



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5

SPRING 1997

NUMBER 1

## PGS-MN MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, April 12, 1997, 11:00 a.m.

**Mike Jaros**

Minnesota state legislator from Duluth,  
speaking on

*"A Polish Family's History in Bosnia."*

Mike will cover the story of his family's background in Galicia and Bukowina, and its migration to a Polish enclave in Bosnia at the end of the 18th century. He will detail the history of the community until the end of World War II, when most of its members were dispersed to the new western provinces of Poland, Australia, and the United States. This will be a rare look at a little known outpost of Polonia.

The meeting will be held at the St. Paul Public Library, Merriam Park Branch, 1831 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul [located on Marshall Avenue west of Snelling Avenue; take the Snelling Ave. exit off 1-94, go south to Marshall, take a right, and the library will be on the north side of Marshall about six blocks from Snelling]. The library facility will open at 11:00 sharp and the meeting will start as soon thereafter as possible.

## PGS-MN VISITS ST. CLOUD!

Saturday, April 19, 1997

with presentations by Paul Kulas

PGS-MN will be part of *The Heritage and Culture of Stearns County*, a day-long seminar cohosted by the St. Cloud Area Genealogists and the Stearns County Historical Society. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. Admission is free but a cash donation to the area food shelf is suggested.

Paul will present *Finding Your Ancestral Parish in Poland* (at 10:30 a.m.) and *Patterns of Polish Settlement in Minnesota: New Clues from the 1910 Census* (at 1:30 p.m.). Other speakers will discuss Slovenian settlement in central Minnesota, Cuban-American genealogy, uses of passenger lists, computers in genealogy, and basic research techniques. PGS-MN will have a display and sales table. Take a spring drive and join us!

The seminar will be held at the Stearns County Heritage Center, 235-33rd Avenue South, St. Cloud.



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*Polish Genealogical Society  
of Minnesota*

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

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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. 15, May 15, August 15 and Nov. 15 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 55316-2145.**  
(e-mail: [kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us](mailto:kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us))

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**President's Letter**

by Greg Kishel

On February 8, 1997, our Society was treated to a presentation at St. Mary's Russian Orthodox Cathedral in northeast Minneapolis. Father Nathan Kroll, a member of the Cathedral's pastoral staff, gave us a lively speech on the origins of its first congregation, which was made up of Greek Catholic Slovaks and Rusins from Galicia, the borderland that spanned modern-day southeastern Poland, western Ukraine, and eastern Slovakia. The story of the fledgling parish's disassociation from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul and its conversion to the Russian branch of Orthodox Christianity was a cautionary tale. It powerfully underlined the need to respect others' outward traditions in the interests of preserving a unity founded in common faith. Beyond its historical and genealogical aspects, the presentation was a fine opportunity for our member-attendees--of Roman Catholic upbringing one and all--to learn about the other major strain of Slavic Christianity. Father Nathan graciously and ably answered many questions about Orthodox theology, liturgy, and life.

In all, it was a good opportunity to broaden our knowledge and outlook on the Slavic immigrant experience in America. In one key way, though, Father Nathan's approach was a lesson for us as family historians. To explain the events he covered, he discussed the disparate influences of geography, faith, and politics (secular and religious). One had to learn about the 16th-century religio-political origins of the Greek Catholic, or "Uniate," affiliation with the Latin Church, to make real sense out of events in Minnesota over three hundred years later. That introduction enabled one to understand the devotion of the first St. Mary's parishioners to the Eastern Rite of Christianity, and its adherence to a married clergy notwithstanding its past institutional allegiance to Rome. Set against this were the goals of Archbishop John Ireland, the "Great Americanizer." The contrast underlined the inevitability of a split, and made it clear just what a historical departure the congregation made when it elected to retain Father Alexis Toth and to take up ties with an Orthodox national institution that shared its basic church culture. Finally--and ringing back to Central Europe--those Galician origins and past Latin affiliation explain the persistence at St. Mary's of certain liturgical practices that reverberate with Rome, rather than Constantinople or Moscow.

The lesson here for us as genealogists is the need to place our family history against the bigger context. Knowing something about the geography, politics, and society that were contemporaneous with those dated individual life events makes the world of our ancestors come alive. Just finding the raw vital statistics does not. That's why consulting a good gazetteer should come immediately after

learning the name of an ancestral village. *Stownik geograficzny*--published just a century ago--is available in microform both in the PGS-MN collection at the MGS Library, and at the LDS Family History Center in Crystal. It often contains a wealth of data about the local population, industry, material culture, topography, and even climate, all preserved right at the point when most of our ancestors were emigrating. (While *Stownik* is in the Polish language, many of its entries are in a standard format, with uniform abbreviations, and the microform version begins with a basic translation guide. With that, and one of the dictionaries in our collection, one can get the gist without a bit of prior instruction in Polish.)

Beyond this, of course, there are maps and aerial photographs--the former available in great variety and minute detail at the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota, and the latter to be had through the mail from the U. S. government. These may be specific enough to show just how tiny those individual farm plots were getting through repeated division-through-inheritance. This, with a vengeance, is concrete evidence on why those peasants were pulling out centuries-old roots to cross the Atlantic. Finally, general histories of Central Europe can illustrate the swirl of broader events--political reconfigurations, wars, plagues, and famines--which our ancestors survived intact, and with toughness, in that signal characteristic of the Polish people's identity.

All of these things, and more, are there for the using. It's the central goal of the PGS-MN to acquire them or to make them known to you, through our collection, our meeting presentations, and this *Newsletter*. The lesson of something like Father Nathan's speech, and much of what we do, is that you *should* make use of it--it will make that final reconstruction of your family's untold story, and your research, all the richer, and much more comprehensible. And, finally, if you have some new ideas on how to make all of our work come alive, let the rest of us know! That's what truly will make us a *Towarzystwo*, a Society--the coming together in sharing and understanding.



## The Bulletin Board

I APOLOGIZE for the delay in getting out this issue. While working on ice dams on my roof, I fell about 10 feet onto my asphalt driveway. Four broken ribs and a collapsed lung kept me in the hospital for 10 days. While convalescing I read *Remember Me Dancing* by Ken Perejko. It is a bittersweet novel of the Polish immigrant experience set in rural Wisconsin in the year 1922. I found himself crying when Frank died and praying for Mary as she faced her disturbing dilemma. Ask for it at your local public library. If they don't have it, recommend that they purchase it. --PTK

IN OUR LAST ISSUE we suggested that members **contribute to our library fund**. We want to purchase a complete set of detailed maps of contemporary Poland. So far in 1997, we have collected \$82 from our members for this fund. We thank you. We need more than twice that amount before we can make the purchase. Please consider making a contribution to our library fund.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED for 1997, this is the last issue that you will be receiving. You can tell if you are current with your dues by looking at the number by your name on the mailing label of your newsletter. The first two numbers indicate the year through which you have paid your membership dues. The last two numbers are the year in which you joined. The number 9692, for example, indicates that you paid dues through 1996 and that you have had continuous membership since 1992. It also means that you should now renew your membership. Any questions concerning your membership should be directed to our Treasurer, **Barbara Rockman, 2217 Wight Bay, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443. Phone:(612) 493-8465**

BEGINNING ON PAGE 12 of this issue is an article about a furniture maker from Wilno, Canada submitted by member **Shirley Mask Connolly**. We print this article not only because of its interesting connection between the Canadian Polish community and Minnesota, we also wish to point out that collecting your family history is much more than discovering names and dates pertaining to your ancestors. It includes finding out the stories about the lives of those people that have been passed down from generation to generation. It also includes preserving the lore and artifacts (the photos, quilts, letters, diaries and furniture) that tell your family's story.

**Bulletin Board**, continued on page 9





## Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

### Include E-mail addresses

I have received two of the Polish Genealogical Society of MN newsletters now and find them very informative and helpful. My name appeared in the Winter letter as a new member, including my e-mail address. The day after I received the letter, I received an e-mail from another member concerning what she knew about the names I am researching. Thank you for including it. Sometimes it is easier and faster to send an e-mail than an actual letter and more work gets done. I find I correspond with others who research more often and get answers more quickly this way. Perhaps more of your members would like to submit their e-mail addresses.

Since I reside in MT, I cannot use your library, although I wish I could. However, are any of your materials loaned to members through an inter-library loan to other public libraries or genealogical libraries? One item that I would love to see is in the Church Collection: *Jubilee Memoirs: 1873 to 1948, Saint Stanislaus Kosta Parish, Winona, MN*. The Society has a photocopy of the article. This is the parish that both my Polish families were members of. In fact, I have a small book that was my grandfather's. It has the church's seal and is dated 1912, written in Polish. I'm not sure what the book was used for, but it is full of pages to write on. Grandpa kept the names of his children and their baptism and birth dates, along with the godparents. If there is some way I can receive a copy from the Society of *Jubilee Memoirs: 1873 to 1948, Saint Stanislaus Kosta Parish, Winona, MN*, please let me know.

I've also found your Web page and keep it bookmarked for more information. I've found the Internet has helped me in research. In fact, one new Internet friend led me to Shirley Mask Connolly who encouraged me to join your society.

Thank you for such a helpful newsletter.

**Mary T. Cox, 4713-7 Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405. e-mail: mcox@gfgas.ewst.com**

*Editor's reply: We certainly agree with your remarks concerning e-mail and the internet. You will notice a line to give ones e-mail address on the Membership Application beginning with this issue of the newsletter. Members who*

*would like their e-mail addresses published can send them to the editor and we will be happy to publish them.*

*Regarding Jubilee Memoirs: 1873 to 1948, Saint Stanislaus Kosta Parish, Winona, MN. The MGS Library is a non-lending library so it cannot be obtained from them through inter-library loan. Perhaps some public library would have a copy that they would loan through inter-library loan (Winona Public Library, for example). Otherwise we would be happy to copy the book for you. We would have to charge you copying cost (\$.20 per page) plus postage. Let us know if you want us to copy it for you. There were short articles about Winona in past issues of this newsletter -- "Polish Museum in Winona" (Summer, 1993) and "Parish records in the Winona" (Winter, 1993-94). Back issues of PGS-MN Newsletter can be ordered for \$2.00 per issue (See insert with this issue).*

### Where is Piesno?

Is it possible for you to look up one thing in the gazetteer called *Słownik Geograficzny* available on microfiche at your library? I need the location of the parish to which Piesno in the Grand Duchy of Poznan, Poland, belongs. I believe it is a small village.

Thank you very much.

**Bonita A. Erickson, 22 Lake Avenue, Box 7  
Madison Lake, MN 56063**

**Piesna al. Piesno, wś, pow. wyrzyski, o 3 1/2 klm. na półn.-zach. od Łobzenicy, nad stawem, który spływa do jez. Sławianowskiego, par. Łobzenica (dawniej Sławianów), st. dr. żel. o 15 klm. w Krajenca, poczta w Łobzenicy; 45 dm., 368 mk. (327 kat., 41 prot.); młyn i folusz. P. istniała przed r. 1580, a przy schyłku zeszłego wieku należała do Józefa Radolińskiego.**

**E. Cal**

*The above entry for Piesna was taken directly from Słownik Geograficzny. A translation of the entry follows:*

**PIESNA aka PIESNO**, a village, Wyrzyski Powiat (County), 3 1/2 klm. north west of Łobzenica, by a pond, which flows into Lake Sławianowskie, Łobzenica parish (formerly Sławianów), nearest rail station 15 klm. in Krajenka, post office in Łobzenica; 45 houses, 368 pop. (328 RC, 41 Prot.); mill and fullery. PIESNA existed prior to 1580 and at the close of the last century belonged to Józef Radoliński.

*Editor's note: Słownik Geograficzny is a very important source of information about Polish villages and towns as they existed at the end of the 19th century. Kornel Kondy did the above translation. He will do translations for others for a fee. His address is: 619 SE 7th St., Minneapolis, MN 55414-1327. Phone: (612) 378-1739.*

## Grandfather's biography found

I enjoy reading your newsletter for two reasons. First of all, I love the history of our ancestors. Secondly, I enjoy looking over the professional job that you do in putting the newsletter together.

In looking over the list of names on page 9 of your last issue (in *Silesia to America—A Heritage* by Robert Prokott), I found many names that I had heard my mother talk about over the years. Specifically, Bienick, Czech, Gaida, Jakubik (I wonder if that is a variant of Jacobek, which was my grandmother's maiden name), Jendro, Langer, Maciej, Sobiech, and Zwack/Czwak.

One of the things that our family treasures is a very short autobiographical sketch that Frank Matros (my grandfather) gave to the Morrison County Historical Society in March of 1937. The account is only two pages long and most of it covers the children born to the **Frank Matros** family. However, the first four paragraphs give most of his life story.

*"Frank was born in Schelesia, [Silesia] Germany, on October 4, 1866, on a farm. He attended school in Germany and left home when he was sixteen years old, to work out on farms.*

*"When he was twenty years old he was drafted in the German Army where he trained for three years at Strassburg, Germany. He was accidentally shot by one of the other soldiers, who had intended to hit the colonel of their division, as he was so overbearing. He received a pension of three dollars a month during the first year, two dollars a month for the second year and one dollar a month during the third and last year.*

*"Frank and his wife came to this country and landed in New York with a group of immigrants. They settled in Royalton, Minnesota, where Frank worked for one year. Then they moved to Elmdale township by team, on the 25th day of May in 1892, but only stayed there a short time. Frank left his wife in Elmdale while he hired out as a farm hand.*

*"Later he bought 40 acres of wild land in Swanville Township from Henning Landahl, which they cleared. Frank was also working in the Dakotas, but could not make enough to hold the farm. All they owned and had saved was destroyed by fire. This happened at the time of the much spoken of Hinkley forest fire. Later, Frank bought another farm of forty acres of land, and still later bought twenty acres more in Swanville townships, (sic) which he paid for by working on other farms. Then he bought a small place of nine acres where he retired in 1925. They had thirteen children, six of which died in infancy." (Then there is an annotated list of the children.)*

**Alfred E. Friedl, 3830 State Route 44,  
Rootstown, Ohio 44272**

*Editor's note: Reader Friedl gives an example of a very valuable but little known source for genealogists. The biography of his grandfather was probably based on an interview conducted in the 1930's as part of the Federal Writers Project of the W.P.A. During the Great Depression the federal government hired unemployed writers from around the country to interview older citizens about their experiences. Biographies based on these interviews are now usually housed in county historical society archives. Besides providing a glimpse of your ancestor's life based on an interview conducted sixty years ago, these biographies often give the European village of origin. Every genealogist should check this source.*

## Who is Robert Prokott?

The article "*Silesia to America—A Heritage*" by **Robert Prokott** was very interesting to me. Briefly, who is Robert Prokott? Has he published any material? What were his sources of information? I would like to learn more about the area in Poland and in Minnesota that he covers in the article. Although I don't attend many of the PGS meetings, the newsletter has been very interesting and helpful.

**Arne Kowalzek, 114 N.E. 7th Street,  
Little Falls, Minnesota 56345**

*Editor's reply: Robert Prokott is a long-time genealogical researcher and is serving his second term as a Director of PGS-MN. This is the first article he has published. The article has generated considerable interest and response among our members and others. We would hope this would encourage other members to submit a first time article to this newsletter.*

*Bob was born on a farm north of Bowles in Morrison County. He graduated from Little Falls High School in 1948. His grandfather immigrated in 1881 and his grandmother (maiden name Gallus) in 1875. They settled in Morrison County, Minnesota near Blanchard Dam in Swan River Township. The farm which his grandfather founded is presently being farmed by a cousin—Sylvester Prokott. Bob finds the study of family history fascinating and has compiled considerable information on **PROKOTT, GALLUS, BORASCH, SMIEJA, KLISCH, CZECH, FILLA** family names (his wife is the daughter of Roman Klisch and Katherine Smieja of Bowles) plus information on some other families whose ancestors came from Silesia.*

*Regarding his sources of information for the article which is a very brief synopsis of information he has obtained over the years, Bob states: "My main sources have been various encyclopedias which are available in any library—various books including a two volume history of Morrison and Todd counties published in 1915 by Clara Fuller, *History of the Parish of North Prairie, Opoliana* (a book written by Fr.*



*Robert Voight in 1987 about the Opole, Minnesota parish. They Chose Minnesota, another history book, also reviews of many old newspapers at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul and reviews of various copies of birth, marriage and records at the Family History Center operated by the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) in Crystal, MN."*

*Bob further states: "Another great source of information for the area is the Morrison County Historical Society (Weyerhaeuser Museum) located next to Lindbergh State Park. In the 1930's the WPA interviewed many old timers in Morrison County and obtained family histories from these people which are quite informative."*

## Ancestral village found!

It's been almost two years and I have finally found the town that my Kashubian family came from in 1864 — **Zakowo**, 5km northeast of Parchowo. It would not have been possible without the help from so many people. Thank you.... Paul Kulas, for hauling out the maps on those Thursday nights at the M.G.S library. Blanche Krbechek for calling me back on the phone when I e-mailed you. Keith Kaszubowski from New York for directing me to films. Francine Fitting, who gave me the address and phone number to a Mr. Ben Schultz from the Polish Museum in Winona. Thanks to Ben for his generosity of time and inviting my parents and myself to his museum. Also for giving us a one on one history lesson, and for correctly teaching me how to pronounce my Kashubian surname "Madry". Hats off to you all!

**Karen [Madry] Mondry, 3066 Arcade Street,  
Little Canada, MN 55109**

## Church records from Wyszaków?

I am currently researching the **Andrew Masloski** family, my father's maternal ancestry. The family immigrated from Poland around 1889-1891 by way of Canada to the United States.

In 1895, Andrew or Anders homesteaded in Kittson County of Minnesota. The Holy Rosary Catholic Church or officially, Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, was built near his property in 1900, and some of his land was donated for the church cemetery.

A cousin and I are searching for the parish in Poland that Andrew came from. Her mother has indicated somewhere near Warsaw, but we don't have any documents or family papers to verify this information.

Recently, a friend of my cousin's took a trip to Poland and was in Warsaw. She said there was an historical Roman Catholic church called Holy Rosary in a town about 26 miles from Warsaw. The town was named Wyszakow.

If anyone has access to records of this church in Wyszakow, we would like to see if Andrew's family or his

father, Mata Masloski, were from this parish due to the fact that the church founded in the United States bears the same name.

Other information that might be found would be Andrew's first marriage to Francesca Belawska/Belawski, baptisms of their children born in Poland: Joe, 1874; Bulaslas, 1876; and Josephine, April, 1977, and a death record for Francesca Belawska Masloski. Andrew married his second wife, Mary Ctfnoski (Stefanowski), on the Russian border before coming to the United States. Supposedly, she was living in an orphanage at the time.

I realize this is a shot in the dark, but it's worth a try since we have no other clues to go on. Thanks for any help that anyone can give.

**Kathryn Wilebski Schafer, Rt. 1 Box 99A,  
Strathcona, MN 56759**

*Editor's reply: The LDS Family History Library has filmed the records of the Wyszaków parish for the years 1695 to 1898. Go to your nearest LDS Family History Center (see list on pages 7-8) and order films 1496759-62 and films 1958825-32. Good luck with your search!*

## What happened to Uncle Michael?

My background is Polish and any information you might give me for tracing my ancestors would be most appreciated. My father's name was **Swierczynski** and there was some correspondence after WW II as he came from Chodecz in Poland. My mother whose name was **Mielnik** was born in Tenetniki, Austria Poland and the last communication we had indicated that she and my uncle Michael left their village which was razed by the Germans. I understand he was later exiled to the Kurile Island. Packages sent to them from my mother came back from Russia and she was advised not to try to contact them again by the Red Cross. I feel that my mother's family has dropped down a "black hole." I would like to be able to pass on to my children something of their rich heritage. Any help or suggestions you might give will be most appreciated.

**Valerie J. Thompson,  
36 Elsmere Ave., Delmar, NY 12054**

*Editor's reply: The LDS Family History Library has filmed both Evangelical (Lutheran, 1809-1865) and Roman Catholic (1687-1936) records in Chodecz. Tenetniki belongs to the parish in Martynów Nowy (filmed 1717-1834). For film numbers check the Locality index at your nearest LDS Family History Center. Regarding your uncle, relations with the Russians have changed considerably recently. Perhaps an inquiry to the Russian Embassy in Washington would yield results.*

## RESOURCES FOR POLISH-AMERICAN GENEALOGY IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota is not usually recognized as a major center of settlement by Polish immigrants. Nonetheless, southeastern Minnesota was one of the very earliest Midwestern locales to receive newcomers from Poland--and the ensuing 75 years saw the advent of our ancestors all over the state. Their communities literally spanned Minnesota's four corners, ranging from the classic urban neighborhoods of northeast Minneapolis and St. Paul's East Side, to church-centered enclaves in central Minnesota, in Duluth, in the Mississippi bluff country and the prairie towns alike, and on the Iron Range.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota was founded to promote genealogical research for everyone with roots in Poland and Minnesota, and to help preserve the heritage of these communities. Many resources for these endeavors are available in Minnesota, public and private. These are the ones we have located, along with several exceptional facilities that are out-of-state but nearby.

### VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS

Where you start: birth, death, marriage records maintained by the State.

- *State* (1908-present): Minnesota Dept. of Health, Dept. of Vital Statistics, 717 Delaware St. S.E., P.O. Box 9441, Minneapolis, MN 55440 [tel. (612) 623-5121 for recorded message on current fees].
- *Minneapolis/Hennepin County* (1870 present): Vital Records, Hennepin Cty. Government Center, 300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487 [tel. (612) 348-8240].
- *St. Paul* (late 1860s-present): Bureau of Health, 555 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101 [tel. (612) 292-7730].
- *Local elsewhere in state* (dates will vary): County Administrator [in certain counties: District Court Administrator], County Courthouse, [county seat], MN [ZIP code].

### CHURCH SACRAMENTAL RECORDS

Due to the limitations of staffing, assume that all of these facilities are open *by appointment only*. Dates of records kept by each archives will vary; subject to exceptions noted below, your best bet for obtaining sacramental records (especially outstate) is still the local parish. Each diocese sets its own policy for access.

- *Archives of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis*, 226 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102. [tel. for Patrick Anzelc, Archives Assistant: (612) 291-4429]. Recently completed micro-filming for all parishes in the twelve counties of the Archdiocese.
- *Archives of the Diocese of New Ulm*, 1400-6th St. N., New Ulm, MN 56073 [tel. (507) 359-2966]. *Note*: the LDS Family History Library microfilmed this archive's records; by arrangement with the PGS-MN, the films for its seven parishes of Polish ethnicity are lodged at the LDS Family History Center in Crystal through 1999 on permanent loan.
- *Archives of the Diocese of Duluth*, 2830 E. Fourth St., Duluth, MN 55812 [tel. (218) 724-9111].
- *Archives of the Diocese of St. Cloud*, 316-7th Ave. N., St. Cloud, MN 56301 [tel. (320) 251-6557].
- *Archives of the Diocese of Winona*, 55 W. Sanborn St., Winona, MN 55987 [tel. (507) 454-4643].

### LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS

Open to all, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints or not; the way to access thousands of microfilms of civil, church, and other records from all over the world, including huge amounts of information from Poland. Call first, to obtain days and hours of operation and availability of computer time.

- *Bemidji*: 3033 N.E. Birchmont Dr., Bemidji, MN 56601 [tel. (218) 751-9129]
- *Bloomington*: 9700 Nesbitt Ave., Bloomington, MN 55437 [tel. (612) 835-0053].
- *Brainerd*: 101 Buffalo Hills La., Brainerd, MN 56401 [tel. (218) 838-4701].
- *Brooklyn Center*: 4700 Edinbrook Terr., Brooklyn Center, MN 55443 [tel. (612) 425-1865].
- *Buffalo*: Hwy 25N, Buffalo, MN 55313 [tel. (612) 682-5612].
- *Crystal*: 2801 N. Douglas Dr., Crystal, MN 55422 [tel. (612) 544-2479]. Stocks a number of aids for Polish genealogy, including gazetteers (the complete *Słownik Geograficzny* on microfilm, plus several that translate between Polish and German place names in the Prussian Partition) and the parish records from the Diocese of New Ulm noted earlier.
- *Detroit Lakes*: Pelican River Rd., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 [tel. (218) 847-3260].
- *Duluth*: 521 Upham Rd., Duluth, MN 55811 [tel. (218) 726-1316].
- *Faribault*: 1002-17th St. S.W., Faribault, MN 55021 [tel. (507) 334-7046].
- *Fargo-Moorhead*: 2502-17th Ave. So., Fargo, ND 58103 [tel. (701) 232-4003].

- *Grand Forks-East Grand Forks*: 2818 Cherry St., Grand Forks, ND 58201 [tel. (701) 746-6126].
- *Mankato*: 1851 Marie La., Mankato, MN 56003 [tel. (507) 625-8342].
- *Oakdale*: 2140 Hadley Ave., Oakdale, MN 55128 [tel. (612) 770-3213].
- *Princeton*: Hwy. 95 W., Princeton, MN 55371.
- *Rochester*: 2300 Viola Rd. N.E., Rochester, MN 55906 [tel. (507) 281-6641].
- *St. Cloud*: 1420-29th Ave., St. Cloud, MN 56303 [tel. (320) 252-4355].

### FACILITIES WITH THE LDS FAMILY SEARCH PROGRAM

At least three non-LDS research facilities carry the LDS computer program, enabling searches of millions of names as well as the LDS Family History Library Catalogue.

- *Cannon Falls Public Library*, 306 W. Mill St., Cannon Falls, MN 55009 [tel. (507) 263-2804].
- *Owatonna Public Library*, 105 N. Elm St., Owatonna, MN 55060 [tel. (507) 451-4660].
- *Iron Range Research Center*: see full entry below, under "Public Archives and Research Centers".

### PUBLIC ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTERS

Yours to use, as a taxpayer.

- *Minnesota Historical Society Research Center*, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102 [tel. (612) 296-2143]. Of particular relevance to Polish genealogy: naturalization records from almost all of Minnesota's counties; comprehensive runs on microfilm of the state's three Polish-language newspapers (*Katolik*, Winona, 1893-1895; *Nowiny Minnesockie*, St. Paul, 1917-1976; and *Wiarus*, Winona, 1886-1919); the early sacramental records of the Church of the Holy Cross, in northeast Minneapolis; a complete (ongoing) set of *Germans to America*, the compilation of passenger-arrival lists that includes many Polish immigrants; and much more for the finding.
- *Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota*, 826 Berry Street, St. Paul, MN 55114-1076 [tel. (612) 627-4208]. Collection documents the Americanization of the huge wave of immigration from southern and central Europe: foreign-language newspapers, church and fraternal organization records, personal papers, photographs, and much more, from all over the United States. Of particular relevance to Polish genealogy: a massive collection on the history of the Polish National Catholic Church; various

Polish-language publications, church records, and personal papers.

- *Map Room, Wilson Library, University of Minnesota (West Bank)*, 309-19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN, 55455 [tel. (612) 624-4549]. A very large room packed with maps, atlases, and gazetteers from all over the world. Collection includes the superb topographical map series *The Republic of Poland* (1918-1939) (Warsaw, 1924; repr. Scotland, 1944); World War II era U.S. Army topo maps; larger-scale historical maps of early Poland; comparable sets for the Prussian/German and Austro Hungarian Empires; and much more. Copying service cheap, cooperative, and fast.

- *Iron Range Research Center, Hwy. 169 W., Chisholm, MN 55719* [tel. (218) 245-3325]. Large amounts of original source material on the settlements and people of the Mesabi, Vermilion, and Cuyuna Ranges and their many ethnic communities, but it's not just for that; also holds, on microfilm, a nearly complete collection of naturalization papers from all over Minnesota; selected passenger-arrival records; all of the federal census records for MN, WI, and MI; and numerous genealogical research guides and aides, both general and nationality-specific. Summer hours are especially generous.

- *National Archives, Great Lakes Region, 7358 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60629* [tel. (312) 581-7816]. Not in Minnesota, but worth the trip; census, naturalization, and ship arrival records, land patents, and many more federal records from MN, WI, MI, IL, IN, and OH.

### YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

Don't forget it! Inter-library loan can bring a wealth of material to you, including books published in Poland and microfilmed newspapers and records from historical societies in other states. Membership in the American Genealogical Lending Library is free to local libraries and can produce microfilm of selected census and ship arrival records.

### LIBRARIES AND COLLECTIONS OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

- *PGS-MN Library Collection*, housed at library of Minnesota Genealogical Society, 1650 Carroll Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116 [tel. (612) 645-3671]. Several shelves of how-to references, translation guides, atlases, gazetteers (including *Słownik Geograficzny* on microfiche), histories, and more, all specific to Polish-American genealogy; also our Church and Local History Collection, focusing on the religious and secular institutions of Polonia in Minnesota.



- *Germanic Genealogical Society Collection*, housed at Theodore Buenger Memorial Library, Concordia College, 275 N. Syndicate St., St. Paul, MN 55104 [tel. (612) 641-8237/8240]. Large collection on Germanic genealogy, with worldwide scope. Includes much material relevant to Slavic ethnic groups within Prussian/German and Austro-Hungarian Empires; complete set of *Germans to America*.
- *Minnesota Genealogical Society Library*, address and telephone number noted previously. Large and variegated collection of original and secondary sources and genealogical and historical reference materials, focused on Minnesota but covering all of the U.S. and most of western and central Europe. Many helpful how-to guides on U.S. genealogical sources; CD-ROM research aides. "Polish Night at the Library, with a PGS-MN member available for questions, held second Thursday of each month, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- *Library of the Polish-American Cultural Institute of Minnesota*, 514-22nd Ave. N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55418 [no tel.; hours usually Sat. 10:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m., Sun. 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.]. Cultural and historical in orientation, rather than genealogical, but an invaluable source for the background to all of that raw genealogical data. Lends to PACIM members. PACIM also offers courses and lectures on Polish history, language, culture, cuisine, and dress.
- *Polish Museum of America Library*, 984 Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622 [tel. (312) 384-3352]. Very large genealogy and family history collection; long runs of Polish-language newspapers; collection of 800+ church jubilee and history books; partial set of Kolberg's *Dzieła Wszystkie*; and more than can be described here. Well worth the trip--and a long visit!

## ABOUT THIS LISTING

This listing was distributed in conjunction with the PGS-MN's presentations at the annual "Branching-Out" meeting of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, in Bloomington on March 8, 1997. They are a working draft of an outline that PGS-MN will incorporate into an introductory packet for new members later in 1997. The information was collected by Bob Prokott, Paul Kulas, and Greg Kishel, and is current through early March, 1997. The text was composed by Greg Kishel. We want this list to be comprehensive! *If you are aware of other resources for Polish-American genealogy in or near Minnesota, please write to us: PGS-MN, P.O. Box 16069, St. Paul, MN 55116-0069.*

*Bulletin Board, continued from page 3*

## JOURNEY to a NEW BEGINNING... from POLAND to PORTAGE COUNTY



WATER STREET MUSEUM EXHIBIT  
presented by the  
POLISH HERITAGE AWARENESS  
SOCIETY, INC.

1475 Water Street  
Stevens Point, WI  
May 31, 1997 - August 31, 1997  
Saturday & Sunday - 1:00 to 5:00 PM  
715-344-5752

(The 140th Anniversary of the 1857 arrival of the  
first Polish family in Portage County!)

PGS-MN member **Adeline Sopa** of Green Bay, WI sent us the above poster and following press release:

*The Polish Heritage Awareness Society, of Stevens Point, WI, is recognizing the 140th anniversary of the 1857 arrival of the first Polish family in Portage County with an exhibit titled, **The Journey to a New Beginning...from Poland to Portage County**. Their coming led to the development of the oldest Polish rural settlement in Wisconsin. The exhibit through photographs, maps, and documents will portray life in Poland during the 1850's and 60's, the experience of crossing the Atlantic to America, and the challenge of Portage County in the 1850's and 60's. The exhibit is scheduled for the Water Street Museum located at 1475 Water Street in Stevens Point. Museum hours are Saturday and Sunday, 1:00-5:00 PM; May 31-August 31, 1997.*

WHEN IN Stevens Point be sure to pick up a **"Follow the Polish Heritage Trail"** guide (see PGS-MN Newsletter, Autumn, 1996, p. 16) and a map of Portage County and visit the many points of interest in the area. There are Polish Catholic churches in Polonia, Fancher, Rosholt, Plover, Heffron, Hull, Torun, Bevent, Mill Creek, Junction City and Stevens Point. Also, Milwaukee will hold its annual **Polish Fest** on its Lake Michigan lake front on June 20 to 22. With a little advance planning one can visit the exhibit, the trail and the fest in one weekend.

*Bulletin Board, continued on page 15*

## POLISH CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN MINNESOTA

compiled by Paul Theodore Kulas © 1997

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

### POLISH CATHOLIC PARISHES IN McLEOD COUNTY

Films of vital parish records of Polish parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm remain on permanent loan at the LDS Family History Center in Crystal. Film numbers 1705530 and 1705531 include records of **St. Adalbert's Church in Silver Lake.**

**Early Polish settlement of McLeod County.** There was an established Catholic community in Glencoe in McLeod County as early as 1856. By 1858, Mass was being regularly offered in various homes in the community. The first Catholic church in the county was built in 1865. Fires of mysterious origin destroyed parish churches in 1877 and 1889. In the spring of 1890 the congregation divided along ethnic lines. German, Bohemian and Polish families remained at the **Church of SS. Peter and Paul.** A new parish consisting of Irish and French families, was organized under the name of the **Church of St. George.** The 1949 questionnaire from St. George, however, indicates the parish included Irish, Bohemians, French, Germans, English, Norwegian and Swedish converts, and Poles.

The majority of Poles who settled in McLeod county settled in the Silver Lake area in the northern part of the county. There were several Catholic churches that existed in that area prior to the establishment of St. Adalbert's in Silver Lake. They include: the Church of St. John the Baptist (established 1868) in Rocky Run, the Church of St. George (1872) in the no longer existing Village of St. George in Rich Valley Township and the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1873) in Bear Creek. These early churches did not survive. The church at Rocky Run was absorbed by its daughter church--Holy Trinity (1877) in Winsted. The St. George church was never assigned a permanent pastor and eventually closed. The Bear Creek church later became part of St. Joseph's Church in Silver Lake. Additionally, Poles of Silver Lake were served by missionaries from Waconia, Watertown, Winsted and Glencoe prior to the establishment of St. Adalbert's. It is important to check the records of all these parishes when looking for a record of a Polish ancestor in this area prior to 1879.



### Church of the Holy Family

720 W. Main St.  
PO Box 326  
Silver Lake, MN  
55381-0326

The Polish national **Church of St. Adalbert** and the Czech national **Church of St. Joseph** were combined on August 26, 1993 to form the **Church of the Holy Family.**

**Church of Saint Adalbert, Silver Lake.** The Church of St. Adalbert was incorporated on November 22, 1878. Prior to the erection of a church in 1879, Mass was offered at the homes of Mr. Osmek, Stanley Jaskowiak, Paul Pawlak and Andrew and Frances Brink. In the very beginning the parish consisted of a majority of Polish and a minority of Bohemian settlers. Later, after the Bohemian national parish of St. Joseph was established in Silver Lake in 1895 St. Adalbert's became a strictly Polish national parish. Most of the early Poles that settled in the Silver Lake area came from the Prussian occupied Poznan area of Poland. Some of the places listed in the parish records (though not always written very legibly) include: Pnyrowo, Pochny, Cotai, Sokolnice, Gniezno, Lubasz, Zielona Gora and Goszczyn.

A 1936 parish questionnaire (on file at the archives of the archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis) lists the following pioneer parishioners: Andrew Brenk, Stanislaus Jaskowiak, Paul Pawlak, Adalbert Iwinski, Nicholas Makowski, Lawrence Grzechowiak, Frank Mikolajczek, Adalbert Pawlicki, Adalbert Sobkowiak, Joseph Smida, Albert Zanoth, Martin Witucki, Stephen Slanga, Adalbert Mallak, John Mallak, John Folaron, Andrew Folaron, Vincent Bielejewski,

Adalbert Januhoski, Banah, Thomas Matuszeski, Andrew Yurek, Michael Waldoch, Frank Pilarski, John Pilarski, Adalbert Osocki, James Yochoski, Martin Konieczny, Adalbert Nowak, John Wawrzyniak, John Nawrocki and Adalbert Dolney. The questionnaire notes: "Mr. Dolney rendered a special service to the parish by securing a Polish priest. He was the only person who could speak and understand any English." The 1936 questionnaire also lists George Poshek-County Commissioner, A.J. Domagalski-General Store, F.D. Slanga-Hardware, J. Kaminski-Dray Man as "leaders among the laity."

The 1936 WPA church survey lists the charter members of the parish which is identical to the list of pioneer parishioners listed above. This survey lists the following officers of the parish: First officers (1880): Pastor, Reverend L. Zawadski; Secretary, Casper Pokornoski; Treasurer, Vincent Bielejewski. Present officers (1936): Pastor, Reverend S. Julkowski; Secretary, John Szymanski; Treasurer, Anton Kaczmarek.

The baptism records at St. Adalbert's are prefaced with the following: "Note: If some of the birth records cannot be found in this book, they are recorded either in Winsted or they were recorded in the old St. George Church Glencoe, Minn., which burned down with all records." The first recorded baptism occurred on 3 August 1879. The infant's name is listed as "Vencentius" who was born on 3 July 1879. The parents were Valentinius Kulinski and Maria Kostowska. Sponsors were Valent. Rumiński and Thecla Swędrzyńska. The marriage records appear to begin in 1888 since that is when the marriage ledger starts. But tucked away at the end of the first volume of baptismal records (on pages 74 to 79) are marriage records from 1879 to 1887. The first marriage, 14 October, 1879 is between Bartholomaeus Zięba, juvenis (young man) and Victoria Sobkowiak, virgo 17 an. (virgin, age 17). Witness were Joannes Wawrzwiak and Barbara Pawlak. The entry notes that banns were read on the XVII, XVIII, and XIX Sundays after Pentecost. The first burial record is that of Ferdinand Urban, age 8 months, who died on 21 December and was buried on 23 December 1888.

The death records at St. Adalbert's sometimes give the decedents place of origin in Poland. For example it note that: Lucas Kielas (died 27 April 1896) was born in Posen, Josefina Pilarska (6 March 1923) was born in Pryznowo, Valentine Rozewski (12 August 1923) was born in Pochny, and John Pawlak (17 Dec. 1923) was born in Cotai. Beginning in 1908, the marriage records ask where the couples were baptized. For example, the marriage record of Stephanus

Grzeskowiak (15 July 1908) indicate that he was baptized in "Ryszemko, Deocesis Gnesnenis, Polonia." In addition, the marriage records also record origins in the United States. While the brides were usually baptized at St. Adalbert in Silver Lake, the groom's origins look very much like a listing of Polish parishes in Minnesota. For example, Thomas Kruzel (married 1 June 1909) was baptized at St. Edward's in Elmdale, Francis Warzyniak (7 June 1910) at Holy Cross, Minneapolis, Ladislaus Helman (20 January 1914) at St. Casimir's, Gilman, Michael Rutza (22 September 1914) at Sacred Heart, Flensburg, Dominic Lobarzkiewicz (19 January 1916) at St. Adalbert's in St. Paul, Valentine Stachowiak (24 June 1916) at St. John Cantius in Wilno, John Muhalla at St. Peter's in Delano. Joseph Oldalkowski (21 Oct. 1918) at St. Stanislaus in Sobieski, Michael Prokott (29 Sept. 1919) at St. Stanislaus in Bowles and Adalbertus Stanock (24 Sept. 1923) at St. Philip's in Minneapolis.

**Other parishes in McLeod County.** The 1949 parish questionnaire on file at the archdiocesan archives indicates that the **Church of the Most Holy Trinity** in Winsted was predominantly German but also included French, Irish, Polish and Bohemian members. That some Poles attended is verified by the front page article which appeared in the McLeod County Enterprise on October 30, 1878:

*"Winsted has had the most brilliant wedding we have heard of this season. The parties were a pair of Polanders, with unpronounceable names. They came here early one morning a few days ago, driving a pair of obstreperous steers. The groom walked beside them, armed with a sharp pointed stick, which he used vigorously on the flanks of the cattle to make them hasten their steps towards the church, while the bride, seated aloft in the low back car, wielded a long hickory pole, which she brought down on the ribs of the poor steers as occasion required to make them keep up good speed. They came without bridesmaids or groomsmen, it never having dawned on their innocent minds that such an encumbrance was needed. A man and his wife present seeing the terrible dilemma the creatures were in, offered to act as witnesses. The ceremony was soon performed, the newly married couple climbed up into their chariot, and seating themselves on a bundle of corn stalks, the groom commanded the cattle to march, and they did march, when the bride applied the hickory pole to their ribs. A more rejoiced looking couple we never saw, and it is doubtful if Solomon in all his glory, seated on his throne, enjoyed the happiness that they did, seated on that bundle of corn fodder."*

The 1936 WPA church survey indicates that the **Church of St. Anastasia** in Hutchinson included Irish, Danish, Polish and German members.



## LEGENDARY WILNO (CANADA) CABINETMAKER MAY HAVE LEFT LEGACY IN ST. PAUL, MN.

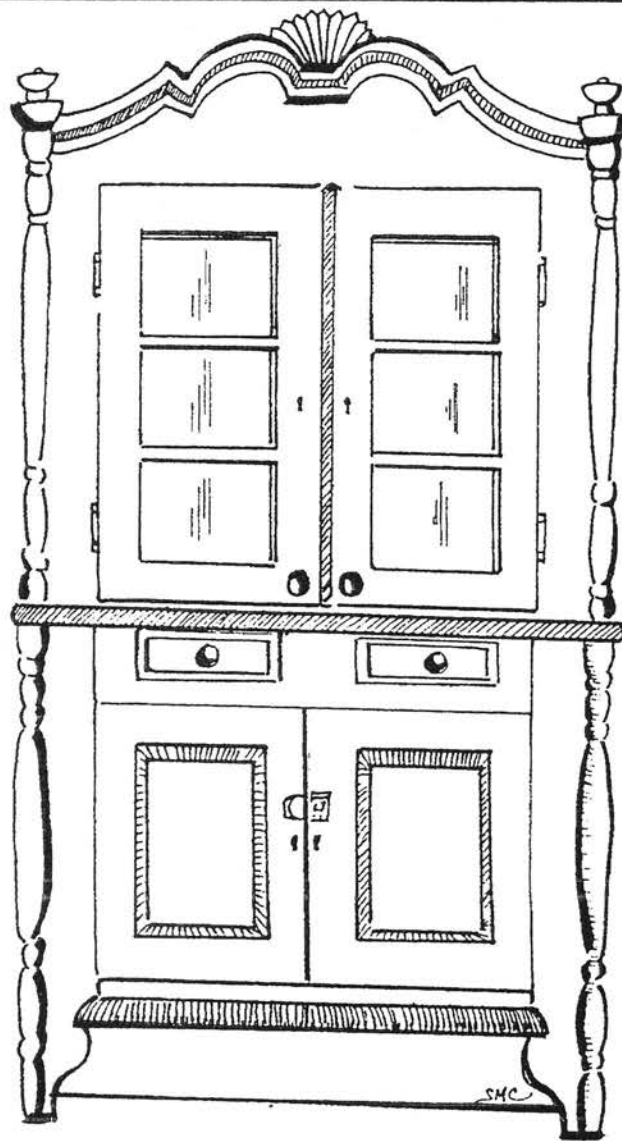
by **Shirley Mask Connolly**, PGS-MN member,  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Canadian antique collectors pay "big dollars" for furniture made by the first Polish settlers in Canada. This furniture, commonly designated as "Wilno furniture", has made its way from the isolated farmhouses of Renfrew County, into mansions in Canadian cities and exhibits in Canadian museums. There is an overblown mystique connected to this furniture, fueled by the relative scarcity of pieces made by this small ethnic group residing in the Canadian wilderness. The people of St. Paul, Minneapolis, Winona and the state of Minnesota were/are strongly connected to this Canadian group. There is evidence to suggest that one of the so-called Wilno Furniture Makers may have lived in the St. Paul, MN. area, at some point in his marvellous but mysterious career.

"Pickers" drive the back roads of Renfrew Co., Ont., sweet talking the locals into parting with old furniture. Often it is found in granaries or barns, covered with grain chaff and grime, and used as catchalls for tools and tins. It's hard for the farmers to resist the seemingly generous offers made to them for this furniture, which long ago was replaced by "store bought" chrome and veneers. They laugh to think that some rich city slicker will put these old cabinets and chests into their fancy homes, but the pickers laugh all the way to the bank, because they can sell the Wilno pieces for hundreds of dollars more than they paid the farmer.

When the Polish people first settled in Renfrew County, Canada, they lived a life of total subsistence on the land. They built their homes from the pines that towered over them, at the same time clearing fields in the forest. They furnished their homes with homemade tables, chairs, benches, dish dressers, cabinets, chests cradles and beds. These were generally made of softwoods, such as pine, hand hewn by broadaxes and hand planed and crafted into utilitarian pieces. Most made their own crudely fashioned furniture. Only a few of these first Polish settlers actually designated themselves as carpenters on the Canadian Census records of the 19th century.

The most well-known of these carpenter-furniture builders was John Kosloski (also spelled Koslowski, Kozloski and Cudloski) and there is evidence to suggest that he had connections to St. Paul, Minnesota. And although he is well known in the



This glazed dish dresser is still owned and used by descendants of the family who purchased the Kosloski homestead. Kosloski's dish dressers were usually made in this Baroque type style, topped with a curved pediment with a carved fan in the centre. Corner columns were turned on a long lathe and topped with decorative knobs (finials). Illustration drawn by Shirley Mask Connolly.

sense that a great deal of the so-called Wilno furniture has been attributed to him, possibly incorrectly, much is unknown about this mythical man. His Polish origins are unknown. It is likely that he was of Kashubian and/or Pommeranian descent. He must have had at least two wives, the first of whom nothing is known, other than that she bore him a son, named John (c.1860-1889). There may have been more children, but they do not surface in the Canadian records.

The ill-fated John Jr. died and was buried in Wilno, Ontario, Canada, on August 19, 1889. The Polish

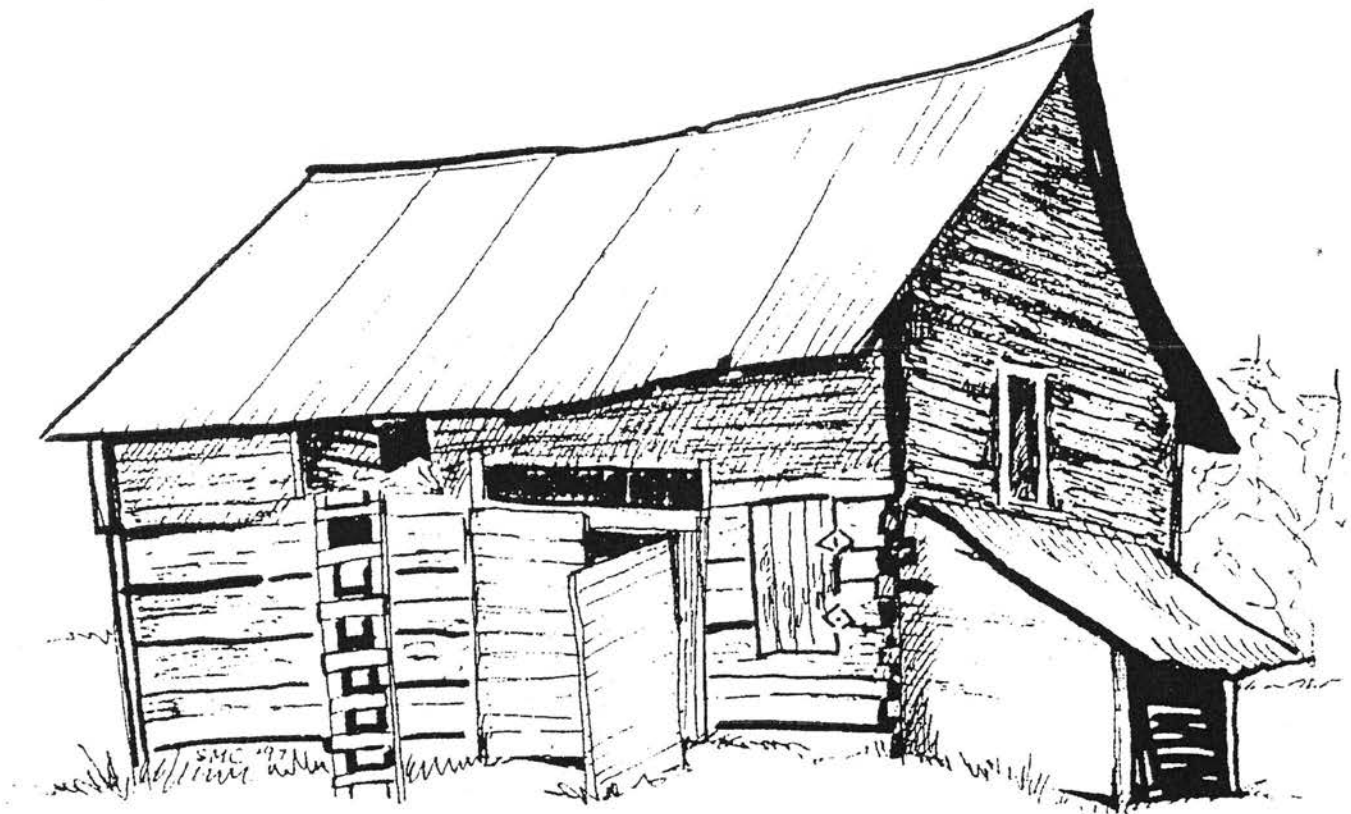
priest, Fr. Dembski, indicated that John Jr. was a carpenter, aged 29, and "from the parish of St. Paul, Minnesota." It is likely that John Jr. had come to Canada to work with his father as a carpenter. Possibly his birthplace was in Minnesota? Local legend has it that John Jr. drowned.

More is known about John Kosloski's second wife, Victoria Lipinska, my great grandfather's half sister. Victoria was 42 years old and a single woman when she crossed the Atlantic Ocean. She sailed with a shipload of fellow Kashubs, primarily from the parish of Lipusz, West Prussia. The Polish church records for the parish of Lipusz indicate that she had a daughter named Suzanna who died at the age of 2 years. This illegitimate child appears to have been her only offspring. Sometime after her arrival in July of 1872 on the ship the *Agda*, and before the census of 1881, Victoria married John Kosloski. Their marriage does not appear in the R.C. church records of the village of Renfrew or Renfrew County. Possibly they were married in the first Wilno Chapel for which the records are virtually non-existent between 1875 to late 1880. Or possibly they were married in the U.S.A., maybe in St. Paul, MN? These early settlers are

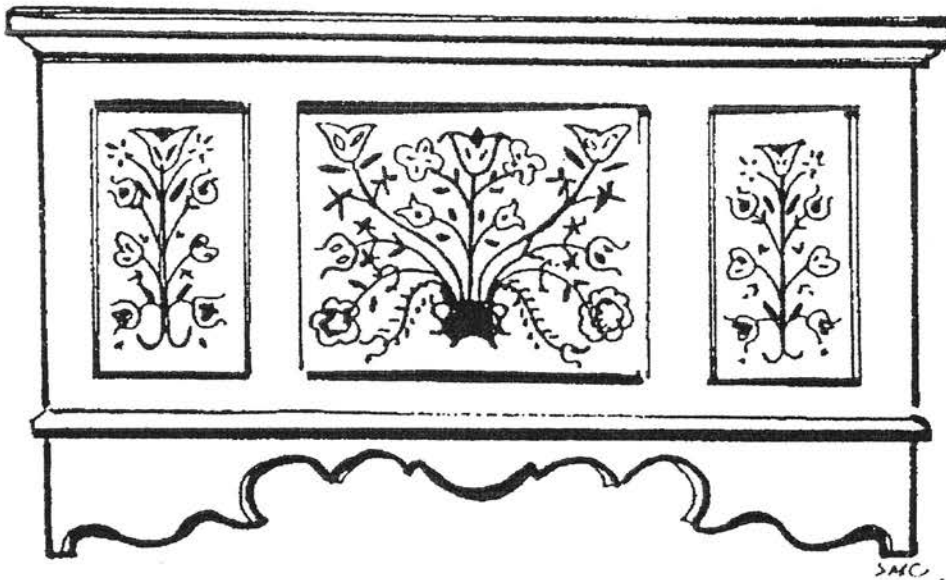
known to have moved freely from Canada to the U.S. The ships' lists of passengers arriving in the port of Quebec, Canada, in the 1860's are filled with Polish Kashubs who ultimately make their way to Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Interestingly, John Kosloski purchased land in Hagarty township from a Jacob Grzenia who moved to Minneapolis, MN. This information is given in an obituary for Mrs. Grzenia (whose name was anglicized to Green). She and her family eventually returned to Canada and settled in the village of Renfrew. Possibly John Kosloski and Jacob Grzenia made some sort of "trade". Maybe John realized that he could monopolize the market for furniture in the Canadian bush, but not in the metropolis of St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN. The township papers for Hagarty township, Renfrew Co., Ontario, Canada, put John in the area as of July 3, 1876, claiming legal title on Jan., 2, 1879. He may have lived in the U.S. prior to his appearance in Canada. He was not found on the shiploads of Kashubs and Poles who arrived in Canada through the port of Quebec.

In Canada, he and Victoria lived very near the first Wilno Church. It is probable that he had a hand in



This barn was once the combined home and workshop of John Kosloski. The old Kosloski homestead in Hagarty township, Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada, is located just a couple of miles from the site of the original Wilno Church, St. Stanislaus Kostka. The building is still in use today, sheltering cattle and storing hay. Illustration drawn by Shirley Mask Connolly.



This storage chest (Skrzynia) is similar to many found in the Wilno area of Renfrew County. Possibly they were made by John Kosloski or his workshop. The typically Kashubian decorative motif of the floral basket was often painted (or maybe stencilled?) onto the front panels using contrasting colours.



Detail -- decorative motif of storage chest shown on left. Illustrations by Shirley Mask Connolly.

decorating and furnishing the building that was central to the lives of the Polish pioneers. Unfortunately it burnt to the ground in 1936. However, many of his old dish cabinets and chests survived in the homes of the people. Some of this furniture was originally given as dowry -- a wedding present from the parents of the bride to the newly married couple. Then it was passed on from generation to generation, usually to the one who stayed on the "homestead". With the years, Kosloski's reputation grew, possibly like the description of his size at 240 pounds!! No photo remains to depict this Canadian giant, probably because he left prior to the area's exposure to a travelling photographer.

In early May of 1903, John disappeared. Victoria died that April, apparently killed by a falling tree. She was said to have been bringing water to the men felling the trees. Probably these trees were marked for the carpenter's chisel, but with Victoria's death, John lost heart for his trade. The story passed down by the people who purchased his property, was that John left to join a brother in the U.S.A.

Possibly he made his way to the St. Paul/Minneapolis area to which he appears to have had previous connections. But don't get your hopes up of finding some of his pieces, because unless he was there earlier, by 1903 he was an old man. Canadian census information puts his age at 91 so it is very unlikely that he resumed furniture building.

But just in case, to help you identify his work and

some of the characteristics of the so called "Wilno Furniture", look for cabinets and chests similar to the examples illustrated, as well as furniture painted with Kashubian floral baskets like the one drawn.

The best reference book on the topic, an excellent book and beautifully illustrated with numerous photographs (many in colour) is Howard Pain's: \* **THE HERITAGE OF UPPER CANADIAN FURNITURE**, published in 1984, ISBN 0-919493-39-4. See chapter 5, "The Polish Tradition".

Also Brenda Lee Whiting's excellent articles:

\* **"WILNO FURNITURE, Made in the First Polish Settlement in Canada"**, from the magazine, **CANADIAN COLLECTOR**, Nov./Dec. 1984.

\* **"MISTAKEN IDENTITY, Wilno Furniture Suffers Identity Crisis"**, from the magazine, **CANADIAN COLLECTOR**, July/August 1986.

\* **"The Legendary Furniture-Maker of Wilno"** from her book, **THE WAY IT WAS IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY**, published in 1992, ISBN 0-9696174-0-2, page 3.

For general reference on Kashubian furniture, refer to the appropriate sections in **THE CASSUBIAN CIVILIZATION** by Friedrich Lorentz, Ph.D., Adam Fischer, Ph.D., and Tadeusz Lehr-Splawinski, Ph.D., published originally in 1935, reprinted in 1983, ISBN 0-404-16603-2.

Good luck, Minnesota!! maybe you have your own Polish Pickings!



**Bulletin Board**, *continued from page 9*

PGS-MN member Fran Saucedo of San Antonio, TX writes us that the **Most Rev. John Walter Yanta** has been installed as the seventh **Bishop of Amarillo, TX**. He is the first Texas bishop of Polish descent. His ancestors were among the first Polish families that came to America in 1854 from Upper Silesia.

**NIEKRO TO COPPERSTOWN!** Polish American baseballer, **Phil Niekro**, will be inducted into the **Baseball Hall of Fame** in Copperstown, N.Y. this summer. Niekro, a pitcher, had a 318-274 record and struck out 3,342 batters during 24 major league seasons. He is the fifth Polish American to be elected. He follows Al Simmons (Szymanski), Stan Coveleski, Stan Musial and Carl Yastrzemski into the Hall.

**TONY ZALE**, world middleweight boxing champion from 1940-1948, died March 20, 1997. He was 83. He was born **Anthony Florian Zaleski** in Gary, Indiana. Known as the "Man of Steel," he quit his job in a Gary steel mill to become one of the greatest middleweights of all time. He is best known for his epic fights with Rocky Graziano. Zale won two of the three fights.

**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 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 Partitioned Commonwealth.** Source: Wandycz, Piotr S. The Lands of Partitioned Poland, 1795-1918. Volume VII, A History of East Central Europe. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1974. See review by Ed Brandt on page 17.

## LIBRARY CORNER

### THE PGS-MN CHURCH AND LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION: A PROGRESS REPORT, PART 2

By Greg Kishel

In the Winter, 1996-97 issue of the *PGS-MN Newsletter*, I gave a first progress report on the Church and Local History Collection that our Society started in 1994. The collection is housed as part of the PGS-MN's library at the Minnesota Genealogical Society's facility at 1650 Carroll Avenue in St. Paul. In the last installment I summarized the ten "major" items, like hardbound books and lengthy pamphlets, that we have collected to date. These items are commingled with other materials in the M.G.S.'s general collection, on the basis of the Minnesota county in which the subject institution was/is located; they are not on the shelves that house the bulk of our collection, which is classified by the Polish and Polish-American ethnic character of its subject matter. (M.G.S. library regulations require this treatment.)

We have also assembled a number of shorter items, like pamphlets, articles, clippings, and "ephemeral" materials. Rather than run the risk of losing them on the many shelves of the M.G.S.'s Minnesota collection, we have consolidated them in a binder that we keep with our main collection. This, of course, means that these items are not included in the main M.G.S. catalogue; however, we have compiled a listing of them, as well as a consolidated roster of the M.G.S. catalogue entries for the separately-shelved items in the CLH Collection. Thus, researchers who want to ascertain the full extent of the collection need only consult these lists, which we keep at the front of the binder. We will maintain all items for a particular institution--church, fraternal society, or whatever--under a single tab in the binder. The listings will be updated as we acquire new items.

The uncatalogued materials kept in the binder as of February, 1997, are:

- *Seventy-Five years...In Review* [Church of the Holy Cross, Minneapolis: summary of parish history through 1961, from church *Memory Book*]
- Very Rev. L. S. Sledz, *Holy Cross Church--Memories of the Past* [n.d.]
- Rev. Stanley Maslowski, *Towers of Faith: A History of Holy Cross Parish* [n.d.; probably 1956]
- *Souvenir of the Blessing of All Saints Parish Center* [Minneapolis, 1979]

- *Te Deum Laudamus: 1916-1991, The Church of All Saints 75th Anniversary*
- *Church of St. Philip, Minneapolis, Minn., 75th Anniversary 1906-1991*
- *Short History of Holy Trinity Church, South St. Paul, Minnesota* [1949]
- "History of St. Adalbert's," from *Centennial Celebration, 1881-1981, Church of St. Adalbert, St. Paul, Minnesota*
- *In Retrospect...* [re: Church of St. Adalbert, St. Paul; mid-1950s]
- Marcilla Rosenthal, *The History of the Church of St. Adalbert* [typescript, c. 1920]
- *St. Casimir Catholic Church, 1892-1992* [St. Paul]
- *History of the Parish* [St. Casimir Church, St. Paul; n.d.; after 1940]
- *Sw. Jozefa, September 1902 - September 1977* [Church of St. Joseph, Lexington, Minn.]
- *Our Parish Family... Church of St. Gregory the Great, North Branch, Minnesota* [n.d., after 1988]
- *St. John Cantius, Wilno, Minnesota 56142 //Saints Peter and Paul, Ivanhoe, Minnesota 56142, 1995-1996*
- *St. John Cantius, Wilno, Minnesota 56142 //Saints Peter and Paul, Ivanhoe, Minnesota 56142, 1996-1997*
- *Towarzystwo Bratniej Św. Kazimierz Królewicza, Program, Obchodu Jubileuszu Złotego-dnia 29, maja, 1921 r.* [Diamond jubilee history of the St. Casimir's Society, Winona, Minn.]
- Ray Marshall, *The Polish Churches of Duluth: A working paper for use in further genealogical and historical studies* [1994]

There are a couple of very interesting items in this first group. The Marcilla Rosenthal manuscript on St. Adalbert's in St. Paul apparently was prepared by a very young parishioner (maybe as a school project), and earlier in the life of the parish than most church histories we see. The item on the St. Casimir's Society of Winona is in both Polish and English, and is the only submission on a fraternal benefit society thus far; it consists of all pages from the original booklet other than those that consisted entirely of advertising, and contains a wealth of information about the society's early membership. Ray Marshall's little monograph gives a good survey of the early history of the Polish-American community in the Zenith City.

## BOOK REVIEWS

For the availability of these items, we thank members and friends **Francine Fitting**, **Teresa Krenik**, **Paul Kulas**, **Ray Marshall**, **Rev. James Schoenberger** of St. Gregory the Great Church in North Branch and **Rev. Clarence Vavra** of St. Philip's Church in Minneapolis. [Editor's note: Others have contributed items that have not yet made it into the binder. They are: **Rev. Eugene Hackert** of the New Ulm Diocese, **Margaret Kowelewski** (items about St. Stanislaus Church in Winona), **Bob Prokott** (Polish parishes in central Minnesota) and **John Siebenand** (Polish parishes in Duluth). These items will be added shortly. Also, in Part One of this report which appeared in the Winter, 1996-97 issue, we omitted the following cataloged item: *Golden Jubilee Year Book 1914-1964, Church of St. Hedwig, Minneapolis*. For this item we thank **Rev. Theodore Guminga** of St. Hedwig's.] *Jeszcze raz, dziękujemy bardzo!*

And once again, we entreat all of you out there to help us grow this collection! We'll take a donation or loan (for copying) of most anything that bears on the history of Polonia in the North Star State, the earlier the better. You'll have our thanks, and the knowledge that you helped to preserve a vital heritage. Contact Paul Kulas or Greg Kishel.

Piotr S. Wandycz, **The Lands of Partitioned Poland, 1795-1918.** (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1974), 431 pp. 3 maps.

Reviewed by **Ed Brandt**

Wandycz's book is Volume VII of a series, "A History of East Central Europe," published by the University of Washington. It is enormously valuable in bridging the connections between the pre-partition Commonwealth and the independent Poland re-established after World War I.

Many chapters in the book compare and contrast events in the Prussian, Russian and Austrian partitions. Moreover, Congress Poland is often distinguished from the new "western gubernias" of Russia. This is important because these eastern areas had been part of the Commonwealth and Polish dominance in the economic, administrative and educational sectors continued until after the 1863-64 uprising against Russian autocracies. However, the majority of residents were Ukrainians, Belorussians or Lithuanians, despite a significant Polish minority.

These distinctions, however, do not in any way dilute the thread of Polish unity.

The amount of detail in this book represents both a strength and a weakness. The problem is that anyone who is not a specialist in Polish history is likely to be overwhelmed and unable to absorb all the information.

But the pros of such detailed treatment far outweigh the difficulty of mastering it. For example, many readers may want to focus on a specific area, a specific time period or a specific subject. This book does a better job of enabling readers to focus on what is of particular interest to them than other books I have read.

Furthermore, by spelling out the complexity of historical events, the author provides us with an account which achieves a high level of objectivity, minimizing any ethnic or ideological biases.

In his preface, Wandycz states: "As conceived this book is both more and less than a history of the Polish nation in the nineteenth century. Its emphasis on the state territory of the commonwealth explains why such predominantly ethnic Polish lands as parts of Teschen (Cieszyn, Tesin), East Prussia, or Upper Silesia are only barely touched upon. At the same time predominantly Lithuanian, Ukrainian, and Belorussian areas are included, although . . . mainly . . . from the point of view of their interaction with Polish trends. . . While the Germans and Jews, who constituted sizable groups in the historic *Res Publica*, are discussed, the stress once more is on their relations with the Poles." This is an accurate description of the focus of the book.

There is one source of confusion in Wandycz's book. When he refers to Pomerania, this means the Prussian province of West Prussia, not that of Pomerania. It is, of course, true that in the High Middle Ages, Pomerania, which then was the land between the Vistula and the Oder, included this area. But this usage is misleading when applied to the modern period.

If the term, "West Prussia," is too ethnocentric, the historian could have used the term, "Pomerelia," which was applied at the time of the Partition. Unfortunately, many lexicographers also fail to distinguish between Pomerania and Pomerelia.

This book is in the Polish collection at the MGS Library and is also accessible through inter-library loan at your local public library. Because it concentrates on Polish history during, and somewhat before, the period of Polish emigration, it is especially relevant for genealogists.



## Missing Branches:

**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 55316-2145.**

• **Rosemary Chorzempa**, 7904 Jackman Rd., Temperance, MI 48182 is researching SAMUEL SZULC/SCHULTZ from Szubin area of Poland, who came to America on 20 April 1884 on the SS Weser, with wife Catherine (nee Herwat) and 4 daughters. He lived in Toledo, OH until he disappeared in 1886. One day he went to work and never came back, supposedly because he was dissatisfied with life in America and longed to return to Poland, where he owned a brick factory. His daughter (d. 1972, age 95) reportedly had him traced to Minnesota with another man, but the now-deceased granddaughter who told this story later denied it.

• **Dr. Roger F. Krentz**, 201 St. Paul's Ave. Suite 17-T, Jersey City, NJ 07306 is seeking information about AGNES POLUS (PAULUS) [and her descendants], daughter of JOSEF POLUS and ANNA POLCYN, born between 1835 and 1850 in Ludomy, District of Obornik, Poznan, Poland. She came to the U.S. prior to 1866. She first settled in Green Lake County, Wisconsin, married ? PRAISS and moved to Minnesota.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We welcome the following:

**Mr. Lester V. Cziok**, 14214 Heritage Lane, Apple Valley, MN 55124 is a new member.

**Rosemary Chorzempa**, 7904 Jackman Rd., Temperance, MI 48182-9221 is a new member.

**Davideen Demske**, 509 Hunters Ridge Rd, Coppel, TX 75019 is researching MALINOVSKY, PYRA, DĘBSKI, BOROWIAK, CHORZEWSKI, BOBELL family names in Warsaw, Poznan, Vienna and in Duluth, MN, Stevens Point and Milwaukee, WI, Pennsylvania and New York City.

**Dr. Alfred E. Friedl**, 3830 State Route #44, Rootstown, OH 44272 is researching the MATROS name in Silesia and in Elmdale, Minnesota.

**Joyce Gelderman**, 1625 Bonner Trail, Oregon, WI 53575 is a new member. She writes: "I am of Polish descent. My family came from the Kaszub area, and settled in Delano, Minnesota and Grenville, South Dakota."

• **Jane Edell Habeck**, Route 2, Box 156, Winona, MN 55987 is researching JANKA/JAHNKE/YAHNKE, KINA/KEEN, EDEL, FISZER/FISCHER, KNOPIK/KNOPICK names in the Gdansk - Bytow - (Ugoszcz) area and in the Lubin - Habeck area and all in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

**Mark Hilbert**, 635 Grand Ave., #5, St. Paul MN 55105 is researching BUCCHOLZ, SZATKOWSKI names in Chojnice, Poland and in Chicago and then Green Bay, WI.

**Bernard Koalska**, 95 W Rose, St. Paul, MN is researching KOWALSKI, SINNA/SAJNA, GRUDNOSKI, POLASZEK family names in Poland and in North America.

**Rosemary Kobus**, P.O. Box 798, Driggs, Idaho 83422 is researching JOHN KOBUS (b. 8-10-1869 in Poland, d. 8-16-1931 in Duluth) and JOHANNA KOBUS ZBLEWSKI (b. 6-24-1870 in Poland, d. 6-4-1951 in Duluth). May have come to US in 1886. Where did they come from in Poland is the question?

**John W. Kowles**, 3429 - 45th Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55406 is researching KOWALEWSKI, JAWORSKI, SOVELL/SOWUL, FORTUNSKI, GRABOWSKI, ASHLAGER, LEGUS names in Pomerania, Warsaw, Sulwaki and Crakow in Poland and in Chicago, IL, Winona and Lincoln County in Minnesota and Shamokin, N. Umberland County in Pennsylvania.

**Dr. Roger F. Krentz**, 201 St. Paul's Ave. Suite 17-T, Jersey City, NJ 07306 is a new member.

**Walter Madura**, 33 Belleview Drive, Derby, Conn. 06418 is researching MADURA, JADACH names in Kolbuszowa, Poland and in Connecticut.

**Dale F. Nelson**, 3585 Deephaven Ave., Deephaven, MN 55391 e-mail: DFNELS@AOL.COM is researching KUKOWSKI, STANISLAWSKI, MUSAK family names.

• **Carol Olewin**, 9002 Boyce Ln, Manor TX 78653 is researching OLEWNIKOWSKI and NOWICKI names in Chicago and Great Lakes area.

**Larry Oraskovich**, 515 8th St N. W., Faribault, MN 55021 is researching TRADER/TREJDER, LABUDA, LITERSKI names in the Posen area of Poland and in St. Louis Co., MN, Chicago, IL, Washington and Jefferson Co., IL and in California.

**Cathy Polanski**, 871 Lenox, St. Paul, MN is researching POLANSKI, STAWICKI names in Kruzlowa Wyznia, Poland, HOTLOS, BARAN names in Kruzlowa Niznia, Poland and POLANSKI

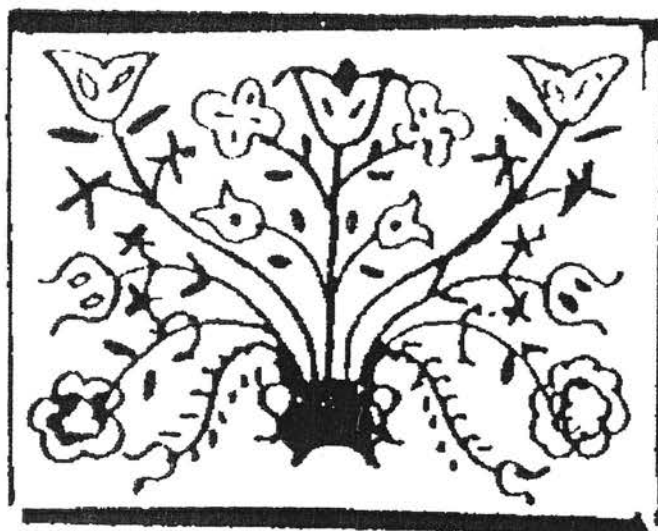
in Chicago, IL and Buffalo, NY. JAN POLANSKI married MARCYANNA HOTLAS on 9-1-1900 in Chicago. They had nine children, four lived to adulthood: Maryann, Stanislowa, Wladyslaw and Jan. JAN and MARCYANNA died and are buried in Buffalo. JAN had a brother, ANDREW POLANSKI, who lived in Buffalo.

**Marianne Springer**, 14968 Dundee Ave., Apple Valley, MN 55124 is researching the SLANGA, ZILKA, WITUCKI, PIEKARSKI, KELASH/KIELASINSKI names in Krakow and Poznan provinces in Poland and in the Little Falls area (Culdrun and Flensburg) and in Silver Lake (Hale twp.) in Minnesota.

**Charles T. Thibodeau**, 3935 Upton So, Mpls. MN 55410 is researching the KAKULSKI name in Poland and in Schenectady NY and vicinity.

**Valerie Thompson**, 36 Elsmere Ave, Delmar, NY 12054 is researching SWIERCZYNSKI, LEMONDOSKA names in Mozyce in Russian Poland and in Chodecz and Kutno in Poland and MIELNIK, BLOJOOLOWSKI names in Fenetniki, Rhohattau and Stanislowowa in Austrian Poland and all in Canada--New Brunswick.

**Phyllis Warzecha**, 1413 Sheldon St, St. Paul, MN 55108 is a new member.



Detail -- decorative motif of a storage chest possibly from the workshop of John Kosloski. See story on pages 12 - 14.

### Membership Application

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List surnames from Poland  
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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.

## PGS-MN at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota met at St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral on February 8th, for a tour and presentation by assistant pastor Fr. Nathan Kroll. Fr. Nathan recounted the origins and history of the parish, and provided a brief tour of the new Cathedral church. The Cathedral is a classic domed Orthodox church, built in the shape of a cross, with four arched roof sections. The original church, built of wood in 1887, burned to the ground in 1904. It was replaced by the current Cathedral in 1905.

St. Mary's was founded by Rusin or Galician immigrants arriving in Minneapolis as early as 1877. These people came primarily from the area which is modern day southeastern Poland, eastern Slovakia and western Ukraine. Until 1596, their forefathers had been Orthodox, but a politically motivated pact put the Rusins under Roman Catholic governance. Under the name Uniat or Greek-Orthodox Rite Catholic, they were allowed to continue to worship in an Orthodox manner including maintaining a married clergy, and to use the ancient Slavonic language rather than Latin in its liturgy. Upon arrival in America it was assumed they could continue to worship in the same way.

A Uniat priest named Fr. Alexis Toth (canonized a saint in the Orthodox Church in 1994) was dispatched from Europe in 1889 to lead the parish. When he presented his credentials to Archbishop John Ireland,

Fr. Alexis was informed that the Catholic Church did not consider Greek Rite Catholics to be Catholics, and if they wanted to continue to exist, they would have to abandon their worship and traditions, and be absorbed into the existing Latin Rite parishes. Fr. Alexis recounts that he considered this "rude fanaticism." Being rejected by the Catholic hierarchy, and wanting the same faith and traditions these Slavic peoples had for 1000 years, Fr. Alexis petitioned the Russian Orthodox Archbishop Vladimir in San Francisco to accept his parish into the Orthodox fold. This was accomplished in 1891, bringing the Rusin people back to their Orthodox roots of roughly 300 years earlier.

If you visit St. Mary's today you will find a 1000 member, racially diverse, parish. Worship services are held in English except for a few Slavonic hymns at one Sunday Liturgy--a vestige from the days when Russian bishops oversaw the church and Russian priests ministered to the parishioners. The highly ornamental Cathedral interior includes an immense icon screen at the front of the church, decorated with donated icons from Tsar Nicholas II. The cathedral encourages visitors to come take in its history. Guests may particularly enjoy the services of Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday on April 20, and culminating with Easter on April 27. The Cathedral is located at 1701 Fifth St. NE in Minneapolis. For more information call 781 -7667.

*Contributed by Terry Kita.*



### Stearns County Heritage Center 235-33rd Avenue South, St. Cloud

PGS-MN will visit St. Cloud on Saturday, April 19, 1997. We will take part in a seminar entitled "The History and Culture of Stearns County." For details see page one.

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