



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6

SUMMER 1998

NUMBER 2

Upcoming events:

Thursday, July 16, 1998, 7:00 p.m.

Polish White Eagle Membership Meeting
P.W.E Meeting Hall at
165-13th Avenue N. E., Minneapolis
(across from Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church)

Greg Kishel will speak on the history and goals of PGS-MN and on introductory Polish-American genealogical techniques.

Saturday, August 9, 1998

Polska Kielbasa Days in Ivanhoe, MN
Community Room in the Community Center
(across from the VFW building)

1:30 p.m.: "The Secret Army"

John Radzilowski will describe the underground Polish resistance effort during WW II.

2:30 p.m.: "Locating Your Village/Parish of Origin in Poland"

Paul Kulas will give examples of American sources that might indicate ancestors' place of origin in Poland.

PGS-MN Fall Membership Meeting

(Date, time, topic and site to be announced)

Tentatively set for September at the new MGS Library. The possible topic will be: "Polish Resources at the MGS Library." Watch for a mailed flyer with full details.

Dakota County Genealogical Society Meetings

PGS-MN will participate in two upcoming Dakota County Genealogical Society meetings. The first one will occur on October 10, 1998 and the second in March, 1999. Complete details will be published later.



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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

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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 March 1, June 1, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1 respectively. All articles, letters, book reviews, queries, news items, advertisements, etc. should be sent to: **Paul Kulas, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316-2145** or to e-mail: kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us

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President's Letter

by Greg Kishel

I'd like to say one thing first, to all who are reading this in early July: "It's good to have you there!" The fact that you are putting eyes to this means that you renewed your membership in a timely fashion, and weren't dropped from our rolls after the spring issue. This issue marks the initiation of the PGS-MN's new dues policy, prompted by the budgetary concerns I've expressed over the last several issues. We no longer will carry delinquent dues-payers for several issues into the new year, and are now terminating their active status after May 15. This is the only fair thing, both for the Society's solvency and to those who *do* pay their dues on time. To those who are here on schedule, then, *dziękujemy!* (Those who renew late will still get their full year of issues of the *Newsletter*, but they won't get them on time and in the regular mailing until they get current.)

Summer in Minnesota means that we all make and remake closer ties with one another, after the isolation caused by our harsh winter weather. This prompts the theme for my message this time: our Society's cooperation with other organizations that share aspects of our mission. We've had several recent developments on that front that are worth recounting.

The first is the opening of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's new library in Golden Valley, right on schedule. We urge you all to give it a visit, whether you come to use our collection and the others there, or just to take a long look at a larger and more comfortable facility. To defray the substantial cost of the move and its occupancy, the MGS has begun to charge a "suggested donation" of \$5.00 to visitors who are not members of it or one of its branch societies. Your free admission is another benefit of your membership in our Society! (The MGS will be checking against branch societies' membership lists at the door; with our new policy on terminating those whose dues are overdue, it will behoove everyone to keep current.) I will be scheduling our first PGS-MN organized research session there shortly, for a Saturday morning in September or early October; come August, you'll receive a meeting announcement for it.

Our other joint effort with the MGS was our participation

at its annual "Greater Minnesota" meeting in Duluth, on June 13, our first appearance in northeastern Minnesota. Paul Kulas and I were on the scene; we ran a display table and I gave an updated edition of my introductory presentation "Polish-American Genealogy, Starting from Scratch." We had a decent attendance, given our end-of-the-schedule position at mid-afternoon on the first sunny afternoon of the summer in the Zenith City. We certainly hope that this newsletter comes to the hands of some of the many who picked up membership brochures.

Our Duluth visit had one very good aspect, however: a firm new contact with the Twin Ports Genealogical Society of Duluth-Superior, with the real possibility of cosponsoring a day long seminar on Polish-American genealogy and history in the Arrowhead, sometime in 1999. Because of my own roots on the Iron Range and in Duluth, this is one project that I am personally committed to making a reality.

This doesn't mean we will be neglecting our Twin Cities base, however. For as long as we've been around, we've shared board members and swapped publicity with the Polish-American Cultural Institute of Minnesota. Recognizing the overlap of our common commitment to preserve the history of the Polish immigrant community in Minnesota, we have started discussing the cosponsoring of presentations in Minneapolis-St. Paul. When we have common themes and the likelihood of a large attendance, we both could gain from a joint effort. The first such meeting may come as early as this fall; again, you'll receive an announcement when it comes to fruition.

Our last such contact is an all-new one; we've been asked by the Northeast Minneapolis chapter of Polish White Eagle, the long-lived fraternal organization, to visit at their membership meetings. I will be giving an introductory presentation on the PGS-MN and beginning genealogical techniques on July 16; if it's popular, we will follow up in coming months with one by Paul and an on-site research session. We're hoping that this will jump-start a membership increase in the Minneapolis area, and give us some new blood in the largest center of Polonia in Minnesota.

All of these activities are attempts to keep our Society growing and developing. In carrying them forward, we have the services of an energetic board and other dedicated member volunteers. We can always use more help, though, and sure would like to hear from you--with your offer of labor, or your new ideas.

Heritage of The Bones

by Amy Ballestad

*I wear the face of generations.
I bear heirlooms of hair and of skin.
Whole tribes have conspired
to create this body.
It is their culmination,
their continuation.
Those who would be otherwise lost,
are still to be found
in the strength of this chin,
in the wide arc of these hips.*

*I feel my way with the
hands of my grandmothers.
Hands that have tended the field,
hands that have tuned cellos,
that have turned lefse,
counted rosaries,
cleaned endless kitchens.
Hands that have worked assembly lines,
that have taken tea with queens.
Hands that have held children
who held children
who held children
who gave these hands to me.*

*Oh grandmothers,
who came from my fatherlands,
grandfathers
who spoke my mother tongues,
how could I not love this body?
These features
have formed and set into places
parallel with yours.
Your blood line is locked in these veins.*

*From times I could not know,
from countries I will never see,
you have passed to me
this body,
this history,
this heritage of the bones.*



Letters to the Editor *Liśty do Redaktora*

Thank you, PACIM!

On behalf of PACIM, please accept this contribution in appreciation for contributing toward the success of the 1998 Festival of Nations! Sincerely, **Charlene Kaletka Delaney, Treasurer, P.A.C.I.M., The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota, PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55418-0403**

Trip to Poland

Thank you for publishing my trip report in the Spring 1998 *Newsletter*. My trip was a wonderful adventure. I was terribly fortunate to see Poland and Germany as a family visitor and not as a tourist. I never once stayed at a hotel. The food was spectacular. Eating in Poland is sort of a cholesterol nightmare, but plenty of activity keeps everything under control. The Spring *Newsletter* also included a letter from Doloras Berg that I answered. Two of her place names of interest (Dobrzeh Wielki and Kolanowice) are on the map on page 14. Thank you and keep up the good work! Sincerely, **Harry McOuat, 4 Walton Lane, Wakefield, MA 01880-1036**

Ancestral village?

I was very surprised to see a reference to Laskowice in an article by Harry McOuat in the Spring 1998 issue of the *PGS-MN Newsletter*. Could you please send me his address. I would like to write to him. Laskowice is one of my ancestral villages. **Anthony Jablonowski, 4006 Albertly Ave., Parma, OH 44134-3308**

Editor's reply: Harry McOuat's address is printed above. I notice from your query published on page 19-20 that you are searching for the Swierczynski and Nagorski surnames in Laskowice and in Buffalo, NY. There are several villages in Poland that are named Laskowice. I doubt that you will find your ancestors in the Laskowice in Silesia that Mr. McOuat is writing about. I say this because surnames ending in -ski were very rare if not non-existent among Silesians who immigrated to the US. My Polish atlas shows places named Laskowice in Bydgoszcz, Elblag and Siedice provinces in addition to Opole province. Buffalo NY was heavily settled by Kaszubs from northern Poland. My guess is that your chances of finding your ancestors are better in the Laskowice in Bydgoszcz or Elblag province.

Searching the Net

While searching the Net for Polish genealogy, I came across your web site. On that web site I noticed two articles which appeared in your newsletter that might be of interest to me:

1. Prokott Kaniow, Opole, Prokott, Spr, 97
2. Prokott Stare Siolkowice, Dobrzen Wielki and Falkowice Silesia, MN Prokott F-95

I have been able to trace my Norwegian ancestors back many generations. The Polish side has been somewhat of a mystery but now I want to give it a try. My grandfather, Thomas OPATZ, was born in Dambroka, Poland on 20 Dec 1855. He came to the USA and married Elizabeth PROKOTT, who was born in Oppela, Poland in 1858. Thus the two articles may have significant information to do with my family. If you will please let me know the cost, I will mail you the funds. Also, I am interested in your organization. Would you please send me membership information. Finally, would you please send a copy of this letter to the author of the two articles mentioned. He may be a relative of mine and it would be interesting to hear from him. Thank you for your assistance. Sincerely, **Thomas D. Opatz, 4141 Orchard Way, Lake Oswego, OR 97035, E-Mail:FWFG26A@prodigy.com**
(See also Mr. Opatz's query on page 19.)

Relatives in Poland

I have received two of your newsletters for which I wish to thank you. As to my background, both my parents were Polish. My mother was born in Texas. My father was born in Poland - JANUSZKOWICE, County of BRZOSTOK, Austrian Empire. My father came to USA in 1894 to escape being inducted in the Austrian army. My parents had nine children, 7 sons and 2 daughters. Our great grandmother lived with us for awhile and my eldest brother was the only one to learn the Polish language. My father could not speak English when he came here. He was able to get a job washing dishes in a restaurant. He saw and heard everything that went on in the kitchen. He graduated to become a waiter and later went into the restaurant business.

My father kept in touch with his mother and family through the years, with a thought of going back to visit. He did not get to but I did. I have been corresponding with his great niece for over 25 years. I went to Poland in 1987 and met her, her husband and daughter for the first time. Her name is Jadwiga and they live in PRUDNIK which is not far from OPOLE. I kept all the letters she wrote. It is quite a history. How did I communicate when in Poland? My roommate on the tour, was of Polish heritage. She was the translator and she also read all the letters Jadwiga wrote to me. In spite of not knowing the language, I

enjoyed meeting my cousin and I also know her family felt the same. Now, Jadwiga has some one type her letters in English just as I type mine.

Thank you again for the Newsletters. I trust my story did not bore you. Sincerely, **Cecelia M. Tybor, 836 W. Temple, Houston, Texas 77009-5234**

Research breakthrough!

Thank you for the wonderful volumes of the *Newsletter*. We enjoy them very much. We have had a breakthrough, and found the ship that my grandfather came to the United States on -- and sent to the National Archives for more information. We would finally know the town in Poland that they came from if we could read the name of the town highlighted on the attached sheet. Does anyone at the Society have any idea what town this could be? THANK YOU VERY MUCH. Sincerely, **Bonita A. Erickson, 22 Lake Avenue, Box 7, Madison Lake, MN 56063**

P.S. We are taking a trip to Poland this Fall!

Editor's reply: A portion of the passenger list enclosed is reproduced below. The name of the locality is circled and the name of the country of origin in in a box. I believe the country of origin is Prussia although it could just as easily say Russia. When was the date of immigration? Unless it was 1871 or before (the date of German unification) I'm surprised that it doesn't say Germany. As far as the locality of origin is concerned--the copy is just too poor to decipher. Perhaps one of our readers can recognize it. (Readers, how about it? If you have any ideas, be sure to let Bonita know.) Do you know the name of the ship and the port of origin in Europe? If the port of exit is Hamburg--the Hamburg passenger lists might be of help. These lists generally list the last place of residence in Europe. The LDS Family History Center in Crystal has the index to the Hamburg lists in its permanent collection (Perhaps other centers do as well). The exit lists can than be ordered from Salt Lake City. Do you have any other clues as to the location of origin? Have a good trip to Poland this Fall!

Meet Your Past in Stevens Point

PHAS would appreciate inclusion of the following press release in the next issue of your organization's newsletter:

Polish Heritage? Come Meet Your Past! Celebrate Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial by visiting or re-visiting the *Polish Heritage Awareness Society* exhibit recognizing Wisconsin's oldest Polish rural settlement and the families who came there. An added feature is the possibility of locating the ancestral village of Polish family members in a computerized database which includes more than 400 Portage County families--most of whose origins were in the Kaszuby region. Family research "help" sessions are planned for June 27, July 25, and August 29.

Exhibit hours at the Portage County Historical Society Museum, 1475 Water Street, in Stevens Point, WI, are scheduled on Saturday and Sunday, 1:00-5:00 PM; from June 6-August 30, 1998.

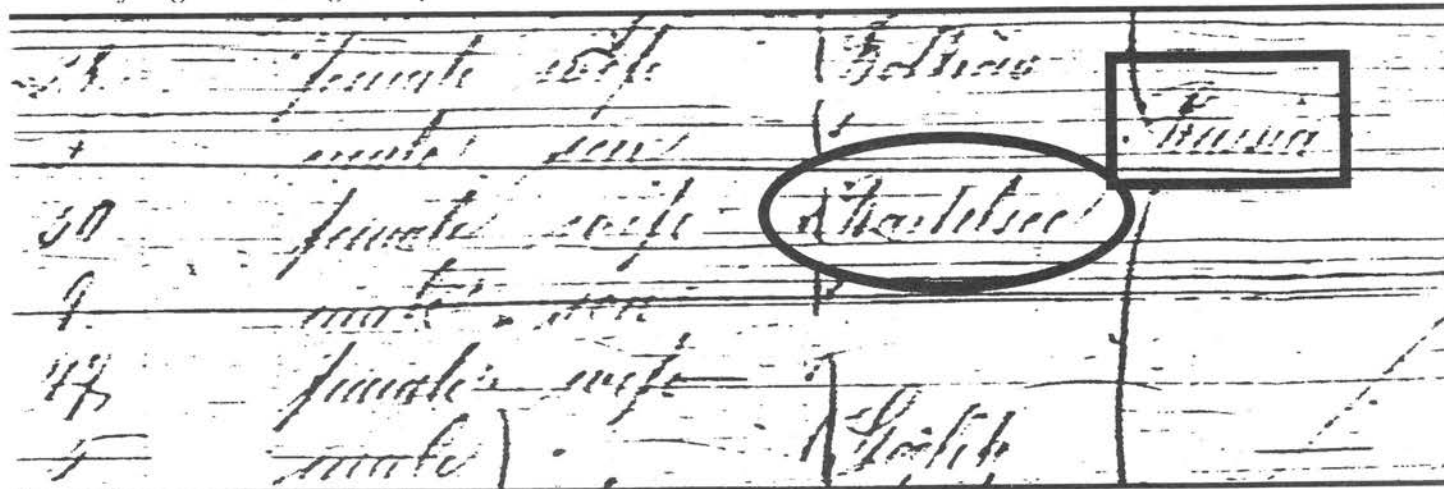
Polish Heritage Awareness Society
PO Box 726
Stevens Point, WI 54481-0726

Gayle Zivney, 715-344-5752

Also included is a poster for display on your bulletin board of coming events.

Your support of our project is appreciated. We are looking forward to another season of sharing central Wisconsin's rich Polish heritage.

Sincerely,
Adeline M. Sopa, Chairperson
2711 Danbar Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313-7022



Origins of the Jakubik, Soboszczyk and Pluskwik Surnames

by Paul Kulas

We continue our series about the meanings and origins of Polish surnames as found in William F. Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* and in Kazimierz Rymut's *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych*. In this issue we examine the surnames requested by PSG-MN member **Harry McOuat** of Wakefield MA. He wrote to us as follows: "I read your interesting offer on page 9 of the Winter 97-98 Newsletter. Enclosed is a check to research the names: (1) JAKUBIK, (2) SOBOSZCZYK, and (3) PLUSKWIK. I am sure there are other obvious spellings. This is an exciting adventure. Thank you for your offer and help."

According to Hoffman the surname **Jakubik** is derived from the Polish given name *Jakób* or *Jakub*. Thus Jakubik would mean "son of Jakub." Hoffman refers to Maria Malec, *Imiona chrześcijańskie w średniowiecznej Polsce* and Kazimierz Rymut, *Nazwiska Polaków* as the source for this information.

According to *Słownik nazwisk* . . . by Kazimierz Rymut, the name Jakubik appeared 3164 times in a governmental agency's records in 1990. It is therefore a rather common Polish surname. The related Polish surnames Jakubek and Jakubiak were listed 2342 and 8454 times respectively. The map on page 7 shows the provinces where the Jakubik surname was found in 1990.

As you can see the Jakubik surname is a common name widely distributed throughout Poland. It is therefore impossible to guess from the surname distribution alone where the name Jakubik originated in Poland. *Jakób* or *Jakub* was a common given name in Poland. The Jakubik surname undoubtedly originated in many different places with many different ancestors named *Jakub* at the time surnames were being adopted in Poland.

We know from articles written by Mr. McOuat that have been published in this newsletter (See: Autumn 1994, p. 10; Summer 1996, p.6; Spring 1998, pp. 14-15) that his ancestors came from Silesia. Notice that Jakubik is a common name in Silesia especially in Katowice and Wrocław provinces. It is also quite common in Opole province. But it is also common in virtually every province throughout Poland.

According to *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, the surname **Soboszczyk** is derived from "ancient compound names with the root *sob-*, self, e.g. *Sobiestaw*." Thus Soboszczyk would mean "son of Sobiestaw." Hoffman's source for this is Rymut's *Nazwiska Polaków*. Other possibilities are that the

name derives from the Polish word *sobiepan* which means "an independent person" or from the place name *Sobieszyn* in Lublin province.

According to *Słownik nazwisk* . . . the name Soboszczyk appeared 21 times in a governmental agency's records in 1990. It is therefore a very uncommon Polish surname. All occurrences were in Katowice province (circled on the map at right).

According to Hoffman the surname **Pluskwik** is derived from the Polish noun *plusk* which means "splash" or the Polish verb *pluskać* which means "to splash" (Hoffman again lists *Nazwiska Polaków* as his source for this). Another possibility of the name's origin is from the Polish word *pluskwa* which means "bedbug" (Hoffman's source for this is Alexander Beider, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland*).

According to *Słownik nazwisk* . . . the name Pluskwik appeared only 51 times in a governmental agency's records in 1990. It is therefore also a very uncommon Polish surname. The occurrences of the Pluskwik surname are shown in (parenthesis) on the map at right. Notice that most occurrences are in Silesia with the most in Katowice province.

On the bases of surname distribution alone it is impossible to guess where a common surname like **Jakubik** originated. But when additional uncommon ancestral names such as **Soboszczyk** and **Pluskwik** are taken into consideration, it is highly likely that Mr. McOuat's ancestors came from Silesia. On the basis of this study I reported to Mr. McOuat: "It seems highly likely that your Soboszczyk and Pluskwik ancestors originated in Katowice province in Silesia. With this in mind it seems likely that your Jakubik ancestors originated there also."

After I sent my report on his ancestral surnames, Harry McOuat sent it off to his cousin, Bernd Pluskwik, in Germany (See Harry's article in *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Spring 1998, pp. 15-16). Bernd in turn sent the following letter to me:

My friend Harry McOuat sent me a copy of your letter of 4 March 1998 which contains some interesting facts about my surname. My ancestors came from the province (województwo) of Opole since more than 200 years. Our language always was the Silesian dialect which makes it difficult to understand the real Polish language. It occurs that the same word has a different meaning in Polish and in Silesian. That explains the difference in the meaning of my surname: *pluskwa* means a "bedbug" in Polish, but a "water wagtail" in Silesian. Of course, people in the Opole province derived my surname from the "(water) wagtail." This would be an alternative explanation to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames, Origins and Meanings*. No doubt, *plusk* - splash,

pluskać - to splash is correct, but the meaning of the inhabitants should also be taken into consideration. What is your opinion? I would be grateful for your answer. Sincerely,

**Bernd Pluskwik, Lärchenstr. 14,
D-79256 Buchenbach, Germany**

In my response to Mr. Pluskwik I stated "Since the

Pluskwik surname is almost exclusively a Silesian surname (as shown by the distribution from *Słownik nazwisk. . .*), it is very likely that the name was derived from the Silesian word *pluskwa* meaning 'water wagtail.' " I also indicated to him that I was sure the Fred Hoffman would be interested in this derivation and that I would send a copy of his letter to him.

Distribution of the JAKUBIK, SOBOSZCZYK and PLUSKWIK surname according to *Słownik nazwisk. . .*



The map above shows the distribution of the Jakubik, Soboszczyk and Pluskwik surnames in present day Poland according to *Słownik nazwisk. . .* We will continue to search your Polish surnames in Hoffman's *Polish Surnames* and in Rymut's *Słownik nazwisk. . .* Send request to: Paul Kulas, editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316. Include \$10.00 per surname. Make check payable to PGS-MN.

MENNONITES IN POLAND AND "POLISH" MENNONITES

by Edward Reimer Brandt

Part II: The "Polish" Mennonites

The Mennonites, especially those in rural areas, were very insular. Although many still treasure their "German" mother tongue, they switched from Dutch to German as the language of worship only about a generation before they emigrated to the Russian Empire. Those who left, and their descendants (in contrast to those who stayed), have rarely viewed themselves as "Germans," except in a linguistic sense, since, like the Jews, their religion was their only meaningful identity. (However, both Wojciech Marchlewski and Peter J. Classen confirm that *some* of those who lived in interwar Poland had pro-Polish sympathies.)

They generally kept to themselves and married within their own circles. It is sometimes said, half seriously, that all the Mennonites descended from those in Poland, later Prussia, are related, even though kinship by blood may predate genealogical records. But there were more exceptions to in-group marriage than is often believed, despite significant differences according to time and place.

It is almost impossible to identify intermarriage between those of Dutch/Frisian/Flemish ancestry and those of German ancestry for many reasons: (1) some refugees came from German lands adjacent to Dutch-speaking areas (at the time there was no clearcut distinction); (2) those of Swiss-South German origin were relatively numerous in the many scattered settlements along the "upper" Vistula, i.e., south of Marienburg (Malbork); (3) scattered German religious refugees (not necessarily Anabaptists) found their way to the Mennonite haven, where they soon became assimilated Mennonites; (4) intermarriage with other Protestants was more common than intermarriage with Catholics; and (5) some names were Germanized over time, so that it is not always certain whether specific ones were originally Dutch.

It is much easier to spot names of Polish origin among the Mennonites. Quite a few people whose ancestors had lived in the area before the coming of the Mennonites joined the church. This included a few large landowners (Germans and Poles) who were impressed by the piety of those who farmed their land, often as farmers with long-term leases, usually renewed indefinitely.

Benjamin Heinrich Unruh's German book includes



The original of this portrait of Menno Simons by a Dutch illustrator is housed at the Provincial Archives, Friesen, Netherlands (Source: *Mennonite Family History*, January, 1986, p. 4). Menno Simons, a former Catholic priest, was primarily responsible for the development of the Mennonite creed. As its most prominent leader, the church and its followers were soon named after him. The Mennonites found sanctuary in Poland for well over two hundred years.

the names of most Mennonites who left the Vistula area soon after, and because of, the Prussian takeover in 1772-93 to settle in "New Russia" or "South Russia," i.e., the area north of the Black Sea which had recently been gained in the Russo-Turkish Wars (today eastern Ukraine). Many of their descendants migrated to the Americas, beginning in 1874-75, primarily because of the threatened withdrawal of the "eternal" special privileges which had induced them to settle in the Russian Empire, chiefly freedom from military service, a fundamental tenet of their beliefs.

Some of the names of these Mennonites can easily be identified as Polish. There is no mistaking the origin of Doleski, Militzki, Nowitzki, Rogalski, Sawatzky, Schapanski and Tilitzky, despite spelling variations. Ratzlaff is almost certainly a Germanized spelling of a Polish name. Karolius suggests a Catholic background and may well be Polish. Suckau is probably derived from Suckow; several communities with this name exist in areas formerly inhabited by Balto-Slavs who merged into the advancing "German" population.

Names ending in "-ke," which were very common among the Germans in the eastern Prussian provinces, and even in the Russian-ruled parts of Poland, are generally considered to be of Slavic origin, even though the preceding root word is often as German as can be. Presumably this is the result of the pre-1350 German *Drang nach Osten* (*Push to the East*) and the subsequent assimilation of many Germans and Poles. However, the same ending is used as a diminutive for first names in Dutch and Low German. Such

Polish Haven

by Edward Reimer Brandt

**Their faith stayed steadfast, even in the face
of torture. Families, bereaved by what
A misbegotten, fervid zeal had wrought
On blazing stakes, soon sought a gentler place.
Hence, Flemings crafting filigree and lace
Found Friesland's pastures safer, but still fraught
With danger. Flight of host and hosted brought
Relief in Emden--briefly. Whither now, by grace?
At last a haven beckoned. Hanza ships
Sailed morningward to Danzig, Elbing, Thorn.
Here tolerance prevailed. Here Polish kings
And freedom reigned. Here peace was home. Here lips
Proclaimed and quills decreed, when elsewhere scorn
Stilled souls: "Here every voice of conscience sings."**

surnames also occur in northwestern Germany and the Netherlands. Nevertheless, the following names, most of which are definitely not Dutch, may be of at least partly Polish origin, although they are almost certainly those of converts in Poland, not those of the refugees: Butschke, Goerke, Jahnke, Lemke, Schoenke, Wilke and Woelke.

Victor Peters and Jack Thiessen, in their bilingual book, *Mennonitische Namen - Mennonite Names* (Marburg, Germany: N. G. Elwert Verlag, 1987), also list Koslowsky. But they also mention the possibility that some of the Mennonites could have taken the names of the Polish nobles on whose land they settled. Not all of the Anabaptists mentioned in the famous Martyrs' Mirror are listed as having had surnames, but I am somewhat skeptical of this suggestion. They also state that some of the German petty nobles who migrated to predominantly Polish lands during the period of the Teutonic Knights Polonized their names. Thus Schapansky is apparently derived from von Dieterschdorf, who was also known as Scepanke. A Schepanski became a Mennonite. In any case, Sawatzky is by far the most common Polish name among North American Mennonites (17th most common Mennonite name in Western Canada). These Sawatzkys are known to be descendants of a Polish noble, Zawacky.

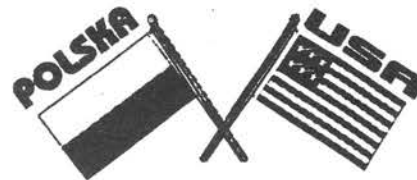
There were never any Polish-speaking Mennonite congregations in Poland, with the possible exception of a few isolated settlements, far from the Vistula, where congregations of Dutch-German origin may have become Polonized, most likely after first

becoming Lutheran.

No Mennonite churches have existed in Poland since 1945, although Kornel Kondy and Peter J. Classen report that North American missionaries are now trying to establish a Polish Amish Mennonite congregation. (Historically, there were no Amish among the Mennonites in the Vistula River area, although a few lived briefly in Galicia, later in Volhynia.) Nevertheless, Polish blood courses through Mennonite veins, even if only in small quantity, so this account is not exclusively that of the "Mennonites in Poland."

For additional information about the Mennonites see: Cornelius J. Dyck, *An Introduction to Mennonite History*, 3rd ed. (Scottsdale, PA/Waterloo, ON: Herald Press, 1993) 452 pp. and C. Henry Smith, *Smith's Story of the Mennonites*, 5th ed. rev. & enlarged by Cornelius Krahn (Newton, KS: Faith and Life Press, 1981), 589 pp.

Editors note: This concludes Ed Brandt's two-part article about the Mennonites in Poland. His poem above, left was taken from his Where Once They Toiled: A Visit to the Former Mennonite Homelands in the Vistula River Valley. A copy of this book is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.



POLISH HERITAGE? COME MEET YOUR PAST!

**Polish Heritage Awareness Society
Sesquicentennial Exhibit**

**June 6 - August 30, 1998
Saturday & Sunday; 1:00 - 5:00 PM**

**Portage Co Historical Society Museum
1475 Water Street
Stevens Point, WI**

**Computerized Polish immigrant database.
Special programs to be announced.
Family research "help" sessions: June 27, July 25, &
August 29**

From *Słownik geograficzny*: MORE ON VILLAGES FROM RAJGRÓD PARISH

By Greg Kishel

Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich is the classic Polish gazetteer. In the Winter 1997-98 issue of the *PGS-MN Newsletter*, I presented my translations of its entries for several of my ancestral villages, in what is now far northeastern Poland. Since then, lucky discoveries have enabled me to extend a couple of family lines back by a generation or two. I consulted *Słownik geograficzny* for the entries for the locales to which these newly-discovered forebears were linked.

Kuligi and Żrobki were the haunts of direct and collateral ancestors in the *szlachta* **Wroczyński** family, and Bukowo--of course!--was the seat of their **Bukowski** ancestors and collaterals. Recognizing that those items alone were not enough for a meaty article, I set myself on a side errand in the gazetteer. In my research at the LDS Family History Center, I had found birth, marriage, or death records in Rajgród parish for many people bearing the name of **Kisielewski** other than those whom I was able to identify as ancestors. Figuring that I might someday link those persons in, I did the *Słownik geograficzny* entries for their home places too; at the very least, I thought, somebody else would find the translations helpful. (The surname recurs with some frequency throughout the ninety years' worth of Rajgród records filmed to date by the Family History Library. Due to the limitations of the collection in both time and completeness, I will probably never know whether everyone who bore the name there was related to me. However, none of us stick to this hobby unless we are completists!)

Thus, I present more snapshots, geographic and demographic, of places long ago and far away, with the citations to their *Słownik geograficzny* entries:

Bukowo, ... 2.) village, Szczuczyń district, Przestrzele township, Rajgród parish. In 1827 there were 15 houses and 75 inhabitants here. ... [SGKP v. I, p.471]

Ciszewo, village and manorial farm, Szczuczyń district, Bełda township, Rajgród parish. It lies between vast forests and swamps, having access only from the north side, on the highway from Szczuczyń to Rajgród. It possesses a brewery and a distillery. In 1827 there were 11 households and 61 inhabitants here. It is known in documents from the year 1547. The manorial farm of Ciszewo with the villages of Ciszewo and Kuligi are 80 *werst* [53 mi. / 85 km.] from Łomża, 29 *werst* [19 mi. / 31 km.] from

Szczuczyń, 8 *werst* [5.3 mi. / 8.4 km.] from Rajgród, [and] 1 *werst* [.67 mi. / 1.07 km.] from the Jegrznia River. In 1868 the properties were acquired for over 30,000 rs. [*rubelsrebrem*--"silver rubles"--the standard unit of currency in the Russian Empire, including the Kingdom of Poland]. The lands total 2664 *mórg* [3698 acres] and are designated: plowed lands and gardens 174 *mórg* [241 acres], meadows 430 *mórg* [597 acres], pastures 40 *mórg* [55 acres], brushland 1879 *mórg* [2608 acres], barren lands and fields 149 *mórg* [207 acres]; there are 6 brick buildings, 13 of wood. The village of Ciszewo has 34 settlements, the grounds 250 *mórg* [347 acres]; the village of Kuligi has 3 settlements, the grounds 42 *mórg* [58 acres]. [SGKP v. I, p. 708]

Kosiły, village, Szczuczyń district, Przestrzele township, Rajgród parish. In 1827 there were 24 houses and 165 inhabitants here. [SGKP v. IV, p. 461]

Kuligi, village of nobles/gentry and peasants, on the Jegrznia River, Szczuczyń district, Bełda township, Rajgród parish. In 1827 a governmental village, 19 houses, 114 inhabitants. Cf. *Ciszewo*. [SGKP v. IV, p. 862]

Łazarze, village of nobles/gentry and peasants, Szczuczyń district, Bełda township, Rajgród parish. In 1827 a governmental village, 19 houses, 115 inhabitants. [SGKP v. V, p. 617]

Pomiany ... 2.) ... village and manorial farm, Augustów district, Bargłów township, Rajgród parish, it lies 16 *werst* [10.7 mi. / 17 km.] southwest of Augustów, 5 *werst* [3.4 mi. / 5.4 km.] from the railway station in Rajgród, it has 26 houses, 303 inhabitants, [and] a distillery [and] brewery producing beer and porter. In 1827 there were 30 houses and 176 inhabitants here. In 1870 the lands of Pomiany were comprised of the [following] manorial farms: Pomiany, Reszki and Lipówka, [and] the villages: Pomiany, Reszki, Łabentki, Lipówka, [and] the hamlets: Rozalin, Cepery and Młyńsk. Its manorial common lands amounted to 2419 *mórg* [3357 acres]. The village of Pomiany has 35 settlements, with lands of 227 *mórg* [315 acres]; the village of Reszki has 40 settlements, with lands of 236 *mórg* [328 acres]; the village of Łabentki has 13 settlements, with lands of 101 *mórg* [140 acres]; the village of Lipówka has 4 settlements, with lands of 16 *mórg* [22 acres]; the hamlet of Rozalin has 1 settlement, with lands of 8 *mórg* [11 acres]; the hamlet of Cepery has 1 settlement, with lands of 7 *mórg* [10 acres]; the hamlet of Młyńsk has 1 settlement, with lands of 18 *mórg* [25 acres]. *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v. VIII, p. 744]

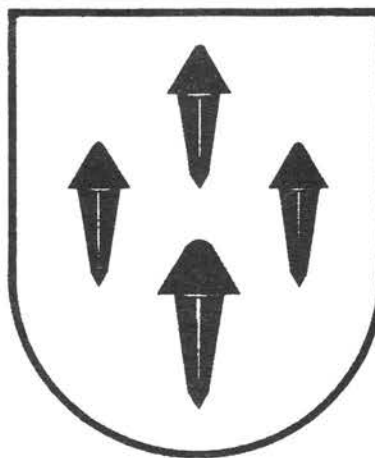
Wojdy ... 2.) *Wojdy Radziejewo*, village and manorial farm, Szczuczyń district, Przestrzele township, Rajgród parish, it lies 32 *werst* [21 mi. / 34 km.] from Szczuczyń. In 1827 there were 8 houses and

56 inhabitants. In 1873 the manor farm of Wojdy Radziejewo covered 481 *mórg* [667 acres]: plowed lands and gardens 119 *mórg* [165 acres], meadows 180 *mórg* [250 acres], pastures 76 *mórg* [105 acres], forest 76 *mórg* [105 acres], barren lands 32 *mórg* [44 acres]; there are 1 brick building, [and] 8 of wood; it has deposits of peat. The village of Wojdy Radziejewo has 15 settlements, 85 *mórg* [118 acres]. [SGKP v. XIII, p. 747]

Żrobki 1.) also *Zrzrobki* and *Zrobki*, village and manorial farm, Augustów district, Bargłów township, Rajgród parish, 20 *werst* [13 mi. / 21 km.] from Augustów, it has 31 houses, 231 inhabitants. In 1827 there were 25 houses, 165 inhabitants. In 1842 the estates of Żrobki had an area of about 1360 *mórg* [1888 acres]: cultivated lands and gardens 420 *mórg* [1583 acres], meadows 210 *mórg* [291 acres], pasture 240 *mórg* [333 acres], brushland 360 *mórg* [500 acres], barren lands 30 *mórg* [42 acres], forests 100 *mórg* [139 acres]. The village of Żrobki has 22 settlements, and 284 *mórg* [335 acres]. 2.) *Ż. Tobyłka*, also *Tobyłka*. In 1827 there were 7 houses, 52 inhabitants. In 1885 the manorial farm of Żrobki Tobyłka covered 241 *mórg* [335 acres]: cultivated lands and gardens 115 *mórg* [160 acres], meadows 26 *mórg* [36 acres], pasture 17 *mórg* [24 acres], forests 65 *mórg* [90 acres], wastelands 11 *mórg* [15 acres], barren lands 6 *mórg* [8 acres]; 1 brick building, 10 wood buildings. The village of Żrobki Tobyłka has 15 settlements, 71 *mórg* [98 acres]. *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v. XIV, p 837]

Like those in my first set of translations, these entries vary greatly in length and informational content. The breakdowns in land uses for manor farm-village combinations are interesting; from them, one could construct a map to illustrate the local economy of the parish. Some of these villages obviously had a respectable portion of agricultural acreage; many others encompassed a lot of unproductive brushland and swamp. We know that the soil in the area is poor and thin typical of northern forest regions, and the climate is harsh in the winter, making it more difficult to scratch out a living from farming. The feudal burden on farmer-landholders must have decreased their ability to support families that grew greatly in size over the 19th century. This made a strong precipitant for emigration. (Stories told by my grandfather's generation anecdotally bear this out--the ones about wives and children hand-picking individual grains out of the soil after the men had threshed the fields are only the most graphic illustration of growing privation in the region.)

For those with roots in the Rajgród region, I thought I'd give an update on the content of my first article, based on developments since then.



RAJGRÓD

Łomża province

Charter received in the year 1566 and renewed in 1924. The name of the town is connected with its location on Raj (Paradise) Lake. The shield: on the yellow field are four black nails. The shield was known since the 16th century.

The official crest of the city of Rajgród.

Source: *Herbarz Miast Polskich* by Andrzej Plewako and Józef Wanag, p. 183. Caption translated by Walter Kornel Kondy. A copy of this work is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

The first is the publication of a translation of *Słownik geograficzny*'s long entries for Rajgród and its neighboring lake, in the Winter 1998 issue of the *Polish Genealogical Society of America Bulletin*. Fred Hoffman, editor of the PGSA's publications, kindly acceded to my request to feature them. (My thanks to him for that, and for his help with some obscure Polish terms in this article's entries.) From Fred's work we learn many things about the town and the area. Their border character goes back at least to the 11th century, when the region lay between Podlasie and Lithuania; feudal control over it passed among many noble families over the following eight centuries. As a border town, Rajgród was a center of trade for centuries. The products were varied, but classically North Country: the furs harvested in the forests of neighboring Lithuania and Suwałki, and fish from the area's lakes, with value added from processing. (I decline to speculate whether my family's taste for smoked fish--now directed at herring and salmon from Lake Superior--had its origin in the homeland's regional specialty.) The Roman Catholic parish was probably founded in 1519, by a member of the Lithuanian Radziwiłł noble family; the town also had a Reformed Protestant church and a Jewish synagogue in the 1880s. Finally, like so much of the Suwałk-Łomża region, the population of the town proper was mainly Jewish and that of the countryside Christian.

Second, I consulted the modern gazetteer resource that our Society has begun building in its library collection: *Nazwy Miejscowe Polski*, edited by Kazimierz Rymut, which Kornel Kondy reviewed in the Autumn 1997 issue of this *Newsletter*.

From that item I learned several things about Barszcze, one of my Kisielewski lineage's ancestral

Continued on page 13

A GOOD TIME TO VISIT!

by Shirley Mask Connolly

Planning a 1998 Visit to Canada's First Polish Settlement in Renfrew County, Ontario?

Then these dates may be of interest to you. A perfect time to see the beautiful scenery of the area is in the late summer and early autumn. And if you would like to take in a function where you could meet many of the Polish-Canadian families, perhaps you might like to be there for one of the annual church suppers. I know that when I visited Rosholt, Wisconsin on the day of St. Adalbert's Parish Summer Picnic- Dinner, it was GREAT! !

In Canada's Polish settlement near Wilno, Ontario, there are really three main Polish parishes: St. Mary's in Wilno, St. Hedwig's in Barry's Bay and St. Casimir's in Round Lake Centre. Only two of these three have Church suppers: St. Mary's on the Sunday of the annual Canadian Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 6, 1998) and St. Casimir's on the Sunday of the annual Canadian Thanksgiving Day Weekend (Oct. 11, 1998).

The focus of these suppers is obviously the food, but the socializing is an equal attraction. There are also tickets for draws with several prizes ranging from homemade quilts to cash, craft tables and games of chance. St. Mary's adds some local musical talent with a stage set up outside the church. This is designed to make your wait in line for the supper less tedious. Usually the crowd is entertained by the Stoppa Lake Melodiers and a variety of fiddle players. St. Mary's supper menu is chicken with gravy and all the trimmings. A large wooden rooster at the main highway entrance welcomes thousands of visitors each year. But you really don't need the giant chicken to find the place. The location itself is spectacular with a view of many of the first farm homesteads of the Polish pioneer settlers. And the commanding presence of the cathedral like building contrasted with the rural setting makes it impossible to miss.

St. Casimir's location is less dramatic, but just as beautiful. Its single spire can be seen from the steps of St. Mary's. The stone grey block building with its white spire complements the green of the nearby pine trees and the clean, clear waters of the lake. You will want to walk down to the sandy beach and work off some of the calories. St. Casimir's menu is Beef and beans, but the tables are also laden with homemade rolls, jellied and shredded cabbage salads, Polish pickles, and plates of assorted squares. It's an all you can eat kind of deal and once you have exhausted the first course, there's a difficult choice of pies for desert- blueberry, cherry, apple, lemon, pumpkin and raisin, but my personal favourite is St. Casimir's very own Butterscotch pie. Delicious! Most diners are tempted to

St. Mary's Church, Wilno, Ontario



sample a few of these because the pies are placed on the tables for self-service.

Once you have filled up on the food, you can settle in the back room for a few games of bingo or try your luck at the games of chance.

Another local parish that has a large Polish-Canadian population is Our Lady of Angels in Brudenell. This small parish of about 30 families feeds over a thousand visitors annually. They too usually have some musical entertainment as well as a large outdoor Bingo Tent. Their supper is held on the last Sunday in August, so this year's date will probably be August 30, 1998. Brudenell parish serves a ham supper with wonderful sand-baked beans. You can see the lads boiling the potatoes and serving the beans at their outside firepit.

This church is located off the beaten track on the old Opeongo Line Colonization Road. You will need a map to find it and what remains of what once was a thriving settlement. The beautiful old stone church was built in 1870 and this was the first parish for the Polish pioneer families who settled on the free grant lands in the area. The old cemetery is on one side of the road and the new on the other. Polish names only appear in the new section, dating from the early 20th century; however, many of the first Polish pioneers were buried on the other side of the road with their Irish neighbors. Their wooden crosses have long since rotted and disappeared, but their presence still lives on in many of their descendants who can be found cooking in the kitchen and working in the church hall. But don't worry, there are no ghosts here although Brudenell has

been designated as one of the "Ghost Towns of Ontario". (1)

All of these parishes precede their annual supper with a mid-day mass and start serving the meal shortly afterwards...from about 1 or 2 pm until they finish at between 6 and 7 pm.

As well, two Renfrew parishes with large numbers of Polish Canadian parishioners have church suppers: St. Francis Xavier in the month of June and Our Lady of Fatima on the last Sunday in October (Oct.25, 1998). The priest at Our Lady of Fatima is Father Mervin Coulas, whose Kulas family was one of the first of the Polish pioneer families in Renfrew County (here by 1859).

You would be more than welcome at any of these dinners...and the price is right - about \$8.00 or \$9.00 each (Canadian!). Remember, it's always all you can eat And who knows? You might bump into someone who is related to you in some way if you go far enough back and connect up in Poland's past.

Maybe I'll see you there.

(1) Brown, Ron, *Ghost Town of Ontario*, Volume 1, Southern & Eastern Ontario, published in 1978, ISBN 0-9691210-2-4.

Editor's note: Drawings accompanying this article are by Shirley Mask Connolly.

St. Casimir's Church, Round Lake Centre, Ontario



Our Lady of Angels Church Brudenell, Ontario



From *Słownik geograficzny*: continued from page 11

villages. It had been in the feudal domain of the Lecki family since the late 14th century; its name apparently originated in the medieval Polish *barsce*, "the nickname of the peasants of the villages of the Leckis." In the 17th century the village was inhabited by *szlachta* boyars--members of the noble class, possibly with military affiliation--from which it derived its alternate name *Barszcze Bojary*.

Echoing the wetlands theme of my first article, I found in *Nazwy Miejscowe* that the name for Bełda, the mid-19th century home of my **Jamiński** and **Kuczyński** ancestors, was more ancient still: "Probably the name arises from the Jacwingian *Balde, cf: the Prusy *bald-, "bog, swamp." The Jacwingians were the pagan Balto-Slavic tribe who inhabited the area before 1000 A.D.; their burial mounds dot the regions of Podlasie and Suwałki. If one wants to see the swamp that's been memorialized for a millennium in the village's name, one need only consult the map that accompanied my last article: there it is, immediately south of Bełda, a good-sized fen bearing the name *Bagno Kuwassy*.

Unfortunately, at this time we have only the first volume of *Nazwy Miejscowe*, covering place names beginning in A-B. However, we will acquire the rest of it as our Library Fund and the publication schedule permit. The series is a fine modern complement to *Słownik geograficzny*.

Finally, for the locales treated in my first article, here are the locations of the original *Słownik* entries--just for those who may need citations: *Barszcze*: v. I, p. 109; *Bełda*: v. I, p. 128; *Czarna wieś*: v. I, p. 740; *Miecie*: v. VI, p. 327; *Pieńczykowo*: v. VIII, p. 88; *Skrodzkie*: v. X, p. 718; and *Woźna Wieś*: v. XIV, p. 12.

In my campaign through *Słownik geograficzny* I've gone on to the neighboring parishes to which my ancestors had some connection--Bargłów Koscielny and Rydzewo. I'll present the results of my research and translation on them in future issues. In the meantime, we encourage you to do the same thing for your own homeland habitations, and to send the results in for publication.

Traveling down that “information superhighway”

Using the Internet for Polish Genealogical Research

by Paul Kulas

I hope that all of you with internet access checked out the web addresses that were printed in our last issue of this newsletter (Mary Ellen Bruski, “Polish Genealogy Sources on the Internet,” *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Spring 1998, 10-11). I did and it kept me busy for many hours (though I have to admit that I still get frustrated using the internet--maybe my old modem is just too slow). An amazing amount of information can be found on the net.

We regularly get new members who find us through our website (See, for example, the letter from Tom Opatz in our “Letters to the editor” column on page 4). I regularly receive e-mail messages from people who are researching the same surnames that I am because of our surname listings on the net. And Mary Ellen Bruski, of our website committee, continues to put the many people who inquire about certain surnames on our internet surname listings in contact with our members who don't have e-mail addresses (If you have not yet given us your e-mail address be sure to send it to Mary Ellen. Her e-mail address is listed on page 2).

In this article, I want to describe two ways I used Mary Ellen's list since her article appeared--one was successful and the other something of a failure:

Recently Dr. Roger F. Krentz, PGS-MN member from Jersey City, NJ, contacted me about finding out the names of the Roman Catholic churches in his ancestral parishes in Morzewo and Miasteczko Krajeńskie, Poland. I checked Müllerowa, *Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish People's Republic in 1984* and I found that both parishes were located in Białośliwie deanery in the Archdiocese of Gniezno. I remembered that Mary Ellen's listing contained the website address of the archdiocesan archive in Poznań (<http://www.wsdsc.poznan.pl/arch/archive.htm>). I logged on to this website and I found their e-mail address (archiwum@aap.poznan.pl) and I e-mailed them the question regarding the two churches (I knew that the Poznań and Gniezno dioceses were adjacent so I figured that the Poznań archive could also answer my question). Ks. Konrad Lutyński of the Poznań archdiocesan archive replied immediately in Polish. I could read enough of the message to get its meaning. In effect he said, “Don't ask us, ask the Archdiocese of Gniezno.” But he was kind enough to include the e-mail address of the Gniezno archdiocesan archive (aagniez@po.onet.pl).

I then repeated my query to that address. It took a few days but I did receive a reply from Dr. Czesław Pest, again in Polish. Using the old family Polish-

English dictionary (W. Kierst and Prof. O. Callier, *Słowniczek polskiego i angielskiego języka w dwóch częściach* [Pocket-Dictionary of the English and Polish Languages in two parts], (Leipzig: Otto Holtzes Nachfolger, 1906).) that my father used both to improve his English and to help him remember his Polish, I was able to translate the reply. Dr. Pest informed me that the church in Morzewo was named *Przemienienia Pańskiego* (Transfiguration) and that the church in Miasteczko Krajeńskie was named *Podwyższenia Krzyża* (Holy Cross).

My second attempt at finding information using Mary Ellen's list was less successful. I checked the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America insurance death claims record (<http://www.pgsa.org/records.htm>). The Polish Genealogical Society of America is offering the original PRCUA death claim documents up to 1934 for a donation of \$43.00 (\$33.00 for PGSA members). I checked the index on the website and I found a listing for a Jan Kulas with a claim date of 24 Dec 1932. My grandfather, Jan Kulas, died on 4 Nov 1932. I wondered if these possibly might be insurance records of my grandfather and I wondered how a Chicago based insurance company could possibly have sold a policy to a farmer in rural central Minnesota. But central Minnesota was heavily settled by Polish immigrants so I concluded that the PRCUA may have had an agent in the area. At any rate, I was so intrigued at the possibility of discovering original insurance records of my grandfather that I ignored Mary Ellen's stated advice--“(there is a) charge of \$43 if you want to send for the original record so you will want to be sure it's really your ancestor in advance!”--and sent for the records.

Well, it turned out that the insured was Jan Kulas of Pittston, PA. The beneficiary was his wife, Rozalia Kulas, who was living at 37 De Witt St., Pittston, PA. These are definitely **not** my grandparents. But the documents contained in the packet were interesting. They included: a letter in Polish from “z biura sekretarza generalnego” of the PRCUA; a death report in Polish; a certificate of death from the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (this included the names of Jan's parents--Frank Kulas and Mary Jachna); and an impressive 23.5 x 17 inch beneficiary certificate in both English and Polish with a wonderfully aged look that makes it suitable for farming (see greatly reduced reproduction at right). Descendants of Jan and Rozalia Kulas can obtain these documents by writing to: Paul Kulas, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316 (It would be nice if they would want to reimburse me for my expense in obtaining these documents).

Members, we would like to hear of the stories of your experiences in using the internet for research. Write them up and send to the editor of this newsletter.



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

5768 Olson Memorial Highway
Golden Valley, MN 55422

THE MGS LIBRARY HAS MOVED!!

The MGS Library has moved to its new facility at 5768 Olson Memorial Highway (Highway 55) in Golden Valley. PGS-MN's **Polish Collection** has moved as well. The new location is on the service road on the north side of Highway 55 and just west of Highway 100 (See map and directions on the reverse side of this insert). New library hours are: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 9:00 am to 3 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 to 9:30 pm. The library's new phone number is: (612) 595-9347.

Items for sale by PGS-MN:

- Cholewa, ed., *Poland: Directory of Affordable Accomodations* \$14.95
- Chorzempa, *Korzenie Polskie/Polish Roots* \$17.95
- Chorzempa, *Morbis—Why and How Our Ancestors Died* \$3.50
- Hoffman, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* \$25.00
- Litak, *The Latin Church in the Polish Commonwealth in 1772* \$17.00
- Mullerowa, *Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish Peoples Republic in 1984* \$20.00
- Ortell, *Polish Parish Records of the Roman Catholic Church* \$12.00
- Schlyter, *Essentials in Polish Genealogical Research* \$3.00
- PGS-MN Newsletter* back issues: \$3.00 each (No tax or S&H)

Order from: PSG-MN Newsletter, c/o Paul Kulas, editor, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316. For shiping and handling add \$2.00 for first item, \$.50 for each additional item. Minnesota residents add 6.5% sales tax. Make check payable to PGS-MN.

POLISH NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

Polish night at the library will continue at the MGS Library's new location on the **second Thursday of each month** from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. One of our experienced genealogists is there to assist you with your research problems on these nights. Come and make use of this service and check out the library's new facilities

Membership Application

- Individual / Family - \$15.00
 Sponsor - \$25.00
 New
 Renewal

Voluntary Contribution to the Library Fund - \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

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

I consent to the publication of this information on the PGS-MN webpage. 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.

U.S. Senate approves Polish membership in NATO

An Editorial by Paul Kulas

The United States Senate on April 30, 1998 approved NATO membership for Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic by an overwhelming 80-19 vote. All sixteen current members must approve before the three nations can be admitted. The vote in the Senate was considered key to NATO expansion. This move should be applauded by all Polish-Americans. It gives Poland a guarantee of national security and is a perhaps a first step to future admission to the European Economic Community. After more than 50 years of forced separation, Poland is at last poised to rejoin Europe.

Since this newsletter reaches members throughout the U.S., I would like to publish the names of the nineteen Senators who voted against Polish admission. They are: John Ashcroft (R-MO), Richard Bryan (D-NV), Dale Bumpers (D-AR), Kent Conrad (D-ND), Larry E. Craig (R-ID), Byron L. Dorgan (D-ND), Tom Harkin (D-IA), Tim Hutchinson (R-AR), James M. Inhofe (R-OK), James M. Jeffords (R-VT), Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID), Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT), Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY), Harry Reid (D-NV), Robert C. Smith (R-NH), Arlen Specter (R-PA), John W. Warner (R-VA), Paul Wellstone (D-MN) and Ron Wyden (D-OR). Jon L. Kyl (R-AZ) did not vote.

I suggest that Polish-Americans consider the votes of these people the next time they come up for re-election. Also, Ben Cohen (of Ben & Jerry's ice cream fame) headed a group that sponsored 30-second network commercials and a full-page ad in *The New York Times* against admission of the three countries to NATO. Polish-Americans should perhaps also remember this action when they buy ice cream.

In the last issue of this newsletter we urged members to contact their U.S. Senators and urge them to vote for NATO expansion. I did this and I wish to relate my experiences with my two U.S. Senators from Minnesota. I called and wrote to both of them several times.

The following is a letter my wife and I wrote to Senator Wellstone:

21 August 1997

Dear Senator Wellstone:

We urge you to support NATO expansion for Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Each of these nations (especially Poland) contributed greatly to the fall of communism with its corresponding increase in our national security. It seems to us that we now have an obligation to their national security as well. We think that the events of the 20th century prove overwhelmingly that the existence of strong and democratic nations in East Central Europe is in our national interest.

Sincerely, Paul and Kathryn Kulas

We received no response.

I did receive two responses from Senator Grams after telephone calls to his office. His last letter to me reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Kulas:

Thank you for contacting me regarding NATO expansion. I appreciate hearing your concerns.

As you may know, the Senate passed the Resolution of Ratification to expand NATO on April 30, 1998 with an overwhelming vote of 80 to 19. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee I studied this matter in great detail. I am confident that the expansion of NATO to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic will advance US security interests.

The reason that NATO has been a successful military alliance for over fifty years is because it has had a clearly defined mission: protecting the territorial integrity of its members, defending them from external aggression and preventing the domination of Europe by any single power. These goals are as valid today as they were at NATO's inception.

I have no doubt that Russia, if given the choice, would like to maintain a "sphere of influence" in Central Europe, or barring that, a buffer zone. But this is 1998, not 1948, and Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic have the right and the ability to reject the former, and the United States has a vital interest in denying the latter. As Dr. Kissinger noted in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "basing European and Atlantic security on a no man's land between Germany and Russia runs counter to historical experience." A greater security dilemma would be created by ceding to Russian demands than proceeding with enlargement.

Furthermore, I do not believe that expanding NATO will endanger US efforts to build a constructive relationship with Russia. To the contrary, appeasing the Russian extremists who object to NATO expansion would only serve to undermine the very democratic forces that we are trying to promote.

While the cost of NATO expansion continues to be debated, I have no doubt that it will be less than the cost of a single US military engagement in Central Europe. According to the most recent Department of Defense estimate, NATO's common-funded enlargement costs will be around \$1.5 billion from 1998 through 2008. Since the US pays around one-quarter of these common-funded budgets, the US share is expected to be \$400 million. I would not be surprised if the actual costs ended up being higher, but they will not spiral if we remain vigilant. American taxpayers should not have to pay the costs of modernizing the forces of our current allies, because they have failed to live up to their previous commitments. Nor should our taxpayers pay more if any of our European allies refuse to pay their fair share.

Again, thank you for taking the time to voice your views. Please continue to get in touch with me anytime you have questions or concerns about an issue.

Sincerely,

Rod Grams, United States Senator

Because we received no response from Senator Wellstone to our letter or from several telephone calls to his office, we wrote to him again:

5 March 1998

Dear Senator Wellstone:

We sent the attached letter to you last August. We were hoping to receive a reply from you regarding your position on the expansion of NATO. Since we received no response we are sending the letter to you again.

We want to express to you our extreme disappointment and amazement over your vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this week. We believe that failure to protect and support the emergence of free and democratic nations in East Central Europe is an invitation to disaster. History shows that the peoples of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic strongly value independence and democratic freedom. Your position would give a green light to stronger neighbors to again seek to impose their will on these smaller and weaker nations. It was just this situation which involved the United States in European wars in 1917 and in 1941 and in the prolonged Cold War following World War II. And it is precisely the people of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic who sacrificed the most and contributed the most to the fall of communism with its corresponding threat to our national security. We owe them. We respectfully urge you to reevaluate your position.

*Sincerely,
Paul and Kathryn Kulas*

We again received no response. I called and wrote Senator Wellstone's office several more times after this and again received no reply from the Senator. I finally called his office and asked to speak to an aide. The aide and I debated the Senator's position on NATO expansion for about 15 minutes and I then complained about not receiving responses to my previous letters and phone calls. The aide promised a reply from the Senator. Several weeks later (and several weeks after the date on the letter) we finally received the following from Senator Wellstone:

April 23, 1998

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Kulas:

Thank you for your recent letters expressing your views about Nato expansion. I have enclosed a copy of a letter that I sent in reply to your earlier correspondence. I am sorry that you did not receive the letter.

My politics is grounded in people, and nothing is more important to me than receiving feedback, advice and comments from my constituents. I make every effort to respond to each phone call or letter I receive. Unfortunately, due to the volume of mail sent in and out of my office, and the other congressional offices, letters occasionally do not make it to their destinations. I am glad that you took the time to contact my office again about this issue.

Again, I apologize that you did not receive a response earlier, and I hope that does not deter you from continuing to contact me about matters of importance to you.

*Sincerely,
Paul David Wellstone, United States Senator*

The enclosed letter follows:

April 23, 1998

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Kulas:

Thank you for contacting me with your views on the subject of expanding NATO to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

As you may know, the Resolution of Ratification to expand NATO to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic was reported favorably by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on March 3. I voted against the resolution, however, because I remain concerned that expansion to include former Warsaw Pact nations will endanger Russian democracy, stability, and commitment to

arms control. Extending NATO so close to Russia's borders could lead to a re-division of Europe and I believe could poison our relationship with Russia while fueling ultranationalism there.

Many Minnesotans have made eloquent arguments in favor of NATO expansion. Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic have made admirable progress in recent years and will be important partners for the United States in the future. Ultimately, however, these arguments did not outweigh my deep reservations about extending the alliance. The Resolution of Ratification is now pending before the full Senate. You may be certain that I will monitor the debate on the floor with great care and I will certainly keep your views in mind when I am called upon to make a final vote on ratification.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. On an important matter such as this, I believe that it is vital for me to receive input from persons like yourself.

If you have any further comments on this or other issues, I hope you will not hesitate to contact me again.

*Sincerely,
Paul David Wellstone, United States Senator*

It is interesting to note that the copy of the letter that Senator Wellstone claims to have sent earlier is dated the same (April 23, 1998) as his supposed later letter.

In the midst of all of this, my household received a letter from Senator Wellstone by way of the **Wellstone Presidential Exploratory Committee**, Washington, DC. The mailing asks for support and requests donations to the committee. It is dated April 9, 1998. It is a long letter--five pages. It begins:

Dear Friend and Supporter,

I'm writing to ask for your advice and your renewed support as I approach an extraordinary new challenge.

Today, I am launching a formal effort to explore whether I will become a candidate for President of the United States. . . . Now, I want to know whether I can count on your backing if I launch a campaign for the Presidency.

Later he states: *"** The American people deserve a foreign policy that truly reflects our democratic ideals and places human rights at its center"*

Later he again asks: *"So, I ask you again: Will you join me?"*

Well, I'm sorry Senator Wellstone--I will not join you if you launch a campaign for the presidency. You say you want a foreign policy *"that truly reflects our democratic ideals and places human rights at its center."* It seems clear to me that you don't much value the democratic ideals and human rights of the peoples of East-Central Europe. You should know that I have come to the conclusion that Polish-Americans (to say nothing of our friends and relatives living in Poland) would be poorly served by a Wellstone presidency.

***Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła
kiedy my żyjemy!!***

Missing Branches:

QUERIES: Send to: **Paul Kulas, editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316-2145** or to e-mail: **kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us**

Virginia F. Drager, 1038 Argyle St., St. Paul, MN 55103-1204, e-mail: **vafdraeger@juno.com** is researching KOCH, MALCHOW, MELCHERT from Alt Rudnitz, Germany/Stara Rudnica, Poland (Same town). Migrated in 1854 to Dodge Co., Wisconsin. She writes "I am looking for the Rudnitz/Rudnica records, for the whole town left the area due to some disease that was going through the area. I have not been able to find out where the Protestant church records are. I was in the village in 1990 on a Sunday but was not able to communicate very well with the parish priest."

Editor's reply: I suspect that the Protestant records for this village are either in a provincial archives in Poland or they were taken to Germany at the end of World War II. If they were taken to Germany they are probably in some archive in Germany. If they are in an archive in Poland, there is a good chance that they have been filmed by the LDS Family History Library. Have you checked at a Family History Center to see if they have filmed the Protestant church records for this village?

Nancy Hawkinson writes via e-mail "Could you please correct the mail address in my on-line PGS query-- 'Researching FREUND/FREUNDT, LUX, HAUER and KARRAS---' from **nhawk@spacestar.net** to **nhawk@spacestar.net**? It was also incorrect in the newsletter (vol. 5, no. 4). Thanks!"

Susanne Hieber, e-mail: **SHIEBER@AOL.COM** sent the following: "On page 16 of the Spring 1998 Newsletter, my home address is incorrect. It should read: **23309 Whitley Drive**. My mailing label is correct. I would also like to tell you how much I enjoy reading the Newsletter. I wish I had become a member a couple of years ago, when I started working on my Polish line. I wish I could come to some of your meetings, to hear your speakers. Do you ever tape the speakers and offer the tape for sale?"

Editor's reply: We have not yet taped our speakers and offered the tapes for sale. This is a project that we need to consider.

NEW MEMBERS; *We welcome the following:*

Gregory C. Banas, 12305 W. Lawn Lane, Hagerstown, MD 21740-1054, e-mail: **gcbanas@hotmail.com** is a new member.

Jan Bias, 657 Belland Ave., Vadnais Hgts, MN 55127 is researching BIAS (immigrated in 1889) in Wojciechowo Wielkie, STALOCH (1873), DULAS (1884) in Nowa Wies, WANZEK (1887) in Trebaczow, all in Silesia and all in Wells, MN.

William J. Bonk, Box 1648, Kamuela, HI 96743 is researching BONK/BAK, GOWRONSKI, MYSZKA in Kaszubia and in perhaps other parts of what was Prussia and in Winona, MN and the Traverse City area of Michigan. He writes; "My grandfather, Józef Bonk (Bak) lived most of his life after coming to the U.S. in Winona. He married Józefa Gowronska in 1880 in Winona and my father, Peter, was born the following year. Last fall I spent a week in Winona checking records and visiting my grandfather's grave and the graves of relatives. Both grandparents list Prussia as their place of origin although I believe they were Kashubians. I am presently doing research on my family and would like to know if you have a list of publication published by your society. I thank you for your help on this matter."

Vern Broll, 3716 Quiring Av NW, Annandale, MN 55302 is researching BROLL in IL and then Waverly, MN, BUHL, GABRIELSIK/GABRIEDZRYK, ROY in upper Silesia and in Delano, MN.

John L. Coulis, Hartwell Villas #19A, Anderson, SC 29626, e-mail: **jcoulis@ww-interlink.net** writes: "Over the last couple of years I've been researching my father's family. He was Frank V. COULIS, baptized in Wilno, Ontario in 1902 as a KULAS, son of Lawrence George KULAS and Johanna SZCZYPIOR. My great grandfather, Constantine Albert KULAS, was one of the original 1859 Kaszube settlers in the Ottawa Valley in Ontario. My grandfather and family moved to the Cobalt, Ontario area in about 1905 and changed the spelling to Coulis. Old property tax record show a number of different spellings. My father and his siblings moved south at different times. Nick to Port Robinson, Ontario. My father and George, Veronica and Joseph to the States. My parents and I lived on both sides of the border for a short time but settled in Cleveland, Ohio in 1941. My four children and their families remain in that area. My wife and I retired in 1995 and moved to South Carolina. We also spend about three months of the year on the Montreal River in a cabin my grandfather built. Shirley Mask Connolly sent me a copy of your article, 'Origins of the Kulas Surname.' Please accept this request to join your group. I would like to learn a bit more of the Kaszube and Polish history and look forward to receiving your newsletter."

Delores Herrmann, 445 W Lake Samish Dr., Bellingham, WA 98226 is researching Antoni SZAREK and

Regina JARCK in Odrzkon, Galicia (south of Krakow) and Anna SZAREK and John (Jan) FRANASZEK/FRANAZECK in Woonsocket and Warren, RI and Taftville, CT. She writes: "Thank you for the newsletter--I am very impressed. My uncle told his wife that the nuns at school said that all Polish names should end in 'ski' so they changed their name to FRANCKSKI and that's how I knew them. I would like to know where John Franazek/Franaszek and Anna Szarck were married--probably in MA in May/June 1901. My mother, Apolonia (who went by Pauline until school kids teased her with 'Polly want a cracker' so she changed her name to Mary), was their first child. Anna came to NYC in September, 1900. My mother was born in Woonsocket, RI on 2 Feb 1902. I am also anxious to learn more about my grandfather, John. He was orphaned at 12 and worked for the Army. He died of pneumonia in 1939 after having diabetes for two years."

Michael Jarmuz is researching the JARMUZ surname in Juncerno, Poland.

Lorraine S. Lenarz, 4041 Lyndale Ave So., Minneapolis, MN 55409 is a new member.

Curtis Benoit Londroche, 4008 W 31st St, St. Louis Park, MN 55416, e-mail: LONDROCHE@bigfoot.com is researching JAWORSKI, PIRVONSKA, SUDAIK, SHUDA, PERDZIAK surnames in Poland, Germany and France and in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Joan C. Molesky, 5440 Mineral Avenue, Mt. Iron MN 55768-8231, e-mail: joanm@the-bridge.net is researching MILEWSKI and SZYNKOWSKI surnames. They immigrated from Suwalki, Poland to Michigan and Minnesota (US 1892). They later changed name to MOLESKY.

Tom Opatz, 4141 Orchard Way, Lake Oswego, OR 97035, email: FWFG26A@prodigy.com is researching OPATZ and PROKOTT surnames. He writes: "Thank you so much for tracking down **Bob Prokott** for me. I have heard from him and he has sent me some very interesting information, all thanks to you. Here is my application for membership and a check for the dues. I am looking forward to learning more about my Polish roots."

Maryellen Nead Salazar, 6666 Lime Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805-1420 writes: "I found your website through the Polish Genealogical Society of Southern California. My ancestors settled in Medford Village, Steele Co., MN after they immigrated from the Poznan area in 1902. The surnames are WAGNER, WILBRALSKA and KEPP. Enclosed is \$15.00 to cover 1998 dues . . ."

Harry Sawicki, 7275 Vernon, Dearborn Hts, MI 48127 is a new member.

Carol J. Smith, 2206 Hillcrest Dr., Duluth, MN 55811, e-mail: FamilyRch@aol.com is researching SOJKA, SCZYMATA, PLUCINICZAK, KONCZAK, KUCZA, TELEGA, LUECK, STEBNER, ZEBOTT surname in Posen Germany/Poland, Hohen Walde Khristmerindade, West Prussia and in Duluth, MN and Baltimore, MD.

RENEWED MEMBERS: The following are renewed members who indicated on their renewal forms their e-mail address or more complete areas of research than was previously published.

Davideen Demske, 509 Hunters Ridge Rd, Coppel, TX 75019-4037, e-mail: demske@x.netcom.com is researching DEBSKI, BOBEL, MOLINOVSKY, PYRA, CHORZEWSKI, BOROWIAK in Vichteshan, Poznan, Prussia

Francine Fitting, 957 Hawthorne Ln., Cedarburg, WI 53012, e-mail: francine@execpc.com is researching PALUBICKI, RYMARKIEWICZ, MAJKOWSKI, PIECHOWSKI, LITERSKI, BARTKOWIAK, MEGIER, PRONDZIASKI, ORLIKOWSKI, SADOWSKY in Lipusz parish (Plocyze), Borzyskowy parish (Kiedrowice), Ugoszcz parish (Klaczno) and in Winona, MN and Pine Creek, WI.

Joyce Gelderman, 1625 Bonner Trl., Oregon, WI 53575 is researching RUMPZA, BRZESKI/BRESKI, MIOTKE, LESNAR, MILSZEWSKI, ZAKRZEWSKI, BRILLA surnames in Przetoczyn, Starahutta, Kokoszkowy in Poland (Gdansk area) and in Grenville, SD.

Joan Gordenier, 10069 Hadley Road, Gregory, MI 48137, e-mail: jgbones@juno.com is researching MASLOWSKI, PEKULA, STANEK, DZIABAS, YOREK, DOMBOWY surnames in Morrison Co., MN.

Roger Grusznski, 4912 Abbot Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55410 is researching GRUSZNSKI in Denmark, WI, WESOŁOWSKI in Pulaski, WI and ZYWICKI in Milwaukee, WI

Elaine Haag, 2331 131st Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448-2552, e-mail: Laneymae@aol.com is researching MRUZ, MROZ, ROZANSKI, KWAPICH, BREZINSKI in Lomazy, Poland.

Anthony Jablonowski, 4006 Albertly Ave., Parma, OH 44134-3308 has a new e-mail address: toro

Missing Branches: continued on page 20

Missing Branches: *continued from page 19*

@ameritech.net and is researching JABLONOWSKI, PRZEDPELSKI in Plock, MAMEL, LETWINSKI in Poznan and in Lakewood, OH, PRZYBYLSKI, OLEJNICZAK in Poznan, SWIERCZYNSKI, NAGORSKI in Laskowice and in Buffalo, NY, KLONOWSKI in Zawidz/Sierpc and in Erie PA, REVETOWSKI in Zawidz/Sierpc, RYGWALSKI in Radostowa and in Cleveland, OH, SMIGIERA in German Poland and in Buffalo, NY, WILCZYNSKI in German Poland and in Mt. Pleasant, PA and KARMI-SKI, KRZYZYCKA in German occupied Poland.

Jill Johnson, 157 - 76th Way NE, Fridley, MN 55432-3073, e-mail: JJJ1JGS@aol.com is researching KUKUCZKA/KUKUSKA, LESSMAN, BRONK, PAULUS, GORNEY/GORNA, KISTOWSKA in Rajcza, Brusay, the Kashubian region in Poland and in Winona, MN and Pine Creek WI.

Betty Joyce, 6743 Evergreen Ln No., Maple Grove, MN 55369, e-mail: Joyce@Augsburg.edu is researching TRADER, SLUCHOSHE, HELEWSKI, SOBIESKI surnames in Gnesen Twp and Duluth in St. Louis Co., Mn and in Rochester, NY.

Hubert G. Kukowski, 2424 South 76th St., Milwaukee, WI 53219-1850, e-mail: hubertk@execpc.com is researching KUKOWSKI, STOLTMAN, LUKAS-ZEWSKI, GLOGOWSKI in Squirawen (Lipush), New Laska (Lesno), Poznan and in Pine Creek, WI and Winona, MN.

Raymond Kulvicki, PO Box 4197, Covina, CA 91723-4197, e-mail: kulvickt@earthlink.net is researching KULWICKI in woj. Torunskie.

Gilbert I. Laskowski, 8306 Cherry Valley Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309-2118 is researching LASKOWSKI, GRAJEWSKI, MARKOWSKI, KALKA, ANDERWALD in West Prussia, Silesia and Galicia.

Lawrence Mosiniak, 5407 Trimmingham Ct., Mineral, VA 23117, e-mail: MOZ20@MNSINC.COM is researching MOSINIAK, TRABKA in Poland and in Minnesota and Phila., PA.

Sandra Nuss, 770 Summit Dr., Fairmont, MN is researching JARNOT in Brzezczce and in Holdingford, MN, SOLARZ in Sawisz and Falkowitz and in North Prairie, MN, MORAN in Brzeszczce and Kety and in Buffalo, NY and PHILIPSEK/PHILIPCZICK in Mechnitz and in Holdingford, MN.

Ann T. Pohl, 6500 - 335th St, Stacy, MN 55079-9535 is researching Francisek SZCZEPANSKI in

Siedliszowice, Powiat Dobrowa, Tarnowska and in Mpls., MN.

Irene Poissant, 13 - 3rd St NE, Waite Park, MN 56387-1225, e-mail Reno@cloudnet.com is researching TARNOWSKI, BIELAWNA, SKOWRANEK in Rosenfald, Prussia-Poland.

Helen Miller Richard, Rte 1, Box 280 Burtrum MN 56318-8936, e-mail: JAHMRICHARD@JUNO.COM is researching KR(S)ZESZEWSKI, SOBIESCEK, ROSINSKI/ROSCHINSKA, NOWAKOWSKA in Buffalo or Hudson, NY and in Duluth North Prairie, Little Falls, MN.

Renata Stachowicz, 1754 Nevada Ave E, St. Paul, MN 55106-1538 is researching STACHOWICZ in Busko-Zdroj in Kielce region and in NY and MN.

Mike Stadolka, 1407 Farmdale Rd, Mendota Hts, MN 55118, e-mail: SHED@MN.USWEST.NET is researching STODOLKA, KARASH, KARISH, KARASCH, WILCZEK Falkowice, Poland and in Benton, Morrison and Stearns counties in MN.

Paul Tushner, 5120 W. 7th St., #3, Winona, MN 55987-5607, e-mail: PAULT3181AOL.COM is researching CIERZAN, NARLOCH, SZUMINSKI in Klaczno, Wiele and Plocieg (all in Prussian Poland)

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