



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1

WINTER 1993-94

NUMBER 4

## Hats Off To Our Founding President!

As the year 1993 draws to a close, I wish to personally thank Blanche Krbecek for all her efforts in promoting the idea of our genealogical organization; keeping it alive throughout its formative years; and laying the groundwork for the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota.

As a board member in the coming year, I trust she will continue to work with us towards our goal of making it a bigger and better society.

*W. Kornel Kondy, president-elect*

## Future Programs

The Polish Genealogical Society has scheduled two programs for the first half of 1994. Both meetings will be held at the Northeast Public Library, 2200 Central Ave. N.E., Minneapolis and will begin at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free.

On Saturday, January 8, Joanne A. (Zimmiewicz) Lisson will speak on "*Wiarus* of Winona (1886-1919): The First Polish Newspaper in Minnesota." Her grandfather was the founding editor of the paper and her grandmother took over as editor after he died. The paper is available on microfilm at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. In the event that the weather is so bad that the Weather Service recommends no unnecessary travel, the program will be rescheduled later and you will be notified of the date.

Fay Dearden has extensive experience as an LDS volunteer. She has authored or co-authored two books on genealogical research. She will speak on Saturday, April 16, on "LDS Family History Library Resources on Poland." She has particularly strong expertise with respect to the areas once ruled by Prussia or Germany. However, she has visited the Family History Library in Salt Lake City to check on records which are available for other parts of Poland.

In addition, the Polish Genealogical Society will participate in the Minnesota Genealogical Society's 4th annual "Branching Out" meeting, which will be held at the Oak Grove Intermediate School, 1300 West 106th St., Bloomington, on Saturday, March 5. There will be four sessions, beginning with a keynote speaker who has not yet been determined. All branches of the Minnesota Genealogical Society will have the opportunity to present programs during the next three sessions.

Paul Kulas will speak on "Polish Resources at the MGS Library" in Session II. Kornel Kondy will speak on "Adventures in Digging for My Roots" in Session III. Ed Brandt will speak on "Tracing German Ancestors from Poland" in Session IV.

MGS and PGSMn members will pay an admission charge of \$4. Last year registration began at 8:20 a.m., with a business meeting at 9:00, the keynote speaker at 9:20 and three "break-out" sessions at 10:40 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Box lunches could be reserved in advance for \$5. It is expected that the schedule and arrangements will be similar in 1994, but you should call the MGS library at 645-3671 to confirm this if you have not received definite information from other sources before then.

*Ed Brandt, program chair*

# The Bulletin Board



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 1994** are now due. Renew your membership in PGSMn by completing and returning the membership form on page 7. New memberships that were received by the treasurer after October 1 were applied to 1994 membership.

**NEW PGSMn OFFICERS** for 1994 were elected at the Nov. 20, 1993 meeting. Those elected are listed on page 2.

**OUR THANKS** go to our recent guest speakers: STAN SCHMIDT, President of the Polish Genealogical Society of America; LAWRENCE GOGA, President of the Rusin Association; JOEL WURL and HALYNA MYRONIMIUK at IHRC for freely and generously donating their time and talents to make our meetings most interesting. We learned much.

**OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to LARRY GOGA and his wife on the death of their daughter. She recently died in an automobile accident.

**CONGRATULATIONS** and thank yous are extended to our president, BLANCHE KRBECHKEK, for doing the Polish interpretation at the Polish House in the annual "Folkways of Christmas" program at Murphy's Landing. Blanche has been volunteering her service in this event for a number of years.

**GENEALOGICAL TOURS OF POLAND.** Annual genealogical tours of Poland are offered by the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, 8 Lyle Rd., New Britain, CT 06053. They are led by Jonathan Shea, who is a well-known Polish-American genealogical expert and author.

**"POLISH NIGHTS" AT THE MGS LIBRARY.** One of our more experienced genealogists will be on duty at the Minnesota Genealogical Society library on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. This is a good time to get expert help in your search for your Polish ancestors. The library is located at 1650 Carroll Ave. in St. Paul.

**FIRST GENEALOGICAL GUIDE PUBLISHED IN POLAND.** If you read Polish, you may be interested in *Poradnik Genealoga Amatora*. Rafał T. Prinke, president of the Poznan Genealogical Society, has published this guide and has generously donated several copies to us. One copy is at the MGS library and another at the Polish-American Cultural Institute of Minnesota library.

**MAJOR HISTORICAL POLISH GAZETTEER ACQUIRED.** We have purchased a microfiche copy of the 15-volume Polish gazetteer, *Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich*. This gazetteer lists even the smallest Polish village. It also covers villages in neighboring countries where there were Polish minorities. Even if you don't know Polish, it is easy to locate a particular village, make a copy of the entry and have it translated.

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## President's Letter *Continued from page 2*

Very important to our success are the folks who have been interested in the program topics and supported PGSMn by their presence at the meetings. Thank you. Congratulations to those who shared stories of their successes in their search to trace their ancestors. . . and good luck to those who are still searching. This is really the heart of a genealogy organization -- the reason all of us have come together to form PGSMn.

Lastly, I wish the new president, Kornel Kondy, the time and energy to carry forward.

Blanche Krbechek, president

## The Immigration History Research Center

PGSMn members who attended the October 16, 1993 meeting were introduced to the Immigration History Research Center of the University of Minnesota. Halyna Myroniuk and Timo Riippa, members of the curatorial staff, gave a presentation on the history and mission of the Center and on the available resources for genealogical and historical research on persons of Polish and eastern European extraction. They also gave a brief tour of the Center's physical plant.

The Center, founded over 25 years ago, was an outgrowth of a University of Minnesota research project on the function of education in the acculturation of immigrants to Minnesota's Iron Range. It was created to provide an archive and central library for primary and secondary source materials on the immigration experience of members of some 25 ethnic groups from central, eastern, and southern Europe--those nationalities whose members comprised the majority of immigrants to North America between 1880 and 1920. It has grown to become one of the preeminent repositories of material of this kind in the United States.

The Center houses no civil records (i.e. official state records of birth, marriages, deaths, military service, etc.), relatively few corresponding church records, and no ship records. Its primary-source collection focuses on records of the activities of immigrants and their community organizations and institutions, during the process by which they became Americans. The collection includes materials from churches and church organizations, fraternal benefit societies, publishing houses and newspapers, and artists, performers and writers. It also has an extensive collection of secondary-source material: family, church, and local histories; historical and biographical monographs prepared by professionals and amateurs; data compilations; published biographies and geographical dictionaries; and so forth. It contains several major collections of personal papers and personal libraries donated by prominent members of ethnic communities.

The Polish-American collection at the Center is one of its largest, in terms of the number and breadth of catalog items. It includes a large (though not all-inclusive) selection of Polish-language newspapers, calendars, pamphlets, and magazines, from communities in all of the major metropolitan areas of the United States, in original copy or on microfilm; original records from a large number of Polish-American social, business and fraternal organizations; a major collection of documents, books and records relating to the foundation and growth of the Polish National Catholic Church in America (donated by the estate of the Rev. Józef Zawitowski, a central participant in the events); and the personal papers of a number of prominent Polish-American journalists, authors, musicians and civic leaders. Access to a few of these document collections is restricted to those who have prior authorization from their donor (which can be arranged through the Center).

Of particular interest to PGSMn members are the original records of most of the Polish-American fraternal benefit organizations and religious societies in Minneapolis and St. Paul (the insurance records which can furnish much information of genealogical interest; the Parish baptism, marriage and burial records of St. John Cantius Roman Catholic Church of Wilno, Minnesota (the only such parish record in the collection; and the record for the Minneapolis recruiting center for the Polish Army in France in World War I (known as "Haller's Army," and the topic of a presentation by PGSA President Stan Schmidt at the September, 1993 PGSMn meeting). There is not much original-source material from Polish-American institutions in outstate Minnesota, though the staff can make references to other repositories and can obtain some materials on interlibrary loan.

The Center has also published a number of guides to its collection and to genealogical resources in general, including a guide to all of its original-source collection and *A Guide to Polish American Newspapers and Periodicals on Microform*.

The Center is not a circulation library (i.e. one cannot take materials from the building). Service through the mail (searches, copying, etc.) is quite limited due to staffing and funding restrictions. Photocopying is available at a small fee, as is duplication of microfilm and photographs from the Center's collections. The Center can make its microfilm holding available at the facilities of other participants in the Interlibrary Loan system.

Halyna and Timo stressed that, even if one may not find any information at the Center that is directly helpful in one's own genealogical search, the secondary sources on file can still be quite worthwhile: they can provide background information on the common experience of one's ancestor in their community, and they can place a lot of

*Continued on page 5*

## Genealogical Double-header In Salt Lake City

Polish-American genealogists have a special treat in store for them in Salt Lake City in May 1994.

The United Polish Genealogical Societies convention will be held at the Howard Johnson Hotel near the Family History Library on May 12-14. This is a research-oriented convention. Irene Johnson will provide an "Orientation to the Family History Library" on May 12, Jolanta Setmajar will talk about "Beginning Polish Research" on May 13 and Marek Koblanski will deal with "Advanced Polish Research" on May 14. Daniel Schlyter, head of the East European Section of the Family History Library, is also expected to address the convention. However, those attending the convention will have 11 hours on Thursday, 11 1/2 hours on Friday and 7 hours on Saturday to engage in personal research. At 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday there will be question-and-answer sharing sessions.

On Saturday evening there will be a joint banquet for those attending the United Polish Genealogical Societies convention and those attending the first convention of the Federation of East European Family History Societies to be held May 14-16 in the same hotel. Sonja Nishimota of the Family History Library will be the keynoter, with FEEFHS President Charles Hall and representatives of each Polish-American genealogy society participating in the convention giving a brief presentation on their respective organizations.

Since the UPGS convention will be devoted largely to the use of the Family History Library's resources, the FEEFHS convention program will include speakers on other aspects of Polish genealogy. Jonathan Shea and William F. (Fred) Hoffman are expected to speak on non-LDS resources for Polish research and translating documents in various East European languages, respectively or jointly. They have authored or co-authored several books on these subjects and are two of the most prolific contributors to Polish-American genealogical periodicals. Their presentations are tentatively scheduled for May 15.

In addition, Patricia Eames, executive director of the Russian-American Genealogical Archival Service, will address the FEEFHS convention. RAGAS provides a channel for obtaining revision lists (censuses of property owners) and other data from the former Russian Empire which are stored in the historical archive in the Commonwealth of Independent States, especially in St. Petersburg and Moscow.

Brian Lenius, past president of the East European Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society and author of a recent gazetteer of Galicia, will talk about multi-ethnic cooperation in Galician research. Larry Jensen or one of his associates will discuss multi-ethnic genealogical research in the pre-World War I German Empire and Duncan Gardiner will do the same for present-day Slovakia and the Czech Republic. There is also a possibility of a presentation on Ukrainian archival research. Moreover, there will be programs on generic subjects, such as computer-aided genealogy, to be discussed by John Movius.

FEEFHS also hopes to have a great diversity of books on East European genealogy available in its bookstore.

The registration fee is \$50 to attend one of these conventions or \$75 for both. The UPGS Convention Chair is Jacque Penstone, P.O. Box 651, Midway City, CA 92655. Kathryn Lichfield, 2169 Pheasant Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84121, is the FEEFHS Convention Registrar. Those attending both convention may send their registration to either one. Further details with respect to hotel rooms and convention breakfasts, luncheons and the banquet will be published in the next newsletter. For more information, contact PGSMn Program Chair Ed Brandt (338-2001), who is also program chair for the FEEFHS convention.

*Ed Brandt, program chair*

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### **Immigration Center**, *continued from page 4*

dimly-remembered and puzzling reference to persons and events in to a real-life context. A visit to the Center then, can be rewarding even if it does not lead to the filling-in of any of the blanks on one's pedigree chart.

The Center is located at 826 Berry street in St. Paul (ZIP 55114-1076). It is north of Franklin Avenue just one block east of the Minneapolis-St. Paul city line and two blocks from where Franklin, University Avenue, and Highway 280 all come together at a point. Its regular hours are M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; it is also open on Saturday mornings by advance appointment. Its telephone number is (612) 627-4208.

*Greg Kishel, secretary*

## Sacred Heart PNCC Vital Records (Continued)

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthdate/Baptismal Date</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthdate/Baptismal Date</u>
<i>page 4</i>			<i>page 7</i>		
m	1. Franciszek Józef FISZER/FISHER	4 JAN 1916/ 16 JAN	m	1. Józef NOWAK	7 MAR 1917/ 25 MAR
m	2. Roman MANKOWSKI	8 JAN 1916/ 16 JAN	f	2. Anna BAK	27 MAR 1917/ 28 MAR
m	3. Franciszek BAK	27 FEB 1916/ 27 FEB	f	3. Walerya WYSOCKA	17 MAR 1917/ 8 APR
f	4. Helena SALIK	2 MAR 1916/ 19 MAR	m	4. Stanisław SRAGA	1 APR 1917/ 15 APR
m	5. Edmund WIATROWSKI	6 APR 1916/ 16 APR	f	5. Małgorzata Maryanna KONIECZNA	1 APR 1917/ 15 APR
m	6. Waleryan TUŃSKI	23 FEB 1916/ 23 APR	m	6. Stanisław GLOWACKI	22 JAN 1917/ 26 APR
m	7. Stanisław MAJERCZYK	7 APR 1916/ 23 APR	m	7. Jan FISHER	18 APR 1917/ 29 APR
m	8. Stanisław PAJDARZ	8 APR 1916/ 7 MAY	f	8. Wanda SIKORA	5 MAY 1917/ 20 MAY
m	9. Karol JAKUBIEC	6 APR 1916/ 13 MAY	m	9. Zygmunt MAJERCZYK	5 MAY 1917/ 20 MAY
f	10. Stefania LACH	5 MAY 1916/ 17 MAY	m	10. Piotr Paweł BETLEJ	27 JUN 1917/ 8 JUL
f	11. Rozalia SMUŁKA	10 MAY 1916/ 21 MAY	f	11. Bronisława GROCHOWSKA	18 JUN 1917/ 8 JUL
m	12. Teodor PYTLEWSKI	16 JAN 1916/ 4 JUN	m	12. Stanisław LACH	2 JUL 1917/ 15 JUL
<i>page 5</i>			<i>page 8</i>		
m	1. Albin LUBERACKI	27 MAY 1916/ 11 JUN	f	1. Elżbieta TOMALCZYK	7 JUL 1917/ 22 JUL
f	2. Bronisława WOJCIECHOWSKA	29 MAY 1916/ 11 JUN	m	2. Stanisław VLANECKI	1 MAY 1917/ 22 JUL
f	3. Ewalina FEDORA	27 MAY 1916/ 18 JUN	f	3. Maryanna SMUŁKA	12 AUG 1917/ 20 AUG
m	4. Stanisław FOLTYN	2 MAY 1916/ 25 JUN	f	4. Zofia Alicya DARDZINSKI	13 JUL 1917/ 26 AUG
m	5. Andrew ZMUDA	18 JUN 1916/ 25 JUN	m	5. Edward ZWADZINSKI	20 JUL 1917/ 2 AUG
f	6. Maryanna BIEDARZ	1 JUN 1916/ 16 JUL	?	6. (No first name listed) PIESCZCZOTA	27 AUG 1917/ 17 SEP
m	7. Antoni GROCHOWSKI	2 JUL 1916/ 24 JUL	f	7. Rozalia KACZMARCZYK	3 SEP 1917/ 16 SEP
f	8. Wacława SZYMAŃSKA	20 JUL 1916/ 6 AUG	m	8. Franciszek TALSKI	11 SEP 1917/ 23 SEP
f	9. Aniela CHMIELEWSKA	2 AUG 1916/ 13 AUG	f	9. Lilian Helena SPECHT	8 AUG 1917/ 17 OCT
m	10. Józef GALUSKA	1 JUL 1916/ 27 AUG	f	10. Walerya Maryanna FEDORA	17 NOV 1917/ 2 DEC
m	11. Michał LISAJ	12 SEP 1916/ 24 SEP	m	11. Jan KOWALEK	31 OCT 1917/ 2 DEC
f	12. Władysława Scholastyka SZYMAŃSKA	10 AUG 1916/ 17 SEP	f	12. Zofia KOS	27 NOV 1917/ 16 DEC
<i>page 6</i>			<i>page 9</i>		
f	1. Wacława HARA	13 SEP 1916/ 24 SEP	m	1. Lorenz Edward ARENTA	23 NOV 1917/ 23 NOV
m	2. Leon WRÓBLEWSKI	12 OCT 1916/ 22 OCT	m	2. Antoni Franciszek URBAN	23 DEC 1917/ 6 JAN
f	3. Wanda DROZD	20 OCT 1916/ 29 OCT	f	3. Wanda HABDAS	23 DEC 1917/ 13 JAN
m	4. Jan PARUSCZEWSKI	4 NOV 1916/ 12 NOV	m	4. Tadeusz Antoni DUDOŃ	30 DEC 1917/ 13 JAN
m	5. Stanisław WALUS	1 NOV 1916/ 12 NOV	f	5. Genowefa NOWAK	20 JAN 1918/ 10 FEB
f	6. Maryanna Franciszka FRYDEL	31 OCT 1916/ 19 NOV	f	6. Marcela Aniela HAJDER	26 JAN 1918/ 10 MAR
m	7. Alexander KOS	20 NOV 1916/ 10 DEC	f	7. Józefa ZMUDA	13 MAR 1918/ 31 MAR
f	8. Władysława MILISZEWSKA	26 NOV 1916/ 10 DEC	f	8. Helena TUŃSKA	31 JAN 1918/ 7 FEB
f	9. Helena MIAZGA	8 JAN 1917/ 21 JAN	f	9. Ludwika TREMBACZ	11 JAN 1918/ 14 APR
f	10. Marianna DREWNIAK	9 FEB 1917/ 9 FEB	f	10. Zofia NIEDZIELSKA	27 MAR 1918/ 4 APR
m	11. Józef MIKA	14 FEB 1917/ 18 FEB	m	11. Antoni ZUKOWSKI	11 APR 1918/ 28 APR
m	12. Antoni Józef LUKASZEWICZ	27 FEB 1917/ 18 MAR	m	12. Edward Jerzy SAMOKAR	24 APR 1918/ 19 MAY
			f	12a. Marja POLAK	21 AUG 1918/ 8 SEP

W. Kornel Kondy

To be continued in the next issue.

## Parish Records In The Winona Area

Polish immigrants to the Winona area, which includes Buffalo and Trempealeau counties in Wisconsin across the Mississippi River from Winona, came largely from Kaszubia, i.e. Pomerania along the Baltic seacoast of northwestern Poland. A smaller number of settlers arrived from Silesia and a smattering from Galicia.

From the mid-1850's until the early 1870's, they fulfilled their spiritual needs at either the Irish (English language) Church of St. Thomas founded in 1856 or at the Church of St. Joseph (German) founded in 1862. Due to language barriers and ethnic cultural differences, neither was to their liking. Nonetheless, Polish surnames do occur in the early records of both parishes. Plans for a Polish parish named St. Stanislaus Kostka were begun in 1871 and a small frame building was erected a few years later. The present magnificent structure was completed in 1895. Baptismal records date from October, 1873; marriages from July, 1873; and deaths were first recorded in November of 1875.

With time and the increase of Polish immigrants there was need for another church. Therefore, a sister parish, St. Casimir's was founded in the year 1905 in the western section of the city. The parishioners of this new church, like those at St. Stanislaus, came predominantly from the Kaszubian region.

St. Thomas and St. Joseph's parishes were eventually dissolved in the 1950's and incorporated as the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. The vital records of the two former parishes are now located at the Cathedral.

A disruption of church activities at St. Stanislaus occurred during the period from June 13, 1893 to August 30, 1893 and functions transferred to the Church of St. John Nepomucene, a Czech parish, located just two blocks away. However, at the present time, the vital records of both parishes are in the care of the Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka.

*Ben Schultz, Polish Cultural Institute of Winona, Inc.*

### 1994 Membership Renewals Are Now Due.

#### Membership Application

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual / Family - \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Contribution to the Library Fund - \$ _____			
Name: _____		Phone: _____	
Address: _____			
City: _____		State: _____	Zip: _____
Polish family names you are researching:		Other nationality interests:	
Locations in Europe:		Locations in North America:	
I consent to the publication of this information in the news letter. (Please check one.) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			
<i>Please make checks payable to Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and mail to Barbara Rockman, Treas. 735 85th Lane NW, Coon Rapids MN, 55433.</i>			

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## 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, PGSMn Newsletter, 619 S.E. Seventh St. Minneapolis, MN 55414-1327

FITTING, Francine, 957 Hawthorne Ln., Cedarburg, WI seeks any information or contacts about the surnames: PALUBICKI, MAJKOWSKI, ORLIKOWSKI, PIECHOWSKI, RYMARKIEWICZ.

✓ MEYER, Cheryl A., 43328 SE 176 Street, North Bend, WA 98045 would like to correspond with fellow researchers of the surnames: GLISZCZINSKI, KONIECZNY, GOSTOCZYK, KURKOSKI/KURKOWSKI, KUJAWA.

✓ WENDROW, Sylvia, 818 1/2 E. Hunt, Adrian, MI 49221 seeks any information regarding: WENDROW/WENDROWICZ families.

SOPA, Adeline M., 2711 Dunbar Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313-7022 is seeking information about the BRONK and EICHMAN families who immigrated to Winona, MN circa 1855. They are reported to be among the first Polish families to arrive in that city. Also seeks contact with persons with COPA or FELSKI surname.

MAY, Juliann, 6156 Stumph Rd. #112, Parma OH 44130 is researching KUSCH/KUSZ family. George KUSCH and brother Anthony came to Minnesota after 1870. Wishes to correspond with any descendants living in the Twin Cities area or in Minnesota.

✓ BETLOCK, Lynn, 100 Winter St. #2, Cambridge, MA 02141 wants any information on the WYRWICKI surname or family, or anyone researching same.

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### Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

c/o Minnesota Genealogical Society  
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