

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 21

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No. 3

PGS-MN has a New Website!

<http://pgsmn.org>

In the fall 1997 issue of this newsletter, Mary Ellen Bruski wrote a front page article announcing the first Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota's web page. At that time, the Minnesota Genealogical Society was providing web page space for each of its branches. We thank them for getting us online.

We have decided it's time for us to have our own hosted webpage!! Our URL, or website name, is now shorter and easier to remember:

<http://pgsmn.org>.

As with the previous webpage, this new website will be used to promote our organization.

On the *Home* page, you will find a welcome message inviting visitors to explore the new website. It also has a link to a membership application to join the Society or to renew your membership.

On the *Meetings/Events* page, we will list all upcoming activities and presentations for members and prospective members. In case you missed a meeting, this page will also have information on topics presented recently. If the speaker had any handouts those will be available on this page also.

The *Membership* page is self-explanatory of course, but that page also lists the features and benefits of becoming a member of our Society. Don't forget annual memberships make nice holiday or birthday presents!

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While the *Newsletters* page is currently still under construction, we are excited to get newsletter archives online. On this page, you will eventually be able to access archived newsletters dating back to the Society's first issues.

We will be keeping you posted via this newsletter on new pages as they are added to our site.

We need someone to keep the new webpage updated and informative so if you have webpage skills please contact our president, Jay Biedny, at jaybiedny@juno.com if you are interested in the position of PGS-mn Webmaster!

Please check out the new site. We think you'll like the new look, improved navigation and fresher information. PGS-MN

Autumn: The most beautiful time of the year to the person who has no leaves to rake.

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

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The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in the 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, 557 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

So the heat of summer has finally broken and we find ourselves heading into the Holiday Season. I've said it before, but I'll say it again: Use these family events as times to capture and record (audio and/or written) those family stories from your oldest family members. If they are no longer "going out", then take them a plate of cookies and make a date at their place. It can take you months, if not years, to reconstruct what they could tell you in 20 minutes. Sadly sometimes details are lost forever.

The Society has been busy. Although we took the summer off from member meetings, we staffed a double booth at the Twin Cities Polish Festival again this year. The weather was perfect and the crowds were some of the largest ever. We help hundreds of people start thinking about their Polish roots. Details and pictures are found deeper in this issue. I need to thank Dori, Rita and their whole team (including husbands) for all their hard work.

Also, after over a year of planning and hard work, our new website is ready to serve our members. We thank RootsWeb for sponsoring us these many years. But, it was time to take advantage of more robust technology and start managing the content more actively on our own platform. Please read the article on page one introducing our new site. Then, check it out and send us comments. We are also looking for a webmaster who could tend and grow this electronic garden. Even if you do not live in the Twin Cities, contemplate this job and contact me if you are interested. The information transfer for this position can be handled over the internet.

Our next issue will not reach you until the New Year, so may you and your whole family have a great Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Jerome Biedny, president
Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota



The Bulletin Board

Correspondence ... Komunikacja

Missing Branches Correction

In the summer newsletter Missing Branches column Francine Fitting offered to do simple searches at no cost to members. If you tried to contact Francine via e-mail and your message bounced, it was because there was a typo in her e-mail address. Her correct e-mail is francinesfitting@me.com. Sorry about that Francine.

Polish Pronunciation Advice

If you want to hear a Polish word pronounced, I suggest that you consider using the following: ivona – Text to Speech website at <http://www.ivona.com/en/>.

Yes you will need to copy or type the Polish words into the website. One way to do that is to use the Type Polish Characters website at <http://polish.typeit.org/>.

Hope this may be helpful to you.

Dorothy Pretare

PGSMN Website Anniversary

I recently came across the Autumn 1997 issue (Vol. 5 #3) of our organization's newsletter. On the front page is an article announcing the launch of our PGS-MN website.

Through the very determined efforts of member Kathleen Matelski, our website was created, and the surnames that members were researching were added as well as Links to other helpful sites. Sadly, Kathleen passed away while our website was still very young. But because of her fearless efforts to move our organization forward onto the electronic

information highway, we had one of the very first genealogical sites for specific ethnic research.

I just wanted to point out the 15 year anniversary of the PGS-MN website and thought it should be mentioned in an upcoming newsletter.

Thanks,
Mary Ellen Bruski

Editor's note: Thanks for writing Mary Ellen. Your letter was the inspiration for putting the announcement of the updated website on the front page just like in 1997! Hopefully we'll be able to continue that journey which Kathleen Matelski started 15 years ago!

Recently at PGS-MN Meetings

Polish American Holdings at the IHRC Archive

Saturday, October 12, presented by Daniel Necas

Daniel Necas is a research archivist at the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) 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.

Daniel told us that at the IHRC, you can learn what it was like to be a Polish immigrant. The IHRC's focus is to study the history of ordinary immigrants and their experiences. It is really a grassroots type of history collection about "ordinary" people, not the famous, historic characters in life.

The IHRC collects four types of records:

1. Records of social agencies that worked with immigrants,
2. Records of churches, social clubs, fraternal organizations, mutual aid societies, and the like,
3. Records of organizations that study immigrants or immigration topics, and
4. Scholarly papers written on the topic of immigration.

The IHRC has record and document collections of many ethnic groups. However, the Polish collection is one of their largest collections.

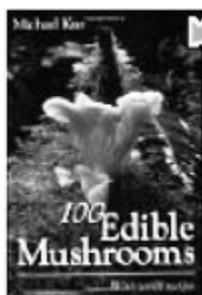
The archive is open to the public. Their website is <http://ihrc.umn.edu>. The website has finding aids online so you can find out whether they have materials of interest to you before visiting the archive if you prefer.

Poisonous and Edible Mushrooms of Minnesota - Forays of the Minnesota Mycological Society

Saturday, October 12, presented by Marek Jurowski
<http://www.minnesotamushrooms.org>

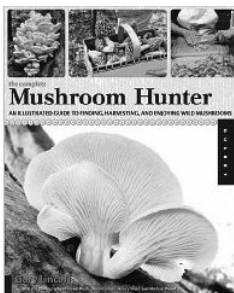
Marek Jurowski is a materials scientist by education and a trainer in the identification and procurement of edible mushrooms by avocation. From his early childhood when he foraged with his father in Nowa Sarzyna, Poland for that Polish delicacy embedded in the Polish culture until his arrival in the U.S. from Krakow as an adult, Marek has been helping others select and pick mushrooms safe for human consumption. In a powerpoint presentation Marek shared his knowledge with Poles in his new country.

For those interested in learning about mushrooms, Marek recommended the following books for beginning mycologists.



100 Edible Mushrooms by Michael Kuo

Mushroom Hunter by Gary Lincoff.



“Orphan Train Riders”

September 7, 2013. Speaker: Renée Wendinger, author of “*Extra! Extra! The Orphan Trains and Newsboys of New York*”



Renée Wendinger presented an historical slide presentation about the orphan train rider. Many immigrant families dealing with sickness, poverty, disease, alcoholism, job competition, and no money, resorted to abandoning their children to the streets of New York City. These abandoned children became the riders of the orphan train. Renée Wendinger’s mother was one of those children.

Renée’s presentation reflected on the experiences and history of these children who faced nearly insurmountable odds in surviving their abandonment to the Midwest. It was a very interesting and informative presentation about this epoch event in American history.

Renée Wendinger’s book, “*Extra! Extra! The Orphan Trains and Newsboys of New York*,” may be ordered online at <http://www.theorphantrain.com>.

For information on a service being offered to orphan train riders and/or their descendants, see “Orphan Train Riders – Putting the ‘train’ back in orphan trains” on page 22.



Renée Wendinger and Dan Schyma

Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events....

25th Annual Polish Soup Festival

Hosted by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM)

Sunday, October 27, 2013 from 3:00-5:30 PM
Kolbe Hall, 1530 4th St. NE, Minneapolis, MN

Poland is famous for soups and PACIM's SoupFest boasts having all of *babcia's* favorites. Sample over a dozen soups, including favorites such as *zupa grzybowa* (mushroom soup), *kapusniak* (sauerkraut soup), and last year's favorite – *zupa ogorkowa* (dill pickle soup). Tickets: \$10 members, \$12 non-members, \$5 children

4th Annual Hennepin County Library Family History Fair

Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Genealogy Society and Hennepin County Library System

Saturday, October 26, 2013, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM
Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall

Keynote address:

Check it Out! Public Library "Musts" for Genealogists by nationally known Minnesota genealogist, Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FMGS, FUGA

Break-out sessions:

Finding Family in the Federal Census - Lois Abromitis Mackin.

Faith of Our Fathers: Using Religious Records in Genealogical Research - Trudi Campbell.

Digging Up Clues in the Cemetery - David W. Suddarth.

Going Beyond Online Databases - Alice Eichholz, Ph.D., CG.

Fun Ways to Share Family History - Linda Coffin.

Hello, My Name is FamilySearch.org, Have We Met? - Kim Ashford.

Plus, over 25 genealogical, historical, and heritage groups and exhibitions including African-American, Czechoslovak, Civil War, Finnish, cemetery, Germanic, Irish, Italian, Norwegian-American, **Polish**, Pommern, Welsh, Swedish, Slovenian, and

West Indian/Caribbean, as well as several lineage societies. The MGS exhibits will include a selection of genealogy books for purchase, as well as copies of the Minnesota research QuickGuide.

That's not all! Hennepin County and MGS volunteers will offer 20-minute genealogy consultations on a sign-up basis from noon to 2 p.m., and Hennepin County librarians will provide tours of the Minneapolis Central Library genealogy and government documents collections from 1:15-2:00 p.m.

The fair is a fun opportunity to connect with genealogical experts, learn, and mingle. Preregister at <http://www.hclib.org/pub/events/>.

Polish Genealogical Society Meetings Calendar

November 2, 2013 - Joint meeting w/ Pommerns
Topic 1 - Genealogical Studies and the Use of County Records,

Topic 2 - Travel in Poland and the Poznan Project

Topic 3 - Teutonic Castles of Poland.

January 18, 2014 – Annual Membership Meeting

March 1, 2014 – Speaker - Dr. Richard Lewis, emeritus professor of history at St. Cloud State University.

April 5, 2014 – Poland and Emigration during the Late 19th and early 20th Centuries

May 3, 2014 – Minnesota Historical Society

See details below...

PGSMN Member Meetings

**Joint Meeting with the Pommern Group
Saturday, November 2, 2013**

Topic 1 - Genealogical Studies and the Use of County Records - 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. with Mary Ostby

Mary Ostby will present on the numerous county records available to genealogist and the wonderful Benton County Historical Society's museum. Mary

is the Executive Director for the historical society and museum. Mary has extensive experience and is enthusiastic about directing researchers to their great collection of county records.

Topic 2 - Travel in Poland and the Poznan Project - 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with Dr. Arthur Grachek

Dr. Art Grachek will present on his travels in Poland and the work of his cousin Lukasz Bielecki who has recorded the records of over 500,000 weddings in Poland in the "Poznan Project." Dr. Grachek is Professor Emeritus from St. Cloud State University. His specialty is speech and communications. He has traveled extensively in Poland and other European countries.

Lunch break

Topic 3 – Teutonic Castles of Poland
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. with Jim Neunenfeldt

Jim Neunenfeldt will have a wonderful power point presentation on the "Teutonic Castles of Poland." Jim is the current chair of the Pommern Regional Group of MN. He is a member at large, PRG liaison to the German Genealogy Group, member of the Polish Genealogy Society and a member of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. He is a volunteer instructor for WIESCO and has instructed at their English Language Camp in Torun, Poland for the past five years. Jim has received the Distinguished Silver Medal, *Unitas Durat Palatinatus Culaviano Pomeraniensis* from the Marshall of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship in Poland. Jim has both traveled and done research in Poland.

Lunch: The Pommern group's dues include a portion of the members lunch planned for the day. The Polish membership dues do not. The lunch charge for Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota members is \$10. Reservations and prepayment is greatly appreciated to help with our planning. Please contact Dan Schyma at [612-819-3479](tel:612-819-3479) to preregister for lunch. Checks should be made out to "PGS-MN" and mailed to: Dan

Schyma, 2149 126th Ave. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448. A limited number of additional lunches will be available at the meeting.

Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday, January 18, 2014

Election of officers, great food, great company!
More details in next newsletter.

Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit
2300 University Ave.
Minneapolis, MN
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
\$20.00/person

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

Saturday, April 5, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
MGS 4th floor boardroom
Speaker: 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 US 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.

Minnesota Historical Society

Saturday, May 3, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN
Speaker: Bridget Shields

The Polish Genealogical Society will meet at the Minnesota Historical Society for a power point presentation by Bridget Shields on the resources available for genealogical research. Following the presentation, Bridget will give a tour of the facility and will have people available for research help.

PGS-MN

Pommern Regional Group of Minnesota Calendar

November 2 – Joint meeting with Poles.

December 7 – Christmas Celebration

January 4, 2014 - Prussian Military uniforms pre-WWI, bring any uniform photos that you have.

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota was.....

Gettin' ready...



At the...



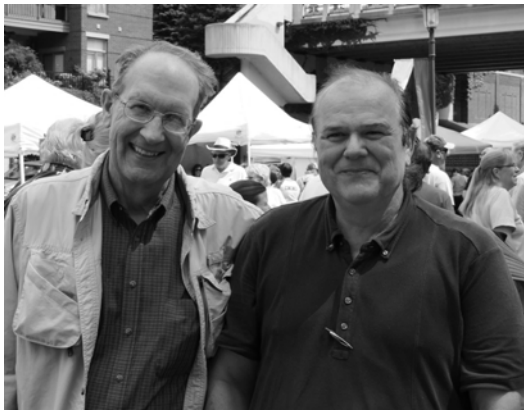
Members and guests having fun...as usual☺



Yup, we are.....



.....And still growing!



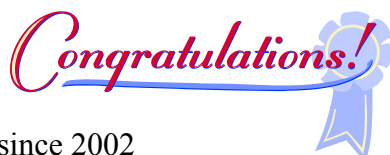
Sharing and helping too...



And who was that putting up the tent?
Thanks! Great job!



2013 Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award Winners

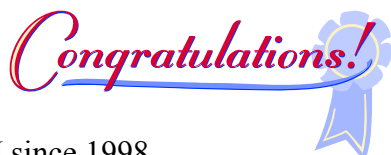


Dori Marszalek

Member of PGS-MN since 2002
Board member or officer 2006 to the present
Coordinator - PACIM Polish Festival
Secretary, 2006-2007
Membership chair, 2008 to the present

Dori started and then championed our involvement in the Twin Cities Polish Festival since the festival's revival in 2009. The PGS-MN's tent at the festival brings our organizations to the attention of the greater Polish-American public and has been the source of dozens of new members over the past few years.

Dori has also served as Secretary for two years and as Membership chair since 2008. She is responsible for all mailings to members regarding PGS-MN programs and events, renewal notices and follow-up notices to lapsed members and contributes to the mailing of the newsletter.



Audra Etzel

Member of PGS-MN since 1998
Board member or officer 2001-2007
Treasurer, 2002-2007

Audra was our second Treasurer, succeeding our first and long-time Treasurer, Barbara Rockman. She served in that office for six years.

Audra also started our first PGS-MN surname indexing project. She indexed the surnames that appeared in the first five volumes of the PGS-MN Newsletter. These indexes were then published in the newsletter between 2002 and 2005. She also compiled a single integrated alphabetical listing of those names which is now housed in the Polish collection in the MGS Library. **PGS-MN**

The Polish Slave

by
Francis A. Durivage

In the year 1853

Gayly opened the bright summer morning on the gray feudal turrets of Castle Tekeli, the residence of the old Count Alexis Tekeli, that crowned a rocky eminence, and was embosomed in the deep secular forests of Lithuania. The court yard was a scene of joyous noise and gay confusion; for the whole household was mustering for the chase. Half a dozen horses, gaily caparisoned, were neighing, snorting, and pawing the ground with hot impatience; a pack of stanch hounds, with difficulty restrained by the huntsmen, mingled their voices with the neighing of the steeds, while the slaves and relatives of the family were all busy in preparation for the day's sport.

Count Alexis was the first in the saddle; aged, but hale and vigorous, he was alert and active as a young man of five-and-twenty.

"Where are my daughters?" he exclaimed, impatiently, as he drew on his buff gantlets. "The sun is mounting apace, and we should not lose the best portion of the day."

As if in reply to his question, a tall, dark-haired girl, of elegant figure and stately bearing, appeared by his side, and with the assistance of a groom, mounted her prancing gray palfrey.

"This is well, Anna," said the count. "But where is Eudocia? She must not keep us waiting."

"Eudocia declines to be of our party, father," replied the girl.

"Pshaw!" said the old man; "she will never have your color in her cheeks, if she persist in moping in her chamber, reading old legends and missals, and the rhymes of worthless minnesingers. But let her go; I have one daughter who can live with the hunt, and see the boar at bay without flinching. Sound, bugle, and forward!"

Amid the ringing of silver curb chains, the baying of hounds, and the enlivening notes of the bugle, the

cavalcade and the train of footmen swept out of the court yard, and descending the winding path, plunged into the heart of the primeval forest. The dogs and the beaters darted into the thick copse wood, and soon the shouts of the huntsmen and the fierce bay of the dogs announced that a wild boar had been found and started. On dashed the merry company, Count Alexis leading on the spur. The lady Anna soon found herself alone, but she pressed her palfrey in the direction of the sounds of the chase as they receded in the distance. Suddenly she found herself in a small clearing, and drew her rein to rest her panting steed. She had not remained long in her position, when she heard, opposite to her, a crashing among the branches, and the next moment a huge wild boar, maddened with pursuit, and foaming with rage, broke into the opening and sprang directly towards her. Her horse, terrified at the apparition, reared so suddenly that he fell backwards, throwing his rider heavily, and narrowly missing crushing her. Springing to his feet, he dashed wildly away with flying mane and rein, while the lady lay at the mercy of the infuriated animal, faint and incapable of exertion.

At that critical moment, a young man, in the livery of the count, dashed before the prostrate form of the lady, and dropping on one knee, leveled his short spear, and sternly received the charge of the boar. Though the weapon was well directed, it shivered in the grasp of the young huntsman; and though he drew his short sword with the rapidity of thought, the boar was upon him. The struggle was short and fierce, and the young huntsman succeeded in slaying the monster, but not until he had received a severe wound in the arm from the tusks of the boar. Heedless of his sufferings, however, he ran to a neighboring rivulet, and filling his cap with water, returned and sprinkled the face of the fainting girl. In a few moments she revived.

Her first words, uttered with a trembling voice, were,—

"Where—where is the wild boar?"

"There, lady," said the huntsman, pointing to the grizzly monster. "His career is ended."

"And it is you who have saved my life," exclaimed Anna, with a grateful smile.

"I did my duty, lady," answered the huntsman.

"But who are you, sir? Let me, at least, know your name that I may remember you in my prayers."

"My name is Michael Erlitz; though your eyes, lady, may never have dwelt on one so lowly as myself, I am ever in your father's train when he goes to the chase. I am Count Tekeli's *slave*," he added, casting his eyes on the ground.

"A slave? and so brave—so handsome!" thought the lady Anna; but she gave no utterance to the thought.

At this moment the count rode up, followed by two or three of his retainers, and throwing himself from his horse, clasped his daughter in his arms.

"My child, my child!" he exclaimed; "thank God, you are alive! I saw your horse dash past me riderless, and flew to your assistance. But there is blood upon your dress."

"It is my blood!" said the slave, calmly.

"Yours, Michael?" cried the count, looking round him. "Now I see it all—the dead boar, the broken spear, your bleeding arm. You saved my daughter's life at the risk of your own!"

"The life of a slave belongs to his master and his master's family," answered Michael, calmly. "Of what value is the existence of a serf? He belongs not to himself. He is of no more account than a horse or a hound."

"Say not so," said Count Alexis, warmly. "Michael, you are a slave no longer. I will directly make out your manumission papers. In the mean time you shall do no menial service; you shall sit at my board, if you will; and be my friend, if you will accept my friendship."

The eagle eye of the young huntsman kindled with rapture. He essayed to speak, but the words died upon his tongue. Falling on his knees, he seized the count's hand, and pressed it to his lips and heart. Tekeli raised him from his humble posture.

"Michael," said he, "henceforth kneel only to your Maker. And now to the castle; your hurt needs care."

"Willingly," said the young man, "would I shed the best blood in my body to obtain my freedom."

"Ho, there!" said the count to his squire; "dismount, and let Michael have your horse; and bring after us Michael's dearly-earned hunting trophy. He has eclipsed us all to-day."

Michael was soon in the saddle, riding next to the lady Anna, who, from time to time, turned her countenance, beaming with gratitude, upon him, and addressed him words of encouragement and kindness; for her proud and imperious nature was entirely subdued and changed, for the time, by the service he had rendered her.

When the cavalcade reached the castle, they found the lady Eudocia, the count's eldest daughter, waiting to receive them. She heard the recital of the morning's adventure with deep interest; but a keen observer would have noticed that she seemed less moved by the recollection of her sister's danger, than by the present condition of the wounded huntsman. It was to her care that he was committed, as she was skilled in the healing art, having inherited the knowledge from her mother. She compelled Michael to give up all active employment, and, in the course of a few weeks, succeeded in effecting a complete restoration of the wounded arm.

Count Tekeli treated the young man with the kindness of a father, losing all his aristocratic prejudices in a generous sense of gratitude. Splendidly attired, promised an honorable career in arms, if he chose to adopt the military profession, his whole future changed by a fortunate accident, Michael was happy in the intimacy of the two sisters. He now dared to aspire to the hand of her whom he had saved, and whom he loved with all the intensity of a passionate nature. Thus weeks and months rolled on like minutes, and he only awaited the delivery of his manumission papers to join the banner of his sovereign.

One day—an eventful day, indeed, for him—he received from Eudocia, the elder sister, a message, inviting him to meet her in a summer house that stood in a small garden connected with the castle. Punctual to the hour named, he presented himself before her.

"Michael," said she, extending her hand to him, "I sent for you to tell you a secret."

Her voice was so tremulous and broken, that the young man gazed earnestly into her face, and saw that she had been weeping, and now with difficulty suppressed her tears.

"Nay," said she, smiling feebly; "it will not be a secret long, for I must tell it to my father as soon as he returns from court with the royal endorsement to your manumission. I am going to leave you all."

"To leave us, lady?"

"Yes; I am going to take the veil."

"You, so beautiful, so young! It cannot be."

"Alas! youth, beauty, are insufficient to secure happiness. The world may be a lonely place, even to the young and beautiful; the cloister is a still and sacred haven on the road to a better world."

"And what has induced you to take this step? I have not noticed hitherto any trace of sorrow or weariness in your countenance."

"You were studying a brighter page—the fair face of my sister. Start not, Michael; I have divined your secret. She loves you, Michael; she loves you with her whole soul. You will wed her and be happy; while I——" She turned away her face to conceal her tears.

The young man heard only the blissful prediction that concerned himself; he noted not the pangs of her who uttered it.

"Dearest lady!" he exclaimed, "you have rendered me the happiest of men;" and dropping on his knees, he seized her hand and covered it with kisses.

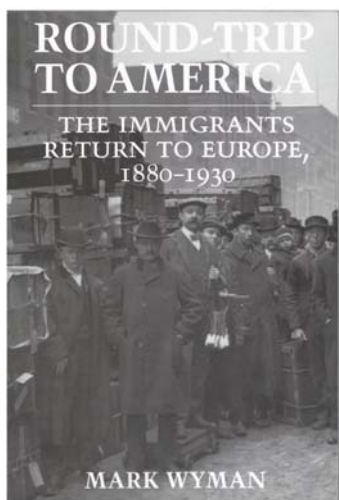
"Hark!" said Eudocia, in alarm; "footsteps! We are surprised; I must not be seen here!" and with these words she fled.

Michael sprang to his feet. Before him stood the younger daughter of Count Alexis, her eyes flashing fire, her whole frame quivering with passion. He advanced and took her hand, but she flung it from him fiercely.

"Slave!" she exclaimed, "dare you pollute with your vile touch the hand of a high-born dame—the daughter of your master?"

The Polish Slave(continued on page19)

Book Review



Round-Trip to America: The Immigrants Return To Europe, 1880-1930.

Mark Wyman, (Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 1993)

INTRODUCTION

As with immigrants from other European nations, many people recall stories about Polish relatives who immigrated

to America from Poland and later returned to Poland. Why did they return? What time period? How long was their stay in America?

Wyman states his book's purpose is to address four main questions: 1) How were immigrants who planned to return home different from those who expected to put down roots in America? 2) How were these temporary immigrants different while living and working in America? 3) What were the temporary immigrant influences on America?, and 4) What did "returning immigrants" carry back (in their hands as well as in their heads) and **how was the homeland affected** by their return? (pg.13)

THE TERM "REMIGRANT"

This book deals with **all European countries** (not exclusively Poland) and covers the intriguing topic of "return migration," which generally receives very little discussion among genealogists. While the book covers Europe in general, specific points are made about those returning to Poland from the U.S. The term "**remigrant**" is used throughout this book to denote returning immigrants.

SEASONAL MIGRANT WORKERS IN EUROPE

A common misconception which Wyman addresses first is our satisfying sense of a stable peasant village life in Europe. Wyman states in a chapter on seasonal migration in Europe: "The modern world

has struggled to maintain the comforting nostalgic thought of a static peasant culture rooted to the soil, unchanging..... But recent examinations into the past of European communities contradict the view of peasant life as stable and unchanging; this picture is inaccurate not only for the nineteenth century but for many centuries before." (pg. 18)

Prior to the period of the great migration to the America, author Wyman paints a picture of Europe with peasant seasonal movement. European seasonal migrant workers seeking to supplement income labored in other European nations, wherever they could find work.

"Migration was a tradition among Poles also....This upsurge in migration became manifest to the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic diocese of Krakow in 1907. Diocesan leaders authorized a survey of migration from Galician parishes that year and found the following numbers leaving for various destinations:" (pg. 18) Below are a few villages with connections to Northeast Minneapolis.

Village	Destination of Galician Village Emigrants
Jordanow	400 to Saxony-Prussia; 10 to Budapest; 400 to America
Letownia	1,500 to Saxony; Silesia, Denmark; 50 to Budapest; 20 to America
Rabka,	60 to Prussia; 20 to Saxony; 110 to America
Rabka Wyznia	50 to Prussia; 25 to Budapest; 50 to America"

SEASONAL MIGRANT WORKERS TO AMERICA

With a backdrop of this long pattern of intra-European seasonal migration by European peasants, it is no surprise that the seasonal migrant would also travel to the U.S. for seasonal work. Wyman distinguishes between immigrants to America who were only interested in making money and returning to Europe and those who came to America to make it a permanent residence.

For seasonal immigrants to the America, Wyman acknowledges faster steamships were able to ferry larger numbers of these “remigrants” at a lower cost than older sailing ships. Agents for steamship companies were important for all the emigrating peasants. He states: “The agent did more than sell tickets in villages, he provided credit, loaned money and would even help to auction property.” (pg. 27)

HOW MANY RETURNED

Regarding returning immigrants, Wyman states “determining the size of the return flow to Europe with any precision is impossible because of the lack of consistent counting by governments and shipping lines.....Rough estimates may be made, however. A major source is the U.S. government’s attempt from 1908 to 1923 to count immigration and emigration.” (pg. 7)

Wyman’s “1908-1923 migration table” (pg. 11) shows Poland with a total immigration flow to the U.S. of 788,957, while emigration from the U.S. was at 318,210. The table shows a net gain to the U.S. of 470,747 immigrants for that time period. The percentage of emigration from (leaving) the U.S. was concluded to be 40% during that period of time.

“OLD” IMMIGRANTS VS “NEW” IMMIGRANTS

There was a distinction and a resulting American tension between the “old immigrants” and the “new immigrants.” (pg. 100) Old immigrants were the earlier immigrants coming from northern and western Europe and the new immigrants were from southern and eastern Europe. The “old immigrants” were semi-skilled laborers or better compared to the “new immigrants” who were mostly unskilled laborers. Since many of the “new immigrants” tended to be seasonal workers with no plans to stay in America tensions grew with American labor unions.

Wyman’s sub-chapter ‘Unions Target Returners’ discusses unions and the ‘new immigrants’. “The Knights of Labor, which rose to become the country’s major labor grouping in the 1870s and 1880s, stressed

the linkage of New Immigration, Chinese immigration, and temporary residence in America. It preached labor solidarity, organized semi-skilled and unskilled as well as skilled workers, and in the process took in many immigrants, almost all from the Old Immigration. Its leaders remained unenthusiastic about eastern and southern Europeans, noting the newcomers’ strikebreaking and the downward pressure they exerted on wages.” (pg. 105)

“Other union leaders drawn from the Old Immigrants generally followed this line. In part, the reason lay in the fact that the union movement outside the Knights was centered in the crafts, the skilled trades, whereas the New Immigration was heavily unskilled.....All this positioning pointed to the gulf developing between the New Immigration and the AFL, the alliance of predominantly skilled trade unions which emerged as the nation’s dominant labor grouping by the 1890. Comparisons to the Chinese were emphasized by the AFL’s United Mine Workers, which argued that the peasants of southern Europe then flooding into the U.S. labor markets stole money from the pocket-books of the American workers and returned home.” (pg. 106)

EMERGENCY QUOTA ACT OF 1921

There were political reactions to “New Immigrants.” In 1907 Congress formed the United States Immigration Commission called the Dillingham Commission. This Commission ended its work in 1911, and concluded that immigration from southern and eastern Europe posed a serious threat to American society and culture and should be greatly reduced in the future. The Commission proposed the enactment of a "reading and writing test as the most feasible single method of restricting undesirable immigration." In 1918 Congress increased the income tax on those people considered “not-residents.” The Commission's overall findings provided rationale for sweeping 1920s immigration reduction acts, including the Emergency Quota Act of 1921. The Dillingham Commission motivated a National Origins Formula, part of the Immigration Act of 1924.

REMIGRATION FACTORS

During the period of statistics reported (1908-1923), there were remigration “push and pull” factors such as World War I, when Poland, among other nations became independent. In 1918 Wyman summarizes as follows: “Surveys of evidence for the 1880-1930 period, as well as more recent studies suggest that most explanations of remigration can be grouped under these headings: (1) Success; goals attained in America, (2) Failure, through injury or other causes, to reach goals, (3) Home-sickness, nostalgia, and patriotism, including the various calls of relatives and family obligations (caring for elderly parents, saving the family farm), and (4) Rejection of the United States, often for political or religious reasons, although inability to assimilate must also be included.” (pg. 76)

OTHER REMIGRATION FACTORS AND REACTIONS

“Immigrants began to voice a variety of new complaints about the country (*United States*). Many of their objections centered on growing restrictions on freedom . . . restrictions sometimes against immigrant drinking, sometimes against mere expression of opinions.” (pg. 122)

“Immigrants returned to Europe for many reasons in the years 1880-1930. Many had achieved their financial goals; others went back because they had failed. Many were homesick or had specific family issues that drew them back, i.e. inheritance, aging parents. If patriotic devotion sometimes pulled the immigrants homeward, patriotism in the United States repelled them.” (pg. 123)

Turning their backs on the New World, where they were increasingly seen as the “wretched refuse” of Europe rather than “huddled masses yearning to breathe free,” the immigrants steamed toward their own shores. Now their American money could be used among their own people, and so could the American experiences.” (pg. 124)

IMPACT OF RETURNING EMIGRANTS ON LIFE IN EUROPE

Wyman’s chapter 6, “Peasants Back on the Land” takes up the basic question of what the remigrants

did with their money when they returned. Also addressed is the remigrants’ impact on innovation in agriculture and the workplace, their encouragement of modern practices, and the way the community dealt with these returners.” (pg. 129)

The Land Question: “Land was at the heart of the peasant’s desire, the only investment considered in most cases. . . . On land rested status; from land came dignity.” (pg. 129)

“One result of the rush by remigrants to buy plots was a sharp rise in the commercialization of farmland across vast areas of Europe. . . . Generations of land transfers by inheritance, with only an occasional sale, now gave way to the business of haggling and selling and purchasing plots for cash.” (pgs. 133-134) “Land prices shot up rapidly, often advancing three times or more as potential buyers bargained for plots near their home.” (pg. 135) “That such inflated prices did not reduce sales was testimony to the persistence with which returned emigrants pursued their goals.” (pg. 136)

Houses: “Houses were generally second in importance, followed by shops or other businesses, and then personal interests such as education, paying back debts, medical care, or simply a richer life style.” (pg. 129)

Alternative Investments: “Not all remigrants wanted land. Many directed their savings instead toward starting or buying businesses, ranging from small shops. . . . to large enterprises such as the steelworks built by Polish returnees in Wyszkow. . . . Many simply sought to live off the interest of their savings.” (pg. 136)

“Poles in America were the major targets of patriotic efforts to convince those who had emigrated to come back and assist the nation, in this case, to help with Polish reconstruction after World War I.” (pg. 137)

Agricultural Innovation: “A fundamental question ran through the experiences of these remigrants who bought land and launched business, and it has remained to perplex modern scholars: Was this re-

migrant an innovator in his home-land?To venture into the subject of innovation is to enter an area where precise measurement is impossible.” (pg 139)

“Remigrants began arriving back home in numbers at a critical juncture for European agriculture. The old order of agricultural society, bowed under centuries of tradition, was giving way to the pressures and opportunities of an era driven by new markets, transportation systems, capitalistic approaches, even different crops.....Again European eyes turned overseas: reports of American farmers using new machinery, with abundant harvests that were already being exported to Europe. America, source of increasing amounts of money sent or carried home by emigrants, might become the starting point for a revolution in European peasant agriculture.” (pgs. 138-9)

A counter-point is made at the end of this section in regard to the innovation brought back with peasant remigrants and may be summarized in this quote: “During the years between the wars in Hungary, it was mainly the large estates, not the small farms such as those operated by the remigrants, that introduced new equipment and the varieties of wheat.” (pg. 146)

Technology and gadgets: “Among the vast numbers emigrating into American cities were those who would carry home the memory of America as a cornucopia of gadgets, new machines, and technical know-how....All this was part of the long-term Americanization of Europe, going on for years..... Contributions of remigrants in this interchange were extensive. These ranged from bringing back American phonographs, Singer sewing machines, bicycles, hatchets, double-bitted axes....New logging procedures were introduced in Finland and new fishing methods in Yugoslavian coastal waters and in northern Italy, the first regular rural bus service in Lucca was launched by a remigrant. The wood pulp thermal-mechanical process is believed to have been introduced (Finland) by Georg Holm, who had worked in Massachusetts pulp and paper mills before returning in the 1890s and also helped to introduce American paper-making machines.” (pg. 147)

In Hungary’s Nyitra district a remigrant opened the Amerikansky Shtore, which sold a wide variety of items including bathtubs and building materials. But the major difference from other local shops was that it had only one price for each item: bargaining was not allowed. This idea began to appear elsewhere as the emigrants returned from America.” (pgs. 147-8)

Skills and know-how: “To many, the impact of the returned emigrants was less in carrying back scissors and pulp-making machines, than in knowing how to tackle projects, big projects. One man coming back to Poland built a new house for his parents, after locating the materials for a shingles roof, wood floors, and brick walls. All the while he attracted onlookers who soon began helping just to learn how it was done in America.” (pg. 148)

The community’s response: “The American house in a Polish, Italian, or Irish village was tangible evidence that remigrants could do things differently; they were **agents of change.**” (pg. 150)

Since most of those returning went back to farmsdirect transfer of extensive American commercial and industrial knowledge was problematic, those accustomed to the availability of building materials, electricity, natural gas, even abundant hot water, ran into problems as they were still rare luxuries in the village.

It all seemed to come down in the end to a proper match, a proper fit between remigrant and home-land, whether in agriculture or business or industry. It required remigrants to introduce things that would work. (pg. 149)

IMPACT OF RETURNING EMIGRANTS ON EUROPEAN CHURCHES

One of the most interesting chapters covers the impact of the remigrant on churches and traditions in Europe. Wyman states “The churches of Europe watched nervously as the trickle homeward from America became a torrent. Virtually every region had a dominant church, government supported in most cases....” Wyman continues: “Fear of the remigrants, then, appeared not only because they had

been exposed to strange doctrines but also because they often insisted on spreading them, establishing branches of new churches in their home communities.” (pg. 169)

In his chapter “Churches, Traditions and Remigrants,” Wyman speaks of the Swedish experience. “Desire for independence from the Swedish Lutheran church began to spread to Swedish communities in the United States, where the Mission Covenant church soon established a competing presence....Such moves strained relations between the synod in the United States and the state church in Sweden, which complained of Methodist influences in the American group.” (pg. 180)

Wyman continues, “In an interesting sidelight to the transatlantic movement of religions, the Vatican in 1889 inquired of Archbishop John Ireland in Minnesota whether there were prospects for converting Swedish immigrants to Catholicism and then sending them back to Europe to ‘be a good leaven to their countryman’.” (pg. 180)

POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH GOES TO POLAND

A good case in point is the well-noted “Polish Schism,” that is, the American initiated Polish National Catholic Church. Wyman writes: “At the focus of the new group’s (PNCC) anger was America’s Roman Catholic hierarchy....Polish immigrant groups who sacrificed to construct their new churches in American cities sought to control these buildings the way they saw Protestant congregations doing. They also tried to choose their own local committees and their own priests rather than submit to the control of the Irish-German hierarchy.” (pg. 176)

“From the first PNCC high mass celebrated in 1897 by Rev. Francis Hodur in Scranton, PA until 1919, some fifty formerly Catholic churches joined the PNCC movement in the United States and Canada. Launching the new church back in Poland was probably never far from the founders’ minds, and by 1911 the PNCC imposed a free-will offering to support missionary work there.....By 1939 there were a

hundred PNCC churches in Poland claiming 400,000 members.” (pg. 177)

“The PNCC threat was considered so dangerous that Poland’s official Jesuit publication urged that return migration be stopped...In Polish villages the Catholic Church launched a counter-offensive. Copies of PNCC publications and other independent newspapers were seized and burned or were delivered in shreds with offending articles cut out.” (pg. 177)

“The postwar (WWI) Polish government finally gave its permission for the church’s existence in the mid-1920s, although the PNCC continued to clash with police in several Polish cities when new congregations were formed.” Wyman cites a specific clash in the village of Jastkowice, in SE Poland near the San River. Wyman claims that “even today the PNCC nickname in Poland is ‘Kosciol amerykanski,’ the ‘American church’.” (pg. 178)

Regarding European churches, Wyman concludes that “As the era of mass emigration and remigration drew to a close in the 1920’s, it was evident that converts returning home had been a significant force in shaking the dominant state churches of Europe... New denominations in Europe depended on people rather than governments for support.”

NOTE: For me personally, this book finally makes it understandable as to how this American founded institution, the PNCC, spread to Poland.

SUMMARY

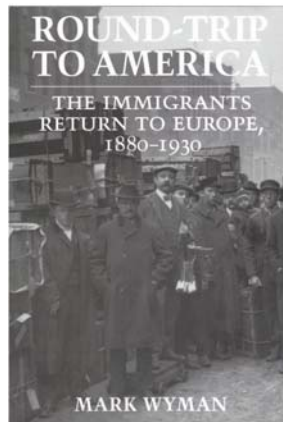
Wyman has written an interesting book about the approximately four million European immigrants who returned to their native countries. A common thesis throughout the book are the differences between 1) immigrants who came to America only to make money and then return to Europe and 2) immigrants who came to America to make it a permanent residence.

This book broadens one’s perspective of what it was like for immigrants at the turn of the century. Wyman paints a complicated picture of issues faced by the immigrants. (pgs. 122-123) Issues included

job availability, living conditions, homesickness, labor unions, language, religion, etc.

If you have stories about turn-of-the-century relatives who emigrated back to Poland and you are puzzled by their return, this book may give you some helpful insights as to why and how time period factors may have affected their return.

Book Review by PGS-MN member John L. Rys. This book is available in the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library. Call number FRGN IR P030. This book may also be available through your local library on interlibrary loan or it can be ordered on-line through the Cornell University Press. PGS-MN



In Memoriam

W. Kornel Kondy

+July 8, 2013



PGS-MN mourns the death of long-time and charter PGS-MN member, W. Kornel Kondy.

Mr. Kondy served many years on the board of directors of PGS-MN. He served as secretary in 1993, then as president from 1993 to 1996. At the same time, he was also the editor of this newsletter 1993-96. He continued to serve as associate editor from 1997 to 2000.

From the obituary published in Minneapolis Star Tribune on July 26, 2013

Kondy, Walter Kornel age 87, died July 8, 2013. He was beloved by all for his soft-spoken kindness and wit, and was a scholar of Polish language, literature, and genealogy. He was born July 25, 1925, in Lynn, MA, to Franciszek Wojciech Kondej (Frank Kondy) and Aniela Katarzyna Cyran Kondej (Aniela

Kondy). He was preceded in death by his parents; his two sisters, Katherine (Kay) Salome Orłowski, and Sophia Mary Craik; and his three brothers, Matthew Frank Kondy, Boleslaus (Bill) Constantine Kondy, and Joseph Walter Kondy.

Editor's note: Upon Mr. Kondy's passing, we received the following letter from his friend, Jacek Wojtowicz.

Kornel was a special person to me. I met Kornel in May of 1981, when I first arrived in Minneapolis from Gdansk. We immediately became good friends and spend a lot of time together. Kornel introduced me to all the things he liked in the Twin Cities and the surrounding areas: concerts, museums, theaters, international film festivals, his church and its members, parks, gardens, and many, many more things, places and people. I remember our countless walks and bike rides together, and the many conversations when we first spoke in Polish as my English was not yet fluent.

Kornel had many wonderful friends and he lives in the many relationships he created. As a person of modest means, Kornel had a very rich and full life. He loved to share his experiences with others, either directly (we once traveled to Poland together), or telling friends of them. He was such a good friend, always willing to help, however he could. Always willing to listen...

Kornel went through a lot of health problems, having had three heart surgeries, and always took such a good care of himself. This is probably why he lived as long as he did, despite his many health issues. He was always positive and hopeful. In recent years, he started declining. First it was the cane, then the walker, and then the wheelchair. Since October of last year, he was mostly spending time at home, hospital or rehab center. Then the nursing home and eventually hospice care.

On Sunday a week ago, I and many of his friends went and saw Kornel for the last time. He was no longer receiving any food or fluids for five days, his eyes closed. Yet, when he became aware of our presence, he opened his eyes and made effort to communicate with us that Sunday. I telephoned some of his friends so they could say goodbye to

Kornel, which included Henryk Teichert, Kornel's long-time friend from Wroclaw, Poland.

When I heard of Kornel's death on Monday last week, I felt as if part of me was amputated. I felt a deep loss. I later realized that I was closer to and knew Kornel better than my own father and mother, who also passed some time ago. Kornel taught me a lot and he will live in me for as long as I do.

Sincerely, Jacek Wojtowicz



In Memoriam

Chester S. Rog

+September 25, 2013



PGS-MN mourns the death of an icon in the local Polish-American community, Chester S. Rog.

From the obituary published in Minneapolis Star Tribune:



Rog, Chester S. age 89, of NE Mpls. The only child of Ignacy and Magdalena passed away September 25, 2013. Chester / Czeslaw is preceded in death by wife, Helen and daughter, Mary. He is survived by sons,

John, Peter (Jenny) and Paul; son-in-law, Mitchell (Sherry) Pearson; grandchildren, Andrew, Luke, Janelle, Cassandra, Emily, and Phillip.

A lifelong resident of NE Minneapolis, he was a one-man promoter of Polish culture in the Mpls./St. Paul area. A graduate of Edison High School, he attended the U of M and graduated in 1949 on the GI Bill.

A proud WWII Vet, he served in the European Theater and was transferred to London when the U.S. Army discovered the young corporal medic was fluent in Polish. He translated for the flow of Polish pilots, officers and civilians who fled to England to help fight the war.

His lifelong community involvement started in PTA during the 1960s. He organized many fundraising carnivals at the old Webster School on Monroe Street - to the delight of hundreds of children.

With the election of a Polish Pope in 1978, he decided the Polish-American community needed a monthly newsletter. So, in 1979 he started the MN POL-AM NEWSLETTER with himself as editor. After the crackdown in Poland 1981 (Martial Law), he opened a parcel service which shipped packages to people's relatives in Poland.

After a second severe heart attack in 1982, he retired from the IRS. He earnestly began to teach Polish language and culture in the Minneapolis Community Ed. evening classes. He was one of the co-founders of the Polish American Cultural Institute of MN (PACIM). In the 1990s his activities earned him the WCCO Good Neighbor Award. In the late nineties he began attending the national conventions of the American Council of Polish Culture (ACPC) - a confederation of Polish Cultural clubs from across the country. In 2003 they awarded him for his outstanding service to Polonia in promoting Polish culture.

For four decades he tirelessly helped Polish immigrants find jobs and lodging in the Twin Cities. He notarized hundreds of invitations which brought citizens together with their relatives in Poland. He also assisted them with health, immigration and social welfare problems. In the 1990s when immigration reform opened up a "Polish Lottery" for U.S. citizenship, he aided hundreds in getting their paperwork and applications to the proper federal address. In addition, he found time to travel to Poland almost 30 times between 1967 - 2001.

In May of this year he was deeply honored to receive a Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Award - the Steven Murray Award from the Minneapolis Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; "Honoring his influence, lifelong devotion and excitement to promote and preserve Polish heritage and culture in Northeast Minneapolis and around the Twin Cities." His final days were spent at home in hospice care surrounded by the loving hearts of his family. **PGS-MN**

Alexis, who threw himself into the arms of Michael, and pressed him to his heart.

"Joy, joy, Michael!" he exclaimed. "You are now free—as free as air! Here are the documents; my slave no longer—my friend always. And as soon as you choose to join the service, you can lead a troop of the royal cavaliers."

Michael poured out his thanks to his generous master.

"And now," said the count, "to touch upon a matter nearer still to my heart. Since the adventure in the forest, I have loved you as a son. To make you such in reality would be to crown my old age with happiness. My daughters are acknowledged to be beautiful, fitting mates for the proudest of the land. I offer you the hand of her you can love the best; make your election, and I doubt not her heart will second my wishes and yours."

"My noble friend," said Michael, "I accept your offer gratefully. You have made me the happiest of men. You will pardon me, I know, when I confess that I have dared to raise my eyes to one of your daughters. Without your consent the secret should have been hidden forever in my own heart, even had it consumed it."

Count Tekeli shook the hand of the young man warmly, and then summoned his two daughters.

They obeyed promptly. Both were agitated, and bent their eyes upon the floor.

"Count Tekeli," said Michael, speaking in a calm, clear voice, "I have a word to say to this your younger daughter, the lady Anna."

As her name was uttered, the young girl raised her eyes, inquiringly, to the face of the speaker.

"Lady, but now," said Michael, "you solicited my forgiveness on your knees."

"What!" cried the count, the blood mounting to his temples; "a daughter of mine solicit on her knees forgiveness of one so late my more than vassal—my slave! What is the meaning of this?"

"It means," cried Michael, kindling as he spoke, "that this morning, during your absence, count,—nay, a half hour before your return, this, your younger daughter, in a moment of ill-founded

jealousy and rage, usurping your virtual rights,—rights you had yourself annulled,—doomed me to the knout!—yea, had me scourged by menials in the court yard of your castle!"

"How," cried the count, addressing his daughter, "dared you commit this infamy on the person of my friend—the savior of your life?"

"I did, I did!" cried Anna, wringing her hands.

"And you asked me to forgive you," said Michael. "You offered me your hand, and begged me to accept it. My answer is, Never, never, never! The moment you laid the bloody scourge upon my back, you lost your hold upon my heart forever! I were less than a man could I forgive this outrage on my manhood. I saved your life—you repaid it with the lash. It is not the lash that wounds, it is the shame.

The one eats into the living flesh, the other into the living heart. Were you ten times more lovely than you are, you would ever be a monster in my eyes."

The tears that coursed freely down the cheeks of the lady Anna ceased to fall as Michael ceased to speak.

A deep red flush mounted to her temples, and her eyes, so lately humid, shot forth glances like those of an angry tigress. She turned to the count.

"Father," said she, "will you permit a base-born slave to use such language to your daughter?"

"Silence!" said the old man. "His heart is nobler than yours. More measured terms could not have passed his lips. I should have despised him had he felt and said less. Get thee to thy chamber, and in penitence and prayer relieve thy conscience of the sin thou hast committed."

The lady Anna retired from the apartment with a haughty air and measured step.

"Lady," said Michael, approaching Eudocia, "between your sister and myself there is a gulf impassable. If ever I can forgive her, it must be when those sweet and tender eyes, that speak a heart all steeped in gentleness and love, have smiled upon my hopes, and made me at peace with all the world. Dearest Eudocia, will you accept the devotion of my heart and life?"

He took her hand; it trembled in his grasp, but was not withdrawn. She struggled for composure a moment, and then, resting her head upon his shoulder, wept for joy.

The nuptials of Michael and Eudocia were soon celebrated. A brilliant assemblage graced the old castle on the occasion; but long before the solemnization, the count's younger daughter had fled to a convent to conceal her anger and despair.

PGS-MN



Check your ethnicity index: How Polish are you?

By Robert Strybel (<http://ampoleagle.com>)

Since October is celebrated as Polish-American Heritage Month, this may be a good time to take stock of your ethnic identity and appreciation. This is obviously not a sociological study, but only an informal fun way to check how much of your immigrant ancestors' heritage you continue to cultivate.

1. Family Descent: Are all four of your grandparents of Polish descent? If so, add 10 points. If not, add 3 points for each one that is or was Polish.
2. Spouse's Descent: Is your spouse of Polish extraction? If so, add 10 points. If unmarried, would you marry only someone of Polish background? If so, also add 10 points.
3. Original Surname: Have you retained your immigrant ancestor's original Polish surname? If so, add 10 points.
4. Modified Surname: If your ancestors' surname has been shortened or simplified (e.g. from Nowakowski and Kolodziejczyk to Nowak and Kolodziej respectively) without obliterating its Polish image, add 5 points.
5. Children's First Names: If you have given all of your children typically Polish (nonuniversal) first names such as Bogdan, Jadwiga, Wacław, Grażyna, Wojciech, Halina, Zbigniew, Wanda, etc., add 10 points. If not, add 3 points for each child with a Polish first name.

5. Language Skills: If you fluently speak, read and write in Polish, add 10 points. If your Polish writing

ability is limited but you are able to roughly converse in Polish about daily, family and household situations, add 5 points. If you know only a handful of food names, greetings and swear words, add 3 points.

6. Traditions: If your family shares opłatek on Wigilia, blesses, Easter baskets, celebrates namedays, sings "Sto lat," visits the graves of loved ones on Nov. 1st/2nd, mark doorways with K+M+B on Jan. 6 and regularly attends an annual PolAm festival, add 10 points. If not, add 2 points for each of the above traditions that is observed.

7. Organizational Membership: If you hold membership in at least three Polish-American organizations (fraternal, parish, local club, etc.), add 10 points. If not, add 3 points for each one you belong to.

8. News Sources: If you buy or subscribe to a PolAm newspaper or magazine or regularly visit Polonian and/or Polish news sites on the Internet, add 10 points. If you only glance through the pages of a Pol-Am fraternal newsletter sent to all insurees, add 3 points.

9. Cultural Artifacts: If Polish artworks and decorator items are prominently displayed in your home and Polish-themed books, ebooks, DVDs and CDs are found in your home collection, add 10 points. If not, add 2 points for each of the items that apply.

10. Cuisine: Do you regularly prepare, serve or eat typical Polish foods? If at least once a week, add 10 points; if at least once a month, add 5 points. If several times a year, add 2 points.

Now total up your score. How did you do? Where do you fall on the grading scale provided below?:

- 100 POINTS: Perfect score. You are a Polish American with the deepest possible appreciation for your ancestral roots and cultural heritage.
- 90-99: You have an excellent appreciation of your ancestral roots and cultural heritage.

How Polish Are You?.....(continued on page 23)

ORPHAN TRAIN RIDERS

Put the “Train” back in Orphan Train

We are a group of railroad historians who want to make a difference by providing train ride itineraries to orphan train riders and their families. We are located across America and work through the internet. While none of us have ever actually met, we want to work for you. We do not charge for this service although we do take free will donations to help support our work.

If you are interested in learning about your orphan train rider's itinerary, then feel free to contact us. You can reach us at orphantrainrail@outlook.com. If you do not have email, then write to us at: Making a Difference, 603 South Oakes Street, Helena, Montana 59601.

While we do not guarantee that we will be able to “nail down” the exact ride your orphan train rider took, we are very confident that in 90 cases out of 100 we can do so. The other ten cases will be our best educated opinion based on the notion that if you eliminate all other options, what remains has to be the truth.

How do we do this? First of all, we have access to passenger train schedules national wide dating from 1880 (and earlier in some cases) through 1929. Second, we know that railroads were very habitual corporations. Until the 1930s, passenger train schedules rarely changed decade in and decade out. Third, we know that railroads had selective working relationships with some railroads but not others. We use these historic relationships to track down the trains the orphan train riders used. Fourth, we use the process of elimination. We can fill in holes in an itinerary by looking for trains that departed and arrived which are the only logical fit into a rider's itinerary. Finally, we know that orphan train riders did not travel on crack or high speed trains; they were relegated to the slower, lower cost trains.

What do we need from you? First and foremost, we need the points of beginning and end of the journey. Next, the dates of departure and arrival if at all

possible. The time of departure and arrival are also very helpful although sometimes a rider only remembers if the train left or arrived in the morning, afternoon, or evening – also very helpful information. Third, every scrap of information known about the rider and the trip is useful. Hold nothing back – PLEASE let us decide what is or is not important. Family lore and rumors are also EXTREMELY helpful! Again, don't assume that something may not be helpful – all of it is useful – baptisms, first communions, local parishes and churches that may have been involved or attended after the rider reached his/her destination. We know, for example, that the Children's Air Society sent families to Protestant homes while the New York Foundling Hospital sent children primarily to Catholic homes. We also know that favorite train of departure used by the Foundling Hospital out of New York City. So if a rider went to a Catholic family, they almost certainly rider that train out of New York City. Thus, we can start to build an itinerary.

Finally, please be aware that building an itinerary requires a great deal of communication with you. We prefer to use e-mail but written mail is also acceptable. The quicker you can respond to our questions, the faster the result will come. Depending on the backlog of requests, we find it usually takes about three weeks to put an itinerary together. It gives us satisfaction to know that we can fill a void for a train rider and/or his/her family. Finally, we do not and will not have a website; there are too many websites on the internet already!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Editor's note: When you contact this group of historians they will ask you to fill out a questionnaire about your train rider. You can have them e-mail the questionnaire to you or you can find the questionnaire on our website at <http://pgsmn.org/meetingsandevents>. PGS-MN

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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 or phone 763-535-2296

Thank You,
Dori Marszalek
Membership Director

2013 Membership Renewal Reminder!!!!

We value you as a member of PGS-MN and want to make sure you don't forget to renew your membership before December 31, 2013.

With your Membership, you get...

- Four issues of our great newsletter per year
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- Speaker programs throughout the year
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- The newly, updated PGS-MN website!

Plus, knowing your continued support helps to keep PGS-MN alive and growing!

If you have any questions, please contact, Dori Marszalek at doripgs@comcast.net

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