



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3

AUTUMN 1995

NUMBER 3



The Coat-of-Arms of Barry's Bay, Ontario

-- site of the 1995 Peplinski Family Reunion. The design was created by Frank Ritza, a Barry's Bay artist. The deer at the top of the crest is symbolic of the wooded countryside surrounding Barry's Bay which makes the village an attraction for fishing and hunting enthusiasts. Under the deer are the symbols of the Polish and Irish people, the two major groups which settled Barry's Bay. The Polish white eagle is displayed on a red background while a golden Irish lyre is depicted on a field of green. The rising sun symbolizes the hope for a bright future. Green is used as the background for the words "Corporation of the Village of" while the words "Barry's Bay" are on a background of red. 1933 is the year the village was incorporated.

Source: Handout obtained at the 1995 Peplinski reunion and on page 94 in The Proud Inheritance: Ontario's Kaszuby (Ottawa: The Polish Heritage Institute-Kaszuby, 1991), copy available in the Polish Collection in the MGS library.

Peplinski Family Reunion -- 1995

by Blanche Krbecek, PGS-MN Founding President

In all, over one thousand people attended the Peplinski family reunion in Barry's Bay, Ontario, this August.

The Peplinskis are descendants of Peplinski immigrants from two adjacent parishes in Poland: Leśno (Bydgoszcz) and Lipusz (Gdańsk). At this time no one has found a common progenitor. The story goes that Queen Maria Ludwika in 1665 gave Mikołaj Peplinski the wilderness area of Peplin. The records that I have searched at the L.D.S. Family History Library do not go back that far and the eighteenth century records show their age; often the part of the page that is preserved is almost unreadable. This is the joy of genealogical research.

The thoughts of a large reunion in part came from two Canadian Peplinski families. Des Peplinski's family (Lipusz parish) gather together from as far away as Bangkok. One son, Jim Peplinski, was captain of the 1989 NHL Stanley Cup champion Calgary Flames. Several folks had written to him asking what he knew about family history. There are also the thirteen children, spouses, grandchildren, etc. of 87-year old "Fiddler Joe" and his wife Evelyn (Leśno parish) who gather and play music together. Two of the sons have their own bands. These gatherings gave rise to the idea that resulted in this year's family reunion.

The event was held at a hockey arena (where else?) in Barry's Bay which is about 100 miles west of Ottawa. The Kaszubi began to arrive in this area as early as 1858. These early settlers were responding to an advertisement, "Information for Intending Settlers on the Ottawa and Opeongo Road and its Vicinity" by Thomas P. French, Crown Land Agent for the Settlement of Opeongo. The names of many of these early Kaszubi settlers were given English phonetic spellings making some of them almost unrecognizable. These spelling changes are much more evident in Canada than in the United States.

The reunion day started with registration at 11 a.m. followed by entertainment, a few talks about family and regional history, a 5:30

Continued on page 11

NOMINATIONS FOR 1996

The nominating committee, consisting of Dan Nedoroski and Ed Brandt, which was appointed at the last board meeting, nominates the following slate of officers and directors for 1996:

President: Gregory F. Kishel
 Vice-President: Paul Kulas
 Treasurer: Barbara Rockman
 Secretary: Margaret Kowaleski
 Directors: Michael M. Dec, Daniel Nedoroski, Robert J. Prokott, Bernie Szymczak, Ron Tomczik

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting on Saturday, November 11. No formal business other than elections and announcements will be conducted at this meeting. A program is also scheduled (See candidate's biographies and schedule of future programs on page 9).

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
 Ray Marshal (721-7593)..... Vice-President
 Greg Kishel.....Secretary
 Barbara Rockman (493-8465).....Treasurer
 Blanche Krbecek (545-7107).....Past President
 Dr. David Kroska (251-6134).....Director
 Daniel Nedoroski (645-2368)..... Director
 Bernie Szymczak (788-0352).....Director

Committee Chairs

Ed Brandt, co-chair (338-2001)..... Program
 Greg Kishel.....Publicity
 W. Kornel Kondy (378-1739)..... Newsletter
 Paul Kulas (427-4523)..... Library
 Daniel Nedoroski (645-2368).....Research
 Barbara Rockman (493-8465).....Membership
 David Zaworski co-chair (639-1630).....Program



Letters to the Editor *Liśy do Redaktora*

On Front Page!!

I was very much surprised when I received my issue of the PGS-MN NEWSLETTER the other day. Never did I think that my trip to Poland article would become front page! Thank you for the honor -- it was a pleasure to write it.

Sincerely,
 Clare Larkin, Red Wing, MN

Why No Meetings in Northeast???

There has been no news from the MGS these many months. In case they are still breathing -- the officers, particularly the president and the program chair, -- I am enclosing my annual dues and pray that one day soon I'll see them here in Northeast Mpls where approximately 3,500 Polish Americans reside. I believe a good number of them would like to attend a meeting of the MGS. I would like a report on the past year's activities. Who benefited?

Mary R., Minneapolis, MN.

Enjoyed Presentation at NE Library

I recently got a copy of your Newsletter when my father and I attended a presentation by Dr. Joyce Lyon titled "Conversations with Rzeszow". We enjoyed it very much. I have decided to become a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and have sent a check to Barbara Rockman. Thank you for your time, and all the energy you put into the Newsletter.

Sincerely,
 Elaine Mruz-Haag, Coon Rapids, MN

Polish Organization Receives Our Newsletter

Thank you very much for the copies of "Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter." They are the first copies of your newsletter in our library. Stowarzyszenie "Wspolnota Polska" will send you its "Biuletyn Informacyjny". Included is a sheet on kurs genealogiczny, we hope it will interest you .

Sincerely,
 Elzbieta Budakowska, Ph.D., Warszawa, Poland

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



The Bulletin Board

WE WOULD LIKE TO devote more space in our newsletter to articles written by our general membership. We encourage all members to submit articles for publication. All submissions of articles, letters to the editor, news items, queries, etc. should be sent to: W. Kornel Kondy, PGS-MN Newsletter, 619 SE Seventh St. Minneapolis, MN 55414-1327. *PTK*

WE ARE INDEBTED TO **Rev. Theodore Guminga**, pastor of St. Hedwig's Church in Minneapolis, for speaking at our September meeting at the Northeast Minneapolis Public Library. His topic, "The Church of Saint Hedwig; Its History and Records", was informative, entertaining and very much appreciated. Thank you, Father Ted, for sharing your research and your experiences with us. *PTK*

GIFTS RECEIVED FOR THE LIBRARY:

150 Years Exploring Our Heritage - Sesquicentennial Commemorative New England Genealogical Society 1845-1995, donated by Harry McQuat, a member from Wakefield, MA.
Lidia Mullerowa: Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish People's Republic in 1984, a gift of the Polish Genealogical Society of America.

Wspolnota Polska, several issues on exchange. This magazine gives news about Polish communities (Polonia) from various countries around the world.

Two Otsego County(MI) indexes, All Saints Parish Commemorative books, The **MATELSKI** family history descendency, pedigree and index, donated by Kathleen Matelski, member from Colorado Springs, CO.

PLEASE NOTE: Some items belonging to the PGS-MN collection will not be found on the Polish shelves, but may be cataloged in another section, e.g.:

FH Matelski, K.A.

M078q Family History of Kathleen A. Matelski. Pub. by author Mat Npl. 1995.

65p index

1. Title
2. Family History
3. Matelski Family
4. Goral Family
5. Acker Family
6. Poland
7. Russia

Since this is cataloged and shelved in the Family History section, it's wise to check the catalog under **POLAND** for some of our material which may be found elsewhere. Thank you very much indeed! to all who have sent gifts to our collection. *WKK*

BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY were also obtained by Paul Kulas during his recent travels (see article beginning on page 5). They include:

An Annotated and Topical List of Aids to Polish Genealogy, a gift from Blanche Krbecek.

An Anthology of Kashub-Polish family names in Poland, Canada, USA by Fr. Aloysius Rekowski, C.S.S.R.

The Kulas Family Name, a gift from Shirley Mask Connolly.

Lepak/Lepack Family History, a gift from Sister Theresa Lepack.

Maps and Records of St. Stanislaus Cemetery (Old Wilno Cemetery) Wilno, Ontario, Canada, K0J 2N0.

National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame -- 23rd Annual Induction Ceremonies and Testimonial Banquet, a gift from Rev. James Mazurek, 1st Vice Chairman of NPASHF and museum curator.

1992-95 Catalog and other informational materials about the Orchard Lake schools and campus, a gift from St. Mary's College (MI) president and PGS-MN member, Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski.

The Peplinskies in Canada by Shirley Mask Connolly.

Polish Pioneer Families in the Parish of Brudenell to the year 1870, a gift from the author, Shirley Mask Connolly.

The Proud Inheritance: Ontario's Kaszuby, by Polish Heritage Institute-Kaszuby.

Thanks to all who contributed and watch for the addition of these and other new items to the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. *PTK*

PGS-MN MEMBER, **JOHN RADZILOWSKI**, again has had his articles printed in a national publication. Featured in the August, 1995, issue of the Polish-American Journal are two of his articles: "75th Anniversary of the Battle that Saved Europe" and "The Polish-Soviet War as a Preview of World War II". Both articles discuss the 1920 "Miracle on the Vistula", in which the Poles led by Jozef Pilsudski defeated the Soviet Red Army. Congratulations, John, on the publication of these two excellent articles. *PTK*

Inquiries regarding **ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES IN MINNESOTA** and their records can be made to: Patrick Anzel, Archives Assistant, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, 226 Summit Av., St. Paul, MN 55102; office (612) 291-4429; FAX (612) 290-1629. *WKK*

PGS-MN MEMBERS **Paul Kulas, Dan Nederoski, and Nancy Zuber** volunteered to work at the Minnesota Genealogical Society booth at the Minnesota State Fair this year. This booth attracts thousands of visitors and can be a source of new members to our organization. *PTK*

THE FEDERATION OF EAST EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES (FEEFHS) will hold their 1996 convention in Minneapolis on June 9-12. FEEFHS expects that most talks will concern Czech/Slovaks, East European Germans, Finns, Germanic countries, Jews, and Poles/Kashubians. Programs on the Balts, Greeks, South Slavs, Ukrainians, and possibly several other ethnic groups are also being planned. Other talks will be multi-ethnic or deals with topics like: Beginning genealogy, local genealogical resource centers, computers, Family History Library resources, foreign languages and non-Roman scripts, migration history, demography and boundary changes, and writing a family history. For further information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Ed Brandt, 13-27th Ave. SE., Minneapolis, MN 55414-3101. A preliminary program is expected to be available by December 1995. *ERB*

LIBRARY CORNER BOOK REVIEWS

Lidia Müllerowa



POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
984 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60622 USA

Lidia Müllerowa, **ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISHES IN THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IN 1984** (Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1995). 157 pp. A copy is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library in St. Paul.

Reviewed by Walter Kornel Kondy

This new publication is essential to individuals doing genealogical research in Poland. The book is an edited work (thanks due to Stanley R. Schmidt and William F. Hoffman) of portions of two earlier publications: *Sieć parafialna Kościoła katolickiego w Polsce w 1980 roku* (Parish Network of the Catholic Church in Poland in 1980) and the updated 1985 version under the same title by the same author. Both were originally published by the Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski (Lublin Catholic University). The editors of this English compilation have wisely chosen to extract relevant information most useful to American genealogists.

The main body of the book consists of an alphabetical list of cities, towns and villages in Poland where a

Roman Catholic parish exists, the diocese and deanery to which it belongs, followed by a code letter/number for locating them on the maps to be found at the back of the book e.g.

Ustrobna / Przemyśl / Frysztak, F - 9

If it is a larger community where more than one parish exists, the names of the churches are supplied in alphabetical order. Also, in large cities such as Warsaw, the section of the city where the church is located is indicated:

św. Andrzeja Ap. Warszawa -- Stare Miasto
św. Kazimierza Warszawa -- Mokotów

A word of caution for those who are familiar with the Polish language: the order of place names is not that as one finds in a Polish dictionary, but has been adapted to the order of our English alphabet. In other words, letters with diacritical marks etc. are ignored: s and ś or hard ł and soft ł are simply interfiled under s and l. This should be of help for those not knowing Polish.

Unfortunately, the book does not list the województwo (province) in Poland where each place is located. This is essential if you are writing to a parish church. Therefore, you will need to consult the microfilm SPIS, an abbreviation for Spis Miejscowości Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej, (microfilm # 844,922) at your local LDS Family History Library.

One should read carefully the Introduction which includes comments on: The Index of Parishes; Using the Maps; Help with the names of Parishes. The back pages contain a list of publications by the Polish Genealogical Society of America. There is also an informative summary of the benefits of being a member of PGSA.

This geographical index is a most useful research tool and the editors deserve both praise and credit for making the information contained therein available. PGS-MN is grateful to the Polish Genealogical Society of America for their gift of a copy for our library collection. *Dziękujemy bardzo!*

To order this item, PGS-MN members may send a check for \$22.50 (\$20.00 plus \$2.50 postage and handling) made payable to the Polish Genealogical Society of America to: PGSA, c/o Marcia Bergman, 926 Oxford Lane, Wilmette, IL 60091.

A TRIP TO POLISH CANADA (and to Polish Michigan and Wisconsin) by Paul Kulas

In the Summer issue of this newsletter, Shirley Mask Connolly (PGS-MN member from Ottawa, Canada), describes her 1994 trip to Minnesota and her attempts to establish connections between Polish-Kaszub settlements in Canada and Minnesota (See: "Your CANADIAN KASHUB COUSINS and their trek from WILNO to WINONA," Summer, 1995, pp. 5-9). In her article Shirley states: "We speak the same language(s), practice the same faith, share the same surnames and live in a better world because of our Polish forefathers." She then invites us, her American cousins, to visit Canada and to explore its Polish roots. My wife and I decided to accept her invitation and in the Summer of 1995 made the reverse of her trip and visited Ontario's Kaszuby as well as other ethnic Polish locales in Ontario, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The 1995 Peplinski Family Reunion. The immediate destination of our trip was the 1995 Peplinski family reunion which was held in Barry's Bays, Ontario, Canada on August 19, 1995. Upon arrival at Barry's Bay on the evening of the 18th, we stopped at a service station and a man wearing a straw hat peered into our car window and asked "Are you folks from Champlin?" This was our introduction to Des Peplinski, PGS-MN member and the main organizer of the reunion. He had noticed our Minnesota auto plates and knew that the only other Minnesotan that was registered for the reunion -- PGS-MN founding President, Blanche Krbechek -- was flying in. (I had first become aware of Des when he wrote asking if we might be related, since he had Kulas ancestors. It turns out that our Kulas ancestors are from different parts of Poland so a relationship seems unlikely. In that same letter he inquires if his ancestors and Blanche's Peplinski ancestors might be related. This is more likely since their Peplinski ancestors are from the same area of Poland, though from different villages.) Des helped us get our bearing in Barry's Bay and suggested some places in the area we might want to visit. It was a wonderful reception to the area. We then registered at the Balmoral Hotel -- a historic turn of the century lumberman's hotel.

The reunion was a wonderful celebration of family ties and of Polish/Kaszub ethnic culture. The Peplinski musicians performed splendidly and arranged the participation of others who had come (Blanche played her Polish bagpipes). Old-timer Cyril Peplinski was simply marvelous on his fiddle. He has played at many local weddings and family gatherings during his long lifetime. Jim Peplinski, Des's son and captain of the 1989 Stanley Cup champion Calgary Flames, patiently signed hundreds of autographs and posed for countless photographs. PGS-MN member, Shirley Mask Connolly made a presentation on the Polish settlement of the area

and of the Peplinski ancestry in Kaszuby (See The Peplinskies in Canada by Shirley Mask Connolly, copy in the Polish Collection at the MGS library). Father Al Rekowski spoke on Kaszub settlement in Canada and in the US (See An Anthology of Kashub-Polish family names in Poland, Canada, USA by Fr. Aloysius Rekowski, C.S.S.R., copy available in the Polish Collection at the MGS library). Father Rekowski also celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination at a Mass the next morning. In addition to playing her bagpipes, Blanche Krbechek organized wycinanki (Polish paper cutting) demonstrations that were a tremendous hit with the younger people at the reunion. This writer made a short presentation about the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and made available copies of our newsletter and brochures about our organization (If any of you are planning a family reunion, a display table of some of our material might be appropriate). A wonderful buffet by caterer Debbie Olsheski topped off the afternoon. Music, dancing



Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka, the "old Wilno Church." Built in 1875, it was destroyed by fire on February 2, 1936. Drawing by Shirley Mask Connolly. Source: Shirley Mask Connolly, Polish Pioneer Families in the Parish of Brudenell to the year 1870, (published by the author, 21 Granville Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1Y 0M5), p. 77. Copy available in the Polish Collection in the MGS library.

and socializing continued well into the night. It was a highly successful reunion attended by more than 900 people from all over the world. Congratulations to Des, and to all the others who helped organize this wonderful celebration.

Ontario's Kaszubi. The Peplinski reunion was held in Barry's Bay, which lies in the beautiful Madawaska Valley in the heart of the Polish Kaszubian settlement of Ontario, Canada. This is a lovely area of forested hills and clear lakes, of picturesque old farmsteads with stone fences, and of beautiful churches built on magnificent settings by the early Polish settlers. Originally it was a hostile environment for the early settlers. This land situated on the Laurentian Shield -- one of the oldest rock formations in the world -- was ill-suited for farming. The early immigrants persevered, however. Many settlers supplemented their income with lumbering. Indeed much former farmland has again returned to its original forested state. The valley is now primarily a resort area -- a holiday destination of both Canadian and American tourists (many of Polish descent). Any members looking for a vacation destination, particularly one with an ethnic Polish flavor, might consider visiting this area.

The original Polish settlement was along the old Opeongo Colonization Road. These first Poles attended church in the



Cornerstone of the Church of Our Lady, Queen of Poland, in Wilno. This church replaced the old St. Stanislaus which burned in 1936.

village of Brudenell (See Polish Pioneer Families in the Parish of Brudenell to the year 1870 by Shirley Mask Connolly, copy in the Polish Collection at the MGS library). In 1875, they founded their own parish -- the Church of St. Stanislaus Kostka in Wilno. This church burned in 1936. The old cemetery at the church site is well maintained and is the location of the graves of many of the early Polish settlers. Most gravestone inscriptions are in Polish, and an effort is underway to identify all of the unmarked gravesites and to mark them with replicas of the wooden crosses that originally marked these graves (See Maps and Records of St. Stanislaus Cemetery (Old Wilno Cemetery) Wilno, Ontario, Canada, KOJ 2NO, copy in the Polish Collection at the MGS library). The present church in Wilno (dedicated to Our Lady, Queen of Poland) is a magnificent building built high on a hill overlooking the beautiful Madawaska Valley countryside. A portrait of Our Lady of Czestochowa adorns the high altar and was a gift from Polish President, Ignacy Moscicki. This church is considered the mother church of all the Polish churches in the area. A lovely grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes is located between the church and the adjacent cemetery.

St. Hedwig's Church in Barry's Bay is beautifully situated on a hill overlooking a bay of Kamanisseg Lake. The church is located on ulica Karol Woityla (Karol Woityla Street). Greeting visitors above the main entrance to the church is the traditional Polish greeting: "Niech Bedzie Pochwalony Jezus Chrystus" (May Jesus Christ be praised). In the central stained glass window above the main entrance is a shield that combines the Polish white eagle, the Lithuanian knight on horseback, and the Ruthenian archangel -- symbols of the three main lands of pre-partitioned Poland (This grouping was used during the partitions by Poles who advocated the restoration of Poland within its pre-partitioned boundaries). The facade of the choir loft is adorned by both the Polish eagle and the Kaszubian griffin. I was thrilled to see that the stained glass windows at each end of the transcripts were donated respectively by Paulina Kulas and by August Kulas. In the homily at his golden anniversary mass held here on Sunday, August 20, Father Al Rekowski indicated that Father Ted Kulas was a major influence on his life. The many references to the Kulas family name both in churches and in cemetery headstones were very exciting to this writer (See The Kulas Family Name by Shirley Mask Connolly, copy available in the Polish Collection at the MGS library).

Saint Casimir's Church in Round Lake Centre is a lovely church situated on beautiful Round Lake. As impressive as the beautiful Polish churches are, the magnificent settings of each makes them even more impressive. In Kaszuby there is an open area "Cathedral in the Pines" where Mass in Polish is celebrated outside on Sundays throughout the summer.

Before leaving this land of Ontario's Kaszubi, we stopped to eat at the Wilno Restaurant and Tavern. This establishment, one of the



Painting on the wall of the Wilno Tavern and Restaurant dining room. It shows the Wilno Tavern in the foreground and the parish church high on the hill overlooking the town. Are the musicians going to perform at the tavern or at the church?

oldest in Wilno, has excellent food including Polish menu items. Its logo, displayed prominently on the outside of the building, features a Polish white eagle holding two beer mugs -- one full to overflowing and the other up-side-down and empty. I was told that the more newly arrived Polish immigrants (mostly more aristocratic Poles who arrived after World War II and later) strongly object to this defacing of Poland's national symbol while the descendants of the original Polish immigrants (mostly from the peasant class) see nothing wrong with it. The nearby Wilno Craft Gallery features artwork by PGS-MN member Shirley Mask Connolly.

Ottawa -- Canada's Capital City. From the Kaszuby area of Canada we traveled to Ottawa, Canada's capital city. It is a beautiful, clean, safe city. Our one full day there began with the changing of the guard on Parliament Hill in the morning and ended with a light show off the facade of the Parliament Building late that night. In between we took a trolley tour of the city -- getting on and off whenever and at any stop we wanted. Stops included: Confederation Square, Museum of Civilization, Redeau Falls, National Gallery of Canada, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Byward Market.

One of my favorite stops was the National Gallery of Canada where the reconstruction of the Redeau Chapel was most impressive. The Sisters of the Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart on Redeau Street served the

poor of Ottawa for over 100 years. This convent was demolished in 1971 over objections of historic preservationists. Fortunately the convent's beautiful chapel was saved and reconstructed in its entirety in the National Gallery. It is this writer's belief that we genealogists need to be historic preservationists as well. The closing of inner city parishes (many of which were ethnic and some of which were Polish) and the demolition of their churches and schools is a tragedy.

The Canadian Tribute to Human Rights, unveiled in 1991, is one of Canada's newest national monuments. Designed by Canadian artist, Melvin Charney, it was inspired by the Polish Solidarity Trade Union movement. This monument represents the universality of the struggle for basic human rights. Poland's Lech Walesa took symbolic first steps through the monument's arch in 1989. It is located in front of the Heritage Building in downtown Ottawa.

Anyone whose immigrant ancestors came through Canada will want to visit the National Archives of Canada located near Parliament Hill. Immigration records, ship's passenger lists, census records, land records, -- Canadian records of all kinds are located here.

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. From Ottawa we traveled to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Niagara-on-the-Lake is a quaint and quiet village located on Lake Ontario not far from Niagara Falls. It was the site of the training camp of Haller's Army (also known as the Blue Army -- an army comprised of Americans and Canadians of Polish descent who fought in World War I). The records of Haller's Army are a major resource for Polish genealogical research. Members may recall the discussion of these records by Stan Schmidt of the Polish Genealogical Society of America at one of our recent PGS-MN meetings. The cemetery on the grounds of St. Vincent de Paul's Church contains a separate Polish cemetery which is the final resting place of some of the casualties of Haller's Army.

Niagara Falls, Ontario. At Niagara Falls there is a plaque near the crest of the falls noting the accomplishments of Casimir Stanislaw Gzowski. Gzowski was the engineer who built the international bridge that connects Fort Erie, Canada and Buffalo, New York. As the chairman of the

Commission of Queen Victoria Park, he was largely responsible for creating the lovely landscaped public park with its beautiful vistas on the Canadian side of the Niagara River.

Grimsby, Ontario. Upon leaving the Niagara Falls area, we headed toward Detroit, Michigan. On our way we passed through Grimsby, Ontario which is a center of a large Polish settlement. The Polish community of Grimsby has erected a social center called "Place Polonaise" located on the shores of Lake Ontario. It is a impressive location -- the skyline of Toronto can be seen across the lake. A war memorial, "For Your Freedom and Ours," is located here. This memorial honors volunteers from Canada and the U.S. whose efforts culminated in the rebirth of a free and independent Poland on Nov. 11, 1918. It also honors the Polish soldiers of World War II. Adjacent to the war memorial is a plaque in memory of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, the commander-in-chief of Polish Armed Forces during World War II.

The Orchard Lake (MI) Schools. We re-entered the United States at Port Huron, Michigan. In Michigan, we particularly wanted to visit the Orchard Lake Schools located northwest of Detroit. Here we had a most wonderful experience.

The Orchard Lake campus is the site of institutions and centers that are of significance to Polish-Americans. We particularly wanted to visit the Central Archives of Polonia (part of the Center for Polish Studies and Culture) to see if it had information about Polish churches in the U.S. and in Minnesota and to see what it might have pertaining to Polish genealogical research.

We arrived unannounced on a Friday afternoon at the end of summer. We obtained a map of campus at the administration building, but virtually every building that we wanted to visit was closed. I remembered that one of our members, Dr. Thaddeus Radizowski, was the newly appointed president of St. Mary's College located on the Orchard Lake campus. I decided to speak to his secretary and soon I was ushered into his office. This resulted in an hour long, personally escorted tour of the campus and of the many interesting centers devoted to the study of American Polonia. Information about these facilities and about the Orchard Lake campus will be the

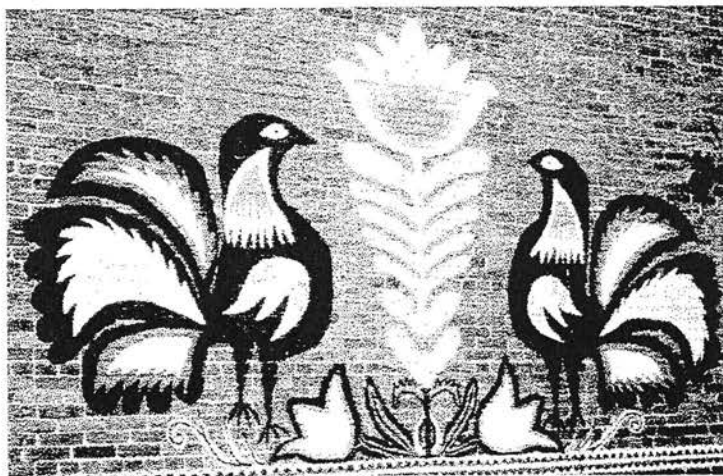
subject of a future article in this newsletter.

It was a wonderful visit. The Orchard Lake Schools are an important part of the Polish immigrant experience. Thank you, Ted, for taking the time to visit with us and to show us around. Members wishing to visit the campus and its interesting museums and centers may want to call ahead to let appropriate people know that you are coming.

On to Polish Wisconsin. After leaving the Orchard Lake Schools, we continued our journey to Ludington, Michigan, where we took the car ferry to Manitowac, Wisconsin. On our way through Wisconsin we visited Polish settlements in Portage County which, after Panna Maria, Texas, are the oldest in the United States (See: "The First Polish Settlers came from Kaszuby," by Adeline Sopa in PGS-MN Newsletter, Winter, 1994-95, pp. 5-8).

We first stopped in Polonia, Wisconsin. Here we visited Sacred Heart Church, the mother church of several Polish churches in the area. Polonia was also the site of the first establishment of the Felician Sisters in America. After Polonia we visited Stevens Point. Stevens Point is the home of several well known Polish initiated establishments including the Worzalla Publishing Company and the Stevens Point Brewery. In the downtown Market Square, a side of one building is decorated with a fine example of Polish Folk art.

Our 1995 vacation trip lasted 12 days during which time we visited areas in Ontario, Michigan and Wisconsin which were important in the Polish immigrant experience.



Polish Folk art at Market Square in downtown Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

ABOUT THE NOMINEES

Michael M. Dec is currently in Poland, visiting relatives and researching ancestors in the Rzeszów area in Galicia. His German Dietz ancestors changed the name to its current Polish spelling. He did extensive research in the U.S. prior to his trip.

Gregory F. Kishel has been secretary for the past two years and has spearheaded our publicity efforts. His ancestral roots are in Mazuria. He has studied Polish and taught English at an English-language camp in Toruń. He belongs to the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota.

Margaret Kowaleski, from Minnesota City, provides us with representation from outside the metropolitan area. She has engaged in genealogical research for 18 years and specifically Polish research for 8. She is treasurer of the Polish Museum in Winona and a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of America and the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan.

Paul Kulas has traced his ancestors in Wielkopolska and Bavaria to the 1600's. He is one of our co-founders and has served as library chair and as production editor of the newsletter for most of our existence. He visited relatives and ancestral villages in Poland in 1976, 1992 and 1993. He has taught English in summer language camps in both Poland and Slovakia.

Daniel Nedoroski has been a board member and is our representative on the board of directors of the Federation of East European Family History Societies for the past two years. He is studying Polish and plans a trip to Poland in 1996. He has assumed primary responsibility for routing mail, has helped with membership and has worked as a volunteer at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library.

Robert J. Prokott has done most of his research on Silesia with prior experience in checking Minnesota records. He has yet to be explored ancestral roots in the Gdańsk and Poznań areas.

Barbara Rockman, one of our co-founders, has been treasurer and membership chair since the beginning. She is vice-president of the Polanie Club. She visited Poland in 1990 with her cousin, Mary Jane Gustafson. Her ancestors came from Sierpc, Slubic, and Nowy Dwor Mazowiecki -- all west of Warsaw. She is among our volunteers on Polish Night at the Minnesota Genealogical Society library.

Bernie Szymczak is a director of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota and has served on our board for two years. He knows some Polish and has visited Poland three times. He has been involved in the sister cities relationship between Lomianki, Poland and Columbia Heights.

Ron Tomczik has ancestors from Kashubia, where he visited in 1993, and is an avid reader who is knowledgeable about books on the Kashubians. He planned and participated in the panel discussion on the Kashubians at the Minnesota Genealogical Society's 1995 "Branching Out" meeting. He also has Germanic ancestors from the Burgenland, which straddles the Austro-Hungarian border and from Eastern Bohemia and Westphalia.

Submitted by Ed Brandt

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Saturday, **November 11**, at 10:30 a.m.: Ed Rajtar will speak on "The 1996 Convention of the American Council for Polish Culture," which will be held in Minneapolis. Annual election of officers will also occur at this meeting. The meeting will be held at the Northeast Public Library, 2200 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis.

Saturday, **February 10**, at 10:30 a.m.: Mike Dec will speak on "Visiting Relatives and Researching Ancestors in Galicia." Location: Northeast Public Library.

Saturday, **March 3**, The Minnesota Genealogical Society will hold its annual, all-day "Branching Out" meeting. We expect to schedule three Polish presentations. Tentative location: Oak Grove Intermediate School on West 106th St., Bloomington (1/4 mile west of I-35W).

Submitted by Ed Brandt

Bulletin Board, Continued from page 3

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 Thursday of each month. *PTK*

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, PGS-MN Newsletter, 619 S.E. Seventh St. Minneapolis, MN

Cecelia F. Pass, 556 Bolinger, Rochester Hills, MI 48307, Phone: 1-810-652-2489, Fax: 1-810-391-6755 is researching PEPLINSKI, BOJAN, EFTA, GINTER family names in Winona and Lexington, MN to Greenbush, MN to St. Phillips, MT.

NEW MEMBERS: The following is a listing of recent new members and their areas of research.

Bernardine Bryniarski, 1366 Almond Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108 is researching SMIEJA, BRYNIARSKI, WALEK (variant spellings) family names in Poland and in the U.S. and Canada.

Donald F. Cieminski, 2801 Dean Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55416 is researching CIEMINSKI, ARNOLDY, ROLBIECKI, MAUS family names from the Gdansk area in Poland.

Barbara Jean House (Sypniewski), 388 La Grant Rd, Twining MI 48766 is researching SYPNIEWSKI, KRYSZTOF/CHRISTOF, KOLP, PANASIUK, KABALA, CUDAK, HUMENIUK family names in Galicia -- some in Radgozcz and Tarnow -- and in Detroit, Michigan.

Continued on page 12

SOME RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH ON POLISH-AMERICAN GENEALOGY (CONTINUED)

compiled by Edward R. Brandt for the
Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota
as revised April 28, 1995

Genealogy Books on Non-Polish Minorities

- 1.@ *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy* (Bergenfield, NJ/Teaneck, NJ)
- 2.@ Brandt, Bruce, & Edward Reimer Brandt (comps.), *Where to Look for Hard-to-Find German-Speaking Ancestors in Eastern Europe: Index to 19,720 Surnames in 13 Books, with Historical Background on Each Settlement*, 2nd. ed. (Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1993) -- strong on Galicia
- 3.@ Brandt, Edward R., et al, *Germanic Genealogy: a Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns*, (St. Paul: Germanic Genealogy Society, 1995)
- 4.* Brandt, Edward Reimer, *Where Once They Toiled: A Visit to the Former Mennonite Homelands in the Vistula River Region* (Elverson, PA: Mennonite Family History, 1992)
- 5.* Duly, William, *The Rusins of Minnesota* (Minneapolis: Rusin Association, 1993)
6. Fleury, Sera Allen, *Overcoming Obstacles to Eastern European Research* (Closson Press, 1935 Sampson Dr., Apollo, PA 15613-9238; 1990) -- strong on Orthodox Church and Ukrainians
- 7.* Goman, John D., *Galician-Rusins on the Iron Range* (Available from Very Rev. Peter Pritzka, 3927 East 8th St., Hibbing, MN 55746-3127)
8. Kneifel, Eduard, *Die Pastoren der Evangelisch-Augsburgischen Kirche in Polen* (list of Polish and German Lutheran parishes in Poland, mostly in 1910, some later)
9. Kubijovyc, Wolodymyr, *Ethnic Groups of Southwestern Ukraine (Halyçyna-Galicia)* (Distribution rights: Otto Harrassowitz, Wiesbaden Germany; 1983)
10. Lattermann, Alfred, *Einführung in die deutsche Sippenforschung in Polen und den preussischen Osten*, 2nd ed. (1938)
11. Lenius, Brian, "The Zabuzanski Collection: New Information on Jewish, Lutheran, Mennonite and Catholic Records in Galicia and Volhynia," in *East European Genealogist* (December 1992)
- 12.@ Mokotoff, Gary & Sallyann Amdur Sack, *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust* (Avotaynu, 155 N. Washington Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621; 1991)
- 13.@ Rottenberg, Dan, *Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986)
14. Schneider, Ludwig, *Das Kolonisationswerk Josefs II. in Galizien* (Leipzig: Verlag von S. Hirzel for Historische Gesellschaft für Posen, Poznań, 1939; recently reprinted by Helmut Scherer Verlag, Berlin)
15. Stumpp, Karl, *The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 to 1862* (Lincoln, NE: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1982) -- many of these migrants, especially to the Black Sea area, left what had been Polish territory before the partition of Poland
16. Wilhelm, Franz, & Josef Kallbrunner, *Quellen zur deutschen Siedlungsgeschichte in Südosteuropa* (Munich: Verlag von Ernst Reinhardt, 1938) -- lists German migrants to Galicia in the 1780s
17. Wuschke, Ewald (comp.), *Protestant Church Records on Microfilm for the Former Congress Poland (1815-1915) and Volhynia* (Author, 3492 West 39th Ave., Vancouver, BC V6N 3A2, Canada; 1992)

* Indicates item is in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

@ Indicates item is in the MGS Library but not in the Polish Collection.

Continued next issue.



Peplinski Reunion, Continued from page 1

p.m. meal for over 900, and an evening of entertainment and dancing. During the day one could also visit displays of elaborate family genealogies that some had prepared. It was truly a pleasure to meet others bitten by the genealogy bug. It seems many had come to the reunion hoping to learn more about their own family and to connect with newly discovered relatives. I have been told by a dear Gorale friend, "We Gorales always talk about home, but you Kaszubi seem to be silent about the towns of your origin." It has been suggested that this attitude may in part be the result of the Kaszubi trying to move away from attempts at Germanization and from influences of Protestant Lutheranism to which many other regions of Poland were not subjected. The lack of awareness this barrier of silence has caused seems to be what confronts us third, fourth and fifth generation Kaszubi. It is fun meeting others and hearing immigrant tales passed down through the generations. This can help making family connections, but nevertheless, there is no substitute for one's own perseverance in pouring over old records.

I learned a few Kaszubi tunes to play on my Polish bagpipes at the reunion. I was happy that some of the elders recognized a couple of the melodies, but in reality the Polish culture and language in Ontario is more reflective of the Kaszuby area of Poland of 125 years ago than what has evolved there today.

At the reunion I met descendants of Leo, a brother of my ancestor Paul Peplinski, who settled in Leelanau County, Michigan. When I returned home I received a letter which helped me determine that an older (by 12 years) Paul Peplinski, who also settled in Leelanau County, was a first cousin to my ancestor. This older Paul Peplinski had a brother who settled in Browerville, Minnesota, and a sister who settled in Winona. The mother of these three cousins is buried in Winona. Finally, I have found Minnesota connections that I can document.

The large extended family reunion in Barry's Bay, Ontario, was a most rewarding experience. I hope there will be another before too long.

Consider giving gift memberships this holiday season.

Membership Application

Individual / Family - \$10.00 Sponsor - \$25.00 New Renewal
 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 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, continued from page 9

Hubert Kukowski, 2424 So. 76 St., Milwaukee, WI, 53219 is researching KUKOWSKI, STOLTMAN, LUKASZEWSKI family names in Lipusz, Poland and in Pine Creek, WI and Winona, MN.

Raymond D. Kush, 3404 Hennepin Ave So, Minneapolis, MN 55408 is researching KUSH/KUS, NIEMIEC, POLAK, FURMAN, RYBA, BYCEK, FILUS, SOKULSKI, MEZYK, FIGURA, GOGOLA, BOCHENEK family names in Galicia in Poland, in the Rhineland and Baden in Germany, and in Chicago, Illinois.

Joan Ella McGill, 210 Grand, Winona, MN, 55987 is researching KUKOWSKI and STOLTMAN family names in Lipusz, Poland.

K. A. Matelski, PO Box 49515, Colorado Springs, CO, 80949-9515 is a new member.

Elaine Mruz-Haag, 2331 131st Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448 is researching MRUZ, SYDEJKO, ROZANSKI, BRZEZINSKI/BREZINSKI/BERZINSKI family names in the Lebenka/Lyubenka,

Belsky, Uezd, Sedetsk area in Poland, and in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York.

Jean Petersen, 6100 Monroe St, Sylvania, OH, 43560 is researching in Swidnica (formerly Konigszef, Germany), Wroclaw, Poland.

Karen Ploski, 2836 Coolidge St NE is researching in North Central Poland, in West and East Prussia, in the Ruhr Valley in Germany and in Chicago, Illinois.

Robert J. Prokott, 820 - 50 1/2 Av NE is researching PROKOTT, GALLUS, KLISCH, CZECH, SMIEJA, FILLA, KACZMAREK, EGGERT family names. The first six names above came from Silesia, Kaczmarek from Poznan area and Eggert from Gdansk. The European locations of origin include Stare Siolkowice, Dobrzen Wielki and Falkowice (all in Silesia) with settlement in Morrison County and McLeod County (Silver Lake) in Minnesota.

John Radzilowski, 1111 N Hamline, #17, St. Paul, MN, 55108 is a new member.

Edward Safarz, 220 18th Ave N, South St. Paul, MN 55075 is a new member.

Jane Sathoff, 2441 Chelsea Road, Palos

Verdes Estates, CA 90274 is researching DAMBOWY, KOSTYROK, ZULAWSKI, PLOMBON family names in Falkowitz, Silesia, Poland and in Morrison and Benton counties in Minnesota.

John M. Seredinski, 5987 Hwy 29, Floodwood, MN 55736 is a new member.

Terry Sibbald, 2310 Gall Ave #2, Maplewood, MN, 55109 is researching LANGNER, HERMAN (HERMANZA), SOCHAR, SMOLLA, HENNEK, GALLUS family names in Silesia in and in Holdingford, Stearns County, Minnesota.

Donald L. Susalla, 8492 Ridge Rd, Goodrich, MI 48438-9483 is researching the SASALA/SUSALLA family name in Silesia and in Parisville, Paris Township, Huron County, Michigan.

Sharon Walker, 1512 Euclid Ave, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7E 2W6 is researching ZIELBERT and WIESCHNESKI family names in Poland and descendants in Ontario, Minnesota, Oregon, California and Wisconsin.

Sophia D. Weber, 155 W. 96th St - Apt 3-I, Bloomington, MN, 55420 is researching GZOWSKI, KALISZ, CATUS family names in Poland.

Minnesota Genealogical Society

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

P.O. Box 16069

St. Paul, MN 55116 - 0069

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
St. Paul, MN
Permit No. 5090

An old Kaszubian Coat of Arms. The griffin is a mythological animal that combines the head and wings of an eagle with the lower body of a lion. It is historically associated with Kaszubian and Pomeranian heraldry.
Source: The Proud Inheritance: Ontario's Kaszuby,



(Ottawa: The Polish Heritage Institute -- Kaszuby, 1991), p. 16. A copy of this item is available in the Polish Collection in the MGS library.