



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1

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NUMBER 1

Witamy!

Welcome to the first edition of the *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*. Like many new productions this one is late and probably incomplete. The latter will depend on your definition of what a newsletter for a genealogical society such do. In an attempt to avoid philosophical statements, at this point let's just say that a newsletter should provide some assistance to members in working on their family histories. To that end the newsletter staff is open for suggestions for any addition, deletions, or changes. We will attempt to produce four issue each year. Some of those issue may become expanded bulletins which periodically update library, holdings, research aids and family histories. Each issue will at least include announcements of coming events, queries, offers of assistance, and related articles. Please submit any items that you wish to share with other members. These could include reports of travels, research experiences, etc.

This newsletter is being published using WordPerfect© version 5.1, an IBM™ compatible computer, and a Panasonic™ KX1624 dot matrix printer. Submitted articles are read into the word processor by means of an optical recognition scanner. To save editorial time submitted articles should be typed, single-placed, and the use of outlining numbers special grouping, etc. should be avoided. Tables, graphs, and figures can be reproduced.

Since this is the first issue and items submitted over the past year may have been lost or misfiled. Our apologies, if this is the case. Please resubmit for the next issue in March.

John Pokrzywinski

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In January of 1993 the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota will officially be a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. Our history: a small effort was made to establish a Polish genealogical society in 1988. A more concerted effort was made about a year and a half ago. Now we have a constitution, have been accepted for branch membership by the MGS, have a newsletter and we can only continue to grow.

Our annual meeting was held in October. All the officers and members of the board of directors were reelected. Our constitution allows us to add board members during the year. Your participation will be most welcome.

The other major decision at the annual meeting regards dues. Those of you who have already paid last year's dues will have your membership extended for the new year, 1993. If you are not a member we encourage you to join with us.

Ed Brandt has taken on the responsibility of program chair. What would you like presented at future meetings?

All the members of the board would be happy to hear your suggestions and concerns.

I thank all of you who have helped the PGSM get started and look forward to seeing everyone at our January meeting.

Blanche Krbecek

OUR LOGO

Of course, we needed a logo. As a papercutter this was an intriguing challenge so out came my scissors. I wanted to maintain somewhat the traditional design elements of wycinanki (Polish paper cutting). I chose the style of the Kurpie region, a one color cutting, since it could be reproduced even in black and white. The primary elements became the two eagles - the white eagle of Poland and the bald eagle of the United States which could be created more or less symmetrically. These two I dressed up within a Kurpie framework. Some folk will not be happy without a story, or a fine analysis of the design. In the true fashion of my Polish family I can create one and you can change it to suit yourself if you wish. Perhaps the branches in the diamond are the branching of a family tree. One could say the four corners of the diamond are the four directions: north, south, east, west. Then the "fringe" on the outside (a finishing touch that is very easy to do with sheep shears) can be us Poles reaching out in great number. I cannot imagine a need to explain the initials, PSGM, in the bottom corner. These thoughts came to me as I wrote. All I originally had in mind was the two eagles; that is the only fact and is not part of a story. We have a logo now. The papercutting from which it is taken hangs in my house.

Blanche Krbecek

Dziękuję bardzo!

Thank you very much to Ed Brandt, Kornel Kondy, and Paul Kulas. They volunteered their time to represent PGSM at the Minnesota

Genealogy Society exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair.

Thanks are also extended to Blanche Krbechek, Barbara Rockman, and John Pokrzywinski for helping to provide materials for the exhibit.



What is being Polish?*

The "Our Readers Write" column in our November issue included a letter which asked the apparently simple question, "What is Polish?" The reader stated that his family had not left him a Polish heritage, although he was of Polish descent on both maternal and paternal sides. We humbly suggest that he had been left a Polish heritage, but that it just had not been made clear to him.

A few of our readers were brave enough to try and answer the inquiry and, although we question our own adequacy to answer such a mighty question, we feel that we should at least take a stab at it. So, here goes:

Being Polish is being heir to a long, great and colorful history. We are not responsible for it, but it has been entrusted to us by reason of our lineage. It's akin to the way that royalty succeeds each other. We have it just because we are ... well ... Polish.

Being Polish means that we are stubbornly independent, driven sometimes to foolishness, but just as often to heroism in an unending struggle to maintain our individual and group freedom.

Being Polish means that we have music in our veins. It's the music of Chopin, Paderewski, Moniuszko, Penderecki, and a thousand others. If we happen to be Polish Americans, it includes the polka, a rather nice counterpoint to the heavier tone of our national melodies.

Being Polish means we have, indeed, a special relationship with all of the forms of art. We are not all artisans, of course, but as a people we have been blessed with ability to appreciate the beauty in all forms of artistic endeavor, whether in paint, in print or otherwise, recognizing many of the greatest among our national heroes. Briefly put, we are more likely to honor writers and painters than business tycoons or soldiers.

Being Polish means that we are tolerant of others, coming from one of the most homogenous nations on earth, yet one which found room within its borders for those who were markedly different. Some of us, Polonians now far from the homeland, occasionally forget our historic tolerance, but it is there, nevertheless.

Being Polish means that we have a collective devotion to our God, in a fashion rarely seen among other nationalities. And God, as if in return, has smiled upon us at those special times that we needed his help the most.

Being Polish means ... a lot of things unsaid here. If you really look into your soul, dear reader, you will find the answer. your heritage was there all the time.

* This editorial by T. Ronald Jasinski-Herbert was reprinted from the January 1992 issue of *Polonia Today*, 5944 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60646. (Write for a sample issue.)

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society
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(612) 645-3671

Blanche Krbechek *President*

John Pokrzywinski . . . *Vice-President*

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Barbara Rockman *Treasurer*

Paul Kulas *Director*

Ed Brandt *Director*

Mary Alice Rukucki *Director*

The PGSM Newsletter

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Kornel Kondy *Associate Editor*

Ed Brandt *Contributor*

Blanche Krbechek *Contributor*

PGSM Committees

Ed Brandt *Program*

Barbara Rockman *Membership*

Blanche Krebechek *Publicity*

FEEFHS Established

by Ed Brandt

The Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) has been established, with Charles M. Hall, 7612 S. 2700 E., Salt Lake City, UT 84121, as president. It is intended to serve all ethnic and religious groups researching ancestors in Eastern Europe.

Any genealogical society or branch of one, any historical or cultural society whose interests extend to genealogy, and any university, library, archives or other institution interested in East European genealogy is encouraged to join. The federation plans to provide the following services:

1. publish a newsletter dealing with new developments concerning genealogical research in Eastern Europe which may be of interest to two or more ethnic or religious groups;
2. develop a database of pertinent genealogical organizations and resources;
3. maintain liaison with societies outside the U.S. and Canada;
4. serve as an information clearinghouse for member societies;
5. hold an annual bi-national conference, perhaps in connection with other major genealogical events;

6. co-sponsor events of member societies which would be of interest to more than one group, if requested;
7. assist in the development of new ethnic societies or sub-groups where they are needed but do not exist;
8. promote genealogical research and its publication; and
9. publish important resource material of interest to two or more ethnic or religious groups.

The first task is to identify potential organizational members. Interested organizations and institutions may send an indication of interest to the president directly or to any of the directors.

Individuals are encouraged to subscribe to the newsletter and may send their names and addresses to the editor, John C. Alleman, 377 N. 200 W., Salt Lake City, UT 84103.

Membership dues will be modest, but will not be set until there is an indication of how many organizations may be interested.

The price of individual subscriptions has not been determined either and may depend upon whether it is feasible

to use The Forum of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, with which FEEFHS expects to be affiliated.

Voluntary contributions by organizations or individuals to help pay for the expenses involved in setting up the federation would be appreciated. They should be sent to the treasurer pro tem, Eva--Maria Bates, 2968 Glenmare, Salt Lake City, UT 84108, made out to her and designated for FEEFHS.

Board members include: Charles Hall, President; Brian Lenius, Anola, MB ROE OAO, vice-president; Sarah Fleury Allen, Shelton, WA; Louis L. Balogh, Provo, UT; Ed Brandt, Minneapolis, MN; Duncan Gardiner, Lakewood, OH; John D. Movius, Davis, CA; Walter Russell, Cochrane, AB; Stan Schmidt, Chicago, IL; Miriam Weiner, Secaucus, NJ; and Ewald Wuschke, Vancouver, BC.

Individuals interested in helping with the development of the federation in any way (publicity, membership recruitment, material for the newsletter, helping to answer correspondence, drafting a constitution and by-laws, serving as directors or on committees in the future, etc.) are encouraged to contact any of the directors.

QUERIES

Each issue of the newsletter will contain a research information exchange section. Members of good standing are invited to place queries pertaining to the exchange family information requests for help and offers to aid others researching the same family lines. Send to: Editor, PGSM Newsletter, c/o Minnesota Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 16069, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105.

SERWATOWSKI

Andrew SERWATOWSKI was in the Polish army during World War I, and lived in Warsaw at that time. The SERWATOWSKI family came from Galicia in southern Poland. Need any information or history available. Contact: Philip Serwatowski, 23461 Baker Street, Taylor Michigan 48180.

POKRZYWINSKI,
POKRZYWINSKA,
POKRZYWINSKI,
MERCHLOWA

Martin POKRZYWINSKI from the villages Brusy or Czersk, Czapiewice, Pokrzywno, in Province of Bydgoskie, Poland would have been born in the early 1800's and would have married Josephine KNITTER on or before 1829. His son Vincent POKRZYWINSKI, born February 1828, with his wife Josephine MERCHLOWA immigrated to Warsaw, North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1881. Martin may also have had a daughter, Agatha POKRZYWINSKI, born 1828, who with her husband, Martin GORNOWICZ, immigrated to New York in 1855 and from Pine Creek, Wisconsin by way of Perham, Minnesota in 1879 to Warsaw, North Dakota. Need any information. Contact: John Pokrzywinski, 1422 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105.

KAPLYCZYNA,
KAPLYCZYNY, OLEZWASKI

Clara M. KAPLYCZYNA, daughter of Jan KAPLYCZYNY AND Honorata OLEZWASKI, was born in 1886 in the Austrian partition of Poland. She immigrated to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada around 1904 to marry Frank POKRZYWINSKI of Warsaw, North Dakota. Need any information. Contact: John Pokrzywinski, 1422 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55105.

ZANDAROWSKI,
ZANDAROSKI, SULINSKI,
SELINSKI, SOLINSKI,
JASINSKI, SANDERIA

Need any information. Contact: Barbara Rockman, 6439 Evergreen Lane, Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369.

NEIDOROZESZK,
NEIDAROZESZK,
NEIORSZOZIKY,
NEIDOROWSKI

Need any information. Contact: Daniel Nedoroski, 2470 Beverly Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4904.

KOSIBA, CYRAN, KONDY

Wish to contact descendants of my uncle Wojciech KOSIBA, who resided at 8 George Street, Adams, Massachusetts and was married to my aunt Kazimiera CYRAN. She died on June 15, 1902, at the age of 20 years, of septicemia in Adams, Massachusetts. She and an infant son are buried in the Maple Street Cemetery in Adams. Contact: Walter Kornel Kondy, 619 S.E. Seventh Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414-1327.

ECKMAN, ECKMANN

Need any information. Contact: Michael Eckman, 4937 Queen Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410-1910.

HOFFA, HEFFA

Need any information. Contact: Steve & Marge Hoffa, 5203 Hiawatha Lane, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417.

- MYSLAJEK, MIGATZ,
MIGACZ, GRABSKA
Need any information. Contact: Florence Myslajek, 1820 Long Lake Road, New Brighton, Minnesota 55112 or Mary Myslajek Yarns, 3515 Madison Place N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418
- DENAZON, DANAZIS,
MLEYNARCZYK,
KRZESZEWSKI, KUBICKI,
MUSOLF, MWSILF,
MAUSOLF, MAJCHRZAK,
MOSINIAK, TOBOŁA,
OLESZEWSKI
Need any information. Contact: Millicent Kriske, Route 8, Box 373, International Falls, Minnesota 56649.
- KAVA, KAWA
I am interested in making contact with Kawa or Kava families in the Moorhead, Minnesota area to immigrated from Poland about 1910. Contact: Stanley W. Kava, 2617 Moretto Court, Rancho Cordova, California 95670.
- HAMERSKI, HAMERSKY,
HAMMERSKY, HAMORSKI,
HAMORSKY
Interested in any spelling variation of HAMERSKI. Contact: Michael D. Hamersky, P.O. Box 1002, Poway, California 92074-1002.
- PADEROWSKI, NOWICKA
Interested in the family of Ignacy Jan PADEROWSKI, son of Jan PADEROWSKI and Poliksena NOWICKA. Also, interested in issues of his half-brothers and half-sisters. Interested in the following locations: Kurylowka, Podolia; Paderewo, Podlasie; Vina, Kalvga, Srberia; and Sudvlkow. Contact: Mark Seidenberg, 66A Bedford Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201.
- LANGE, OTT, KADING,
VOGT, LENZ, RUX
Need any information. Contact: Vernon Kading, 7330 Gallagher Drive, #337B, Edina, Minnesota 55435.
- PAWLA
Need any information. Contact: Gertrude Pawla Erickson, 1939 Cleveland Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418.

Coming Events

January 9, 1993; 10:30 AM - Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota meeting, Northeast Library, 2200 Central Avenue N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. Speaker: Arthur Louis Finnel, C.G.R.S., *Using Local and Courthouse Records*.

March 6, 1993 - Minnesota Genealogical Society 1993 Branching Out Meeting. PGSM speakers: Kornel Kondy, *Researching Polish Ancestors in the United States*; Delores Zaworski, *Personal Experiences and Tracing Ancestors in Poland*; David Zaworski, *Using LDS records and Genealogical Societies for Tracing Polish Ancestors*. Contact MGS for exact times and location.

1st Sat in Feb.

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New Books Relating to German Genealogy (1992)

WHERE TO LOOK FOR HARD-TO-FIND GERMAN-SPEAKING ANCESTORS FROM EASTERN EUROPE

by Bruce Brandt

This is an alphabetized index to 16,372 surnames appearing in four German-language books (Wilhelm & Kallbrunner, Unruh, Schneider, and Kossmann) and Welisch's book on the Bukovina Germans. These books are either not readily accessible to non-German-speaking Americans and/or they have no complete name indexes. Included are instructions on how to obtain relevant entries, with translations and historical background of the pertinent German migrations if desired. (96 pp., \$15)

CONTENTS AND ADDRESSES OF HUNGARIAN ARCHIVES

with supplementary information for research on German-speaking ancestors from Hungary

by Edward Reimer Brandt

Up-to-date addresses of some 70 Hungarian archives (national, county, religious, special) are provided. The book also reprints a portion of the out-of-print *Guide to the Archives of Hungary* published by the Archival Board of the Hungarian Ministry of Culture in 1976, which describes the contents of the various categories of archives. These contents include some material on areas which belonged to Hungary before 1920, i.e., where most of the Danube Swabians and Transylvanian Saxons lived. Included are several maps, as well as statistical tables on German-speakers (based primarily on a 1927 German-language book by Dr. Wilhelm Winkler), a dateline of historic events in Hungary of particular relevance for researching German ancestors and a select bibliography. (68 pp., \$10)

WHERE ONCE THEY TOILED:

A Visit to the Former Mennonite Homelands in the Vistula River Valley in Poland

by Edward Reimer Brandt

This is an account of a 1991 tour to what was the heartland of the North European Mennonite settlements until at least 1789, when many started moving to Eastern Ukraine (then called South Russia), although many others remained there until 1945. It includes 27 photographs, 2 maps and 2 sonnets. The report details visits to former Mennonite villages, churches and cemeteries and compares urban and rural Mennonite structures with both those of the Netherlands and Flanders, from where most of the religious refugees fled in the sixteenth century, and those built by 1874 immigrants on the North American prairies. (Published by *Mennonite Family History*, 28 pp., \$4.50)

"Geographical Origin of German Immigration to Wisconsin"

by Kate Everest Levi, Ph.D.

This very comprehensive, detailed report of the areas in Europe (Pomerania foremost among them) from which German-speaking immigrants came to Wisconsin was recently rediscovered and has been reproduced by Edward R. Brandt. When it was first published as part of the *Collections of the Historical Society of Wisconsin* in 1898, this immigration was still a matter of recent history. Since many German-Americans, especially those in the Upper Midwest and Pacific Coast states have ancestors who first settled in Wisconsin, this book may contain very useful clues for bridging the Atlantic and thus furthering research by many genealogists. (53 pp., \$7)

Send orders to Ed or Bruce Brandt at 13 - 27th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414-3101. Add \$2 mailing cost for one book and \$1 more for each additional book. Discounts for five or more copies of any book.

Ancestor Index Card File

Somewhere out there, there is someone doing research on *your* family. They are duplicating your efforts and may have much more information that they are willing to share with you. They probably have a photo of your great-grandparents, a brass or silver candlestick that some mutual ancestor brought from Poland, or maybe that mysterious and illusive family Bible. Just think of all the answers that person can provide, all you have to do is find him or her.

The *Ancestor Index Card File* is being established in an effort to put *you* into contact with that person doing research on *your* family. The faster you get all your index cards into our files, the faster you will be able to accomplish your genealogical goals.

In an effort to put *you* in contact with others doing research on the same families, the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota is establishing an *Ancestor Index Card File*, housed in the library of the Minnesota Genealogical Society and is accessible to all researchers. Members and non-members are invited to submit cards on their earliest ancestor, with detailed information, on each line being researched. Since the Index will be arranged alphabetically by the ancestor's surname, please prepare a separate card (3"x 5 "1 for each ancestor. Type or print clearly the following information:

1. Last name (in capital letters) followed by first name and initial of only the earliest ancestor, with detailed information, in each line.
2. Date and place of birth. Be specific, if possible.
3. Date and place of death. Be specific.
4. Name of spouse. Prepare a separate card for spouse with details.
5. List children on back of card, giving name, date and place of birth.
6. Your name, address, city, state, zip and phone number.

Prepare separate cards on *allied families* and a separate card for *each variation in spelling*. Include a separate card for any changed or shortened forms of the surname. In requesting a search of the Index, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope and please limit each request to five surnames.

"Our Challenge"*

by Rev. Leonard F. Chrobot

We live in a free society with all kinds of opportunities for education. Polish Americans should take advantage of these opportunities. If our children have intellectual ability, we should help them develop it to its ultimate potential.

We as Polish Americans desperately need verbal skills, the ability to put into words what it is that we feel down deep in our hearts - our values so other people can understand what we believe. I believe America is searching for these kinds of values today.

I believe I have a serious obligation before God, because of my parents and grandparents, to contribute to this emerging American culture. I have an obligation to the gnarled hands and stooped backs of my grandparents, who worked long and difficult hours on farm and in factory so that their children and grandchildren would have a better world, I thank God for them every day. I owe them something. They paid a great price for me to be here today. My only tribute to them would be to contribute to the growth and development of our Polish cultural heritage in America today. America is my country. I am not a Pole living in America, I am an American, but not just any kind of an American.

I am an American of Polish descent, of Polish cultural heritage. I want to cherish that heritage and I want to teach it to other people so that they can cherish it the same way that I do. This is our task. This is our opportunity. This is our challenge.

* *Polish-American Ways*, Jacek Nowakowski (Ed), New York: Harper & Row, Publishers

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

Individual/Family - \$10.00

Sponsor - \$25.00

New

Renewal

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Polish family names you are researching:

Ethnic & nationality interests:

Locations in Europe:

Locations in North America:

Please make checks payable to PGSM and send to Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, c/o Minnesota Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 16069, St. Paul, MN 55116-0069

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