



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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## Polish Museum in Winona

On April 30th, our president, Blanche Krebechek, and I drove down to Winona at the invitation of Margaret Kowalewski to see the Polish Museum. It is a very pleasant drive from the Twin Cities along the river. Margaret meet us on the edge of town to show us the way to the Polish Cultural Institute. It is a very impressive building especially for a museum. The building originally was the headquarters of the Laird, Norton Lumber Company but has had many other tenants since it was built. In 1976 Rev. Paul J. Breza founded the Polish Museum and they have been adding to it ever since. If I may quote -- "the heirlooms, religious articles, parish records, photographs have been lovingly donated to make the Polish Museum an echo of the past and a promise for the future." The tour was very rewarding. Everything has been displayed in such fine taste. The very knowledgeable Ben Schultz then added a special surprise by taking us to St. Stanislaus Catholic Church. It is so impressive to think that so many hard working, Polish speaking people could put out so much effort toward such a beautiful church. It is a sight to behold. The dinner at the (Polish owned) Hot Fish Shop just topped off the day. I cannot recommend a finer place to feel your Polish heritage than a trip to Winona. Thank you Margaret and Ben!

*Barbara Rockman*  
Treasurer

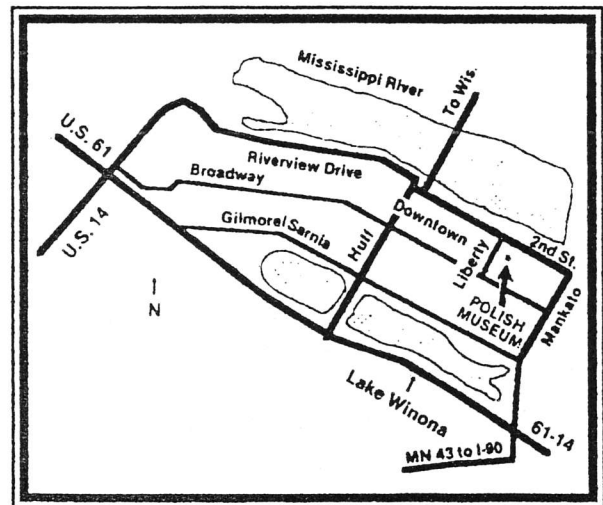
### GENEALOGY

Among the artifacts preserved at the museum are parish records, immigration papers and documents from the late 19th century.\*

### PUBLISHING

Winona was the home of the *Wiarus*, a Polish language newspaper widely circulated in North and South America. The publisher, Hieronim Derdowski, was widely honored for printing national and church news. The museum has many issues from 1894-1919.\*

The Polish Museum is located five blocks east of the heart of downtown Winona, five blocks west of St. Stanislaus Church, and one block from the Mississippi River at 102 Liberty Street.\*



< OPEN >

from May to November

**POLISH MUSEUM**

102 Liberty St. — Winona, MN 55987  
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\*Information from Polish Museum brochure.

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**Polish Genealogical Society  
 of Minnesota**

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16069  
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**President's Letter**

Although the long wait since our first issue was not planned, we finally have a second issue. New and growing organizations seem to be plagued by changes. With this issue, Kornel Kondy kindly has assumed the position of editor and is aided by Paul Kulas. Contributions of articles for future publication are welcome.

Ed Brandt has been busy arranging many interesting and informative programs. It is our intention to have four programs each year. Occasionally the opportunity for an extra speaker presents itself, so we may have an extra program.

A question about meeting locations has been raised. When convenient we will still try to have meetings at the Northeast Library. However, since there is no charge for the room we are not allowed to change money. If our speaker is an author with a new book or is seeking funds for Poland, we must find other locations. Yes, suggestions for programs and locations are welcome.

We have established a library fund and have already made a few modest purchases. The books and publications we have (some gifts, some review copies, and some exchange newsletters) are now available at the Minnesota Genealogical Society's library. Books relating to genealogy and history, monetary contributions and suggestions for purchases are welcome.

Barbara Rockman and I were treated to a preopening tour of the Polish Museum in Winona by our members, Marge Kowalewski and Ben Schultz, two of their officers. I highly recommend a visit. Call for their summer hours -- (507) 454-3431.

*Blanche Krbechek*

**Membership Report**

Now that we have been a branch of MGS for six months, we have a paid membership of 60. The Metro area is well represented and the outstate memberships are coming in encouragingly. We have representation in Albert Lea, Floodwood, Princeton, Little Falls, North Branch, International Falls, St. Joseph and a sizable group from Winona. The non-Minnesotans are from various states: AZ, CA, CT, MA, MI, NY, NV, ND, OH, TX and WA. Please help to increase our membership -- it takes all of us to succeed and make this an active organization.

*Barbara Rockman*  
 Membership Chairman

## The Mickiewicz Trail



### szlak mickiewiczowski

Dr. Borys Klein, professor of history at Grodno University in Belarus, was guest speaker at the PGSMn meeting on Saturday, 17 April 1993, at 10 am at the United Methodist Church of Peace, 6345 South Xerxes Avenue, Bloomington, MN. Dr. Klein spoke about the present-day Polonia active in Belarus -- Polish schools, choirs, dance groups, organizations and cultural activities. He stressed the need for cultural contacts with Poland and other Polish organizations abroad.

He presented several interesting genealogical discoveries as the result of his research, among others, one on

the Polish origins of the family of Dmitry Shostakovich (1906-1975). He showed the audience documents, pictures and correspondence from the famous Russian composer. Another find was the Polish family connection to the former Greek prime minister, Andreas Papadreu. Another interesting personality was that of Ignacy Domeyko, who became a prominent figure in the history of Chile. Prof. Klein also spoke about the American Revolutionary War hero, Tadeusz Kosciuszko. The historian unearthed documents showing that the hero's family was engaged in a lawsuit regarding his last will and testament in the hope of acquiring financial gain.

For our members interested in that region, Prof. Klein supplied the addresses of various archives in Belarus and curiously enough that of the former KGB archives, whose resources are one of the best and not to be overlooked.

Dr. Klein is a member of the Związek Polaków na Białorusi (Alliance of Poles in Belarus) and the Komitet Pamięci Adama Mickiewicza (Committee in Memory of Adam Mickiewicz), which is collecting funds to restore the birthplace of Poland's great romantic poet, Adam Mickiewicz (1798-1855), in Zaosie as well as other places in the Nowogrodek area connected with the life of the author of *Pan Tadeusz*.

PGSMn wishes to thank the United Methodist Church of Peace for their kind hospitality in providing a place to make this meeting possible. Dziękujemy!

*W. Kornel Kondy*



## The Bulletin Board

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA made its debut as one of the newest branches at the Minnesota Genealogical Society's 3rd annual "Branching Out" meeting, which was held at the Oak Grove Intermediate School in Bloomington, MN on Saturday, 6 March 1993. Three talks were presented: 1. "Introduction to Researching Polish Ancestors in the U.S." by Prof. Walter Kornel Kondy; 2. "Introduction to Using LDS Records and Genealogical Societies for Researching Polish Ancestors" by David Zaworski; 3. "Personal Experiences in Researching Ancestors in Poland" by Dolores Zaworski.

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA (Chicago) presented a substantial gift of their publications to create our core collection at the MGS library in St. Paul. Thanks ever so much PGSA for your generosity. Other new books were purchased by the Library Committee to be added to our growing collection (See listing on p. 5). Please avail yourself of this material at the MGS Library located at 1650 Carroll Avenue, 3 blocks southwest of I-94 and Snelling. Hours are: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wed., Th. and Sat. and 6:30 to 9:30 on Tu. and Th. evenings. This library is staffed by volunteers; if interested contact Dorothy Chandler at the Library Office -- tel. 645-3671 or before 9 PM at 832-9923.

SASE. From time to time we receive letters from our readers asking us about the ubiquitous abbreviation SASE. It simply means -- a self-addressed stamped 4 X 9 1/2 inch envelope, which one should enclose as a courtesy when making inquiries.

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT has compiled a marriage index for the Roman Catholic Parish of Dąbrowa, Białystok Diocese covering the years 1875-1900. A similar index is currently in progress for Krasnybor Parish, Łomża Diocese. For further information write: PGSC, 8 Lyle Rd., New Britain, CT 06053.

NEEDED -- more of our members to become involved in committees, projects, etc. to make our Society run smoothly. The more participation on your part, the lighter the burden of work. Our organization is growing rapidly. Become involved! Offer your services.

THE POLISH-AMERICAN JOURNAL, est. 1911, plans to send PGSMn complimentary copies of their publication for distribution at our next meeting in hopes of gaining additional subscribers. PAJ is the nation's largest, independent monthly Polish-interest newspaper printed in English. It also maintains a PAJ BOOKSTORE, which has a large selection of Polish-interest books.

POLAND TOUR conducted by Rik Palieri, who gave a talk and demonstration on Polish bagpipes last year, is leading a 15 day tour to Poland via NYC, LOT #767, August 11-15, 1993. Itinerary: Warsaw, Łomża, Gdańsk, Poznań, Itebna, Żywiec, Zakopane and Kraków. For further information write: Rik Palieri, RR2 Box 388A, Hinesburg, VT 05461, tel: 802-482-3185.

On Sat., May 8, the FAMILY HISTORY CENTER at 2801 North Douglas Drive, Crystal was opened from 9 am until noon exclusively for the use of PGSMn members. Jack Paynter gave us a briefing on the contents of the library and how to go about finding information on computers, microfilms, microfiche and maps, as well as books. It was nice to have it quiet and the place all to ourselves. Thanks Jack.

# Library Report

## RECENT LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS\*

- Golembiewski, Thomas E. The Study of Obituaries as a Source for Polish Genealogical Research.
- Hollowak, Thomas and William Hoffman. Index to the Obituaries and Death Notice Appearing in the *Dziennik Chicagoski*, several vols. covering: 1890-1929.
- Hollowak, Thomas L. Index to the Obituaries and Death Notices Appearing in the *Jedność-Polonia* 1926-1946.
- Hoskins, Janina W. Polish Genealogy and Heraldry. An introduction to research.
- Jurchisin, Mitro. Carpathian Village People. A listing of immigrants to Minneapolis, Minnesota from 1880's to 1947.
- Litak, Stanislaw. The Latin Church in the Polish Commonwealth in 1772. A map and index of localities.
- Moody, Suzanna and Joel Wurl. The Immigration History Research Center. A guide to collections. pp. 244-285.
- Obal, Thaddeus J. Polish Family Tree Surnames. A compilation of surnames of Polish ancestry that family tree researchers are tracing. v. 2.
- Ortell, Gerald A. Polish Parish Records of the Roman Catholic Church. Their use and understanding in genealogical research.
- Peckwas, Edward A. A Historical Bibliography of Polish Towns, Villages, and Regions (except Warsaw and Krakow).
- Peckwas, Edward A. Register of Vital Records of Roman Catholic Parishes from the Region Beyond the Bug River.
- Pogonowski, Iwo Cyprian. Poland. A Historical Atlas.
- Radzilowski, John and Jennifer Mohal. Out of the Wind. Poles and Danes in Lincoln County, Minnesota 1880-1905.
- Shea, Jonathan D. Russian Language Documents from Russian Poland. A translation manual for Genealogists.
- Wellauer, Maralyn A. Tracing your Polish Roots.
- Wytrwal, Joseph Anthony. The Poles in America.
- Zamoyski, Adam. The Polish Way: A thousand year history of the Poles and their culture.

NEWSLETTERS from the Polish Genealogical Societies of California, Greater Cleveland, Michigan, Texas, Western New York, Wisconsin and the Polish Genealogical Society of America.

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The above is but a partial list of new items added to the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. Come, browse and make good use of these materials.

\*From a bibliography compiled by Paul Kulas.

## Queries

Each issue of the newsletter will contain a research information exchange section. Members are invited to place queries pertaining to the exchange of family information, requests for help or 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, MN 55105.

WLODKOWSKI, John B., 47 Chapel St., Augusta ME 04330 is seeking any information regarding his grandfather Michal WŁODKOWSKI, b. 9 Sept 1875 in the Łomża region? - d. 30 Jan. 1952, Lynn, Essex, MA.

KONDY, Kornel, 619 S.E. Seventh St., Mpls., MN 55414-1327 is looking for birthplace and any information about Felix GREGALIS, b. 1872? in Russia/Lithuania - d. 15 Mar. 1945, North Adams, Berkshire, MA. He had a brother, who emigrated to Australia.

ZAWORSKI, J. David, 20 Winslow Lane, Apt. 210, New Brighton, MN 55112 seeks Polish origin of Jan Piotr ZAWORSKI (1850-1944) who homesteaded in Zaleszy settlement, near Elyria, Valley Count, NE. Moved to Ashton, Sherman, NE where he m. Maryanna GALCZENSKA, da. of Stanisław GALCZENSKI. Had brother Martin who settled in WA or OR state and 2 sisters: Mary PAPIERNIK and Martha JAMROG of Ashton.

KRBECHKEK, Blanche, 2041 Orkla Drive, Golden Valley, MN 55427 seeks birthplaces in Poland of Frank BODUS, b. 12 May 1848 and Antoinette WOZNIAK, b. 12 May 1850, da. of Franciszek WOZNIAK and Nepomucena STEFANIAK, homesteaded in Leelanu County, MI.

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## Comming Events

On Sat., Sept. 25, Stan Schmidt, president of the Polish Genealogical Society of America in Chicago, will give two presentations:

- (1) "Introduction to Polish-American Genealogy"
- (2) "Activities and Resources of the Polish Genealogical Society of America"

Unless you are informed to the contrary, the program will be held at the Polish American Community Center, 165 - 13th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis, with the morning presentation beginning at 10:30 a.m. and the second presentation following a lunch break.

On Sat., Oct 16, Fay Dearden, will talk on "New LDS Resources on Poland," at the Northeast Public Library, 2200 Central Ave. N.E., beginning at 10:30 a.m. Fay is a longtime Family History Center volunteer and will be visiting the huge library in Salt Lake City in August.

On Sat., Nov. 20 Larry Goga, president of the Rusin Association, will address us on "The Rusins of Minnesota." The association has just published a new book on this subject, which is available for \$9.95, plus a \$3.00 mailing charge, from the Rusin Association, 1115 Pineview Lane N. Plymouth, MN 55441-4655. The Nov. 20 program will also be held at the Northeast Public Library, starting at 10:30 a.m.

In January 1994, Joanne A. (Zimniewicz) Lisson and Florence M. Zimniewicz will speak to us on "Wiarus of Winona, 1886-1919: The First Polish Newspaper in Minnesota." They are the granddaughters of the founder of this paper and of both of its editors, since his widow continued to publish the paper after her husband had died. The exact date of the meeting has not been set yet, but it is also expected to take place at the Northeast Public Library on a Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m.

The Polish Genealogical Society of America, 984 N. Milwaukee St., Chicago, will have a big conference with prominent speakers on October 8-9 to celebrate its 15th anniversary.

## Book Reviews

Fay Dearden & Douglas Dearden, *The German Researcher: How to Get the Most Out of an LDS Family History Center*, 4th rev., exp. ed. (Minneapolis: Family Tree Press, 1990), 72 pp. + 3-page insert.

Fay S. Dearden & Douglas M. Dearden, *Common Abbreviations in Meyers Orts Gazetteer and Their Meanings in German and English* (Minneapolis: Family Tree Press, 1988), 11pp.

These books are almost as valuable for Polish-American genealogists researching ancestors from what used to be the Prussian/German-ruled part of Poland as they are for those who are researching German ancestors. The first book also includes a lot of information which is of use to those whose ancestors came from what was once Austrian-ruled Poland (Galicia) and, to a somewhat lesser extent, for those whose ancestors came from Russian-ruled Poland.

Both books deal with *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon*, which lists every locality which existed in 1912 in what was then the German Empire, and gives such information as the post office, county, government district and province to which it belonged and whether there was a Catholic or Protestant parish church there. *Common Abbreviations* . . . provides you with all the help you need in order to decipher Meyers, even if you don't know German. A copy of this book, bound in three large volumes, is in the Germanic Genealogy Room of Buenger Memorial Library, Concordia College, St. Paul.

(There is a parking lot on the east bound one-way south frontage road of I-94 just east of Hamline Ave. Get a free guest parking permit from the library, which is immediately to the southeast of the parking lot, with its entrance on the west side of the building. There are other parking lots if this one is full.)

*The German Researcher* includes a lot of generic information about the LDS Family History Center which is of value to any genealogist, e.g. a brief description of the International Genealogical Index (IGI), which lists hundreds of thousands of individual European birth/baptismal, marriage and death entries. Until the fall of Communism, the IGI contained only a very limited amount of information about Polish ancestors, but this is changing rapidly.

This book lists all the microfilm numbers of the Hamburg passenger lists, beginning in 1855 (which is early enough to include all Poles who immigrated directly to Minnesota). The direct passenger lists, which itemize the names of all passengers who sailed directly from Hamburg to North America, are listed through 1934. The indirect passenger lists, which itemize passengers on ships which either sailed to England, with passengers embarking for the trans-Atlantic voyage at Liverpool, or which stopped at other European ports en route to America, go through 1910.

Since almost all Polish immigrants, regardless of their place of origin, sailed from Hamburg, these lists are very valuable to all. The indirect lists are very important, because it was actually cheaper to sail via England than to take the direct route. The LDS Family History Center at 2801 N. Douglas Drive in Crystal has microfilms of some of the Hamburg passenger lists in its permanent collection. The others can be ordered from Salt Lake City for a nominal fee.

*The German Researcher* also contains a variety of other information which will be especially helpful if some of the data on your ancestors were recorded in German. The 3-page insert describes the recently installed computerized system for obtaining information,

Both books can be ordered from Family Tree Press, 5700 Oakview Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55442.

Ed Brandt

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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, PO Box 16069, St. Paul, MN 55116 - 0069.*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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