



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2

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NUMBER 3

## ECHOES FROM THE PAST



KONSTANCJA JASIŃSKA  
1873 - 1933

Editor's note: In writing about the Polish immigration, Father Kruska compares it to a plant transplanted from one garden to another. At first, it does not look like it will survive but with time "it puts roots into the new soil in a full and luxuriant manner. . ."1 One such local distinguished flower of the immigration was Konstancja Jasińska, paternal grandmother of our Treasurer, Barbara Rockman. The following Eulogy appeared in NOWINY MINNESOCKIE in 1933 following her demise:

1. A HISTORY OF THE POLES IN AMERICA TO 1908, pt. I, Wacław Kruska. Washington, D.C., Catholic University Press, 1993. p. 21.

Death scythes relentlessly among our ranks and cuts down from our midst, one by one, the most outstanding leaders; yet we need them the most, for we have so few - there are so few remaining. Felled by work and tired by age, they gradually depart this earth, passing to that eternal world - those active Polish women. Having brought with them the faith of our fathers here to the land of Washington, they faithfully and conscientiously preserved our national traditions and brought up their children in such spirit.

One such woman, who recently departed, is Pani Konstancja Jasińska, who ended her hard-working life on Sunday, 18 June. Having reached the age of 60, Jasińska was born in Poland and arrived in the United States 43 years ago. She lived in St. Louis, Seattle and Chicago. However, she had to move to a climate to which she was accustomed, hence she came to Minnesota. Her permanent place of residence was Minneapolis, where she resided for 32 years, in Holy Cross Parish.

From the moment she arrived in our town, she devoted her time to parish and community volunteer work. She managed to arrange her life so the her bustling activity never interfered with the exemplary fulfillment of her obligatory duties as wife and mother. At home all-powerful love reigned amid the family circle. For her the days were long and bright when she could hasten to perform works of charity with the now deceased Pani Schunert.

Jasińska deserved especial merit no less for her many years of fruitful leadership in organizing societies among the local immigration. The deceased was one of the most loyal and active workers for the Polish National Alliance. In the person of Pani Jasińska, whose slogan was always: "All for the immigrants, nothing for myself!" the P.N.A. lost its sincerest and most tireless worker. Anticipating the need for a female Alliance lodge, she agitated relentlessly for the idea of founding just such a group. She was successful in bringing together a core of intelligent women compatriots and thus arose the female lodge today - the popular Lodge No. 1530.

Mention should also be made of her work during World War I. With sorrowful heart and sincere love of the Fatherland, she was heavily involved in the meetings during the organizing of the Rescue Committee for such noble causes as the plight of the Polish soldier and the famine in Poland. Never tiring, she was on her feet from

*Continued on page 11*

## ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

NOVEMBER 12

MERRIAM PARK LIBRARY -- ST. PAUL

Our annual election meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 12 at the Merriam Park Library at the corner of Marshall and Fairview in St. Paul. The Northeast Minneapolis Public Library was not available on November 5, 12 or 19.

The main item of business will be the election of officers and board members. After the business meeting, we will have an information-sharing session. All of our library books will be brought to the meeting for you to examine. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and exchange information with other members of our organization. Bring your own resource material to help others.

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of candidates for 1995:

President: W. Kornel Kondy

Vice-president: Ray Marshall

Secretary: Greg Kishel

Treasurer: Barbara Rockman

Board members: Ed Brandt, Blanche Krbechek, David Kroska, Paul Kulas, Dan Nedoroski, Bernie Szymczak, Ron Tomczik, David Zaworski.

Nominations from the floor will be open for all positions.

*Submitted by Ed Brandt*

*Polish Genealogical Society  
of Minnesota*

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 16069  
St. Paul MN 55116-0069  
(612) 645-3671

## Officers

W. Kornel Kondy (378-1739).....President  
David Zaworski (639-1630).....Vice-President  
Greg Kishel.....Secretary  
Barbara Rockman (783-3630).....Treasurer  
Blanche Krbechek (545-7107).....Past President  
Ed Brandt (338-2001).....Director  
Paul Kulas (427-4523).....Director  
Daniel Nedoroski (645-2368).....Director  
Bernie Szymczak (788-0352).....Director

## Committee Chairs

Ed Brandt (338-2001).....Program & Publicity  
W. Kornel Kondy (378-1739).....Newsletter  
Paul Kulas (427-4523).....Library  
Barbara Rockman (783-3630).....Membership

493-8465



*Letters to the Editor  
Listy do Redaktora*

The members of Polanie wish to inform you of their pleasure in reading the NEWSLETTER you publish and send to the Club. The articles are read by all of our members with much interest. Thank you and continued success in your endeavors.

Irene Kukielka, President, POLANIE CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL

Editor's note: The President, Board and members of PGSMn wish to thank POLANIE for their recent generous gift to our Society and for their enthusiastic support. Dziękujemy uprzejmie!

I have recently joined PGSMn and I have enjoyed the articles in the two issues of the newsletter that I have so far received. The articles by Paul Kulas on the Polish parishes of the Twin Cities have been very interesting. Some of my ancestors were among the founding families of St. Adalbert's parish in St. Paul (Kruszewski).

Those articles prompted me to write to you to ask if anyone in PGSMn has some information that I am seeking. I have already inquired at the Archdiocesan Archives, and they do not have any information on the subject. I am interested in information about the Catholic Church having sponsored young women from Poland and Bohemia to come to this country as prospective brides for Catholic men in the early years of this century.

My great-grandfather's second wife was one of these young women. I am interested in learning how the church raised funds for this undertaking, if other churches in the country were also involved in this program or was it just here in the Twin Cities, how many women were sponsored, what criteria women had to meet, how the prospective brides and grooms were "matched".

If you or any PGSMn members could direct me to research materials or individuals who have researched this subject, I would appreciate it.

Thank you so much for your time and keep up the good work!  
Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Bruski, 3412 Parkview Blvd., Robbinsdale, MN 55422  
Phone: 588-3801

I love the PGSMn Newsletter. Lots of leads so far.  
Francine Fitting, Cedarburg, WI 53012

Dzień dobry! Dziękuję for the excellent articles on the Polish parishes in the Twin Cities. I am looking forward to your articles on Polish parishes in rural Minnesota. Keep up the good work. Do widzenia.

Bernie Szymczak, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Letters to the editor should be addressed to: Koornel Kondy, PGSMn Newsletter, 619 S.E. Seventh St., Minneapolis, MN 55414-1427.

## The Bulletin Board

**YOU WILL NOTICE** two articles in this issue contributed by members concerning aspects of their genealogical research. Our cover story is a translation from the Polish of an obituary of Konstancja Jasirńska, a prominent member of the Polish immigrant community in Minneapolis and the grandmother of our Treasurer, Barbara Rockman. The other on page 10, concerns the problems encountered and the successes achieved by PGSMn member, Harry B. McOuat, when he searched for the 1893 immigration records of his grandparents. We very much welcome the submission of these articles and invite others to contribute stories of their research. Remember, this is your newsletter. Please help us publish articles of interest to our members. All submissions of articles, letters to the editor, news items, queries, etc. should be sent to: W. Kornel Kondy, PGSMn Newsletter, 619 S.E. Seventh ST., Minneapolis, MN 55414-1327.

**OUR THANKS** go to the PGSMn members who volunteered to staff the MGS booth at the 1994 Minnesota State Fair. Members Ed Brandt, Greg Kishel, Kornel Kondy, Paul Kulas and Dan Nedoroski all contributed their time to promote the study of genealogy in general and Polish genealogy in particular. *Dziękuję bardzo!*

**OUR THANKS ARE ALSO EXTENDED** to Patrick Anzel, Archives Assistant, at the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for his excellent introduction to the resources available at the archdiocesan archives at our September 17 meeting. The vital records of all churches in the archdiocese have now been microfilmed and are available for research at the archive. This facility is a gold mine of information if you have ancestors who resided in the twelve county area that comprises the archdiocese. Thank you Pat, for your most informative presentation.

**JANUARY MEETINGS -- JANUARY 14 AND 21.** In January we will meet at the Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, to get an orientation to the Minnesota Historical Society's resources for Polish Genealogical research. There will be a presentation from 9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. After that you will have time to use the Society's resource material. Because the MHC classroom can hold only 30 people, we have arranged for the same program on two successive Saturday mornings, January 14 and 21. Please call the Kishel residence at 690-3329 to indicate which date you plan to attend. It is important to let us know of your plans in advance, because MHC briefings are open to anyone on a space available basis, so we need to reserve a certain number of seats for our members.

You are reminded that **POLISH NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY** continues at the MGS Library on the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. One of our more experienced genealogists is there to assist you on these nights. Complete library hours are: Tuesdays, 6:30 to 9:30 pm; Wednesdays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Thursdays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and 6:30 to 9:30 pm; and on Saturdays, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The library is located at 1650 Carroll Avenue in St. Paul. Come and make

good use of this facility, of our Polish collection and of Polish nights at the library on the second Tuesday of each month.

**BOOK NOTE:** John D. Goman's Galician-Rusins on the Iron Range, reviewed in the last issue of the PGSMn Newsletter, is available from the late author's brother, Roger D. Goman, 7443 Concerto Curve, Fridley, MN 55432. The price (including postage and handling) is \$16.00. Checks should be made out to Roger D. Goman. All proceeds will be donated to the St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church in Chisholm, Minnesota, in memory of the author.

PGSMn has inaugurated a **CHURCH HISTORY AND BOOKLET COLLECTION** for its library (housed at the Minnesota Genealogical Society's facility in St. Paul). We would welcome your donation of church histories, parish jubilee and anniversary booklets and the like, from any congregation in Minnesota that had a Polish ethnic affiliation or a sizable component of its membership of Polish extraction. These publications can contain little nuggets of genealogical information, from information on founding parishioners and their European backgrounds to data on wedding anniversaries and the like. If you do not wish to donate the original, we will (carefully) photocopy it and return it to you promptly. To date we have photocopies of jubilee booklets from St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Virginia, Minnesota, and St. Mary, Star of the Sea parish in Duluth. Please help us to broaden the collection to parishes from the Twin cities, Winona and all of the other locales in Minnesota where Polish immigrants founded their own church institutions. Contact Greg Kishel, 446 Mt. Curve Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55105-1326 (telephone 612-690-3329).

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION:** W. KORNEL KONDY, a retired professor of Slavic languages, is the incumbent president and newsletter editor. RAY MARSHALL has regularly attended PGSMn meetings and is willing to be active as a board member. GREG KISHEL is studying Polish and is the incumbent secretary and has assumed responsibility for other tasks, including program publicity. BARBARA ROCKMAN is the incumbent treasurer and membership chair. ED BRANDT is serving as program co-chair and has prepared a list of resources for Polish-American genealogy. BLANCHE KRBECHER is the founding president of PGSMn and serves on the board of the Polish-American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. DR. DAVID KROSKA is from St. Joseph and will provide non-metro representation on the board. PAUL KULAS is the current library chair and in charge of newsletter production. DAN NEDOROSKI is the current research chair. BERNIE SZYMCZAK is a current board member and also serves on the PACIM board. RON TOMCZIK recently visited his ancestral homeland in northern Poland and DAVID ZAWORSKI is our current vice-president and program co-chair.





## LIBRARY CORNER

## Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings



**WILLIAM F. HOFFMAN**

**Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings**, by William F. Hoffman (Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1993). Available from the Polish Genealogical Society of America, c/o Marcia Bergman, 926 Oxford Lane, Wilmette, IL 60091, for \$16.50 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. A copy is in the PGSMn collection at the MGS Library in St. Paul.

*Reviewed by Greg Kishel.*

This little book is probably the most fun you could ever have with Polish onomastics for an hour or two. Before you get insulted, be advised the "onomastics" is a branch of the academic discipline of linguistics; it is the study of the origin and meaning of names. Fred Hoffman is the editor of the Journal of the

Polish Genealogical Society of America and co-editor of its Bulletin. He gives a fine little introduction to this subject, as applied to surnames that originated within the boundaries of the several Polish states. He focuses on the most common American surnames of Polish descent, as gleaned from decades' worth of obituaries and other family records from the Chicago area.

The topic, obviously, has a very high potential for aridity -- i.e., dryness! Hoffman avoids this prospect by writing in a breezy, entertaining, and somewhat irreverent style. While informal, his prose nonetheless is effective in conveying the sense of rather abstruse didactic principles to a lay person with no training in linguistics. He neatly avoids two pitfalls that otherwise could have marred this work: the excessive piety for ancestors that colors too much amateur genealogical writing and the undercurrent of truculent nationalism that sometimes crops up in cultural and historical journalism in the Polish-American press.

After a good, comprehensible introduction to Polish language grammar, spelling, and phonetics, the book is divided into two parts. The first deals with the origins of Polish names, actual and apparent, in professions, place names, patronymics (names derived from the given name of one's father), and other historical sources. (His brief treatment of the scatological and sexual origins of a few names is entertaining in an earthy sort of way.) The second is a lexicon of their meanings, established or possible.

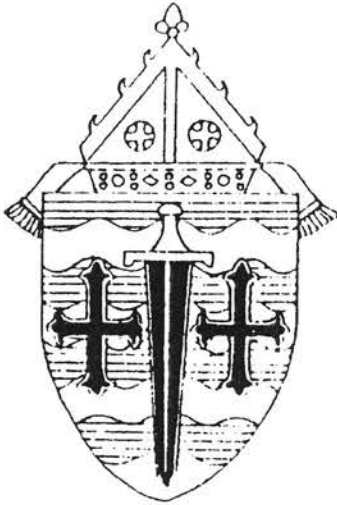
Hoffman fully annotates his sources from formal scholarship, both Polish and American, for both treatments. (For good measure, he also pitches in his own suggestions and speculations where the academics are silent or sparse.) He suggests that the casual reader start in the second half, by looking up the name(s) in which one is interested, and then work backwards into the first half for a broader speculative context: just how and why could one's ancestor have assumed that name, sometime during the five-century period when the practice of bearing surnames spread downward in Polish society from the highest nobility to the peasantry? Ultimately, as he acknowledges, this is largely a matter of

*Continued on page 9*

## POLISH CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN MINNESOTA

compiled by Paul Theodore Kulas © 1994

### Part 1: Polish Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis (continued)



Archives of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

This article continues our series of articles which will identify Polish parishes in the six Roman Catholic dioceses in Minnesota. We begin with a report of the Polish parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. In our Spring, 1994 issue, we featured the Polish parishes in St. Paul and vicinity. In that issue we discussed primarily the parishes of **St. Adalbert** and **St. Casimir** in St. Paul, **St. John the Baptist** in New Brighton and **Holy Trinity** in South St. Paul. In our last issue (Summer, 1994), we featured the Polish Catholic parishes in Minneapolis, namely **Holy Cross**, **St. Philip's**, **St. Hedwig's** and **All Saints**. In this issue we will identify the historically Polish Catholic parishes in the rural areas of the archdiocese.

The information for these articles comes basically from parish questionnaires sent out from the Archdiocese of St. Paul in the mid-1930's and then again in the late 1940's and from the vital records of Polish parishes in the archdiocese. The completed questionnaires are housed in the archdiocesan archives. The original baptism, marriage and burial records of all Catholic parishes of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis mentioned in this article remain with each individual parish. Microfilm copies of these records are available for research at the archdiocesan archives located at 226 Summit Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota. The archives are open to the public 9:00 to 5:00 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays **by appointment only**. Call (612) 291-4429 to schedule an appointment.

### RURAL POLISH CHURCHES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Many Polish farmers settled in rural areas of the archdiocese. The most prominent of these settlements are centered around Delano in Wright County, near Heidelberg and Lexington in Le Sueur County and near North Branch in Chisago County. There was also Polish settlement in rural Goodhue County and in other parts of the archdiocese.

**Church of Saint Peter, Delano.** In the rural part of the archdiocese the Polish settlement in the Delano area of Wright County was perhaps the most extensive. Originally a German settlement, Poles also began settling there and soon formed a significant element of the community. The first church in Delano was the Church of St. Peter which was established in 1865 and both Germans and Poles worshipped there. The birth, marriage and death records of the very early Polish settlers of the area can be found at St. Peter's. St. Peter's is the mother church of two Polish national parishes in the Delano area -- St. Mary of Czestochowa and St. Joseph's in Delano.

**Church of Saint Mary of Czestochowa.** In 1883, fifty Polish families in rural western Franklin and eastern Woodland townships in Wright County separated from St. Peter's and established St. Mary of Czestochowa parish. A frame building was erected in 1884 about four miles west of Delano. This building burned in 1913 and the present beautiful brick church was erected in 1914. The first settlers of this parish were Poles who came from Upper Silesia around 1880. Early members of the parish included: Anthony Motzko, Frank Florek, Joseph



**Saint Mary of Czestochowa**  
1867 95th Street SE  
Delano, MN 55328-9739

Motzko, Joseph Lyrek, Valentine Czech, Michael Nalewaja, Thomas Janikula, Laurence Kuska and Laurence Sollonek. In 1938, the lay officers were Frank Gallus, Treasurer and Peter Koziol, Secretary.

The first baptism at St. Mary's was that of Mary Cech daughter of Francis and Zuzanna Cech, on October 5, 1885. The first marriage was between Frank Gallus and Mary Fake on July 15, 1885. The first burial was that Teresa Lyrek, wife of Sabastian Lyrek in 1884. The parish cemetery is in the churchyard adjacent to the church.

Polish was used exclusively until the 1930's. The parish was a mission of St. Peter's until 1903 and of St. Joseph's in Delano until 1940 when St. Mary's received its first resident pastor, Rev. Andrew Handzel. Before 1885, the records of the Poles who settled this rural area can be found at St. Peter's in Delano and a few may be found at St. Mary's (1861) in Waverly. Between 1885 and 1904, they are found at St. Peter's and from 1904 to 1940 they are found at St. Joseph's though there is a separate St. Mary's baptismal record from 1911 to 1935 in the St. Joseph records. The records at St. Mary's date from 1941. The register at St. Mary's also includes a map of cemetery burial plots.

**Church of Saint Joseph, Delano.** The Poles in the city of Delano and the immediate surrounding area continued to attend St. Peter's Church until 1903 when ninety Polish families established St. Joseph's Church. It was built in 1903 under the direction of Rev. M. Sava, then past St. Peter's. The building committee consisted of Martin Stralka, Joseph Gabriel, Joh J. Czock, Frank Kittock and Joseph Wandok. Other early pioneer members were Bartholomew Yany, Lawrence Kaniuth, John Langosh, Emmanuel Klick and Simon Kornek. The early Polish settlers of St. Joseph's parish came from Upper Silesia, centered around the city of Opole. Most came between 1868 and 1890. The first pastor, Rev. Joseph Smieck (1904-1907), took charge of the parish on May 1, 1904. The new parish had 376 members of Polish descent. Trustees of the new parish were Lawrence Kaniuth, Treasurer and Frank Kittock, Secretary. In 1939 the officers were Isidore Kanuith and Peter P. Kornek. Lay officers in the golden anniversary year of 1954 were Constance Kittock, Jacob Fautsch and Walter Goede, auditors and Val Strybiky and John Gallus, trustees.

The first baptism listed in the St. Joseph records was that of Cecilia Mocko daughter of Andrew Mocko from "Censtahowa" and Sophia Matysiak, on May 22, 1904. The first marriage was that of Stephen Cebula, who was from Delano and was born in "Silesia Borussiaca" and was the son of Michael Cebula and Marianna Swiercz, and Paulina Mocko, daughter of Francis Mocko and Catharina Pogrzeba, on June 14, 1904. The first death was that of Anthony Drymalla, age 59, on July 12, 1904 with burial in the parish cemetery on July 14, 1904.. Records before 1904 are found at St. Peter's. The 1936 parish questionnaire lists Frank Kasperek, John Mika, Simon Kittock, Frank Kittock, Bartholomew Yany, John Czock, Lawrence Kaniuth, John Kuka, Jacob Gallus, Bartek Cebulla, Ray James, Joseph Wandok and James Gabriel as early parishioners "rendering extraordinary service."

**Church of Saint Scholastica, Heidelberg.** The rural community of Heidelberg in Le Sueur County was named by Germans who got there first. Later, both Bohemians and Poles also settled there. All were



**Church of Saint Peter**  
204 South River Street  
Delano, MN 55328-9242

**Church of Saint Joseph**  
401 River Street  
Delano, MN 55328-9998



"immigrant farmers from the old country." St. Scholastica's was established in 1857 and the parish records exist from that date. German and Czech names predominate in the early years. A statement in the W.P.A. survey regarding the language in use in the church states: "In the early days Bohemian and German languages were used as the settlers were most(ly) Bohemian and German. Some Polish was also used. At the present (1939) the English language is used for children. For the older people now, the German and Polish languages are used. In 1926, the church started using English for the first time." St. Scholastica is the mother church of the Polish national parish of St. Joseph in Lexington.



Church of Saint Joseph  
Served by  
Church Of Saint Scholastica  
Heidelberg, MN 56071

Modriesky, Joe Singer, Matt, Peter and Frank Plonski, Frank Holtz, Jacob Dorzinski, Mike Blank, Mike, John and Jim Pelowski, Ignatius, Frank, Valentine and John Retka, John Wohlers, Ben Glisczinski, Tom Ginter, John Schiprett, Frank Cemensky, Martin and John Ginter, Anton Sweda, Peter Spiczak, John Mager, Steven, Paul and Michael Gostomzick, Joe Miska, Martin Laban, Mike Gontarek, Henry Pianko, John Bulaski and John Gaiovnik. The first lay trustees of the parish were Martin Treczinski, Cashier and Matt Plonski, Secretary. In 1936, the officers were Joe Miska and Joe Gill and in 1977 they were Ben Glisczinski and John J. Pelowski.

The first baptism in the St. Joseph records was that of "Josephum Franciskum Martinum", son of John Bendzik and Rosalie Gostonczik, on April 30, 1905. The first marriage was between Joseph Ginter from Le Sueur Center, son of Thomas and Anna Ginter, and Anna Cupa from Lexington, daughter of Frank and Anna Kruza, on February 6, 1906. The first burial was of Victoria Vicka, age 86, on December 18, 1906. The records between 1902 and 1905 were kept at St. Scholastica in Heidelberg. A distinguishing feature of the parish (as reported in the parish questionnaire in 1949) was the "loyalty of the people to parish despite distant residence to church -- preferred attendance and affiliation here to more convenient proximity of another parish."

**Church of Saint Gregory the Great, North Branch.** The opening words of the Mission Statement of St. Gregory's parish in North Branch state: "The Church of St. Gregory the Great has its roots tied into rural, Polish and interfaith families. Since 1874 we have grown into a community . . ." Polish immigrants were instrumental in the founding of the parish. Mass was first offered in the community by visiting priests from Rush City in houses west of town where the Polish settlement centered. The early Polish pioneers included Anton Kunza, Adam Budnick, Thomas Streasick and Andrew Miller. The parish was established in 1903 but

**Church of Saint Joseph, Lexington.** The Poles in Le Sueur County, desiring to have their own church and to worship in their native tongue, organized St. Joseph's parish in Lexington Township in 1902. They were mostly from St. Scholastica's but a few were from Most Holy Redeemer (1881) parish in Montgomery and from other areas of Le Sueur County. John Pelowski donated two acres of land for the church and cemetery. Other pioneer members of the parish were Joseph Efta, Joseph Rekowski, Matt Plonske and Michael Plonski. The date the church was built (1902) and the name of the church in Polish (Sw. Jozefa) are prominently displayed above the entrance to the church. Beautiful stained glass windows grace the church and they display an inscription in Polish with the names of those who donated the money for them. The names displayed are: Jana Werkuse, Josefa Efta, Jana Jentia, Jana Magera, and Michael Peloski.

A 1977 parish history lists the following early parishioners: Mike, John and Joe Ceasfsky, Mike and Frank Benzick, Leon

it remained a mission of Sacred Heart Church (1870) in Rush City until 1936 and the early church records are found at Rush City. There were fifteen charter members of the parish: Adam Budnick and wife, Joseph Prybil and wife, Andrew Lies and wife, Adam Smekofski, Anton Kunza, Albert Kunza, Paul Kunza, John Smekofski, Thomas Streasick and wife and Andrew Miller and wife.

The first baptisms listed in the Rush City records of early North Branch Poles were that of Peter Stresick, son of Thomas Stresick and Anna Crahad, on July 10, 1880 and of Catherine Smigkowski, daughter of Adam Smigkowski and Eva Jelinska on 27 April 1881. The first wedding was that of John Smekofski and Julia Kunza on January 23, 1889 and the first funeral was that of Cecilia Strisik, age 71, on Sept. 2, 1878. A group confirmed on September 30, 1894 consisted of: Anna Rosalie Kunza, Lucy Anna Lubewska, Agnes Josephine Prybil, Mary Angela Prybil, Frank Paul Budnick, John Martin Smekofski, Paul Joseph Smekofski, Julia Mathilda Smekofski, Maria Elizabeth Smekofski, Frank Edward Lies and John Alois Lies.

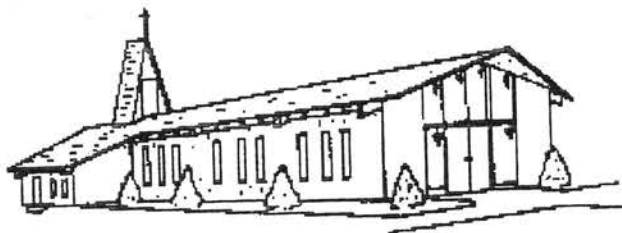
The records of St. Gregory's date from 1936 though those available on microfilm at the archdiocesan archives date only from 1975. The original Catholics were all Poles from the German partition. Later the parish became one of more German extraction but also included a "few Irish, French, Flemish, Italian and Bohemian and couple Swedes." The Irish pastor in the 1949 parish questionnaire states that the Poles were mostly rural and that the "Poles drifted to the city, many with weak faith -- even apostates."

**Other churches in the rural part of the archdiocese.** Delano, Heidelberg-Lexington and North Branch were the most prominent locales of Polish settlement in the rural areas of the archdiocese. However, some Poles settled in other areas as well. **St. Anne's Church** (founded in 1852) in Le Sueur in Le Sueur County was settled by pioneers coming directly from Germany and Ireland and a few from Poland. **Guardian Angels** (1858) in Chaska in Carver County was predominantly German but also had several Irish and a number of Polish families. The German parishes of **St. Boniface** (1870) in Hastings in Dakota County and **St. Lawrence** (1870) in Faribault in Rice County probably also included some Poles. At **St. Joseph's** (1868) in Rosemont in Dakota County, the congregation was originally largely Irish but later also included Germans, Frenchmen, Poles and Bohemians.

**St. Joseph's Church**, Rice Lake (1890) in Anoka County was founded as a mission of St. Genievieve's (1855) in Centerville. The locality was settled about 1880 and the first settlers were German, Polish, French and Irish immigrants. The **Church of St. Luke** (1896) in Wright County, rural Clearwater was largely Irish and German but also included a few Poles. And **St. Bridget of Sweden**, founded in 1949 in Lindstrom in the heart of Swedish Lutheranism in Chisago County, included "Irish, English, Germans, Bohemians, Frenchmen, Poles and . . . two Swedes . . ."

Regarding the settlement of Poles in the archdiocese, one particular problem remains for the author. The map on page 367 in *They Chose Minnesota* shows the settlement of Poles in Minnesota's rural areas in 1905. This map shows Polish settlement in rural Goodhue County centering around Featherstone Township. Where did these Goodhue County Poles worship and where are their baptism, marriage and death records kept? The sources consulted for this article makes no mention of them. Perhaps one of our readers can enlighten us on this matter.

This series of articles will continue in a future issue of this newsletter when we will discuss the Polish settlement in another Minnesota Catholic diocese. Meanwhile, the author is interested in your reactions to these articles. You may also want to make sure that we include the parish of your Polish-American forebears in the future articles of this series. Direct all comments to: Paul Kulas, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316.



Church of Saint Gregory the Great  
PO Box 609  
North Branch, MN 55056-0609



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 ..... BOOK REVIEWS
 

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**Polish Surnames**, *continued from page 4*

speculation: for the overwhelming majority of modern persons of Polish ancestry, there are no satisfactory historical records to furnish a conclusive answer.

Strictly speaking, Hoffman's work will not furnish any help in genealogical *methodology*: it has nothing to do with finding particular ancestors, locating their vital statistics, or discovering how they lived their lives. As he sees it, this book has its utility more at the fringes of genealogical effort: furnishing a basis for inferences to link individual ancestors through the possibility of common employment or other characteristics, or to explain their movements over time. Notwithstanding Hoffman's disclaimer, however, there is good direct use for the second half of this book, as an aid in primary-source research in Polish-language records. Its lengthy list of surnames is quite handy if one is transcribing names of possible progenitors, their witnesses, and godparents from poor or very stylized handwriting, as long as one can make out the first letter or two in the original source.

For the general reader with a generalized curiosity, there is really only one omission: the book lacks any discussion about the possible regional and local origins of particular families and names, as one can find for a number of Western European countries like Ireland and Scotland. Hoffman suggests, but ever quite says, that many surnames were ubiquitous throughout Poland, and others more local. (As if to recognize this deficiency, he has since essayed a suggestion for research methods as to the current link between surnames and locales in Poland. See Hoffman, "Geographic distribution in Poland of Selected Surnames," *Bulletin of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, v. II, no. 3, p. 1 (Summer 1994). Even here, however, he never gets around to discussing whether there is any significant Polish-language scholarship on the geographic dimension of onomastics.)

Hoffman is the first to acknowledge that he has written only a brief survey for American readers. For its cost and readability, however, his book is a fine little guidebook to get one to the place where language, history, and personal identity intersected for one's ancestors.

**Maria Świątkowska and Marek Budziarek,**  
**Nekropolie Łódzkie (Łódź Cities of the Dead).**

This rather curious book concentrates on the cemeteries of the city of Łódź, the splendid monuments and mausoleums they contain and the deceased to whom they are dedicated.

There is a brief history of Łódź -- how it evolved from a very small town to a large industrial city and gained the appellation as the "Polish Manchester." Prior to the partitions, Łódź was but a small town with a homogeneous population, save for a handful of Jews. During the Prussian occupation there was a marked increase in Protestant and Jewish settlers. But the greatest influx of newcomers arrived after 1820 when the city became an industrial center. Experienced workers came primarily from Saxony, Brandenburg, Bohemia and Moravia. It also attracted a smaller number of laborers from England, France and Switzerland. Still others arrived from the provinces of Poznań and Silesia. By the mid-nineteenth century the city was comprised of many nationalities and religious beliefs -- Protestants were more numerous than Catholics. Germans were the most dominant group. Russians were on the increase as well, particularly when Łódź became a garrison town with the stationing of Russian infantry and the building of the Warsaw-Kalisz railway line. At first the various nationalities created their own enclaves. The Germans settled in the area called Nowe Miasto (New Town). Silesian weavers moved into the "New District" whilst the Jews lived in the part called Old Town. Because of their dress, language, cultural and religious differences, the latter became the most isolated. Others with the passage of time tended to assimilate and intermarry, particularly Polish and German Catholics. German Protestants less so.

Much of the book is devoted to details of the various Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox and Jewish cemeteries; the eminent, common, military gravestones and monuments they erected to remember their citizens. The book contains a plethora of illustrations. A copy of this book is found in the Polish Collection at the MGS library.

*Reviewed by W. Kornel Kondy*

## PROCEED WITH CAUTION

by Harry B. McOuat, PGSMn member  
Wakefield, Massachusetts

My search for my maternal grandparent's ship arrival began with four clues on hand:

1. My grandfather's passport (Matheus JAKUBIK) from the German Empire, issued in Rosenberg (now Olesno), Silesia for himself, wife and their six children. It expired 21 September 1894, so I assumed correctly that it was issued 21 September 1893.
2. A Todd County, Minnesota deed indicating they purchased 80 acres of land in Moran Township on 1 November 1893.
3. My grandfather's Naturalization papers that states he arrived at the port of New York in November 1893.
4. A hotel receipt from Bremen, Germany.

Despite the information given in item 3 above, I calculated that they arrived in America sometime in the interval from 21 September to 1 November 1893. A reasonable time for their ship arrival would be 7 October to 25 October. I searched the Morton-Allen ship directory and found six ships meeting these criteria. The local LDS family history library obtained two microfilms which included the desired period and more.

The first time I looked through the films, I was so excited that I found nothing. On my second try, I was amazed to discover them all listed on the good ship, SS DRESDEN of the North-German Lloyd Line which landed in New York.. Their names seemed to be underlined so I made copies and returned home terribly pleased.

The following day, I called relatives to share my beautiful discovery, only to be shocked with a dose of reality and humility. I was informed that my aunt, Mary, knew they arrived in Baltimore. Also, I learned that she had become ill in Bremen and that they were quarantined at the port for several days.

Now for an explanation and two morals to my story:

- Moral #1. Always look long and hard and more than once at any genealogical data, no matter how difficult it is to quell your excitement and enthusiasm.
- Moral #2. Expect the worst. You are sometimes given the maximum information on a particular record, but few records actually contain such.

On my third try, I was intrigued and I very carefully examined the material and I came upon some interesting discoveries. Their names had been underlined, but had meant to be crossed out. Also their names had not been checked off like the others. Further perusal uncovered more secrets. The ship's manifest was divided into two parts: a list for New York and another for Baltimore. The SS DRESDEN sailed from Bremen to New York, then on to Baltimore and return. The Morton-Allen directory makes no mention of this fact.

My next step was to acquire the Baltimore arrival film and be patient. Baltimore listed far fewer arrivals; the SS DRESDEN arrived two days after its New York arrival. Sure enough, their names appeared on the roster but were again crossed out. However, this time with the explanation that they were sick and therefore missed the voyage.

The next Bremen steamship to arrive was the SS STUTTGART, which sailed directly to Baltimore from the port of Bremen. The manifest of this ship recorded that they had indeed arrived at the port of Baltimore in the United States on 18 October 1893. Two of the Jakubik children, Julia and Mary, did not make it. My mother, Verona, was born the next year in Minnesota in January 1894.

**Echos, Continued from page 1**

dawn til night. She wasted not a single second, giving freely of her utmost. For such hard and indefatigable labors, she was awarded a beautiful ring.

The deceased was likewise the founder of the Charitable Department of the Holy Rosary Sodality at Holy Cross Church. Albeit in poor health, she spent a great deal of time in this endeavor. She was also a member of Group 12, O.P.B.O.

Konstancja Jasińska was an unusual person. She was that type of woman - a Polish woman, actively involved in splendid social causes. We do not have many such examples among the immigration today. We know not whether in place of those departing - new ones will appear.

Pani Jasińska's funeral took place on Wednesday morning from the home of sorrow, 643 Madison Street, N.E. From thence it proceeded to Holy Cross Church, where after performing the vigil, Rev. V. Worzala with the assistance of Rev. J. Lapiński as Deacon and Rev. H. Śledź as Subdeacon celebrated Holy Mass. In addition, Rev. L. S. Śledź also took part in the funeral ceremony at the church.

A huge throng of relatives, friends and sympathizers, who had come to pay their last respects, filled the temple. Members of the various organizations to which the deceased belonged, collectively participated in the service.

Following the funeral ceremony at Holy Cross, the mourners left for St. Mary's Cemetery, where Rev. V. Worzala and L. S. Śledź recited the final prayers beside the open grave.

The departed Pani Konstancja Jasińska is survived by her husband Edmund, a daughter Pani Maria Sokołowska, an active participant in the local Polonia and two sons Stefan and Stanislaw, as well as seven grandchildren.

The Polish firm, the Kozlak Brothers, took charge of the funeral.

May Pani Konstancja Jasińska rest in deserved peace - and the earth be light upon her! May her memory be honored!

*Translated from the Polish by Walter Kornel Kondy.*

**Have you renewed your membership for 1994?****Membership Application**
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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  No 

*Please make checks payable to Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and mail to Barbara Rockman, Treas.  
2217 Wight Bay, Brooklyn Park, MN 55433.*



## MISSING BRANCHES

**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: W. Kornel Kondy, Editor, PGSMn Newsletter, 619 S.E. Seventh St. Minneapolis, MN 55414-1327

Mary Ellen BRUSKI, 3412 Parkview Blvd., Robbinsdale, MN 55422 seeks information about the Catholic Church sponsoring young women from Poland and Bohemia to come to this country as prospective brides for Catholic men in the early years of this century. Did the church raise funds for this undertaking? Were other churches in the U.S. involved in this program or just churches in the Twin Cities? How many women were sponsored? What criteria were used and how were couples matched?

Jerry KOLTON, 2535 174th Lane, N.W., Andover, MN 55304 seeks information on his grandparents, their ancestors/relatives and/or their ancestral home in Poland (or contacting anyone having relatives presently living there). Anton ROGALSKI was born 10 May 1855 in Racinicwo, emigrated to the U.S. in 1892 and lived in Indiana in 1926. His wife, Anna, was born in Platowo on 13 May 1855 and emigrated with Anton and their children, Anna, Mary/Maria (married John KLAJBOR), Ignatius (a.k.a. George who married Rosalia PACER), Leokadya (a.k.a. Laura who married VAN GRUNDY then KOPER) and Wladislaus (a.k.a. Will who married Alice), all born in Poland and also their daughter Stanislaw (a.k.a. Stella who married Art HUNT) born in Indianapolis in 1894.

W. Kornel KONDY, 619 S.E. 7th St. Mpls., MN 55414-1327 seeks death record (church or cemetery) information of paternal uncle: Jan KONDEJ/John CONDAY, died circa 1914-1924 in Chester County (?) PA. Arrived NY from Hamburg with wife Kate nee WRUBLEWSKA, 1 May 1900, SS Friedrich der Grosse, destination Phoenixville, Chester, PA.

**NEW MEMBERS:** The following is a listing of recent new members.

Teri CAPPS, Rt. 3, Box 155D, Lake Springs Rd. Jacksonville, TX 75760 is researching the KRANC family name from Poznan, Poland.

Kelli KOOB, 1017 S. Birch St., #604 J, Denver, CO 80222 is researching Germans living in Poland in those parts of Poland that were once in Germany -- Posen-Debenke, Prussia -- and in southwestern Minnesota.

Clare LARKIN, 524 - 12th St. Red Wing, MN 55066 is researching the BUCHOLTZ and SZATKOWSKI family names from the Chojnice, Poland area and in Chicago, IL and Menononie, MI.

Florence LITCHY, 19 Fairfield Ct., St. Cloud, MN 56303 is researching the SOLARZ and LITCHY/LICHY family names from somewhere around Warsaw and from Falkowicie and Kracow. She would like to know why some were Catholic and some Jewish.

James and Milane TRUAX 2500 Hayes Dr., Burnsville, MN 55337 are researching the BILINSKI family name.

Minnesota Genealogical Society

**Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota**

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