



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4

AUTUMN 1996

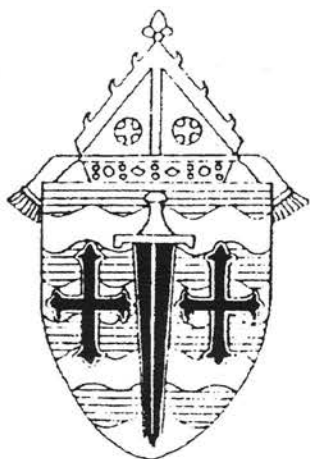
NUMBER 3

## OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, October 12, 1996, 10:00 a.m.

### THE ARCHIVES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

226 Summit Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55102



Two years ago, Patrick Anzelc, Archives Assistant for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, spoke to us about the project for the microfilming of the sacramental records of all parishes in the Archdiocese. In a special on-site presentation at the new meeting room for the Archives, Patrick will update us on the completion of the project, information on other

Minnesota Roman Catholic parishes available at the Archives, its plans for obtaining other sacramental records, and the procedures for obtaining access to these materials for genealogical research. He will give special attention to the records for the Polish-American parishes in the Archdiocese.

This presentation will be especially valuable for anyone with Roman Catholic ancestry in the metro area and south-central Minnesota. *Due to very limited space in the Archives itself, attendees will not be able to do genealogical research on the day of the presentation.* Mr. Anzelc will, however, take appointments for future visits.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take I-94 to St. Paul and take the Marion St/Kellogg Blvd exit going south on Kellogg. Turn right on John Ireland Blvd which becomes Summit. The Archives are located in the Chancery Building at 226 Summit Avenue on the south side of Summit, just south of the Cathedral. Parking is available on either the west or the east side of the Chancery. Public bus transportation is also available.

## The Polish Americans: A Rich Heritage

*A community education course sponsored by the  
Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota*

Join Us and Learn About:

Kosciuszko & Pulaski: Heroes of Two Nations  
How Polish Immigrants Built Their Communities and Parishes

Factories & Farms: Polish Americans at Work and in America's Labor Movement

The Backbone of a Community: Polish Women in America

Polish-American Churches: Architectural Masterpieces Built by "Ordinary" People



The Polish People in Minnesota

Strong Voices: Polish-American Literature Comes of Age

PLUS: Help in Writing Your Family History and a Field Trip to Polish-American Sites in the Twin Cities!

Dates: Wednesdays from Sept. 25-Nov. 13, 1996.

Time: 7-8:30 P.M.

Place: PACIM Library (514 22d Ave. N.E., Minneapolis)

Cost: \$22.50 for PACIM members;  
\$25 for non-members

Teacher: John Radzilowski

Send checks payable to PACIM to:  
PACIM Education Cmte., c/o John Radzilowski,  
1363 W. Cty. Rd. B, #A2, Roseville, MN 55113;  
or bring them on the first day of class.

Questions? Call: 604-0210.

## *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota*

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

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

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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. Submission of items for publication is encouraged. 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

As I write these words, the State Fair will be starting in a couple of days--a uniquely Minnesotan sign of the close of summer! Our Society will have a presence, with several of our members volunteering to help staff the Minnesota Genealogical Society's booth in the Education Building. It's a fine way to meet people who may be interested in their Polish and American roots, to spread the word about our activities, and to swap ideas about family history.

Our small effort through the State Fair will be PGS-MN's fourth public appearance this summer. I attended the national convention of the Federation of East European Family History Societies in Bloomington in June, as did a few of our members. I enjoyed the Polish-oriented educational presentations, as well as a great variety of others, and I proselytized for membership whenever possible. In early August Paul Kulas and I attended the Kielbasa Days festival in the fine little town of Ivanhoe in southwestern Minnesota. Between my presentation on beginning genealogical research techniques and his day-long attention to attendees' questions, we were a prominent part of the event's "Polish Heritage" unit. We recruited some new members, got ideas for articles and research projects, and made a valuable contact that may turn into a yearly appearance by our Society. Finally, our Treasurer, Barbara Rockman made a major contribution to the national convention of the American Council for Polish Culture, held at the Marquette Hotel in Minneapolis in mid-August. With several others from Minneapolis's Polanie Club, she organized a very fine vocal-music recital by Mary Heston, a University of Minnesota graduate student of Polish descent, and the marvelous dinner, awards ceremony, and ball that closed the whole conference.

Some of these activities took large amounts of time, and the results showed it. Others did not, but we still got a return on our effort--more prominence for the organization, and a springboard for future activities. And that's just the point I'd like to make this time around: in a volunteer-run organization like ours, *everybody's help is valuable and welcome, every last bit makes a difference--and no matter how little it may seem, it's a start.*

Anyone can protest that they don't have the time to lend a hand, and usually with some justification--we're all busy with work, family, school, church, and other organizations. However, if we really do love our Polish and Minnesotan heritage, we can all eke out an hour or two on a regular basis to help preserve it for future generations. This could be as often as weekly, but frequency does not matter as much as regularity. As active PGS-MN members know from experience, it's not long before those small increments of labor really show results--in good programs for meetings, the high quality of our *Newsletter*, and great compendia of basic data for the benefit of all genealogists.

So, the next time someone from PGS-MN approaches you about helping out, don't automatically demur with a protestation that you don't have the time, and you wouldn't be much good at it besides. Neither of them, really, are true--and if you'll admit that, you can help us all to make our Society a real instrument for preserving the family and institutional history of Polonia in the North Star State.



## The Bulletin Board

PGS-MN made its first formal out-state appearance at **Polska Kielbasa Days** in Ivanhoe, Minnesota on August 10. As part of the Polish Heritage Program, President **Greg Kishel** presented an introduction to genealogical research entitled "Polish-American Genealogy, Starting from Scratch." We thank the program committee for letting us be a part of their celebration.

OUR OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING will feature a presentation about the Archives of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis by Patrick Anzelc, Archives Assistant (see page 1 for details). This archives is a significant resource for genealogical research. **It contains microfilmed copies of all birth, marriage and death records of all parishes in the archdiocese.** In addition, it contains (or is about to contain) records for all parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm which existed before 1900. If you have Catholic ancestors that lived in either diocese you will want to attend this meeting.

At the PGS-MN executive board meeting in August, a **Nominations Committee** was appointed and charged with presenting a slate of candidates for the consideration by the membership. **Elections are held at the annual meeting in November.** Members will be receiving a flyer concerning the nominees and the election meeting in the near future.

PGS-MN member **Ed Brandt** had an article entitled "Resources For Polish-American Genealogical Research" published in the Mar/Apr 1996 issue of Heritage Quest: The Genealogy Magazine!. Congratulations, Ed, on this very fine work.

An article summarizing the **returns of our Membership Questionnaire** appears on pages 12 to 14. We thank all members who returned their questionnaire. Many members indicated that the Missing Branches column was their favorite part of the Newsletter. We will therefore print the research information submitted in the questionnaire in the Missing Branches column in this and in future issues of this newsletter.

A number of our members and others are exploring the possibilities of forming the **KASZUBE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA**. To express interest or to send suggestions contact: **Blanche Krbecek**, 2041 Orkla Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55427, phone: (612) 545-7107.

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.

**The 1996 Fall Conference of the Polish Genealogical Society of America**, "THREE FACES OF POLAND: THE AUSTRIAN, PRUSSIAN, & RUSSIAN PARTITIONS," will be held October 25-27, 1996 at the Ramada O'Hare, Chicago. Presentations include: "*Immigrant Steamships*" by Dr. Paul S. Valasek, "*Immigration and Naturalization*" and "*Chicago and Cook County Records*" by Loretto Dennis Szucs, "*Photography and Genealogy*" by Stanley Schmidt, "*The Partitions of Poland*" by Dr. John Kulczycki, "*Multiethnic Migration Patterns in Prussian, Russian and Austrian Poland*" by Irmgard Hein Ellingson, "*Sources for Genealogical Research in the Former Russian and Former Austrian Territory of Poland*" by Daniel Schlyter, "*Ukrainian Genealogy*" and "*Ukraine's Perspective on Poland*" by Walter Rusel, "*Translating Documents of the Three Partitions*" and "*Differences in Names from the Three Partitions*" by William F. Hoffman, "*History of Polish America*" and "*Polish Collections at the Immigration History Research Center*" by John Radzilowski, "*Polish Chicago: A View from the Neighborhoods*" by Dr. Dominic Pacyga, "*Creating Multimedia Family Histories*" by H. Paul Davidson, "*The Poles in Chicago*" by Dr. Gregory Gazda. For more information contact **Dr. Paul S. Valasek**, 2643 West 51st Street, Chicago IL 60632.





## Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

### Do you know of Polish Displaced Persons in Germany after World War II?

My heartfelt thanks for reproducing my letter of November 28, 1995, to Polanie Publishing Company in your recent Newsletter, Spring 1996 Vol 4 No 1. And further thanks for being so considerate and generous as to forward me a copy of same to let me know. I've read it from cover to cover and found it fascinating.

Clearly, you have a huge population with Polish roots, with many probably going back to the uprisings that took place in Poland last century, sending waves of Poles to the U.S.A. and Canada for a new beginning. [Indeed, the exodus grew to such alarming proportions late last century that the renowned writer, Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1916) wrote the short story *Latarnik* as a warning to prospective émigrés that life was not necessarily a bed of roses in the new country. Fortunately, many remained undeterred.]

Among childhood memories is that of my father reading *W pustyni i w puszczy* which Sienkiewicz wrote in 1911. Years later, I found a beautifully illustrated edition of the book in London, where I lived for some years, and set to re-reading it, revisiting my childhood, easing my homesickness for my Polish family in Australia and renewing my knowledge of Polish in the process.

My parents were the only members of their respective families to leave Poland. This means I have a large extended family there. I met many aunts, uncles and cousins in 1974 during my first and only visit to Poland. I am fortunate in that I can, with their help, trace my lineage back several generations.

If there are any members of your most excellent society whose parents spent their World War II years in Germany, or the immediate post-war years in German displaced persons camps, I should love to hear from them, whether or not they knew my parents, Józefa (née Kwaczynski) and Stanislaw Wilk, now aged 75 and 81 respectively.

Sincerely,

**Therese Wilk Carlino, PO Box 395,  
South Yarra Vic 3141, AUSTRALIA**

### Polish Heritage Trail in Central Wisconsin

Enclosed is an article briefly introducing a "Polish Heritage Trail" in central Wisconsin which was prepared in 1994, by the Polish Heritage Awareness Society (PHAS) located in Stevens Point, WI. A copy of the trail guide is also included.

The Autumn 1995, PGS of MN newsletter included your article about your trip to Polish Canada and your stop in Polonia and in Stevens Point in Portage County, Wisconsin. It occurred to me that your readers might benefit from an article about our heritage trail in the event that they travel in our area.

Page 5, of the above mentioned newsletter, makes mention of a book, *An Anthology of Kashub-Polish Family Names in Poland, Canada, USA*, by Fr. Aloysius Rekowski, available in the Polish collection at the MGS Library. I would like to purchase a copy of this book and would appreciate an address.

Your newsletter is greatly appreciated as is your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

**Adeline M. Copa/Sopa, Green Bay Wisconsin**

*Editor's reply: Your article on the Polish Heritage Trail appears on page 16. We are happy to publish it. You may purchase An Anthology of Kashub-Polish Family Names in Poland, Canada, USA directly from the author. The most recent address that we have is: Father Al Rekowski, St. Mary's Rectory, 211 Avenue O South, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 2R6, Canada.*

### Newsletter Contributions Encouraged

Thank you very much for publishing my article in the Summer 1996 newsletter. It was very exciting and great fun for me. I certainly hope it will encourage other members to contribute.

I enjoy the Newsletter very much. I think the staff is doing a very nice job.

Very truly yours,

**Harry McOuat, Wakefield, Massachusetts**

### Missed Ivanhoe Presentation

Was I surprised to see my letter to you published in the Newsletter! But, that's not why I'm writing again, and I don't intend to bother you after each issue . . . really.

The reason I'm writing concerns the upcoming presentation being held in Ivanhoe on August 10. Since this is one of the places I really want to get to (including Wilno, Taunton, & Tracy) I was extremely excited. You see, both sides of my family, the Wilebskis and the Januczeks migrated to and from this area from the 1880's on. My hope was to attend this

meeting and perhaps run into some of the descendants of the family in the process.

Well, as luck would have it, we have a wedding (another Wilebski family member) on that same day. And besides the obligatory attendance, I'm also doing the still photographs.

Anyway, I thought I'd forward a couple of sheets from the two sides of the family tree and see if you or Greg Kishel could possibly mention or post so the locals could see it. Just maybe I could get lucky and find someone that knows more about these folks or their descendants. I'll understand if this isn't possible.

Again, great stuff in the newsletter. Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,

**Fred Wilebski, Lancaster, MN**

*Editor's reply: We made reference to your request at the Ivanhoe conference and several attendees took your name and address. Hopefully you will hear from some of them. We also listed information from your descendancy sheets in the Missing Branches column in this newsletter (see p.10). If any of this yields new information and contacts, please write and tell us about it.*

## Descendants of Polish Explorer Sought

I recently received a request from Poland concerning possible location of descendants of the 19th century Polish explorer Paul Edmund Strzelecki.

A great-great-grandson of the brother of Edmund discovered that a 1936 conference about Strzelecki in Poland received information from a Boleslaw Strzelecki in the US. He also discovered that a Boleslaw Strzelecki lived at 11 W. 30th St. in New York city in 1939. He suspects that the two are the same and that Boleslaw may be a descendent of Edmund. He also learned that this Boleslaw participated (or perhaps organized) a centennial conference (1840-1940) concerning Edmund.

I did a search of Strzelecki family names in the US, and they are numerous. About 385 Strzeleckis are listed in the US, so that contacting each one is an arduous task. I also checked the obits for New York city and they only show a Father Strzelecki born in Poland with no local relatives.

Does your organization have any information on the Strzelecki family in the US?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

**Frederick S. Zimnoch, VP Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts, 23 Pomeroy Terrace, Northampton, Massachusetts, 01060-3350.**

## RELEVANT ARTICLES FOR THOSE WITH ANCESTORS FROM PRESENT-DAY UKRAINIAN OR FORMER GERMAN TERRITORY

by Ed Brandt

The leading Jewish periodical, *Avotaynu* (available in the Germanic Collection at Concordia College or at the Jewish Historical Archives at Hamline University), has an article on "The Practicalities of Genealogical Research in Ukraine" by Heorgij V. Papakin, chief of the International Division of the Main Archival Administration under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in its Winter 1994 issue.

Records pertaining to Polish ancestors exist in the Ukrainian Central Historical Archives in Lviv and possibly also in Kiev. The addresses are:

The Central Historical Archives of Ukraine  
290008 Lviv  
Lviv-8 Sobornosti Square, 3a

The Central Historical Archives of Ukraine  
252601 Kyjiv  
Kyjiv-110 Solomyanska Street, 24

Names are changing. The "g" that was used during the days of Russian dominance has now become a Ukrainian "h," although for some reason this is only partly true in the case of the author's name.

The article discusses fees, access and procedures, including the comment that people requesting genealogical information through the Main Archival Administration will be given instructions as to how to send bank checks. Although the author doesn't say how, it is helpful to know that there is a way to ensure that money reaches its Ukrainian destination, which has been a big barrier until now.

Of course, there are many regional archives, in addition to the central ones. The same issue carries an article by Dimitry A. Panov on "Guide to the Jewish Records in the Rovno Oblast Archives" in Volhynia.

The Winter 1994 issue of the *German Genealogical Digest* reports on various microfilms recently added to the Family History Library collection under the title, "Surnames, Sources & Places." Among them are some records from Poznan, Eastern Pomerania, Silesia and Galicia. While many of these relate to German settlements, some of them are probably Polish records, since the FHL has reportedly filmed 85% of the records in Polish state archives.

### "IF YOU BOW AT ALL, BOW LOW"

Says an old Chinese proverb. It is fitting therefore to pay tribute and acknowledge the labor of love Barbara Rockman has so generously given to our organization. Following in the footsteps of her paternal grandmother, Kanstancja Jasińska, who was an active leader among the immigrants in the Twin Cities' Polish community,\* Barbara deserves recognition and thanks for all the many varied tasks she performs for our Society. In addition to being vice-president of the prestigious Polanie Club, she is one of the co-founders of PGS-MN as well as its Treasurer and Membership Chairman since its commencement in 1992.



Barbara Jasinski Rockman was born and reared in Minneapolis. Strange as it may seem, she says "I didn't know my mother was born in Poland until after her funeral." This is unfortunate, as she missed the opportunity to question her mother directly at length about her maternal forefathers.

Lucille (Ludwika) Zanderowska Jasinski, her mother, was born in the city of Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki located 36 km northwest of Warsaw at the confluence of the Vistula and Bug Rivers. The city dates back to 1374 and because of its location was a center of commerce in salt and grain. In the 18th and 19th centuries it had a textile factory and a publishing house for books printed in Hebrew. Two centers of worship dominate Nowy Dwór: a Roman Catholic Parish Church, which was built in 1792, later restored in 1914 and the late-baroque Evangelical (Lutheran) Church built in the first half of the 19th century. Lucille came to the United States in 1904 when she was but 3 years of age.

Regarding the paternal side, her father Stephan Jasinski was born in Chicago and settled in Minneapolis in 1905. His mother Konstancja came from Sierpc, a city near Warsaw, which was granted its charter by Władysław Jagiełło in the year 1389. Sierpc is known as a center for folklore woodcarving and ceramics. Religious life centers around four

magnificent edifices: a Gothic Parish Church dating from the 16th century containing late baroque altars; a late Gothic church built in 1483, restored in the late 18th and 19th centuries; an 18th century Benedictine Convent; and a baroque church founded in 1519, restored in 1614. This latter baroque church contains a beautiful altar with an interesting late-Gothic 15th century sculpture. The classical style Sierpc town hall (ratusz) dates back to the 19th century.

As we all know, the pursuit of one's genealogy is a never ending process and so it is with our Treasurer. The lacuna in Barbara's family tree is the origin of her paternal grandfather, Casimir (Kazimierz) or his whereabouts prior to his arrival in Chicago. After her mother's death, Barbara began asking questions among the relatives. Her cousin, Mary Jane Sokolowski Gustafson (1921-1990)\*\* knew more than most about the family history but couldn't help in this instance. Cousin Mary Jane was president of the Polanie Club at the time and invited her to become a member of that ladies organization. In 1990 they both went to Poland and stayed with relatives in Warsaw. At this time Barbara admits "I was more interested in just being Polish than checking family records." This attitude was the origin of Mary Jane's delightful expression in calling Barbara "A born again Pole!"

Sometime later when an article appeared in the POL-AM about starting up a Polish Genealogical Club Barbara tells us "I couldn't get there fast enough! So . . . I've been here from the very beginning, starting with our constitution, member mailing lists, printing of the NEWSLETTER, etc." With enthusiasm she exudes: "Whatever it takes! I have been treasurer since 1992 and have seen our Society grow to over 150 members in that time."

On a more personal note, Barbara has been married to Dean, who is of Norwegian (Norske) descent, for 19 years. She has 3 children, 6 grandsons and 2 granddaughters.

In conclusion, Barbara has with cheery disposition voluntarily provided the essential continuity in keeping the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota running smoothly and steering us on the right track. Dziękujemy!

*By Walter Kornel Kondy*

\*See: PGS-MN NEWSLETTER, v.2:3, pp. 1 and 11.

\*\*Cf. "Figures of Poland's Culture and History" POL-AM Newsletter, July/August, 1996, p. 8.



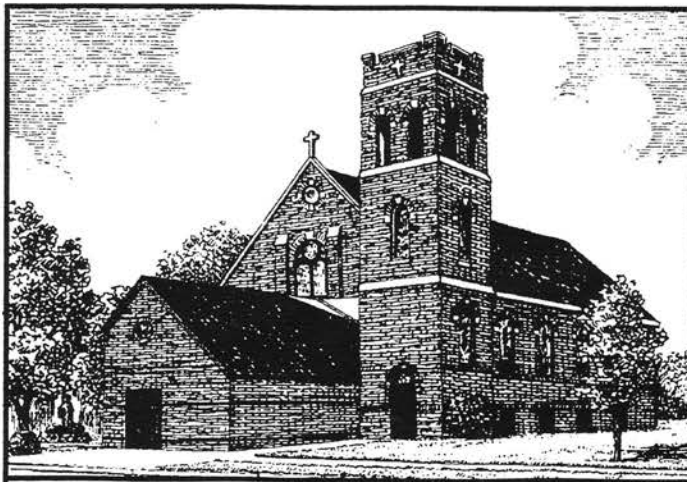
## POLISH CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN MINNESOTA

compiled by Paul Theodore Kulas  
©1994, 1996

### Part 2: Polish Catholic Churches in the Diocese of New Ulm (continued)

We continue our series of articles which will identify Polish parishes in the six Roman Catholic dioceses in Minnesota. In our Summer issue we introduced the Polish parishes of the Diocese of New Ulm and focused specifically on the **Church of St. John Cantius** in Wilno. In this issue we continue our discussion of parishes in the southwestern part of the diocese particularly the parishes of **SS. Cyril and Methodius** in Taunton and **SS. Peter and Paul** in Ivanhoe.

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 W.P.A. 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 W.P.A. 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.



**Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius**  
PO Box 368, Taunton, MN 56291-0368



Shield  
of the  
Diocese  
of  
New Ulm

### POLISH CATHOLIC PARISHES IN LINCOLN COUNTY AND VICINITY

The first Catholic church in Lincoln County, the Polish national parish of **St. John Cantius** in Wilno founded in 1883, was discussed in our last issue. 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. Microfilm copies of baptism, marriage and burial records at SS. Cyril and Methodius (film numbers 1711138 and 1711269) and at SS. Peter and Paul (film numbers 1728358 and 1728360) are available at the LDS Family History in Crystal.

#### Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Taunton.

By the 1890's the Polish settlement which began in Lincoln county had spread to Lyon and Yellow Medicine counties. As in Lincoln County, many of the early settlers had first settled in the Chicago, Illinois area before migrating to Minnesota. Early Polish pioneers in the Taunton area included: Andrew Budnikowski, Thomas Szarzynski, Casmier Swedzinski, Mike Sperfka, Anton Fier, Stanley Polejewski, Frank Dobrinski, Albert Kosmalski, Ignace and Frank Gawarecki, John Kopitski, Albert Gruhot, John Ross, Thomas Gruhot, John Andrejewski, Frank Klegie and Joseph Sanowski.

Although the closest Catholic church was in Minneota, the Poles of the Taunton area preferred to worship at St. John Cantius in Wilno where the native language of their homeland was used. In the spring of 1895, a get-together of Polish Catholics was arranged by Rev. Francis Jager, pastor of the Catholic churches in Marshall and Minneota. At this gathering it was decided to build a church in Taunton for Polish Catholics of the area. The construction was supervised

by Father Jager while men of the new parish supplied most of the labor. The church was dedicated on June 13, 1895 by Father Jager and by Father Zalewski of Wilno. It was named for Saints Cyril and Methodius, the brother Apostles to the Slavs. The first lay officers of the new parish were Mike Sperfka, Secretary and Andrew Budnikowski, Treasurer.

The early records of SS. Cyril and Methodius parish are in poor condition with many loose and possibly some missing pages. The baptismal record contains the following notation: "Many who were baptized in this parish have been entered in the Register of Wilno and Ivanhoe." The first recorded baptism on 1 September 1895 was that of "Joannem ex Francis Gawarcki et Suzanna Krankowska" (John son of Francis and Suzanna), born on 30 August 1895. Sponsors were Francis Woisniewski and Maria Fier. The first marriage was recorded on 8 July 1905 between Thomas Szarzynski "ex loco Poloniae" (from Poland), and the widow Francisca (Lszarzynska) Ruskiewicz. Witnesses were J. Gawarecki and M. Ruskiewicz. The first recorded death on 19 January 1906 was that of Carolina Dewing, daughter of Henry Dewing and Helenae Kosmolska. She was buried 21 January 1906 in the cemetery at Taunton. The first recorded First Communion class of 3 September 1905 consisted of "Antonius Fijer, Antonius Lonka and Josephus Marzanek."

The present church at Taunton was built in 1927. The Building and Loan committee consisted of A. J. Maserek, Joe Kubes, Thomas Tomek, John Smishek, Frank Swedzinski, Nick Schmidt and Marcel Ross. The following parishioners donated the stained glass windows and their names are engraved on the bottom of each window: James Pesek, Michael Swedzinski, Casimir Swedzinski, L. P. Szarzynski, Maryjana Chlophowiak, Frank Gawarecki, Thomas Szarzynski, Walter L. and Anton F. Fier and in memory of Garrett and Catherine Ahern, Ignatius Gaweriecki and Mary Gawarecki.

SS. Cyril and Methodius parish celebrated their centennial in July, 1995. The parish centennial history book published at that time contains much information useful to genealogists. It includes: a list of weddings at the church between 1905 and 1919, a list of baptisms between 1895 and 1923, a list of First Communion classes between 1905 and 1939 and a list of confirmation classes between 1926 and 1949. It also contains many family histories of current and past members of the parish. A copy of this history will soon be housed in the MGS library.



Saints  
Cyril and  
Methodius  
parish  
celebrated  
its  
centennial  
last  
summer.

**Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Ivanhoe.** The Catholic parish in Ivanhoe was first organized in 1900 under the name of the Church of St. George. It was a mission parish served by priests from its mother parish, St. John Cantius in Wilno. The founders were primarily English speakers who had originally attended the Polish national parish in Wilno. It soon became apparent, however, that the handful of English speaking Catholics could not support the financial burden of their own parish. In 1907, Rev. Peter Roy, the church's first resident pastor, reorganized the parish. Its name was changed to SS. Peter and Paul and the word of God was preached in both English and Polish. It was said that the name change was made to give each nationality its own saint. A succeeding pastor in an unsigned short parish history on file in the Archives of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis (probably written by Rev. S.F. Dobrenski, a native son of SS. Cyril and Methodius parish and pastor at SS. Peter and Paul from 1911 to at least 1949) states: "I never found out which was the saint of the Poles and which was the saint of the English speaking people. Non-the-less it made both parties happy even to this day."

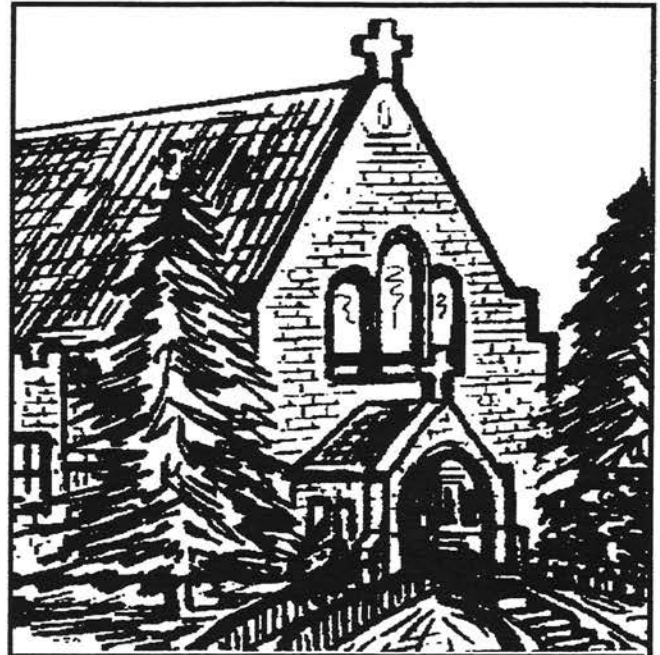
This parish history also states: "The first settlers around Ivanhoe to the East, West and Soth (sic), in the early days of the parish, were mostly of the German stock, and were in the majority when the parish was organized, but they are in the minority now. It seems the old settlers moved away, and the young Polish generation outnumbers them now so that now the greater number of the parish is of the Polish stock. However at the present time this parish has sample of all the nationalities found commonly in Minnesota." The 1949 parish questionnaire lists the following pioneer parishioners: James Machnikowski, S.A. Andrzejek, A.M. Matz, W.H. Nevin, Geo. Graff, John Huller, J.C. Mihm, Anton Kruse, John Matz, A. Golata, Michael Domak, John Kacznowski, Jr., Jerome



Domek and John Sullivan. It states that "Most of them from the Polish parish of Wilno, these were of the Polish nationality. The few who lived around this community were German and a few Irish." The W.P.A. church survey lists William Nevin and A.M. Matz as the first lay officers of the parish and A.M. Matz and Joseph Skorczewski as the present (1936) lay officers.

The names in early church records reflect a mixture of nationalities. Records begin with the first resident pastor in 1907. Before that they were recorded at St. John Cantius parish in Wilno. The first recorded baptism on 12 December 1907 was that of "Emmam Josepham Blanchard." The second on 18 January 1908 was that of Josephum Danielski, born on 17 January, who was the son of Anna Owazarzak and Florian Danielski. The sponsors were Petrus Owazarzak and Josepha Lubonska. The first recorded marriage, on 14 January 1908, was between Henrius Becker and Amolia Mihm. The second was on 2 November 1911, between Frank Saikowski from St. John Canti the son of John Saikowski, and Anna Przymus from Ivanhoe the daughter of Matt Przymus and Mary Domagota. Witnesses were Konstantia Przymus and Alexander Czaikowski. The first recorded death was 80-year-old Jacob Conwers on 30 December 1907. The second was the two hour old, infant daughter of Augusti Behnke and Rosa Budnik on 4 April 1908. She was buried on 6 April in St. Georgii Cemetery in Ivanhoe. An added notation indicates that the infant had a private baptism.

The Ivanhoe settlement exists because railroad executives decided to bypass the established settlement of Wilno (located only three miles away) and plan a new town site (probably so they could make additional money from the sale of newly platted village lots). This decision implemented in 1900, caused a crisis in Wilno and created a controversy over where their proposed new church should be built. It was decided to go ahead with their plans and build in Wilno. Wilno thus remained the religious and cultural center for the Poles of Lincoln County. Ivanhoe, however, soon became the county economic center (because of the railroad station) and the political center (because it was named the county seat). Consequently many Polish businessmen formerly located in Wilno moved to Ivanhoe. The 1949 parish history listed above goes on to say: "One of these is worthy of mention. Stanley Andrzejek, who made such transfere (sic) from Wilno to Ivanhoe. His Gel. (sic) Merchandise Store started in Wilno in 1898 continued in that business in Ivanhoe til his death in Feb. 1939. His son Walter carries on this business in the same place, but of course modernized in according to the progress of the present age."



**Church of Saints Peter and Paul**  
PO Box 49, Ivanhoe, MN 56142-0049

**Other parishes in southwestern New Ulm diocese.**

The map on page 367 in *They Choose Minnesota* shows the settlement of Poles in Minnesota's rural areas in 1905. It indicates significant Polish settlement in Burton and Wergeland townships in Yellow Medicine County. Most of these Poles probably attended SS. Cyril and Methodius parish in Taunton in Lyon County, but some may have attended the closer, but mostly German, **Church of St. Leo** in St. Leo. In the 1949 parish questionnaire, the **Church of the Holy Redeemer** in Marshall is listed as having eighteen different nationality groups including Poles, so there must have been some subsequent Polish migration to this Lyon county seat. Meanwhile, in neighboring Redwood County, the **Church of the Holy Name** in Vesta lists members as being comprised of "First: Bohemian, German and Irish. Now also: Polish and French."

In the Winter issue of this newsletter we plan to discuss Polish settlement in McLeod County in the eastern part of the Diocese of New Ulm. It will feature most notably the Polish national parish of **St. Adalbert in Silver Lake**. 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.

**QUERIES:** Each issue of this newsletter contains a research information exchange section. Members are invited to place inquiries pertaining to the exchange of family information, requests for help or offers to aid others researching the same family lines. Send to: Paul Kulas, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316.

**John M. Franks**, 80 Foster Avenue, Malverne, NY 11565-1938 writes: "I am interested in knowing what information and/or services your organization can provide. My paternal grandfather and grandmother lived in Marshall County, Minnesota in the 1890's. My grandmother, but not my grandfather, was enumerated in the 1990 (sic, presumably the writer means 1900) census. I'm interested in knowing more about them . . . when they arrived in MN, from where in Poland, when and where they died, etc. Their names were Thomas & Anna LUDWIKOWSKI (Ludwickoski). Can your society be of help?"

**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. He had an older sister ANNA SYZDEK, born about 1838 or 9 (lived to be very old) died about 1960. She married JOSEPH ZABAWA, born 19 March 1832 who died 6 September 1914. They immigrated in August 1873 with 5 children to Marlin and then Bremond Texas. Albert also had half brothers. MARCIEL (MARSHALL) SYZDEK, born 27 February 1860, died 27 March 1947. He married MAGDALENA DZDIEIC(Z) in Poland. Immigrated to Bremond, Texas in 1890 with wife and two daughters. Seeking their parent. Was Anna a full sister to Albert and where is she buried? Also, any ancestors/siblings and their location in Poland and USA. Willing to share information."

**Fred Wilebski**, P.O. Box 74, Lancaster, MN 56735 is searching for descendants of THOMAS and MARY JANUCZEK. They had nine children: Gertruda (b. 1858 in Poland, d. 31 March 1929 in Wilno, Minnesota, m. PETROS SPINER, children: Stanley, Bernard, Joanna, Rosalia, Anna, Francisca), Antonia (b. 14 Jan. 1860, d. 29 Jan. 1914 in Warren, Minnesota, m. 1880 to FRANCESZEK "FRANK" WILEBSKI, b. 15 Nov. 1854 in Poznan, Poland, d. 4 July 1928 in Hallock, Minnesota), John (m. CATHERINE KALISZ, children: Joseph, Pelagia, Marcha, Maryanna, Florence, Catherine), Felix, Josepha (m. JOANNE POZOVSKI, children: Maryanna, Francis, Francisca, Josepha/Pelagia,

Stefanum Julius, Helena, Annam, Valentinus), Maryanna, Maria, Joanne (m. ANNA KULAS, children: Franciscum, Marianna, Vaslavas, Carolius), and Clara (m. FRANCISCUS SPINNER, children: Cascilian, Francisca).

**Fred Wilebski**, P.O. Box 74, Lancaster, MN 56735 is searching for descendants of AGNES WIELEPSKI, born 24 March 1851 in Poland and died 3 February 1927 in Wilno, Minnesota. She married MATTHEW SMARZYK and had seven children: Valeria (b. 10 Dec. 1878 in Illinios), Anton (b. 1882), Cathrina (b. 26 April 1884 in Wilno), Paulus (b. 13 Jan. 1886 in Wilno), Franciscus (b. 25 Jan, 1888 in Wilno), Joseph (b. 19 Feb. 1890 in Wilno, m. Bernice ?, d. 28 May 1974 in Ivanhoe) and Victoria (b. 7 Nov. 1892 in Wilno). Valeria married CARL FIER on 23 April 1894 and had six children: Pauline, Hattie (m. EMIL DEVOS), Helen (m. PHIL DEVOS), Mary (m. JULES DEKAISER), George and Frank.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We welcome the following new members.

**LaVonne Bouwman**, 4500 E. 33rd, #42, Sioux Falls SD 57103 is researching LUTZWICK, ZGODA family names.

**Ivanhoe Public Library**, Box 25, Ivanhoe, MN 56142.

**Katie Kornder**, 10476 Old Hiway 169 Blvd, Belle Plaine, MN 55011 is researching KUDUK and CHRISTYNIAK names in Poland and in Minneapolis.

**Louis Kulas**, Rt 1 - Box 226, Houston, MN 55943 is researching the KULAS family name. His grandfather, JOHN KULAS, came to Poniatowski, Wisconsin, via Milwaukee from Kashubia in 1875.

**Vicky Larson**, 1007 - 13th St. SE #1, Brainerd, MN 56401 is researching MALCER and DOMBROWSKI names in Poland and in the USA.

**Donald Muchlinski**, 7924 E. Woodsboro Ave, Anaheim, CA 92807 is researching the MUCHLINSKI family name in Muchlin, a suburb of Turek near Kaliz and in North Platte, Nebraska, Antigo, Wisconsin, Lincoln County, Minnesota and Enumclaw, Washington.

**Fran Konietzko Saucedo**, 12706 Sand Piper Dr, Live Oak, TX 78233-2738 is researching FAUTSH and KONIETZKO names in Swierkle, Opole, Poland (formerly Horst, Opole, Germany and in Delano and Meeker County in Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin.

**Kathleen Schuster**, 10042 Pilgrim Way, Maple Grove, MN 55369 is researching ZGODA, JERZAK family names.

**Dick Sydor**, 3028 W Vermillion Tr, Farmington, MN 55024 is researching SYDOR and MADEY names in Opotow, Poland and Luvov, Ukraine and in Buffalo, New York.

**Mrs. Barbara Walsh**, 4841 Walsh Dr. SE, Alexandria, MN 56308 is researching POLACZYK, HERDOBA, KLEKOSZWESSKE names in Cracow and in Minneapolis and PODGORSKI, KRYNIAK, THALNOFSKI names in Pozan and in St. Paul.

**Ann Wrampelmeier**, 3249 Worthington St NW, Washington, DC 20015 is researching the KUKOWSKI name in Lipusz parish, STOLTMAN in Lesno parish and CHRZAN in Borzyszkowy parish. All settled in Winona, Minnesota and Pine Creek, Wisconsin.

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

**Edward R. Brandt**, is researching dozens of names who were Mennonites and German Lutherans and Reformed particularly SCHMIDTKE, MÜLLER, G(R)ODZINSKA/RISSTOCK, WEINKAUF, KRAMER, BRAUN especially in Poznań, Łódź, Radom and Volhynia. Also in Gdańsk-Elbląg-Malbork area, in Galicia (Volhynian and Galician towns now in Ukraine) and in Manitoba and Nebraska.

**Shirley Mask Connolly**, 21 Granville Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Y0M5 is researching MASZK, PIECHOWSKI, WALDOCH, LIPINSKI names in Kaszubia and Renfrew Co., Ontario, WISNIEWSKI, BORUCKI, AFELSKI names in Poznan and Renfrew Co, the JED name and many others!

**William & Maryann (Huncha) Drabelis**, 1822 Dakota Ave S, St. Louis Park, MN 55416-1418 are researching LYREK, HUNCIA, DRUBEL, DRABELINA names.

**Francine Palubicki Fitting**, 957 Hawthorne Ln, Cedarburg, WI 53012 is researching: PALUBICKI, MELING names in Klasno, Ugoszcz parish, MAJKOWSKI, ORLIKOWSKI in Ploczyce, Lipusz parish, PIECHOWSKI, MEGIER in Kiedrowice, Borzykowsy parish, RYMARKIEWICZ, BARTKOWIAK in Poznan. All of the above settled

in Winona, Minnesota. Also SADOWSKY in Schludron, Lipusz parish and LITERSKI, MONDRY in Pine Creek, Wisconsin.

**Joan Marie Gordenier**, 10069 Hadley Road, Gregory, MI 48137-9609 is researching the MASLOWSKI name, PIKULA in Debowiecka, DZIABAS in Poznan, DAMBOWY, YOREK in Silesia. All settled in Morrison Co., Minnesota.

**Abina T. Horsch**, 1011 Feltl Court, #311, Hopkins, MN 55343 is researching the MAREK name in Larnow, Poland and the KALITA name in Debica, Poland and both in NE Minneapolis.

**Jerry Kolton**, 2535 174th Ln NW, Andover, MN 55304-1373 is researching the ROGALSKI name in Racienowo, Poland, SZATKOWSKI in Plutowo, GUZICKI in Dzielowo and all in South Bend, Indiana. Also the PACER name in Wojcin and Chicago.

**Margaret A. Kowalewski**, Marval Drive -- RR1 Box 42, Minnesota City, MN 55959 is researching the ROLBIECKI name in Wiele, Poland and in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, KOWALEWSKI, LILLA in Wisconsin and Minnesota and DATTA in Minnesota and Montana.

**Clare Elaine Larkin**, 524 - 12th St, Red Wing, MN 55066-3163 is researching the BUCCHOLZ name in Northwest Poland and in the Green Bay, Wisconsin area and SZATKOWSKI in Chojnice (Kownitz).

**Harry B. McOuat**, 4 Walton Lane, Wakefield, MA 01880-1036 is researching JAKUBIK, SOBOSZCZYK, BIENIEK names in Silesia and in Browerville, Minnesota.

**Daniel A. Nedoroski**, 2470 Beverly Rd, St. Paul, MN 55104-4904 is researching NEIDEROWSKI, BARANOWSKI names in Nowy Sacz - Southern Poland - Labowa.

**Diane Pallas (Safarz)**, 502 7th Ave N, So. St. Paul, MN 55075 is researching the SAFARZ name from Jaslo, Poland and in St. Paul.

**Barbara Jasinski Rockman**, 2217 Wight Bay, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 is researching SULINSKI, ZANDAROWSKI, JASINSKI names in Chicago, Illinois.

**Joseph L. Szarzyński**, 6304 Halifaz Ave So, Edina, MN 55424 is researching SZARZYNSKI, BULOWSKI names in Posen and in Lincoln Co., Minnesota.



## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

This article summarizes the returns of the questionnaire that appeared with our Spring 1996 newsletter. We thank all who have responded. It gives direction to the board when planning activities for PGS-MN. You are reminded that your opinions are always welcome -- even if they are contrary to some things that we are currently doing. We want this to be a member directed organization. Feel free to contact any of our board members with your ideas. Phone numbers are listed on page 2. Or better yet -- write a letter to the editor and see your views published in this newsletter.

### Part I. Personal.

To date we received 38 returns, which is about 23% of our membership. The areas of research of members who responded will be published in the Missing Branches column in this and in future issues of the newsletter. Most respondents belonged to other Polish organizations. The most frequently mentioned were the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota and the Polish Genealogical Society of America. Also, most belonged to other genealogical organizations. The most frequently mentioned was the Minnesota Genealogical Society but many different ethnic and regional genealogical organizations were also named. A few of you volunteered for various committees and your name have been given to the appropriate committee chair.

### Part II. Newsletter.

36 members give the newsletter numerical ratings ranging from 5 to 2. The mean score was 4.277. Over 97% of those responding read all or most of each newsletter. Almost 64% indicated they read all of each issue. Including articles about Polish history and culture and the Polish-American immigrant experience was favored by a 3 to 1 margin. We received much feedback about articles that you thought were useful and about what you thought we were doing well. Perhaps we can print some of the comments in future newsletters. Eight members indicated they might write an article for the newsletter. Thank you very much! We will be in contact with you. Articles from members are always welcome

### Members listed the following topics they would like to see in future issues of the newsletter:

- \*Information on Kashubians.
- \*Article on St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Browerville, MN and St. Mary's Mt. Carmel,

Long Prairie, MN. Also, Polish roots in Todd county.

\*Archives and genealogical organizations in Poland.  
\*People who translate Polish-English, English-Polish.

\*Short tips on doing research.

\*Stories of trips or home movies of them.

\*New information sources or actual records to look through.

\*Lists of places to go to do research (times and days open) -- places for ship records, naturalization papers, etc.

\*More genealogical lists/data, naturalization lists, cemetery transcriptions.

\*Some interesting questions are submitted by members in the Missing Branches column. Please continue to encourage people to submit the information when they get answers from readers. I submitted a question 2 years ago and got several letters from people, including one recently, saying they wanted to know the details if I ever find the answer! Well I haven't, but but if/when I do, I will surely submit and article as it seemed to interest others -- including a couple genealogical societies.

\*More how to's, more problem solving, such as locating place names.

\*1. Why left Europe. 2. Why came to particular place in Minnesota. 3. Who came first.

\*More sources and family histories.

\*Polish history as it relates to emigration to US.

\*How to research Polish records here and abroad.

\*Article regarding Sturgeon Lake, Pine County, Minnesota.

\*I spoke to a man yesterday who told me of a fantastic coincidence of how he met someone who was also searching for the same family names.

These gook luck/coincidence stories I find fascinating.

\*International and internal migration.

\*Geographical boundries in Poland's history

\*Information on areas such as Galicia - what area it comprised.

### The following are comments regarding ways to improve the newsletter:

\*Include information that is helpful for beginners starting to do research.

\*Too much "other" information. Much of it can be found noted in the daily newspaper. More on names/places/dates -- real genealogy information.

\*I have noticed some inconsistency in font size, i.e. Spring 1996 issue, front page, pp. 5-7 are in a font like Times Roman 12, and the remainder is about a

- '10'. I understand the space constraints, but the smaller font is hard on the eyes (mine anyway!).
- \*More problem solving. More how to's. I've helped a few "beginners" who have walked in at the Mormon library in Crystal and need help getting started. Beginners get discouraged unless they get help early in their start-up period.
  - \*Maintain quality.
  - \*Get it out on time.
  - \*I think the editor could use more help from members willing to contribute articles and items of interest.
  - \*Increasing the number of articles on Polish settlements in Minnesota and, to some extent, elsewhere.
  - \*Recommend having a small index on the cover like the Czechoslovak newsletter does. That is very helpful to quickly find past articles

### Part III. Programs.

18 respondents indicated that they attended at least one of our meetings although many others indicated that they would like to but couldn't because they lived out-state or out of the state. 16 gave our programs numerical ratings ranging from 5 to 3. The mean score was 4.25. Several expressed interest in informal sharing meetings. They also suggested that these be alternated with more formal presentations and the number of meeting per year be increased. Most were satisfied with meeting at the Northeast library but these were mostly people living in the metro area. There was a definite interest in having out-state meetings. Northland/Duluth/Hibbing, Winona, St. Cloud, and Ivanhoe were suggested. Also suggested were Stevens Point, Wisconsin and Salt Lake City. There was some interest in having outside speakers and all-day seminars. Suggested costs for such meetings ranged from \$2 to \$25 for an all-day session that included lunch, though most suggested that fees be kept reasonable. Two members indicated that they might be able to make a future presentation. We received much feedback about which of our past programs were useful and about what we were doing well in regard to programs.

#### The following is a listing of future programs that were suggested:

- \*How to write letters in Polish.
- \*A workshop in helping writing a letter, where to send it, how much money to put in envelope. A regular hands on. I've written letters but some need more personal input.
- \*Visits to Poland made by members.

- \*Accessing and deciphering church records.
- \*Polish immigrants who could talk about life years ago in Poland.
- \*Any of the leaders in Polish Genealogical Society of America in Chicago. Don't know if this would be realistic. Names: William Hoffman, Stan Schmidt.
- \*A meaningful meeting at the Minnesota Historical Society. One which would emphasize sources for Polish research.
- \*Polish resources at the Immigration History Research Center.
- \*Using the Internet for Polish genealogical research.
- \*A meeting at the Map library at the U. of M.
- \*Immigration, including minority groups from Poland.
- \*More on Poles in Minnesota.
- \*Rusin topics.
- \*Polish resources at the MGS library.
- \*Resources of the LDS Family History Centers.

#### The following were suggested program improvements:

- \*Cover other areas of Poland. Lipno?
- \*Publicize more -- through churches, groups; could bring in more new members. (Fee could be charged for non-members in attendance.)
- \*Would it be possible to get outlines or transcripts of programs that are presented at meetings? Being out of state, I can't attend.
- \*Start them on time.
- \*Get more members involved.
- \*Communicating to members about meetings to take place. More advertising or notices about meetings.
- \*More interesting topics or subjects.

### Part IV. Library.

11 respondents indicated that they have used the Polish collection at the MGS library. The frequency of visits ranged from once to "nearly every month or two." 5 indicated that they used the library on a "Polish night at the library" night. 9 gave the library numerical ratings ranging from 4 to 3. The mean score was 3.388.

#### The following were suggested additions to the library:

- \*Polish phone books (like the great Slovak ones).
- \*More specific local resources in both Poland and America.
- \*Complete set of detailed current maps of Poland.
- \*Perhaps Polish telephone books.
- \*All pertinent new books as they are published.
- \*Older classic works on history, migration and the Polish-American experience, to the extent that they can be found.

**The following were suggested library improvements:**

- \*Have Polish day on a Saturday.
- \*More books.
- \*Have volunteers trained on the computer.
- \*Have a membership meeting at the MGS library to show and promote use of its Polish resources.
- \*Many of our members are apparently not using our library resources; figure out how to stimulate them to do so.
- \*Do more of what you're doing: increase the size of the collection and devote more money to do so.

**Part V. Other.****The following additional organizational activities were suggested:**

- \*How do you/we interact with other Polish/genealogical groups/societies?
- \*Other groups have gatherings with microfilm of church and government records and books from the library.
- \*Could offer classes in: Research "How to get started," "Where to go". . . , History/culture, Polish language.
- \*The Irish genealogical group always runs a booth at the Irish festival. Could PGS-MN have a booth at Festivals, i.e. Heritage Fest in New Ulm? There are probably other places -- Festival of Nations, for example. Just leave PGS-MN membership flyers at a Polish craft booth. Are there flyers at MGS? How about flyers at the public libraries in towns known for Polish heritage (Good vacation activity for your traveling members!)?
- \*Cataloging data or genealogist interest (i.e. preserving history). Example(s) 1. Catholic cemetery in Browerville. 2. Duluth has a Polish cemetery (next to Calvary).
- \*Working with other American Polish genealogical societies. (or is this already so?).
- \*Polish resources on the Internet.

**Other final comments included the following:**

- \*More communication -- Right now efforts are being made to help communication, such as this questionnaire.
- \*Would like to read about Polish casualties from "Eastland" disaster in Chicago -- Slovaks are well documented.
- \*Have people send in a letter (in English) which will be translated and printed in the newsletter as an example for other people (General letter eg. "I may be related to you . . ." or "Dear Church of . . ."). There are general examples but they are too general.
- \*I have a young family with many interests. I try to

- research my genealogy around their schedules. Saturday morning is good for me. I am trying to plan time for the library in St. Paul. I can't be gone for long periods of time -- 4 hours maximum. I don't have an income for myself and can't pay for seminars or out of town trips which conflict with my family. I have about 2-4 Saturdays a year that I can make a meeting. I watch the newsletter for someone speaking who may be able to help in my personal research and that is the meeting I try very hard to make.
- \*Why not cemetery transcriptions of Polish cemeteries? Why not have a "research" night and transcribe Polish naturalizations and print it?
  - \*Too much space is devoted to events -- nothing to aid genealogists -- translations from Slownik Geograficzny.
  - \*Lists of people who traveled to Poland who are willing to aid others with advice etc. about traveling to Poland.
  - \*Sometimes the newsletters are a wee bit dry. Don't be afraid of lighter topics -- Poles can be fun!
  - \*When new microfilms become available at the family history center, please print the titles along with the microfilm order number.
  - \*Thank you! You're doing very well for such a young organization.
  - \*I like the organization. It has come a long way in a short time. The newsletter is a nice publication. Personally, I like the idea of publishing individual research experiences -- that is how we all learn.
  - \*You're doing a good job!
  - \*An opportunity for input is appreciated. However, a shorter questionnaire is needed. Some portions are redundant.
  - \*Is there anyone out there who could recommend an excellent self-teaching program for learning to speak Polish?
  - \*Thanks! Great survey!
  - \*Relying too much on too few people to get things done. Finding board members who will play an active role.
  - \*By figuring out how to recruit more members who will assume significant responsibilities and by seeking to recruit and involve more Minnesotans outside the Twin Cities; eventually making it a more multi-ethnic society.
  - \*I think we are regaining some of harmony which existed in our founding period. Most of the things we should do are being done regularly. Coordination is better than it was in our early years.
  - \*Would like to see PGS of America and PGS of MN strike up a close working relationship. You have a lot to offer each other.



## Success Story #2

By **Blanche Krbecek**

### USING THE M.G.S. NATIONAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY CD-ROM

After searching roots in all the proper places for over a decade, I was at the Minnesota Genealogical Society for a meeting and by chance learned they had available the national telephone directory on CD-ROM.

Oral family history said the Bodus people in Milwaukee were somehow related to us, but no one knew exactly how. Since there were not too many, I wrote to every Bodus that I did not know.

Some time later I heard from a lady with a different married name. She told me several of her relatives had sent my letters to her since she knew a little family history. Her father had told her that their family came from a town Lechlin, but she had no documentation.

I ordered the Lechlin films from the Mormon Family History Center. I fortunately did have a birth date for my ancestor and did find his name in the Lechlin church baptism records.

Working with my correspondent and the church records I was able to ascertain the three first cousins had immigrated to America in the early 1870s. Two stayed in Milwaukee and my ancestor moved on to Leelanau County, Michigan.

An unrelated trip to M.G.S., an introduction to the national telephone directory CD-ROM, and some letters finally led to my finding my ancestral village in Poland.



## Membership Application

Consider giving gift memberships this holiday season.

Individual / Family - \$10.00       Sponsor - \$25.00       New       Renewal

Voluntary Contribution to the Library Fund - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

List surnames from Poland  
that you are researching: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

## POLISH HERITAGE TRAIL in CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Submitted by:  
**Adeline M. Copa/Sopa,**  
Heritage Trail Chair



A Polish Heritage Trail was developed in 1994, by the Polish Heritage Awareness Society (PHAS) located in Stevens Point, WI. It is a self-guided auto or bicycle tour of the rural areas of northern Portage County and of southern Marathon County, as well as of the city of Stevens Point.

The Tour features the Ellis, once known as Poland Corners, and Polonia communities--the location of the original Polish settlement in rural central Wisconsin. This settlement is considered by some to be the first in Wisconsin and perhaps the second rural settlement in North America.

Ten rural communities, in addition to Stevens Point, are among the possible destinations in this tour. Included are the church and grounds of Polonia with its Pioneer's Grove, plus 11 other Catholic churches

with Polish orientation, six road-side shrines, six road-side crosses, and many examples of the success of the Polish immigrants who placed a high value on owning their own land. The tour of the city features the Market Square where many of the Polish farmers brought their animals and produce for sale. All are located among the lakes, rivers, and streams of the rolling and partially forested countryside created by the last glacier.

The presence of road-side crosses and shrines is very common in Europe, particularly in Poland. However, they are found in few areas in the US. Most of them are located in Wisconsin and most of these in central Wisconsin. This spring, a restored cross, replacing one lost to weather and to time, was erected at an intersection north of Stevens Point by members of the Joseph Wojcik family. Plans are underway to restore another cross in the town of Dewey next year.

Visitors to central Wisconsin are invited to "Follow the Polish Heritage Trail" using a trail guide and a Portage County map which are available at the Stevens Point Area Convention and Visitors Bureau or from PHAS.



**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
Polonia, Wisconsin

Polonia is the oldest Polish settlement in the Midwest and the second oldest in North America.

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