



Proof

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3

WINTER 1995-96

NUMBER 4

**Polish Catholic Churches in Minnesota Series
to Continue with New Ulm Diocese:
Films of Polish Catholic Church Records
of the Diocese of New Ulm now available
at the LDS Family History Center in Crystal**

In the Spring 1994 issue of this newsletter, we began a series of articles which discussed the founding of historically Polish Catholic churches in Minnesota. When Polish pioneers immigrated to Minnesota they tended to settle in ethnic enclaves and often founded churches where they could pray, confess, and hear the word of God preached in their native tongue. Parishes founded by distinct ethnic groups were called "national parishes." This series of articles identifies the Polish national parishes that were established in Minnesota. The series also identifies those "territorial parishes" which contained a significant number of Polish speaking members.

Polish parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis were the focus of our initial three articles. In the Spring 1994 issue we discussed the Polish parishes in St. Paul and vicinity. In Summer 1994 we discussed Polish parishes in Minneapolis. And in Autumn 1994 we discussed Polish parishes in the rural part of the archdiocese. We will continue this series in the next issue of this newsletter by presenting Polish parishes of the Diocese of New Ulm.

When we discussed the Polish churches in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis we noted that microfilm copies of the baptismal, marriage and death records of each parish in the archdiocese were available to researchers at the archdiocesan archives. Unfortunately this is not the case with the parish records of the Diocese of New Ulm. However, microfilm copies of these records are available to researchers through LDS Family History Centers. To prepare for upcoming articles about Polish churches in the New Ulm diocese, we have ordered a number of films through the Family History Center located in Crystal. As a service to our members we have arranged that those films dealing with the Polish parishes of the New Ulm diocese remain on permanent loan at the Crystal facility.

The following films have been ordered and are available for research at Crystal: Film numbers 1705530 and 1705531 include records of **St. Adalbert's Church in Silver Lake**. Numbers 1710897 and 1710898 include records of **St. Joseph's Church in Rosen**. Number 1710900 includes records of **St. Joseph's Church in Holloway**. Numbers 1711138 and 1711269 include records of **SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Taunton**. Numbers 1728358 and 1728360 include records of **SS. Peter and Paul Church in Ivanhoe** and numbers 1718361, 1728378 and 1728379 include records of **St. John Cantius Church in Wilno**. These films are filed with other permanent loan items at the Crystal library and the call numbers include GS prefix letters prior to the film numbers.

You are encouraged to use these films. Indeed, only if these films are used will they be permitted to remain on permanent loan since there is a shortage of storage space at the Crystal LDS library. Staff at the library keep records on how often permanent loan items are used. When using permanent loan items, please do not refile the item yourself, but allow staff to refile and to record that the item has been used.

We wish to thank Fay Dearden whom we contacted to make arrangements for these items to be placed on permanent loan. You may recall Fay's very informative presentation about LDS records at our April 1994 meeting. Fay has always been very helpful to Polish researchers. We wish to also thank Vickie Luker, head of the Crystal LDS Family History Center, for granting her permission for these records to be kept on permanent loan.

In the Spring issue of this newsletter we will discuss Polish churches in Lincoln County and vicinity in the southwestern part of the Diocese of New Ulm. This issue will feature particularly the Polish parishes of **St. John Cantius Church in Wilno** and **SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Taunton**. Anyone wishing to comment on this series of articles or to contribute information about any Polish parish in Minnesota is encouraged to do so. Direct all comments or information to: **Paul Kulas, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316.**

President's Letter

Jak szybko mijaja chwile -- Jak szybko plynie czas! How quickly the moments pass -- How fast the time flies! . . . thus are the words of the Polish traditional song expressing camaraderie and reminding us of the transitoriness of life. The lyrics are poignant and readily apply to us all regardless of our nationality and progenitors. Once again another year is drawing to a close and with it new expectations for a bright future for our society in the coming year.

My congratulations to the newly elected officers and board members: President **Greg Kishel**, Vice-President **Paul Kulas**, Secretary **Margaret Kowalewski**, Treasurer **Barbara Rockman**, Directors **John Pawlak**, **Bob Prokott**, **Dan Nedoroski** and **Bernie Szymczak**. I wish them every success in carrying out their duties in the New Year 1996, which is a leap year, so they will have an additional day in which to do so!

Also, I wish to thank all the current officers and board members for the fine job they did for our society in helping to promote its growth and keep it pulsating with life, vigor and activity. Dziękuję uprzejmie! Thanks for a splendid job! It needs to be pointed out that these individuals donated their valuable time and considerable efforts to keep the societal engine finely tuned and smoothly running. As always, we need more members to volunteer for some of the required tasks to make our work lighter and less burdensome. All we ask is that you approach

us and say: "What can I do to help?"

In addition, I wish to express my gratitude to our guest speakers throughout the past year for sharing with us their knowledge and experiences concerning genealogy and history.

In conclusion, the officers, board members and I want to symbolically share the traditional oplatek/ breaking unleavened bread/ as a sign of peace and goodwill to all and simultaneously extend to you and yours our sincere wishes for a joyous holiday season and good health, prosperity for the New Year 1996! *Wesołych Świąt!*

Walter Kornel Kondy, President



Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

Link found through Missing Branches

Many, many thanks for the glowing writeup of your visit to Polish Canada and the Peplinski Reunion. You have done a great deal to promote tourism in Renfrew County in writing about our area -- it is very much appreciated. I am sending a copy of your article to Marie Burchat who is our Renfrew County Tourist Bureau Rep. and is of Polish descent -- her mother is a Kulas!!

I am writing a piece of news related to your Missing Branches section. Through it I found our missing KATZMARK link in St. Paul, Minnesota. I am thrilled to report that they visited me in late October and we filled in quite a few missing pieces. I never really expected to find them.

Again my heartfelt thanks.

Shirley Mask Connolly, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Our Newsletter in Central Archives of Polonia

The Central Archives of Polonia at Orchard Lake wishes to express its gratitude for your donation of past issues of your society's newsletter. The newsletters are a welcome addition to our collection.

I have enclosed copies of my books and an information sheet about our Archives. Please feel free to use any of the material in future issues.

We thank you for your interest in the growth of the Archives. It is through the efforts of people like yourself that the Archives continues to grow.

May God bless you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Roman Nir, Ph.D., Director
Centralne Archiwum Polonii
The Central Archives of Polonia
Orchard Lake, Michigan

Editor's note: We thank Rev. Nir for his donation of books and for information about The Central Archives of Polonia. An article about the Orchard Lake Schools and about the Central Archives is scheduled to appear in the Spring, 1996 issue of our newsletter. We also plan to review Father Nir's books in our Library Corner -- Book Reviews section. They will then become part of the Polish Collection at the MGS library.

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

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The Bulletin Board

GREG KISHEL'S ARTICLE on page five describes a Polish folk tradition regarding St. Anne's Day that was passed from one generation to the next in his family. Perhaps many of you have had similar traditions and folk sayings perpetuated in your family. In my family I recall the saying "St. Hedwig puts sugar in the carrots" -- a caution not to harvest carrots from your garden until after the Feast of St. Hedwig (October 17). The saying, "What you make on Sunday, you will lose on Monday" was a caution against performing manual labor on the Lord's Day. I'm not sure these were exclusively Polish folk sayings. There is one tradition that continues to the present day at gatherings in my family. To the traditional toast "Na zdrowie" comes the reply "Pij z Bogiem" (Drink with God). I'm wondering if this response is exclusive to my family or is it known in other Polish families? You are encouraged to write an article or a letter to the editor describing Polish folk sayings and traditions that are observed in your family. We will be happy to publish it. *PTK*

KORNEL KONDY'S ARTICLE on pages six and seven describes his family's origins in Galicia and his father's immigration and settlement in Massachusetts in 1901. We encourage all of our members to write the stories of their families origins in Poland and of their immigration and settlement in North America and to submit for publication in this newsletter. This is your newsletter. We want to publish the stories of your research. Your success stories will encourage others in their research. 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*

SHIRLEY MASK CONNOLLY informs us that she found a missing branch of her family through a query placed in our Missing Branches section. Have other members had responses to queries that were published in this newsletter? We won't know unless you tell us. Write a letter to the editor about any successes that you may have had. We encourage all members to submit queries for publication. *PTK*

The writings of two early members of the **POLANIE CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS** were recently examined in Polish American Studies. "To You, I Now Have Something of My

Very Own To Say: Monica Krawczyk, Victoria Janda and the Voices of the Ethnic Woman Writer" by Thomas S. Gladsky was published in the Spring, 1995 issue. *PTK*

POLISH ROOTS IN CARLTON COUNTY: A Brief History of the Polish People in the Carlton County Area is a 15 minute videotape which describes the settlement and early history of Poles who settled in Pine and Carlton counties in and around the towns of Sturgeon Lake, Cloquet, Moose Lake and Willow River. The tape is available through the **Carlton County Historical Society, 406 Cloquet Ave., Cloquet, MN 55720** for \$7 plus postage and handling. *Excerpted from an article by John Radzilowski in Pol-Am, November, 1995, p.3.*

A comprehensive article by Frances Edstrom about **POLISH HISTORY IN WINONA** and about St. Stanislaus Kostka parish appeared in the October 4, 1995 issue of the Winona Post. *MK*

Interested in the genealogy material available at the **POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA LIBRARY**? A new listing of books, newspapers, heraldry and family histories is now available. If you would like a copy, send a self-addressed #10, legal sized, stamped envelope to: **Barbara Bieszczat, 540 Biesterfield #217, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007**. *From: Bulletin of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, Fall, 1995, p. 2.*

GIFTS RECEIVED FOR THE LIBRARY: Historia Polski (History of Poland) by Oskar Halecki donated by Kornel Kondy. Index to the Obituaries and Death Notices Appearing in the Dziennik Chicagoski (five volumes covering the following dates: 1890-1899, 1900-1909, 1910-1919, 1920-1929), donated by Stanley Schmidt. Stulecie Polskiego Seminarium w Orchard Lake w Stanach Zjednoczonych 1885-1985 (Centennial History of the Orchard Lake School--Polish Seminary 1885-1985), Zrodla Do Historii Polonii (Sources for the History of Polish-Americans), Szkice Z Dziejow Polonii (Historical Sketches of the Polonia), all by Rev. Roman Nir and a gift from the author. Our thanks to all who contributed. Watch for the addition of these and other new items to the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. *PTK*

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. The following PGS-MN officers are assigned for duty on Polish night at the library -- Jan. 11: Dan Nedoroski, Feb. 8: Ed Brandt, March 14: Paul Kulas. 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

Louise Graham, 11402-91 A Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 3K3 is researching PUCHNIAK, HORODYSKA, ZADOROZNA, LEWIENIEC family names in Janow and Budzanow now in Ukraine. Grandparents were married at Janow in January, 1900. Would Salt Lake have filmed the records of this parish? Grandparents immigrated to Winnipeg, Manitoba landing at Quebec City in 1904 or 1906. Is there a genealogy group in Canada researching Polish roots?

Roanld L. Kiedrowski, 62 Antiles Place, Napa, CA 94558, e-mail: KIEDSKI@AOL.COM. seeks any information concerning ancestry of KIEDROWSKI (Plotowo) and KRZEBETKOWSKI (Gdańsk) families in Poland. Descendants settled in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Jozef Pęksyk, ul. Kochanowskiego 42, 83-000 Pruszcz Gd., Poland, sent us the following inquiry: "Since several years I am interesting in my roots -- surname PEXYC/PEXYK, which in late years was deformed by folk dialectes, translating on Russian and by German in Austrian -- Galician. I know so some owners of my surname leaved Poland under Russian and Galicia under Austrian occupation before 1914 year and next Free Poland for USA. I would like kindly ask you for information if in computer lists of names being in your possession is noted my name as follows: PANKSI/Y/K, PANKSICK, PANXICK, PANSIK, PANSICK, PANKSZI/C/K, PANKSZI/Y/C, PANKSHICK, PANKSCHICK, PEKRZI/C/K, PEKRZY/C/K, PENKRZICK, PENKRZI/C/K, PENKRZY/C/K, PEKSI/C/K, PEKSY/C/K, PENKSI/C/K, PENKSI/C/K, PENKSHICK, PENKSI/C/K, PENKSY/C/K, PENKSI/C/K, PENXICK, PESI/Y/K, PENSI/Y/K, PENSICK, PENZIK, PENZICK, PAKCYK, PEKCI/Y/K, PEKCI/Y/C, PENKCI/Y/K, PENKACIK, PEKSI/Y/K, PEKSI/C/K, PEKSY/C/K, PEXY/C/K, PEXICK, PIEGRZI/C/K, PIEGRZY/C/K, PIEGZIK, PINKSIK, PINKSICK, PINXICK, PIXICK. I will be very glad to receive any information about above mentioned names being in your documentation. I am seaman, but individuals searches of my family roots are my hobby only. I received your address only from my freind of England so I would like to receive from you some more information about your work and materials you have for genealogical searches. In waiting for answer. Yours Faithfully, Józef Pęksyk"

Rob Sobkowiak, 3523 University, #26A, Des Moines, IA 50311-2318, e-mail: RMikels@aol.com seeks information concerning SOBKOWIAK/SOBKOWIAK relations, JOE WAGNER and his mother CAROL, and about the GAWLISTA family in Little Falls, Minnesota. His research indicates that great-grandfather, (JACOB SOBKOWIAK b. 1884), his siblings (Mary, Michael and Simon) and his parents (Simon and Barbara) settled in Little Falls between 1885 and 1890, emigrating from Lubonskie Oledry, Poland. MARY SOBKOWIAK married ALEX TOMCHESKI and two daughters were born in Little Falls -- Rose Frances (b. 22 Aug. 1891) and Anna (b. 28 May 1893). Michael met his wife Carol in Little Falls and they had one son -- JOE WAGNER -- who for some reason, didn't take the family name. Entire family, except for Michael and family moved to Oregon City, Oregon between 1893 and 1908. Jacob met MARY GAWLISTA in Little Falls but were married in Oregon City and their first children were born there. The Tomcheski family stayed in Oregon City while the Sobkowiak family moved to Bruce, Wisconsin in about 1915. Will exchange information about Sobkowiak ancestry

for information about Minnesota relatives.

Bruno C. Syzdek, 4625 Rip Van Winkle Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102-5768, Phone: 702-876-3861 seeks parents/ancestors/siblings and their location in Poland and in the United States of his grandfather WOJCIECH (ALBERT) SYZDEK, born 17 February 1858, died 24 June 1943. Albert married MARYANNA BIELAMOWICZ whose parents were ANTHONY BIELAMOWICZ and JUSTINA PAPCZAK. All were probably from or near Baczal Dolny, west of Jaslo, Galicia, Austria/Poland. ALBERT and MARYANNA SYZDEK emigrated with sons Michael and Henry in 1885 to Bremond, Texas. Willing to share information.

Bruno C. Syzdek, 4625 Rip Van Winkle Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102-5768, Phone 702-876-3861 seeks parents/ancestors/siblings and their location in Poland and USA of his grandfather VINCENT KAPCHINSKI (KAPCINSKI, KAPZYNSKI), born 19 July 1851 and died 2 February 1933. Vincent married ELLEA (HELEN) PUTZ (PUC) who was born on 24 May 1851. Both Vincent and Helen emigrated in 1870 from Prussia/Poland. They were married in Texas and settled in Bryan, Brazos, Texas. Helen had a brother JACOB PUTZ and a sister JANIE (ANNIE?) PUTZ BUKOWSKI in Texas. Willing to share information.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following new members.

Fred Burke, 3501 34th Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Elsa M. Hays, 521 Shenango Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010-1658.

Julia Schmolke, 506 W. Laurel, Stillwater, MN 55082 is researching BEKA, LAQUA, MEYA, SCHMOLKE, MISCHKE, HORTSCH, MENZLER family names in Upper Silesia and in Morrison County, Minnesota.

Othelia Elizabeth Todd, 2015 Central Ave NE, Apt 317, Minneapolis, MN 55418-2819 is researching VICTORIA BOROWA PIERGIES, her parents ANNA SITARZ and MICHAEL BOROWY and also her grandmother, REGINA CEREMUGA in the Krakow and Bielsko-Biala areas of Poland and in Minneapolis and Nebraska.

RENEWED MEMBERS: The following are renewed members who indicated more complete areas of research on their renewal forms than has been previously published.

Millicent Kriske, 2541 Town Road 269, International Falls, MN 56649-8753 is researching TOBOLA, PORNOGORSKI family names from Poznan and Krakow.

John T. Pawlak, Box 473, North Branch, MN 55056 is researching SKORUPSKA, ORSELOWSKI family names from Lukov in the Trzebieszow area and PAWLAK family name from Jaraczew in the Poznan area.

Chuck Ponagai, 34442 Munger, Livonia, MI is researching TARGOS, TARGOSZ, PONAGAJBA family names in Poland and in Minnesota and Michigan.

Charles Wysocki, 362 Farm to Market Rd. Clifton Park, NY 12065-2604 is researching WYSOCKI, KALINOWSKI, CYPERAK family names from Augustow, Poland.

LITTLE RIPPLES THROUGH TIME

by Greg Kishel

One of the most intriguing rewards of genealogy and family history is the discovery of what I call "little ripples through time"--that is, the persistence of names and customs down a family lineage, over many decades, often over the ocean and across the divides of changed language and national allegiance. One of their most enigmatic aspects is that these survivals often do not seem to be the result of a conscious attempt at perpetuating a tradition, at least beyond the memory of a generation or two. Nonetheless, they endure, often for more than a century.

I have found several little ripples through time during my own genealogical researches. It was somehow poignant to discover that "Francis," the middle name that I took from my father (and that had been the cause of so much teasing from other kids during my Iron Range childhood), had been borne by at least one male member of at least five generations of the Kishel/Kisielewski family, going back to its days in the *pojezierze mazurskie* (Mazurian lake country) of the 1820s. It was also intriguing to find antecedents for my family's love of the North Woods on both sides of the family--a great-grandfather on my mother's (German-Irish) side of the family, who had been a timber cruiser in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the 1870s, and a possible three-times-great-grandfather, Michał Kisielewski, who had been a governmental forester (*strażnik lasów rządowy*) in the Rajgród-Bargłów region of Mazuria some 150 years ago.

This past summer I discovered another such reverberation through time, in a little more direct manner. My daughter Emily and I spent the month of July in Poland, participating in a UNESCO-funded English-language summer camp in the beautiful old city of Toruń. We made many warm friendships with the Polish students and staff members, had remarkable experiences, and came home feeling very much like we'd left a little part of ourselves behind in Poland.

The third week of July was the final week of the camp session. I was chatting with Piotr Pokójski, the Polish staff member who translated for the American teachers who were not fluent in Polish. I remarked that the change in the weather from the previous week's muggy spell had been a welcome one.

Said Piotr: "Yes, nights now will be starting to get much cooler."

Somehow this observation triggered something deeper than rationality in me; I did not even think before saying: "Yeah, St. Anne's Day, right?"

Piotr started a bit and said, "Yes, how did you know?"

How I knew, went back to that Iron Range childhood of mine. It was a hallmark of the last week of July, virtually every year, that both my grandfather and my father remarked that summer in northeastern Minnesota was over after St. Anne's Day, July 26, because the time of warm nights was over and the growth in the gardens would start to slow. Though Grandpa had been born in the Russian Partition of Poland in 1885, and had immigrated to Minnesota at age 14, we kids never thought that this adage was anything but a creation of the small Polish-American community on the Range, a reaction to the uniquely harsh climatic conditions they found there when they came to the Land of Opportunity. When quizzed as to its origin, my father still says that it was just something that his parents and grandparents used to say.

However, as Piotr then told me, the expression is an old one still used in Poland. Its origin, then, went back to the different, but in this respect comparable, conditions in my Polish forebears' homeland on the Great North European Plain. Minnesotans living south of Hinckley know that the expression can't be a truism for them--we certainly spend plenty of nights sweltering in August, and sometimes on into mid-September. However, because the platitude fit the more boreal conditions where I grew up, it survived into the 1960s--outlasting the immigrant generation that brought it with its first-hand experience of life in the culture of the old country, and outliving my family's memory of its origin!

And that's why I find these little ripples through time so fascinating--in their small way, they underline the mystery of our human experience, and those deep organic ties with the past that we retain whether we realize it or not.



St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Illustration from: *Saint Andrew Daily Missal* (Saint Paul, Minnesota: The E. M. Lohmann Co., 1940), p. 817.

WHERE MY PATERNAL ROOTS ARE

by **Walter Kornel Kondy**

My father, Franciszek KONDEJ, the son of Wojciech KONDEJ and Zofia KRÓL, was born on 25 January 1881 in the village of Ustrobna. Situated on the left bank of the Wisłok River, it is about 8 kilometers northwest of the city of Krosno, which became a petroleum center for Poland in the mid-19th century. Presently Ustrobna is practically a suburb of Krosno, which is the provincial seat of Województwo Krośnieńskie in southern Poland. The terrain is moderately hilly and becomes increasingly mountainous as one moves southward to the Tatra Mountains in the direction of Slovakia. Ustrobna borders on three villages: Bajdy on the north, Potok on the south and Jaszczew on the west. To the east close by lies Odrzykoń, which contains the ruins of a castle built in the 14th century in the Royal Hills. This castle was the inspiration for the writer Seweryn Goszczyński's work "Zańek Kaniowski" (Castle at Kaniów) and quite possibly was the setting for Aleksander Fredro's (1793-1876) famous play "Zemsta" (Vengeance) with its rhymed lines in trochaic tetrameter. Fredro is regarded as the Polish Molière.

At the outset, Ustrobna belonged to the parish church in Szebnie, a charming village clustered atop a hill on the road leading to Jasło. This picturesque parish church, Saint Martin's, stands majestically at the crossroad in Szebnie and was built of European larch wood in the year 1606. Remarkably this structure still stands, at least it did when I was there a couple of years ago, and was neither destroyed by fire or warfare. Like many of the quaint old wooden churches in the Beskidy region, it has withstood the test of time. Atop its roof is an exquisite filigree Byzantine cross. St. Martin's is surrounded by a churchyard, where stately, old chestnut trees still bloom and provide shade and respite from the hot summer sun as well as help to exude the pleasant scent of aged moss that grows around them. The churchyard is enclosed by a low wooden fence with a gate. Unlike the typical English churchyards we are accustomed to, this one contains no graves.

Directly across the road from it, there is a tidy graveyard with typical iron crosses, tombstones (some containing pictures of the deceased) and a small

attractive chapel. The old cemetery is enclosed by a wrought iron fence with a gate.

Szebnie is mentioned in numerous early manuscripts, in particular, the Kodex Tyniecki (Tyniec Codex) of the well-known Tyniec monastery. It appears in various forms as SEBNA and SZEBNA in the late 13th century and even earlier in a Kardynał Idzi (Cardinal Giles) document. Just exactly when St. Martin's parish was founded is exiguous. None the less, it was already known to be in existence in the year 1326. In earlier times the following parishes belonged to the Szebnie parish church: Bajdy, Białkówka, Budzin, Chrzastówka, Jaszczew (the home of the poetess Maria Konopnicka (1842-1910), now a museum), Moderówka, Niepla, Ustrobna and Zimnowoda. Then as now Szebnie belongs to the Przemyśl diocese and the Jasło deanery.

The Roman Catholic Church in Ustrobna, my father's home town, is of comparatively recent origin. It was



Author's parents, Frank and Aniela, on their wedding day in Salem, Massachusetts in 1905.



Visiting in Ustrobnia in September, 1993. From left to right Author, Danuta Kondej, Stasia Lidwin and Marian Kondej.

One surprising thing I discovered about my paternal ancestors was the preponderance of redheads in the KONDEJ clan. Although I was aware that my Aunt Pola had brilliant red hair when she came to visit us from her home in the Berkshires, as a child for some unknown reason, I'd always assumed it was tinted. True, one of her grandchildren from Holyoke was also a bright "carrot top" but then I thought it was because her father was of Irish descent. However, this legacy was made manifest when I got acquainted with other descendants on the clan in Poland, where my paternal family roots are buried deep in sentiment.

funded and constructed of brick in 1877 due largely to the efforts of Henryk Zaręba Skrzyński, who curiously enough, became its first pastor. The church was dedicated to and bears the name Saint John Kanty. It has a sizable parsonage attached and the circular drive leading to it is attractively landscaped with shrubs and trees, especially yew, which I observed nowhere else in this area. My father was baptized in St. John's by Rev. Franciszek Nicotek in 1881. He was a member of this church until he sailed from Bremen, Germany on the SS Neckar, at age 20, to emigrate to America. He met my mother, Aniela CYRAN, in Salem, Massachusetts where they married on 9 February 1905. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Lynn, a city on the Atlantic shore north of Boston, where they settled and reared six children.

The old farmhouse with its tin roof, a luxury in those days, where my father was born still stands, but alas is no longer lived in. It now serves as storage for farm equipment. The KONDEJS, descendants of my father's only brother, now reside in a newer, more modern, two-storied house in front of it with a commanding view of the local countryside. To get to it, one must drive off the main highway onto an unpaved winding country road, dotted with neat farmer's cottages, and go until you reach the very end.

Four principle families, of which the KONDEJS are one, own the largest parcels of arable land in Ustrobnia. I was given a walking tour in which the boundaries were pointed out to me. I pondered on my fate: I could have easily wound up here rather than in Minnesota!



Map of the vicinity of Kosno. Ustrobnia is indicated by arrow.

LIBRARY CORNER

Polish Localities in the Russian Partition and Their Parish Affiliations

Vol. I: Białystok, Drohiczyn, Łomża, Płock Dioceses



compiled by

Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman

LANGUAGE AND LINEAGE PRESS

Polish Localities in the Russian Partition and Their Parish Affiliations, Vol. I: Białystok, Drohiczyn, Łomża, and Płock Dioceses, compiled by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman (New Milford, Connecticut: Language and Lineage Press, 1994). Available from William F. Hoffman, 60 Old Northville Road, New Milford, CT 06776-2245, for \$15.00, postpaid; a copy is in the PGS-MN collection at the MGS Library in St. Paul.

Reviewed by Greg Kishel.

In the advertising that announced the release of this volume, authors Shea and Hoffman warned that its content was not exactly riveting reading. This is true. However, if your Polish ancestry originated in the area covered by this genealogical gazetteer (or by one of its planned companion volumes), perusing it might excite you a little.

Gazetteers, of course, are compendia of geographical

information. General gazetteers summarize data on the geological features, population, physical development, industry, and economy of localities. (Many Polish-American family historians are familiar with *Słownik Geograficzny Królestwo Polskiego i innych Krajów Słowiańskich*, the foremost gazetteer of the Polish lands of the nineteenth century, reviewed in the *PGS-MN Newsletter*, vol. 2, no. 2 (Summer, 1994).) Genealogical gazetteers are generally of more limited scope, and are directed toward identifying regional sources of information relevant to family history for specific locales.

With this volume, the authors have undertaken to catalogue the parish affiliation for every town and village in the Russian Partition of Poland. This is a daunting task. As we all know, virtually every feudal manor in early-modern Poland took on a village name, most of which survive to this day. Every collection of peasants', artisans', and laborers' huts did likewise, as the rural economy expanded and became more modern. Finally, our ancestors were not particularly fussy about replicating the same name, sometimes five or six times, and often in very close proximity to the original village. At least from a browser's perspective, however, the authors have made a fine start. Some 141 pages of this book consist of exacting tables of village names, the Roman Catholic parishes with which they were affiliated, and the Roman Catholic dioceses in which they were located. The underlying research must have been very time-consuming, but it has yielded literally thousands of connections.

The value of these connections to us lies at a very early stage in genealogical research, and often a very frustrating one. From such disparate sources as obituaries, letters, passports, or American church records, we may have the name of a village, or a variant spelling of such a name, tortured by a scrivener not conversant with Polish phonetics, or transliterated (and greatly altered!) through Russian or Ukrainian back into a Polish or English lexicon. We may even know from a grandparent's memory that this place was in "the Russian part of Poland." Beyond that, we may have no idea where in present-day Poland this place lies, or where its vital records are located. Compilations like this one can help us make this connection, so we can take the next step--research into LDS microfilms, or inquiry to diocesan archives or parish priests in Poland.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

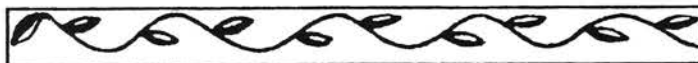
In introductory materials, the authors explain their system for making educated guesses at the accurate spelling of locality names that just don't "look Polish," because they were not transcribed by native speakers. They explain the system of transliteration into Cyrillic characters that was used for Russian imperial record-keeping in Polish lands after the mid-1860s, and include tables to guide the reader into transliterating back from Cyrillic print and handwriting. In passing, they illustrate the historical dimension of their problem, by noting how the boundaries, diocesan affiliations, and even the very existence of parishes were affected by political and economic change. They include a variety of clear, relatively detailed maps to enable the reader to place diocesan boundaries and parish locations into context with one another.

Thus far, the authors have covered four dioceses, those from that portion of the Russian Partition that is in the far northeastern part of present-day Poland. (As if to underline the need to consider the impact of change over time, they acknowledge that the diocesan affiliations in their tables may no longer be accurate, due to a boundary reform effected by the Catholic Church after the research for this volume was completed!) In succeeding volumes, they will cover the balance of the Russian Partition that lies within the current boundaries of Poland.

It's difficult to come up with any serious criticism of work as straightforward and comprehensive as this volume represents. It is a groundbreaking aid to research in the Russian Partition. The only real shortcoming lies where the tables contain multiple entries for what is obviously one-and-the-same village. As the authors note, this is required where a village's parish affiliation changed, with the alteration of boundaries or the creation of new parishes. Unfortunately, the entries do not reveal the year in which the affiliation changed. This, of course, can result in substantial duplication of effort, in the search for a specific record that could repose in two or more parishes. In defense of the authors, of course, one must acknowledge that this would have required a side-trip into even more painstaking research in church history, to be applied to only a handful of their entries. Even then, the problem might not have been prevented--one could easily envision the forebears of stubborn Polish-Americans bringing their children to the "old church" for baptism for a few years after the change.

(Your reviewer was sensitized to this issue over a year before the publication of this book; a thorough search of the birth records of the parish of Barglow Koscielny, the same one that in 1937 had produced a birth certificate for his paternal grandfather, revealed no entry for the birth of his great-grandfather in the nearby hamlet of Woznawies in the 1850s. That all-important first verified European connection was delayed for six months, until the idea of a nineteenth-century change in parish boundaries first dawned. Sure enough, there it was, in the records for the parish of Rajgrad--the next one down the road. And sure enough, Woznawies has two entries in Shea and Hoffman's handiwork.)

In the last instance, Jonathan Shea and Fred Hoffman deserve a large round of thanks for making this valuable information available to us in an accessible, inexpensive format. *Zyczymy nim szczescia* for the completion of the Project!



EAST EUROPEAN GUIDE LISTS POLISH GENEALOGISTS AND TRANSLATORS

The Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) has now published the second edition of its *Resource Guide to East European Genealogy*.

For people who want to know where they can find a professional who will research the records for them, the answer can be found in this guide. It lists two credentialed Polish-American genealogists, as well as numerous others who know languages, such as Latin, German and Russian, in which the records of ancestors from Poland might have been kept. There is a much larger number of translators, including people who are fluent in almost every European language.

FEEFHS members get a copy of the latest edition of the *Resource Guide* free when they join FEEFHS. Otherwise, it costs \$5. Ed Brandt has a modest supply available. Alternatively, you can order it from the editor, John D. Movius, P.O. Box 4327, Davis, CA 95617-4327. A copy of this guide is available in the FEEFHS notebook in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

Submitted by Ed Brandt

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

Books on Polish-Americans and Immigration

1. Bobinska, Celina and Andrzej Pilch (eds.), *Employment-Seeking Emigration of the Poles World-Wide*, trans. by Danuta E. Zukowska (Cracow: Panstowowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1975)
- * 2. Bukowczyk, John J., *And My Children Did Not Know Me: A History of the Polish-Americans* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1987)
- * 3. Golembiewski, Thomas E. (comp.), *Index to Polish American Family Biographies Found in (Parish Jubilee Books)* (Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1982)
4. Greene, Victor R., *The Rise of Polish and Lithuanian Ethnic Consciousness in America, 1860-1910* (Madison, 1975)
5. Haiman, Miecislau, *Polish Past in America, 1608-1865* (Chicago: Polish Museum of America, 1974)
- * 6. Hill, Virginia Felchak, *Polish Emigrants to Texas: The Second Wave* (Houston: Polish Genealogical Society of Texas, 1991)
- * 7. Hollowak, Thomas L. (intro.), *Polish Directory for the City of Chicago, 1903* (Chicago Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1981)
8. Kuniczak, W. S., *My Name is Million: An Illustrated History of the Poles in America* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1978)
- * 9. Lerski, Jerzy Jan, *A Polish Chapter in Jacksonian America: The United States and the Polish Exodus of 1831* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1958)
10. Lopata, Helena Znaniacka, *Polish Americans* (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, June 1993)
- @ 11. Lopata, Helena Znaniacki, *Polish Americans: Status Competition in an Ethnic Community* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1976)
- * 12. Renkiewicz, Frank (ed. & comp.), *The Poles in America, 1608-1972* (Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana Publications, 1973)
13. Renkiewicz, Frank (ed.), *The Polish Presence in Canada and America* (Toronto: The Multicultural Historical Society of Ontario, 1982)
14. Soroka, Wacław W., *Polish Immigration to the United States* (Stevens Point: University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 1977)
15. Swastek, Rev. Joseph, "Polish Americans," in Francis J. Brown and Joseph S. Roucek (eds.), *One America*, 3rd ed. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1952)
16. Thernstrom, Stephan, et al (ed.), *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 1980)

17. Wyrwal, Joseph A., *America's Polish Heritage* (Detroit: Endurance Press, 1961)
18. Wyrwal, Joseph A., *Behold! The Polish-Americans* (Detroit: Endurance Press, 1977)
- @ 19. Wyrwal, Joseph A., *The Poles in America* (Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 1969)

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

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

Notice! Item #8 under the heading Genealogy Books on Non-Polish Minorities in the listing in the last issue -- Kneifel, Eduard, *Die Pastoren der Evangelisch-Augsburgischen Kirche in Polen* -- should be indicated to be in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. It can be found under its English title -- *List of Congregations of the Evangelical-Augsburg Church in Poland -- 1910-1939-1991* published by the Polish Genealogical Society of America.



FEEFHS CONVENTION, JUNE 1996

The convention of the Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) in Minneapolis on June 9-12 will include many presentations of interest to Polish-American researchers. The convention will be held at the Thunderbird Hotel and Convention Center, 2201 East 78 St. (at the 24th St. exit of I-494).

Jan Steven Zaleski, A.G., editor of *The Eaglet*, the journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, will speak on "Overcoming the Geographic Obstacles to Polish research" at the luncheon on Monday, June 10.

Other talks by Polish-American experts include the following:

- (1) Stanley Brescoll, Jr., Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, "Polish-American Research in the United States"
- (2) John Radzilowski, "The Poles in Minnesota and the Dakotas," a topic closely related to his doctoral studies
- (3) Adeline M. Sopa, Polish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin, "Kaszuby and the Kaszubes"
- (4) Adeline M. Sopa, "Polish Settlements in Wisconsin"
- (5) Jan Steven Zaleski, A.G., "Following the Paper Trail to Your Ancestral Village in Central or Eastern Europe"
- (6) Jan Steven Zaleski, A.G., "Finding Records of Ancestors Who Entered the United States from Canada"
- (7) Anna Jaroszynska-Kirchmann, "The Polish Collection at the Immigration History Research Center"

Other presentations of special interest to at least some Polish-American genealogists include:

- (1) Brian J. Lenius, "Multi-Ethnic Research in Galicia"
- (2) Prof. William E. Wright, "The Ethnic Composition of the Austro-Hungarian Empire" (Sunday banquet)
- (3) Thomas Kent Edlund, "The Current Status of Microfilming in the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Baltic Republics and Poland"
- (4) Patricia Lowe, "LDS Resources for East and Central European Research"
- (5) Prof. LaVern J. Rippley, "Genealogical Research in Silesia"
- (6) Dallas R. Lindgren, "Genealogical Resources of the Minnesota Historical Society Research Center"
- (7) Brent Allison, "Cartographic Resources for East and Central European Genealogy"
- (8) Nina Jejel, "The Cyrillic Script Before and After 1917"
- (9) Charles M. Hall, founding president of FEEFHS, "Boundary and Name Changes"
- (10) Mavis Menzies, president of the East European Branch of the Manitoba Genealogical Society, "Canadian Genealogical Resources for East European Research"
- (11) Edward Nelson, Iron Range Resource Center, "The East Europeans on the Iron Range"

There will also be presentations relating to Rusins, Czechs, Slovaks, Germans, Jews and Mennonites, who came directly

or indirectly from Poland, as well as on Lithuania.

Other subjects include a beginners' workshop, computer genealogy, recording your data, and genetic genealogy.

On Wednesday, there will be a browsing tour of four or five local genealogical resource centers.

On Saturday, June 8, there will be a sightseeing tour of East European ethnic neighborhoods, churches and other landmarks in St. Paul and Minneapolis. This will be followed by an ethnic dinner and an evening of ethnic entertainment, with dancers, singers and a folk costume parade featuring at least four ethnic groups.

The registration fee for the convention is \$49, with provisions for one-day registration. Families, including all dependent children, can register for double the amount charged to individuals. College students can register for half-price. There will be an extra charge for each of the three banquets and two luncheons, as well as for the Saturday ethnic tour and evening of entertainment and the Wednesday resource center browsing tour.

For further information, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the convention chair, **Ed Brandt, 13 - 27th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414-3101.**



Membership Application

1996 Membership Renewals Are Now Due

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Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Polish family names you are researching:

Locations in Europe:

Locations in North America:

I consent to the publication of this information in the newsletter. (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.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, **February 10, 1996** at 10:30 am: **Mike Dec**, who recently returned from a trip to Rzeszow, Poland, will speak at the next **PGS-MN** meeting. His topic will be: "**Visiting Relatives and Researching Ancestors in Galicia.**" The meeting will be held at the Northeast Public Library, 2200 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis.

Saturday, **March 2, 1996**: The **Minnesota Genealogical Society's** annual all-day "Branching Out" meeting will be held at the Oak Grove Intermediate School on West 106th St. in Bloomington (1/4 mile west of the 106th St. exit of I-35W). PGS-MN will present three Polish programs: (1) **Paul Kulas** will speak on "**Locating Your Ancestral Parish in Poland,**" (2) **Greg Kishel** will moderate an information sharing session, and (3) **Ed Brandt** will speak on "**American and Polish Resources for Researching Ancestors from Poland.**"

April, 1996: **PGS-MN** will schedule a meeting in April. Specifics will be announced later.

May 18-21, 1996: **THE FIFTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE** of the **United Polish Genealogical**

Societies will take place in Salt Lake City. Representatives from Polish genealogical societies throughout the United States as well as nationally recognized speakers knowledgeable in the field of Polish genealogical research will be present. For more information contact: **UPGS Chairperson, Mrs. Clare Ann Gaouette, 7822 West Wisconsin Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213-3420**, and send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply.

June 9-12, 1996: The international convention of the **Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS)** at the Thunderbird Hotel and Convention Center, 2201 East 78th St., Bloomington, will include at least six presentations by four Polish-American experts. There will be non-genealogical ethnic activities on June 8 and a tour of local genealogical resource centers on June 12. (See article about the convention beginning on page 10.)

August 13-18, 1996: **The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM)** has been chosen to host the 1996 American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC) Convention meeting at the Marquette Hotel in Minneapolis. Further information can be obtained from: **Edward Rajtar, 2239 Stinson Boulevard NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418. Phone: 612-781-6688.**

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Detail of an illuminated manuscript from a page of Queen Bona Sforza's Breviary (15th century).