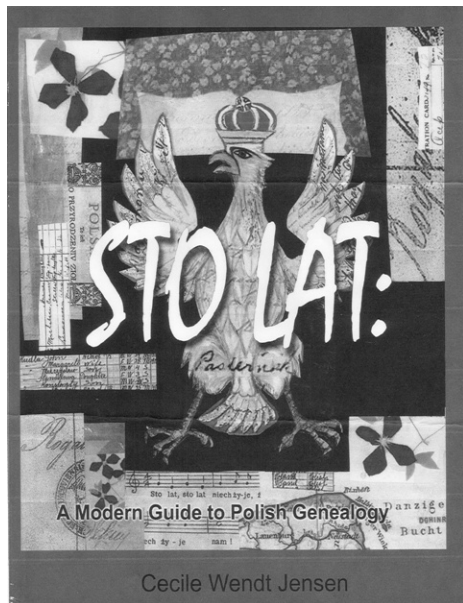
Cecile Wendt Jensen

ISBN 978-0-615-36099-7

A review by Jerome Biedny



This book is perfect for someone who has several generations of family here in the United States and knows even less about their roots in Poland. It will help you organize what you know and point you toward more information. The various pictured examples, pulled from eastern cities with major Polish communities, will be familiar to many readers. The 'modern' part of the subtitle is threaded throughout the book, culminating in tips for digital photographs and Web addresses.



Many of the subjects covered are relevant to non-Polish research as well. Her coverage of census records, city directories, etc. is very helpful. There are full chapters on Military Records and Immigration & Naturalization records. Then the discussion turns specific with excellent summaries of the changing geography of Poland during the Partitions as well as tips on reading old-style, hand written records. There is also good coverage on the care and preservation of documents, photographs and other heirlooms.

The most distinctive feature of the work is the Case Study chapter. The half-dozen examples span a range of typical family situations. They give great practical insights to research methods. But more, they offer hope that, no matter how little you may currently know about your family, if you use the right research methods, you can find out even more. This gives inspiration to the beginner and long-time searcher alike.

Unfortunately, the entire book was not fact checked. For instance, the information on our Society still lists us as being located in Golden Valley. But, on balance, this would be a great gift for the budding family historian with lots of energy, but not much previous direction.

Editor's note: The author of *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy*, Cecile Wendt Jensen, sent the following comment along with her shipment of books:

I recorded three free online videos for the Family History Library. They are good companions to the book and can be found here:

http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/NGS/Introduction_to_Polish_Research/player.html

http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/NGS/Polish_Displaced_Persons/player.html

http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/FHD/Community/NGS/Advanced_Polish_Research/player.html

PGS-MN

Lubinski Family History Book

(Reviewed by John Rys, a fellow 1950's DeLaSalle HS student with Dick Lubinski)

FAMILY HISTORY: PGS-MN member Richard Lubinski has assembled an extensive family history book of ancestors for the Lubinski and Svec families. This volume contains an array of baptismal records, death records, charts, and photographs. Many were taken by Dick's cousin Cheryl Lubinski during her trip to their Polish ancestral villages in the year 2010.

FAMILY RECORDS: This volume contains many photographs of church registry pages taken in Poland for some of the following surnames: Boris, Gwiazdon, Hafics, Janos, Korba, Kus, Lubaszcz, Lubinski, Majchrowicz, Panyko, Pluta, Skawska, Svec, Szivanics, Twarog, & Valchol.

On the paternal side, many records relate to the Polish surnames of his father John Lubinski and grandfather, Joseph Lubinski and grandmother Angela Kus who settled in Northeast Minneapolis at the turn of the 1900 century.

On the maternal side, many records relate to Slovakian names of his Mother Helen Svec, grandfather, Gregory Svec and grandmother, Anna Hafics also settling in "Northeast".

VILLAGES: This volume contains numerous images of pages from the actual registry books found in Jordanow, Wysoka and Rabka, Poland. These beautiful villages are nestled in the Beskid Mountains of southern Poland and are part of the Carpathian Mountain Range extending through Central and Eastern Europe. The photographs in this family history book show some of the beauty of the villages.



Jordanów, Poland from a distance (nestled in the Carpathian Mountains)

BROWSING THE BOOK: If you have ancestors from any of these three villages, browsing the registry book images for surnames may give some surprising results. For example, my maternal grandfather's name is Lawrence Maciaszek and he was from Wysoka Poland. Among those images, I found an early baptismal record for another Maciaszek from Wysoka. Since this was a small village, further research may result in finding a family connection.

DEDICATION: This book was prepared by Richard Lubinski and dedicated to family relatives and descendants who may show a future interest in exploring their ancestry. PGS-MN

*** **SANTO SUBITO!** ***

JOHN PAUL II TO BE BEATIFIED!

submitted by Guido Buldrini

Editor of Gen Dobry!,—Guido Buldrini posted this note to the Poland-Roots and Polish Genius mailing lists. I'm not sure what source he's quoting, but there are plenty of online news outlets covering the same ground. I felt certain many of you would like to know about this.

VATICAN CITY, 14 JAN 2011 (VIS) – On 1 May, the second Sunday of Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday, Benedict XVI will preside at the rite of beatification for John Paul II in the Vatican.

According to a note released by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, “today 14 January, Benedict XVI, during an audience granted to Cardinal Angelo Amato S.D.B., prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, authorised the dicastery to promulgate the decree of the miracle attributed to the intercession of Venerable Servant of God John Paul II (Karol Wojtyła). This concludes the process which precedes the rite of beatification.

“It is well known that, by pontifical dispensation, his cause began before the end of the five-year period which the current norms stipulate must pass following the death of a Servant of God. This provision was solicited by the great fame of sanctity which Pope John Paul II enjoyed during his life, in his death and after his death. In all other ways, the normal canonical dispositions concerning causes of beatification and canonization were observed in full.

“Between June 2005 and April 2007 the principal diocesan investigation was held in Rome, accompanied by secondary investigations in various other dioceses, on his life, virtues, fame of sanctity and miracles. The juridical validity of these canonical processes was recognized by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints with a decree of 4 May 2007. In June 2009, having examined the relative ‘Positio,’ nine of the dicastery’s theological consultors expressed their positive judgment concerning the heroic nature of the virtues of the Servant of God. The following November, in keeping with the usual procedure, the ‘Positio’ was submitted for the judgment of the cardinals and

bishops of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, who gave their approval.

“On 19 December 2009, Benedict XVI authorised the promulgation of the decree on John Paul II’s heroic virtues.

“With a view to the beatification of the Venerable Servant of God, the postulator of the cause invited the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to examine the recovery from Parkinson’s disease of Sr. Marie Simon Pierre Normand, a religious of the ‘Institut des Petites Soeurs des Maternites Catholiques.’

“As is customary, the voluminous acts of the regularly-instituted canonical investigation, along with detailed reports from medical and legal experts, were submitted for scientific examination by the medical consultors of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on 21 October 2010. The experts of the congregation, having studied the depositions and the entire documentation with their customary scrupulousness, expressed their agreement concerning the scientifically inexplicable nature of the healing. On 14 December the theological consultors, having examined the conclusions reached by the medical experts, undertook a theological evaluation of the case and unanimously recognized the unicity, antecedence, and choral nature of the invocation made to Servant of God John Paul II, whose intercession was effective in this prodigious healing.

“Finally, on 11 January 2011, the ordinary session of the cardinals and bishops of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints took place. They expressed their unanimous approval, believing the recovery of Sr. Marie Simon Pierre to be miraculous, having been achieved by God in a scientifically inexplicable manner following the intercession of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II, trustingly invoked both by Sr. Simon herself and by many other faithful”.

I’m very happy!

Guido

Written by Guido Buldrini. Previously published by *Gen Dobry!*, Vol. XII, No. 1, 31 January 2011, PolishRoots®: <<http://www.PolishRoots.org/>>.

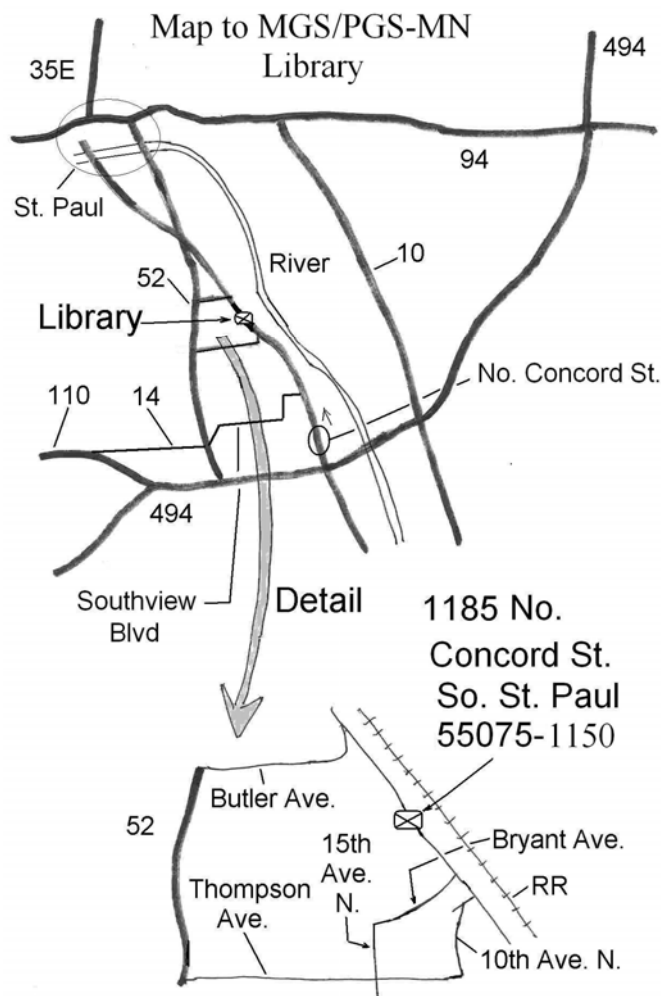
PGS-MN



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

1185 No. Concord St.
So. St. Paul MN 55075-1150



Library - Looking south on Concord St. – Located in Suite 218 on second floor. Meetings are held in the Board Room (4th floor) or Auditorium (1st floor). Internet and WiFi are available in the library.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

PGS-MN's **Polish Collection** (books, maps, etc.) is located at the MGS Library, 1185 No. Concord St. in South St. Paul (see adjacent map). Hours are:

Tuesday: 6 – 9 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. & 6 – 9 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Staffing is all volunteer, so check the website or call before heading over to verify it is open. Use:

651-455-9057 or <http://www.mngs.org>

Directions to the MGS Library:

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

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

Parking is directly across the street or in adjacent lot on weekends. Street parking is also permitted.

SPECIAL POLISH DAYS AT THE LIBRARY

Except on library closure dates, the “Polish Night at the Library” is held on the **second Thursday of the month** from 6 to 9 p.m. Similarly, the “Polish Afternoon” is held on the **first Saturday of the month** from 1 to 4 p.m. Either time, one of our experienced genealogists is usually available to assist you with your Polish research problems. Call ahead to verify.

Publications for sale by PGS-MN:

- Fitzpatrick and Yeiser, *DNA and Genealogy* \$22.50
- Golembiewski, *The Study of Obituaries as a Source for Polish Genealogical Research* \$10.00
- Hoffman and Helon, *First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins and Meanings* \$20.00
- Jensen, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy* \$25.00
- Litak, *The Latin Church in the Polish Commonwealth in 1772* \$17.00
- Müllerowa, *Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish Peoples Republic in 1984* \$15.00
- Ortell, *Polish Parish Records of the Roman Catholic Church* \$12.00
- Radzilowski, *A Traveller's History of Poland* \$14.95
- Shea, *Going Home: A Guide to Polish American Family History Research* \$35.00
- Shea and 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

Make check payable to **PGS-MN and order from:**

Paul Kulas Attn: PGS Books
 12008 West River Road,
 Champlin MN 55316.

Minnesota residents add 7.275% sales tax. Please add 10% to the book costs for shipping & handling. Some of our most popular titles are available for sale at the library.



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

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Members Please Note

If your address label is highlighted in yellow your membership expires with this issue. Renewals are \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. *A membership is also a unique gift.*

Please consider a three-year renewal as this will reduce the possibility of missed issues. Detach and mail the renewal form below. Throughout the year, we endeavor to provide quarterly newsletters and six interesting programs. Thank you for your support.

If you move... Please let the Membership Chairperson know at <doripgs@comcast.net>. The newsletter is bulk-mailed and is not forwarded. We must pay to receive notification of non-delivery. We do endeavor to mail out a copy first-class to your new address. Thanks.

Cut here

Membership Application:

New _____ Renewal _____ Rejoining past member _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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

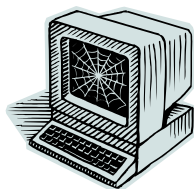
List Surnames from Poland that you are researching:

List locality in Poland where each surname originated:

List locality in North America where immigrant settled:

I consent to publishing of this information in the Society's newsletter and/or website Yes _____ No _____

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



http://

What are digital libraries?

http://dlibra.psnc.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=27

The above address will take you to the list of all digital libraries in Poland.

Digital libraries are the best thing since the Internet was invented! This is a Poland-wide project to digitize all old books and make them available on-line, free of charge. The beauty of the system is that it uses exactly the same extremely user-friendly interface, regardless of where the library is located. Plus, the search in one library will bring the relevant results in all digital libraries!

Why are digital libraries important to us?

Because, those libraries, even though in existence for a relatively short time, already contain a wealth of digitized books significant to genealogists researching in Poland!

Here are some examples:

- Old gazetteers (like our 'Slownik')
- Old maps
- Old address books
- Old telephone books
- Schematizms for many provinces (including Galicia)
- Old newspapers
- Memoirs, travelogues

All Digital libraries are bilingual Polish/English. So, browse and enjoy!

(Source http://www.torugg.org/Publications/How_to_use_Polish_Gazeteer_Online.pdf)

<http://polishamericangenealogy.blogspot.com/>

Somewhere I ran across advice from a researcher to look at the material available on "Al's Polish-American Genealogy Research Blog," at this URL.

<http://www.sggee.org/research/SGGEEMaps.html>

On the Poland-Roots mailing list, a member named Rose posted this URL in response to a request for "a map of German colonies in middle Poland dated *1938*." Rose said to search the public area of the SGGEE Web site, and choose #2 on the list of maps. It reminded me that the SGGEE site has a lot of valuable maps and other links worth your attention.

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/scope.html>

Tom Sadauskas suggested we mention an online library at Harvard, "Aspirations, Acculturation, and Impact—Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930," at the above address. He quoted this material from the site. "Immigration to the US, 1789-1930 is a web-based collection of selected historical materials from Harvard's libraries, archives, and museums that documents voluntary immigration to the United States from the signing of the Constitution to the onset of the Great Depression. For Internet users worldwide, Immigration to the US provides unparalleled, free and open digital access to a significant selection of unique source materials more than 410,000 pages, 100 individually cataloged maps, and 7,800 photographs."

<http://www.ilgensoc.org>

A recent issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* [EOGN], mentioned that the Illinois State Genealogical Society has unveiled a new Web site. Eastman said the announcement was published online with full graphics and formatting on 15 January 2011 at the above site.

<http://genealogyindexer.org>

The 23 January 2011 issue of Avotaynu's e-zine *Nu? What's New?* had an article discussing this site, created by Logan Kleinwaks and full of excellent info for eastern European genealogical research. It includes "a common index to nearly 400 different historical directories (business, address, telephone, etc.), yizkor books (Holocaust memorial), lists of Polish military officers, and community and personal histories."

<http://www.newsbank.com/readex/press.cfm?press=53>

The 9 January issue of *Nu?* said that Readex, a division of NewsBank, plans to make available online ethnic American newspapers from the Balch

collection, 1799–1971, in Spring 2011. You can read more about these plans at the above URL, which promises “an emphasis on Americans of Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Jewish, Lithuanian, Polish, Slovak, and Welsh descent.”

<http://www.1944.pl>

On the Poland-Roots list, Debbie Greenlee said there are new sights to see in Warsaw, including the Warsaw Uprising Museum at this URL. She also suggested a look at the Copernicus Science Center,

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

(Above websites published by *Gen Dobry!*, Vol. XII, No. 1, 31 January 2011, PolishRoots®:

<http://www.PolishRoots.org/>).

<http://www.castlegarden.org/>

CastleGarden.org is an educational project of The Battery Conservancy. This free site offers access to an extraordinary database of information on 11 million immigrants from 1820 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened. Over 100 million Americans can trace their ancestors to this early immigration period.

Castle Garden, today known as Castle Clinton National Monument, is the major landmark within The Battery, the 25 acre waterfront park at the tip of Manhattan. From 1855 to 1890, the Castle was America's first official immigration center, a pioneering collaboration of New York State and New York City.

CastleGarden.org is an invaluable resource for educators, scholars, students, family historians, and the interested public. Currently the site hosts 11 million records, and support is needed to complete the complete digitization of the original ship manifests.

The Battery remains one of the oldest public open spaces in continuous use in New York City. Native Americans fished from its banks, and the first Dutch settlers built a low, stone wall with cannons, a battery, to protect the harbor and the fledgling city of New Amsterdam. The transformations of The Battery and the Castle tell the history of New York and, by association, the growth, and development of our nation. **PGS-MN**

Missing Branches cont'd from page 14

William R. Graczyk, 1235 Clubhouse Dr., Apt #3114, Taylorsville UT 84123 <wrgraczyk@gmail.com> is researching GRACZYK/GRACZ, KILINSKI/ KIELAS/ KELASH in Jaroszewo, Znin in Poland; PIOTROWIAK, MARCINIAK in Sosnowiec, Srem; NOWAK/ NOVAK in Marcinkowo Dolne, Znin; SWEDRZYNISKI/ SWENDRA in Rogowo, Znin; PRYL/PRILL in Rogowsko, Znin; JASINSKI in Grochowiska, Znin; & all in Silver Lake, McLeod, MN.

Michael Jarmuz, 808 Green Street, Hudson WI 54016-1952 <myjarmuz@yahoo.com> is researching JARMUZ in Junczewo & Znin in Poland.

Kevin & Mary Ann Johnson, 3210 - 139th Ln NW, Andover MN 55304 <kmmmkjohnson@msn.com> are researching MANIAK, DUDA, CIESIELSKI, ORCZAREK in Bieganin, Ligota and Rashkow (all in Poznan) and in Buffalo NY, Duluth/Superior and Split Rock Township MN; MALECHA in Ligota (Poznan); NOWICKI, MYNARCZYKA in Bieganin and Karmin (Poznan); SERWANSKA/ SERWANSKI, SZYDTOWSKA-JUNISKI, WITKOWSKA, GAPINWICZ, KOMOROWSKI, TOKARSKA, DROSZYNSKA in Raschkow (Poznan); BUTKIEWICZ in Suwalki, Poland and in Duluth/Superior and Kettle River MN; KRZESZEWSKI in Doruchów and Kozielsko (Poznan) and in Duluth; MUSOLF/MESZKA/ MYSXAK (spelling variations) in Smuszewo and Łekno (in Poznan) and in Duluth; BANACH in Kozielsko, Poznan and in Duluth; DAMAZYN in Wapno, Kcynia and Panigródz Stary (in Poznan) and in Duluth; BAUS and JURKOWSKI in Poznan and in Duluth; KUBICKI in Mięcisko and Miłosławice (Poznan) and in Winona and Duluth; WACHOWIAK in Mięcisko and Zabiczyn (Poznan) and in Winona and Duluth; OLSZEWSKI, KOSLAKIEWICZ, MANKOWSKI in Poland/Germany and in Buffalo NY and Duluth; BACZKOWIANKA in Poznan.

Duane Kaczmarek, 13094 Danube Ln., Rosemount MN 55068-4379 is researching the KACZMAREK, LEWONDOSKI and PAWLAK surnames.

Missing Branches cont'd on page 23

MINNESOTA CHURCH MICROFILM AND INDEXES

Available at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library

MICROFILM: Records of many Catholic churches from the Archdiocese of St. Paul are available in a microfilm collection at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library in South St. Paul. The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGS-MN) added to this collection by purchasing microfilm records for the twelve ethnically Polish churches listed below.

INDEXES: PGS-MN member, John Rys, is indexing the Polish church microfilm. Indexes of baptismal and marriage records (prior to the year 1935) are available in the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library in the "Polish Materials Section" under the call numbers Pol-208 and Pol-209.

All Saints, Minneapolis	Indexed
Holy Cross, Minneapolis	Indexed
Holy Trinity, South Saint Paul*	Not Indexed
Sacred Heart, Rush City	Not Indexed
St. Adalbert, Saint Paul	Indexed
St. Casimir, St. Paul	Indexed
St. Hedwig, Minneapolis	Indexed
St. John the Baptist, New Brighton	Indexed
St. Joseph, Delano	Indexed
St. Joseph, Lexington	Indexed
St. Mary Czestochowa, Delano	Indexed
St. Philip, Minneapolis	Indexed

* Microfilm records for Holy Trinity begin with the year 1940.

CUSTOM REPORT: In addition, custom reports for the above indexed churches can be prepared for specific surnames upon request. This customized report finds all occurrences of that specific surname whether entered as a primary participant, parent or witness. This "Family Ties" report can be requested from John Rys by e-mail at <john@john.rys.name>. Label the e-mail with the subject as "Family Ties Report." A donation to the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota of \$15 is suggested for each surname report.

NOTE: These indexes are available on the internet at www.pgsa.org under the heading "Databases." The PGSAmerica put the marriage and baptism databases on their website and made them searchable at their cost. There are links to the databases via the PGS-Minnesota website also. **PGS-MN**

102-year-old farm...continued from page 6

"It kept falling on the ice, so Ray got some ashes to spread on the ice for footing," he said. "We got the colt back into the barn before our parents got home, but he was all sweaty. When dad saw him, he thought the horse was ill and called the vet. No one ever found out what really happened."

For entertainment, Stanley remembers his father playing the violin for house and square dancing parties. He also remembers when his father added electricity in about 1940.

"Mom wouldn't iron with an electric iron," he said. "She felt it would kill her. But, the rest of us were

happy not to have to pump water any more and we could have light during the evening hours."

Stanley said he had no intention of ever working the farm when he grew up. His dream was to go to California and raise grapes.

"My youngest brother Sylvester, worked the farm with dad until I came home from Korea in 1952," he said. "They needed help with the farm since my parents were getting old. Sylvester was drafted in 1957, and I bought the farm that same year."

Plumbing was added to the Czech homestead in 1962, the same year Stanley married Bernetta Swanson.

“I came from a home with plumbing,” said Bernetta. “Stan wanted me to have the same facilities in my new home. But, we were married in October and the plumbing was not completed until December. I went to my folks place or his parents’ home to shower.”

At the same time he added plumbing to the farmhouse, Stanley added a basement, a bath, and a wood furnace which replaced a combination wood/gas stove.

He lost his mother Agnes in 1968 and his father Frank in 1970.

Stanley, who was the mayor of Elmdale for 12 years, is also a dowser.

“I have the knack to find water,” he said. “I sit on the back of a pickup truck with my Y-shaped elm stick and the driver moves slowly over an area. I hold the stick out the back of the truck and when the truck travels over a vein of water, I can hardly hold the stick. It moves upward toward me.”

Stanley has the driver move back and forth until the largest vein of water is located.

“My father could dowse, too,” he said. “I would drive the pickup for him.”

Stanley said that with a metal clothes hanger that is stretched out, he can tell how many feet down the water is.

“Then, with a magnet on the ground, I can tell which direction the water is flowing with the elm stick,” he said. “If I lay the magnet on top of the vein of water, the elm stick will be able to detect water flowing towards the magnet, but not water which has passed it.”

Stanley and Bernetta have two children, Janell and Jeffrey, both born on January 18, two years apart.

Most recently, Jeffrey kept dairy cows on their farm. But, he got a job in Chaska and sold his herd. No decision has been made about the fate of the farm for next year.

The Century Farm recognition program is sponsored by the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Farm Bureau. To qualify, the property must have been in continuous ownership by a family for 100 years or more and be at least 50 acres in size. The acreage must be currently

involved in agricultural production. About 250 farms are designated each year.

To register acreage as a Century Farm, go to www.mnstatefair.org/general_info/recognition.html.

(Article originally printed 10 July 2010 in Morrison County Record, reprinted here with permission.) **PGS-MN**

Missing Branches cont'd from page 21

Gregory F. Kishel, <gfk@cornell.edu> is researching KISIELEWSKI, WROCZYŃSKI, PIENKOWSKI, JAMIŃSKI, PONIATOWSKI, PIENCYKOWSKI in Rajgród and Bargłów parishes near Augustów in Poland and in Virginia MN; GUZMANN in Janowo parish near Kwidzyń and in Bessemer MI and Virginia MN; PIĄTEK/ PIONTEK/FRIDAY near Kwidzyń? or Gniew? and in Stevens Pt. WI and Bessemer MI.

Walter Kornel Kondy, PhD., 619 S.E. 7th St., Minneapolis MN 55414-1327 is researching KONDEJ, KRÓL in Ustrobnia in Poland, CYRAN, GRZEBIEŃ in Tułkowice in Poland, and all in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Kathy Kortus, 2340 16th Ave. E., No. St. Paul MN 55109 <kmkortus@aol.com> is researching LUKASZEWSKI and KORTUS (Jacob) in Posen in Poland and in St. Paul MN.

Jim & Lim Kulas, 7536 Red Hill Dr., Springfield VA 22153 <polishpop1@earthlink.net> is researching ZABROCKI, ZABROCKA in Wiele, Czersk, Bak in Poland and in MN, Dakota, WI, MI and PA.

Peter Lamusga, 10503 - 2nd St., Gheen MN 55771-9053 <pdlcom@22.net> is researching the LAMUSGA, WARWAS, PLOTNIK, PHILIP-CZYK, KOCHANEK, MARCINCYK, FRONIA, BERCYK, BIAS, HAUPSTOCK surnames.

Peggy Larson, 557 98th Lane NW, Coon Rapids MN 55433 <timpeggy@comcast.net> is researching WIECZOREK in Gniezno in Poland; ZAKRZEWSKI, FELCHOWSKA/FELCHOWSKI/FELTZ/FELSKI, NOWAKOWSKI in Poland; and all in Winona MN.

Stella Lundquist, 2022 Charlton Rdg., W. Saint Paul MN 55118-4402 <scl@usfamily.net> is researching FLIS, STRISLAW in Lublin in Poland.

Janet Magnuson, 46 Garden Dr., Burnsville MN 55337 (Summer, May 1st - Oct. 31st), 8240 E. Lakeview Ave., Mesa AZ 85209-5150 (Nov 1st - May 1st) <janmagnuson@gmail.com> is researching KOCIKOWSKI, KOMASCIANKA in Srebrnagóra, Znin in Poland; DANIELSKI, WALKOWIAK, FATTYNSKA in Kcynia (Exin) Znin; and all in St. Paul MN. Janet writes: "I am anxiously awaiting some documents from both the Poznan Project and Archiwum Archidiecezjalne w Gnieznie – can't wait!"

Mary Ann Maniak, 8711 62nd Ave. N., Minneapolis MN 55428 is researching KUBICKI and KRZESZEWSKI in Duluth and Gnesen.

Donald McCavic, 5487 Lehigh St., Ventura CA 93003-4009 is researching Julian BLOCH/BLOCK in St. Louis County, MN and Buyck, MN. He needs place of origin in Poland.

Janet & Warren Mitchell, 1539 Stonewood Lane, Egan MN 55122-1952 <mitch088@tc.umn.edu> are researching KOWALSKI and MACIEJEWSKI in Poland (Pommern) and in MN and WI.

Florence Myslajek, 1425 W 28th St. Apt. 208, Minneapolis MN 55408 is researching the MYSLAJEK surname. She writes: "One Myslajek who lives in Karkow located our name. My daughter visited him in Poland last summer. Her grandfather and his grandfather (Andrew) were brothers. -- A real breakthrough."

Ronald Niziolek, 12275 Rush C., Elk River MN 55330 <rniziolek@msn.com> is researching NIZIOLEK, MIKOZG in Iwonicz in Poland.

Patti Roback O'Brien, 538 - 83rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids MN 55433 <Obrien_Patti@yahoo.com> is researching ROBACK/HROBACK/HROBAK in Oden in Poland and HOLOWCZAK in Pochohantis W. Virginia, New York, Mpls. MN, died in Wisconsin.

Barbara Odette, 8219 S Kilbourn Ave., Chicago IL 60652-3063 <barbarod@comcast.net> is researching CZUBERNAT in Nowy Targ in Poland and in Chicago IL; BATKIEWICZ in Nowy Targ and in Chicago and in Michigan; CZOP in Rad[ow] in Poland and in Chicago and in Connecticut.

Dona Paris, 420 Lake Aires Rd., Fairmont MN 56031 <jdparis@midco.net> is researching PIOTROWIAK/PEITROWIAK/PETROWIAK in

Turastowo in Poland and in IL, WI, MN;

MADAJ/MADAY in Polichno and Szubin Weis and in MN; SZUKALSKI/SUKALSKI in MN; LUBINSKI in Nassadel and Tembatschen and in MN; FELCMAN in Ujazard and in IL and MN.

Robert J. Prokott, 820 - 50 1/2 Ave. N.E., Minneapolis MN 55421 <prokott@people.com> is researching PROKOTT, GALLUS, KLISCH/KLESCZ, CZECH, KROLL, WOJTASZEK in Poland (Prussia) and in Minnesota.

Jennifer Shaltz, 2815 Norwood Ln., Plymouth MN 55441 <jshaltz@comcast.net> is researching CHOROMANSKI, NIEWINSKI in Poland and Mpls. and TEMENSKI, ZALESKI in Poland.

Laurentia J. Smieja, 1639 Woodbridge St., St. Paul MN 55117 <ladybug@pconline.com> is researching CZECH in Poland and in MN, WARZECHA in Poland--Germany and in MN--Opole, SMIEJA in Poland and MN--WI.

Lois Stavish, 505 - 2nd Ave. S.E., apt. 121, Little Falls MN 56345 is researching STAVISH, VNUCK/VNUK, HLAD in ? in Poland and in Ohio and MN.

Robert A. Stryk, 5441 Halifax Lane, Edina MN 55424 <rastryk@tcq.net> is researching STRYK in Wisconsin and STRYKOWSKI, STRUGULEWSKI in WI, PA and NY.

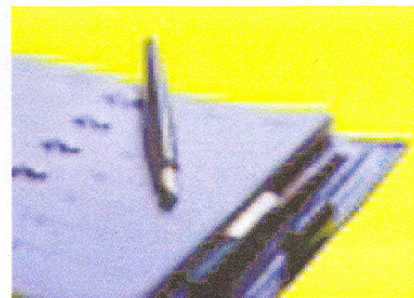
Jim Thelen, 3169 Traci Ln., Dewitt MI 48820-7747 <jimthelen@comcast.net> is researching PRUCHA in Bohemia; CZECH/ZECH, MOTZKO, MUNDRY in Opole, Silesia and all in Hartford/Browerville, Todd County, MN.

Sue Thomson, POB 285, Janesville MN 56093 is researching LAZARZ, PICKARZ and WELC in the Krzemienica area in Poland and in the IL, IN, PA areas.

Rolland Turcotte, 5614 Lavaque Rd., Duluth MN 5503-8441 <rollandrgt@gmail.com> is researching SZNURA, LACZYNSKI in Posen, Poland.

Kathleen Zawislak, 2144 Case Ave., St. Paul MN 55119 <kzee1607@comcast.net> is researching ZAWISLAK in Jodlowa in Poland and in St. Paul, Chicago and NY; TARARA in Lubiany, Bierdzany and in St. Paul; DANIELSKI in the Poznan area and in St. Paul; RYCHLICKI in ? in Poland and in St. Paul. **PGS-MN**

**Save the
date!**



June 25, 2011

The next MGS summer conference will be held in Winona, Minnesota at the new Winona County Historical Society.
www.winonahistory.org



Program theme: Ethnic origins of Winona
Genealogical research techniques

Coming soon: Complete program schedule and registration information at www.mngs.org



The program coincides with the opening weekend of the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona. We invite you to make a weekend of it and enjoy all Winona has to offer. It will be a busy weekend so make hotel reservations early!

More information is available at www.visitwinona.com and www.grsf.org.

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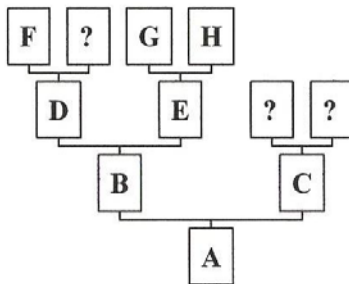
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You can contact me by email doripgs@comcast.net or phone 763-535-2296

Thank You,
 Dori Marszalek
 Membership Director

Missing Branches



QUERIES: Send queries 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.

Do you know Ambrose Jasinsky and Ruby Anderson?

I am doing some family research on behalf of my wife and her sister. This is the story:

My wife's mother, **Ruby Anderson** (deceased), married **Ambrose Jasinsky** in Hennepin County in May 1941. They lived and worked in the Minneapolis area before going to Los Angeles and finding work in the Hughes Aircraft plant. While they were there, my mother-in-law contracted TB and was confined to the Barlow Hospital in Los Angeles. Ambrose also contracted TB. He subsequently died, and my mother-in-law recovered

and returned to MN in 1946. The next year she married my father in law (deceased). On their marriage certificate she listed her name as **Ruby Jasinsky**.

I have done some research and determined that a **Frank Jasinski** is listed in the 1900 census living in Limestone, Lincoln County, MN. The 1910 census still puts Frank in Limestone with his father **Stanley (Stanislas) and Eva Domek Jasinski**. The 1917 draft registration lists a **Frank F. Jasinsky** operating a gas station in St. Cloud. The 1920 census lists Frank Jasinski in St. Cloud with wife **Angeline** and several children including Ambrose. The 1930 census lists an Ambrose in St. Peter, MN with the name **Jajinsky**.

Frank Jasinsky died in Hennepin County with the dates of birth and death as 2/14/1886 and 5/23/1954. Ambrose was born 11/1/1915 in MN and died in Los Angeles on 9/26/1944. Ruby was born in September 1917 in Isanti County.

The questions that my wife and sister-in-law have concerning Ambrose have answers in genealogy as well as family stories. For example, they want to

Missing Branches ...continued on page 5