



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 2013

No. 2

My Visit to Poland

by

William Graczyk

By way of introduction I was born in Minnesota, and now live in Salt Lake City, Utah. My father, Richard John Graczyk, was 100% Polish as his parents were from Polish stock. My great-grandparents on my Polish side were immigrants. My father's surname being Graczyk and his mother's being Nowak.

I had done my research some years before my visit to Poland. For some years before going I could only dream about it. While doing my research in Minnesota on my visits there, I met some cousins who were total strangers who invited me to stay with them. Isn't family history great? Where else can you go and meet total strangers and be treated like family?

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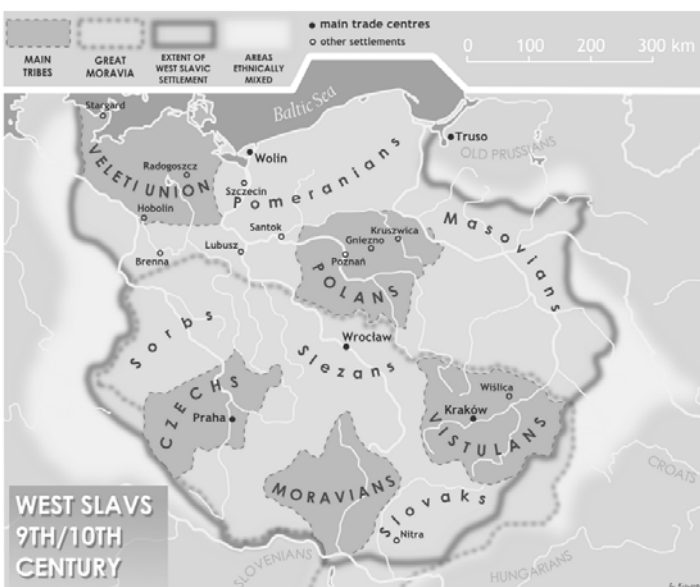
One of my cousins on the Graczyk line, Art Grachek, is a retired St. Cloud educator, and he organizes trips to Poland for students. He had invited me a few times to go with his group. Finally, after one of my visits I decided to go to Poland and find and see my ancestral villages. Art invited some of his cousins as well as I invited some of mine, but in the end it was just me and Art that went to Poland.

All of my Polish ancestors come from the greater Poland area or from the area of the Polans Tribe.

Some of my prior articles have been published in the PGS-MN newsletter. They explain my ancestors in Minnesota. (Vol. 16, #3, Fall 2008.)

One of my Nowak cousins directed me to the Poznan Project online. He had mentioned his Pokornowski ancestors marriage could be found there. So I looked for my Nowak ancestors, Valenti Nowak and Antonina. I found their marriage took place in the Gasawa parish of the Znin district.

Visit to Poland(Continued on page 8)



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of Minnesota Newsletter**

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Please use application form on insert page.

Items submitted for publication are welcomed and encouraged. We require feature-length articles be submitted exclusively to PGS-MN. Articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries, etc. should be mailed to: Peggy Larson, 557 98th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 or e-mailed to <EditorPGSMN@gmail.com>

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**President's Letter**

Dear Members,

As a genealogist, Memorial Day always feels a bit bigger than just remembering the dead of our armed forces. It brings my mind to the recently departed of my own family and all those people in the hundred-year-old photos. People that I probably never met, but are somehow a small part of me or my children. In fact, Memorial Day is my kick off for summer research. So, you should be weeks into your summer work as well.

As you take trips to visit family and friends, consider stopping at a related cemetery and poking around. Collect some great stories at the next family picnic and, this time, write them down. Spend a few days, that are too muggy to enjoy outside, organizing that pile of photos on your desk (in the den, inside that cigar box, etc). Summer IS a great time to do genealogy work. If you just spend as much time on your family history as you do on the lawn this season, you will be hours into your next project before the snow flies.

Finally, as you read this, we will be only days away from the Polish Festival in Minneapolis. Mark your calendars and visit our double-wide tent booth. The weather is usually excellent and the walk along the river, spiced by the smells of great Polish food and sounds of Polka music, just cannot be beat.

Jerome Biedny
 President



The Bulletin Board

Correspondence ... Komunikacja

Dear Editor of the PGS Newsletter,

I attended the recent Polish Genealogy Society meeting on adoption. I did so because I am adopted and I am searching for my birth family. I believe the key to my search lies in the Polish genealogy lines that your members have documented. In conversations with several of the organizers at that meeting they suggested I write a story and ask that you include it in your next newsletter in the hopes that one of your members might recognize the family tree. Feel free to contact me with questions.

Thanks,
Bob Thomas
bob11thomas@yahoo.com

Editor's note: Please read "Query from Bob Thomas" on page ____ and see if you can help!

Dear Editor:

I like how you have started including Polish words and giving their meaning. But what would be nice is to also include how they are pronounced in the English language, i.e. - Jan - in English we would say Jan as a girl's name, but in Polish it would be said Yan, which would be John in English.

Thank you for your consideration of this idea.

 **Dennis D. Kulas**

*Hi Dennis,
That's a good idea. However, I don't speak Polish so I don't often know how to pronounce the words! Do you speak Polish? If so, would you be willing to help?*

I could maybe find pronunciations on Google or somewhere too I guess but it'd be good to have a "real speaker" so if you are one or know one who would be willing to help I could use the help.

I like your idea Hope I can incorporate it into the newsletter.

*Thanks for the suggestion!!
Peggy Larson, editor*

"lo Peggy,

Thought (or rather my brother Jim) this might be of some interest to your readers who have had no luck finding the information they seek. They may increase their success if they check the surrounding counties as I did when I had no luck in Alpena county.

This spring I took a trip passing thru Michigan.

Family rumor reported that my grandfather Frank Kryzsko was born in Alpena Mich.on 18 March 1882 and baptized in Posen Mich 19 March 1882.

Checking the clerk of courts in Alpena produced no results.

Checking St Casimir Cath Church at Posen, in Presque Isle County produced records of 5 children birth & baptism dates including Grandpa Frank's.

Further checking at Presque Isle county courthouse produced results of three births and one death of siblings.

Being Posen is just a small village and Alpena a much larger town, I am supposing that my grandfather was born at Posen rather than Alpena.

Reasoning that people wanting to locate the place would much easier find a larger town than a small village on the map, if the village even existed on a map in said times. It may have been said that she was born in Posen near Alpena and hence the family report of birth at Alpena.

Lending further credence to my supposition is the fact that Posen is about 33-35 miles from Alpena and taking into consideration the road and travel conditions of the times does not lend logic to the fact that Grandpa Frank was born one day and mother and child traveled 34±1 mile to be baptized

the next day in another place most likely having to travel immediately after birth to be able to make it that distance for the baptism if that was the case.

A distance in that era would have taken at least one to two days journey under adverse travel conditions considering the medical history of a giving birth the same day.

Also records gave me a few more spelling variations of the last name.

SOURCES OF VARIOUS KRYZSKO NAME SPELLING VARIATIONS.

(indicates date or approximate date of entry/information.)

- KRISKO** From postcard sent to Mrs. F. Krisko from Mrs. Efta.
- KRZISKO** Presque Isle County Clerk, Mich. Record of Birth's Book. (July 12 1888, Aug.2-1889)
- KRZISKO** Presque Isle County Clerk, Record of Death's Book 1871-1918(Aug 8-1890)
- KRZISKA** Presque Isle County Clerk, Mich. Record of Birth's Book. Aug 6-1891)
- KRIZISKA** Presque Isle County, Mich. Record of Death's Index Book (7-15-1889)
- KRZYSKA** Presque Isle County Clerk, Mich. Record of Birth's Book.(Aug 6-1891) Clara Kryzsko Kulas said her Father Frank spelt his last name this way.
- KRYZKO** St. Casimir Church, Posen, Mich. Birth/Baptism records (3-1882 to 3-1890)
- KRZYSKO** Joseph Krzysko Headstone, 1870-1932.
- KRYZSKO** Per Syl Kryzsko. His 2nd grade teacher (Mrs Thompson) said Kryzsko is the correct spelling. (@ 1913)
- CRYSTAL** Per Joe & Jack Crystal. Changed to Crystal when members of the family went to work for the railroad in E. Grand Forks, Minn. Reports are the railroad changed the spelling because they had difficulty with the original spelling/pronunciation &/or that the Ontario /J.B. Griffiths store changed the spelling when the family had an account there.

 **Dennis D. Kulas**
dkulasd@yahoo.com

Extra Contributions

We thank the following for their extra monetary contributions to PGS-MN--to the Library Fund, to Family Ties or to the Capital Campaign Fund.

Bernadette Mahan
Nancy Sansone
Barbara Hall
Carole Smuda
Lowell Schiebe
Eleanor Kasella

Dziękuję
 [Thank you!]

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

Recently at PGS-MN Meetings

Genealogical Cluster Studies

Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. was presented by Gretchen Leisen

Gretchen Leisen presented her experience with a “Cluster Study” that she pursued for eleven years. She discussed the characteristics of cluster studies, the tools she used and the value of doing cluster studies.

Gretchen is editor of “PasTimes,” the St. Cloud area Genealogist newsletter. She has done genealogical studies for 40 years. She is a retired medical technologist who is currently assisting the St. Cloud, MN diocese with their historical church records.

Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events....



Saturday August 10, 2013 - 10am - 10pm
 Sunday August 11, 2013 - 11am - 6pm
 Minneapolis, MN (St. Anthony Main)

2013 Polish Genealogical Society Meetings Calendar

September 7 – Poland and Emigration during the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries

October 12 – Genealogical Resources and New Historical Information

November 2 - Joint meeting w/ Pommern group
Topic 1 - Genealogical Studies and the Use of County Records,

Topic 2 - Travel in Poland for First Time
International Travelers

See details below...

PGSMN Member Meetings

Poland and Emigration during the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries

Saturday, September 7, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
presented by Dr. Anne Klejment

Dr. Klejment will talk about the social conditions in Poland, including the economic and political conditions, that led to immigration during the period that many of our ancestors came to Minnesota.

Dr. Klejment is a professor at the University of St. Thomas. She earned a PhD from the State University of New York at Binghamton and is a trained social historian with a specialty in twentieth century U.S. history. A native of Rochester, New York she is proud that her great grandfather and his brother were among the founders of the first Polish Roman Catholic parish in the city.

Genealogical Resources and New Historical Information

Saturday, October 12, time TBA,
presented by Daniel Necas

Daniel Necas is a research archivist at the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, and an immigrant to this country from the Czech Republic. His current work includes a multi-national digitizing project for several Central European countries, including Poland. He will

share his experience and present on the resources available to genealogists at the U of M.

Joint Meeting with Pommern Group

Topic 1 - Genealogical Studies and the Use of County Records

Saturday, November 2, 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.
presented by Mary Ostby

Mary Ostby is Executive Director for the Benton County Historical Society & Museum. Mary will present on the numerous county records available to genealogists and the specific resources available to research ancestors who settled in Benton County. Mary has extensive experience and is enthusiastic in directing genealogical researchers to the county records that finally locate that one piece of information you needed to open the doors to your research.

Topic 2 - Travel in Poland for First Time International Travelers

Saturday, November 2, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
presented by Dr. Arthur Grachek

Dr. Grachek is Professor Emeritus from St. Cloud State University. His specialty is speech and communications. Dr. Grachek has traveled extensively both with the St. Cloud State University International Studies Department as well as on personal trips. He will present on his personal travels in Poland as well as the tour groups he has taken to Poland. This will be an excellent opportunity for people planning a first trip to Poland to ask questions and overcome the fear of first-time international travel.

2013 Pommern Calendar

August 3 – Bob Rowe will talk about the “Find-A-Grave” website

September 7 – “The Berlin Wall” by Margie Deutsch

October 5 – No meeting. MGS North Star Conference weekend.

November 2 – Joint meeting with Poles. Will show DVD about “Teutonic Castles, yesterday and today”

December 7 – Christmas Celebration

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference

August 21-24, 2013 - Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference will be in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Wednesday through Saturday, August 21-24 at the Grand Wayne Center. Fort Wayne is home to The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library.

Centrally located in downtown Fort Wayne, the conference site is connected to one of the conference hotels, the Hilton, and across the street, but connected by a sky walk, to the Courtyard by Marriott. The Grand Wayne Center is just a half-block walk from the Allen County Public Library.

Bergetta is planning a bus trip this year to Fort Wayne for the conference. It will be leaving most likely 6:30 or 7:00 a.m. from MGS on Tuesday, August 20 and return Sunday, August 25. The cost will be \$175 round trip until August 1, 2013 when the price will go to \$210.

Bergetta has set up a rate with the Days Inn at 1181 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne, IN. Phone is [\(260\) 489-6556](tel:2604896556). The rate is \$59 plus tax per night which works out to \$341.95 total for the five nights including tax for the room. If you have a roommate, it is really a good rate. You can stay at the Inn even if you drive yourself instead of riding the bus. If you ride the bus and want to stay at the conference hotel, the bus will drop you off there.

You are responsible for making your own conference and hotel reservations. More information on bus trip will come at a later date. The bus will make occasional trips to and from conference and hotels.

See <http://www.fgs.org/> for more information.

Minnesota Genealogy Group Salt Lake City, Utah November 2013

Greetings Minnesota Genealogy Group!

In about seven months we'll be headed back to Salt Lake City and that wonderful library – happy day! We (Linda Huss and Kathy Deiss), having learned a thing or two from doing this last year, are taking another crack at leading the group.

Dates: Sunday, Nov. 10 to Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013
(Note: There are rooms available for Sat., Nov. 9, and Sun., Nov. 17, for those who would like to extend their trip.)

Rates: single or double, \$85.00
triple or quad, \$92.00

Hotel: Salt Lake Plaza Hotel,
122 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104
telephone number: [801-521-0130](tel:8015210130)

To get the group rate, be sure to mention when you register that you are with the Minnesota Genealogy Group. We'll be sending more details as the time nears (such as the topic of the class on Monday afternoon, the location of Monday night's dinner, and what pictures to bring to the Friday night party), but we know that several of you are waiting for this information so you can get those reservations made. The hotel tells us that a few people have registered already – good for you!

We would be most grateful if you could let us know whether or not you plan on joining us – either Linda ljh@hussmail.com, or Kathy kathydeiss@yahoo.com.

As always, if you know of anyone who might like to join us, we'd be more than glad to add them to the list.

Looking forward to seeing you in Utah!
Linda and Kathy



Saturday August 10, 2013 - 10am - 10pm
Sunday August 11, 2013 - 11am - 6pm
Minneapolis, MN (St. Anthony Main)

We are very excited that PGS-MN has an opportunity to be represented once again at the Twin Cities Polish Festival.

There was a great turnout last year at our PGS-MN Tent and we are expecting bigger and better things this year.

Our two PGS-MN 10` x 10` canopy tents with side walls, provide ample room for visitors and volunteers!

Our volunteers share their experiences and help visitors with Genealogy questions. We encourage visitors to become members of the greatest Polish Genealogical Society in the Midwest!

We are once again bringing back the 10-volume Poland Surname Index. These books are an index of Polish surnames from the 1990's in present day Poland. The index lists the total number of persons with that surname in all of Poland. We will also furnish our visitors with a map of Poland broken down by regions, so they can record what areas of Poland their family surnames appear.

And of course our biggest attraction: The MN Baptismal and Marriage Indexes from five local Minneapolis and St Paul Polish churches. Also included is the White Eagle Insurance book put together by PGS member, John Rys.

Calling all volunteers!!! If you like to network with genealogy-minded people, talk about your search for your ancestors or just like to be a part of this wonderful event we need you.

We need you to be available in the tent to let people know what PGS-MN is all about, or 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 they find their name in the 10-volume Poland Surname Index.

To volunteer, please contact Rita Peterson at ritapgs@integra.net. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of this exciting event. You will look at Genealogy in a whole different way.

Twin Cities Polish Festival Event Highlights

- Traditional Folk Dance and Music
- Arts and Crafts
- Beautiful Jewelry
- Traditional Food Market
- Minnesota State Amateur Polka Dance Championships, August 10
- Polish Sheepsdogs
- Twin Cities Polish FilmFest - Presented in Partnership with [The Film Society of Minneapolis/Saint Paul](http://www.filmsofminneapolis.com)
- Children's Play Area
- Polish Beer Garden

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

Details at <http://www.tcpolishfestival.org/>



Visit to Poland*(Continued from page 1)*

Next I looked for my Graczyk ancestors, Mathias Graczyk and Marriana Kielas. And to my surprise I found a Mathias Gracz marriage to Marrianna Kilinski. This took place in the Znin Parish in the city of the same name. So I got in contact with the person who had transcribed the records and came to find out she was a cousin on my Kielas/Kilinski side.

I also discovered the host of the Poznan Project is also a cousin, Łukasz Bielecki. Since Lukasz is a travel guide we asked him to be our guide while in the Poznan area. And with Art's contacts in Warsaw we had a guide in Warsaw for a half day as well.

We arrived in Warsaw around 11:00am on the 14th of September. This was my first visit to Europe. My first photo was of the Palace of Culture that Stalin left for the Polish people as a gift. Much of the Polish people didn't like the gift. There was a movement to tear it down but it is still in use.



Palace of Culture

Some of the places I visited:



Polish Whitehouse



Presidential Palace



Fryderyk Chopin Monument



Bill and guide Ewa at Old Market Square

Also, Royal Castle and Square, John the Baptist Cathedral, and many monuments to the freedom fighters of the Second World War, the Royal Bath Park, and the not yet complete Jewish memorial.

We heard the sad stories of how the Polish people were treated, especially the Jewish people.

I made a special effort to have mushroom soup as I work with a Polish co-worker and he informed me that September was a good time to have it.



Mushroom Soup

My ancestors came to the USA in the early 1870s for the Graczyk side and early 1880s on the Nowak side, both families settling in Silver Lake, McLeod, MN.

Art and I are related in two ways. Art is my second cousin once removed on the Swendra line. Our common ancestor is Andrew Swendra. Andrew Swendra is Art's great-grandfather on the paternal side and one of my great-great-grandfathers on my paternal branch. (See pedigree charts pages 10-11.)

Art is also my third cousin once removed on the Graczyk line. The ancestor we have in common is Gregori Graczyk, who is Art's great-great-grandfather and my great-great-grandfather.

Art's last name started out Graczyk but was changed to Grachek, a more phonetic spelling. Gracz is how the last name started out, it means player, Graczyk means little player. It was most likely a player of some musical instrument. This is due to the Graczyk coat of arms having a silver dolphin in the upper one third of the crest depiction which denotes music.



Graczyk Coat of Arms

The next day we walked to the Royal Palace. In the afternoon we got on a train to Poznan. We got there a bit before nightfall and took a taxi to our hotel which was a block and a half away from the Stare Maisto, the old town of Poznan. We ate some fine Polish food at the square. We visited Cathedral Island the next day where the tombs of Miesko I and Boleslaw the Brave, the first rulers of the Polish State, are located.

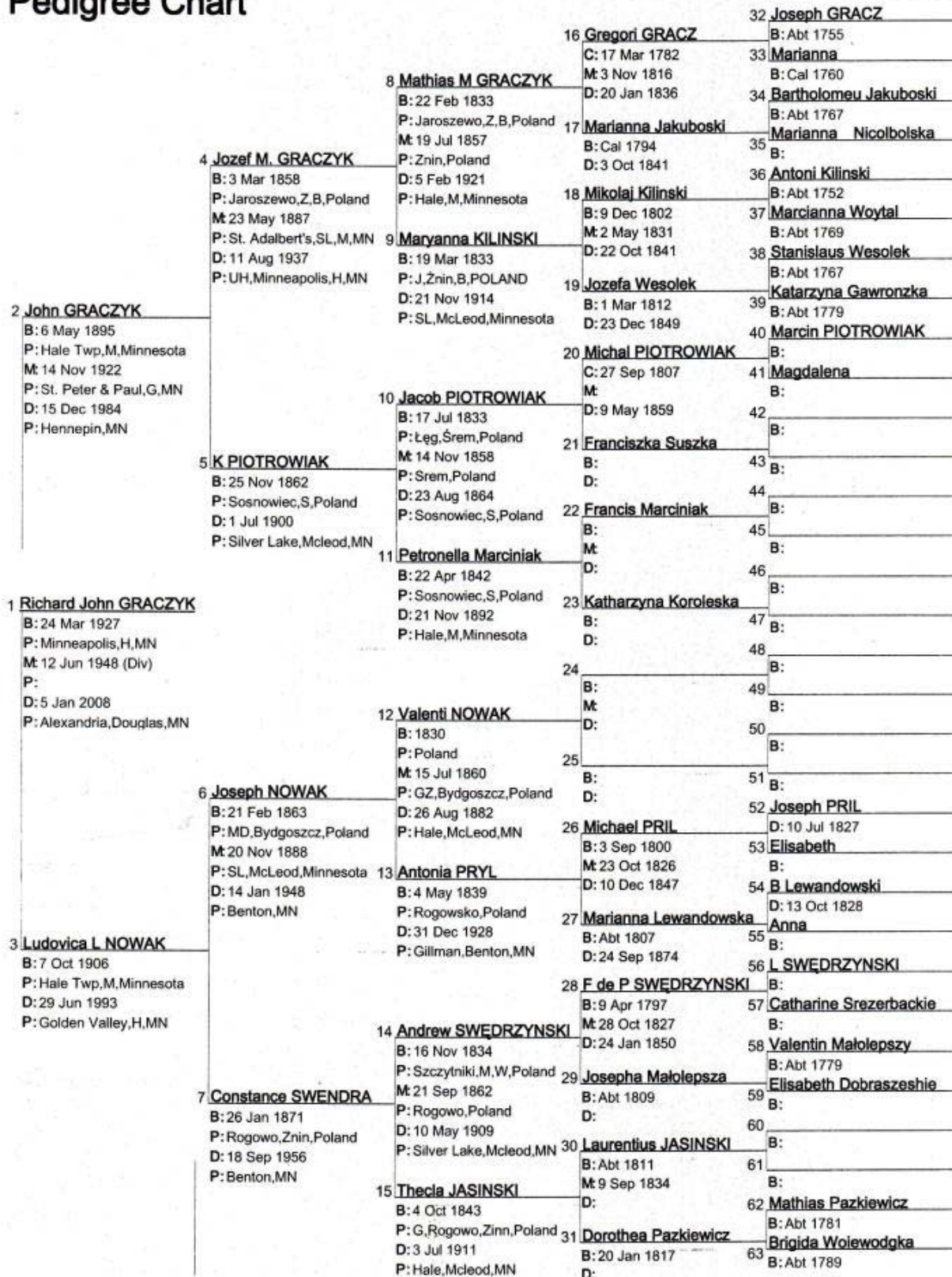


The next day Monday the 17th we went to Człuchow with our guide, my cousin Łukasz Bieliński. Here we met a Swendra cousin of both me and Art, Mirosław Swedrzynski. He and his parents were waiting for us, and his wife had to work and was not

Richard John Graczyk, (the author's father) pedigree chart

Pedigree Chart

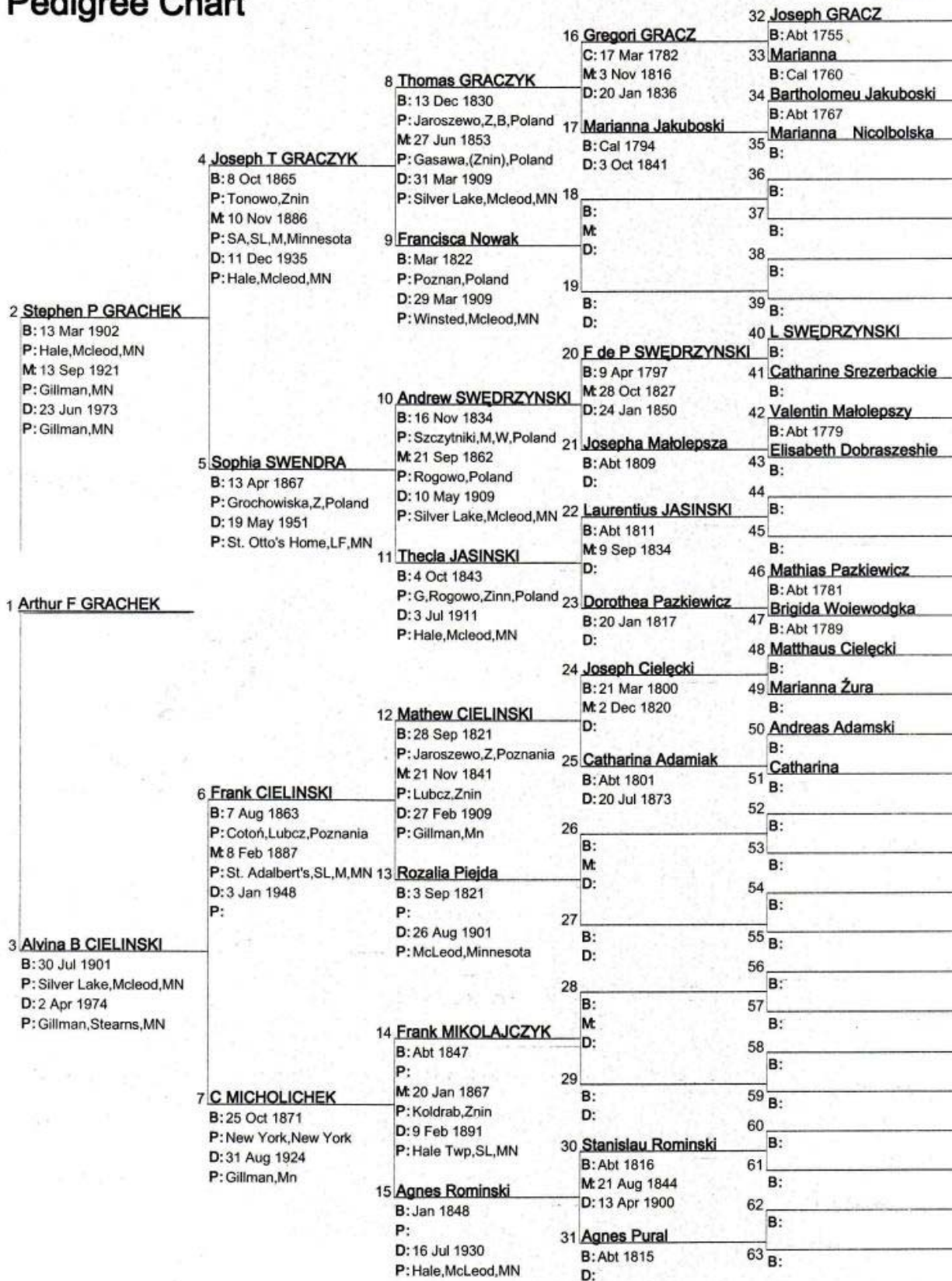
Chart no. 1



Art F. Grachek's pedigree chart

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1



there. He had a very nice home away from the city and his property was perhaps a third of an acre. He makes wine storage racks and also is a beekeeper.

We were treated very graciously. We exchanged gifts.



Cousin Miro Swedrzynski's home



Wine Storage Rack



Beekeeping



Hospitality at the Swedrzynski's



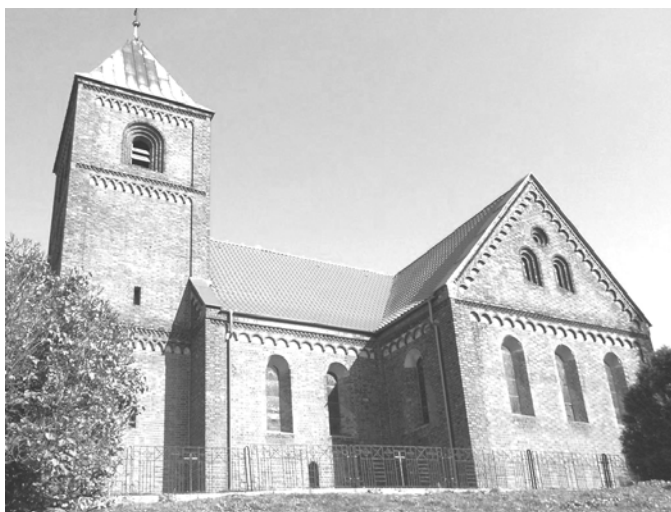
Gift Exchange with Relatives

Ancestral Villages

The next day we started on our visits of the ancestral villages. Cotoń was the first village we came to. It was one of the villages of Art's ancestors on his Cielinski / Cielecki side.

Then on to Lubcz and the church serving the surrounding villages including Cotoń. This was also one of the villages of our Swędrzynski ancestors.





Church in Lubcz

From Lubcz we headed to Rogowo another village of Swędra, and for a time Nowak, ancestors.



Church in Rogowo

From there we went to Kołdrab, a village of Art's Mikolajczyk & Rominski ancestors.

From Kołdrab we headed towards Gorzyce passing through Tonowo where Art's grandfather Joseph Graczyk was born. When there we didn't know he was born there but I found that record a few weeks after having returned from Poland. Gorzyce was where Art's great-great-grandparents, Joseph Cielecki and Cathrine Adamiak were married.



Church in Kołdrab



Church in Gorzyce

From Gorzyce we went through Sulinowo a village where some Kielas/Kilinski ancestors were born. Then we went to Sarbinowo where many of my Kilinski ancestors came from.





Old type house in Sarbinowo

We then came to Jaroszewo where both of our Graczyk ancestors came from.



It was also where many of my Kilinski and Wesolek ancestors came from. Jaroszewo was also the place where Art's Mathias CIELINSKI was born. Art's Thomas Graczyk and my Mathias Graczyk were both born in this village of Jaroszewo, their parents being Gregori Gracz and Marianna Jakoboska.

Our next town was Januszkowo, the village where my Mathias Graczyk was living just before coming to the U.S.



We went to the church in Gora, Znin. The church of Januszkowo is where my Mathias Graczyk went to church.



St. Florian church in Gora, Znin

From Gora, Znin we went to the Church in Znin, Znin that served the Jaroszewo, Sulinowo & Sarbinowo villages. This is also the church where me and Lukasz Bielecki connect up with Joseph Wesolek born abt 1708. My Great-great grandparents Mathias Graczyk/Gracz and Marianna Kilinski were married in the Znin, Znin church.



St. Marcin church in Znin, Znin

ANNUS DOMINI 1851				ANNUS DOMINI 1852			
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Great-great-grandparents
Mathias Graczyk/Gracz and Marianna Kilinski
marriage record

Few structures exist from the time of my ancestors, churches would be in that category. There was a town tower in the old town center of Znin.



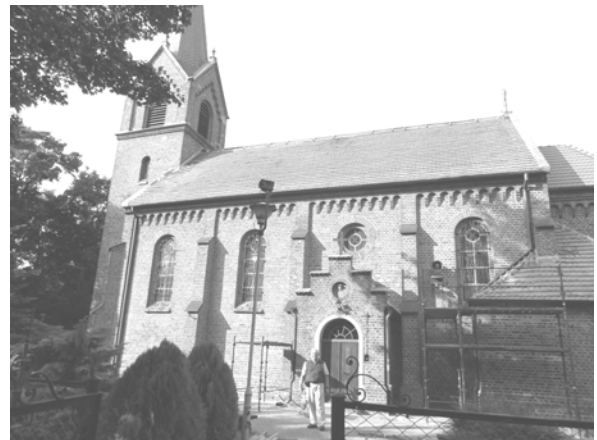
Later when back home I found this photo of the Znin tower during the Nazi occupation.



From Znin we went to Wencja where Art's Tomasz Graczyk lived for a few years. There are also some old ruins of the Wencja castle between two lakes and there is an old train system that has been restored nearby.



Wencja Castle



Church in Wencja

Our next stop, Gasawa, was of special interest as the church there was the place where my great-great grandparents Valenti Nowak and Antonina Pryll were married, and also where my great great-great grandparents Gregori Gracz and Marianna Jakoboska were married.



St. Mikolaja church in Gasawa

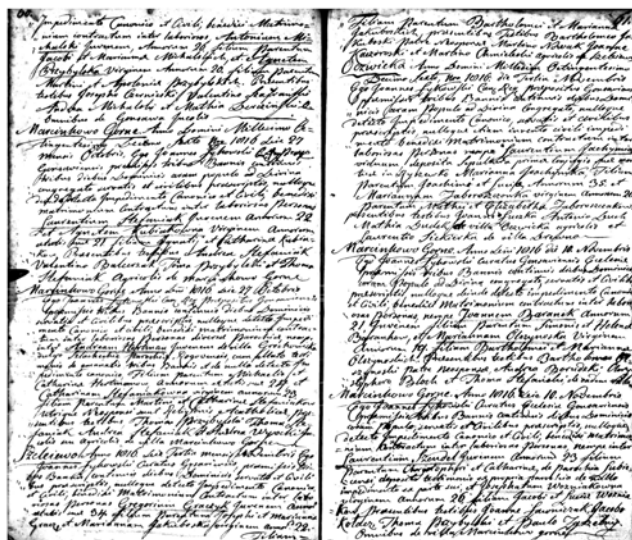
The Nowaks were from Marcinkowo Gorne & Dolne where they worked for the landlords of the manors in these villages. In fact, all of my Polish ancestors were farmers of this class working for the manor landlords.



Marcinkowo Gorne (above) and Marcinkowo Dolne (below)



The first marriage record of my ancestors found on the Poznan Project was that of Valenti Nowak and Antonina Pryll, but the last to find the birth record of Valenti Nowak as the Gasawa priest for the marriage did not list the parents for the marriage.



Great-great-great-grandparents Gregori Graz marriage record

The Gasawa church has restored frescos from the time periods of my ancestors that are on the walls and ceiling of the old wooden church.



Gasawa church - fresco on ceiling

ANNUS DOMINI 184				ANNUS DOMINI 184			
ANNO	MO	DIE	REMARKS	ANNO	MO	DIE	REMARKS
2	10	10	Wedding of Valenti Nowak and Antonina Pryll				
3	10	10					
9	10	10					
10	10	10					
11	10	10					
12	10	10					
13	10	10					

Great-great-grandparents Valenti Nowak marriage record



Gasawa church - fresco on wall

I live in the Salt Lake City area in Utah and have the good fortune of being able to look up the marriages I find on the Poznan Project in the micro-filmed records in the LDS Family History Library. After having found a marriage I then look in the same parish for births and deaths. I have even helped my cousin Lukasz with scans for the project.

From the Marcinkowo villages we went to Szelejewo where Gregori Graczyk died as well as his wife Marianna. We then came to Ryszewko here there was an old wooden church similar to many old churches of the older periods.



The next villages named Budzislaw & Goscieszyn are where our Jasinski ancestors come from. Thecla Jasinski, wife of Andrew Swendra. Her parent's marriage was in Budzislaw. Later they moved to Grochowiska. They attended church in Goscieszyn.



Church in Goscieszyn



Church in Ryszewko (outside)



Church in Ryszewko (inside)

From Goscieszyn we went through a forest to Trzemeszno where the Rominski ancestors of Art came from and it is the town of Michael Pril's birth father to Antonina Pryll. This is of special interest as Stanisla Rominski, born about 1816, married Agnes Pural - another possible connection for Art & me. Trzemeszno was the last visit on the first day of ancestral villages.



Church in Trezmeszno

For our second day of ancestral village visits we started by visiting Gniezno, the first capital of Poland and where Mieszko I was crowned. Of course we had to visit the church there and some of the museums.



Golimowo village



Czarniejewo Palace



Gniezno Cathedral and Boleslaus the Brave statue

The next villages are all associated with the Swendra/Swedrzyniski/ SWĘDRA. We visited them in this order: Szczytniki Czarniejewskie, Golimowo, Czarniejewo, & Marzenin.

Golimowo was the place of the oldest ancestor of the Swendra side, Laurentius who had Franciscus de Paulo born 9 Apr 1797.



Czarniejewo Church



Marzenin Church

My last set of villages are for my ancestors of the Piotrowiak, Marciniak, & Grygier lines in the area of Srem. This was a ways away from the other villages of my ancestors but still in the Poznan province. The villages were Mechlin, Sosnowiec, Łęg Nochowo and the church in Srem.



Łęg Nochowo (village)



Srem Church



Mechlin

In Conclusion

Overall my trip to Poland was a great experience. I talked about going to Poland for some years before my trip and I kept coming up with excuses not to

Visit to Poland(Continued on page 21)

Query from Bob Thomas

Have you ever looked at someone that shares genes with you and immediately noticed a connection? Eyes that look familiar? A smile that you have seen before? A mannerism, a facial expression, or a laugh that reminds you of yourself? I never have. I am adopted. The family that raised me was wonderful, but unfortunately both of my adoptive parents are now deceased. I have begun a search for my birth family and I believe you may hold the key. I do have a brief genetic history with some good clues. If something you read below sounds familiar, please let me know.

My intentions are simple - to feel those same feeling that you have felt time and time again at your family reunions. And who knows- maybe I can fill in some empty boxes on one of your family trees.

My birth mother was born in 1950 in Minnesota. She was raised on a dairy farm. Her father was 52 in Nov of 1970. Her mother was 50. My birth mother was the oldest of 3 children. Her brother was 15 and her sister was 13 in Nov of 1970.

My birth father's father was 55 and his mother, a teacher, was 51 in Nov of 1970. My father's siblings offer a key clue. He had 3 sisters and 1 brother. My father had a twin sister and they were the 3rd and 4th children of 5. His oldest sister was 27. The next sister was 24. My father and his twin were 20. And the younger brother was 19 years old- all in Nov of 1970.

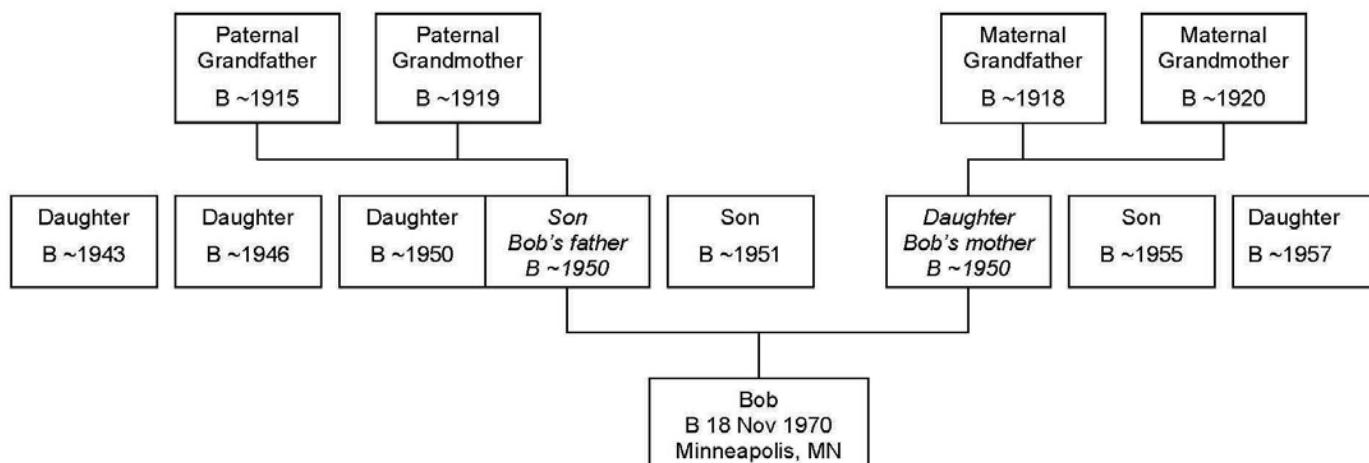
ALL of these people are reported to be Polish Catholics.

I have a few more details on lifestyle that may help. My email address is below. Thanks for your help!

Bob Thomas
bob11thomas@yahoo.com

Editor says:
 Below you will find my calculations based on the information in Bob's story. I thought formatted like a family tree the visual might help a member "see" similarities to a tree with which they are familiar. Good luck Bob, we wish you the best in your search for family! PGS-MN

PATERNAL SIDE				MATERNAL SIDE					
	Age in 1970		Approx Birth Year		Age in 1970		Approx Birth Year		
Paternal grandfather	55	(1970-55)	1915	Maternal grandfather	52	(1970-52)	1918		
Paternal grandmother	51	(1970-51)	1919	Maternal grandmother	50	(1970-50)	1920		
	Daughter	27	(1970-27)	1943	<i>Bob's mom</i>	Daughter	20	<i>(1970-20)</i>	1950
	Daughter	24	(1970-24)	1946		Son	15	(1970-15)	1955
	Daughter	20	(1970-20)	1950		Daughter	13	(1970-13)	1957
<i>Bob's dad</i>	Son	20	<i>(1970-20)</i>	1950					
	Son	19	(1970-19)	1951					



Visit to Poland (continued from page 19)

go. But in the end it was why not. I found the people to be nice and friendly wherever we went.

My ancestors came over in the late 1800s so the only sites that would have been around during their time would be the churches and some other structures. Even some of the churches were rebuilt. I found it sad that many of the invaders of Poland would destroy historical places, most recently the communists and before them the German Nazis.

There is a special feeling you get when you see from whence you ancestors came. I would have to admit that a tear or two may have escaped while contemplating their plight back in those times. They would have worked on the land of others and during those days the Prussians were trying to get everyone to speak German. Just the trip alone to America was hard enough. What took them weeks to cross the ocean we only spent hours doing. If you're thinking of going, go. I did like it there and I am even planning on going again in a few years.

PGS-MN

You CAN Have Fun with Genealogy

by Gilbert J. Mros



Entertainer Jack Benny, 1958

I've always had fun learning about my family's history and doing genealogical research. And I would like to share how I deviated from my own family, had a great time, and learned some new things while researching one of the funniest people I know - Jack Benny.

A few years ago, I was watching a special about his life on Public Television. During the

program, the narrator mentioned that Jack Benny's birth name was Benjamin Kubelsky. That sounded like a Polish name

to me. I wondered if he was Polish. If he were, I thought that would be an interesting bit of trivia to tell my friends. I knew he was Jewish, but that didn't prevent him from also being Polish, so I began a search to find if he really was Polish.

I spent several hours searching the Internet, and I found that some sources said his family was Polish, but most said it was Lithuanian. According to Wikipedia, his father immigrated from Lithuania.

The most discouraging discovery I made was in the book: "Jack Benny" by Mary Livingstone Benny (Jack's wife), and Hilliard Marks with Marcia Borie. There, on page 4 were the words, "Meyer Kubelsky was born in Lithuania and came to America in 1889."

Most people would have thought that, surely, Jack's wife would have known where his parents came from and information found in her book would be very reliable. However, in my own experience, I have found many married people don't know where their spouse's parents were born. My mother didn't know where my father's parents were born, and my father wasn't even sure either. When I talked with other first-generation children of Polish immigrants, I often found a familiar story: Polish immigrants didn't like to tell their children about the old country, and especially didn't like to say exactly where they came from. More likely as not, their parents would say something like, "You don't need to know that." Their parents, aunts, and uncles would speak about the old country in Polish, and in hushed voices, after their children had gone to bed. Possibly they were still afraid that *Okhrana* or the NKVD might still be listening.

Not being able to find reliable information about Jack himself, I turned my attention to his father, Meyer (Mayer) Kubelsky.

I sent an email message to Laura Leff, president of the International Jack Benny Fan Club asking if she knew where Mayer Kubelsky came from. She replied he came from an area that was then in Poland (listed in the census records as Polish Russia) but was now in Lithuania, thus leading to the confusion. I persisted, and asked if she knew in what city Mayer Kubelski was born, thinking I could find out

what country that city was in and settle the question. She replied the name of the city was Meretz.

Then it seemed like Jack's father did actually come from Lithuanian because, according to Wikipedia, Meretz (also referred to as Merkine, Mertch, Meretch, and Merez) is a town in Dzūkija National Park in Lithuania, located at the confluence of the Merkys and Neman Rivers about 23 miles from the Polish border.

However, as most of us already know, Poland and Lithuania are very closely related, and at one time they were both united into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Over the years, the borders of Poland ebbed and flowed, and eventually they disappeared when Poland was partitioned between Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary, and was erased, as a country, from the map of Europe.

Because of these changing borders, I thought it was too simplistic to consider only the current location of Meretz because I thought the city might have at one time actually been in Poland, or in an area considered to be Polish, and that an old map of Europe might show which country it was in when Meyer was born.

I was not able to find an historical map showing Meretz within the borders of Poland. However, I did find that *The Universal Gazetteer*, by William Darby, 1848, pg. 545 states that Merez is a "town of Poland, in Lithuania, seated at the confluence of the Berezino and Merez, 30 ms. N. of Grodno. Lon24 10E., lat. 50 0 N."

This is an interesting expression: a "town of Poland in Lithuania." I wondered if that meant the town was in Lithuania but that the residents were (mostly) Polish. After all, citizenship and nationality do not necessarily have to be the same. My own paternal grandparents emigrated from Europe when Poland did not exist as a country, but they both knew they were Polish because they spoke Polish, and their heritage was Polish.

But then, that was speculation and not proof. I seemed to be getting nowhere with my geographical investigation using secondary sources, and I finally realized, and am now embarrassed to admit I didn't

think of it sooner, that the most likely source of the answer would be Meyer Kubelsky's genealogical data.

I checked the 1910 census record and found that for Jack's father, Meyer Kubelsky, it listed "Polish, Russia" under column 12, which is labeled "Place of birth of this person." The same information is listed for the next two columns, which are labeled "Place of birth of the Father of this person," and "Place of birth of the Mother of this person."

Wondering what the census enumerator meant by writing "Polish, Russia," I consulted the book *Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses from 1790-2000*, which includes the instructions given to the enumerators for each census. In the section for the 1910 Questionnaire -- Population Instructions to Enumerators, on page 49, I found the following:

124. Mother tongue. The question what is your mother tongue or native language? should be asked of all persons who were born in any foreign country, and the answer should be written in column 12, after the name of the country of birth. In order to save space, the abbreviations (indicated on separate List of foreign countries) should be used for the country of birth, but the language given as the mother tongue should be written out in full. In returning the mother tongue observe the rules laid down in paragraphs 134 to 143.

In the case of Meyer Kubelsky, the enumerator, Maude E. Coulson, apparently violated the instructions and listed the mother tongue first (Polish) followed by the country (Russia). This was significant because, at least in central Europe at the turn of the 20th century, when borders were changing, a person's mother tongue was a very accurate indicator of his nationality. And, in this case, no mention was made of the Lithuanian language, which adds credibility to the argument that Meyer was Polish.

To pursue the matter a little further, I checked the 1900 census and found that for Meyer Kubelsky (line 94 on the page) column 13 (Place of birth of this person) was listed as "Poland" as were columns

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES
 SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State Illinois
 County Lake
 Township or other division of county Okmehagan Township
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Waukegan City
 Name of Institution, _____
 Enumerated by me on the William Fels day of June, 1900,

LOCATION.			NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. <small>Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Exclude every person living on June 1, 1900. Omit children born since June 1, 1900.</small>	RELATION. Relationship of each person to the head of the family. Other or race.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.							NATIVITY.			CITIZEN. Place of birth of each person in the United States.			
IN CITY.	IN HOUSEHOLD.	IN COLLEGE.			DATE OF BIRTH.	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY.	WHETHER SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED.	NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.	NUMBER OF HOW MANY CHILDREN.	PLACES OF BIRTH OF THIS PERSON.	PLACES OF BIRTH OF FATHER OF THIS PERSON.	PLACES OF BIRTH OF MOTHER OF THIS PERSON.						
Street.	House Number.	Number of dwelling-places in the order of relation.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			1															
			94															
			95															
			96															
			97															

14 and 15 listing the birth places of hisparents. Also, Jack Benny a.k.a. "Bennie" is listed on line 96 and column 14 confirms his father was born in Poland.

I gained a little more experience on genealogical research while working on this diversionary project, and I discovered some new research tools. I also had a lot of fun doing it. PGS-MN

The enumerator's instructions for NATIVITY, in 1900, listed on page 37 of Measuring America... are as follows:

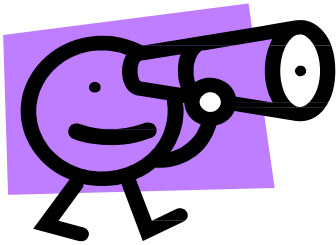
142. In case the person speaks Polish, as Poland is not now a country, inquire whether the birthplace was what is now known as German Poland or Austrian Poland or Russian Poland, and enter the answer accordingly as Poland (Ger.), Poland (Aust.), or Poland (Russ.).



Again, the enumerator, Williams Fels, didn't follow the instructions exactly, or he wasn't sure about what section of Poland Meyer came from, but again, the geographical area associated with Meyer's birth was unequivocal; it was definitely Poland.

With this information, I felt confident in stating that if Meyer Kubelsky spoke Polish and came from Poland, then he was indeed Polish. And using this information, I was able to correct the Wikipedia article to state that Jack Benny's father immigrated from Poland.





Scanning Polish Publications

Film probes Auschwitz commandant and her Polish saviours

A documentary film is being made about a female commandant of the Auschwitz Nazi German death camp who apparently escaped from prison after the war thanks to Poles.



Auschwitz-Birkenau: Wikipedia

The Polish-German co-production, which is being funded by the Polish Film Institute and the Polish-German Co-Development Fund, will be screened on television in both countries, and producers are hoping for wider distribution.

During the war, Johanna Langefeld served as the superintendent of the Ravensbruck female concentration camp in Germany and then at Auschwitz in occupied Poland, also at the female camp, before being transferred back to the former.

According to one witness, she was ultimately dismissed from her post at Ravensbruck for showing excessive sympathy towards Polish inmates, a tendency which she reportedly also showed at Auschwitz.

Langefeld was arrested by US troops in Germany in December 1945, and was extradited to Poland.

However, as it appears, staff at the Montelupi Prison in Krakow helped the German escape in December 1946, owing to her allegedly favourable treatment towards Poles.

“We are doing a kind of investigation that will answer the question of how Johanna Langefeld escaped from the Polish prison,” co-director Wladyslaw Jurkow told the *Dziennik Polski* paper.

Johanna's Secret (Sekret Johanny) is expected to be premiered in Spring 2014. (nh)

From <http://www.thenews.pl/>
Nick Hodge 17.07.2013 10:53 PGS-MN

Polish pontiff to become a saint



© Photomasz - Fotolia.com

During Blessed Pope John Paul II's tenure, he was known to speed up the saint-making process. Now, it's his turn to become a saint.

Last Friday, Pope Francis signed the decree for Pope John Paul II to officially become a saint. A date has yet to be announced for the canonization ceremony however.

Pope John Paul II was the third longest serving pope in history, from 1978 until his death in 2005 at the age of 84. The Polish pope was the most widely traveled pope in history and was also the first modern pope to visit a synagogue and to visit Cuba.

He also played a key role in bringing down communism.

“John Paul II's guidance as the Church truly became global, his call to the New Evangelization, outreach to inactive Catholics and transformation of the culture, all worked to inspire countless people to witness their faith and work to better the lives of others,” said Bishop Richard Malone, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo.

After his death in April 2005, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI waived the traditional five-year waiting period to begin the process of beatification. As a result, in 2010 Pope Benedict XVI approved John Paul II's first reported miracle, and officially beatified him. It was the quickest beatification process in modern times.

The first miracle through his intercession was a French nun, Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, whose religious group prayed to the pope after he died due to her suffering from Parkinson's disease, the same sickness that afflicted the pope.

Canonization requires a second miracle. The second miracle was reported in Costa Rica where a woman said she had recovered from a severe brain injury due to the intercession of the pope.

Now it's just a matter of time until the Polish pope becomes Saint John Paul II.

Bishop Edward Grosz, DD, VG, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo, met the pope on three separate occasions. “I'm not surprised at all [of the canonization] simply because the man was a unique individual,” he said. “He was a man of brilliance and insight.”

In Grosz's office, behind his desk on the wall, is the decree personally signed by Pope John Paul II which officially appointed him as the Auxiliary Bishop of Buffalo in 1989. His first meeting with the pope came in 1991 as he was invited for lunch along with 17 other bishops. “What a powerful experience that was,” said Bishop Grosz.

Bishop Grosz's other meetings with the pope were in 1993 for the beatification of Mother Angela Truszkowska and Sister Faustina Kowalska, and in 2004 just months before the pope's death when the two of them had a five minute personal meeting.

“He was accepted everywhere he went because he was a symbol of happiness and love,” added Bishop Grosz.

Father Thaddeus Bocianowski, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo, was a student of Pope John Paul II in the late 1960s.

“Of course he is deserving,” said Bocianowski. “After his death, many miracles occurred and he was a special person. We grew up with him in the Catholic faith, and he will be very helpful to many people in heaven.”

Rev. Bocianowski said a special celebration will be planned at the church once the date of his canonization ceremony is known. “It will be a great day to have a Saint John Paul II,” he said.

Richard Solecki, president of the Western New York Division of the Polish American Congress, previously met the pope an incredible 19 times all around the world including in Italy, Poland, and Ukraine.

“When you were in his presence, you were awed,” said Solecki. “You knew you were with someone who was holy and a very special person. He always gave you time, and never rushed you.”

On three occasions, Solecki was able to bring his daughter and wife to meet the pope also. In his home are hundreds of pictures showing him together with the pope, taken by Vatican photographers.

“I was waiting for when it was going to happen [the canonization],” he added. “You knew he was predestined to become a saint.”

From <http://ampoleagle.com/>

Brandon Kilijanski, Wed, Jul 17, 2013 PGS-MN

2013 Festival of Nations

By Terry Kita

The Festival of Nations is an array of food, music, dance, ethnic costumes, and cultural exhibits, provided by more than 90 local ethnic and national groups. Its four day run is held annually at the River Centre in St. Paul, the first weekend in May. The International Institute conducts this event, which began in 1932.

The “Cafes” feature foods from more than 90 countries/ ethnic groups. Most of the food can be eaten while strolling about, for a reasonable price. Some dishes are homemade, while others are purchased from ethnic grocers, bakers, and butchers, all reasonably priced. A delicious variety of smells and odors permeates the Café area.

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) has operated its Café booth for many years, in the same location. This is a major fundraiser for PACIM. The menu has been fairly constant for the last few years. This year’s servings included pierogi, kielbasa (sausage), makowiec (poppy seed cake), sernik (cheesecake), herbata (tea) and coffee, each served by the many volunteers who dispense food and Polish cultural information with a smile. Sernik is especially popular with kids. Each year I reacquaint myself with many of the familiar volunteers working at the other booths. Working at the Festival is habit-forming.

Because the Festival Café area is open for 8 to 12 hours each day, for four days, many volunteers are



required to staff it. This year there were 45 volunteers; the Polish booth operates with 6 or 7 volunteers at all times. Work at the Festival site begins the day before the Festival opens, in the afternoon, transporting food and equipment, then assembling the booth and serving area, and storing the food. Thursday, opening day, is mostly school-age kids. Snow kept the Thursday crowd down a bit, but Friday was very busy.

The major-domo for 2013 was John Bienek, who was a rookie in terms of managing the Café, but a

veteran by Festival’s end. John had everything planned, and ran a tight ship. John said that running the booth was an exhilarating and rewarding experience and everything went well. There were sufficient volunteers, colorfully attired and enthusiastic, and the right

amount of food. Many volunteers serve at the booth each year. My granddaughter, Zofia, age 7, came for the first time last year, but was unable to return this year. She says she will be back next year.

A few strategic moves made John’s job easier - having sufficient volunteers for each shift, and enlisting the aid of Marta Pachnik, the kitchen master. Marta has been in charge of the kitchen for many years - we do what she says. Volunteers come from the many Polish organizations in the Twin City area such as PACIM, The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, Columbia Heights Sister Cities organization, Dolina Dancers, and others, as well as impressed friends and relatives.

The customers come in waves, not at a steady stream, and many want to chat with the volun-

teers who are friends, or they are just curious about Poland, its food offerings and culture. The Cafe is a mixture of food, culture, family history, language, curiosity, and bonhomie. Sernik was the big seller this year, particularly among the younger customers. Over 1,600 servings were sold in four days. My guess is that we served about 3,000 customers during the four day event. This year the kielbasa was made by Everett's Food & Meats, in South Minneapolis, which made transport and emergency supplies easier than in past years. My wife and I have been buying meat from Everett for more than 40 years

Fitting the initial supply of pierogi, sernik, kielbasa, and other items into the refrigerator and freezer on Wednesday always provides the dilemma of the 10 pound vs. the 5 pound bag. It always does fit, but needs a bit of coaxing, and ingenuity. The day before is always a long day, waiting to get started, then making sure everything is ready, and up to standards.

A big advantage of our location is that we are nested between the Italian and Tibetan booths; when a volunteer is hungry, good food is easily available in front of, or on either side. Swapping and sampling other foods is one of the many benefits volunteers derive from the Festival. **PGS-MN**



Missing Branches.....(Continued from page 28)

UPDATES—The following members have sent us updated information:

Jim Dusek, 6373 Dusek Rd, Floodwood, MN 55736-8080 jgd@frontiernet.net. No names given for research.

John and Kathryn Goehl, 4415 Bay Lane, White Bear Lake, MN 55110-6760 jgoehl@hotmail.com

Nancy Sansone, 2447 Skyline Drive, Bloomington, MN 55425 nancysansone@msn.com is researching: STANEK (NORA or HONORIA) and PEPERA (IGNATIUS or IGNATZ).

Ron Tomczik, 158 Peninsula Rd, Medicine Lake, MN 55441-4178 no email, is researching

TOMCSYK, BINCZYK, URBANSKI, LEMANCZYK, and LEMANCZYK in Minnesota

Louis Welna, 632 Sodom Road, Milton, VI, 05468

Jane Wilkens, 15147 133rd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082 Wilke013@umn.edu is researching: BLOCH and THIEDE of Chodecz and Wloclawek of Poland. **PGS-MN**



WORD FIND

Find terms related to Poland

KRAKOW
 LODZ
 VISTULA
 WARSAW
 ZLOTY

H	O	S	H	E	P	X	V	D	Q	D	N
U	S	F	A	U	S	A	J	F	K	O	N
B	K	R	J	L	S	T	Z	D	O	L	C
Y	T	G	C	P	U	K	V	N	R	G	Y
P	N	D	Z	L	O	T	Y	D	S	G	H
B	M	H	K	J	D	X	S	S	M	W	Y
F	U	M	E	C	A	W	D	I	V	A	V
V	W	Q	I	V	O	T	T	P	V	R	L
R	M	A	F	K	X	A	K	E	X	S	G
J	X	D	A	E	L	C	Z	Z	A	A	L
V	A	R	K	V	N	X	G	A	O	W	V
B	K	Y	D	Z	E	D	A	X	V	H	L

Words run horizontally, vertically, diagonally & even backwards



Saturday August 10, 2013 - 10am - 10pm
Sunday August 11, 2013 - 11am - 6pm

Minnesota Genealogical Society
Polish Genealogical Society
of Minnesota Branch
1185 No. Concord St., Suite 218
So. St. Paul MN 55075-1150

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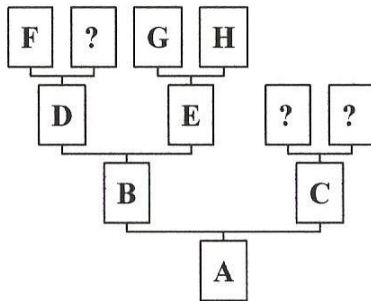
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So please can furnish dates and addresses of your residences so we can enter them into our database and it will automatically change your address so you do not lose out on any of the newsletters and PGS-MN will not be charged for non delivery.

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

Thank You,
Dori Marszalek
Membership Director

Missing Branches



Send queries and branch updates to: **Peggy Larson, Editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 557 98th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433** (e-mail: editorpgsmn@gmail.com) or send with new or renewal membership forms.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia Clabo, 16528 Temple Dr. S, Minnetonka, MN 55345-3452 patandbobclabo@msn.com is researching: ADOLPH VALENTINE KARKULA SR and CARL KARKULA both of Galicia.

Gary L Krusz, 4311 West 84th St, Duluth, MN 55807-1401 gkrusz@live.com is researching: KRUSZEWSKI and SZORC in Poland and Virginia, MN and also LASZKA and LASKY in Virginia MN.

Bernadette Mahan, 1486 Sheldon St, St Paul, MN 55108-2323 bjmahan@comcast.net is researching: OCHALA, WOJCIK, GRENZDIENSKI, ROZWORA, TOMASZEWSKI, MARKIEWICZ, ZELINSKI, MIUR, OSCZEJANEK, NOVASKI, GORACKI, LUPA in Poland and Minnesota.

Nathan Machula, 5150 15th St NE Sauk Rapids, MN 56379-8713 nmachula@gmail.com is researching: MACZULLATIS of Eastern Prussia, CZIOK and SONTOPSKI both of Silesia, Poland all in MN.

Bob Thomas, 2626 Burd Place, St. Louis Park, MN 5426-2436 bob11thomas@yahoo.com.

Francine Fitting, 255 Mermaids Bight, Naples Florida, 34103-3577 francinesfilling@me.com is researching: PALUBICKI of Ugoszcz Parish, RYMARKIEWICZ of Poznan, Lekno, PIECHOWSKI of Borzyszkowy, Parish, MAJKOWSKI of Lipusz Parish all of Winona, MN. Francine is able to do some simple searches in the church records for the underlined parishes above. Must have names, approximate birthdates and name of spouse is known. Use email as contact. No charge.

Missing Branches.....(Continued on page 27)