



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7

SPRING 1999

NUMBER 1

### Sources for Reconstructing a Polish Ancestral Village: Janków Zalesny, Wielkopolska

by Paul Theodore Kulas

In his presentation, "Reconstructing the Vanished Communities of Poland and Polish America" at the MGS "Branching Out" conference in March, PGS-MN President **Greg Kishel** illustrated a method of gathering information from various sources that allows one to gain an understanding of one's ancestral places of residence in both Poland and in America.<sup>1</sup> I have used much the same method in reconstructing my ancestral villages in both Poland and in America. I have been wanting to do articles about these villages for quite sometime. Greg's presentation prompted me to gather together in this article the information that I have discovered over the years about one of them--the village of origin in Poland of my Kulas ancestors: Janków Zalesny, Wielkopolska.<sup>2</sup> Besides describing my ancestral village, this article is intended to show what kinds of information can be found in each source.<sup>3</sup> It also is intended to give some ideas about where **you** can find information **about your ancestral villages**.

*Sources: continued on page 14*

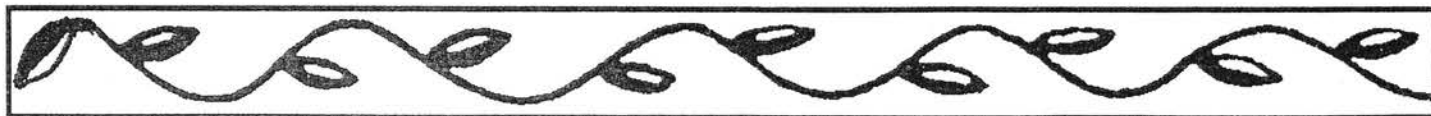
<sup>1</sup> See the information from the handout for his presentation on p. 5.

<sup>2</sup> See also: Paul Kulas, "The Kulas Family in Janków Zalesny," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 5, no. 4 (Winter 1997-98): 12; and idem., "Meanings of Polish Surnames," *Ibid.*, 13-14.

<sup>3</sup> When describing the various gazetteers discussed in this article and preparing their bibliographic and LDS film data for the footnotes, I frequently referred to two reference sources. The first: Daniel M. Schlyter, *Essentials in Polish Genealogical Research* (Chicago: The Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1993). This item is very useful for people beginning their Polish genealogical research. It can be found in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library and is also for sale by PGS-MN (see advertising insert in this newsletter). The second: Fay and Douglas Dearden, *The German Researcher: How to get the most out of an L.D.S. Family History Center*, 4th ed. Revised and enlarged, (Plymouth, MN: Family Tree Press, updated 1995). This item is very useful for researchers whose ancestors originated in the Prussian partition of Poland. It is available for purchase at the Crystal LDS Family History Center and soon will be available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

#### In this issue . . .

Sources for reconstructing a Polish ancestral village: Janków Zalesny, Wielkopolska by Paul Kulas.....	page 1
President's Letter by Greg Kishel.....	p. 2
The Bulletin Board.....	p. 3
Letters to the Editor:	
Thanks a million . . .	
Lamczyk derivation	
Rosen pioneers remembered.....	p. 4
Family History research on-line	
Tony Bukoski short stories.....	p. 5
Reconstructing the vanished communities of Poland and Polish America by Greg Kishel.....	p. 5
Looking for the Veleske family who once lived at 977 E. Jessamine St. by Shirley Mask Connolly.....	p. 6
From <i>Słownik geograficzny</i> :	
Bargłów Kościelny and vicinity by Greg Kishel.....	p. 9
Sources for reconstructing a Polish ancestral village, continued	
<i>Słownik geograficzny</i> . . .	p. 14
Other Polish gazetteers.....	p. 15
German language gazetteers.....	p. 16
Other Polish sources	
Church directories.....	p. 18
Travel guidebooks.....	p. 19
Church histories.....	p. 19
Local histories.....	p. 20
Maps.....	p. 21
New Films of Opole Diocese by Ed Brandt.....	p. 22
Missing branches.....	p. 22
Little Annie's tavern.....	p. 24



## *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota*

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

5768 Olson Memorial Hwy.  
Golden Valley MN 55422  
(612) 595-9347

<http://www.mtn.org/mgs/branches/polish.html>

### Officers

President.....Greg Kishel (e-mail: [gfk1@cornell.edu](mailto:gfk1@cornell.edu))  
Vice President.....Vacant  
Secretary.....Mary Ellen Bruski (612-588-3801)  
Treasurer.....Barbara Rockman (612-493-8465)  
Past President.....W. Kornel Kondy (612-378-1739)  
Director.....Harry Fleegel (612-545-0750)  
Director.....Genny Zak Kielej (612-424-3747)  
Director.....John Radzilowski (651-647-6408)

### Committee Chairs

Library & Newsletter.....Paul Kulas (612-427-4523)  
Membership.....Harry Fleegel (612-545-0750)  
Program & Publicity.....Greg Kishel  
Research.....Michael Echman (612-924-4534)  
Website.....Mary Ellen Bruski (612-588-3801)  
(e-mail: [bruski@pclink.com](mailto:bruski@pclink.com))

## *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*

### Newsletter Staff

Editor.....Paul Kulas (612-427-4523)  
Contributing Editor.....W. Kornel Kondy  
Printing.....Genny Zak Kielej  
Labels.....Harry Fleegel  
Mailing.....Greg Kishel,  
Barbara Rockman & Genny Zak Kielej

The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Items submitted for publication are welcome and encouraged. Deadlines for inclusion of submitted material are March 15, June 15, Sept. 15 and Dec. 15 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](mailto:kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us)

© 1999 Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota



## President's Letter

by Greg Kishel

This time, I don't have much to say in a major way. By the publication date of this issue, the PGS-MN will have started 1999 by presenting strong programs at four different meetings and one guest presentation for a sister genealogical society. There are just two ways in which we ask for your support this spring.

First: we are always looking for new additions to our Church and Local History Collection, housed with the rest of our library at the Minnesota Genealogical Society's facility in Golden Valley. If anyone out there has a copy of an old church jubilee booklet from a Polish-American parish in Minnesota, other states in the upper Midwest, or anywhere else for that matter--we'd like to get its content into our collection! We don't mind if you'd rather not donate the original copy; just be so good as to let us borrow it for photocopying. The CLHC now has almost forty "large" items, and a binder-full of newspaper clippings, excerpts, copies of holographic manuscripts, and the like; it's becoming a great source for the institutional history of Polonia in Minnesota. Let us preserve the materials you have, for use by future genealogists and historians!

The same goes for any family histories you have, or may know of. No matter whether they're short or long, simple or sophisticated, we'll take a copy of anything that sets down the individual experience of Polish immigrants and their descendants in America. Some of us have a feeling that there's more of this material out there than previously thought; if this is true, please share it.

On both of those fronts, you can get in touch with either Paul Kulas or myself, by mail through our MGS address, e-mail, or any other means. We'll give you immediate attention.

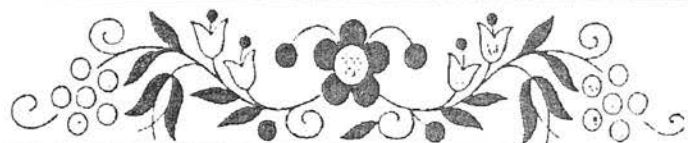
Second: if you've not done so yet, it's time to renew your membership again. If our records show you as not having paid yet, you will get a colored insert with this issue of the *Newsletter*. Take heed--as you know if you've been around for a year, this will be your last issue if you don't pay your 1999 dues by June 1.

On that topic, I'll observe that we've taken in many new and enthusiastic members over the last year. It seems that our publicity program--and in particular our Webpage--have come into their own; they now draw in interested Polish-American genealogists at a steady clip. If you've joined over

the last year or two and like what you've seen, stick with the Society! If you don't, give membership another year's chance--*and let us know what you'd like to see*. We are always looking for new ideas for programs, speakers, articles, and projects.

You may get asked to give a hand in developing your suggestion. As I said in my last President's Letter, that's only fair--we do need more help, and this group will prosper only if more pitch in. If you give it a try, though, you will be surprised at how much fun you'll have.

And that is all for now. Let us hear from you--with your dues, your articles, your ideas, and your support!



## The Bulletin Board

**1999 membership dues were due on January 1.** IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY RENEWED, please do so now. This will be your last newsletter if we do not receive your renewal by 1 June 1999.

We welcome all additional DONATIONS TO OUR LIBRARY FUND. We have a segregated portion of our regular budget devoted to new acquisitions, but support from voluntary contributions will allow us to build the library even more quickly. At least one of our board members will be visiting Poland this summer, and will probably see many items that are either unavailable in the U.S. or substantially more expensive if commercially imported. Among other things, we would like to acquire a multi-volume Polish-English dictionary like Stanisławski's *Wielki Słownik*, to better assist members in translations. When you pay your 1999 dues, please consider increasing your payment with a donation!

**WHO ARE WE?** Occasionally we run into former members who are surprised to learn that they are not current with their PGS-MN dues. Sometimes, it turns out that they either renewed their subscription to the *Pol-Am Newsletter* or they sent a dues renewal to the **Polish Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM)**. We are neither of these two fine Minnesota-based organizations. We are the **Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGS-MN)**. Membership in one organization does NOT mean membership in another. We keep in contact with each other and support one another and many of us have memberships in all three organizations--but we are separate entities.

We had a nice turnout at our April 10 membership

meeting at the BORCHERT MAP LIBRARY at the University of Minnesota. It was a great meeting! Our host, Jerry Kramer of the Library staff, did an excellent job of introducing us to the Polish materials found in the collection. See pages 13 and 21 for examples of the type of maps that can be found at the Library.

We also had a good meeting on April 15, with the DAKOTA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY in South St. Paul. We thank PGS-MN member Laurie Erdman, the DCGS program chair, for inviting us. Many different immigrant groups (including many Poles) settled in South St. Paul to work in the stockyards and in the meat packing houses that were located there. Holy Trinity Catholic Church, historically an ethnic Polish parish, is located in South St. Paul (See: *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Spring 1994, pp. 7-8).

BERTHA ZNIEWSKI sent us a copy of the 35th anniversary booklet of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Popple Creek, Benton County, MN. This was one of only a few Polish Lutheran congregations in the United States. We thank her. The booklet will become part of our Church and Local History Collection at the MGS Library.

NEW BOOKS RECENTLY OBTAINED for the Polish Collection at the MGS Library include: Fay and Douglas Dearden, *The German Researcher*, 4th ed.; Casimir J. Grotnik, *A Fifty-year Index to Polish American Studies, 1944-1993*; Brian J. Lenius, *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*, expanded data edition; Loretto Dennis Szucs, *Chicago and Cook County: A Guide to Research*; Miriam Weiner, *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories*; and *Who's Who in Polish America*. We will review some of these in our next newsletter.

THE LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTER is preparing to put some of its holding on the World Wide Web at: <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)> Most of the databases were still under construction in mid-April. But items like Ancestral File, the International Genealogical Index, and the Locality Index are expected to be part of FamilySearch. The building of this site is good news for researchers. Check out this and other genealogy sites and let us know what you find.

WE CONTINUE OUR OFFER to research your Polish surnames in William F. Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* and in Kazimierz Rymut's *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w polsce używanych*. Send your 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.



## Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

### Thanks a million . . .

Once again you have come up with some invaluable information for me (*Editor's note, See: "Letters to the Editor," Summer 1998, p. 5; Winter 1998-99, p. 4*). We went right to the LDS in Mankato, and ordered the films for the village of Bartelsee, which is the town identified as the hometown of the family Klarkowski on the ship passenger lists in 1885. We will be thanking Karen Whitmer for her help in showing the exact location.

We did take our trip to Europe, and with my Dutch cousins spent three nights in a castle in Jankowice near Poznan. Their Polish friend, city manager of Witnica, took off two days of work to be our guide. He was born in Poznan. With his help on a snowy windy day we drove to Piesna (*See: Winter 1996-97 p. 5 and Spring 1997, p. 4*) and contacted his friend, the city clerk in Lobzenica, to help us. It was quite an experience! It looks as if we were only 20 miles or so from Bartelsee, and we were surprised it was so close to the other possible town of Piesna.

Thanks a million for your help. I will report the end results!

**Bonita A. Erickson, Madison Lake, MN**

### Lamczyk derivation

I was just looking over the Winter issue of the *PGS-MN Newsletter*, and had a comment I thought you might like to pass on to Bonita Erickson regarding the surname Lamczyk. You quoted my surname book as saying it comes from the verb *lamowac*, "to edge, pipe," and that is a possible derivation. But I mentioned a couple of other possibilities, and as time goes on I become more and more convinced they are more likely. I mentioned the name might come from German *Lamm*, "lamb," or from short forms of the first name Lambert.

I've noticed in a couple of sources that such names as Lamko and Lemke are thought to come from Lambert. Lamczyk makes good sense as "son of Lam" or "son of Lamko." The more I think about it, the more probable I consider it that that's what the surname comes from. I don't have firm evidence to go on, just the sense of things you get after you work with them long enough. I just thought it might be worth mentioning to Ms. Erickson as one more tiny bit of data that may come in useful somewhere along the line.

**Fred Hoffman** <WFHOFFMAN@prodigy.net>

### Rosen pioneers remembered

My husband recently brought an article to my attention which appeared in your Autumn 1998 newsletter. The article was entitled "Two Minnesota Parishes Founded by German-Speaking Catholics from West Prussia." I was amazed and delighted to see the town of Rosen in the spotlight as it is just a stop in the road. Almost all of the names mentioned were familiar to me as they are relatives either by blood or through marriage. I would like to share one story with you and your readers. You mentioned the name of Martin Stoick; he was my Great Grandfather. Born in Pflastermuhl, West Prussia in 1854, he was the son of Fritz and Rosa Stoick of Pogdanzig Kreis Schlachau. Fritz was a forester employed by Baron von der Golz. Later he purchased a farm near Eisenhammer. Martin married Maria Fuhlmann of Flotenstein in 1879 and they came to America in 1880 along with Martin's brother, Leopold (Brothers Gustav and Reinhold emigrated later and came to Rosen). Martin and Maria lived on a farm near Rosen and had six living children.

On August 3, 1905, when Martin was 49 years old, a very sad event occurred which is still considered the most tragic accident in Lac Qui Parle County history. While cleaning an old, 40 feet deep well on his farm, Martin and his only two sons, Leopold, age 21, and John, age 17, were, one by one, overcome by well gas and all died within 10 minutes of each other. The last two died as they tried to save the one who went down first. Around 70 neighbors gathered as retrieval of the bodies was very difficult and finally required the use of grappling hooks. The bodies were taken to the house and laid in a row in front of the house. No one wanted to tell Maria this dreadful news so she was just told to come outside. When she saw her husband and two sons lying there she went into shock and was never the same again. All three men were buried in Rosen cemetery, side by side, under a beautiful gravestone.

Martin's oldest daughter, Martha, was already married to Joseph Linn and they had a one year old son at the time of the accident. He was Aloysius Linn, my father, who at age 94 lives presently in Aberdeen, South Dakota. My Grandfather Joseph Linn's father, Mathias Linn, had emigrated from Besch, in the Saarland of Germany in 1857 and had settled near St. Benedict, MN and later bought land near Rosen in 1901. Joseph's sister married Ed Hackert and his mother was Helena Kelzer, brother to Valentine Kelzer. Grandma Martha's two sisters married two Karels brothers. Joe and Martha lived across from the church in Rosen for many years and I loved to go to visit them. They are now buried in the cemetery.

Thank you for the article—the tiny towns all have rich histories of real pioneers who lived hard lives on the prairie but always managed to carry on. We don't want to forget them.

**Gloria (Linn) Kolton, Minneapolis, MN**

## Family History Research On-line

My husband's immigrant ancestor came to Sauk Rapids, Minnesota from Neidenburg, Ost Prussia in 1880. A brother and sister remained in Europe. Two sons of the brother later came Minnesota. We visited European descendants of the sister's family in 1971 and again in 1981. In April 1998, my son found nineteen Zniiewskis listed in the German phone book. I wrote to all of them and I included the Zniiewski genealogy back to 1760. Nine of the German Zniiewskis answered my letter. Since then I have had five or six letters from them. They all came from an area within 10 kilometers of Neidenburg. During WWII they said they lost all their documents and property and were lucky to be alive. They all want to be relatives. Some have now sent old documents. One Frederich Zniiewski from Germany was captured at the beginning of the war and sent to Texas as a prisoner of war. At the same time my husband Frederic was drafted and sent to Texas for his army training. Strange that two men with the same name, one from Germany and one from United States were in same state at the same time. A trip to Germany in the fall is in the planning stage. It will be interesting to meet them.

Bertha Zniiewski, Paynesville, MN

## Tony Bukoski short stories

Greetings all. I assume you are all avidly digging up stuff which will provide the answers to all your genealogical questions. But if you're tired of heavy duty research and retyping of charts and confirming conflicts in baptismal dates, you might want to check out the works of Tony (Anthony) Bukoski, a native of Superior who has written three books of short stories about growing up Polish in East Superior, WI. I never knew such a thing was possible. In fact, I, a product of Duluth, just barely knew Superior existed, let alone that there were Poles over there. But I attended a reading of his works the other night (I had never done anything like that before in my life) and was quite entranced. Those of you (like me) who have been wanting to write something about your ancestors lives and experiences might find a bit of inspiration in what Tony has done. It's not just local "puffery." Tony has received many favorable reviews for his writing from national publications. He is a professor of English at "Superior State" as we old codgers refer to it.

Tony has written three books: *12 below Zero*, (out of print, probably available at used book stores); *Children of Strangers*, 1993, Southern Methodist University Press, paperback, \$10.95; *Polonaise*, 1999, Southern Methodist University Press, hardbound, \$19.95. Currently in book stores.

I have heard Tony read a couple of extracts and have read about four stories from *Children of*

*Strangers*. I am fourth generation (I think; my grandfather was born in Duluth, but his father was born in Poland). So I wasn't raised Polish. But I can see a lot of my Dad and the way we were raised in Tony's writing. You might want to take a look at these books and see if you can find some ideas or inspiration for your telling of your tale.

Ray Marshall <raymarsh@mninter.net>

---

## RECONSTRUCTING THE VANISHED COMMUNITIES OF POLAND AND POLISH AMERICA

Greg Kishel

Presented for PGS-MN, March 20, 1999

*Abbreviations for sources:* BMC, Borchardt Map Collection, Wilson Library, West Bank campus of U of M, Minneapolis; FHC, LDS Family History Center, Crystal; IHRC, Immigration History Research Center, U of M, St. Paul; IRRC, Iron Range Research Center, Chisholm; MGS, general library collection of Minnesota Genealogical Society, Golden Valley; MHS, Minnesota Historical Society's History Center, St. Paul; PACIM, Library of Polish-American Cultural Institute of Minnesota, Minneapolis; PGS-MN, PGS-MN Library Collection at MGS Library, Golden Valley.

### FOR POLAND:

- *Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego* [FHC, PGS-MN]
- Historical topographic maps: the Republic of Poland (1918-1945), the German Empire [BMC]
- Recent topographic maps of Poland [BMC; PGS-MN]
- *Nazwy miejscowe polski* [PGS-MN]
- Modern highway and tourist maps of Poland
- Histories of Poland [PACIM, PGS-MN]

### FOR AMERICA:

- Sanborn's Fire Insurance Maps [MHS]
- County plat map books, atlases, road maps [MHS]
- Federal census schedules [IRRC; MHS; also selected county historical societies and public libraries]
- Minnesota state census schedules [ditto]
- Minnesota's Polish-language newspapers: *Wiarus* and *Nowiny Minnesockie* [MHS]
- English-language local newspapers [MHS]
- Church histories and records [IHRC; MHS; PGS-MN]
- County and local histories [MGS; MHS]
- Cemetery transcriptions [MGS; or do your own!]
- Naturalization records [IRRC; MHS]

## Looking for the Veleske family who once lived at 977 E. Jessamine St., St. Paul, MN

researched and written by Shirley Mask Connolly

Once upon a time, two sisters came from Poland and moved into the wilds of Canada. From a little shanty on a dirt road, the older of the sisters operated a hotel catering to the needs of the men who logged timber in the heavily forested area. The younger sister left her parent's farmhouse in Canada and moved with her husband to a three story Victorian home in the city of St. Paul. An old photograph in the Canadian family collection identifies the American address as 977 E. Jessamine. The Canadian sister died tragically young, in a mysterious manner, and the fate of the younger girl is unknown to her Canadian "cousins." Did she live a fairy tale life in her lovely house on the hill?

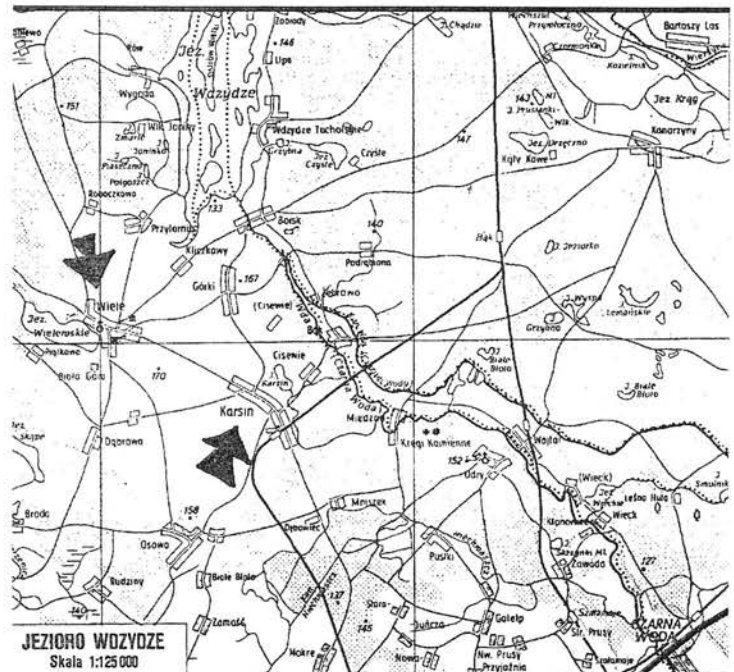
The two sisters, Annie and Josephine Norlock (Canadian spelling), were the children of Jacob Narloch (original spelling), a Kashubian emigrant from West Prussia. The Kashubians were a Slavic group of people who originated in West Prussia, south of Danzig (today's Gdańsk, Poland). Jacob left the village of Karsin, West Prussia, with his wife, the former Mary Dobek, and three children, all girls. The girls were Annie, Josephine and Rosela, all baptized in the parish of Wiele, West Prussia, in 1849, 1855 and 1859, respectively.

On May 2, 1861, this little family of five people, left the port of Hamburg and sailed on the ship *the Oder* to the port of Quebec in Canada. After a couple of months of travel, the Narloch family finally reached their destination—the so-called "Prussian Settlement" which had been established in 1859 on a colonization road in the untamed limits of Renfrew County. The road was referred to as the Opeongo Line and is in the present day province of Ontario. Today this area is easily reached within a two hour drive from Ottawa or about 4 1/2 hours north of Toronto. 140 years ago, new emigrants were encouraged to homestead on these free grant lands. It was hoped that they would maintain this road for the lumber barons and their companies, as well as grow and provide the necessary food supplies for the timber crews and their teams of horses. The land itself was far from agricultural—steep hills, covered with rock and thick forest growth, with small deposits of sandy soil separated by swamps. The Narloch family and their immediate neighbours, a couple of hundred other Kashubians, toiled to subsist. Somehow they managed.

Jacob and Mary Narloch/Norlock soon added three sons and another daughter to the family. The oldest Narloch daughter, Annie, had to supplement the family income, working as a servant for some of the nearby

Irish and English settlers. The meager bit she earned was badly needed. Struggling to survive, she and her father realized that there was a marketable need for a stopping place at their location on the road. Work crews traveled right by their door on their way to and from the lumber camps. Stopping places were sometimes referred to as hotels or taverns, but at that time in this part of Canada, they were very primitive establishments. Most provided stables constructed of pine logs with roofs of scooped logs or brush. First comers could stable their horses for a small fee. The rest were blanketed under the stars, free of charge. The house was generally a good sized building with one large room for the whole crowd to eat and sleep in. There were no beds. Everyone lay down on the floor on whatever bedding they brought with them. Basic meals of salt pork, beans and bread were available and pints were furnished to those who desired them, for a charge of course.

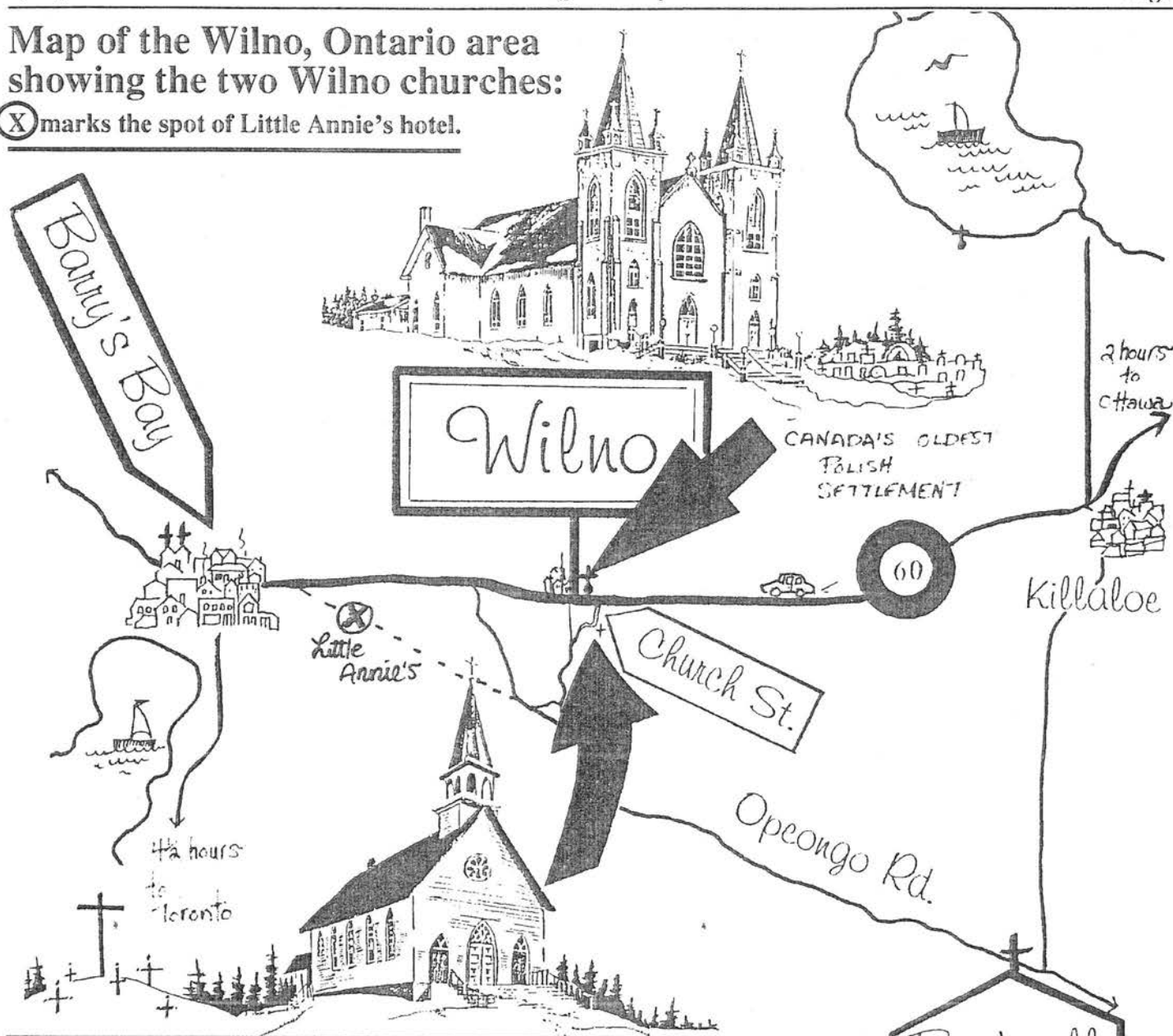
And so Jacob Narloch/Norlock and his eldest daughter opened up their own stopping place, about 10 miles from the next similar establishment. And business was good and the family prospered, but at what would turn out to be a great personal cost. The first "trouble" to befall the family was when Jacob lost his arm because of a fight at the tavern. Attempting to mediate a drunken dispute between some Irish shantymen, Jacob was injured and his arm badly cut by a sleigh stake.



**Map of the Wiele area of Northern Poland--showing the village of Karsin, the home of the Narloch family.** These villages are about a 1/2 hour drive south of Gdańsk. An incredible Kashubian village museum (skansen) is located at Wdzydze Kiszewskie. In it are original houses from the mid 19th century, similar to the one that the Narloch family might have lived in. For anyone with ancestral roots in Kaszuby, this skansen is a "must see" on your trip itinerary.

## Map of the Wilno, Ontario area showing the two Wilno churches:

(X) marks the spot of Little Annie's hotel.



The old church, St. Stanislaus Kostka burnt to the ground in 1936 and was replaced by the present day St. Mary's at Wilno on hwy. 60. The Norlock homestead is directly across the road from the old church and cemetery. The church property was part of the original Norlock farm. Josephine was married in the church at Brudenell because the Polish mission church was not established until late in the autumn of 1875. Little Annie operated her hotel on the Opeongo Road near Barry's Bay, but there was no town of Barry's Bay at that time. Today this part of the Opeongo Road is the "missing link"--closed in the mid 1880s because of its steep, rocky terrain. It is shown as a ----- line.

Gangrene set in and the arm had to be amputated and replaced by a hook. In 1869, Jacob had enough of this business and sold out to his daughter. He moved onto better land in the nearby, newly surveyed township of Hagarty. There he struggled with his one good arm to clear and farm the land. Jacob built a log house and barns in a little valley, protected from the harsh Canadian wind and elements. Today the place is picturesque--and although the house was removed and rebuilt in a new location, the barns and land remain in the Norlock family.

Back in 1869, Jacob's daughter, who was known as "Little Annie," continued the operation of the stopping

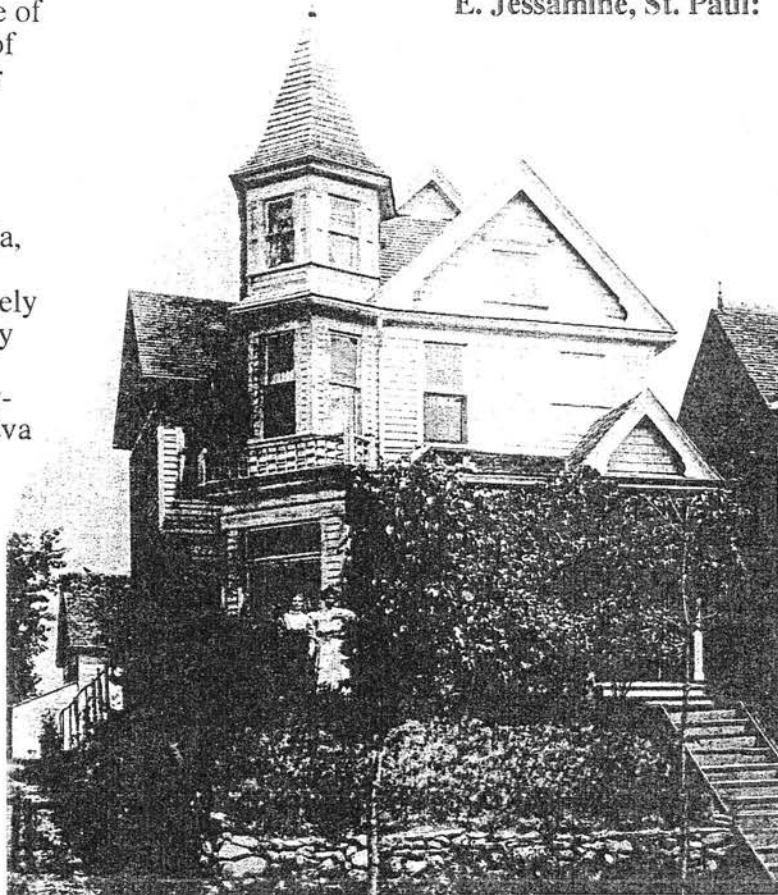
place/hotel. Her place on the Opeongo Line was no stranger to wild times as these were the wild west days of Upper Canada. The road that ran by her door was rough and so were many of the shantymen who frequented her tavern. It must have been difficult for a young gal like Annie to keep things under control. Perhaps she was assisted by her sister, Josephine. Josephine turned 18 on December 11th, 1872, that same terrible winter that 23 year old Annie's life was cut, tragically short. Local legend says that Annie was killed in a big fight in her hotel. Another story says that she drowned in a small lake located on her property. Yet while the cause of her demise is unclear, her early

death that winter of 1872-1873 is undisputed. She was alive in mid December of 1872, when she sold some of her timber to a local lumber company, but by May of 1873, the property and her estate had reverted to her father. That was the end of Little Annie and her famous hotel.

Josephine was the only sister remaining from the original threesome who had left the little village of Karsin, West Prussia. The other sister, named Rosela, had died from some sort of an accidental fall in the winter of 1871. She was only 12 years old. Fortunately Josephine was not destined to die young. On January 25th, 1875, at the age of 20, she married a young Kashubian fellow by the name of Mathias Wieckowski. Mathias was the son of John Wieckowski and Eva Jereczek from the Kashubian parish of Parchowo, West Prussia. It is not known how many of the Wieckowski family emigrated to Canada in the early 1870's, but Mathias and his brother Adam certainly did. That same winter of 1875, just a month after his brother's wedding, Adam married a Kashubian Canadian girl by the name of Paulina Biernacka. He remained in Canada and raised his family under the name Vancuskie. But not Mathias. He and his new wife lost no time in moving south to a Kashubian community in Minnesota. They took on the name Veleske and seem to have prospered. Josephine continued to correspond with her parents and siblings well into the 20th century. The photograph of her and her daughter in front of their house on Jessamine St. is dated August 19, 1909. But it appears that none of her family joined her in America.

Josephine's mother, Mary (nee Dobek), died in 1897 and was buried in the old cemetery in the Canadian Polish settlement of Wilno, Ontario. The land for the cemetery and the Polish church had been donated to the Roman Catholic diocese of Pembroke by Josephine's father, Jacob Narloch/Norlock. This parish originally dedicated to St. Stanislaus Kostka, is the oldest Polish parish in Canada, established in the autumn of the year 1875. Jacob lived to see the parish grow. By 1880 there were well over 500 Polish people in the settlement and many more would join them in the next decade. It would be very appropriate, indeed, that a large stone would mark the final resting place of one of the oldest Polish pioneers in the area and the man who was so instrumental in establishing the first Polish parish in Canada, but this is not the case. In fact, the burial of Josephine's father, Jacob Norlock, was not even recorded in the church books for this cemetery. Nor is his burial recorded in the parish of Brudenell where Josephine was married and her two sisters (Annie & Rosela) probably are buried. Or in any of the other nearby Roman Catholic cemeteries. He was definitely still alive in the spring of 1901 when he was counted on the Canadian census. Did he go to

Photo of the house at 977  
E. Jessamine, St. Paul:



The back of photograph reads: "Photograph taken Aug. 19, 1909. This is the picture of our house. Mathew Veleske, 977 E. Jessamine, St. Paul Minn. Mrs. Veleske and my oldest daughter standing in front of house."

visit his daughter in St. Paul, MN? Perhaps he died there? Was he buried in St. Paul? Yet another family mystery.

Josephine's brothers, Michael, Alexander and Joseph Norlock carried on the Norlock family name and many of their descendants still live in the Wilno, Ontario area of Canada. A younger sister, Ellen, married Frank Chapeskie (original spelling Czapiewski) and also stayed in Canada. Josephine hardly knew this sister, born 4 years before she married and moved, but she never forgot her Canadian connection—she corresponded for years. The letters would tell us something of Josephine and her family but likely they disappeared in a spring cleaning many years ago.

Today, the Canadian Norlocks know nothing about these American Veleskes—other than the name found on the back of a faded photograph salvaged from a bureau drawer in Jacob's old farmhouse. So much has been lost of the colorful saga of the Polish pioneers in Canada and in America. This is just one of the many amazing family stories that have never been written—or maybe it is not too late?!



Josephine's portrait shows an attractive, dignified woman; her clothing and jewelry look to be of good quality. Is her gold locket a prized possession of one of her granddaughters. Is it in your jewelry box? Her home with its shaded front verandah and corner turret looks grand! Has it been torn down or renovated to retain its original charm? Have you walked by this house? Perhaps you live in it? Whatever happened to the Veleske family who lived at 977 E Jessamine? Was there a happy ending for Josephine's life story? Or do fairy tales only happen in books?

*Editor's note: As we were going to press, we received the following e-mail from Shirley Mask Connolly.*

Here is some late breaking information pertaining to my article "Looking for the Veleske family ..."

The Canadian cousins came across some photos of the children of Mathew and Josephine Veleske. They are: Susan, Joseph and Anna Veleske. Also, on a photo of Anna on her wedding, on 1 June 1910 in St. Paul, to Alexander Sutkowski--their address is noted: 323 12th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Josephine Narloch--Mrs. Mathew Veleske was born 11 December 1855 in Karsen, West Prussia (now Poland) and died ? probably in St. Paul, Minnesota.

## From *Słownik Geograficzny*: BARGŁÓW KOŚCIELNY AND VICINITY by Greg Kishel

*Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich* is the foremost historical gazetteer of Poland, published in 14 volumes between 1880 and 1902. In two past issues of this newsletter I presented my translations of its entries for villages in the Roman Catholic parish of Rajgród in northeastern Poland.<sup>1</sup> This is where my family, in its Kisielewski and Wroczyński lines, had its earliest roots insofar as I have been able to determine. As a result of family migration and a small change in parish boundaries, I can claim the easterly neighboring parish as an ancestral one too; my grandfather and his Polish-born siblings were baptized in the church at Bargłów Kościelny, some 10 kilometers northeast of Rajgród.

I decided that I would continue my series here by translating *Słownik geograficzny's* entries for Bargłów and the couple of nearby villages that were relevant to my own genealogy. Because several new members of the PGS-MN have roots in the parish, I decided to widen my work out to a few natural features in its vicinity, and as many of the villages in the parish as I could identify. Giving this more timeliness is my recent discovery of a significant link between this area in Poland and the Polish-American community of Minnesota's central Mesabi Iron Range.<sup>2</sup>

So again, here are snapshots of various locales in Poland's northern forest country, as they were a century ago and a bit more:

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bargłów Kościelny**, governmental village, **Bargłów Dworny**, village and governmental manor, and **Bargłów Cerkiewny**, three villages lying close together, Augustów district, township and parish of the same name, beside the highway from Rajgród to Augustów. In 1827, Bargłów dworny had 31 houses and 158 inhabitants; whereas Bargłów kościelny had 47 houses and 205 inhabitants; today [1880] Bargłów dworny has 593 inhabitants and 61 houses, Bargłów kościelny 445 inhabitants and 56 houses. Bargłów township with its office in the village of Bargłów dworny, is of a population of 5255, of a size of 16,338 mórg [22,677 acres]; the municipal circuit court and post office are in the city of Augustów 12 *werst*

<sup>1</sup>"From *Słownik geograficzny*: Selected Villages in Rajgród Parish, Szczuczyń District," *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*, v. 5, no. 4 (Winter 1997-98), p. 10; "From *Słownik geograficzny*: More Villages in Rajgród Parish," *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*, v. 6, no. 2 (Summer 1998), p. 10.

<sup>2</sup>I will show that link in a future article.

**Brhlík lesní**  
*Sitta europaea*



**The bird is the word: the *bargiet*,**

or European nuthatch after which Bargłów is named. Source: Stastný, et al., Atlas: Hnízdního Rozšíření Ptáků v ČSSR 1973/77 (Prague, 1987).

[8 mi. / 11.2 km.] away, to Suwałki it is 40 *werst* [26.5 mi. / 37.5 km.]. The township is composed of: Bargłów- Cerkiewny, Bargłów-dworny, Bargłów-kościelny, Bargłówka, Brzozówka, Cerkiesy, Gorstwiny, Jeziorki, Judziki, Kamionka-Chrustoskich, Kamionka- Dłu żewskiego, Kamionka- Niedźwiedzkiego, Kamionka-nowa, Kamionka-stara, Karta, Kukowo, Łabętnik village and manor, Mamarta, Młynek, Nowiny- bargłowskie, Nowiny-stare, Orany, Piekutowo, Pieńki, Pomiany village and manor, Popowo, Próchniewo, Reszki, Rozalin, Rumejki, Solistówka village and manor, Sosnowo, Tobyłka village and manor, Uścianki, Wilkowo, Żrobko and Żrobki. The parish of Bargłów of the diocese of Augustów numbers 7298 faithful. An elementary school is in Bargłów Kościelny. A new brick church is also near completion here, erected with a collection from the parishioners of a sum of over 50,000 *rubel srebrem* [unit of money in Russian Empire, including Russian Partition of Poland]. *B. Ch.* [Bronisław Chlebowski, principal editor of *Słownik geograficzny*] [SGKP v. 1, p. 108]

**Bargłówek**, village, and manor farm, on the Bargłówka River, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish, 294 inhabitants, 36 houses, it lies about 4 *werst* [2.7 mi. / 3.75 km.] from Bargłów. [SGKP v 1, p. 108]

**Bargłówka**, river, it runs beginning below the village of Bargłów Dworny in Augustów district, flowing

through numerous bends between hilly areas and about one-and-a-half *werst* [one mile / 1.4 km.] above the sluices of Sosnowo it joins with the Augustów Canal and next falls into the Netta [River] at the left bank. *L. W.* [Ludwik Wolski]. [SGKP v. 1, p. 108]

**Bargłowskie Nowiny**, about 3 *werst* [2 mi. / 2.8 km.] north of Bargłów; 26 settlements scattered amidst poor, hilly regions. [SGKP v. 1, p. 108]

**Brzozówka**, ... 14.) village, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish. In 1827, there were here 40 houses, 208 inhabitants; now [1880] it has 50 houses, 537 inhabitants. [SGKP v. 1, p. 426]

**Choszczewo**, ... 5.) Choszczewo-Bielskie, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish. It has 2 houses, 25 inhabitants. [SGKP v. 1, p. 636-637]

**Górskie**, ... 2.), ... village of nobles, on the lake of the same name, Szczuczyń district, Pruska township, Bargłów parish. [SGKP v 2, p. 724]

**Grzędy**, ... 3.) Szczuczyń district, Pruska township, Bargłów parish. [SGKP v. 2, p. 891]

**Kamionka**, ... 39.) Kamionka-stara, Kamionka nowa, Kamionka Chrustoskich, Kamionka Dłużowskiego, and Kamionka Niedźwiedzkiego, village and colony, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish, it lies 12 *werst* [8 mi. / 11.2 km.] from Augustów. Kamionka stara has 17 houses, 218 inhabitants; Kamionka nowa has 22 houses, 149 inhabitants, the three other small parts together have 7 houses, 47 inhabitants. In 1827 there was only one governmental village here, 32 houses and 193 inhabitants. The manor farm of Kamionka Stara, sections A, B, and C, covers 643 *mórg* [892 acres], cultivated lands and gardens of 268 *mórg* [372 acres], meadow of 102 *mórg* [141 acres], pasture of 83 *mórg* [115 acres], forests of 151 *mórg* [210 acres], brushland of 23 *mórg* [32 acres], waters of 1 *mórg* [1.4 acres], wastelands and common grounds of 15 *mórg* [21 acres], eight-field crop rotation, 9 wooden buildings; it has deposits of peat. The village of Kamionka has 62 settlements, with grounds of 563 *mórg* [781 acres]. The manor farm of Kamionka, section A, Puszczałowizna (with the settlement of Jarzębowizna) is of the area of 324 *mórg* [450 acres], cultivated lands and gardens of 128 *mórg* [178 acres], meadow of 70 *mórg* [97 acres], pasture of 11 *mórg* [15 acres], forests of 67 *mórg* [93 acres], brushland of 35 *mórg* [49 acres], wastelands and common grounds of 4 *mórg* [5.6 acres], 6 wooden buildings, deposits of peat. From this property the settlement of Jarzębowizna [lit.: the place of the rowan/ash trees], with grounds of 30 *mórg* [42 acres], was kept separate. ... [SGKP v. 3, p. 779]

**Karcewo**, village, Szczuczyń district, Pruska township, Bargłów parish. [SGKP v. 3, p.834]

**Karpa**, settlement, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish. It lies 15 *werst* [10 mi. / 14 km.]

from Augustów, and has 1 house and 1 inhabitant.

**Karwowo** ... Przeszrzecze township, Rydzewo parish. ... Karwowska-Wólka, village and manorial farm, Ruska [*sic*; apparently should be "Pruska"], Bargłów parish[,] 1847 *mórg* [2564 acres] in area. In 1827 there were in Karwowska Konotopy 27 houses, and 141 inhabitants. This area of nobility is the seat of the Karwowskis. [SGKP v 3, p.892]

**Lipówka**, village, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish; it lies 15 *werst* [10 mi. / 14 km.] from Augustów, and has 4 houses, 31 inhabitants.

**Netta**, village and manorial farm, an entailed estate, Augustów district, Kolnica township, Janówka parish, it lies 10 *werst* [6.6 mi. / 9.4 km.] from Augustów. It has 69 houses, 742 inhabitants. In 1827, a governmental village, Bargłów parish, 66 houses, 402 inhabitants. In the sixteenth century there supposedly existed here a little church, a branch of that in Bargłów. The manor farm of Netta consists of an estate inherited by primogeniture, conferred upon government State Counselor Chetyrkin. [SGKP v. 7, pp. 6-7]

**Nowiny Bargłowskie**, village, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish. It lies 12 *werst* [8 mi. / 11.2 km.] from Augustów, and it has 20 houses and 217 inhabitants.

**Nowiny Stare**, village, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish, it lies 17 *werst* [11.3 mi./ 16 km.] from Augustów, 3 houses, 31 inhabitants.

**Orzechówka**, village on the lake of the same name, Szczuczyń district, Pruska township, Bargłów parish. In 1827 there were here 8 houses, 47 inhabitants. [SGKP v. 7, p. 610]

**Piekutowo**, village, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish. It lies 15 *werst* [9.9 mi. / 14 km.] from Augustów, and has 6 houses and 67 inhabitants. In 1827 there were 4 houses, 22 inhabitants.

**Pieńki**, ... 19.) settlement, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish, it lies 15 *werst* [9.9 mi. / 14 km.] from Augustów, and has 3 houses, 64 inhabitants. In 1827 there were 2 houses, 15 inhabitants.

**Pruska**, manorial farm, Szczuczyń district, Pruska township, Bargłów parish. It lies on the border of Augustów district. The village which formerly constituted one whole with the manor farm lies entirely in Augustów district. The whole area amounts to 3188 *mórg* [4425 acres]. Pruska township lies in the township court district no. III in the settlement of Rajgród, where also is the post office (10 *werst* [6.6 mi. / 9.4 km.] away), the township clerk is in the village of Tajno. The township has 3631 inhabitants, [and is] 16,193 *mórg* [22,508 acres] in area. In all, the township consists of: the noble village Górskie and the peasant villages: Barszcze, Karczewo, Dręstwo, Karwowska Wólka, Kruszewo, Kroszówka, Orzechówka, Pruska, Tajno, Tajenko, Woźnawieś. ... *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v.9, p. 83]

120. Bargłowo Koscielny.  
go Przeworskiego Młyna,  
K. D. 1827

182. Hamionka Działo  
K. D. 1827

90. Rutki Nowe.  
K. D. 1827

103. Tajenko Działo  
K. D. 1827

Names of villages in Bargłów parish as they appear in the church record books. Source: *Nr. 1. Akta Urodzenia R. 1838-41* (FHL film #939431, item 1).

**Rutki**, ... 9.) *Nowe* and *Stare*, village, Augustów district, Dowsputa township, Bargłów parish, it lies 14 *werst* [9.3 mi. / 13.1 km.] from Augustów. It lies right on the border with Prussia, about 2 *werst* [1.3 mi. / 1.9 km.] to the west from Turówka, a suburb of Augustów. Rutki Stare has 59 houses, 477 inhabitants, Rutki Nowe has 71 houses, 566 inhabitants. In 1827 Rutki Nowe, a governmental village, had 42 houses, 258 inhabitants, and Rutki Stare had 37 houses, 212 inhabitants. *Br. Ch.*

**Solistowa Góra**, Szczuczyń district, Pruska township, Bargłów parish. [SGKP v. 11, p. 53]

**Sosnowo**, ... 7.) ... a settlement on the Augustów canal, Bargłów township and parish, it lies 20 *werst* [13.3 mi. / 18.7 km.] from Augustów, [it has] 2 houses, 36 inhabitants. [SGKP v. 11, p.95]

**Tajenka**, river, the right-hand tributary of the Netta River. This is the outlet of Tajno Lake. It originates from the eastern bank of the lake near the manor farm of Tajenko and the last few *werst* in the southeast direction discharge through a swampy valley to the Netta [River] and right on to the Augustowski Canal at its left bank. [SGKP v 12, p. 144]

**Tajenko**, lake, in Szczuczyń district, between the villages of Wólka and Tajno, it connects with Tajno Lake. It appears to have an underground connection

with the Augustowski Canal, about 2 1/2 *werst* [1.7 mi. / 2.3 km.] away. Its area is 36 *mórg* [50 acres], its depth to 27 feet [8.2 m.]. [SGKP v. 12, p. 144]

**Tajenko**, village and manorial farm, on the eastern short of Tajno Lake, Szczuczyń district, Pruska township, Bargłów parish. In 1827 [it had] 30 houses, 179 inhabitants. In 1866 the manorial farm of Tajno covered 1150 *mórg* [1596 acres]: cultivated lands and gardens 180 *mórg* [250 acres]; meadow 150 *mórg* [208 acres]; brush 300 *mórg* [416 acres]; wasteland 280 *mórg* [389 acres]. The village of Tajenko has 29 settlements, 143 *mórg* [198 acres]. [SGKP v. 12, p. 144]

**Tajno**, a lake, between low-lying plains extending to the south from an upland lake region, at the confluence of river basins of waters flowing from that upland, in the northern part of Szczuczyń district, about 10 *werst* [6.6 mi. / 9.4 km.] to the southeast of Rajgród. The north bank is hilly, the three others low, swampy, and forested. The full area amounts to around 1000 *mórg* [1388 acres]. On the north shore lies the village of Tajno, formerly a royal crownland village. The waters of the lake are carried off by the Tajenka River to the Netta [River], flowing a distance of a few *werst* from the eastern side. ... *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v. 12, p.145]

**Tajno**, village, Szczuczyń district, Pruska township, Bargłów parish. It lies around 2 miles to the southeast of Rajgród, on the south shore of the lake of the same name, in forested and swampy regions, it has an elementary school, the township clerk, 95 settlements, 948 inhabitants, 2293 *mórg* [3183 acres] in area. In 1827 it had 72 houses, 424 inhabitants. According to the writings of Podskarbiński from 1771, the Tajno rural *starosty* in Podlasie province, Bielsko *ziemia*, was in the ownership of Anna Rostkowska, who paid a military tax of 2289 *złotopolski*, 14 *grósz*, and a *hyberny* of 611 *złotopolski*, 24 *grósz*. In the *Sejm* [Congress] of the Polish Republic of 1773-1774 this estate was given to the *emphyteutic* ownership of Krzysztof Frankowski, a delegate from Zakrocym [now Zakrocym] *ziemia*. At the time, it took in the estate of Tajno, with the villages of Bargłówka, Lipowo, Nowiny, Woźna [Wieś], Orzechówka, Polkowo, Piekutowo and Uścianka. *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v.12, p.145]

**Tobyłka**, village and manorial farm, Augustów district, Bargłów township and parish, it lies 18 *werst* [12 mi. / 17 km.] from Augustów; the village has 7 houses, 99 inhabitants; the manorial farm 2 houses, 9 inhabitants. In the records from 1827 it is not listed. [SGKP v. 12, p. 355]

**Uścianki ... 2.) ...** village, Augustów district, Bargłów township, Augustów parish (lying 10 *werst* [12 mi. / 9.4 km.] from it), it has 19 houses, 190 inhabitants. In 1827, it had 14 houses, 82 inhabitants. [SGKP v. 12, p. 830]

\*\*\*\*\*

A number of interesting things jump out from these entries, which have the same rag-tag assortment of detail and information that I've noted before in my translations.

The first is the nomenclature of the three divisions of Bargłów, the parish seat and the main town between Rajgród and Augustów. "Bargłów Koscielny," of course, means "Bargłów-where-the-church-is," and "Bargłów Dworny" means "Bargłów-where-the-manor-house-is." "Bargłów Cerkiewny," in turn, means "Bargłów-where-the-*cerkiew*-is," a *cerkiew* being an old fashioned wooden church, usually of Orthodox or Greek Catholic affiliation. The first two show up on maps throughout the past century. I have been unable to find Bargłów Cerkiewny on *any* map, even a few published at about the same time as the relevant volume of *Słownik geograficzny*. Its disappearance from the cartographic record is just a mystery at present. Since Chlebowski does not give the usual demographic data for it, it was probably small; perhaps it was nearly contiguous with one of the other Bargłows, and merged in the late 19th century.

The second is the mix of systems of measurement. Most all of the entries show distance by the unit *werst/wiorst*, a now-obsolete Central European measure about a kilometer or two-thirds of a mile in length. But look at the entries for Tajno village and Lake Tajenko: the units of "mile" and feet are used for the distance from Rajgród and the depth of the lake, respectively. The table of comparisons among units of measure at the front of volume 1 of *Słownik geograficzny* suggests that the first reference is to a *Polish/Russian* mile, and not to the Anglo-American one; it's equated to seven *werst/wiorst*, or to 4286.695 *sażen*—and a *sażen*, "an ancient measure of length," is approximately six Anglo-American feet!<sup>3</sup> The use of different measures among these entries probably attests to different data sources, but one really cannot tell.<sup>4</sup>

It's worth noting what we can from Kazimierz Rymut's *Nazwy Miejscowe Polski*. Volume 1<sup>5</sup> is still the only one that the PGS-MN has been able to acquire for our library, but it contains entries for the first two villages I've covered. Both indicate that these places were mentioned in Polish geographic literature in the mid-16th century. The listing for Bargłów<sup>6</sup> ascribes

<sup>3</sup>J. Stanisławski, *Wielki słownik polsko-angielski/The Great Polish-English Dictionary* (Warsaw, 1995), p. 1105.

<sup>4</sup>In entries from other parts of Poland I have seen meters used for altitude data, too. These probably were from academic sources, showing that 19th-century Polish physical geographers and geologists were using the new Western system that was to serve as a universal language of science.

<sup>5</sup>Published in Kraków by Polska Akademia Nauk/Instytut Języka Polskiego in 1996.

<sup>6</sup>K. Rymut, ed., *Nazwy Miejscowe Polskie*, v. 1, p. 81.

the probable origin of the name to the root word "bargiet," with the synonym of "ptak kowalik," "the little smith bird"--whence our avian illustration for this article!<sup>7</sup> The first listing for towns under the name of Brzozówka is a bit more locally evocative: "compare *brzozówka*, 'something from birch,' ... here in a topographic sense, perhaps 'a territory overgrown with birch.'"<sup>8</sup> This, of course, only piles on the boreal-forest imagery that abounds in the *Słownik geograficzny* entries for this whole area. The *Nazwy Miejscowe* entry for the Brzozówka in Bargłów parish notes that the village was founded as early as 1532.<sup>9</sup>

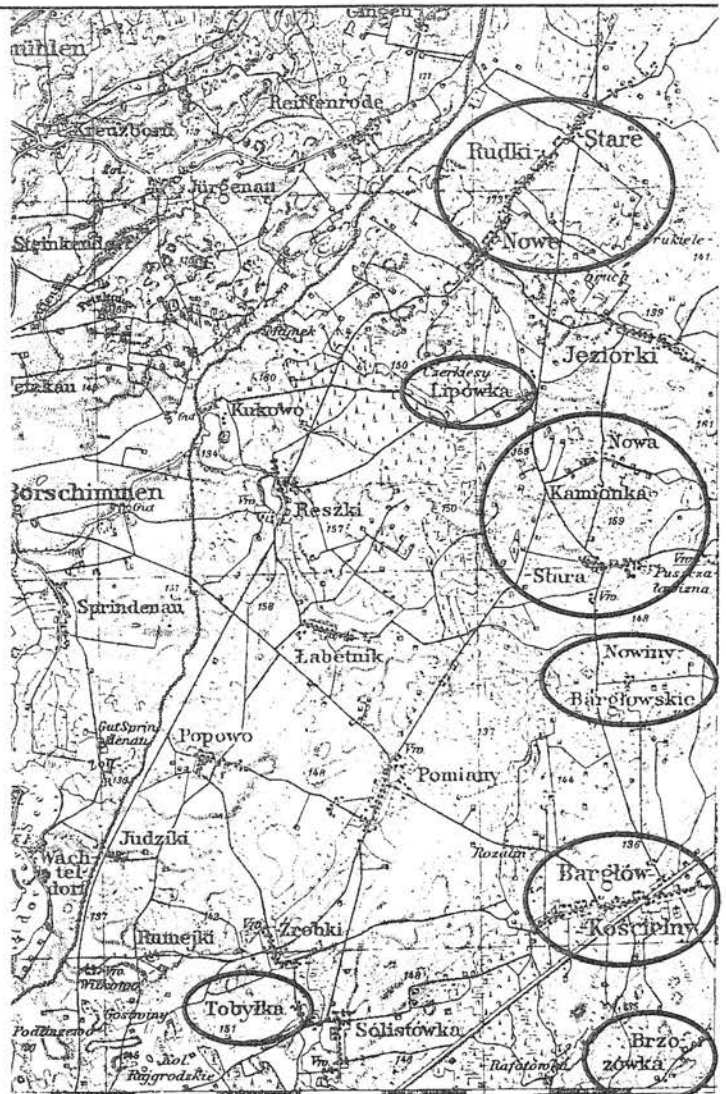
The last item worthy of mention is a personal connection, which was given resonance through yet another source of geographic information relevant to genealogy. When I was in Poland in 1995 I obtained a copy of a tourist map of the Augustów-Suwałki region, the coverage of which extended down to the Rajgród-Bargłów area.<sup>10</sup> In reviewing it for this article, I was excited to find that there is still a gamekeeper's or forester's cottage in Orzechówka, on the very edge of *Czerwone Bagno*, the largest wetland in Poland. My great-great-great-grandfather, Michał Kisielewski, served as a governmental forester (*strażnik lasów rządowy*) in this corner of Bargłów parish in the 1830s—and my great-great-great-grandmother, Aniela née Poniatowska, bore two of my four-times-great-uncles in that cottage, or its predecessor.<sup>11</sup>

And, having covered the *Słownik geograficzny* entries for most of the villages of Bargłów parish, that is all I will report. If you've been working on the entries for your ancestral villages, let us hear from you!

\*\*\*\*\*

*With a little help from my friends:* I could not have written at this length without assistance! Rita Mauermann, a fellow teacher at our UNESCO English language camp in Toruń and a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin, purchased the PPWK map for me on her weekend barnstorm up to Suwałki. William F. Hoffman, the tireless (and tirelessly-cheerful) editor of the publications of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, gave me just the help I needed to translate some *really* obscure passages. And my daughter, Emily Kathleen Kishel, took nearly three hours away from her freshman-year studies to search the collections at the Mann and Kroch Libraries of Cornell University for materials on the European nuthatch. *Dziękuję bardzo, koleżanki i kolegu!*

*And one last credit:* The calligraphic renderings of placenames that accompany this article are from entries in *Nr. 1, Akta Urodzenia R. 1838-41* for Bargłów parish (FHL film #939431, item 1). I didn't find any ancestors in this volume, and only one relative on the whole film, but I thought the lettering would be a nice touch.



**The northern half of Bargłów parish, with villages mentioned in the article indicated.** Source: *Karte des Deutschen Reiches* (1939), #138, Lyck (based on the Prussian land survey of 1888; found in the Borchert Map Collection, Wilson Library, Univ. of Minnesota).

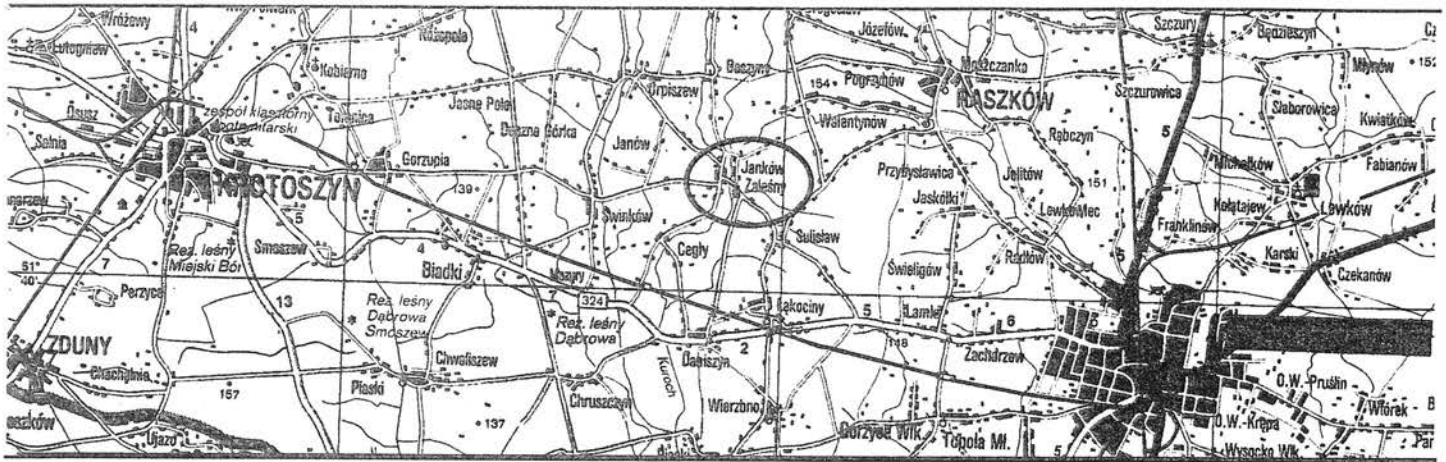
<sup>7</sup>In turn, *bargiet* is dictionary-defined as "(*Sitta europaea*) nuthatch (a bird)." Stanislawski, *Wielki słownik polsko-angielski*, p. 49. Our little friend's Polish nickname originates in its feeding behavior: "The [nuthatches] inhabiting northern or mountainous areas feed largely on seeds in winter... Seeds and all larger prey species [of insects] are hammered into cracks and are there either broken into small pieces or opened up by strong pecks." B. Campbell and E. Lack, *A Dictionary of Birds* (Vermilion, S.D., 1985), p. 401.

<sup>8</sup>Rymut, *Nazwy Miejscowe*, v. 1, p. 405.

<sup>9</sup>Rymut, *Nazwy Miejscowe*, v. 1, p. 406.

<sup>10</sup>The item's formal title is: *Mapa turystyczna: Pojezierze Suwalskie i Równina Augustowska*—"Tourist Map: the Suwałki Lake Country and the Augustów Valley." Published by Polskie Przedsiębiorstwo Wydawnictw Kartograficznych in Warsaw and Wrocław, it bears the date of 1994.

<sup>11</sup>This little discovery underlines the value of modern tourist and historical maps to rounding out our family histories. I'll report on one or two more from this map in the future.



Janków Zalesny is located midway between Krotoszyn and Ostrów Wielkopolska, 90 km. southeast of Poznań. Source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy* [Poland: Road Atlas], p. 132. A copy of this 1:200,000 scale atlas is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

Sources: continued from page 1

### Słownik geograficzny . . .

Readers of this newsletter should by now be familiar with the fifteen volume *Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich* [Geographic Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and Other Slavic Lands].<sup>4</sup> Copies of this reference work can be found at the MGS Library and at the LDS Family History Center in Crystal.<sup>5</sup> It remains perhaps the best source to obtain information about your ancestral village and it is the one you should consult first. This resource describes virtually all Polish villages (even the very small ones) at the time when most of our ancestors were emigrating from Poland. It is especially useful because most entries give the location of the church that that village belongs to--information that is essential if you are to have any success in tracing your Polish ancestry. Entries in *Słownik* contain many abbreviations. We published an extensive list of these with their definitions in the Summer 1997 issue of this newsletter.<sup>6</sup> References to the various villages vary greatly in length. The entry for Janków Zalesny is rather short and a translation of it follows:<sup>7</sup>

5.) Janków Zalesny, village and *gmina* in Odolanów *powiat*; the *gmina* has four localities: a) Janków, the village and abandoned properties, b) Klimek, c) Majcher, and d) Nychy; 47 houses, 395 inhabitants, 5 Protestant and 390 Catholic, 87 illiterate. The Catholic parish church belongs to Koźmin deanery. Postal and telegraph office in Raszków, 4 km. away, railway station in Ostrów, 7.5 km. away. The village at one time belonged to the *starosta* of Odolanów. The wooden church burned down several times, once during the Swedish war in the early 18th

## SŁOWNIK GEOGRAFICZNY KRÓLESTWA POLSKIEGO

I INNYCH KRAJÓW SŁOWIAŃSKICH.

WYDANY

Pod Redakcją

Filipa Sulimierskiego, redaktora *Wzdronec*, magistra nauk fizyczno-matematycznych b. Szkoły Głównej Warszawskiej.

Bronisława Chlebowskiego, magistra nauk filologiczno-historycznych b. Szkoły Głównej Warszawskiej.

Władysława Walewskiego, obywatela ziemskiego, kandydata nauk dyplomatycznych Uniwersytetu Dorpackiego.

Skład Główny w Redakcji *Wzdronec*, ulica Nowy-Swiat Nr. 59.  
(Kraków u D. E. Friedleina. Poznań u J. K. Zupańskiego.)  
(Lwów, Gubrynowicz i Schmidt.)

TOM III.

The title page of volume 3 of *Słownik geograficzny*. . . *Słownik* was published in 15 volumes between 1880 and 1902. Volume 3, which contains information about Janków Zalesny, was published in 1882.

century; after that Karol Łódzia Poniński, Poznań suffragan bishop, consecrated the new one; it was rebuilt in 1727. 7.) Janków Zalesny I, village, Krotoszyn *powiat*, 61 houses, 408 inhabitants, all Catholic, 117 illiterate. Postal and telegraph station in Raszków, 4 km. away, railway station in Ostrów, 8 km. away. These last two villages, located on the border of two *powiaty*, are really connected with each other.

Villages in *Słownik* are listed in a single alphabetical order in the first 14 volumes. Volume 15 supplements information about Polish villages in another complete alphabetical listing.<sup>8</sup> Researchers should keep this in mind and consult both alphabetical listings when researching a particular village. Indeed, there is additional information about Janków Zalesny in volume 15.<sup>9</sup> It reads:

3.) **Janków Zalesny**, village in Odolanów powiat. In 1246 the Polish prince Przemysław awarded this village to the Gniezno church, to which Count Andreas called *Rasca* had given it previously in the presence of the Prince of Silesia and his barons. In 1580 Jankowo and Jankówko (Janków minor) existed. There is a Catholic parish church in the village.

Unfamiliar terms in *italics* above<sup>10</sup>:

**gmina**: administrative subdivision of a powiat, governed by a council and a *wójt*; the best way to translate it in English is "(rural) administrative district."

**powiat**: territorial administrative subdivision used in Poland since the 14th century, smaller than provinces but larger than *gminy* or *gromady*; abolished in 1975, but reinstated, with new boundaries, in 1999. It can be regarded as roughly equivalent to a "county" in American political terms.

**starosta**: a kind of district foreman, a royal official in Poland in the 14th-18th century, in charge of treasury and police activities, and the judiciary. There is no real equivalent for this term in English.

### Other Polish Language Gazetteers

While *Słownik geograficzny* is perhaps the most useful Polish gazetteer describing Polish villages and towns, others do exist. *Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej polskiej* [Index of the localities of the Polish Republic] was published during the inter-war period.<sup>11</sup> This source gives information about localities in Poland as they existed between the first and second world wars, 1918-1939. The information is given under column headings. There are two listings for Janków Zalesny--Janków Zalesny, wieś (the village) and Janków Zalesny, pustkowie (the surrounding countryside). The information given for both is identical.<sup>12</sup> It reads:

Township: Janków Zalesny  
 District: Ostrów  
 Province: Poznań  
 Post and telegraph office: Raszków  
 Railroad station and distance: Łąkociny, 5 km.  
 Bus line: Krotoszyn-Łąkociny  
 Local and regional courts: Ostrów, Poznań  
 Parish office: Janków Zalesny (Roman Catholic),  
 Ostrów (Evangelical-Lutheran)

Janków 1.) wś, pow. pleszewski, 6 dm., 60 mk., wszyscy kat.; 18 analf. 2.) J., dom., pow. pleszewski, 955 mr. rozl.; 8 dm., 132 mk., 8 ew., 124 kat., 55 analf. Poczta telegr., st. kol. żel. w Pleszewie o 7,5 kil. Własność Wincentego Zaleskiego. 3.) J., wieś, powiat ostrzeszowski, 29 dm., 258 mk., 2 ew., 256 kat., 13 analf. 4.) J., niem. *Louisenhof*, dom., pow. ostrzeszowski, 971 mr. rozl.; 6 dm., 67 mk., 14 ew., 53 kat., 16 analf. Poczta, telegr. i kol. żel. w Kepnie o 5 kil. 5.) J.-przygodzki, wś, pow. odolanowski; 74 dm., 612 mk., 9 ew., 603 kat., 251 analf. Poczta, telegraf, i kolej żelazna w Przygodzicach o 2 kil., st. kol. żel. w Ostrowie o 5 kil. 5.) J.-zalesny, wś i gm., pow. odolanowski; gm. ma 4 miejsc.: a) J., wś; pustkowie; b) Klimek; c) Majcher; d) Nychy; 47 dm., 395 mk., 5 ew., 390 kat., 87 analf. Kościół par. kat. należy do dekanatu koźmińskiego. Poczta i telegraf w Raszkowie o 4 kil., st. kol. żel. w Ostrowie o 7,5 kil. Wieś ta należała niegdyś do starostwa odolanowskiego. Kościół drewniany kilkakrotnie spłonął, pomiędzy innymi w czasie wojny szwedzkiej na początku XVIII wieku, poczem Karol Łódzia Poniński, sufragana poznański, poświęcił go nowo; wybudowany r. 1727. 7.) J.-zalesny I, wś, pow. krotoszyński, 61 dm., 408 mk., wszyscy kat., 117 analf. Poczta i telegraf w Raszkowie o 4 kil., st. kol. żel. w Ostrowie o 8 kil. Obiedwie wsie ostatnie położone na pograniczu dwóch powiatów łączą się prawie ze sobą. M. St.

At left is an example of an entry from *Słownik geograficzny*...

The descriptions of **Janków Zalesny** are the last two items in the paragraph. They are the second #5 and #7. The second #5 really should be #6. This was an error in the original. Source: *Słownik geograficzny*, Vol. 3, p. 407.

<sup>4</sup>See articles about *Słownik geograficzny* (published in Warsaw between 1880 and 1902) in following issues of *PGS-MN Newsletter*: Summer 1994, p. 4; Summer 1997, pp. 9-12; Winter 1997-98, pp. 10-11, 15; Summer 1998, pp. 10-11, 13; Autumn 1998, p. 10 and on pages 9-13 in this issue.

<sup>5</sup>In the MGS Library it is located in the microfiche cabinet after the divider marked Poland; In the Crystal LDS Family History Center it is located in the permanent film collection (film numbers: 0920957 to 0920972).

<sup>6</sup>Paul Kulas, comp., "Abbreviation and Terms most frequently used in *Słownik geograficzny*," *PGS-MN Newsletter* 5, no. 2 (Summer 1997): 9-12.

<sup>7</sup>Filip Sulimierski et al., eds., *Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich*, (Warszawa: Nakładem Filipa Sulimierskiego i Władysława Walewskiego, 1882), 3:407. This entry was translated from the original Polish by William F. Hoffman. It should be noted that the two items were the last two of seven under the heading of **Janków**. The entry listed as #5 really should have been #6 as the previous item was also listed as #5. This was an error in the original.

<sup>8</sup>There is even a third alphabetical listing on pages 731-741 of volume 15. It consists of information compiled after volume 15 was ready to go to press.

<sup>9</sup>Sulimierski, *Słownik geograficzny* ... (1900), 15:634.

<sup>10</sup>The definitions of unfamiliar terms were supplied by the translator, William F. Hoffman.

<sup>11</sup>This item is in the permanent collection of the Crystal LDS Family History Center--film # 1,343,868.

<sup>12</sup>Tadeusz Bystrzycki, *Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej polskiej* (Przemysł: Wydawnictwo księżnicy naukowej, 1934), 589.

While the information given here is not as exciting as in *Słownik geograficzny*, it does include valuable information. It gives the administrative jurisdictions as they existed between the wars and the locations of both the Catholic and Protestant churches that serve the village.

A Polish gazetteer published after World War II (but before the redrawing of provincial boundaries in 1975) is *Spis miejscowości polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej* [Gazetteer of Polish People's Republic Localities].<sup>13</sup> Again the information is given under column headings. The information for Janków Zaleśny follows:<sup>14</sup>

Name and type of locality: Janków Zaleśny, village  
 Next larger administrative unit: Daniszyn  
 County seat: Ostrów Wielkopolska  
 Province: Poznańskie  
 Post office: Raszków  
 Railroad station: Daniszyn  
 Civil records office: Gorzyce Wiekie

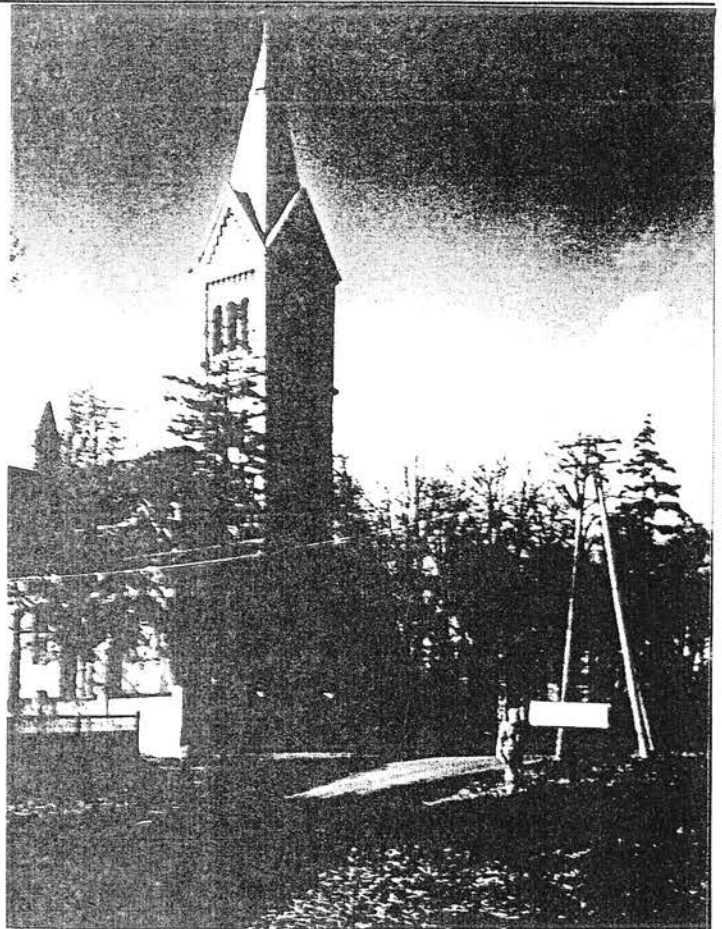
Again, the information is not as interesting as in *Słownik*. Notice that this book was published (1968) before the redrawing of provincial boundaries in 1975. In 1975 Janków Zaleśny became part of Kalisz province. The redrawing of boundaries effective 1 January 1999 placed Janków Zaleśny in Wielkopolskie province with the capital again in Poznań.<sup>15</sup>

A final Polish language gazetteer is *Nazwy miejscowe polski: historia, pochodzenie, zmiany* [Polish Place Names: Histories, Origins, Changes].<sup>16</sup> This is a work in progress. Only Volume I is available so far. It includes places whose names begin with "A" and "B." Therefore, Janków Zaleśny is not listed in this work as yet.

### German language gazetteers

Poland was partitioned by Prussia, Russia and Austria at the end of the 18th century. It did not regain independence until 1918. During this time German language gazetteers were published in both Germany and Austria. If your ancestral village was in the Prussian or Austrian partition, it will be listed in these works--usually under a German or a Germanized name.<sup>17</sup> Janków Zaleśny was part of Prussian occupied Poland during the partitions. Many German place names for Polish villages were literal translations of the Polish original. Janków Zaleśny can be translated as "John's place in the forest." The Germans called this village "Hanswalde" (Johnny's forest).<sup>18</sup>

Perhaps the best known German language gazetteer of this period is *Meyers orts- und verkehrs-Lexikon*



The author at a highway sign marking the entrance to Janków Zaleśny during a visit in 1998. The parish church of St. Adalbert (św. Wojciecha) is in the background. The church was used as a warehouse by the occupying German armed forces during WWII.

*des Deutschen Reichs* [Meyer's Gazetteer and Directory of the German Empire] published in 1912.<sup>19</sup> Like *Słownik geograficzny* it contains many abbreviations.<sup>20</sup> Unlike *Słownik*, its entries contain only basic information with little historical background. Its Gothic print make the entries difficult to read. Information about Janków Zaleśny is listed under Hanswalde and reads as follows:<sup>21</sup>

**Hanswalde, --4** (i.e. the fourth entry under this heading) formerly Jankow Saleschny I and II, a village in Prussia, in Posen province, in the administrative district of Posen, in the county of Adelnau, in the court district and military district of Ostrowo, its civil registry is in Danischin, the district police office and post office are in Raschkow, the train station is 4.6 km. away in Lonkocin; It has 737 inhabitants, and a Catholic parish church. (The entry then goes on to describe the nearby hamlets of Florek, Klimek, Majcher and Nychy in much the same manner.)



A German language gazetteer that I find more useful and more interesting than *Meyers* is *Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen* [Gazetteer for the Kingdom of Prussia].<sup>22</sup> The information given in this reference work is based on data current as of 1 December 1905. It is listed under column headings. The information describing Janków Zaleśny (Hanswalde) with headings translated to English and Polish place names in parenthesis reads as follows:<sup>23</sup>

Province: Posen (Poznań)  
 Provincial district: Posen  
 Military district: Ostrowo (Ostrów Wielkopolska)  
 Regional court district: Ostrowo  
 Local judicial district: Ostrowo and Adelnau  
 County: Adelnau (Odolanów)

(The following items are in columns and are numbered across the top of the page.)

1. Current number: 19 (i.e. the 19th place under the section headed: Kreis Adelnau)
2. Names of the individual communities along with the number of places of residence (i.e. the number of different hamlets belonging to the village): Hanswalde 5
3. Total area (in hectares): 1,042.3
4. Average property tax per hectare: 11.88
5. Inhabited dwellings: 124
6. Other inhabited structures--huts, tents, ships, wagons, etc.: 1
7. Ordinary households of 2 or more persons: 132
8. Single-person households: 7
9. Total population: 748
10. Males: 379
11. Active military people: (blank)
12. Protestants: 6
13. German speaking Protestants: 5
14. Polish speaking Protestants: 1
15. Protestants speaking another language: (blank)
16. Protestants speaking German and another language: (blank)
17. Catholics: 742
18. German speaking Catholics: 2
19. Polish speaking Catholics: 739
20. Catholics speaking another language: 1
21. Catholics speaking German and another language: (blank)
22. Other Christians: (blank)
23. Jews: (blank)
24. Other and unknown affiliation: (blank)
25. Protestant church district: Krotoschin, Kreis Krotoschin (Krotoszyn)
26. Catholic church district: Hanswalde (Janków Zaleśny)
27. Civil district (records): Danischin (Daniszyn)
28. City or police district: Raschkow (Raszków)

You can see how the above information can be useful in reconstructing your ancestral place of origin. I particularly like the breakdown of religions by language. After over one hundred years of Prussian rule and a half century of an official policy of Germanization and repression, German language and culture made little progress here. Also note that this resource gives the location of both the Catholic and the Protestant churches for this area.

If your ancestors came from Austrian occupied Poland (primarily Galicia), there is an Austrian published gazetteer. It is: *Gemeindelexikon der im*

<sup>13</sup>This item is also in the permanent collection of the Crystal LDS Family History Center—film # 844,922.

<sup>14</sup>*Spis Miejscowości Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej* (Warsaw: Wydawnictwa komunikacji i łączności, 1968), 386

<sup>15</sup>See: "Poland changes its Provinces again!" *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 6, no. 3 (Autumn 1998): 7.

<sup>16</sup>Kazimierz Rymut, ed., *Nazwy miejscowe polski; historia, pochodzenie, zmiany* (Kraków: PAN, Instytut Języka Polskiego, 1996-?). See review by Walter Kornel Kondy in *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Autumn, 1997, p. 14. Volume I is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. We will continue to add additional volumes as they become available.

<sup>17</sup>If you know the Polish name of your ancestral village but do not know the German name, it can be found in *Deutsch-fremdsprachiges (fremdsprachig-deutsches) Ortsnamenverzeichnis* [German-foreign language (foreign language-German) place name changes]. Conversely, if you know the German name and not the Polish name it too can also be found in this source. This item is in the permanent collection of the Crystal LDS Family History Center—film # 583,457. See: "The Bulletin Board," *PGS-MN Newsletter* 6 no. 3 (Autumn 1998): 8 for a discussion of this work.

<sup>18</sup>To compare other German and Polish place names in the Janków Zaleśny area see the maps on page 23.

<sup>19</sup>This two volume work is in the permanent collection of the Crystal LDS Family History Center—film numbers 496,640 and 496,641.

<sup>20</sup>For an excellent discussion of *Myers* and an explanation of the abbreviations used in it, see: Dearden, *The German Researcher*, 25-36.

<sup>21</sup>*Meyers orts- und verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs*, E. Uetrecht, comp., (Leipzig: Bibliographisches Institut, 1912), 1:721.

<sup>22</sup>This work was published in several volumes and is on several different LDS films--all in the permanent collection at the Family History Center in Crystal. Volumes dealing with lands now in Poland (either wholly or partially) are: Vol. 1 Ostpreußen (East Prussia) and Vol. 2 Westpreußen (West Prussia), film # 1,186,701 items 3 & 4 (also found on film #1,187,921 items 2 & 3); Vol. 3 Brandenburg, film # 806,635 item 1; Vol. 4 Pommern (Pomerania/Pomorze), film # 806,634 item 4; Vol. 5 Posen (Poznań), film # 806,635 item 3 (also found on film # 806,634 item 5); Vol. 6 Schlesien (Silesia/Śląsk), film #806,633 item 4.

<sup>23</sup>*Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen*, (Berlin: Verlag des Königlich statistischen Landesamts, 1907-1909), 5:2-3. Column headings were translated by John Kulas. These column headings are consistent through all the volumes of the *Gemeindelexikon*, so researchers can use these heading translations when researching their own ancestral village in other volumes.

*Reichsräte vertretenen Königreiche und Länder* [Gazetteer of the Crown Lands and Territories Represented in the Imperial Council]<sup>24</sup> Because Janków Zaleśny was in the Prussian partition it is, of course, not listed in this reference work.

### Other Polish Language Sources

**Diocesan church directories.** Every serious family history researcher will sooner or later make a trip or two (or more) to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. This library is the largest repository of genealogical records in the world. It is said to have filmed almost 80% of the 19th century church records in Poland.<sup>25</sup> I have lost track of the number of times that I visited there. On my first trip, I discovered that the collection included directories of all of the Catholic dioceses in the country including two from the Archdiocese of Poznań (published in 1968 and in 1976--perhaps they now have more recent directories). The 1968 publication describes the parish at Janków Zaleśny:<sup>26</sup>

**6. JANKÓW ZALEŚNY**, village. Church of Saint Adalbert (św. Wojciecha).

The date when the parish was founded is unknown. Probably it was founded by the archbishops in the 13th or 14th centuries. Records indicate Vicar Marcin first mentioned it in 1407.

The original wooden structure burned in the second half of the 17th century. Its replacement, also of wood, was consecrated in 1670 by Suffragan Bishop Maciej Kurski of Poznań. This building was subsequently destroyed by fire in the early part of the 18th century. The third consecutive wood church was built by Pastor Maciej Rybczyński in 1715. Construction of a new temple was begun in 1905 and completed in 1907. Bishop Suffragan Likowski consecrated it in 1908; it is a Romanesque, brick, triple-naved church with a steeple. The main Renaissance altar contains a famous, miraculous icon of Our Lady, first mentioned in the year 1715. The vault over the central nave is decorated with pictures in the shape of medallions, depicting the four Evangelists.

During the last war the church was turned into a warehouse. After the war it was renovated and refurbished partly with polychrome frescos.

Observes: The feasts of St. Joseph, St. Adalbert, and the Birth of the Virgin Mary.

Serves: Baszyny (2), Cegły (2), Daniszyn (4), Dusznagórka (6), Janków Zaleśny, Jędrzejowski (4), Łakociny (4), Mazury (6), Orpizew (4), Roszki (8), Sulisław (2), Świnków (4), Ugrzele (4), Witki (5).<sup>27</sup>

Pastor: Rev. Stanisław Radziejewski, born 1915, ordained 18 October 1942, installed 1964.



### ZA WOLNOŚĆ--TO FREEDOM

This monument "to freedom" was erected by the citizens of Janków Zaleśny in a garden in back of the parish church to commemorate the 1918 uprising against German occupation. German troops destroyed the monument during WWII. It was rebuilt in 1948, thirty years after its original dedication. Photo by PTK.

Janków Zaleśny is in the county of Ostrów Wielkopolska, its post office is in Raszków, the railroad station is in Łakociny (4.5) or Daniszyn (3.5), its telephone is Daniszyn 84-93.

Assistants: Rev. Medard Matusz, born 1941, ordained 19 May 1967, installed 1967. Rev. Andrzej Paszyński, born 1941, ordained 20 May 1967, installed 1967.

Public chapel, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Roszki, wooden-frame (barrack) construction, founded in 1946.

The 1976 archdiocesan directory entry for Janków Zaleśny reads much the same as the above. It has the

same pastor but a new assistant—Rev. Andrzej Leda. The chapel at Roszki now has a assigned priest—Rev. Józef Mizgalski. It gives the address for the church at Janków—Janków Zalesny 63-440, Raszków, gm. Raszków, woj. Kalisz. It states that the parish cemetery is 0.51 hectares in size and is 0.3 km. from the church, that catechism classes are held in Janków Zalesny, Roszki and Łakociny, and that the rectory was built in 1905 and is in good condition.<sup>28</sup>

**Travel guidebooks.** In addition to traveling to Salt Lake City, dedicated family historians will also want to make at least one trip to Washington D.C. to research passenger lists at the National Archives. On one of my trips there, I also went to the Library of Congress to see if I could find anything of interest regarding my ancestral villages in Poland. It was here that I first came across *Słownik geograficzny* (in its originally published 15 volume book form). In addition, I discovered several Polish language travel guidebooks that covered my area of interest. The following is a translation concerning Janków Zalesny that I found in one of them:<sup>29</sup>

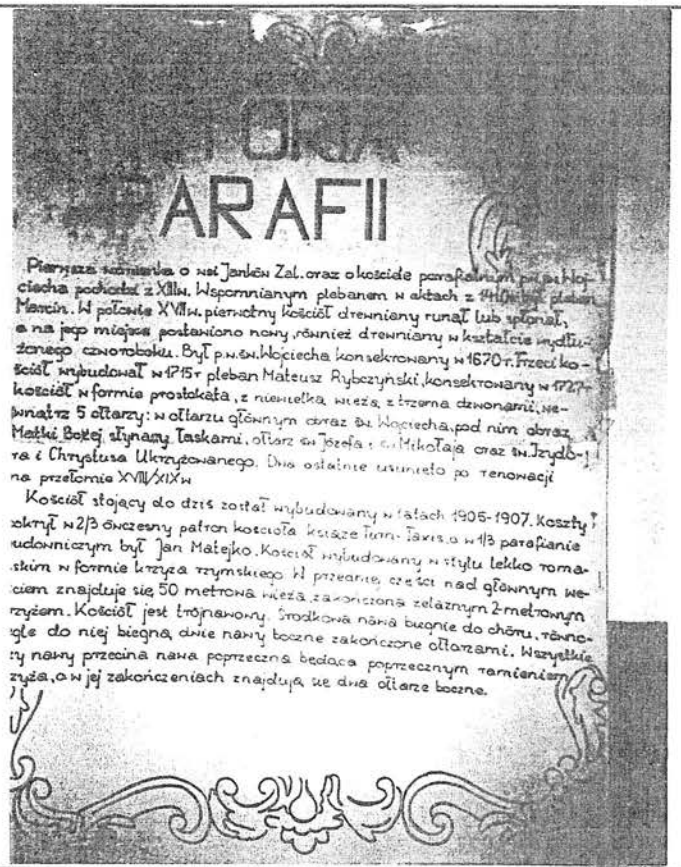
**JANKÓW ZALEŚNY** is a village on Ku-roch Brook, 12 kilometers northwest of Ostrowa in Wielkopolska. There is a PKS bus stop on the Ostrowa Wlkp. line: Przybysławice to Krotoszyn. It has a bar (pub) “Zacisze” rated category 4.

This village has been in existence for a very long time. In the year 1246, Przemysł I, cast out the claims of Janko<sup>30</sup> and Przybina Lenardowic to it and confirmed it a property of the Gniezno Archbishops. From the second half of the 15th century it became the crown lands under the jurisdiction of the Odolanowski starost (district).

In the southern part of the village, on the Ku-roch, there are barely perceptible traces/origins of a quadrilateral settlement. It has a neo-Gothic church from the year 1908 with a polychrome interior by Waclaw Taranczewski dated 1945. In the main altar is an 18th century painting of St. Joseph. Behind the church is a monument to the Wielkopolski uprising, rebuilt in 1948 after being destroyed by the Nazis.

In the forest, 3.5 km. west of Janków is another settlement/ ruins, concave with a circumference of 190 meters with an embankment 3 meters high. There is a folk legend about lost treasure and a church which apparently existed there. The best access to the ruins is at the PKS bus stop by the school in Niemojewiec—west to the edge of the forest, then 300 meters through the forest in the same direction.

**Church histories.** After you gather information about your ancestral village you certainly will want to



A history of the parish is displayed in the vestibule of the parish church in Janków Zalesny. This is a common practice in European rural churches. Photo by PTK.

make a pilgrimage to Poland and see it for yourself. I have visited Poland on four occasions and Janków Zalesny twice, the last time in October 1998. You will want to take photographs of the church where your ancestors were baptized and see if you can find relatives. Often European rural churches have a history of

<sup>24</sup>*Gemeindelexikon der im Reichsrate vertretenen Königreiche und Länder*, (Vienna: K.K. Statistischen Zentralkommission, 1907). Volume 9 (film #: 1197927) includes that small portion of Greater Silesia governed by Austria—most of Silesia was governed by Prussia. Volume 10 (film# 1187928) covers Galicia.

<sup>25</sup>The 80% figure is attributed to Fay Dearden. See: “The Bulletin Board,” *PGS-MN Newsletter* 2 no. 2 (Summer 1994): 3.

<sup>26</sup>*Rocznik Archidiecezji Poznańskiej na Rok Tysiąclecia*, [Annual of the Poznan Archdiocese for the 1,000 Anniversary, 1966]. (Poznań: Archidiecezji Poznańskiej, 1968), 342. The information about Janków Zalesny was translated by Walter Kornel Kondy.

<sup>27</sup>The numbers in parentheses are the distances (in kilometers) from Janków.

<sup>28</sup>[Annual for the Poznań Archdiocese for the year 1976], 238. The information about Janków Zalesny was translated by Walter Kornel Kondy.

<sup>29</sup>Paweł Anders, *Kalisz i Okolice: Przewodnik* [Kalisz and its environs: a guidebook] (Poznań: Poznań Publishers, 1980), 117. Entry concerning Janków Zalesny was translated by Walter Kornel Kondy.

<sup>30</sup>Janków Zalesny is quite probably named after him.

the parish somewhere in the church. Look for it. The following is a translation of the parish history displayed in the vestibule of the Janków parish church:<sup>31</sup>

### HISTORY OF THE PARISH

The village Janków Zalesny as well as the parish church, named St. Adalbert (sw. Wojciecha) were first mentioned in the 13th century. Vicar Marcin was first mentioned in documents in the year 1410. In the first half of the 17th century, the original wooden church either collapsed or burned and in its place a new one, likewise wooden, in an elongated, quadrilateral form was erected. St. Adalbert's was consecrated in 1670. The third church was built by Vicar Mateusz (Matthew) Rybczyński in 1715. It was consecrated in the year 1727. The edifice was built in the form of a rectangle, with a small spire with three bells. The interior contained 5 altars: the main altar featured a painting of St. Adalbert and below it a miraculous icon of Our Lady; and altars to St. Joseph; St. Nicholas; St. Isidore; and Christ on the Cross. The last two altars were removed during renovations at the turn of the 18th/19th centuries.

The present structure was built during the years 1905-1907. Two thirds of the cost was covered by the patron Prince Turn-Taxis and one third by the parishioners. Jan Matejko<sup>32</sup> was the architect. It was built in a light Romanesque style in the shape of a Roman cross. Above the main portal is a spire 50 meters high topped by an iron cross. The church contains three naves. The central nave extends to the choir, while the two side naves end in altars. All naves are bisected by a transverse nave constituting the transverse arm of the cross. At each end are side altars.

**County and local histories.** Around the turn of the century in Europe (as in America), many county and local histories were published. We have in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library a bibliography that lists many of those that were published in Poland.<sup>33</sup> In it I found the following listing:<sup>34</sup>

490. **Łukaszewicz Józef:** *Krótki historyczno-statystyczny opis miast i wsi w ksziesiejszym powiecie krotoszyńskim od najdawniejszych czasów aż po rok 1794. Przez ....* [A brief historico-statistical description of the towns and villages in present-day Krotoszyn county, from the earliest times up to 1794. By ...]. Vol. 1-2. Poznań, 1869-1875. J. K. Żupański, 4 unnumb., 470, 2 unnumb.; XXXII, 263, 1 tabl.

This is a reference to a two volume history of Krotoszyn county. Since part of Janków Zalesny was in Krotoszyn county (as were all of my other Polish

ancestral villages), I have been anxious to get a hold of a copy. However, the inter-library loan services at both Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota and my local Hennepin County Library so far have been unable to locate it. Perhaps I need to check the second-hand bookstores in Poland on my next visit.

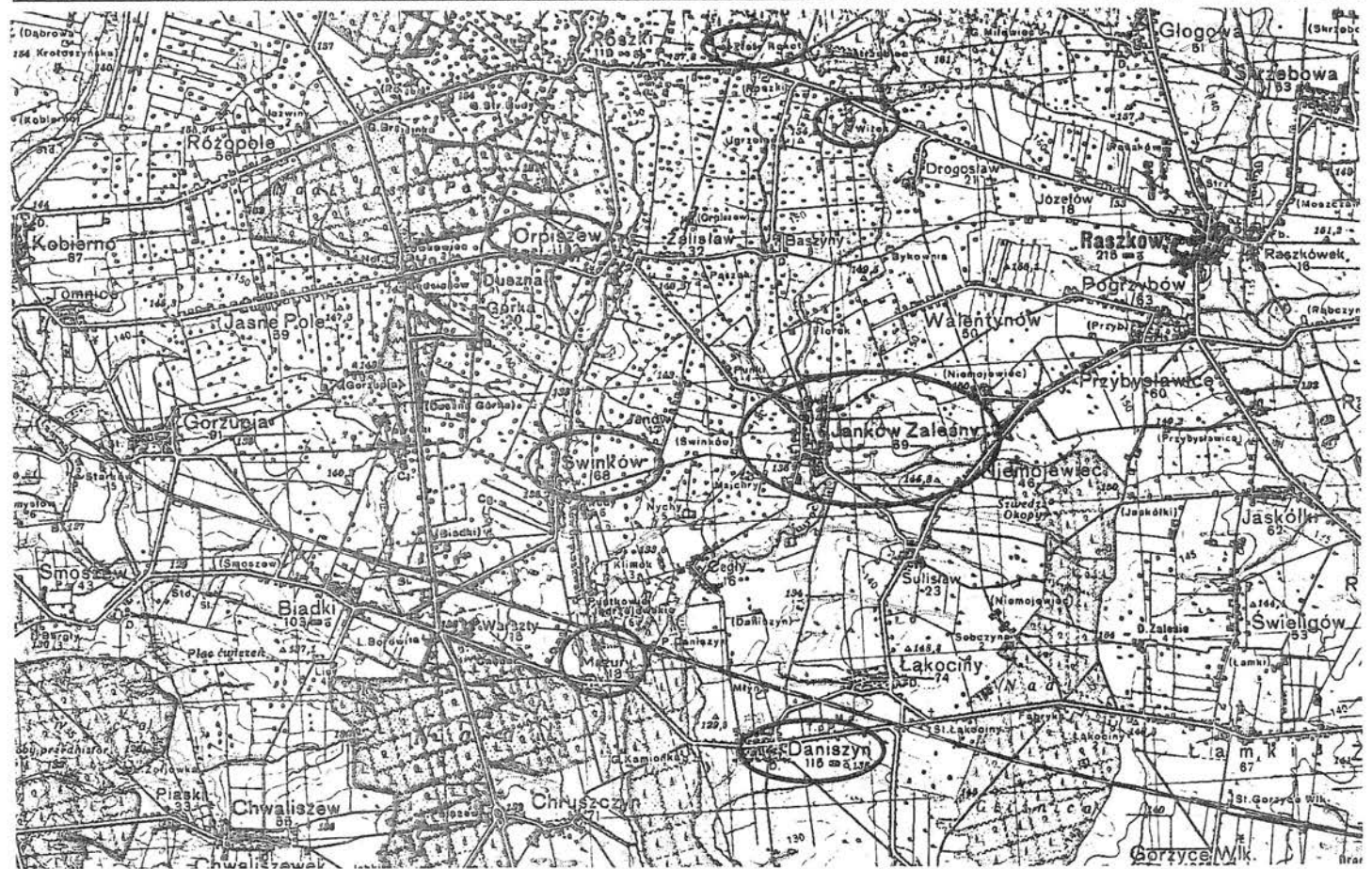
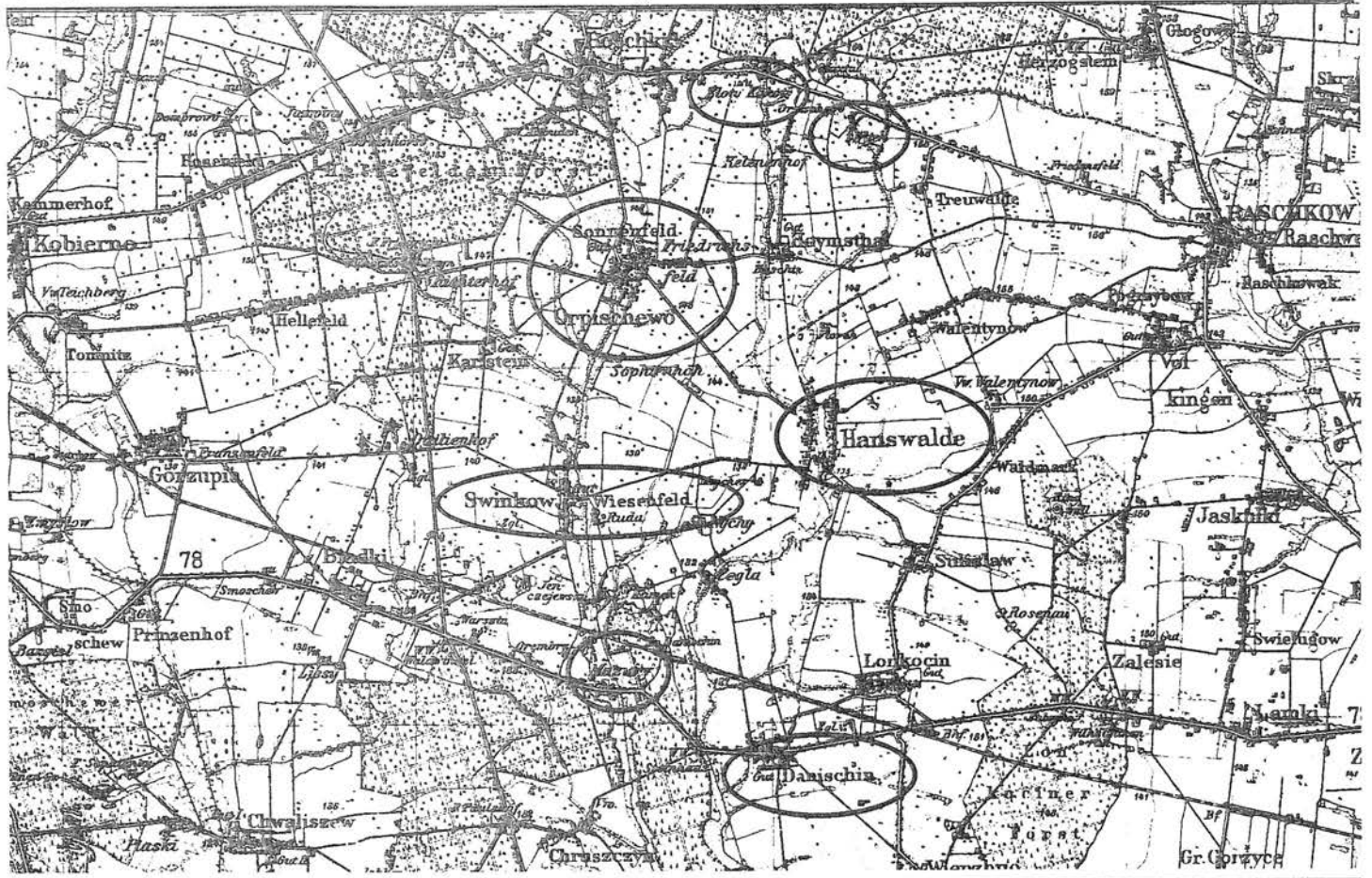
As you can see by the sources discussed in this article, there are many different places to find information about your ancestral village. Taken together they can provide a picture of the village of your ancestors. **When you have researched these sources, I hope that you too will put together an article such as this one and submit it for publication in this newsletter.**

<sup>31</sup>Translated by Walter Kornel Kondy.

<sup>32</sup>Jan Matejko was famous for his paintings of massive heroic historic scenes. I don't know if the architect and the artist were one and the same. The artist died in 1893, so it is unlikely—though he may have drawn up the architectural plans for the church before his death. Perhaps they were father and son.

<sup>33</sup>Edward A. Peckwas, *A Historical Bibliography of Polish Towns, Villages, and Regions* (except Warsaw and Krakow) (Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society, 1990). This work was based on *Katalog Antykwareczny: Cennik 15* compiled by Wiktor Kaźmierczak and published in 1971 by Centrala Księgarstwa "Dom Książki" [the main office of the Dom Książki booksellers]. It served as a price-list for second hand books and as such it is perhaps not a complete listing of all published Polish local histories—but it is very extensive. A copy of this work is available in the Polish collection at the MGS Library. <sup>34</sup>*Ibid.*, 42.

The maps at right were obtained from the Borchart Map Library at the University of Minnesota. The top map, a portion of *no. 375, Krotoschin*, is from the series "Karte des deutschen Reiches" (Maps of the German Empire). It is on a scale of 1:100,000 and is based on a Prussian land survey of 1889. Thus, this series depicts the landscape as it existed at the time when most of our ancestors emigrated from Poland. The bottom map, a portion of *PAS 42, SLUP 25, Krotoszyn*, is from a Polish map series published in 1934. These maps are of the same area and the same scale as the German Empire maps. When the appropriate German and Polish maps are placed next to each other, one can see at a glance the German and Polish spellings of the various villages. The village of my Kulas and Gmur ancestors, **Janków Zalesny**, is shown as Hanswalde on the German map. Other ancestral villages in Janków parish are circled and include: **Witek**--the home of my Witek ancestors; **Złoty Kokot**--the home of my Kokot ancestors; **Orpizew**--the home of my Karcmarz ancestors; **Swinków**--the home of my Skotarz ancestors; **Mazury**--the home of my Mazur ancestors and **Daniszyn**--the original home of my Duczmal ancestors. For additional information about these ancestral surnames see: Paul Kulas "The Kulas Family in Janków Zalesny," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, (Winter 1997-98): 12 and idem. "Meanings of Polish Surnames," *Ibid.* 13-14.



## NEW FILMS OF OPOLE DIOCESE

by Ed Brandt

The German genealogical periodical, *Ostdeutsche Familienkunde* (Oct.-Dec. 1998), reports that the Family History Center, in 1996-98, filmed all available Catholic parish registers of the diocese of Opole (German: Oppeln) which were begun prior to 1921. Some of these films also include later entries.

This area had a very substantial mixture of Poles and Germans in the nineteenth century, with my pre-World War I German encyclopedia showing that the linguistic boundary (reflecting the primary language spoken by the majority of residents, since no sharp dividing line was possible) ran right through the heart of this diocese.

The parishes mentioned below are listed by their German names. I have added the current Polish names in parentheses, based on Kaemmerer's gazetteer, the *Euro-Atlas Polska: Atlas Dragowy*, and other reference works.

These should soon be available at Family History Centers if that is not the case already. I suggest that you check the catalog under both Poland and Germany. If you can't find the parish register for which you are looking, you can find out whether the register has been filmed, and even order it before it has been cataloged, by writing to the Family History Library, 35 N. West Temple St., Salt Lake City, UT 84150.

The FHL had already filmed many of these registers around 1970. However, at that time, filming was limited to pre-1871 registers. Furthermore, some early registers were not filmed at that time, either because they were missing or because the more suspicious mentality during the Communist period led to less than complete cooperation.

Thus well over 500 additional films are becoming available now. It appears that the films are still somewhat less than 100% complete, because some registers (or parts of them) are still missing as a result of wartime destruction or damage, poor storage, or because irresponsible "researchers" cut out certain pages or even took an entire register.

The periodical suggests that the worst loss is that of the oldest registers for the parish of Falkowitz or Falkendorf (Fałkowice), which the then pastor had reported were still on hand in 1958.

On the other hand, the recent filming resulted in the discovery of parish registers which had previously been reported to have been destroyed, e.g., for Breitenmarkt (Sieraków), Brinnitz or Brünne (Brynica), Giersdorf (either Gałęczycze or Gierałcice), Gross Pluschnitz or Marklinden (Płużnica Wielka), Guttentag (Dobrodzień), Kerpen (Kierpień), Oberglogau (Głogówek) and Patschkau (Paczków). There were actually seven Silesian villages called

Giersdorf, but I have listed the two in Upper Silesia (German: *Oberschlesien*).

A few Evangelical (merged Lutheran-Reformed) registers, e.g., for Plümkenau (Radomierowice) and Leobschütz (Głubczyce), were also found. There were and still are some Polish Lutherans in Silesia, although I don't know whether there were any in these particular parishes.

All of the places mentioned were in the counties (Polish: *powiat*; German: *Kreis*) of Gross Strehlitz (Strzelce Opolskie), Grottkau (Grodzów), Guttentag (Lubliniec), Leobschütz (Głubczyce), Neustadt (Prudnik), Neisse (Nysa) and Oppeln (Opole). These were in the eastern part of interwar Germany.

Guttentag is listed as a county by Kaemmerer, but not in the *Genealogical Guide to German Ancestors from East Germany and Eastern Europe*. The localities attributed to that county are, however, shown in *Polska: Atlas Dragowy* as east of Opole in what was a Polish-majority area. There may have been a reorganization or renaming of counties right on the interwar Polish-German boundary.

---

## 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](mailto:kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us)*

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

**Annette Alderson**, 5316 Clinton Av. S., Minneapolis, MN 55419 is researching TUROSTOWSKI in Prussia and LANGE in Poznan and both in St. Paul.

**Sandra L. Batalden**, 1118 E. Laguna Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282-5516, e-mail: [sandrabatalden@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrabatalden@yahoo.com) is researching BUDZISZ/BUDISH in Puck, Gdańsk, Hel peninsula, and northern Kaszubia and in Perham, Ottertail County, MN, Duluth and Minneapolis, MN, ZIOŁKOWSKI in Kaszubia and in Perham and in Minnesota in general, PARCHEM in Puck (Gdańsk), Hel peninsula, northern Kaszubia and in Perham, Duluth and St. Paul, ORZEL in Puck (Gdańsk), Hel peninsula, northern Kaszubia and in Perham.

**Jim Bogut**, 3943 Van Dyke St., Saint Paul, MN 55110-4350 is researching Albert MALECKI, 1872-1939 and Rozalie PODGORSKI, 1871-1928 in Poland and in Mpls. and St. Paul, MN.

**Jim & Charlotte Bzoskie**, 311 State St., Hastings MN 55033-1038, e-mail: [Charley106@aol.com](mailto:Charley106@aol.com) and [JamesB3453@aol.com](mailto:JamesB3453@aol.com) are researching BZOSKI, BZOWSKI in Bierdrusko, Poland (18 km. from Pozan) and in central and south central Minnesota.

**Vivian Chamberlain**, 32710 Maplewood, Garden City, MI 48135, e-mail: 102662.260@Compuserve.com is researching JARNOT in Kety, Katowice and in Holdingford, MN and WADNIZAK in Posen and in North Dakota.

**Irene Colston**, 5357 - 35th Ave. So., Minneapolis MN, 55417-2121 is researching LEO JAWORSKI, born 1872, in Biskupitz, Thorn County, Prussia/Poland and MAGDALENA, born 1846, and APOLONIA MASTERSKA, born 1875, in Lubiankau, Thorn County, Prussia/Poland.

**Rose Marie Kloskowski Erhart**, 910 8th Ave W. Pine City, MN 55063 is a new member. She writes: "I enjoy reading the *Pol-Am Newsletter* and I was thrilled to read about your presentation of the Polish churches of rural Minnesota. I was raised in Holdingford, MN. My mother was the housekeeper of Rev. John Kromolicki, the last Polish-born pastor of St. Hedwig's. He was a great patriot and a great man. He did so much for the town and parish. There is a wealth of knowledge to learn from the Polish Catholic churches in Minnesota and that is great legacy for our grandchildren. I would be happy to help you in any research possible. Thank you for all your efforts."

**Karen Erickson**, W10822 690th Ave., River Falls, WI 54022 is researching BURZINSKI, HOPPA surnames.

**Robert L. Graff**, Route 3, Box 31, Beatrice, NE 68310 is researching the MUSIALOWSKI surname. Mary Musialowska SNYDER (it could also be spelled SCHNEIDER) located in the Waukegan-Chicago area with a sister, Nepomocena Musialowska WERNER, after leaving New York in 1877. Nepomocena Werner then located in Beatrice, Nebraska. They came from the Posen area of Poland. Mary Musialowska Snyder had a daughter also named Mary. She married but he does not have her husband's name. He has a picture of her with her two children, Julia and her younger brother, Joseph (probable location would be Waukegan, IL). Mary would have been born around 1870 to 1880 and her two children then being born around the turn of the century.

**Carolyn Grygla**, 15250 74th Av. N., Maple Grove, MN 55311 is researching GRYGLASZEWSKI, KO-CIEMSKI in Poland and in Chicago and in Minnesota.

**Dan Hines**, 599 W 8th St., New Richmond, WI 54017, e-mail: danhines@Hotmail.com is researching GLAB in Poland and in Chicago, IL.

**Tom & Barb Kaminski**, 4002 Allendale Ave., Duluth, MN 55803 are researching KAMINSKI,

BUDZYNSKI/RUDZYNSKI in Poznan, Poland and in McLeod and Morrison counties in Minnesota.

**Ray Karels**, 3612 Oakland Ave S., Mpls., MN 55407, e-mail: LqPCoGen@aol.com is researching WALL-SCHLAGER, ROGGENBUCK, SCHUELKE, KANTHAK, STOICK in Kreis Schlochau, West Prussia--now part of Poland and in Lac qui Parle Co. and Carver Co., MN.

**Gerald Keeville**, 9120 Barrington Terrace, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 is researching WREZA and LESNAU surnames.

**Sheldon Klasky**, 4623 Casco Ave., Edina, MN 55424 is a new member. He writes: "I found reference to your society on the Internet and am writing therefore. My wife's father, surnamed GETZ, aged 86 was born in Lodz, Poland in September 1913. His maternal grandmother, Mrs. SCHEINERMAN(?) owned a fruit and vegetable store in the Jewish section of Lodz at that time. My father-in-law and his mother and sister left Lodz in about 1916 to immigrate to America. His father and two older brothers came about eight years later. My wife and I will be visiting Lodz this summer and would like to visit anything or anyone who might be related to the Getzes, Scheinermans, or the store that his grandmother had. This is the only information that I have. I realize that it is improbable that you will be able to help me, but in case you can, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you very much."

**Eileen Kosarek**, 3974 W. 31 Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6S 1Y5 Canada is researching RETKA, MEGER, LEPINSKY, LOBIN, MICHA, PLONSKI, STIPP, ZIEMANN, MALINSKI and PAUL, all from Sochaczew and in Minnesota.

**Raymond Laubsted**, 5 South 440 Scots Drive, Naperville IL 60563, e-mail: rlaubsted@juno.com writes: "I am attempting to find relatives of my grandfather HEINRICH KRAKOSKI, b. 5 Nov. 1873 in Bilsowa, Kalish, Russia/Poland. He came to America in 1913 bringing AMELIA DAMS nee GEHRING, b. about 1884 in Scharlatomo, Kalish, Russia/Poland; children: Martha Dams, b. about 1907; Herman Dams, b. about 1909; Edward Dams, b. about 1910; Robert Dams, b. about 1911; niece: HELENA KRAKOSKI, b. about 1896 (father, LUDWIG KRAKOSKI); and HELENA DAMS, b. about 1895 in Bilsowa, Kalish, Russia/Poland. Amelia Gehring was married to LUDWIG DAMS. When he died she married Ludwig's brother KARL DAMS and they had a daughter, Ruth GREEN. He also had two daughters by his first wife, Emily and Emma. I understand that we are related to some GROSSES in Pound, Wisconsin. I heard that Helena Krakoski and Helena Dams settled in Minnesota but I

don't know where. Any information you can supply or suggestions you can make will be greatly appreciated."

**Amy Schauer Nelson**, 1610 N. 23rd St. # 4, Bismarck, ND 58501, e-mail: ndfhc2@usa.net is researching TAZSAREK, BLACZYK surnames in Zerlof, Poznan and in North Dakota.

**Marylea Osier**, 3950 Orchard Ave. N., Robbinsdale, MN 55422 is researching CZECH, CHALUPA, CERNY, DUFEK in Moravia and in central Nebraska.

**Gregory Oziemkiewicz**, 4225 Valley Dr. NW, Rochester MN 55901 is researching ZUBER in Czechy, Poland and also OZIEMKIEWICZ, ROGOWSKI, MAJ, EKERT, FONFARA, SOCHA and CISLO.

**Mary Ann Quade**, 10412 Cty Rd 81, Osseo, MN 55369 is researching STACHOWSKI, SMELTER surnames.

**Charles & Jeanne Robinson**, 5312 Clinton Ave., Minneapolis MN 55419, e-mail: robinson@macalester.edu are researching JUETTNER/JÜTTNER, ALICH/

AHLICH, SCHUBERT in Silesia and Prussia and in Minneapolis and Farmington.

**Bill & Marge Rutchasky**, 8030 Orr - Buyck Rd., Buyck, MN 55771 are researching RUTCHASKY in Poland and in Illinois and Buyck, MN.

**Wanda Westphall**, 9917 Anawanda Path, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 is researching ZAMYSLOWSKI and NIEZGOCKI surnames.

**Dorothy L. Williams**, 20th Century Research, 6417 Dallas Way, Suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95823-1529 is a new member.

**Dick Zelenski**, 529 29th Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901-2381, e-mail: dickz@spare.isl.net is researching ZIELENSKI in Lesna Jania, Gdansk and in WI and IL, GAJDUS/GAIDES in Lalkowy, Gdansk and in Chicago, IL, WISNIEWSKI in Malocin, Bydgoszcz and in WI and MN, WOLSKI in Lesna Jania, Gdansk and in WI and IL and GARDZIELEWSKI in Franca, Gdansk and in Chicago.

**Correction to: "Missing Branches,"** Winter 1998-99, p. 20. The e-mail address for **Bruno C. Syzdek** should read: BSYZDEK@AOL.COM

## Little Annie's Tavern:



**Little Annie Norlock** in front of her famous tavern hotel on the Opeongo Line. She operated her stopping place at the foot of a steep hill known as "Bull's Run" (See story on pp. 6-9). Drawing by Shirley Mask Connolly.

Minnesota Genealogical Society  
*Polish Genealogical Society*  
*of Minnesota*  
5768 Olson Memorial Hwy.  
Golden Valley MN 55422

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 28318

Paul Kulas 9992  
12008 West River Road  
Champlin, MN 55316-