

SAMPLE



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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NUMBER 2

MINNESOTA TO HOST NATIONAL POLISH CULTURAL CONVENTION

The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM), with the Polanie Club of Minneapolis, will host the 48th annual convention of the American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., August 13-17, 1996.



The convention, which will attract representatives from Polish cultural organizations from throughout the United States, will highlight both modern and traditional Polish and Polish-American culture and artistry. The motto for the 1996 convention is "Poland:

A Tapestry of Sight, Sound, and Color."

Among the featured programs will be the annual Marcella Kochanska Sembrich Memorial Concert, a classical vocal competition open to singers of Polish extraction.

Polish-American literature is also a focus of the convention, with readings by fiction writer Tony Bukoski, Superior, Wis. (author of *Children of Strangers*), poet John Minczeski, St. Paul (author of *Gravity*), and novelist Suzanne Strempek Shea, Palmer, Mass. (author of *Selling the Lite of Heaven*).

Convention goers will also be able to view a modern dance performance choreographed by the Twin Cities' own Matthew Janiszewski; take a boat ride to historic Stillwater and dine at Minnesota's newest Polish restaurant, Club Tara; attend an elegant awards banquet and ball; and visit the many sights and attraction of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Most convention events will be open to the public. To receive registration information, contact **Edward Rajtar, 2239 Stinson Boulevard NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-4038.**

Contributed by John Radzilowski

The 1996 Fall Conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of America "The 3 Faces of Poland," will be held October 25-27, 1996 at the Ramada O'Hare, Chicago



This conference will emphasize the three partitions of Poland in the late 18th and throughout the 19th centuries. The speakers will focus on how historical factors caused by the partitions affect Polish genealogical research. This year there will be a total

of 22 presentations. For more information, contact Conference Chairman, **Dr. Paul S. Valasek, 2643 West 51st Street, Chicago IL 60632**, or write the PGSA at 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago IL 60622.

From Bulletin of the PGSA, Spring 1966.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

In the 1990 census, 238,039 Minnesotans stated that they had at least one Polish ancestor?

9.4 million Americans stated that they had at least one Polish ancestor?

Poles were the ninth largest ethnic group in the United States and the sixth largest in Minnesota?

SO...

Why shouldn't we have the sixth largest ethnic genealogical society in Minnesota?

Contributed by Ed Brandt

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter

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The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. We encourage members to submit items for publication. Deadlines for inclusion of submitted material are Feb 10, May 10, August 10 and Nov 10 respectively. All articles, letters, book reviews, queries, news items, etc. should be sent to:
**Paul Kulas, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008
West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316.**

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President's Letter

by Greg Kishel

Our Society made a strong showing with its activities this spring. We had a nice turnout at the annual "Branching-Out" meeting of the Minnesota Genealogical Society in early March, with nearly forty attendees each at Paul Kulas's and Ed Brandt's educational presentations and over twenty participants during our question-and answer group sessions. Our April meeting featured a trip-via-videotape to the *polski* present--an evocative travelogue--and the Minnesotan past--a fine little production on the Polish immigrant experience in Carlton County. Many of you have responded to the member questionnaire sent with the last issue of the *Newsletter*. Once the results are summarized, the board will review them and we will use your suggestions in our planning. (It's not too late to have your input! If you have not done so, complete a questionnaire and mail it in now!) Finally, work has begun on some outstate outreach meetings that we will stage over the coming year. You'll hear more about them as plans are finalized.

Most excitingly, the Society has taken the first step toward participation in the Information Age of the twenty-first century. As announced in the last issue of the *Newsletter*, our board authorized the formation of a Computer Committee, to explore the ways in which automation and electronic data storage and retrieval can further our basic mission of fostering interest in Polish-American genealogy. The committee has begun to come together; several members have been appointed to it and others who expressed an interest in it on their member questionnaires will be contacted. The Committee's first mission will be to review the home page that we now have on the World Wide Web, thanks to our parent, the Minnesota Genealogical Society. After that, we will establish a program to maintain our home page as a source of current information on us and our activities. The PGS-MN is now on the Internet, and we'll use this valuable tool as best we can.

The Computer Committee's inauguration will dovetail nicely with the second initiative that I wish to propose. One of our organization's missions is to help preserve the family and institutional history of the Polish immigrant community throughout Minnesota, to ensure its availability for future genealogists. The Church and Local History Booklet Collection that I inaugurated is a start at this. To carry it forward with greater focus, I would like to see the PGS-MN *begin organized research projects on localities and institutions, and preserve their results on computer databases.*

We already have some potential subjects for such an effort. Attendees at our November, 1995 meeting will remember Father Ted Gumminga's offer to make the records from the now-closed parochial school at the Church

of St. Hedwig in northeast Minneapolis available to us for the organization and abstracting of information of genealogical interest. Member Kathleen Matelski has proposed that we do physical surveys of the cemeteries affiliated with churches of substantial Polish ethnicity, starting in the Twin Cities, and publish the resulting data in the *Newsletter*. Others have mentioned to me that they have been abstracting census records for various Minnesota localities, for data generally relating to their Polish-American populations.

We could do ourselves and our successors-in-genealogy a great service by assembling and preserving this data, and then making it easily and cheaply available at a central location through the medium of electronic data management. The first phase of the effort would not require computer literacy at all; it would require only the industry and energy to develop a research system suited to the particular project, and then the labor and dedication to review the sources and extract the data. All of us, as genealogists, have these qualities already. Once we've put them to work, the PGS-MN's computer cadre could use their skills in input and processing. We then could develop ways to make the resulting information available, to our members or more generally, through electronic access.

So how about it? Is anybody out there interested, from St. Hedwig's for instance? Let us hear from you! I, or any of our officers or board members, are waiting for your call or letter. In the meantime, we wish you all a *lato szczęśliwie*, whether your trip is to Poland or elsewhere, for genealogy or just pleasure.



The Bulletin Board

If you have not yet completed the questionnaire that was included in the Spring issue of this newsletter, please take a moment to do so soon. You are reminded that you need not answer every question on the rather lengthy questionnaire but only those items which interest you. This is your chance to provide us with your input. The results of this survey will help determine the future direction of our organization. So far we have received 34 returns. We hope to publish a summary of the results in our next newsletter.

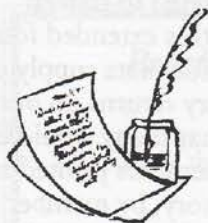
This issue of the newsletter is expanded to sixteen pages. Whether we continue with this extended format depends on whether we receive an adequate supply of material for publication. Preliminary returns on our PGS-MN questionnaire indicate that many would like to see the success stories of other members printed in our newsletter. One such success story, by member **Harry McOuat**, appears on pages 6 and 11. It is his second article we have published. Another, by **Blanche Krbechek**, appears on page 15. It is the first of three that she has submitted. We thank Harry and Blanche for sharing their stories with us and encourage other members to also share the success of their research.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION from the questionnaires was that we avoid the smaller type that sometimes appears in the newsletter as it is more difficult to read. We have kept this in mind and have tried to maintain the larger 12 point type throughout most of this issue. It is sometime necessary to reduce the type somewhat to get all of the copy on a page, however.

The series "**Polish Catholic Churches in Minnesota**" continues in this issue. The primary purpose for publishing this series is threefold: 1) to identify those Polish churches which were founded in Minnesota. 2) to identify the names of the early Polish settlers who founded these parishes, and 3) to indicate when the birth, marriage and death records of these parishes begin and where we as genealogists can have access to them. Again we wish to appeal for donations of published histories of Polish parishes for inclusion in our collection at the MGS library.

BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS issue the 1996 FEEFHS Convention will be history. It is a tribute to our organization that four of our members are so recognized in the field of Polish genealogy and history to have been asked to make presentations at this international convention. **Ed Brandt, Stanley Brescoll, John Radzilowski, and Adeline M. Sopa** made presentations and all are members of PGS-MN. In addition **Ed Brandt** deserves special commendation for his work in chairing the planning efforts for this convention.

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.



Letters to the Editor *Listy do Redaktora*

Polish Churches in Taunton, Wilno

I read with great interest in the winter edition of the Polish Genealogical Society Newsletter that you will discuss the Polish churches in Wilno and Taunton, Minnesota.

I am a member of the Society, and this is particularly relevant to me because I was born and lived in Taunton until 1940. I was baptized, made my First Communion and was confirmed in St. Cyril & Methodius Church.

My mother's parents were original charter members involved in the founding of St. John Cantius Church in Wilno. My grandfather served as a trustee for the church and my grandmother made the altar cloth for the first mass celebrated in that parish. Their names were Jacob and Rose Gorecki.

My father's family was one of the pioneer members of St. Cyril & Methodius Church in Taunton. My father, Marcel (Ruszkiewicz) Ross acted on the building committee when the present church building was erected and took a very active part in parish affairs during his lifetime. My mother, Catherine (Gorecki) Ross was active in the women's organizations.

The funeral mass for both of my parents was held in Taunton and they are buried in the Catholic cemetery there.

This past summer, I attended the 100th Anniversary Celebration at St. Cyril & Methodius.

I have copies of the centennial books for both St. John Cantius and St. Cyril & Methodius.

My mother was a friend of Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski. He interviewed her many times to obtain background information concerning the Polish peoples who settled in the Wilno/Ivanhoe/Taunton area, and she is quoted in some of his writings concerning this history.

If you have questions that I might be able to answer -- or I can contribute information of any kind -- please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Marcee (Ross) Clemons, Apple Valley, MN

Editor's reply: Thank you for your offer of help. Copies of the centennial books that you mention will soon be part of the MGS Library collection. Please see article about the New Ulm Diocese and the Wilno church on pages 7-10 of this issue. An article about the Taunton and Ivanhoe churches will appear in next issue. Since you are a native of the area, your reactions to these articles would be greatly appreciated.

Where is Jablonowo?

Enclosed are my renewal dues. Though I can't attend many meetings, the newsletters are very interesting and much appreciated.

I do wonder whether there are any hand-outs or information available from the March meeting on the topics of locating your ancestral parish in Poland and researching ancestors through American and Polish resources. I have had particular difficulty determining where Jablonowo, Russian Poland was, and what the current name is (There were several Jablonowo(s)).

I would appreciate any direction on this problem that you or others would be able to give me.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Carole Johnson, Rochester, MN

Editor's reply: Unfortunately there are no handouts available for the meetings you listed. However, Ed Brandt's series listing resources for Polish genealogy appeared in this newsletter beginning in the Winter 1994-95 issue and ending in the Spring 1996 issue. Regarding locating Jablonowo -- you might consult the gazetteer, *Słownik Geograficzny* (reviewed in the Summer, 1994 issue of this newsletter). It is available at the MGS library and at the Crystal Family History Center. It can also be obtained from Salt Lake City at any LDS branch Family History Center.

What happened in Rytro, Wadowice?

Editor's note: The following letter was received by Contributing editor, Kornel Kondy.

Sept. 1 my sister Pat and I are going to Krakow to travel to Rytro and Wadowice to locate our grandmother's descendants and then to Warsaw in the Nur area for our other grandfather. I have some questions to ask prior to my trip . . .

I am not satisfied with just learning names and dates of my ancestors. I want to learn what kind of life they had and what they went through during both wars. Are you aware of any books written about WWI and WWII where I can find out what battles/camps/destruction went on in the areas of my grandparents' birth? I would prefer the information in English, so I don't miss a single word.

Kathleen Matelski, Colorado Springs, CO

Kornel's reply: While I know alot about Polish language, culture and history -- would that I were a font of all knowledge on the subject. I know of no book in English covering the war years in those specific areas. Since the Pope comes from Wadowice, you might try any of the books in your local library about him. Perhaps some of our readers could help provide some clues.

Dec Presentation Informative

I really appreciate your taking the time to tape Mr. Dec's talk and sending me copies of his handout material. Enclosed is a check for \$5.00 to repay you for postage and the tape.

Mr. Dec's talk was interesting and I did learn from his presentation. Please thank him for me.

My husband's mother came from the village of Gnojnica. It's in the lower left corner of the Krasowski-Wolek map. We visited there in '74 and have good records of the Sojka family.

We've visited Poland 10 times in the last 20 years. On some trips we did some family history research. Sometimes we had great success and at other times great disappointments.

On one of our trips we found a book called *SCHMATYZM DIECEZJI TARNOWSKIEJ* published by the Tarnow Diocese in 1977. Sedziszow, one of the churches visited by Mr. Dec, is listed. Enclosed is a copy of the entry. The other place he visited is not in the Tarnow diocese.

Also enclosed is a membership application for the PGS-MN. We do not have a Polish Genealogical Society in Syracuse, as yet. We should because we do have a fairly large Polish population. We do have a good Mormon Library. I have used it a lot and found it very helpful.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Cecilia Dybas Patalita, Dewitt, NY

Editor's note: All of Poland's Roman Catholic dioceses have directories like the one for the Tarnow Diocese mentioned above. They are available at the Family History Library at Salt Lake City and presumably they can be ordered through any LDS branch Family History Center. These books usually contain useful information about each parish including when the parish was founded, when their birth, marriage and death records begin, and the address of the parish. They are, of course, written in Polish.

Located Ancestors in Wilno Church Records

I'm not sure where to start other than to thank you for your advice at the Bloomington meeting a couple of weeks ago. In case you may remember my cousin and me, we gave you that church history book from Kroze here in Northwest Minnesota. I probably mentioned that our family (Wilebski) migrated first to the LaSalle, Illinois area (St. Hyacinth), then to the Wilno/Ivanhoe/Taunton area, and finally to Northwest Minnesota.

Anyway, the reason I'm writing is to let you know that I was able to spend several days at the Crystal Family History Center reviewing the microfilm for the

churches listed in the Winter newsletter. The information I was able to glean was voluminous, to say the least. As a note, the first number of the microfilm for St. John Cantius in Wilno was listed incorrectly. It should have been 1,728,361. As published, the third digit was a 1 (one). As always seems to be the case, this was the one reel that contained the most, and most interesting, details of our family's history in the Lincoln county area.

Based on the details, I now know that the other half of my paternal great-grandparents which we have been trying to locate (the Janusik/Januczek/Januszik/Janesek) were also in the area. Since we know this family was also in the LaSalle area, and that they moved to the Lincoln county area, we are led to believe that they also originated from the same vicinity in the old country. Again, we are pretty certain it was Poznan.

Now, since we still don't have the exact location pinned down, I wonder if some of your work on the Kulas family may be of help to us. The reason being is that I saw a person named Anna Kulas as the wife of Joanne Janicek in various birth records. Children being Franciscum (Sep 30, 1900), Marianna (Sep 15, 1902), Vaslavas & Carolius (Jul 8, 1905). If there is any connection to any of these people, perhaps you may already have the location in the Poznan area we are looking for.

I know this may be a long shot, but in looking at the church records and based on what I already know about the family, I thought there may be a chance that our families had some common connections. Also, I saw connections to the Spinners (Szpiner) and Pozovski (spelling varies based on priest's writing and my interpretation). Well, if you happen to have anything in this regard, I'd appreciate hearing from you. If not, thanks again for all of your help and I hope to see you again at the next meeting I can arrange to attend.

Fred Wilebski, Lancaster, MN

Editor's reply: Thank you for bringing to our attention the error in listing the film number for the first reel of microfilm for the records of St. John Cantius parish in Wilno. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone. Once again the correct number is 1,728,361. Regarding the location of my Kulas ancestors -- their origins are in the Koryta and Jankow Zalesny parishes in what was southern Posen Province of Prussian occupied Poland. Also, in doing research on the Kolodziejski branch of my ancestry in the neighboring parish of Rozdrzew recently, I noticed the Wilebski family name. Yes, finding your ancestors in these parishes may be a long shot, but it may be worth checking out. The Koryta, Jankow Zalesny and Rozdrzew records are available through LDS Family History Centers.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE!

by **Harry B. McOuat**, PSG-MN member
Wakefield, Massachusetts

I have maternal first cousins who have paternal first cousins in Europe. Some years ago, a son of an European cousin visited in America. I met him at the Boston airport between his return flights. I discovered that his father was born in the village my grandparents left a century before. Best of all, I learned of his father's interest in genealogy. At that time, I was quite unaware of the location of the community my grandparents left.

One thing led to another. Once I advertised among my American cousins, I became the family historical custodian. Among the items left at my doorstep, were photographs, tax receipts, Church donations, insurance documents, deeds, naturalization information and some old letters. The most impressive relics are two nineteenth century European documents. The first is my grandfather's family passport, required for emigration. It contains names and ages of my grandparents and their six accompanying children. It is dated and stamped with the place of issue. The other is his release from German Empire military service due to imperfect vision. He was, however, able to develop a successful Minnesota farm.

The most interesting booty were the old letters. Some were from an aunt to her brother, temporarily in Montana. They reveal glimpses of home life and social events. Letters from his father were written in the Silesian dialect. Once decoded, they discussed the day to day farm operations.

Most interesting, were the letters from Europe. They ranged chronologically from pre-WW1 to post-WW2. Some of the later letters were in English, written by young people thanking American relatives for generosity such as "care" packages. The older, more intriguing letters, were written in German or Polish and necessitated translation.

The German letters were written in old script. They required an older translator, since script was discontinued several years ago. The Polish letters were a bigger hurdle. Until 1945, Silesia had been German controlled for several hundred years. German was the official language, but a majority of the people were ethnic Poles. A hybrid oral language developed that had neither grammar nor literature. It used both Polish and German words and has a recognized title, "Water Polish".

We were only partially successful in having the Polish letters translated. The European cousin, whose son I had met, taught English in the German Schools. He is conversant in German, the Silesian dialect, English and Russian. He was interested in genealogy and solving the letter puzzles. With his help, all of the dozen or so letters were translated.

The first thing I learned from the letters was that my grandmother was one of six children, and the only one to emigrate. All of the letters are from members of my grandmother's family. I still know very little about my grandfather's relatives. The translated letters provided insight to the makeup and location of the European relatives. The great economic and political stress during the 1920's initiated the European family dispersal from the local area. Before WW1 life was relatively good in that part of Europe. At first, my grandparents struggled for a living in America, but by WW1 they were doing quite well.

In January 1945, Upper Silesia was directly in the path of the Russian surge for Berlin. Some people fled and others remained. Many families were separated and only years later were they able to reassemble at a new European location.

Letters are an amazing source of genealogical information. To begin with, they usually provide a date and a locality. The internal news refers to family events, such as births, deaths, and marriages. After a

Surprise!, *Continued on page 11*



Figure 1. 3 Generations of Krawczyks



Shield of the
Diocese of New Ulm

The three fish in the upper right corner of the shield are an ancient symbol of the Blessed Trinity. Holy Trinity is the Cathedral parish of the diocese. The red dots in the shield symbolize the blood shed during the 1862 Indian uprising. The diagonal river is symbolic of the Minnesota River which runs through the heart of the diocese. The river was a principle route for early European settlement of Minnesota. The snake is a symbol of the Dakota Sioux (probably given by their historic enemy, the Chippewa). The Sioux were the original inhabitants of the area now occupied by the diocese. The shield on the lower left is the coat-of-arms of Ulm, Germany. The background of the shield is the "field" of prairie that originally covered most of the diocese. This prairie makes the diocese an agricultural heartland of Minnesota.

The above shield and information was obtained from **Rev. Eugene Hackert**, pastor of St. Michael's Church in Morgan, Minnesota. Father Hackert is the "unofficial" archivist of the diocese and provided histories of several of the diocese's Polish churches. We are in his debt.

POLISH CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN MINNESOTA

compiled by Paul Theodore Kulas, © 1994, 1996

Part 2: Polish Catholic Churches in the Diocese of New Ulm

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.

We continue this series in this issue by introducing the Polish parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm. Today we focus on the parish of **St. John Cantius** in Wilno. The parishes of **SS. Cyril and Methodius** in Taunton and **SS. Peter and Paul** in Ivanhoe will be discussed in our Autumn issue. Succeeding issues will feature other Polish churches throughout the diocese.

The information for these articles comes basically from questionnaires sent out by the Archdiocese of St. Paul in the mid-1930's and then again in the late 1940's to all parishes in Minnesota. The completed questionnaires are housed in the archdiocesan archives and microfilm copies are also available at the Minnesota Historical Society. Also consulted was the WPA Historical Records Survey: Churches available at the Minnesota Historical Society. This survey of many churches in Minnesota was conducted in the late 1930's by the Federal Writers Project of the WPA. Early birth, marriage and death information comes from microfilm copies of the original records of each parish. In addition, parish histories and other published materials are examined when available.

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. Patrick Anzelc, Assistant Archivist at the archdiocesan archives, informs us that the records of parishes of the New Ulm diocese founded before 1900 will soon be available at that archives. Microfilm copies of the New Ulm records are also available to researchers through LDS Family History Centers. To prepare for the 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 the **Church of St. Adalbert in Silver Lake**. Numbers 1710897 and 1710898 include records of the **Church of St. Joseph in Rosen** and also of the **Church of St. James in Nassau**. Number 1710900 includes records of the **Church of St. Joseph in Holloway**. Numbers 1711138 and 1711269 include records of the **Church of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Taunton**. Numbers 1728358 and 1728360 include records of the **Church of SS. Peter and Paul in Ivanhoe** and numbers 1728361, 1728378 and 1728379 include records of the **Church of St. John Cantius 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. (It should be noted that the number of the first film of the Wilno records was incorrectly listed in the Winter and Spring issues of this newsletter. The correct number is listed above.)

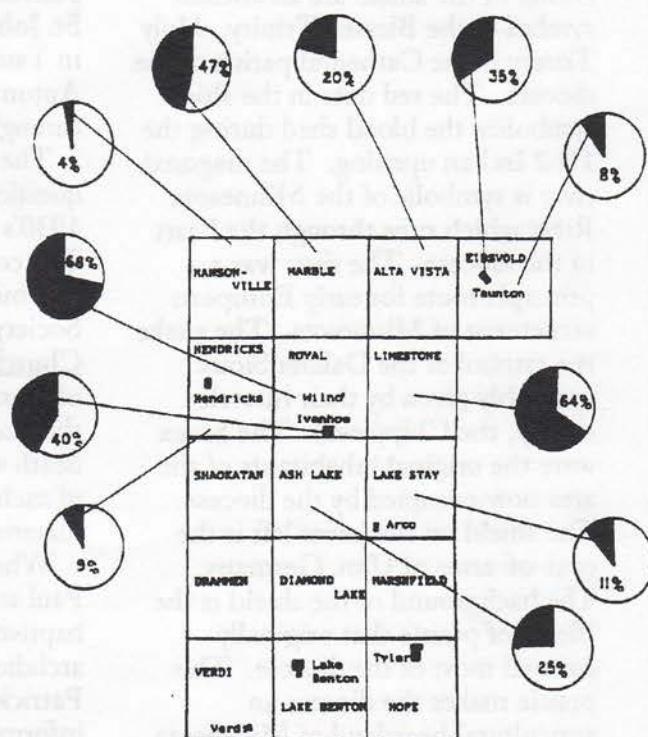
Members are encouraged to use these films. Only if these films are used will they be permitted to remain on permanent loan since there is a shortage of storage space at the Crystal LDS library. Staff at the library keep records on how often permanent loan items are used. When using permanent loan items,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

POLISH CATHOLIC PARISHES IN LINCOLN COUNTY AND VICINITY

The most extensive Polish settlement in the Diocese of New Ulm began in the early 1880's in Royal Township in Lincoln County. It soon spread to most of the northern townships of the county and spilled over into neighboring Lyon and Yellow Medicine counties as well (See map opposite). The first Catholic church in Lincoln County was the Polish national parish of **St. John Cantius** in Wilno, founded in 1883. The predominately Polish parish of **SS. Cyril and Methodius** in Taunton in Lyon County began in 1895. **SS. Peter and Paul Church** in Ivanhoe, also with significant Polish membership, was founded in 1907.

Church of Saint John Cantius, Wilno. The community of Wilno was founded in 1882 by Frank Klupp (a Polish land speculator from Chicago) and the Winona and St. Peter Railroad (which owned most of the land) with the assistance of Bishop John Ireland and the Catholic Diocese of St. Paul. The parish

officially began in 1883 when the railroad granted Polish church trustees two parcels of land for a church and cemetery. John Politowski, Frank Janiszewski, Andrew Jerzak, Martin Wexa, John Kruck and John Popowski were among Wilno's earliest settlers. Charter members of the new parish were the families of Peter Bednarek, Adalbert Dabek, Michael Felcyn, Martin Frenski, Joseph Gladis, Jacob Gorecki, John Gusza, John Hoffman, Stanislaus Hoffman, Stanislaus Jasinski, Andrew Jerzak, Martin Jankowski, John Korcal, John Popowski, John Skorczewski, John Stackowiak and John Gonia (See page 10 for a listing of parishioners in 1884 and in 1885). The parish questionnaire (1949) lists the first lay trustees of St. John Cantius parish as Jacob Gorecki and Michael Felcyn. The WPA church records survey (1936) lists J. Budnick and J. Bednarek as the parish's first lay officers. The parish centennial history (1983) has trustees Michael Felcyn, Waurzyn Felcyn and John Trojanowski purchasing 40 acres from the railroad for the purpose of a church, schoolhouse and cemetery. The Articles of Incorporation of the parish in



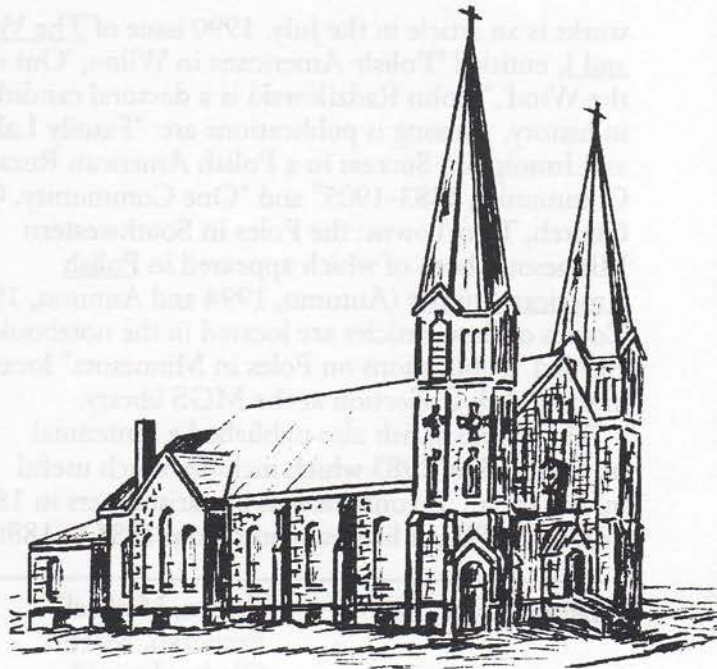
Polish Population in Lincoln County and in Eidsvold Township of Lyon County according to the 1905 Minnesota State Census. Shaded areas show percentage of Poles residing in each locale. Source: John Radzilowski, "One Community, One Church, Two Towns: The Poles of Southwestern Minnesota, 1882-1905," *Polish American Studies*, Autumn, 1991, p. 13.

1893 were signed by laymen Roch Jablonski and Peter Bednarek along with the bishop, the vicar general and the pastor. Most of the early settlers of Wilno originated in Prussian partition of Poland and had settled first in the Chicago, Illinois area.

The first church in Wilno was completed in 1883. The first resident pastor, Rev. Damian Kosiolek is quoted that it was "so flimsily constructed that its deviation from the perpendicular was constantly shifting, being determined directly by the direction of the wind." A second, more sturdy church was constructed in 1885 by the pastor, Rev. Henry Jazdiewski (he was a skilled carpenter) and assisted by Martin Wexa. The present impressive church was completed in 1901 and dedicated in 1902. Serving on the assessment committee were: Anastazy Katowski, Jacob Gorecki, John Korcal, Frank Bonczek, John Gonia, Frank Muchlinski, John Popowski and Frank Chihanski. Members of the building committee were John Stachowiak, Roch Jablonski, Frances Schroeder and Anastazy Katowski, John Pukrop and Kazimisz Cierpiszewski. Each parishioner was assessed \$120 for the new building. Stained glass windows were donated by Casimir Cierpisewski, Francis Jerzak, John Gonia, William Lasnetski, the Michael Tykwinski family, Francis Otto, George Friske, Andrew Jerzak, Albert Kapoczynski, Ambrose Katowski and Anatazy Katowski.

The baptism records of St. John Cantius Church date form 1883. However, the marriage and death records on microfilm date only from 1919. The 1936 WPA church records survey indicate that the marriage records date from 1884, while the 1949 parish questionnaire indicate that they date only from 1919. Apparently, early marriage and death records of the parish have been lost. This is most unfortunate. Early marriage records in particular have proven to be useful in identifying an ancestor's place of origin in Poland.

The first baptisms recorded at St. John Cantius were performed on 6 April 1884. Joannes Kwasigroch, was born on 31 January and was the son of Antonie Kwasigroch and Matilda Cecz. Sponsors were: Jacob Gorecki and Maria Glaydys. Agnes Popowska was born on 3 April 1883 and was the daughter of Joanne Popowski and Josepha Dorkowicz. Sponsors were Martin Wiza and Maria Janusik. The first marriage recorded on records on mirofilm occurred on 16 September 1919 between Antonius Fier, son of Antonius Fier and Maria Szarzynska from Taunton, and Margariata Chlopkowiak, daughter of Joannes Chlophowiak and Agnes Dzierbicka from Wilno. Witnesses were Michael Chlopkowiak and



**Church of Saint John Cantius
RR1, Box 59, Ivanhoe, MN 56142-9793**

Illustration by Veronica Niehaus. Source: Saint John Cantius Church Centennial History, title page.

Francisca Lozinska. The parish centennial history, however, indicates that the first marriage occurred on 5 May 1885 between Michael Lipinski and Rose Skorczewski. The centennial history also indicates that the first couple married in the new church on 1 November 1902 was John Skorczewski, son of Michael Skorcewski and Mary Chrowski, and Helen Bartoszewicz, daughter of Konstanty Bartoszewicz and Victoria Schularitzski. The first recorded death was Petrus Rybinski of Wilno, 24 year old son of Joseph and Mariae Rybinski, who died on 24 September 1919 and was buried on 26 September 1919 in the cemetery at Wilno. The parish centennial history, however, lists all persons buried in the Wilno Cemetery between 1882 and 1982 beginning with Michal Bieber on October 9, 1882.

The Wilno settlement is one of few Polish communities in Minnesota that has been the subject of scholarly research. PGS-MN members Thaddeus and John Radzilowski, father and son, have both been active in studying the community. Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski was formerly a professor of History at Southwest State College in Marshall and was recently appointed as President of St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan. Among his published

works is an article in the July, 1990 issue of The World and I, entitled "Polish-Americans in Wilno, 'Out on the Wind'." John Radzilowski is a doctoral candidate in history. Among his publications are: "Family Labor and Immigrant Success in a Polish American Rural Community, 1883-1905" and "One Community, One Church, Two Towns: the Poles in Southwestern Minnesota" both of which appeared in Polish American Studies (Autumn, 1994 and Autumn, 1991). Copies of these articles are located in the notebook entitled "Publications on Poles in Minnesota" located in the Polish Collection at the MGS library.

The Wilno parish also published a centennial history book in 1983 which includes much useful information. It contains lists of parishioners in 1884, 1885 and 1900, it lists baptisms from 1884 to 1886,

and it lists all burials in the Wilno cemetery between 1882 and 1982! It also contains many family histories and photographs of present and past members of the parish. A copy of this book will soon be part of the MGS library collection.

In the Autumn issue of this newsletter we will continue this discussion of Polish settlement in Lincoln County and vicinity in the southwestern part of the Diocese of New Ulm. The parishes of **SS. Cyril and Methodius** in Taunton and **SS. Peter and Paul** in Ivanhoe will be featured. Anyone wishing to comment on these 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.

Parishioners of 1884

Andrzejek, Martin*
Baranowski, Adalbert*
Bartosiewicz, Constantine*
Bednarek, Piotr*
Cherchowski, Joseph*
Chlopkowiak, Andrew*
Chojnacki, Ludwig*
Citerman, Frank*
Cyman, Valentine*
Dabek, Adalbert
Dabrowski, Stephan*
Domek, Frank
Dowil, Anthony
Dudkiewicz, John*
Felzyn, Lawrence*

Felzyn, Michael*
Frenczko, Martin*
Gladys, Joseph*
Gorecki, Jacob*
Grzybowski, Simon*
Guza, John*
Hoffman, John*
Hoffman, Stanislaus*
Hudzik/Chudzik, Peter*
Janiszewski, Frank*
Jankowski, Martin*
Jasinski, Stanislaus*
Jezak, Andrew*
Jezak, Frank*
Klupp, Frank*
Korcal, John*
Korpala, Frank*

Koszik, Joseph*
Kruk, John*
Kusznierok, Andrew*
Kwiatkowski, Joseph*
Lesnicki, Valentine*
Maslak, Joseph
Michalski, Frank*
Mikulewicz, Romuald*
Nawart, Lawrence
Oslowski, Stephan*
Owczarek, Martin*
Pacewicz, Joseph*
Paluch, Anthony*
Panka, Adalbert*
Piotrowski, Martin*
Plucinski, Frank*
Politowski, John*

Popowski, John*
Pruszyński, Martin*
Sik, Anthony*
Sik, Stanislaus*
Skiera, Jacob*
Skorczewski, John*
Smazyk, Matthew*
Sokolowski, Andrew*
Spyner, Peter*
Szwedzinski, Casimir*
Trojanowski, John
Urbanski, Peter*
Wielepski, Frank*
Wisniewski, John*
Wiza, Martin*
Zgoda, Vincent*
Zientara, Martin*

Source: Saint John Cantius Church Centennial History, p. 35. * Indicates parishioner also appears in the 1885 listing in parish centennial history but name is not repeated in the list below.

Parishioners of 1885

Blaszak, Frank
Blazkowski, Joseph
Burczyk, John
Cierpiszewski, Casimer
Dabek/Dombek, Jacob
Dziewior, Jacob
Gawarecki, Ignatius
Gonia, John
Hamerski, Michael
Hebish, Joseph
Kabat, Casimir

Kaczarowski, John
Klekacz, Jacob
Kubiszewski, Andrew
Kubiszewski, Joseph
Kufel, Simon
Kwasigroch, Anthony
Langa, Isidor
Lipinski, Lawrence
Lipinski, Michael
Lochocki, Peter
Lubienski, Andrew
Lygman, Frank
Machnikowski, Michael

Manczas, Michael
Marszczyński, Joseph
Mazany, Martin
Mikulewicz, Romuald
Nicki, Stanislaus
Panaka, Adalbert
Parulski, John
Patek, John
Prusinski, Joseph
Puchopinski, Dominic
Pukrop, Adalbert
Rolewicz, Adalbert
Rybarczyk, Joseph

Schroeder, Frank
Serszen, John
Skorczewski, Michael
Sopczak, A.
Sowul, Anthony
Spierewka, Frank
Stachowiak, John
Stryczak, John
Styczynski, Thomas
Szrajder, Frank
Tomczak, John
Wrzeszcz, Martin
Zazyk, Frank

Source: Saint John Cantius Church Centennial History, p. 35-36.

Surprise!, Continued from page 6

few readings, and with great attention, even to casual references, it may be possible to construct a whole family skeleton.

With the help of Bernd in Europe, I located several second cousins and proceeded to contact them. Bernd's sister still lives in Laskowice, my grandparent's village, and knows my only second cousin, Rosa Kaluza, still residing there. Of course, I was news to them. With help from Rosa, Bernd, and old letter clues we uncovered more relatives -- Rita and Leiselotte in Cologne; Ursula, the widow of cousin Wolfgang, in Berlin; Marga in Salzgitter Bad; and Dorota in Katowice. Of my grandmothers siblings, I now have complete pictures of three families. I know something historically of the other two families, but hardly anything of their current whereabouts. My descendency charts, beginning with my grandmother's parents, includes about 500 people in Europe and America.

The lesson I learned, and the salient point of this

article is to advertise. The surprise and exhilaration of unexpected returns are difficult to describe.

The first great treat was a visit with Ursula in Boston. After the fall of the Berlin Wall she was able to travel to the West and made a tour of the United States and Canada. We spent a wonderful evening together in Boston, during which she gave me some marvelous family photographs from Europe. Upon her return home, she had Marga send me the exquisite three generation photograph of Figure 1.

The middle row are my grandmother's sister, Maria and her husband. The top row contains two of their daughters and the bottom row three grandchildren. Marga is at the lower right of this 1920's photograph.

Figure 2 is the greatest prize to date. Leiselotte sent birth records of our great grandparents. Figure 2A is the birth record for Blaze Soboszczyk (31 Jan. 1831). The asterisked notation indicates that Blaze's mother, Maria Pluskwik, is a common ancestor of both Bernd and myself. What a huge bonus surprise! Figure 2B is the birth record for Barbara Bieniek (3 Nov. 1833). The four listed parents are four more ancestors.

Taufzeugnis

Im Jahre Ein Tausend, *acht* Hundert und *einunddreißig*
 —(1831)— den 31. (*einunddreißigsten*) Januar —
 wurde dem *Sohn* *Misael Soboszczyk* —
 in *Laskowitz* (*jetzt: Kiefernwalde 75*) und seiner Ehefrau
 * *Maria geb. Pluskwik* — ein — *Anaba* — geboren,
 welche am 2. (*zweiten*) Februar 1831 *tot* getauft worden ist
 und *der* Namen *Blasius Karl* — erhalten hat.

Nota de statu libero (C.J.C. can. 470 § 2)

Dies wird auf Grund des Taufbuches hiesiger Pfarrkirche amtlich
 bescheinigt.

Uhle (Oberjchl.) den 15^{ten} September 1938.

Das katholische Pfarramt



Wisluba 1/1

Figure 2A. Birth record of Blaze Soboszczyk.

Taufzeugnis

Im Jahre Ein Tausend, *acht* Hundert und *dreißig*
 —(1833)— den 2. (*zweiten*) Dezember —
 wurde dem *Robert-Gästner* *Gottfried Bieniek* —
 in *Laskowitz* (*jetzt: Kiefernwalde 75*) und seiner Ehefrau
Johanna geb. Knopp — ein — *Christian* — geboren,
 welche am *folgenden* Tage *tot* getauft worden ist
 und *den* Namen *Barbara* — erhalten hat.

Nota de statu libero (C.J.C. can. 470 § 2)

Dies wird auf Grund des Taufbuches hiesiger Pfarrkirche amtlich
 bescheinigt.

Uhle (Oberjchl.) den 15^{ten} September 1938.

Das katholische Pfarramt



Wisluba 1/1

Figure 2B. Birth record of Barbara Bieniek.

Missing Branches

Eugenie Fellows, 28042 Lindenhurst Drive, Zephyrhills, FL 33544 writes: "I am helping a cousin research her ancestry which originated in Pomerania which was in Germany when they were born but which is now in Poland. The names are WILHELM FREDERICK DIETRICH, b. 30 Dec 1844, and wife FREDEREKE AUGUSTA PIEPAS, b. 30 Nov 1843; AUGUST DITTBERNER, b. 5 Sep 1850 and wife IDA FRITZ, b. 27 Feb 1861; KARL DITTBERNER, b. 14 May 1820, and wife WILHELMINA STANKA, b. ca 1828; OTTO F. P. FRITZ, b. 28 Jan 1830, Arnhausen, Pomerania, and wife HENRIETTA REINCKE, b. 20 Feb 1838. All these persons ended up in Leaf Valley Twp, Douglas County, MN. My cousin lives in Polk County, MN. Do you have any records on these immigrants from Pomerania? Do you have suggestions on getting records on these ancestors? We don't write or read Polish or German and don't have funds to employ Polish or German researchers over there. Any help will be welcome."

Carol A. Johnson, 528 19th St. NW, Rochester, MN is researching BIENKOWSKI, MARESKY(I), LEWANDROWSKI and KWIATKOWSKI family names in Jablonowo, Russian Poland, in Mlawa and in Brodowo (Brodau) or Bogumily, Poland. She writes: "I have had particular difficulty determining where Jablonowo, Russian Poland was and what the current name is (There were several Jablonowo(s)). I would appreciate any direction on this problem that you or others would be able to give me. Thank you very much."

Blanche Krbecek, 2041 Orkla Drive, Golden Valley, MN 55427 is seeking descendants or relatives of MARTHA F. BLOCK, 1950's mailing address: Hanbay, South Dakota. Martha came to America, age 10, before WWI with her parents MR. ? and Mrs. FRANCISZKA CYSEWSKI. Martha had four children: oldest -- Helena, married and moved to Brazil; youngest -- Lucille, born 1941-42; two sons -- no first names, one killed during WWII, one on "rancho" (perhaps even now).

Mrs. Helen Richard, Rte. 1, Box 280, Burtrum, MN 56318 is researching MILLER, KR(S)ZESZEWSKI, SOBIESCEK, RAZINSKI/RO(U)SINSKI/RUSSELL, NOWAKOWSKI family names in the Posen area of German Poland and in Duluth, Little Falls and North Prairie, Minnesota. She writes: "I have begun to research my father's family and can use all the help I can get! Therefore I would like to join the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. Any suggestions you have for further work would be most welcome!"

Bruno C. Syzdek, 4625 Rip Van Winkle Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102-5768, Phone: 702-876-3861 writes the following: "My Grandfather, WOJCIECH (ALBERT) SYZDEK was born 17 February 1858 and died 24 June 1943. He immigrated to Bremond, Texas in 1885. Albert's brother (or half brother), Joseph, was in Bremond, Texas for a while. His name appears as a witness on several baptism

records in Bremond. The saying goes he loved to whistle and visit downtown Bremond but was very reluctant to work. He went back to Poland and nothing else is known about him. Also, Albert supposedly had sisters(?). One married a DYKAS (?) and lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The other lived in Buffalo, New York. Have no first or married name for her. Seeking information on the above: Were they full or half brother/sisters or cousins to Albert? Need their parents names, any ancestors/siblings or any known descents, their location in Poland or USA. Willing to share information."

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following:

Paul K. Bingham, 4351 E. Contessa, Mesa, AZ 85205 is researching HRUSKA/GRUSKA, SOLTYS/SOTIS, VOJTANEK and STOSEL in Jurgow and Janis (may be Dzianisz), Poland and Slanica, Slovakia. He is interested in Czechoslovaks living in what is now southern Poland's Orava valley.

Thomas Brock, 1383 Burns Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106 is researching BROCKOWSKI and MORALEWICZ family names in Brody, Galicia and in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Mrs. Veronica R. Fitzgerald, 120 Sumter Ave So, Golden Valley, MN 55426 is a new member.

Diane Kathryn Bogush Mills, 960 Wilson Av., Lincoln, CA 95648, Phone: (916) 645-8784 is researching BOGUSZ/BOGUS family name in Wierchoslawice, Poland, CMIEL/CHMIEL/TRZMIEL name -- left from Hamburg, original residence unknown, BOCZKAJ name in Swilca, rear Rzeszow with possible Czech, French or Hungarian lineage, and in Pennsylvania, Cleveland, Ohio and in St. Paul, the New Brighton area and Mayhew Lake in Minnesota. She is searching for the journey/work/cities of ANDREW BOGUSZ, 1885-1894, from Poland to Minnesota. She notes that a recent search of Wierchoslawice, Poland church records (1797-1870) shows KNAPEK, PODLASEK, BORYCZKA, BOGUSZ names in abundance. Call or write to her for ideas about connections!

Henry F. Mruz, 4246 Irving Av N., Mpls. MN 55412 is researching MROZ, BREZINSKI/BERZINSKI, ROZANSKI family names in Burwin, Kosholy and Lamazy in Poland and in N.E. Mpls and in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Dick Pershell, 20324 Chalon, St. Clair Shores, MI 4808-2231 is researching EICHMAN, CICHOSZ, PASCHELKE, ROGALSKI, BURANT, LIPINSKI, KUKOWSKI, RUDNIK, KUBA, BETKER, MALIL, BRISK(E), JESSESKY family names in Lipusz parish in Poland and in Winona, Minnesota and Trempealeau, Pine Creek and Dodge in Wisconsin.

Rick Sredzinski, 15 Peter Ave., Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1E 1T5 is researching the SREDZINSKI family name in Bialystok, Poland and probably in Michigan.

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

Eleonore Wasowicz Anderson, 1740 Onacrest Curve, St. Paul, MN 55117 is researching the WASOWICZ, WINIARSKI family names from near Taropol, Ukraine.

Stanley Brescoll, Jr., 8910 Graham, Dearborn, MI 48126-2334 is researching BRZESKI, JESIONOWSKI, SULEWSKI, JARCZAKOWSKI, KAMINSKI, KIELIJAN family names from West Prussia, the KAZUBSKI, MILEWSKI names from Ligowo, Sierpc, Warsaw, Poland, the SITEK, KUCYBA, WOJNAR, OSUCHA, BRATEK names from Galicia, the GLEGOLA name from Russian Poland and the SZUKALA name in Massachusetts.

Barbara Breza, 1725 - 4th St NE, Mpls., MN 55413 is researching Joseph & Elizabeth (WICKA) BREZA -- originally BRYZA from Oslaw, Dumbrowa, Poland (Ugoszcz parish, Bydgoszcz, Poland and Jacob & Lucille (KOWALIK) BRATEK from Poznan, Poland.

Mary Ellen Bruski, 3412 Parkview Blvd, Robbinsdale, MN 55422 is researching KRUSZEWSKI, GRABOWSKI, BRUSKI, WRICZA family names in Poznan and Szczeczyn and in Minnesota.

Adeline Copa/Sopa, 2711 Danbar Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313-7022 is researching COPA, LEMANCZYK, GOSTOMCZYK, BINCZIK, TRZEBIATOWSKI, FELSKI family names from Gdansk and Bydgoszcz provinces of West Prussia, from the Poznan area of Prussia and from Galicia. **She has immigration data on many families from Kaszuby.**

Kathleen Dembinski, 5437 E. Cortez, Scottsdale, AZ 85254-4733 is researching FRANK, MAZUREK, DEMBINSKI, NOWOTARSKI, SZYPERSKI, DOBKOWSKI, LUKAWSKI family names from the Puck and Znin areas from Augustowo in Suwalki and from Podgorz in Konin.

Ethel Demaree, 6114 Girard Ave No is researching KOENIG, MUELLER, EBERT, STEFFER family names in Minnesota, Wisconsin and in Poland.

Jenny Lynn Hall, 1435 Scorpius Dr, Idaho Falls, ID, 83402-1805 is researching the SHUDY family name in Sturgeon Lake, MN, the KACZMARCZYK name in Minneapolis, the ZELAZNY name in Wola Greboszowska (Dabrowa: Zabno), Poland, the BIERNAT name in (Brzesko:Bresko) Okocim, Poland and the BROSKO name in Minneapolis and Canada (Cobalt or Hamilton, Ontario) and in Galicia, Poland. She asks: **"Is there anyone out there who could recommend an excellent self-teaching program for learning to speak Polish?"**

Elizabeth Joyce, 6743 Evergreen Ln N, Maple Grove, MN 55369 is researching SLUCHOCHE, TRADER, HELEWSKI, SOBIESKI family names in Duluth, in Gnesen Twp., St. Louis Co., Minnesota and in New York State.

Evelyn Karn, 4227 NE Washington St, Mpls. (Columbia Hghts), MN 55421-2853 is researching KUFFEL, BOGATSKI family names in Hamilton, Ohio.

Charleen Kiser, 22250 Beaumont Way, Farmington, MN 55024 is researching NOGOSEK, LYGA, KAMPA, KLIMEK family names from Poppelan, Poland and the Independence Wisconsin area.

Arne Kowalzek, 114 NE 7th St, Little Falls, MN 56345-3229 is researching KOWALCZYK, SWARA/SWORA/SFORA family names from the area around Opole in Poland.

Darryn Kozak, 275 S Winthrop St, Saint Paul, MN 55119 is researching KOZAK, LOPATA, SCHUTTA, BONA, WINCENCIAK, GACEK, SOIKA, KOMOROWSKI family names in Minnesota, Wisconsin and New York.

David Kroska, 30725 Melanie Way, St. Joseph, MN 56374 is researching KRZOSKA, MALAK, KUSZTELSKI, BARTKOWIAK, JANOWIAK, RAKOWSKI, KUPFERSCHMIDT family names from Poznan and West Prussen.

Des Peplinski, 733 Southmore Dr W, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada is researching PEPLINSKI, KULAS, SZCZYPIOR, TRADER/TREDER, BLASKEWITCH, BREZA, KREFT family names in the Kashub part of Poland and in Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada.

Robert F. Stenzel, 16070 St HWY 109, Wells, MN 56097 is researching STENZEL, SONNEK, KULOT/KULLOT family names.

Robert A. Stryk, 5441 Halifax Lane, Edina, MN 55424-1438 is researching the STRYK family name in Wisconsin.

Susanne Strysick, 5413 Upper 147th St W, Apple Valley, MN 55124 is researching the STRYSICK/STRISIK family name in Grossladen, Flatow, Marionwerder in West Prussia and the MARODECK/MROTEK family name in Szerbin, Lobzens, Wersirk, Poland.

Rhonda Swanson, 2005 - 128th Ave, Coon Rapids, MN 55448 is researching JEDRYSKO, DUDEK, PESLKA, TOLIK, KLOSAK family names from Zywiec, Austrian Poland, Galicia.

Ed Wiorek, 4008 Manor Woods Dr NW, Rochester, MN 55901-8426 is researching WIOREK, NIEMCZYK, LEWICZ, RONKOWSKI, KUROWSKI, JAZDZEWSKI, GAWIN, WYSOCKI, CHRZAN, ZWADZICH family names in Koscierzyna, Lesno, Lubichowo, Zblewo, Wysoka near Wyrzysk, Miasteczko, Lobzenica, and Kruszyn.

Marcus Woell, 906 5th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304 is researching KORALEWSKI, LAREK, PERNALA, STEPHAN family names from Rychwal north of Kalich in Upper Selicia.

Kathleen Zawislak, 2144 Case Ave, St. Paul, MN is researching TARARA, ZAWISLAK, KALUZA, DANIELSKI, RYCHLICKI family names.

Rev. Roman Nir, Director of the Central Archives of Polonia Issues Appeal for Historical Materials

The Archives of the Orchard Lake Schools is an institution serving the American Polonia. Several times in the past few years appeals have been made to the Polish American community for materials relative to its historical development. The Archives collects, collates, catalogues, and preserves these memorabilia.

In recent times we have been witness to a sociological phenomenon which has involved particularly the younger generations of the American Polonia. Reference here is made to the relocation of many families from traditionally Polish American neighborhoods to the outlying suburbs and quasi-rural areas. This naturally is followed by an immediate lessening of ties and connections with their former local ethnic community and by the eventual loss of any contact with their Polish American roots. This phenomenon of relocation often entails the unfortunate disposal and destruction of old family mementos, correspondence, photographs, books and commemorative publications. It is precisely these and kindred materials which the Archives of the Orchard Lake Schools seek. The aim of the Archives is to preserve these materials under proper atmospheric and environmental conditions and to place them at the ready disposal of Polonian historian, scholars and qualified researchers.

The Archives appeals to **Parishes** for the following representative materials; albums and parish anniversary jubilee books; commemorative books marking jubilee celebrations of priests, societies, and parochial organizations; news clippings (Polish and English); parish bulletins; photographs and post cards.

Also of interest are parish reports, lists of families, material referring to church and school construction, memorabilia from parish celebrations (graduations, first masses, episcopal visitations, First Communion, Confirmation), parish prayer books, devotional materials, hymnals, material involving the parish elementary and secondary schools (histories, school faculties, biographies of staff, record books, photographs, documentation of sports activities, and all commemorative publications), and any recordings

(disc, tape, cassette) of parish services and choir or choral groups.

The Archives appeals to **Polish American Organizations**, which have played so important a role in the history of the American Polonia, for the following material: commemorative anniversary publication, fraternal publications, memoirs, biographical data of outstanding members, correspondence of diverse nature and content, financial records, books of protocol, photographs, awards, commendatory certificates and memorials.

To the **Religious Orders**, which have also played an important part in the development of the American Polonia, the Archives appeals for the following: Jubilee books, historical publications, photographs, news clippings, conventual records, rules and statutes, books of professions, correspondence, documents of contact with Rome and Poland, biographies of outstanding members (living and deceased), personal and individual memoirs and materials referring to the Order's mission schools and parishes.

The **General Public** is particularly asked to participate in this massive, concentrated endeavor to procure archival materials. Attics, basements and storage nooks often contain very valuable and rare Polonian memorabilia: any of the above materials requested of parishes, organizations and religious communities; all personal memorabilia, correspondence, family memorials; newspapers, magazines, periodicals, clippings; photographs of all description; works of art, paintings, sculpture, drawings; iconography; philatelistics; numismatics; medals, organizational badges, insignia and regalia; and any "Old Country" family mementos.

The Archives of the Orchard Lake Schools ask Polish Americans, Polish Canadians, and all people of Polish antecedents in their capacity as members of parishes, fraternal organization, religious communities, or as individuals for their good will and cooperation in these monumental venture to procure historical materials. All material should be sent to:

**The Central Archives of Polonia
The Orchard Lake Schools
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, MI 48324**

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Success Story #1

By **Blanche Krbecek**

Do We Still Have Relatives in North America?

It was a small request from a friend in Poland, "Can you help us find something about grandmother's sister, Martha Block, who went to North Dakota before WWI and stopped writing in the 1960s?"

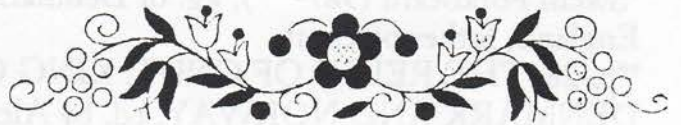
The first thing I learned was that there are many, many Blocks. I wrote back asking what else was known. Among other information, the grandmother was able to find an address in Hanbay, South (not North) Dakota, North America. She thought perhaps Martha's son still lived on the 'ranchero'.

Hanbay, South Dakota, was not on any map I had, so I chose to call the Minnesota Genealogical Society, to see if they could help me. I still have not learned the location of Hanbay, but Jim Robasse, a most helpful volunteer at M.G.S., introduced me to the Social Security Administration list of people filing for claims. He found the name Martha Block with a South

Dakota zip code. I did write to the Social Security Administration for a copy of the filing and also to some South Dakota genealogical societies asking to have a query placed in their newsletters. I am waiting for any information from these sources.

Then I tried a total long shot. Jim had helped me find the city belonging to the zip code -- Rariton. I wrote to the postmaster in Rariton and enclosed a stamped letter addressed to, "Son or Descendant of Martha Block" and used the Hanbay address asking if it were possible to deliver it. In only a little over a week I received a letter from the wife of a son of Martha Block in Webster, South Dakota. I only wish I could be in Poland when my friends open my letter with the letter from Webster enclosed.

An old address, an introduction to the Social Security list available at M.G.S., and then a chance letter to a postmaster at a zip code from the list . . . and now a reunited family.



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List locality in Poland where each surname originated: _____

List locality in North America where immigrant settled: _____

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, Treasurer 2217 Wight Bay, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443.

It's History!

contributed by W. Kornel Kondy

CANUTE/KNUT, (c995-1035). Great king of England (1016-35); of Denmark (1018-35); of Norway (1028-35). "The mother of Cnut, and of his brother Harald and his sister Estrith, was the daughter of the Polish duke Mieszko and the sister of the Polish king Boleslaw Chrobry. She was first married to the Swedish king Erik the Victorious, who was alive in 992 but probably died no later than 995. Swein* had three children by her and then, at a time that cannot be fixed either, he rejected her, for reasons equally unknown. According to the ENCOMIUM EMMAE REGINAE, her sons fetched her from SCLAVONIA (POLAND) after Swein's death so she presumably went to live in Poland after being rejected."**

*Swein Forkbeard (987-), kg. of Denmark, Norway and England, father of Cnut.

**p. 28, THE REIGN OF CNUT: KING OF ENGLAND, DENMARK AND NORWAY, ed. by Alexander R. Rumble, London: Leicester University Press, 1994.



Obverse of a *Short Cross* penny of King Cnut.



Reverse of a *Short Cross* penny of King Cnut.

Sheild of the Diocese of New Ulm.

The series, **Polish Catholic Churches in Minnesota**, continues in this newsletter. This issue introduces the Polish parishes of the Diocese of New Ulm and focuses on the **Church of Saint John Cantius in Wilno**.



The parishes of **SS. Cyril and Methodius in Taunton** and **SS. Peter and Paul in Ivanhoe** will be discussed in our Autumn issue. Succeeding issues will feature other Polish parishes throughout the diocese.

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