

# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19

SUMMER 2011

No. 2

## *Twelve Days in May: Epidemic in the Family* *William Abromitis of Schuylkill County,* *Pennsylvania*

by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Ph.D.  
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*(Editor's note: This article is about a member's descendants from Lithuania. Poland and Lithuania have a united history dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was one of the largest countries in 17<sup>th</sup> century Europe and reached its Golden Age in the first half of that century. However, by the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Commonwealth had become weakened and vulnerable to foreign influences and by 1795 the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth had been completely erased from the map of Europe. Thus, although this article is about Lithuanian ancestors it is in line with the history of the Polish people.)*

William Abromitis, son of Frank Abromitis and Marion Stanulis,<sup>1</sup> was born about 1876 in Lithuania. There are eight original sources for William's birth; all agree on place of birth but suggest birth dates ranging from 1873 to 1878. These sources are the Hamburg emigration lists, Ellis Island immigration records, 1900 U.S. census, William's 1906 naturalization record, 1910 U.S. census, William's death certificate, William's grave marker, and the 1922 marriage license application of his son William (birthplace Lithuania Russia).<sup>2</sup> Until birth or

**Twelve Days...***continued on page 8*

<sup>1</sup> William's parentage is documented in notes probably made in the early 1960s by his son William Stephen Abromitis (1901–1968) and his grandson William Abromitis (1925–1975); privately held by Lois Abromitis Mackin, Plymouth, Minnesota, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> "Hamburger Passagierlisten, 1850–1934," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 January 2007), entry for Vizenti Abramaitis, aboard *Patria*, Hamburg to New York, leaving 26 June 1898; citing Bestand [inventory no.] 373–7I, VIII (Auswanderungsamt I [Emigration List—Indirect] Band [vol.] 098 C; Staatsarchiv Hamburg microfilm series K1701–K2008, S1763–S17383, 13116–13183. Lithuanian men named Vicenty or Vincas often used the English name William in the United States; the first communion certificate of the author's father William

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Abromitis shows Vincas as his name. (Vincas Abromaitis first communion certificate (1933); issued at unknown date, SS. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, Tamaqua, Pennsylvania; privately held by Mackin.) Manifest, *S.S. Patria*, 8 July 1898, List [number torn], p. 6, for Vinzenti Abramaitis (age 24), digital images, *Statue of Liberty—Ellis Island Foundation* (<http://www.ellisland.org> : accessed 26 May 2006). 1900 U.S. census, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Shenandoah, Enumeration District (ED) 163, sheet 12 A, p. 119 (stamped), dwelling 182, family 182, William Abromatis; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>; accessed 3 March 2005), citing National Archives microfilm publication T623, roll 1484. Schuylkill Co., Penna., Naturalization Records: loose papers, petition no. 4292, William Abromitis, 1906, petition for naturalization; Schuylkill County Archives, Pottsville. 1910 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penna., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 97, sheet 13 B, p. 225, dwell. 240, fam. 240, William Abromitis; digital image, *Genealogy.com* (<http://www.genealogy.com> : accessed 3 March 2005), citing National Archives microfilm publication T624, roll 1418. Pennsylvania Department of Health, death certificate (1911), William Ambromidus; Division of Vital Records, New Castle. New St. Jerome's Cemetery (Tamaqua, Schuylkill Co., Penna.), William Abromitis marker; personally read, 2009. Schuylkill Co., Penna., Marriage Dockets 1885–1969, 48:306, William Abromitis-Julia M. Sakusky; Schuylkill County Archives, Pottsville.

**Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota**

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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 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  
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**President's Letter**

Each year for the past few, I've been taking the family and my mother-in-law down to her small ancestral town of Freeborn, MN for an old fashion Memorial Day. There are speeches by politicians at the fire hall, a parade down to the cemetery for grave side ceremonies, and a luncheon fund raiser in the church basement for the Cemetery Association. If you have never attended such an event-go to Freeborn. To see the somber faces of the veteran honor guard is to really experience the Day and its aim-honoring fallen soldiers. It actually started as Decoration Day after the Civil War, but that is a longer story.

Well, for many reasons, we did not go to Freeborn or visit at local cemeteries this year. So I had three solid, rainy days to commit to something. I made my own Memorial Day celebration project. From all corners of the house, I gathered together photographs and mementos that I had been wanting to organize. You know the stuff; you have it too. Envelopes with something tucked in here and something else in a folder there. A shoebox or plastic bag sits uncelebrated and contains that stuff that should be in a better place. I had even bought the archival plastic pages to slip these into.

Once I started, I could not stop! Hour upon hour I saw my life, and that of my wife, come into focus with 150 years of photos, funeral cards, paper records-including military discharge papers, etc. It was a very pleasant review of what I knew plus surprises thrown in: shots of my grandmother in a swimsuit!

So, where is this all going? I'm asking you to get a rainy day project ready: gather the stuff, get the support materials, and look for the time. It will pop up somewhere this summer. When it does, you will be ready for a great walk down memory lane. If you write on the back of those photos, you will be doing future generations

a world of good AND keeping them from being sold at a garage sale as nameless faces.

If you don't start somewhere, you will get nowhere! Enjoy your summer. See you at the Polish Festival next month or at one of the meetings in the fall.

Jerome Biedny  
President



## *The Bulletin Board*

### **Correspondence...**

**Thanks much** for using or putting my articles in the newsletter of Schwientek & Czech family farms which they or you would of called me. As my grandmother Schwientek was born on the farm would say, "Wow, that's neat!!!" seeing it on front page. Czech family farm has other connections like 2009 Stan Czech good friend Martin Riucha came to visit from Berlin & it was my 1st time meeting him so we went to cemetery in North Prairie near Bowlus & took many pics. Martin knows many, many from the Bowlus area & is actually 5th cousin. Thanks for great job.

**Albert Kowalczyk**  
763-315-0520

### **More info on the Schwientek's**

In the last issue of the newsletter of article on Schwientek family farm that I gave to have in newsletter; At last count of all Schwientek 's families there are over 20 sets of twins. Oldest set of twins, one is still living. Pauline Schwientek, son Clarence Kowalczyk, 90 yrs & is still on the farm with his son Daniel. The youngest would be great great-grandchild of Albert Schwientek. The place where Vincent Schwientek last lived in Bowlus is now the place of Duane & Carole Zapzalka.

**Albert Kowalczyk**  
Brooklyn Park MN

### **Warning?**

You could print a word of warning to people who are planning to visit the library.

I know you had a map printed in past issues, but when I was traveling there, I figured, I have the address so I don't need a map, I'll just use my GPI unit.

Unfortunately, the address did not show up on the GPI unit. The closest I got was about 1/2 mile. Ergo I had a heck of a time locating the library.

Science isn't perfect yet.

I'll know better next time.

Sincerely,  
**Dennis Kulas**

*Editor's note: Thanks for the idea, Dennis! Given the various technologies in the world one person's GPS unit may work with the library address and another's may not. So I have added an "Alert" to the library information on page 30.*

### **Extra Contributions...**

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

- Fred A. Stone

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

**Dziękuję**

[Thank you!]

### **Recently at PGS-MN Meetings**

#### **Preparing My Genealogy Report, May 7, 2011**

Presented by Amy Jowers. Amy is the author of the article "Thomas and Tekla Wolak & Family" featured in the Winter 2010-2011 PGS Newsletter. Amy shared how she chose the context for her report, what sorts of research she did and some tools she used.

Amy said she began with the basics: birth, baptism, marriage, and death records. Then she added census information. Amy said the best sources are newspapers and state historical societies. For anyone with ancestors in the Chicago and Illinois

area, the state historical society in Lemont, IL is a good resource. Some further tips from Any Jowers:

1. Document! Write down your links to research on the web.
2. Organize and organize and organize.
3. Do it in pieces. Don't take on too much at one time. Don't get distracted from the task at hand.
4. Choose a format that works for you.
5. Define your success with what you DID, not with what you FOUND.
6. Share what information you have with others.

### **Winona Genealogical Program – June 25, 2011**

Sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogical Society and the Winona County Historical Society



(Photo courtesy of Tom Laska)

This event was an all-day workshop held at the Winona County Historical Society. The event covered ethnic research, genealogical skill-building, area resources, and migration.

The session topics included learning to use the “virtual library” on the internet, organizing your genealogy project(s), learning how to follow your ancestors’ migration trail, an introduction to the Winona Newspaper Project, and folklore of Kashubian Poland. The afternoon topics were about Germanic genealogy and Native American genealogy.



(Photo courtesy of Tom Laska)

### **“Winona’s Kaszubian Connection”**

The research portion of the day focused on Kaszubia as the majority of Polish immigrants to Winona were from the Kaszuby area. During the lunch session, Ron Galewski, presented “Bytów, Winona’s Kaszubian Connection.” Ron’s presentation was informative and entertaining. Ron seems to be the go-to guy for all things Kaszub!

The final event of the day was a tour of the Polish Cultural Institute, aka the Winona Polish Museum. What an interesting place to visit!

### ***Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events...***

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

**September 10, 2011 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**  
Auditorium at MGS Headquarters

#### **November 5, 2011**

Joint meeting with the Pommern group

**Pommern Regional Group of Minnesota (PRG) - August 6, 2011** – Student speaker from Poland will give a presentation on her home town of Miedzyrzecz (Meseritz in Posen) and Gubin Poland (formerly Guben) plus her experience of attending 4 years of high school at a joint venture Polish & German school. She is also interested in doing any translating of modern German and Polish records, documents, etc. during the summer. See Pommern Group webpage for more information.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnprgm/PRG.html>



**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. For more information, see [www.tcpolishfestival.org](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org).

**Pathways to the Heartland – September 8, 2011****A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists**

“How to Introduce Your Genealogical Society to the Entire Nation.” Find out at the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2011 Society Showcase. Prairie Capital Convention Center, Springfield, Illinois, 5:00–8:00 p.m.

**Tour Poland, September 12-23, 2011**

From the white sands on the Baltic to Zakopane in the Tatras, this tour will take you to see many of Poland's cultural and historic sites. Visit the home of John Paul II, the Black Madonna, Auschwitz, Wawel Castle, Gniezno, Torun, and much more. Feast on Polish cuisine and enjoy music from traditional folk to a Chopin concert.

Join tour host Art Grachek, retired St. Cloud State University professor, for his sixth tour of Poland. For itinerary & tour details, contact Bursch Travel, St. Cloud, MN. [www.burschtravel.com](http://www.burschtravel.com) or 320-251-3180.

*(Editor's suggestion: Use a Firefox or Safari browser to log on to this webpage. I couldn't access it using Internet Explorer. The tour info isn't readily on the screen, you have to click on "full service travel," then "group," then "tours," then scroll to the Poland listing.)*

**MGS Awards Banquet – Friday, October 7, 2011**

The Minnesota Genealogical Society will be presenting six awards at the annual MGS awards banquet which will be held Friday, October 7 at the Colonial Church of Edina. All members are invited! See MGS webpage for more information. <http://mngs.org/index.htm>

**MGS North Star 2011 Genealogy Conference – October 7-8, 2011.**

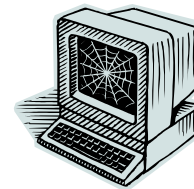
Location TBA. Featured speaker: George C. Morgan - Author of hundreds of articles for magazines, journals, and newsletters in genealogical publications. He has written eight books, the newest of which is the second edition of *How to Do Everything: Genealogy*, published by McGraw-Hill and critically acclaimed by genealogists, societies, and libraries. 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.

See [www.mngs.org/calendar.htm#northstar](http://www.mngs.org/calendar.htm#northstar) for updates.

**Upcoming Meetings...***continued on page 22*

*http://*



The following websites were previously published by *Gen Dobry!*, Vol. XII, No. 4, 30 April 2011, PolishRoots®: <http://www.PolishRoots.org/>:

<<http://www.polishclubsf.org/In%20Search%20of%20Zagloba.pdf>>

This link opens an Adobe Acrobat file with a very interesting article by Maureen Mroczek Morris from the *Polish American Historical Association Newsletter*, Vol. 68(1). The title is “In Search of Sienkiewicz's Zagłoba: Clues From Genealogy Records.” It looks into the life of Captain Rudolf Antoni Józef Korwin Piotrowski, thought to be the inspiration for Sienkiewicz's character Jan Onufry Zagłoba.

<<http://rememberme.ushmm.org/>>

On the Polish Geniuses list, C. Michael Eliaz posted a note about a new program at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, "Remember Me?" It is meant to help connect lost or displaced persons from the Holocaust, or World War II in general, by their baby/children pictures and name (if any) when they collected the image (66 years ago). Mike thought this program deserves a lot more publicity than it is getting, and even wrote about it in his blog: <<http://mikeeliaz.wordpress.com/2011/04/06/remember-me/>>. It's a fascinating story, and well worth our attention.

<<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/index.html>>

On the Lithuanian Genealogy list, Arleen Gould posted a note telling us the National Archives will release the 1940 census over the Internet on 2 April 2012. You can read more about it here.

<<http://www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/28462/>>

Also on that list, Aldona Vaiciunas posted a note suggesting people visit this site, about a new exhibition of ancient maps of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy. It also says, "The new English language 408-page book *Lithuania on the Map*, which presents Lithuania's maps from the first findings on the Baltic tribes' area till the beginning of the 20th century, with the main accent on maps of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy, is on sale in the National Museum of Lithuania." I know not many of us can drop by the National Museum of Lithuania on the way home from work. But **knowing** a book exists is the first step toward getting your hands on it!

<<http://www.one-name.org/>>

A recent issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* (EOGN) had an interesting item of the The Guild of One-Name Studies, often called GOONS (ya gotta love the humor in that name!). "The Guild is dedicated to promoting the public understanding of one-name studies and the preservation and accessibility of the resultant information." A one-name study is exactly what it sounds like: studying the origins and migrations of all people who share a particular surname. The study often includes documenting several families that share a surname but are not related." Learn more at the GOONS Web site. **PGS-MN**

## Donated Records Need New Home

Documentation from the Poznan Archdiocese Archives was sent to PGS-MN by a member after determining that it did not pertain to her family. We are seeking descendants of the following people in order to forward on these documents.

The baptism testimonial (certificate) pertains to a Josepha **Urbaniak/UrbaneK**, daughter of Nicolaus and Josepha (nee **Świderska**) Urbaniak/UrbaneK. Their religion was Catholic. Her date of birth was 6 Feb 1868 in Górczyn, Poznań, and the baptismal date was 16 Feb 1868 in the Roman Catholic parish of Święty Marcina in Poznan. Godparents are listed as Simon Świderski and Hedvigis Lisiecka. This official certificate is dated 27 December 1985 from the Poznan Archdiocese Archives.

Accompanying the certificate was a hand-drawn family tree chart of Nicolaus & Josepha Urbaniak's family. It lists the following children:

- Wawrzyniec, born 26 July 1859
- Marianna born 25 February 1862
- Jakub, born 6 June 1865
- Josefa, born 6 February 1868
- Magdalena, born 20 July 1871.

There are also two letters from the Archdiocese in response to the original request. All letters and forms are written in the Polish language.

If you can document the people stated on these forms belong to your family, please send a copy of your documentation and a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota  
Attn: Poznan Documents  
1185 N Concord St.  
South St. Paul, MN 55075-1150

Thank you! **PGS-MN**

## Fun Trivia!

- a. How many lakes are in Poland?
- b. What is Poland's most valuable mineral?
- c. What is the name of the biggest Polish island?
- d. The total area of that island is \_\_\_\_ sq km.

(Answers on page 17)

## CORRELATING POLISH SURNAMES WITH SMALL POLISH SETTLEMENTS NAMES

(Rysiowa, is this an early settlement of my Ryś ancestors?)

By John L. Ryś, Woodbury, MN  
[john@john.rvs.name](mailto:john@john.rvs.name)

(Article previously published by  
 The Polish Genealogical Society of America)

### Introduction

On a trip to Poland in September 2000, my wife and I visited the village of Toporzysko just southwest of Kraków. My grandfather, Jan Ryś, emigrated from Toporzysko in 1902. Through the efforts of our Polish genealogist friend, Iwona Dakiniewicz, his baptismal record was found and then Iwona, with the help of the parish priest, located his 1857 birth house as cited in the baptismal record. Other church records confirmed this address.



*Birthplace of Jan Ryś, in Toporzysko, Poland*

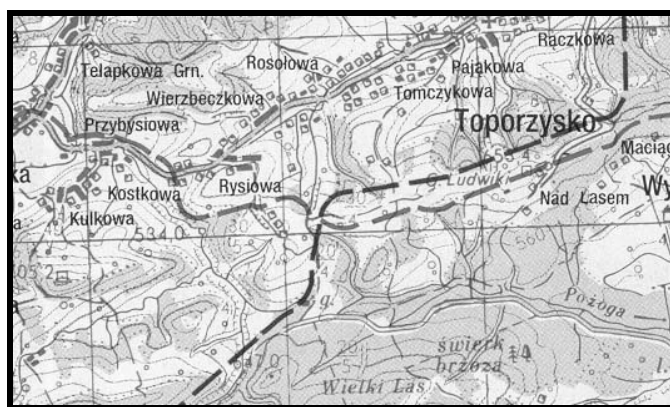
After returning from Poland, I was reviewing a detailed map of this area and a settlement name in very small print caught my attention because of its first three letters. Since my surname is Ryś, there is a certain type of sensitivity in seeing this three letter combination. The settlement in small print was Rysiowa and it was near Toporzysko, Poland. (See Map)

### Meaning of the Polish word Ryś

The 1929 Aleksander Chodźko Polish-English Dictionary defines **Ryś** with the diacritical mark above the “ś” as “lynx.” **Rysi** with the unmarked “s” is defined “of a lynx.” **Rys** without the pronunciation mark above the “s” means a “dash or stroke

of a pen.” It may also mean a “rough draft, sketch, or outline.” **Rysy** means “features or lineaments of the face.” **Rysa** means “a split, crack or fissure.” The highest peak in the Polish Tatra Mountains is Mount **Rysy**. Internet sources translate it mostly as “mountain with fissures or cracks” or one translated it as “mountain of lynx.”

In searching the web, there are other uses of the word Ryś (lynx) in Poland. The first Polish naval submarine, commissioned in 1937, was called Ryś. There is a narrow gage industrial steam locomotive called Ryś and even a snowmobile model called Ryś. So when I saw this word Rysiowa, I thought this area might be associated with lynx.



*Portion of map showing Rysiowa (center)  
 near Toporzysko*

*(Note other settlement names ending in “owa”)*

### Surname-Settlement Name Similarities

While scanning the map further, I saw another name, Żądłówka, in small print, near my paternal grandmother’s ancestral village of Spytkowice, Poland. Previously I had e-mail correspondence with Neal Zondlo (Żądło), University of Delaware Chemistry Professor whose Polish relatives share this ancestral village called Spytkowice. He has family ties to Minneapolis.

The Polish pronunciation of “ą” in Żądło, makes it sound like Zondlo or Zandlo. Żądło in Polish means “stinger” (like the stinger of a bee) or dart. Was Żądłówka an area where people were frequently stung by bees? Or, was it Żądło family related?

**Polish Surnames** ....continued on page 18

**Twelve Days...continued from page 1**

baptism information can be located in Lithuania, “about 1876” is the best approximation for William’s birth date. William died 16 May 1911 in Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.<sup>3</sup> He married Eva Kruczkas<sup>4</sup> about 1897, probably in Lithuania.<sup>5</sup> The daughter of Stephen Kruczkas and Mary Mozicka, Eva was born between 1874 and 1881 in Lithuania and died 13 December 1948 in Tamaqua.<sup>6</sup> Both are buried in Tamaqua, William in

<sup>3</sup> Pennsylvania death certificate (1911), William Ambromidus.

<sup>4</sup> Handwritten notes, ca. 1960. Eva’s maiden name appears in at least eight variants in source records (Kruczkas, Krutskis, Krugkis, Kruchius, Kruska, Kruozkelute, Krukaukas, and Kruckis). The variant used here is the one appearing on her death certificate (Pennsylvania Department of Health, death certificate (1948), Mrs. Eva Drowney; Division of Vital Records, New Castle).

<sup>5</sup> William and Eva were married at the time of their 1898 emigration/immigration (“Hamburg Passagierlisten, 1850–1923,” digital images, *Ancestry.com*, Vizcenti Abramaitis, *Patria*, Hamburg to New York, leaving 26 June 1898. Manifest, *S.S. Patria*, 8 July 1898, List [number torn], p. 6, for Vinzenti Abramaitis (age 24).) The 1900 and 1910 U.S. censuses indicate that the couple had been married 3 and 13 years, suggesting an approximate marriage date of 1897 (1900 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penn., pop. sch., Shenandoah, ED 163, sheet 12 A, dwell. 182, fam. 182, William Abromatis. 1910 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penn., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 97, sheet 13 B, dwell. 240, fam. 240, William Abromitus). Eva’s 1930 census enumeration indicates that she was 19 at her first marriage (1930 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penn., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 127, sheet 1A, page 23 (stamped), dwell. 8, fam. 8, Eva Drawny; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 March 2005), citing National Archives microfilm T626, roll 2148.) If Eva was 24 when she emigrated/immigrated, the 1930 evidence suggests several possibilities: (1) William and Eva married earlier than the 1897 date suggested by the 1900 and 1910 census evidence; (2) Eva’s age was misstated to the shipping line in 1898; or (3) Eva, another informant, or the census enumerator made an error in 1930. Since the marriage took place before the couple emigrated, Lithuania is the most likely marriage place.

<sup>6</sup> The question of Eva’s birth date, too, can only be solved by examination of Lithuanian birth records; the records starting with her Hamburg embarkation and ending with her death in Pennsylvania indicate a variety of dates ranging from 1874 to 1881. (The place of birth is consistent in all sources.) In the order in which the records were generated, the sources for Eva’s birth are (1) her 1898 Hamburg embarkation record (age 24, estimated birth year 1874); (2) her 1898 Ellis Island immigration record (same age and estimated birth year as the Hamburg lists); (3) the 1900 U.S. census (age 26, estimated birth year 1874; birth date March 1874); (4) the 1910 U.S. census (age 34, estimated birth year 1874); (5) the 1912

New St. Jerome’s Cemetery, and Eva in SS. Peter & Paul’s Lithuanian Roman Catholic Cemetery.<sup>7</sup>

William and Eva Abromitis were the parents of the following children:

- i. James Jacob Abromitis, born 25 July 1899 in Shenandoah, Schuylkill County,

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marriage docket entry for her second marriage (birth date 15 April 1876); (6) the 1920 U.S. census (age 42, estimated birth year 1878); (7) the 1925 marriage docket entry for her third marriage (age 46, estimated birth year 1879); (8) the 1930 U.S. census (age 50, estimated birth year 1880); (9) her 1948 death certificate (age 67, birth date 8 March 1881); and (10) her grave marker (probably contemporary with her death), giving a birth date of 1874.

“Hamburger Passagierlisten, 1850–1934,” digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 8 January 2007), entry for Eva Abramaitis, aboard *Patria*, Hamburg to New York, leaving 26 June 1898; citing Bestand [inventory no.] 373–7I, VIII (Auswanderungsamt I [Emigration List—Indirect] Band [vol.] 098 C; Staatsarchiv Hamburg microfilm series K1701–K2008, S1763–S17383, 13116–13183. Manifest, *S.S. Patria*, 8 July 1898, List [number torn], p. 6, for Eva Abramaitis (age 24), digital images, *Statue of Liberty—Ellis Island Foundation* (<http://www.ellisland.org> : accessed 26 May 2006).

1900 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penn., pop. sch., Shenandoah, ED 163, sheet 12 A, p. 119 (stamped), dwell. 182, fam. 182, Eva Abromatis.

1910 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penn., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 97, sheet 13 B, p. 225, dwell. 240, fam. 240, Eva Abromitus.

Schuylkill Co., Penn., Marriage Dockets, 21:927, Alex Szmuklinsky-Eva Abromitis.

1920 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penn., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 137, sheet 25 B, dwelling 479, family 496, Josephine [sic] Smuklinski; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 29 October 2003), citing National Archives microfilm publication T625, roll 1652.

Schuylkill Co., Penn., Marriage Dockets, 58:569, John Drowning-Eva Szmaklinsky.

1930 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penn., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 127, sheet 1 A, dwell. 8, fam. 8, Eva Drawny.

Pennsylvania death certificate (1948), Mrs. Eva Drowney. SS. Peter & Paul’s Lithuanian Roman Catholic Cemetery (Tamaqua, Schuylkill Co., Penn.), Smuklinsky-Drowney marker; personally read, 2009.

The names of Eva’s parents are provided by the 1925 marriage docket entry and Eva’s death certificate. The date and place of Eva’s death are provided by her death certificate, her grave marker, and her obituary (“Mrs. John Drowney Dies at Home Here,” *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 13 December 1948, p. 1, col. 1).

<sup>7</sup> New St. Jerome’s Cemetery (Tamaqua, Pa.), William Abromitis marker.

SS. Peter & Paul’s Lithuanian Roman Catholic Cemetery (Tamaqua, Pa.), Smuklinsky-Drowney marker.



Pennsylvania, died 16 June 1978 in Orlando, Orange County, Florida. He married Martha Mildred Bennett.<sup>8</sup>

- ii. William Stephen Abromitis, born 7 February 1901 in Shenandoah, died 9 April 1968 in Allentown, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. He married Julia Mary Sakusky.<sup>9</sup>
- iii. Mary Louise Abromitis, born 6 February 1903 in Pennsylvania, probably in Schuylkill County, died 8 August 1984 in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. She married Samuel B. Stewart.<sup>10</sup>

- iv. Alexander Abromitis, born 28 February 1906 in Pennsylvania, probably in Schuylkill County, died 5 May 1911 in Tamaqua.<sup>11</sup>
- v. Adella Abromitis, born about 1908, probably in Schuylkill County, died 9 May 1911 in Tamaqua.<sup>12</sup>
- vi. Eva Veronica Abromitis, born 16 December 1909 in Tamaqua, died 1 April 1981 in Bryn Mawr, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. She married William L. McLaughlin.<sup>13</sup>

Little is known about William and Eva's early life or their marriage. Listing his last residence as "Lasdei"—Lazdijai, Lithuania, part of the Suwalki governate of the Russian empire in William and Eva's time—William, listing himself as a laborer, bought steerage-class steamship tickets from Hamburg, Germany, to New York. In early July, 1898, the couple arrived in New York. With \$25 each, they were bound for the home of a cousin in Brooklyn.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>8</sup> "World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 November 2005), Jacob Ambromitus, Draft Board 6, Tamaqua, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania; citing *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918*, NARA microfilm publication M1509, imaged from Family History Library microfilm 1,926,660.

"Florida Death Index, 1936–1998," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 26 January 2006), entry for James Jacob Abromitis, 16 June 1978, Orange County; citing State of Florida, *Florida Death Index, 1877–1998*, 1998. "Obituaries and Funeral Notices," (*Orlando*) *Sentinel Star*, 18 June 1978, p. 12-B, col. 2.

Jacob Abromitis, SS no. 263-76-1853, 10 May 1962, Application for Account No. (Form 3227), Internal Revenue Service, Washington, D.C.

"Florida Marriage Collection, 1822–1875 and 1927–2001," database and images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 6 February 2007), entry for James Abromitis, 1941, Orange County, vol. 656, certificate 31605; citing Florida Department of Health, *Florida Marriage Index, 1927–2001*, Jacksonville, and marriage records from various counties located in county courthouses and/or on microfilm at the Family History Library.

Jacob's World War I draft registration card has a birth date of 26 July, and his IRS Form 3227, with entries in his own handwriting, and his death certificate have a birth date of 25 July.

<sup>9</sup> Schuylkill Co., Penn., Marriage Dockets, 48: 306.

William Ambromitis, SS no. 180-09-1370, [year unreadable], Application for Account No. (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration. Social Security Administration, "U.S. Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 March 2005), entry for William Abromitis, SS no. 180-09-1370.

"Death Notices: Abromitis," *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 10 April 1968, p. 12, col. 2.

<sup>10</sup> Social Security Administration, "U.S. Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 March 2005), entry for Mary Stewart, SS no. 159-10-9765.

"Death Notices: Stewart," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 11 August 1984, p. A10, col. unknown.

<sup>11</sup> Pennsylvania Department of Health, death certificate (1911), Alexander Ambromitus; Division of Vital Records, New Castle.

New St. Jerome's Cemetery (Tamaqua, Penna.), Alexander Abromitis marker.

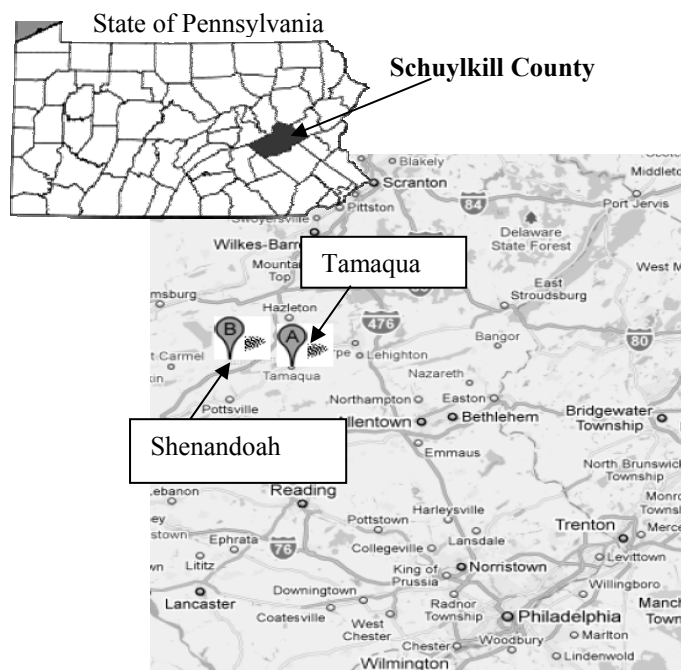
<sup>12</sup> New St. Jerome's Cemetery (Tamaqua, Penna.), Adella Abromitis marker.

<sup>13</sup> Social Security Administration, "U.S. Social Security Death Index," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 1 March 2005), entry for Eva McLaughlin, SS no. 183-05-0266. "Death Notices: McLaughlin," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 2 April 1981, p. C6, col. unknown.

<sup>14</sup> "Hamburger Passagierlisten, 1850–1923," database, *Ancestry.com*, Vizcenti Abramaitis, *Patria*, Hamburg to New York, leaving 26 June 1898. Manifest, *S.S. Patria*, 8 July 1898, List [number torn], p. 6, for Vinzenti Abramaitis (age 24).

An appreciation of the conditions emigrants like William and Eva experienced at the embarkation port at Hamburg can be gathered from the website of the BallinStadt museum at <http://www.ballinstadt.de/Willkommen.html>. Googling "steerage 1898" brings up a large number of websites with contemporary accounts, photographs, and illustrations of steerage travel. Among these are "Steerage Conditions in 1898 – a First-Hand Account by H. Phelps Whitmarsh with Illustrations by A. Castaigne," at *Gjenvick-Gjonvik Archives* (<http://www.gjenvick.com/Steerage/1898-SteerageConditions-APersonalExperience.html> : accessed 19 December 2009), citing H. Phelps Whitmarsh, "The Steerage of To-Day: A Personal Experience by H. Phelps Whitmarsh, with 13 Illustrations by A. Castaigne," *Century Magazine*, vol. 65, no. 67, 528–543. This account describes a passage from Liverpool

Their stay in New York was brief: by July, 1899, they had moved Shenandoah, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.<sup>15</sup> Shenandoah was a thriving coal mining community. In 1900, William was still a laborer, most likely working in the anthracite coal mines that were Shenandoah's largest employer. Like many mining families, the Abromitises took in boarders to make ends meet.<sup>16</sup> By September 1906, when William's petition for naturalization was granted, the family had moved again, from Shenandoah to the nearby coal and railroad town of Tamaqua.<sup>17</sup>



Courtesy of Google maps; <http://maps.google.com/maps>

By 1910, William had risen from laborer to coal miner, but his family still rented their house and

to New York. The Castaigne illustrations alone are worth a viewing. Photo albums of Ellis Island are available at *The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.* ([http://www.ellisland.org/photoalbums/ellis\\_island\\_photo\\_album.asp](http://www.ellisland.org/photoalbums/ellis_island_photo_album.asp) : accessed 19 December 2009).

<sup>15</sup> For James Jacob's birthplace, see Jacob Abromitis, SS no. 263-76-1853, 10 May 1962, Application for Account No. (Form 3227), Internal Revenue Service. For William's birthplace, see Schuylkill Co., Penna., Marriage Dockets, 48:306.

<sup>16</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penna., pop. sch., Shenandoah, ED 163, sheet 12 A, dwell. 182, fam. 182, William Abromatis.

<sup>17</sup> Schuylkill Co., Penna., Naturalization Records: loose papers, petition no. 4292, William Abromitis, 1906, petition for naturalization.

took in boarders.<sup>18</sup> In 1901, miners in the Southern anthracite field, where William worked, made between \$1.93 and \$2.25 a day, while the laborers who worked with them made less—between \$1.75 and \$2.00. Miners' work was dangerous as well as lucrative—they bought, stored, and handled explosive charges at the mine face, blasting coal from the seams for laborers to load on mule-drawn carts and take to the surface. Mining was filthy, dark, backbreaking, and unrelenting. Although miners in William's time had safety lamps, there were no helmets, and little protective clothing. Mines were cold and wet—about 50 degrees year round, with very poor air quality. Miners' lungs became compromised, making them prey to respiratory diseases.<sup>19</sup>



Breaker Boys at Work, facing p. 175

Image source: Peter Roberts, *Anthracite Coal Communities* (New York: Macmillan, 1904), digital images. Google Books ([books.google.com](http://books.google.com) : accessed 29 June 2011).

<sup>18</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penna., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 97, sheet 13 B, dwell. 240, fam. 240, William Abromitis.

<sup>19</sup> For 1901 wages, see Peter Roberts, *The Anthracite Coal Industry: a Study of the Economic Conditions and Relations of the Cooperative Forces in Development of the Anthracite Coal Industry of Pennsylvania* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1901), 111–112. According to Roberts, the average number of days worked in the 25 years before the publication of his book was 189.08, making the annual income of a miner who worked the average number of days between \$365 and \$425 and that of a miner's laborer working the same number of days between \$331 and \$378.

For a description of miners' work and conditions in the mind, see Donald L. Miller and Richard E. Sharpless, *The Kingdom of Coal: Work, Enterprise, and Ethnic Communities in the Mine Fields* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1985), 84–134.

Almost all anthracite workers were immigrants like William. English and Irish miners arrived in the early nineteenth century, but by the time William arrived, the majority of mine workers were from Eastern Europe. The native population of the coal regions, mostly English and German Protestants, had not welcomed the Catholic Irish, and they welcomed the non-English-speaking, Catholic eastern Europeans even less.

Immigrant mine workers lived in ethnic enclaves, complete with churches, saloons, social organizations, and businesses. The Abromitis family lived in two of these, Shenandoah's First Ward and the Dutch Hill portion of Tamaqua. Shenandoah was home to St. George's Lithuanian parish, founded in 1891, but Tamaqua's only Catholic church was St. Jerome's, an Irish parish founded in 1833, until the year after William's death, when the Lithuanian parish of SS. Peter and Paul was established.<sup>20</sup>

A 1911 public health report describes Shenandoah thus:

Of the total population [20, 321 in 1900, 25,774 in 1910] approximately 18,000 are foreign born, the majority being of the Slavonic race. Polish and Lithuanian are the predominating tongues spoken, though the various tongues and dialects

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<sup>20</sup> Miller and Sharpless, *Kingdom of Coal*, 87, 172–212. See also Roberts, *Anthracite Coal Industry*, 101–104, and Peter Roberts, *Anthracite Coal Communities: a Study of the Demography, the Social, Educational and Moral Life of the Anthracite Regions* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1904), 11–27. (The full text of the Roberts books is available online at Google Books (<http://books.google.com/books> : accessed 19 December 2009).) *Anthracite Coal Communities* contains detailed descriptions of immigrant life and numerous photographs.

For the history of St. George's church, see "St. George's Parish, Shenandoah, PA," *Arizona Chapter of Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.* ([http://www.lithaz.org/info/action/stgeorge\\_usalis.html](http://www.lithaz.org/info/action/stgeorge_usalis.html) : accessed 19 December 2009), citing John E. Usalis, "St. George Church," *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet* (Shenandoah: Saint George Parish, 1991). For the founding of St. Jerome's church, see *History of Schuylkill County, PA., with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (New York: W.W. Munsell & Co., 1881), 334. For the founding of SS. Peter & Paul's, see "Statistics of the Roman Catholic Churches & Missions in Schuylkill County in 1917," *Schuylkill County GenWeb* (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~paschuy/RCchurches.txt> : accessed 19 December 2009).

spoken in the borough number twenty-two among twenty-six nationalities.

The Catholic Church claims 21,000 communicants and of these but [*i.e.*, only] about 3,000 are English speaking.

There are nearly two hundred retail licenses for the sale of alcoholic drinks...

...the houses are eighteen or twenty feet wide, usually two stories and basement, though often three stories, and so divided and partitioned, that frequently as many as eight families occupy one house. There is an average of five children to each family.

Practically all of the male residents are employed in the anthracite mines which surround the borough.<sup>21</sup>

William and Eva's house and furnishings were probably similar to those in the restored miners' homes at the Eckley Miners Village living history museum: coal stove, table and chairs, a cupboard or shelves for dishes, with bedsteads—less than one per person—and pegs to hang clothing. In Eckley, up to 15 family members and boarders lived in three or four small rooms, with outhouses, vegetable gardens, and sometimes a cow in the backyard.<sup>22</sup> The Abromitis house at 447 Willing Street stood on a long, fifteen-foot-wide lot, with the house in the front and yard and privies in the back. The house standing today at that address, built in 1920, has two stories and three bedrooms.<sup>23</sup>

After the birth of William and Eva's youngest daughter in 1909, the family sat for a portrait photo.<sup>24</sup> Within two years, William and two of the children were dead. In early May 1911, scarlet

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<sup>21</sup> *The Sixth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Health of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 1911, Part I* (Harrisburg: Wm. Stanley Ray, 1913) 142–3; digital images, Google Books (<http://www.google.com/books> : accessed 22 June 2011).

<sup>22</sup> For photos and descriptions, see *Eckley Miners' Village* (<http://www.eckleyminersvillagemuseum.org> : accessed 22 June 2011).

<sup>23</sup> Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, GIS. *Schuylkill Parcel Locator*, (<http://www.co.schuylkill.pa.us/parcelviewer/> : accessed 22 June 2011), entry for 447 Willing Street, Borough of Tamaqua.

<sup>24</sup> This portrait was in the possession of my grandparents William Abromitis and Julia (Sakusky) Abromitis as late as 1979. It was apparently discarded after Julia's death.

fever broke out in Tamaqua. Among its earliest victims was the Abromitis family. Today scarlet fever is easily treated with antibiotics; in 1911 outcomes were different.

Scarlet fever starts with chills, vomiting, and sore throat and continues with high temperature, general dryness of skin, accelerated pulse, languor, drowsiness, headache, giddiness, aching, thirst, anorexia, and sometimes diarrhea. On the second day, the characteristic scarlet rash appears and develops fully by the third or fourth day. With the rash, fever, pulse, and respiration rate increase; the throat becomes more sore, the muscular system becomes weaker, thirst and anorexia continue, and constipation occurs. From the fourth to the sixth day, the rash fades, disappearing between the sixth and twelfth day. At this stage, in the malignant form of the disease, throat complications become serious, uremia and other kidney problems occur, and respiratory complications including lobular or lobar pneumonia appear.<sup>25</sup>

Pre-antibiotic-era treatment consisted of isolating the patient and quarantining the household. “The patient should be placed in a suitable room, at the top of the house, if possible, and if possible should have a floor to himself. All the usual measures should be taken as regards nursing, ventilation, disinfection, cleanliness, and removal of surplus furniture. He should be kept strictly in bed, with only so much covering as is absolutely necessary. His diet should consist of milk, beef tea, eggs, or other such articles... Ice is often useful... The patient is also generally benefited by tepid sponging or by the tepid douche bath...”<sup>26</sup>

Imagine thirty-five-year-old Eva in her small, crowded house, with six children ranging from twelve to six months, caring for feverish, vomiting patients, carrying water and heating it on her coal stove (if she could get coal), boiling dishes (if she knew that she should), fixing special foods for the sick (if she could get them) and feeding the not-yet sick, emptying chamber pots in the yard behind her placarded house, and washing or burning contaminated clothing and bedding in the same yard.

<sup>25</sup> Bristowe, John Syer, *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Medicine* (Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1876), 155–7; digital images, Google Books (<http://www.google.com/books> : accessed 22 June 2011).

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 161–2.

The Abromitis family’s scarlet fever was of the malignant variety. On Thursday May 4, five-year-old Alexander died of uremia and scarlet fever, followed by three-year-old Adella on Tuesday May 9; William succumbed to double lobar pneumonia on Wednesday May 16.<sup>27</sup>

Pennsylvania’s quarantine law<sup>28</sup> provides a counterpoint to newspaper accounts of events surrounding the Abromitis deaths.

#### The law said

Upon receipt by the health authorities of any... borough of a report of the existence of a case of ... scarlet fever... the said health authorities... shall quarantine or cause to be quarantined the premises in which such disease exists, and any person or persons who has or have been exposed thereto...; and shall post or cause to be posted... a placard or placards... with the warning that the said premises are quarantined, and shall so remain until the quarantine is removed... Provided further, ... said health authorities may, for the purpose of enforcing quarantine regulations, place a guard or guards over said house or premises. (Section 2, pp. 856-7)

#### The newspapers reported

Recently two cases [of scarlet fever]... were discovered and scarlet fever tags posted... Although medical aid was given both parties, small children, they died and were buried as prescribed by law.

Before the funeral took place a considerable number of the foreign element residing in that part of town entered the house and hardly had the funeral... taken place than the card... was torn down.

A second one of the Ablomatis children [Adella] died on Tuesday and the funeral took place yesterday. Here again people flocked to the house.<sup>29</sup>

Deceased [William] contracted the disease last week as a result of failure on the part of the family to properly observe the quarantine rules<sup>30</sup>

<sup>27</sup> *Laws of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Passed at the Session of 1909* (Harrisburg: Harrisburg Publishing Co., 1909), pp. 855–864, “An Act to safeguard human life and health throughout the Commonwealth, by providing regulations for the control of certain communicable diseases and the prevention of infection therefrom, and prescribing penalties for the violation of said regulations;” digital images, *Google Books* ([www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com) : accessed 22 June 2011).

<sup>28</sup> Pennsylvania Department of Health, death certificate (1911), Alexander Ambromidus. Pennsylvania death certificate (1911), William Ambromidus. New St. Jerome’s Cemetery (Tamaqua, Penna.), Adella, Alexander, and William Abromitis marker.

<sup>29</sup> “No Attention to Quarantine,” *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 11 May 1911, p. 1, col. 6.

<sup>30</sup> “Another Scarlet Fever Victim,” *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 17 May 1911, p. 1, col. 7.



In the preparation for burial of the body of any person who has died of... scarlet fever..., it shall be the duty of the undertaker to... place such body within the coffin or casket...; the coffin or casket then to be closed rightly and not again opened. (Section 17, pp. 861-20)

All services held in connection with the funeral of the body of a person who has died of any of the diseases mentioned... shall be private, and the attendance thereat shall include only the immediate adult relatives of the deceased, who may not at the time be under absolute quarantine restrictions... (Section 19, p. 862)

The body of a person, who has died of any of the diseases mentioned... shall in no instance be taken into any church, chapel, public hall, or public building for the holding of funeral services. (Section 20, p. 862)

...preparations were made by the family to conduct a public funeral this morning. For the past several nights wakes have been held and the house has been a gathering place for almost every foreigner on Dutch Hill. Seitzinger's Hall had been rented and a priest engaged from Mahanoy City, to conduct mass.

...the police received wind, ... the relatives were informed that if the preparations were carried through arrests of the entire funeral party would be made. Permission was finally granted the relatives and friends to attend the funeral to the gates of the cemetery, where they turned back....<sup>31</sup>

Contrary to the police orders yesterday stopping the funeral the family and friends of the dead man gathered at Seitzinger's hall, after the funeral had been held, and conducted mass. Warrants were sworn out this morning for the arrest of the leaders.<sup>32</sup>

More epidemic coverage appeared Tuesday 23 May: "Health Officer Keiser visited Willing Street this morning and immediately condemned several bad drains and cess pools as unsanitary." At a joint meeting with the Board of Health, the Town Council directed its contractor to "commence work with all possible speed" on the laying of the Willing Street sewer. By 27 May, no new cases of scarlet fever had developed, the epidemic appeared to be over, and the Board of Health allowed wage earners to return to work. Affected households remained under quarantine for thirty days from the time they were first placarded.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>31</sup> "Police Stops [sic] Public Funeral," *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 19 May 1911, p. 1, col. 4.

<sup>32</sup> "2 More Scarlet Fever Victims," *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 26 May 1911, p. 1, col. 2.

<sup>33</sup> "Scarlet Fever on Increase," *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 22 May 1911, p. 1, col. 3. "Council-Health Board to Meet," *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 23 May 1911, p. 1, col. 3. "Town Council and Health Board Join Hands in

Under these rules, the Abromitis household's quarantine would have been lifted in early June, and Jacob, William, and Mary could have returned to school. Without William's mining wages, household income was reduced to what Jacob, William, and Mary, who, at eight, could have worked in one of Tamaqua's silk mills, earned, supplemented by whatever Eva's boarders paid. This was a serious problem: while an adult anthracite miner earned more than \$300 a year (less than the \$600 "living wage" the striking anthracite miners had asked for in 1902), "breaker boys" earned much less than 85 cents a day,<sup>34</sup> and Pennsylvania silk workers earned between six and eight cents an hour.<sup>35</sup>

Within a year of William's death, Eva, left with four children between thirteen and two, remarried. She bore two more children to her second husband, also a Lithuanian miner, and became a widow again in 1921. In 1925 she married for the third and final time but had no more children. She died in 1948 at the age of 74.<sup>36</sup> **PGS-MN**

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Abating Epidemic," *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 24 May 1911, p. 1, col. 1. "Quarantine Rules Changed," *The (Tamaqua) Evening Courier*, 27 May 1911, p. 1, col. 6.

<sup>34</sup> Philip Shriver Klein, Ari Hoogenboom, and Ari Arthur Hoogenboom, *A History of Pennsylvania* (State College: Penn State Press, 1980), 332.

"Mitchell Says Miners Want \$600 Per Annum," *New York Times*, 16 Nov 1902, p. 3; web edition (<http://query.nytimes.com> : accessed 20 November 2008).

John Mitchell was the President of the United Mine Workers in 1902. The 85-cent figure was brought forward by George Baer, President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, one of the coal operators against which the miners struck.

<sup>35</sup> Stepenoff, Bonnie, *Their Fathers' Daughters: Silk Mill Workers in Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1880-1960* (Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania: Susquehanna University Press, 31, citing U.S. Congress, Senate, *Report on Condition of Woman and Child Wage Earners* vol. 4: *The Silk Industry* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1911), 163.

<sup>36</sup> Schuylkill Co., Penna., Marriage Dockets, 21:927, Alex Szmuklinsky-Eva Abromitis.

1920 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Penna., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 137, sheet 25 B, dwell. 479, fam. 496, Josephine [sic] Smukliski.

Schuylkill Co., Penna., Marriage Dockets, 58:569, John Drowning-Eva Szmaklinsky.

1930 U.S. census, Schuylkill Co., Pa., pop. sch., Tamaqua, ED 127, sheet 1 A, dwell. 8, fam. 8, Eva Drawny.

Pennsylvania death certificate (1948), Mrs. Eva Drowney. SS. Peter & Paul's Lithuanian Roman Catholic Cemetery (Tamaqua, Penna.), Smuklinsky-Drowney marker.

## Twin City Polish Festival

**Saturday, August 13, 2011 - 10am - 10pm**

**Sunday, August 14, 2011 - 11am - 6pm**

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

Once again the Polish Genealogy Society of Minnesota will be represented at the Twin City Polish Festival!! I am very excited about this year's festival. We had such a great time and a wonderful turnout last year that I am expecting even bigger and better things this year. I am also happy to report we have purchased two 10' x 10' canopy tents with side walls for this year's festival. This will save us the cost of renting tents every year.

We will be casting for new members (last year we signed up 17 new members), selling publications, and featuring some special projects by our PGS members. And, of course, what would the event be without the biggest attraction: Baptismal and Marriage Indexes from the five local Polish Churches. Plus, the White Eagle Insurance book by long-time PGS member, John Rys, will be available.

**Calling for volunteers!!!** If you like to network with genealogy-minded people, talk about your search for your ancestors, or would just like to be a part of this wonderful event, please volunteer!

Volunteers are needed to be available in the tent to let people know what PGS-MN is all about and to let them know all the wonderful

resources we have at the MGS Library. You will love watching the reaction when they find their family names in the Church Index records or when one of the board members shows them an ancestor's city or village on Terry Kita's Poland map.

**To volunteer, please contact Dori Marszalek via e-mail at [doripgs@comcast.net](mailto:doripgs@comcast.net) or phone at 612-799-8905 before Aug 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of this exciting event. You will look at genealogy in a whole different way.



### Event Highlights

- Folk Music And Dance
- Artist Booths
- Traditional Food Market
- Kresy-Syberia Exhibit
- Literary Display - Polish Writer Joseph Conrad (Józef Korzeniowski)
- Chopin Celebration - Classical Music Concerts
- Twin Cities Polish FilmFest - Presented in Partnership with [The Film Society of Minneapolis/Saint Paul](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org/)
- Children's Area
- Polish Dog Exhibit
- Polka Bands
- Polish Beer Garden
- Free Polka Lessons
- 2011 Minnesota State Amateur Polka Dance Championships™

Visit  
<http://www.tcpolishfestival.org/>  
 for more information

Ample parking available in area parking lots and neighboring streets. Handicap parking is available St. Anthony Main Street

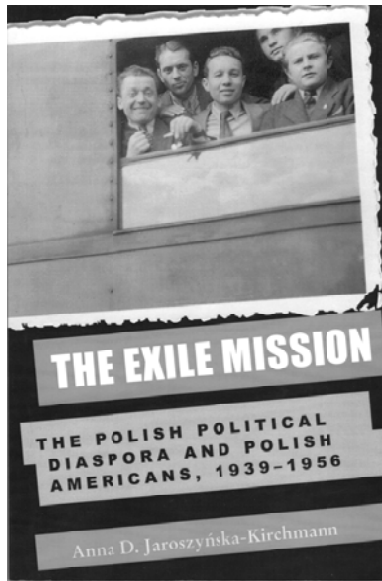
## Book Reviews

### *The Exile Mission: The Polish Political Diaspora and Polish Americans, 1939-1956*

Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann  
Ohio University Press 2004

Reviewed by Michael Eckman

Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann's title, *The Exile Mission*, really does describe the content of her book. Unlike most of the Poles who immigrated to



the United States, the immigrants who came from 1939-1952 really were exiles (and I will refer to them as the exiles in this review). They either could not return to Poland or chose not to return to Poland because it was no longer free. In effect, they had been exiled from their country. But in their

exile, they had a mission. Many of the exiles believed that their stay in foreign lands would be short and that they would return to an independent Poland. In the meantime, the exiles saw the need to preserve and develop Polish culture, particularly high culture. There were conflicts between the exiles and Polish Americans. The book's subtitle gives the dates 1939-1956 because the exile began with the Second World War and the exile mission changed in 1956.

Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann does extend the time frame of the book beyond the 1939-1956 period to provide background and some follow up. The book is a resource for genealogists mainly in giving the big picture as to why and when immigration occurred and the results of the mixing of Poles from various immigrations. Once a Pole is outside of Poland, he or she becomes part of the Diaspora known as Polonia. A brief review describes the Polish immigration to America in the 1830s as having had a political cause because of a failed uprising. The

later 19<sup>th</sup> century immigration had a mainly economic cause as the immigrants sought a better life. Nevertheless, the economic immigrants, like the exiles, wanted to preserve Polish culture.

The immigration of 1939-1952 included Poles fleeing the war and the displaced persons (DPs) after the war. When the war began, U.S. Neutrality Laws limited direct support of Poland by American Polonia to humanitarian aid. During the war, America became an ally of Poland against Germany. As the war wound down, however, it became clear that Poland would not be free at the end of the war and Poland was the only ally to actually lose territory as a result of the war. Poles felt a sense of betrayal and Yalta was a particularly distasteful word and event.

The exiles of 1939-1952 saw themselves as fighters while those from 1830 were the defeated. The exiles also saw the Polish American whom they joined as too American and not Polish enough.

The book is a treasure chest of numerous organizations formed in the Diaspora to preserve and protect Polish culture. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann found some of the information while working as a research assistant at the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. She describes how the different generations of immigrants established their own organizations that were sometimes in conflict. The exiles wanted their organizations to meet their particular needs as refuges, develop Polish culture, provide for the patriotic upbringing of children, and preserve Polish history. Since the exiles were often well-educated, they were less dependent on the leadership of the clergy and their organizations were less centered around the parish church. At any rate, the exiles found the Polish parishes dominated by Polish-American folkways with which they were not familiar.

The book reports that all of the immigrants wanted to preserve Polish culture and history. This desire, however, had some unintended consequences. When the exiles of 1939-1952 joined Polish Americans at a dance, the exiles were pleased that the polka was played but disappointed that only the polka was played. In Poland, as in the rest of the world, Poles had moved on to dance to the foxtrot

and other more modern dances. The Polish Americans were preserving Polish culture but preserving a culture that was stuck at the turn of the century. In another example in the book, a Polish American sponsor proudly told the DP that she was going to show the Pole something he had not seen before and took him to the bathroom with its flush toilet. Again, the memory of Poland was stuck in the past.

The events of 1956 changed the mission of the exiles. A suppressed Poznan demonstration (75 people were killed and hundreds injured) and the Soviet reaction to Hungary's bid for more freedom convinced the exiles that they were not going home to a free Poland soon and they were not just sojourners in America. In addition, the Poznan demonstrations showed that the Poles were not a mute, subjugated people waiting for the return of the exiles to lead them. After the events of 1956, both the exiles and American Polonia could agree on a devotion to Poland and a readiness to work together on Poland's behalf.

Conflict among the members of various immigrations continued. In the 1960s and 1970s, there were those who immigrated for economic reasons. The immigrants from the 1980s, however, came for political reasons as it was the time of Solidarity. The Solidarity immigrants saw the 1960s and 1970s immigrants as too materialistic and found more in common with the exiles.

Although the book focuses on the experience of the exiles in America, it does provide information about Poles who went to other parts of the world. The numbers from the war itself are staggering: 420,000 Poles became German prisoners of war; 200,000-250,000 Poles were forced to serve in the German army; and up to 3 million Poles were employed as slave laborers. Many Poles fled to England at the beginning of the war. A table detailing the resettlement of Polish refugees from July 1, 1947, through December 31, 1951, shows about a third of them went to America and about half went to Australia, Canada, Israel, and England. Of the 47 countries listed, Hong Kong with two refugees and the Philippines with one refugee show the smallest number of exiles.

Her book is not strictly a genealogical resource, but Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann does provide an interesting and informative background on the various Polish immigrations to America. It is also an interesting story of the conflicts possible between people who are trying to preserve and protect the same culture. That same culture may be viewed differently because of the different times of and reasons for the immigration and whether or not the émigré has the intention to return to the homeland or remain in the adopted country.

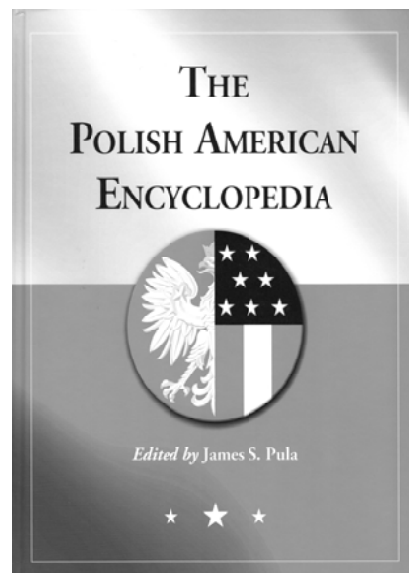
Michael Eckman  
May 27, 2011

### *The Polish American Encyclopedia*

**Edited by James S. Pula**

Reviewed by Jerome Biedny

In its nicely bound 600 pages, this book does an admirable job of distilling Polonia into one place and time. Its nine editors have compiled articles from over 100 academics into an alphabetical listing of our past and present. It is a herculean effort that must be commended as it is currently the most complete collection of its kind.



The book contains large, excellent articles on broad issues like literature, food, religious life, women, fine arts, and customs. The same fine coverage is given to specific topics such as the Felician Sisters and Jamestown. Actually, the coverage of the current

ISBN 978-0-7864-3308-7  
EBook/ISBN: 978-0-7864-6222-3  
Both printed and electronic versions cost \$145.  
The 8-1/2" x 11" format book is fully indexed and contains 358 graphics in its 595 pages.



Census results is the best summary I have ever read. There is also pithy coverage in scores of smaller entries on topics as diverse as the Polish White Cross to the Birds of Passage. Certainly over half the volume's pages are taken up in biographical notes on hundreds of Polish and Polish American persons- living and dead. All the traditional favorites are included between Abramowicz and Zygmund- literally. These entries are from two paragraphs to two pages long and include a breath of cultural, political, and religious leaders.

There are some nagging issues with this first edition that will hopefully be polished in the future. Specifically, the articles lack the kind of evocative nature useful in telling our story to generations that have not lived the events. For example, the entry on Dyngus Day records the history of the holiday in Poland and says nothing of the all-day drinking and dancing affair that it has become in America. Also, many items are double covered in a large article under, say 'food' and then a specific entry, say 'pierogi.' Usually, the specific entry holds no more information than was in the general. So, coordinating them using references from general to specific would allow more room for other topics. Further, some geographic regions get a specific entry (Pana Maria and Hamtramck) but others (Buffalo, Chicago, etc.) are simply referenced in multiple topical entries.

The use of space might also be re-evaluated. The length of an article seems to have no correlation to the importance of the item being discussed. The placement of photos and graphics are unbalanced. One page may have three, and then several pages get nothing. Some simple entries get a one-third page photo while others get two column inches. There is also a lack of maps and graphs helpful in explaining topics such as Kaszubia. Finally, the selection of the biographical subjects seems to be less than comprehensive. It seems the articles were not commissioned under some organized structure but rather simply collected.

Every library should have this in its collection of ethnic information. Whether you are doing serious research on people or events, or simply want to understand what your spouse means when they are talking about opłatek you can find it in this tome. Hopefully, if a second edition fixes some of the

content and format issues, the price drops, and the digital version becomes available, this work would be on the laptop of anyone doing solid Polish American genealogical work. My very best to Dr. Pula and the hundreds of people that helped create this fine work. **PGS-MN**

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

**Kevin Proescholdt & Jean Swanson**, 2833 43rd Ave S., Minneapolis MN 55406 are researching STOLTMAN(N), NOSINSKA in Tuchomie, Poland and in Winona MN; CZAPIEWSKI, KUKLINSKA in Brusy and Winona.

**Laura Reuter**, 5066 Sunnyside Rd., Mounds View MN 55112 <laura-reuter@earthlink.net> is researching Marianne (Mariana) PASZELK or PAJKOWSKA in Ugoszcz, Poland; Teophil Michael Anton Frank BLANK and Jana GABRICK in Ugoszcz and in Winona, MN; John and Katherine KRAJECKI in (Kaszubia) Poland and in Winona.

**James Schelonka**, 16 Pine Tree Court, Sartell MN 56377 <jjskm59@gmail.com> is researching SCHELONKA in Falkowice area (Falkowitz) in German Silesia--Opole region and Bowlus, MN area.

**Donna Skovran**, 150 Woodland Drive, Burnsville MN 55337-2730 <dmswan@isd.net> is researching ZWOLANKIEWICZ/ VALINKVICH in Poland and Prussia and STRAUBE, PAWLAK in Germany/ Poland and all in Berlin (Kitchener), Waterloo County, Ontrario, Canada and in Silver Lake, McLeod County, MN.

**Iwona Srienc**, 4955 Jerome Ave N., Lake Elmo MN 55042 <iwona.srienc@gmal.com> is researching IZDEBSKI in Łuków/Husinka in Poland, SKROCKI in Łomza and PAWŁOWICZ in Sielczyk. **PGS-MN**

**Fun Trivia Answers:** (from page 6)

- 9,300 lakes. The area of each of these lakes is at least 2.5 acres.
- Coal.
- Wolin Island.
- The total area of Wolin Island is 265 square km. This island is one of the biggest tourist attractions in northwestern Poland due in part to the Wolin National Park which is situated in the middle.

(Source: Encyclopdiea Fun Trivia. <http://www.funtrivia.com/en/>)

### Polish Surnames ....continued from page 7

Finding this second surname-settlement similarity made me wonder if there might be some type of family connection to these settlements. I contacted Iwona Dakiniewicz, the person who helped us find my grandfather's birth house in Poland, to get her opinion on the coincidence of these two surnames as a root word for settlement names.

Her response further increased my interest. Paraphrasing her e-mail she said

*"...many places like small hills received their name from the name of a family who first cultivated the land. In old Polish, Rysiowa means that such land belonged to the Ryś family. Also Rysiowa wife was used to say Ryś's wife or similarly Rysiowa chalupa for Ryś's house.*

*Depending upon the gender of the word ending, it might indicate the physical description of the land. The "a" ending is indicative of the feminine gender and maybe meant, among other things, a "hill or higher place." If the word was Rysiowy, the masculine gender ending might mean the Ryś settlement near a "stand of trees or forest."*

### Detailed Maps of Poland Showing Small Settlement Names

The map I used showing these settlement names is large scale (1:100 000), with details for the area around Rabka and Jordanów, Poland. This 1994 map was published by Wojskowe Zakłady Kartograficzne, (00-909 Warszawa, Al. Jerozolimskie 97). It is part of a map series (151 separate large scale section maps) covering all of Poland. Map annotations are in Polish with some English. This map is identified as RABKA, # M-34-87/88

NOTA BENE: A complete set of these maps (151 separate large scale maps) is located with the map collections at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library.

My home map collection for Poland now contains ten of these large scale maps available from Genealogy Unlimited in B.C. Canada, website at [www.genealogyunlimited.com](http://www.genealogyunlimited.com). Click on Poland.

Map details are illustrated with symbols for houses, churches, petrol stations, windmills, cemeteries, etc. The map's technique for indicating village size uses letter size when printing the name of the town, village, or settlement.

### Other Surname Similarities

My current genealogical pursuit is indexing vital records of Polish churches in Minnesota. From my recollection of data I had entered, other surnames appeared to be similar to settlement names I saw on this map. The primary source of Polish immigrants to Minneapolis was from this Rabka-Jordanów area.

### Correlating Surnames to Villages and Settlements

Since this map does not contain an index of villages and settlements, I spent more than a few evenings indexing some 794 village/settlement names to create an alphabetical index. The next step was to compare these settlement names against surnames from the baptismal database for the five Minneapolis Polish churches. Surprisingly, many more surnames appeared to correspond to the root part of map's settlement names.

A table of over 200 Minneapolis Polish surnames was generated where the surnames show similarities to the root part of Rabka area settlement names. The two settlement endings (suffixes) which repeat are "owa" and "owka". (Complete table at end of article.)

Surname	Settlement Name	Ending
Biernat	Biernatówka	ówka
Bogdal	Bogdałówka	ówka
Dziwisz	Dziwiszówka	ówka
Fudała	Fudaliówka	ówka
Hutyra	Hutryowa	owa
Koniec	Koncówka	ówka
Kowalczyk	Kowalczykowa	owa
Możdzeń	Możdżeńówka	ówka
Piekarczyk	Piekarczykówka	ówka
Ryś	Rysiowa	owa
Sarna	Sarnówka	ówka
Starmach	Stermachówka	ówka
Tomczyk	Tomczykowa	owa
Traczyk	Traczykówka	ówka
Worwa	Worwówka	ówka
Żądło	Żądłówka	ówka

*Sample of Surnames Correlated with Settlement Names*

## Second Opinion

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota is fortunate to have Iwona Srienc, a Polish linguist, as a member. Since her first name is also Iwona she should not be confused with Iwona Dakiniewicz, quoted above as the genealogist in Poland. Iwona Srienc received her linguistics degrees from University of Warsaw, State University of New York, and doctorate from UCLA. She is expert in Polish, Russian, and Slovenian ([Iwons@msn.com](mailto:Iwons@msn.com)). She reviewed the table of settlement names corresponding to similar surnames.

*“Regarding Rysiowa, the “ow” is a possessive suffix and the feminine ending “a” in Rysiowa would denote a feminine gender word like “osada” literally meaning the settlement of the Ryś family. The “a” ending in Rysiowa could also be derived from other geographic words of the feminine gender, such as, zagroda (single farm house surrounded by a fence), dolina (valley, dale), ziemia (soil, territory), or gora (hill, mountain, above, on high).*

*The suffix, “owa” is in adjective form. In the case of a settlement name like Traczykówka, the “ka” is a noun form. The “ka” refers to the place itself while “ow” is possessive. Instead of writing the two words that would refer to the place, the suffix “ka” replaces the need to say Traczykowa osada.”*

My paternal grandmother’s ancestral village is Spytkowice. According to the Spytkowice website it was named after, Spytek, a son of the Jordan family. Iwona Srienc indicated: *“they took the name Spytek and added the suffix “ow” to make it Spytkow. The “ow” denotes possessive, that is, the place belonged to Spytek. When the village increased in size, an additional second “ice” suffix may have been added to denote this increase in size or a bigger place. So it ended up as Spytkowice (Spytk-ow-ice). There are other villages and towns in Poland ending in “ice” such as, Wadowice (Wad-ow-ice) and Katowice (Kat-ow-ice).”*

## Summary

In southern highland Poland, it was a practice to name small settlements using the surnames of families who first worked that portion of land. Minneapolis attracted Polish emigrants from the

highland areas near Rabka and Jordanów, Poland. Surnames of many of these immigrants show similarities when correlated with small settlement names from the Rabka-Jordanów area.

For Polish genealogists, matching a surname with a small settlement name creates an interesting and exciting research path to follow. On a personal note, some of my early Ryś ancestors may have been the first people to work the land of the settlement called Rysiowa near Toporzysko, birthplace of my grandfather, Jan Ryś. **PGS-MN**

## Minneapolis Polish Surnames Containing similarities with Settlement Names in Southern Poland

Surname	Settlement Name
Antolak	Antalowka
Baca	Bacowka
Banas	Banska
Baran	Barancowa
Barna	Barania
Baran	Barany
Bednarz, Bednarczyk	Bednarze
Bednarz, Bednarczyk	Bednarze
Bielan, Bielanski	Bielanka
Biernat	Biernatowka
Bies	Bieskid
Binko	Binkowa
Bogdal	Bogdalowka
Borys	Bory
Brandzia	Brandysowka
Brya	Brykowa
Brzuch	Brzuchacze
Buczak, Buczinski	Buczkowa
Buda	Budz
Buda	Budzone
Bukowski	Bukowina
Bulka	Bulkowa
Chock	Chocholow
Chorazy	Chorazowa
Chrzan	Chrzonka
Cich	Ciche
Cich	Ciche Dln
Cich	Ciche Grn
Cich	Cichy Gron
Cis	Cisiec

Surname	Settlement Name
Cis	Cisniawa
Danielski	Danielka
Danielski	Danielki
Dolny	Dolina
Dragon	Dragowka
Drewniak	Drewniaki
Duda, Dudek	Dudkowka
Duda, Dudek	Dudkowka
Duda, Dudek	Dudowa
Dziedzic	Dziedzinska
Dziwisz	Dziwiszowka
Fabian	Fabisie
Fiedorski	Fiedorowa
Filas	Filasoka
Fudala	Fudaliowka
Jastrzebowski	G. Jastrzebice
Jaworski	G. Jaworzec
Jaworski	G. Jaworzyna
Jaworski	G. Jaworzynka
Koscielniak	G. Koscielec
Marszalek	G. Marszalkowa
Praszynski	G. Praszynka Du
Praszynski	G. Praszynka Ml
Zabal	G. Zabawa
Gac	Gachowka
Gac	Gackowka
Galas	Galawowka
Gawlik	Gawlowa
Gebowski	Gebowka
Gilas	Gilowka
Goluszka	Goluszki
Goluszka	Goluszki
Gorka	Gorki
Hanzel	Handzliowka
Hutyra	Hutyrow
Hutyra	Hutyrowa
Jablonski	Jablonka
Jakobiec	Jakubowka
Janicka	Janickowka
Janikula	Janiki
Janikula	Janiki
Jankala	Jankowa
Jankala	Jankowka
Janowiec	Janowka
Jarosz	Jarosy

Surname	Settlement Name
Jaworski	Jaworskie
Jedrol, Jendrol	Jedraszowska
Kaczmarczyk	Kaczmarczyk
Kalitowski	Kalitowie
Kielb	Kielbasowka
Knopik	Knapikowa
Kogut	Koguty
Koniec	Koncowka
Konieczny	Konieczniowka
Konia, Konior	Koniowka
Kot	Kotowka
Kowalczyk	Kowalczykowa
Kowalczyk	Kowalczykowka
Kowalczyk	Kowalczykowka
Kowal	Kowale
Kowal	Kowalowa
Kowal	Kowalowka
Kowal	Kowalowka
Kowal	Kowalowka
Kozak	Kozaki
Kozlak	Kozlowka
Kruszka	Krzusowka
Kubacki	Kubaki
Kudla	Kudlaciakowa
Kudla	Kudlasowka
Kulig	Kuligowa
Kulig	Kuligowa
Lach	Lachowka
Lach	Lachy
Lasek	Lasek
Ligus	Ligusowa
Lipa	Lipkowa
Madej	Madejowka
Madej	Madejowka
Magorny	Magora
Majer	Majerzowa
Maj	Majowa
Malinkowska	Malinowska Skawa
Marko	Markowa
Marko	Markowie Szczawiny
Michalski	Michalowka
Mozden	Mozdzeniowka
Mozden	Mozdzeniowka
Nowak	Nowakowa
Nowak	Nowakowka



Surname	Settlement Name
Pajak	Pajakowa
Pala	Palazowa
Paluch	Paluchowka
Papierz	Papiezowka
Pastwa	Pastwowa
Pecal	Piecalowka
Piekarczyk	Piekarczykowka
Piekarczyk	Piekarzowka
Pietrzak	Pietrzakowka
Pietrzak	Pietrzykowa
Piotrowski	Piotrowka
Podlaszek	Podlaski
Raczka	Raczkowa
Rapacz	Rapaczowka
Rycerz	Rycerka
Rys	Rysiowa
Saba	Sabaly
Sarna	Sarnowka
Sikora	Sikorowa
Skawski	Skawskowka
Skoczynski	Skoczykowka
Sledz	Sledz Gm
Sliwa	Sliwkowka
Slowik	Slowiki
Smietana	Smietany
Soltys	Soltysowka
Soltys	Soltysowka
Soltys	Soltystowo Wyzne
Soltys	Soltystwo
Soltys	Soltystwo
Soltys	Soltystwo
Soltys	Soltystwo
Soltys	Soltystwo
Soltys	Soltystwo
Soltys	Soltystwo
Soltys	Soltystwo Nizne
Soltys	Soltystwo Wyzne
Sporna	Spornogowka
Sroka	Sroki
Sroka	Srokowka
Stachura	Stachorowka
Stasica	Stasikowa
Stec	Stecowie
Starmack	Stermachowka

Surname	Settlement Name
Stopa	Stopki
Stopa	Stopkowa
Straczek	Stracze
Suchon	Suche
Surowiec	Surowie
Surowka	Surowka
Swieci	Swiecowa Grapie
Szczur	Szczuronie
Szczur	Szczurowki
Szewc	Szewczykowie
Szpaki	Szpaki
Szpak	Szpakowa
Szwed	Szwedola
Szymanski	Szymanow
Tokar	Tokarniak
Tomczyk	Tomczaki
Tomczyk	Tomczykowa
Traczyk	Traczykowa
Traczyk	Traczykowka
Truty	Trute
Tworog	Tworzowka
Urbanski	Urbanki
Waclawik	Waclawikowa
Warta	Wartowka
Wasik	Wasikowka
Wator	Watorczykowka
Weglarz	Weglarzowka
Wegrzyn	Wegrzynek
Wegrzyn	Wegrzynow
Wegrzyn	Wegrzynowka
Wierzba	Wierzbeczkowa
Wojcik	Wojcikowa
Wojtas	Wojtasowa Grapa
Wojtas	Wojtatowka
Wojtowicz	Wojtowa
Worwa	Worwowka
Worwa	Worwowo
Wrobel	Wroblowka
Wrona	Wronoka
Wrona	Wrony
Zabal	Zabowka
Zadlo	Zadlowka
Zajac	Zajacowka
Zak	Zaki
Zebro	Zebrowka

Surname	Settlement Name
Ziembra	Ziebowka
Ziembra	Ziebowka
Zielonka	Zielona
Ziminy	Zimna Dziura

NOTE: The map showing the settlement names is large scale (1:100 000), with details for the area around Rabka and Jordanów, Poland. This map is entitled RABKA, and is identified as Map # M-34-87/88. Published by Wojskowe Zakłady Kartograficzne, (00-909 Warszawa, Al. Jerozolimskie 97). **PGS-MN**

### Upcoming Meetings ...continued from page 5

#### PGSA's 33rd Conference – **"Puzzled by the Past? Put the Pieces Together!"** (and optional Polish Chicago bus tour.) **Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1**

The unique format of PGSA's fall conference "*Puzzled by the Past? Put the Pieces Together*" addresses the complaint heard after every conference "the speakers I wanted to hear were scheduled at the same time" So this year we have chosen two experts in the field of Polish Genealogical research. And given them a big assignment—researching your ancestors here in the U.S. and finding the documents and families in Poland. They had the opportunity to team teach, take turns or use a "tag-team" approach whichever lends itself best to the goal of this far reaching assignment?

So who are the excellent presenters chosen for this challenging assignment?

Matthew Bielawa earned a B.A. degree in Slavic and East European Studies from the University of Connecticut in 1989 and a M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from New York University in 1994. His studies also included a semester at Leningrad State University. He is currently the associate registrar at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Ct. He maintains the "Genealogy of Western Ukraine/Eastern Galicia website (Halychyna), writes articles for various genealogical journals and regularly lectures including past presentations at PGSA conferences. He also serves

as Vice-president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast.

You may recognize our second speaker, Jonathan Shea as the author of "*Going Home*" and co-author of the ongoing series "*In Their Words*" written with our *Rodziny* editor, Fred Hoffman.

Jonathan D. Shea graduated with honors from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. and has earned degrees from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Southern Connecticut State University. He is an instructor of foreign languages in the Connecticut State University system with 15 years of teaching languages at the university level. He has been recognized by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City as an Accredited Genealogist in the field of Polish research and in 19?? was awarded the Wigilia Medal by PGSA for his contributions to Polish research. Jonathan Shea is the founding President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast and currently serves as the Society's Reference Archivist and translator. His extensive speaking experiences include several PGSA conferences.

Excellent and knowledgeable speakers significantly contribute to a great conference experience. We know you will enjoy the trip guided by Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea as we travel back to our ancestral roots unravel past mysteries, and add new pieces of information to your research. **PGS-MN**

#### **If you have friends and relatives in Poland – Check this out!**

<<http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/05/13/3074313/exxon-mobil-inks-deal-to-explore.html>>

On the Polish Genius list, Debbie Greenlee had a strong reaction to this article in the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, "Exxon Mobil inks deal to explore for shale gas in Poland." Debbie tells of personal experiences with the problems caused by this drilling and by fracking (look it up). She says Texas is trying to pass a law to make gas drilling companies disclose what chemicals they're using in the fracking process. She concluded, "I strongly urge you to tell your Polish relatives and friends to \_at least\_ read about shale gas drilling and fracking issues/problems/concerns in U.S. newspapers (online)." A good idea—Poles need to know what they're getting into! **PGS-MN**



### *Surname Indexing Project—Volume 16*

We are continuing to index the surnames included in the past issues of the PGS-MN Newsletter. The following listing includes all surnames that appeared in Volume 16, Nos. 1-4: Spring, Summer, and Autumn 2008 and Winter 2008-09. The code used in this listing is as follows: the first number is the volume number, the second number is the issue number, and the third numbers are page numbers (volume:issue:page). We are indebted to Mary Kowles for the indexing of this volume. Back issues may be ordered from: Paul Kulas, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316-2145. The cost is \$5.00 per issue. Make checks payable to: PGS-MN.

- A—**  
 Abel, Gus 16:1:22  
 Abél, Mrs. Richard 16:3:10  
 Ableman 16:3:09  
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 Acher, Gertrude 16:1:20  
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 Babatz, Maria 16:3:05  
 Badnarek 16:1:09  
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### Winona Genealogical Program – June 25, 2011

The tour of the Winona Cultural Institute and Museum, aka the Polish Museum, was fascinating for me. There is a nearly life-size enlargement of a wedding photo in the main room. Imagine my surprise when it's a photo I have in my collection of family tree photos!

Jacob Wieczorek was my great-grandfather's brother!!



The actual bridal gown and veil are displayed under glass on the table next to the display. Very cool!

I checked out the Museum's webpage <http://polishmuseum.winona.org> and under the history tab I read, "Kashubians in Winona." Near the end of the article... "Purebred Poles are difficult to find now six generations later..."

Really? My family moved away from Winona many years ago but I am still 100% Pole!

Peggy Wieczorek Larson  
Editor – PGS-MN newsletter



## Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

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



**Library building - Looking south on Concord St. – Library is located in Suite 218 on second floor.**

**PGS-MN member meetings are held in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room or in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Auditorium. Signs are posted on day of meeting. The library has elevators.**

### LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Thursday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Ph: 651-455-9057 Website: <http://www.mnpgs.org>

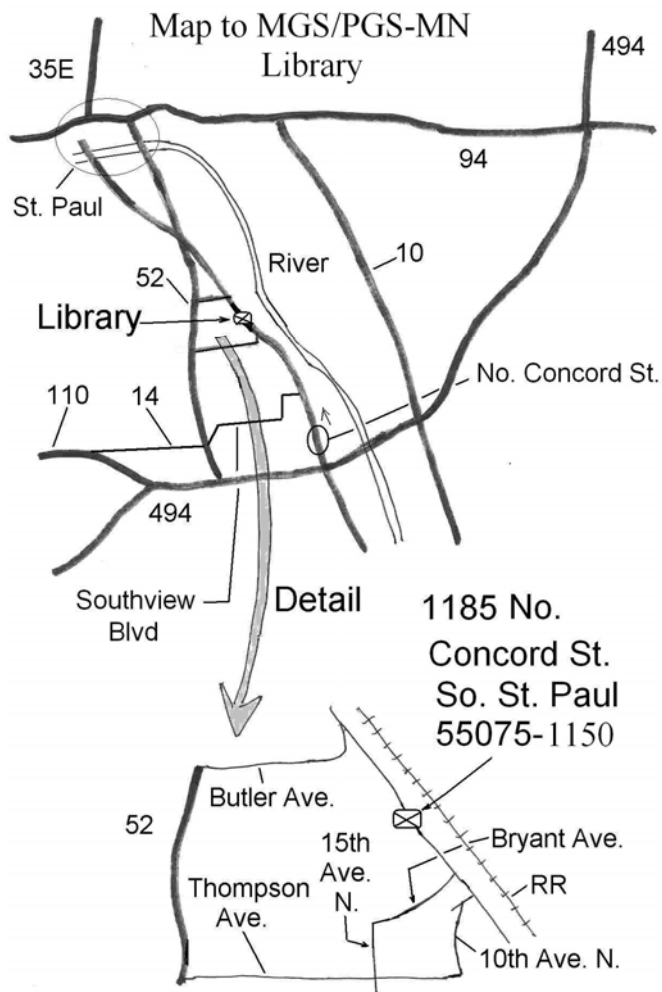
*Library closed:* Jul 2, Sep 3, Nov 24-26, Dec 13-31

### LIBRARY FEES

MGS, Branch, Affiliate Members: FREE

Non-Members: \$10

Internet and WiFi are available in the library.



### DRIVING DIRECTIONS

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

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

**ALERT!** Members have reported the library's address does not show up on their GPS unit resulting in difficulty locating library. Use map.

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

### POLISH NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

“Polish Night at the Library” is the **second Thursday of the month** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. One of our experienced genealogists is available to assist you with your Polish research problems.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

One of our members is available at the library on the **first Saturday of the month** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to help you with your Polish research.



**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



*Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota*

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

*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.

**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.

*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*

**Membership Application:**

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Past member and rejoining \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

List Surnames from Poland 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 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 I consent to publishing of this information in the Society's 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.*

Minnesota Genealogical Society  
*Polish Genealogical Society*  
*of Minnesota Branch*  
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### ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

**Please contact me with your temporary or permanent ADDRESS CHANGES.**

#### Change Service Requested

Due to the restrictions for our PGS-MN mailing permit the post office **does not** forward our newsletters and we are charged for all non deliveries.

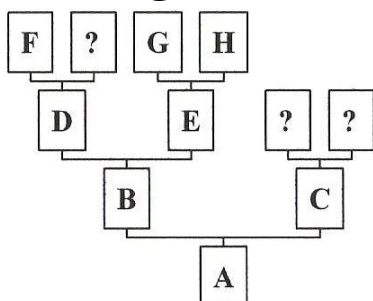
Did you know that our database allows for winter and summer change of addresses?

If you can furnish dates we can enter them into our database and it will automatically change your address so that you do not lose out on any of the newsletters and PGS-MN will not be charged for non delivery.

You can contact me by email [doripgs@comcast.net](mailto:doripgs@comcast.net) or phone 763-535-2296

Thank You,  
 Dori Marszalek  
 Membership Director

### Missing Branches



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

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Fred A. Stone**, 414 Pearl St., South Haven MI 49090 is researching his great-grandfather Joseph DAKOWSKI/DAKOSKE, born 7 Dec 1846 in Prussia and died 6 May 1918 in Detroit MI. He married Anna Marie DRAGOSCH in 1874 in Alt Schottland (Danzig) Prussia. They emigrated aboard the Steamship "Rhaetia" in April 1883 and settled in Detroit. Any and all information is appreciated.

Fred is also looking for any information on Jacob DAKOWSKI (b. ca. 1844) and his wife who settled in Winona/Minnesota City, MN. They may be related to his great-grandfather Joseph Dakowski/ Dakoske (listed above).

He is also looking for any information on Jacob R. DASKOSKE and his wife Mary who resided in Nicollet, MN in 1930. Two children are listed on the 1930 census--Marlin, age 19, and Marie, age 17 (They are also possible relatives).

Fred is also researching the following surnames from West Prussia: WANDTKE, KNAPINSKA, DRAGOSCH/DROGOSCH, HINTZ, BURCKARD, WINKLER, DICKE/DEYK/DEIK, LABUDDE, WENZEL, RAMKOWSKI, JAKUBOSKI, STENKOWSKI, DUMMORAS. All information appreciated.

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

**Tom & Barbara Laska**, 5708 Garfield Ave S., Minneapolis MN 55419 <[tjlaska@comcast.net](mailto:tjlaska@comcast.net)> are researching LASKA in Brusy, WIELLE in Poland and in Winona MN and Chicago IL; POPIELARSKI in Kosobudy; NAPIŃTEK/POLCZYNSKI in Czarnowo.

**Rita Peterson**, 5752 154th St W., Prior Lake MN 55372 <[whosit@integra.net](mailto:whosit@integra.net)> is researching KUFEL, GARBOWSKI in MN and PLASZCZ, KOPRAS in WI and all in Poland/Austria.

**Missing Branches** ...continued on page 17