



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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NUMBER 2

A VISIT TO BUYCK

By Greg Kishel

Readers of the *PGS-MN Newsletter* will recall my two articles on the small community of Buyck, in far northeastern St. Louis County, in our winter, 1998 issue. Inspired by my father's stories of his childhood visits with family friends there, but having no personal connection or familiarity with the town, I did a census-based study of its earliest settlement. Then, last Labor Day weekend, I drove up to transcribe the heavily Polish-American side of Buyck's cemetery. When I stopped for a can of pop at the Pumpkin Shell, location of the local contract postal station, proprietress Linda Redmond smilingly assured me that there were "still a lotta Polacks around Buyck."

I recognized an opportunity that promised to be of benefit to both the PGS-MN and the local community. On my return to St. Paul, I found that Marge Rutchasky was the Buyck correspondent for the *Cook News-Herald*. I sent Marge a copy of the newsletter issue with my articles, and a letter to introduce the PGS-MN and my personal interest in the area. I'd expected perhaps a mention in Marge's weekly community column, and a little help with further research. Instead, I got a letter packed with suggestions about local contacts, a membership application for her and her husband, and an invitation to come up for a historically-themed get-together and potluck Polish lunch.

I was finally able to block out the weekend of April 17-18 from commitments for work and on the home front, and let Marge know that I could make it up. Unfortunately, my son came down with a late-season case of the flu the day before, so I was unable to take my family when I drove to Virginia on Friday. My mother, Kathleen Kishel, was still ready to accompany me, so we made the hour's drive to Buyck on a cool, cloudy, but dry Saturday morning.

Marge was already in attendance at the Portage Inn, the restaurant on Highway 23 in Buyck that she owns and operates. At her suggestion, she accompanied us on a ride down a couple of the township roads on which the earliest Polish settlers had homesteaded. We stopped at the Parzyck farm; Frank Parzyck showed me the surviving school building (one of three one-roomers that the township had in its earlier years), which his family now uses for a bunkhouse for the fishing and hunting seasons. We passed the later-built consolidated school building and several of the old

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

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President's Letter

by Greg Kishel

Recently I spent several pleasant hours reading John Radzilowski's dissertation for the Ph.D. program at Arizona State University. *Hidden Cosmos: The Life-Worlds of Polish Immigrants in Two Minnesota Communities, 1875-1925* is a comparative study of the early experiences of Polish immigrants in the Wilno-Ivanhoe-Taunton area of rural south-western Minnesota and in Wojciechowo, the neighborhood surrounding St. Adalbert's Church in St. Paul's Frogtown. Covering immigration, settlement, and community-building over a period of five decades, John identifies many emblematic aspects of the Polonian experience in the North Star State. He's documented some surprising conclusions about these communities. (They include the fact that most of the members of St. Paul's Wojciechowo from 1875 to 1900 were artisans, skilled laborers, and tradespeople--contrary to the popular image of the unskilled, semi-literate "industrial peasant" usually attached to early urban Polish-Americans. Take a look yourself for more of John's findings--he's donated a hardbound copy of the dissertation to the PGS-MN library and it should be shelved at MGS by the time you receive this issue of our newsletter.)

To my knowledge, John's is the first book-length treatment of any aspect of the history of Polish Americans in Minnesota. He readily admits that his study was limited by the strictures of time, doctoral-program requirements, and his other professional commitments. Several of us have encouraged John to try to get it professionally published, at least in a revised version, and we can only hope that he will accede.

His production of this work raises the obvious query: darn it, why isn't there a book length, modern, comprehensive treatment of Polonia across Minnesota, like there is for several other states and a Canadian province or two? One reason is virtually self-evident--before 1990, there was no organized interest focused on Polish-American history or genealogy in our state, and at no time had there ever been more than one or two professional historians contemporaneously working on the subject. (I do not mean to slight Minneapolis's venerable Polanie Club, which did much to preserve and publish immigrant Polish literature and culture starting in the postwar period and still does--but its focus appears never to have been on history *per se*.) This is no longer an excuse, though; as I have commented recently,

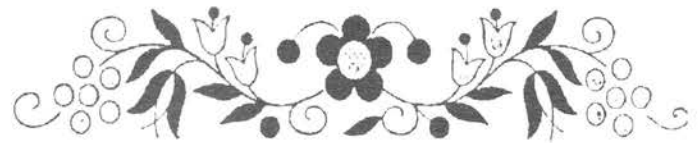
our group is becoming in some ways a *de facto* Polish American Historical Association of Minnesota, and we have a good ally in the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota that was founded about the same time as we were.

I'll acknowledge that researching, assembling, and writing such a work would be a daunting task-- especially if the author(s) were to try to produce both a good, readable narrative *and* some scholarly analysis. The subject matter would certainly be a challenge; immigrants from all different parts of partitioned Poland came to Minnesota, individually and in chain migrations, and then they settled across the state's four corners, in most every environment it offered. Minnesota Polonians took a very broad range of livelihoods, from the expected farming through factory and mill work, the skilled trades, logging, mining, and business. They founded many different sorts of community institutions, most of which persisted until the 1960s and some of which survive now. Yes, it would be one heck of a lot of work to research it all; unlike immigrants in some of the other states prominent in American Polonia, our ancestors really *diversified* both geographically and personally, in a large number of far-flung smaller communities.

Still and all, we have our starting point right here in the PGS-MN, with the local and community history that we have tried to cultivate. Several of us have developed regional and institutional specialties--Paul Kulas and Bob Prokott on central Minnesota; Paul again on parish history and southwestern Minnesota; Shirley Mask Connolly on the Winona area, St. Paul, and their connections with the Ontario Kaszubian community; Ray Marshall on Duluth; and myself on the Arrowhead Country in general and the Iron Range and northern St. Louis County in particular. We've started to publish some nice material, and there's the promise of a lot more; some of it is narrative, some analytical, and some both. It's just a start so far, and a scattershot one geographically. Nonetheless, one really hopes that it's just a matter of time before we reach that critical mass, when someone is ready to start bringing it all together.

It's a dream--but it's one to which all of you out there can contribute. Yes, writing up the local history of your family's Minnesota home communities is something that you'll probably be inclined to do only after you've gotten a large part of your personal genealogy done. That's to be expected; we all became interested in this hobby out of that intense personal curiosity over our own roots, and it's only after that's partly slaked that we start thinking about the context. Still, enough of you out there are working your way up that maybe our stable of local historians will broaden in numbers and coverage in the next year. So how about it? Can we hear from more of you? Your and your communities' stories deserve to be told; there's

no one better than you to do it. *And*, someday we all can bring it together into that big volume that the scholarly community will respect and all of us and our descendants will treasure.



The Bulletin Board

Notice: Website Update

Our website committee chair, **Mary Ellen Bruski**, has recently updated our website with over 400 new names. Check it out at: <<http://www.mtn.org/mgs/branches/polish.html>> The site lists all the surnames our current members are researching. This is another bonus of continuing membership in PGS-MN. The site is updated through surnames listed in the Spring 1999 issue of this newsletter. Members with internet access are urged to check to see if the surnames they are researching are listed and are listed accurately. The surnames listing also contains direct links to members e-mail addresses. Members also should check to see if their address is listed and accurate. Corrections and additions should be sent to Mary Ellen at: <bruski@pmlink.com>

Because internet researchers can contact members who are researching common surnames directly through the e-mail links, we have no way of knowing how many contacts have been made and how many research successes have resulted. We urge members to write up these success stories at send them to the editor of this newsletter for publication (see addresses --e-mail and regular--on page 2). Members may well have made contact with long-lost relatives through this internet site.

The site also has links to: Poland World GenWeb, FEEFHS (Federation of East European Family History Societies), KANA (Kashubian Association of North America) and through these to dozens of sites useful to Polish researchers.

Mary Ellen has spent many hours updating this website. We thank her.

PGSA Fall Conference

The Polish Genealogical Society of America will present its 21st Fall Conference, October 22-23, 1999 at Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Avenue in Chicago. The theme of the conference is "Coming to America." For further information contact: Bernadine Saelens, 277 E. Gladys Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126 or phone 630/833-1355.

Bulletin Board: continued on page 18



Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

On the internet!

Who says that surfing is a waste of time? I just discovered the Making of America site at the U. of Michigan which has over 4500 books scanned and thousands of articles from 16 or so different journals. All are from the 19th century and out of copyright-- and with a search engine to assist you in finding out if there is anything of value for you.

They are not really genealogical in nature, but some of them have fabulous stuff. I did a search on "Duluth" and came up with 54 books or articles between 1865-1900. Many of the articles were written by people who visited the area between 1868 and 1875. They have wonderful descriptions of the town as it was in those days of pioneering frontier optimism. The one area where I detected a bit of boosterish exaggeration were the discussions of climate. Had I not been born there, I would have sworn that Duluth's weather was somewhat comparable to that of Miami or Havana. Maybe our ancestors had thicker skins and/or more hair.

Being that the articles are every word indexed, if you have people who lived in small towns, you might be able to find a description of what it was like there in those days. Some of the travelogues discuss in great detail how to go about homesteading land, what it would cost, and what kinds of things you would need to stay profitable. The pro and cons of homesteading v. buying from the railroad were discussed in depth as were train schedules, ticket costs, captains of sailing vessels on the Great Lakes, etc.

For those of you who are "stuck" and can't seem to find more names, maybe the MOA site is where you might want to spend a bit of time to discover a bit about the places your relatives lived. Good luck to you all and share this with other genealogists--it is too good to pass up. The site address is: <http://www.umdl.umich.edu/moa/index.html>

Ray Marshall <raymarshall@mninter.net>

Excellent newsletter!

Thank you for printing my letter regarding our trip to Poland. We are waiting now for some word from the City Clerk of Lobzenica. We also have been viewing the Mormon films of Bartelsee. Even if we don't find out another thing, we are happy we saw this area in Poland, and feel excited to have seen the country even in the Winter. We look forward to receiving the Newsletter, as it is just excellent. Thanks again.

Bonita Erickson <ericksonb@juno.com>

Suwalki research

I read your article on Email addresses in the *PGS-MN Newsletter* (Winter 1998-99, p. 5). I have been trying for many years to get a record on a family that emigrated from Suwalki, Poland. Perhaps you have a church address for that area or some lead on a research person that could be hired to do some work for us? I have asked on the Polish Internet and no one seems able to give a response on someone reliable in that area.

Also I have written a short personal history of this family and don't know if you would be interested in it for an article in the newsletter, you would be welcome to use all or part of it if you were interested.

Joan Molesky <joanm@the-bridge.net>

Editor's reply: Regarding an e-mail address for this area: The city of Suwalki in in the Łomża diocese. I have an address for the archdiocesan archives in Poznań: <archiwum@aap.poznan.pl> Why don't you write and ask them if they know the e-mail address for the Łomża diocese archive? I have asked things like this of them, and they have been very co-operative. Expect a reply in Polish, however. But you should be able to make out the e-mail address of the Łomża archive in their reply. Good luck. Let me know if you have any success.

Regarding using your written family history in our newsletter: We are always interested in receiving items like this. Please send a copy to me at either my e-mail or regular mailing address (See page 2 in every issue). We will be happy to consider using it in the newsletter. We very much want our newsletter to reflect our member's research interests.

Diocese of Łomża e-mail address

I received a reply for the address of Suwalki from my request to <archiwum@aap.poznan.pl> They say the Łomża address is: <kuria@kuria.lomza.pl> Now I have a question. Should I send my inquiry in Polish?

Joan Molesky <joanm@the-bridge.net>

Editor's reply: It would be best if you wrote in Polish. However, if you write in English but you should expect a reply in Polish.

Editor's note: Since the above two e-mail exchanges, I have discovered several internet sites that give a great deal of information on the Catholic Church in Poland and its various dioceses including many web-site and e-mail addresses. Check out these two sites: <http://home.att.net/~Local_Catholic/Catholic-Poland.htm> and <http://maxpages.com/poland/Catholic_Research>

Where are Floth, Rebowo?

I am searching on maps for the locations of Floth in Posen province and Rebowo near Kollatsch also in Posen. What are these two towns called today?

Fr. Eugene Hackert, Gibbon MN

Editor's note: Father Hackert has been my contact in the Diocese of New Ulm. He has supplied me with information about the Polish parishes in the diocese and about the parishes of Rosen and Nassau which were settled by German-speaking Catholics from West Prussia (see PGS-MN Newsletter, Autumn 1998, pp. 9-11). He continues to supply information about research in Koczala/Flötenstein, Poland (see pp. 14-15).

Editor's reply: I checked for both Floth and Rebowo in Słownik geograficzny. Floth (Flot in Polish) was located seven kilometers north of Czarnków. It consisted of three villages: 1) Flot Królewski (that part of Flot that was crown property). 2) Flot szlachecki (that part of Flot that was property of the local noble family). 3) the Radolińska kolonia (the Radeliner Colonie--probably a colony of freemen, perhaps German colonists). The three villages together had, in the 19th century, 45 houses with 387 inhabitants--359 Protestant and 29 Catholic. The king and nobility have long ceased to exist, so the first two parts of the village no longer are separate entities. The three villages today exist with the single name of Radolinek (see map below).



I did not find Rebowo listed in Słownik. . . . I did, however, find three listings for Rebowo, one of which was located in the former Posen province. It is located south of Gostyn in the parish at Domachowo and in what was the province of Kalisz (before the 1999 provincial realignment (see pp. 18-19), (see map at right). In the 19th century it had 35 houses with 232 inhabitants--227 Catholic and 5 Protestant. I did not find anything spelled Kollatsch or Kallatsch. I am guessing that this is a corrupted spelling of Kalisz (Kalisch in German).

Great Polish URL!

I just found a great Polish site: <<http://maxpages.com.provinces>> Clicking on the "Locating Churches, Temples & Shrines in Poland" site and following the directions got me the address and even the phone # of my ancestral church in Poland!!!! Check it out!

Jerry Kolton <kolton@anoka.k12.mn.us>

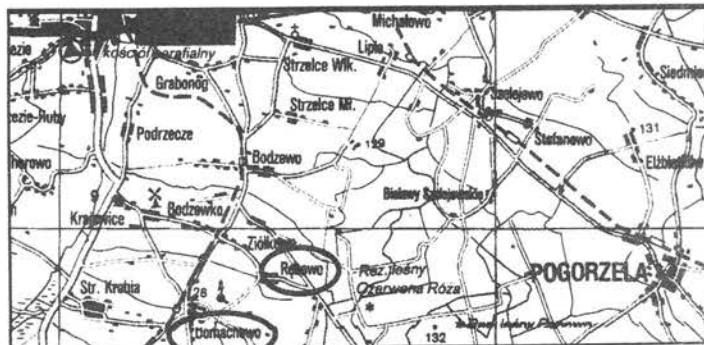
Relatives in Poland?

I am trying to do research to see if we still have relatives in Poland. I am attaching the information that I have to date: My father, John POLANSKI, was born on 9-6-1918 in Buffalo, NY. His parents came from Poland. His father, John (Jan) Polanski was born in 1874 in Kruszlowa Wyznia, Poland (father--Stanislaus Polanski, mother--Victoria STAWICKI). He married on 9-1-1900 in Chicago, IL in Holy Trinity Church. He died 2-11-1923. He was struck by a street car crossing Military Road in Buffalo and died of a head injury. He was buried in St. Stan's in Buffalo, NY. His mother, Marcyanna HOTLAS was born 1-6-1885 in Kruszlowa Niznia, Poland (father--Maceij Hotlas, mother--Malgorzata BARAN). They had a total of 9 children, only four lived past preschool age (Mary Ann born 27-4-1905, Stanisława born 3-12-1913, Władysław born 3-27-1916 and Jan Polanski, my father, born 9-6-1918). Marcyanna was widowed on 2-11-1923. She remarried on 10-20-1925 to Frank KURCZABA. She died on 5-5-1943 in Buffalo and was buried from St. Stan's. My Aunt Mary had an address in her papers: Josephine Polanski, Kamienna, Namystow, Dolny Slask or Dalny Dairen, Polska.

Cathy Polanski <T871@aol.com>

Editor's reply: Krużłowa Nizna/Wyzna is located just northeast of Nowy Sącz. Perhaps the best way to find out if you have relatives there is to write to the parish and ask if anyone with the Polanski surname still lives there. Using the website suggested by Jerry Kolton above, I found its address: Parafia Rzymsko-Katolicka p.w. Narodzenia Najświętszej Maryi Panny, Krużłowa 10, Krużłowa Wyzna, 33-325. The telephone number is: (18) 51927. Kamienna is probably located near Namysłów in Lower Silesia (Dolny Śląsk).

Letters: continued on page 7



A family saga

by *Diana Gustafson*

PGS-MN member, Portland Oregon

Several years ago, I offered to write about some of the stories I had heard concerning my Grandparents William and Hattie Cook. I never got around to it and since that time have been fortunate enough to have visited Poland, where my cousins, sister and I visited our Grandmother's birthplace--that is another story in itself.

Oh, how I wish I had been able to ask them questions about their youth in Poland. From my aunts I did learn that grandpa didn't want to talk about Poland, as his growing up years were not pleasant. Grandma kept in touch with her family in Poland, two brothers and one sister, and with her siblings in Minnesota.

Grandpa's mother died when he was very young, his father remarried and he had a wicked stepmother. He ran away when he was nine years old, moved in with a man who was a blacksmith and who taught Grandpa the trade. When Grandpa was in his early 20s he left Poland by stowing away on a ship (fact or fiction?). At one time he had a brother, Anthony, and a sister here. The sister went back to Poland and the brother to England, or vice versa. I have a portrait of Grandpa and his brother taken in New York. I am not really sure which one is which.

My maternal grandparents both came from Poland, though at different times. Grandpa Władysław KUCHARSKI (later was called William Cook) arrived from Raciay (Raciaz), Poland in 1888. Grandma Hedwig URBANIAK came with her parents from Skryebowa (Skrzebowa), Poland in January 1889. They met and married in Sturgeon Lake, Pine County, Minnesota in November 1895. Grandpa was a hard worker and he needed to be, by 1907 when my mother was born, there were seven children to feed. Grandpa farmed and at one time even went to Cuba to pick bananas. It is said that he ate so many bananas while in Cuba that upon returning to the USA he never ate another one.

Life was hard in Minnesota for Grandpa and his family. Hoping to make a better life for the family Grandpa journeyed by train to Portland, Oregon in 1905 and then on a boat west to a small village in the southwest corner of the state of Washington called Grays River. Why he picked that location, we never found out. He bought a farm and raised potatoes, fixed up a house for his family and then contacted Grandma and told her to join him. Grandpa did not read or write Polish or English, so all his correspondence was

dependent on a nice lady in Portland who did his writing for him. Grandma could read and write Polish and she wrote back and said she didn't want to leave her parents and siblings in Sturgeon Lake. Several letters went back and forth, finally Grandpa sold the farm and was heading back to Minnesota as he wanted to be with his family. When lo and behold, Grandma, their seven children and Grandma's sister Anna arrived in Portland by train.

Now Grandpa had to work fast to find a house and he did find one of sorts. It was called a Stump Ranch, because of the many stumps that covered the countryside. The house had no windows and animals had been living in it--it was a mess. Grandma took one look and burst out in tears. Luckily, she had her sister along for moral support and they made the best of a trying situation.

Grandpa and Grandma lived in the area until the middle 1940s, during that time they had eight more children. Thirteen grew up to adulthood and for the most part remained in the area. In the 1940s they moved from Grays River, to Skamokawa, Washington, nine miles east and retired to a small three acre farm where they could have a garden and a couple of cows. Grandpa died in 1953 and Grandma in 1960.

The community of Grays River had many Swedes and Finns and very few Poles. That made it difficult when the children went to school. The other children teased them and made their life miserable. When they went home their father would not let them speak English, only Polish, which made it doubly hard to learn the English language. As a result of the bad memories from her school years, my mother would not teach my sister or me Polish, or let our father speak Swedish to us. Attending school only three months out of the year also made it difficult to advance in their studies. The children were expected to help out on the farm first, and go to school second.

I became interested in genealogy in the 1970s. But being busy raising my family I didn't ask too many questions of the then living relatives, so didn't get pertinent facts on my grandparents--like where they came from in Poland.

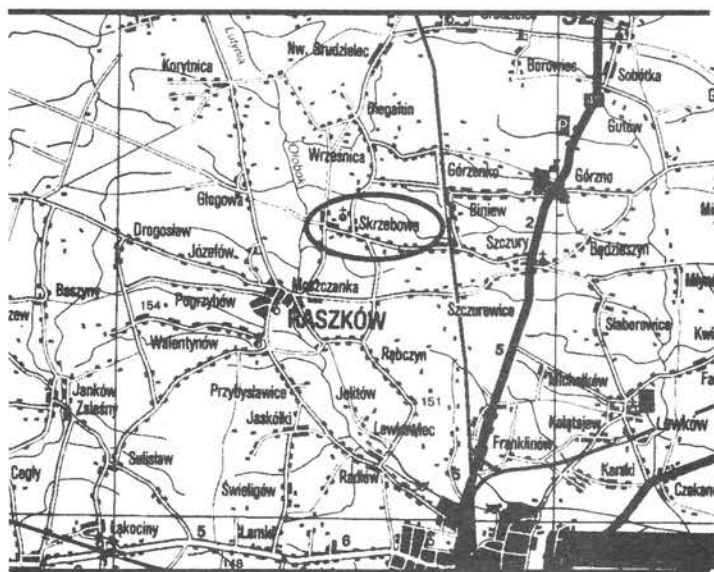
The next tale is to illustrate how important the littlest facts are. When I got serious about finding out about my grandparent's place of birth, I looked and looked through various pieces of papers I'd accumulated over the years. One particular item was a little book, like a passbook banks used to give out. In this book Grandma had written down the names and birth dates of all of their children. On the last page was her name, birthdate, and one more word that I couldn't figure

out. I glossed over that word and didn't delve into it until 1995. Finally, I found out it was a name of a village in Poland, close to Poznań--Skrzebowa.

Using that information I went to the LDS Library, sent away for films from that village and found records of my grandmother, her siblings and parents. When my sister, three cousins and I went to Poland in 1997, we visited that village, hired an interpreter and tried to find some relatives. We didn't have any luck finding relatives, but did go into the church that was there when Grandma was born. There is a stained-glass window of the Virgin Mary in the church and it is called a miracle window, because it has been in several churches that were destroyed in various ways but the window has survived. People come from miles around to pray at the window. The schoolhouse that grandma probably attended is still standing. It was a red, brick one-story building that wasn't damaged during the war. The cemetery was destroyed during the bombings of WWII, and all headstones were engraved with dates after those years. That was a huge disappointment, for some naive reason I thought bombs wouldn't touch such a sacred piece of ground.

I appreciate the opportunity to share these memories with our readers, please use any or all of this story. I would like to write about my trip to Poland at a later date.

Diana Gustafson 1565 NE 148th Ave., Portland OR 97230-4615 <gramgus@worldaccessnet.com>



Skrzebowa, the author's ancestral village is located north of Raszków about 90 km. southeast of Poznań. Map 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.

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On our Website!

Hi, I would like to sign up for membership. I am researching these surnames which came from several areas of Poland: **Trader/Treader** (there are other variations of this surname), **Tarnowski, Lepak, Wal-kowiak, Mosiniak, Sobieski, Sobczyk, Karpinski, Labuda, Wrobel, Litterski, Jakubek, Helewski**. Would you let me know if any of your back issues have any of these surnames?

Marlene <mmolisee@idcnet.com>

*Editor's reply: Welcome to PGS-MN. We have no comprehensive index to all surnames that have appeared in our newsletter. This is a project that we are working on and hope to complete by the year's end. We do have the surnames our current members are researching listed on our webpage on the internet. A check of the site indicates that **Trader, Tarnowski, Sobieski, Lepak, Literski, Jakubik, Helewski and Mosiniak** are all surnames that at least one of our members are researching. Our website lists the issues in which these names appeared and also has links to the member's e-mail address if they have one.*

Silesian research

I've been a member of PGS-MN for several years now. I've done research with Bob Prokott on the Upper Silesia area. My relatives are from Falkowice. They immigrated in 1870 to the Royalton/North Prairie/Little Falls area of central Minnesota. The surnames that I am researching and have info on are **STODOLKA** and **KARASH**.

Mike Stodolka <shed@mn.uswest.net>

New translation manual coming

Jonathan Shea and I are putting together a translation manual, kind of like *Following the Paper Trail* but dealing only with Polish, German, Russian, and Latin. We're including sample entries from various gazetteers in Polish, German, and Russian, to give people an idea what they look like and how to use them.

I noticed you wrote in Spring 1999 about Jankow Zalesny/Hanswalde, and translated entries from the *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrslexikon* and the *Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preussen*. I just wondered if you would happen to have a photocopy of the entries from those gazetteers we could reproduce? We'd be glad to credit you and PGS-MN in the text for the sample.

Thanks!

William F. Hoffman

<WFHOFFMAN@prodigy.net>

In Search of Polish Grandparents

by Cecelia McKeig
PGS-MN member, Federal Dam MN

In 1990, the principal of the school where I work came back from Poland with wonderful stories and pictures of his success in finding his family roots in Poland. I thought maybe I could do the same.

I wrote my principal's contact in Poland and asked if a single woman could travel safely to Poland and search out the areas where my ancestors lived before emigrating to America. A gracious reply came back--yes, but stay with us and we will be your hosts for your trip. Since I didn't know the language and I would be alone, I eagerly accepted their suggestion and made plans for the trip in August of 1992.

I flew first to Frankfurt, Germany and stayed with friends in the Rhine area. After getting my bearings and adjusting to the time difference, I caught a train from Frankfurt to Berlin. I had very little time to switch trains in Berlin and learned to my astonishment that I had to change stations as well in Berlin to be able to continue east to Poland. With only minutes to spare and a fast run down the platform to the train, I made it just in time to my sleeper for the overnight trip from Berlin to Gdańsk, Poland.

We left Berlin about 10:00 p.m. and arrived at 4:30 a.m. at Gdańsk. My sleeper consisted of a car with six berths stacked three-high. I was one of very few women on the train, so I had to share the compartment with several men. The train was adequate but very bare. By American standards, it was pretty austere with only an army blanket and a pillow for the night.

I arrived at Gdańsk in the early dawn hours. It was

cool and just turning light as the train pulled into the station. Dr. Kaczmarek, my host, was supposed to meet me on the platform. I pushed the window down and looked up and down the platform. Other passengers were gathering up their belongings and heading down the stairs to the depot. When there was no one else left, I walked slowly down the platform and also headed for the stairs. As I came through the tunnel into the depot, I looked around. There I was in my bright green London Fog raincoat with my green American Tourister luggage, gazing around at a room that was totally brown and gray. About a dozen people sat around on benches in the waiting room, looking at me with a bored sort of objectivity. No one offered any assistance. I just stood there wondering what in the world I should do next! When I was about to despair, Dr. Kaczmarek burst through the door offering apologies for being delayed but assuring me that all would now be okay.

After a few days of sightseeing in the Gdańsk area, we began our search in earnest for the villages of my ancestors. He had made some inquiries before I came. Our first stop was at the National Archives in Gdańsk. It was an imposing building with high ceilings--so quiet that one could hear a pin drop. We whispered when we needed to converse. However, the assistant was very gracious and brought out some huge volumes from 1894 with information about the villages in Poland. We determined the location of Gowidlino, Kończewice and Warszewice and gathered some details about them.

A day later we headed for our first village, Gowidlino. It was in Kashubia--a beautiful area with lakes and hills that reminded me of Wisconsin. We stopped at Kartusy to see the Carthusian monastery and purchase some local embroidery. Then went on to the village. The houses still had thatched roofs and it was very rural. We visited the cemetery and asked local people if they were familiar with the name Kotlowski or Wanta. We could not find any graves for either and



The author's ancestral village of Gowidlino is located west of Kartusy. She also visited Sierakewice. Map source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy* [Poland: Road Atlas], pp. 30-31. A copy of this 1:200,000 scale atlas is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

they had no recollection of either family. The church had been built about 1868. My great-grandparents JOHN WANTA and EVA KOTLOWSKI were teenagers about the time the church was being built. The priest was away, and we could not talk to him. We checked at Sierakowice, but could not find records there either. Nevertheless, I was happy to have seen the area and to have visited the village.

A day later we drove to a rural area north of Toruń. There we were blessed with good fortune. The Holy Trinity Church still stood intact in Chełmża. It had not suffered damage in any of the wars over the past 500 years. Next door we visited with the elderly priest and explained that I was looking for a baptismal record for my grandfather Mateusz WILKOUSKI. The office was wonderful. The filing drawers were wooden and he had a huge old wooden desk in the office. He left the room and came back with some dusty volumes. I was getting impatient and excited all at once. The tears were close to the surface. I never anticipated such emotion in this quest for paper proof that this really was where grandfather Matt had lived. The old priest opened the book and looked through the pages. Soon he pointed to a place on the page and said to Dr. Kaczmarek--"Here it is - the baptism of Mateusz Wilkowski." I peered at the pages and it was an indescribable feeling. For sure--there was his baptismal date. With just a bit more looking, we also found the baptismal record of my great-grandmother Mariana ZIELINSKI. He asked if I would like a copy and produced an official certificate complete with the church seal for each of them. What a treasure!

The church itself was dark and impressive with much black marble and gold. The baptismal font was large and stood at the front of the church. What a feeling to stand in that same spot where years ago the family had celebrated the baptism of my grandfather and his sisters, and even the baptism of my great-grandmother.

We drove a few kilometers to the villages where they had lived. Kończewice and Warszewice were only a few kilometers apart. One could easily walk from one to the other. My grandfather had been born in Kończewice, but his sisters were born in Warszewice. His mother also was born in Warszewice and perhaps she went home to have the babies with her parents.

This was farming country. All that was left of Kończewice was the building that was originally the brick train depot. It was now a private residence. We stopped and took pictures of it and soon a pleasant middle-aged lady came out to talk to us. Dr. Kaczmarek explained that we were trying to determine where the Wilkouski and Zielinski families had lived. She could not help and said that no one by that name



The author's ancestral villages of Kończewice and Warszewice are located north of Toruń in the parish at Chełmża. Map source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy* [Poland: Road Atlas], p. 72. A copy of this 1:200,000 scale atlas is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

lived there anymore. Most of the buildings from the village were long gone. But she offered us bags of ripe plums from the trees standing in her yard as some small compensation for not being able to find the actual property we were looking for.

At Warszewice, we could only find a general store and a sign indicating that this was the bus stop. Like many small towns in America, there was nothing left of the original village.

I left Poland with the precious documents recording the baptisms of Matthew Wilkouski and Mary Zielinski and some wonderful memories and pictures. Since then I have returned twice and have developed a special friendship with my hosts and a great fondness for Poland.

Polish Martyrs (1939-1945)

by Paul Kulas

During his recent trip to Poland, **Pope John Paul II** beatified 108 Poles killed by the Nazis during their 1939-45 wartime occupation of the country. The martyrs were declared "blessed" at a papal mass in Warsaw on June 13. The ceremony more than doubled the number of Poles beatified from the former total of 95. Poland has produced 16 canonized saints.

Recently, I received a phone call from **Rev. Eugene Hackert** of Gibbon, MN. He asked if I had seen a list of those beatified. I hadn't. He explained that a relative, a Father Mankowski, had been shot by a German SS officer in front of his (Mankowski's) assembled parishioners. Father Hackert had recently visited the village of this event (Nowy Kościół) and found that Father Mankowski's gravesite has become something of the shrine among the people of the area. Father Hackert wondered if Father Mankowski was among those beatified. I promised that I would keep a lookout for such a list.

A few days later, I received the following e-mail from PGS-MN member **Ray Marshall**: "This link <http://www.ipipan.waw.pl/~klopotek/church/rcc_in_p.htm#FormerPrimates> is from the Polish Borders Surnames webpage which is quickly getting to be one of the best around. Only the FEEFHS site, which operates more as a database, can rank with it. One of the neat things on this page is that it has the names of the 108 Polish martyrs who were beatified earlier this week. Who knows, you may find a relative." Father Hackert's relative was not on the list, but one of yours may be.

I found the listing of the recently beatified at <http://www.ipipan.waw.pl/~klopotek/church/rcc_in_p.htm#Saints> The site also lists the previous "blessed" and canonized saints. The recently beatified listing follows:

1. **Mieczysław Bohatkiewicz**, priest (1904-4.3.1942, shot in Berezwech)
2. **Alojzy Liguda**, friar, priest (1898-1942, Dachau)
3. **Józef Jankowski**, friar, priest, (1910 born in Czyczkowy near Brusy-16.10.1941, Auschwitz)
4. **Adam Bargielski**, priest (1903-1942, Dachau)
5. **Aleksy Sobaszek**, priest (1895-1942, Dachau)
6. **Alfons Mazurek**, friar, priest (1891-1944, shot to death in Nawojowa Góra)
7. **Alicja Maria Jadwiga Kotowska**, nun (1899-1939)
8. **Anastazy Jakub Pankiewicz**, friar, priest (1882-1942, Dachau)
9. **Anicet Kopliński**, priest, friar (1875-1941, Auschwitz)
10. **Archbishop Antoni Julian Nowowiejski** (1858-1841, German death camp Działdowo)
11. **Antoni Beszła-Borowski**, priest (1880-15.7.1943)
12. **Antoni Leszczewicz**, friar, priest (1890-1943, burned to death in Rosica)
13. **Antoni Rewera**, priest (1868-1942, Dachau)
14. **Antoni Świadek**, priest (1909-25.1.1945, Dachau)
15. **Antoni Zawistowski**, priest (1882-1942, Dachau)
16. **Bolesław Strzelecki**, priest (1896-1941, German death camp Auschwitz)
17. **Bronisław Komorowski**, priest (1889-22.3.1940, Shutthof)
18. **Bronisław Kostkowski**, alumnus (1915-1942, Dachau)
19. **Brunon Zembol**, friar (1905-1942, Dachau)
20. **Mr. Czesław Józwiak** (1919-1942, guillotined in a prison in Dresden)
21. **Dominik Jędrzejewski**, priest (1886-1942, Dachau)
22. **Edward Detkens**, priest (1885-1942, Dachau)
23. **Edward Grzymała**, priest (1906-1942, Dachau)
24. **Mr. Edward Kaźmierski** (1919-1942, guillotined in a prison in Dresden)
25. **Mr. Edward Klinik** (1919-1942, guillotined in a prison in Dresden)
26. **Emil Szramek**, priest (1887-1942, Dachau)
27. **Ewa Noiszewska**, nun (1885-1942, executed at Góra Pietrelewicka in Słonim)
28. **Fidelis Chojnacki**, friar (1906-1942, Dachau)
29. **Florian Sępniak**, friar, priest (1912-1942, Dachau)
30. **Mr. Franciszek Kęsy** (1920-1942, guillotined in a prison in Dresden)
31. **Franciszek Drzewiecki**, friar, priest (1908-1942, Dachau)
32. **Franciszek Dachtera**, priest (1910-23.8.1942, Dachau)
33. **Franciszek Rogaczewski**, priest (1892-11.1.1940)
34. **Franciszek Rosłaniec**, priest (1889-1942, Dachau)
35. **Mr. Franciszek Stryjas**, father of a family, (1882-31.7.1944, in prison in Kalisz)
36. **Grzegorz Bolesław Frackowiak**, friar (1911-1943, guillotined in Dresden)
37. **Henryk Hlebowicz**, priest (1904-1941 shot in Borysewo)
38. **Henryk Kaczorowski**, priest (1888-1942, Dachau)
39. **Henryk Krzysztofik**, friar, priest (1908-1942, Dachau)
40. **Hilary Paweł Januszewski**, friar, priest (1907-1945, Dachau)
41. **Jan Antonin Bajewski**, friar, priest (1915-1941, Auschwitz)
42. **Jan Nepomucen Chrzan**, priest (1885-1942, Dachau)
43. **Mr. Jarogniew Wojciechowski** (1922-1942 guillotined in a prison in Dresden)
44. **Jerzy Kaszyra**, friar, priest (1910-1943, burned to death in Rosica)

45. **Józef Cebula**, friar, priest (1902-1941, Mauthausen)
46. **Józef Czempiel**, priest (1883-1942, Mauthausen)
47. **Józef Kowalski**, friar, priest (1911-1942, Auschwitz)
48. **Józef Kurzawa**, priest (1910-1940)
49. **Józef Kut**, priest (1905-1942, Dachau)
50. **Józef Pawłowski**, priest (1890-9.1.1942, Dachau)
51. **Józef Stanek**, friar, priest (1916-23.9.1944, murdered in Warsaw)
52. **Józef Straszewski**, priest (1885-1942, Dachau)
53. **Józef Zapłata**, friar (1904-1945, Dachau)
54. **Józef Achilles Puchała**, friar, priest (1911-1943)
55. **Józef Innocenty Guz**, friar, priest (1890-1940, Sachsenhausen)
56. **Julia Rodzińska**, nun (1899-20.2.1945, died in German death camp Stutthof)
57. **Katarzyna Celestyna Faron**, nun (1913-1944, Auschwitz)
58. **Karol Herman Stępien**, friar, priest (1910-1943)
59. **Kazimierz Gostyński**, priest (1884-1942, Dachau)
60. **Kazimierz Grelewski**, priest (1907-1942, Dachau)
61. **Kazimierz Sykulski**, priest (1882-1942, Auschwitz)
62. **Krystyn Gondek**, friar, priest (1909-1942)
63. **Bishop Leon Wetmański** (1886-1941, German death camp Działdowo)
64. **Leon Nowakowski**, priest (1913-1939)
65. **Ludwik Gietyngier**, priest (1904-30.11.1941, Dachau)
66. **Ludwik Mzyk**, friar, priest (1905-1940)
67. **Ludwik Pius Bartosik**, friar, priest (1909-1941, Auschwitz)
68. **Maksymilian Binkiewicz**, priest (1913-24.7.1942, Dachau)
69. **Marcin Oprządek**, friar (1884-1942, Dachau)
70. **Maria Antonina Kratochwil**, nun (1881-1942)
71. **Maria Klemensa Staszewska**, nun (1890-1943, Auschwitz)
72. **Marian Górecki**, priest (1903-22.3.1940, Stutthof)
73. **Marian Konopiński**, priest (1907-1.1.1943, Dachau)
74. **Marian Skrzypczak**, priest (1909-1939, shot in Plonkowo)
75. **Mrs. Marianna Biernacka** (1888-1943 offered her life in place of her daughter-in-law and unborn grandchild and was executed on July 13th, 1943)
76. **Marta Wołowska**, nun (1879-1942, executed at Góra Pietrelewicka in Słonim)
77. **Michał Czartoryski**, friar, priest (1897-1944)
78. **Michał Oziębłowski**, priest (1900-1942, Dachau)
79. **Michał Piaszczyński**, priest (1885-1940, Sachsenhausen)
80. **Michał Woźniak**, priest (1875-1942, Dachau)
81. **Mieczysława Kowalska**, nun (1902-1941, Działdowo)
82. **Narcyz Putz**, priest (1877-1942, Dachau)
83. **Narcyz Turchan**, friar, priest (1879-1942, Dachau)
84. **Mrs. Natalia Tułasiewicz**, teacher (1906-31.3.1945, Ravensbruck, in a gas chamber)
85. **Piotr Bonifacy Żukowski**, friar (1913-1942, Auschwitz)
86. **Piotr Edward Dańkowski**, priest (1908-3.4.1942, Auschwitz)
87. **Roman Archutowski**, priest (1882-1943, Majdanek)
88. **Roman Sitko**, priest (1880-1942, Auschwitz)
89. **Stanisław Kubista**, friar, priest (1898-1940, Sachsenhausen)
90. **Stanisław Kubski**, priest (1876-1942, Dachau)
91. **Stanisław Mysakowski**, priest (1896-1942, Dachau)
92. **Stanisław Pyrtek**, priest (1913-4.3.1942, shot in Berezwezc)
93. **Stanisław Starowieyski**, father of a family (1895-13.4.1940/1, Dachau)
94. **Stanisław Tymoteusz Trojanowski**, friar (1908-1942, Auschwitz)
95. **Stefan Grelewski**, priest (1899-1941, Dachau)
96. **Symforian Ducki**, friar (1888-1942, Auschwitz)
97. **Tadeusz Dulny**, alumnus (1914-1942, Dachau)
98. **Wincenty Matuszewski**, priest (1869-1940)
99. **Bishop Władysław Góral** (1898-1945, Sachsenhausen)
100. **Władysław Błądziński**, friar, priest (1908-1944)
101. **Władysław Demski**, priest (1884-28.5.1940, Sachsenhausen)
102. **Władysław Maćkowiak**, priest (1910-4.3.1942, shot in Berezwezc)
103. **Władysław Mączkowski**, priest (1911-20.8.1942, Dachau)
104. **Władysław Miegoń**, priest, commandor lieutenant (1892-1942, Dachau)
105. **Włodzimierz Laskowski**, priest (1886-1940, Gusen)
106. **Wojciech Nierychlewski**, friar, priest (1903-1942, Auschwitz)
107. **Zygmunt Pisarski**, priest (1902-1943)
108. **Zygmunt Sajna**, priest (1897-1940, Palmiry)

Origins of the ZILKA (and Zylka/Zyłka/Żyłka) and PIEKARSKI Surnames

by Paul Kulas

After a one issue hiatus, we continue our series on the origins of your ancestral surnames.

PGS-MN member Marianne Springer requested the following surname search:

Would you please research the following two surnames?

1. Zilka--I don't know where in Poland this name is from yet. My great aunt said her father came from Warsaw. I am doubtful of this because I thought Warsaw was under Russian control. In the documents I have found, German or German/Poland were listed for origins. He settled in the Little Falls area, so maybe Silesia is a possibility. Anyway, maybe your research will give me some idea. I have a feeling it isn't a very common name.

2. Piekarski--I haven't found this family in Poland yet either. They also settled in the Little Falls area and listed Germany or Poland as origins.

Editor's response: You are correct in your assumption that **Zilka** is not a very common Polish surname. It is not listed at all in Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*. I did, however, find the **Zilka** surname listed in *Słownik nazwisk* . . . by Kazimierz Rymut. It appeared only seven times in a Polish governmental agency's records in 1990. It is shown as appearing five times in Katowice province and two times in Wrocław province (I use the pre-1999 provincial terminology here because Rymut's work is based upon those divisions). Both of these provinces are in Silesia--so your guess of Silesian origins of your **Zilka** ancestors appears to be a good one.

Because the **Zilka** surname was so rare, I also looked up the similarly spelled surnames of **Zylka** (71 times in Polish governmental agency's records in 1990) **Zyłka** (38 times) and **Żyłka** (2,287 times) in Rymut to see if those spelling might shed some light on the origins of your **Zilka** ancestors. The **Zyłka** and **Żyłka** surnames also seem to be most numerous in Silesia. Both names are common in Katowice and Opole provinces with **Żyłka** also common in Częstochowa province (all three of these provinces are in historical Silesia). The **Zylka** surname seems to be more common in northern Poland (Śląpsk and Elbląg provinces) but

it also is frequent in Katowice province. (See maps at right for distribution of these surnames.)

According to Hoffman, the **Piekarski** surname is derived from the Polish noun *piekarz* which means "baker." A few of the more common related Polish surnames are: **Piekara** (588 times in 1990), **Piekarczyk** (2876), **Piekarek** (847), **Piekarniak** (463), **Piekarz** (3841), **Piekarzewski** (301) and **Piekorz** (523).

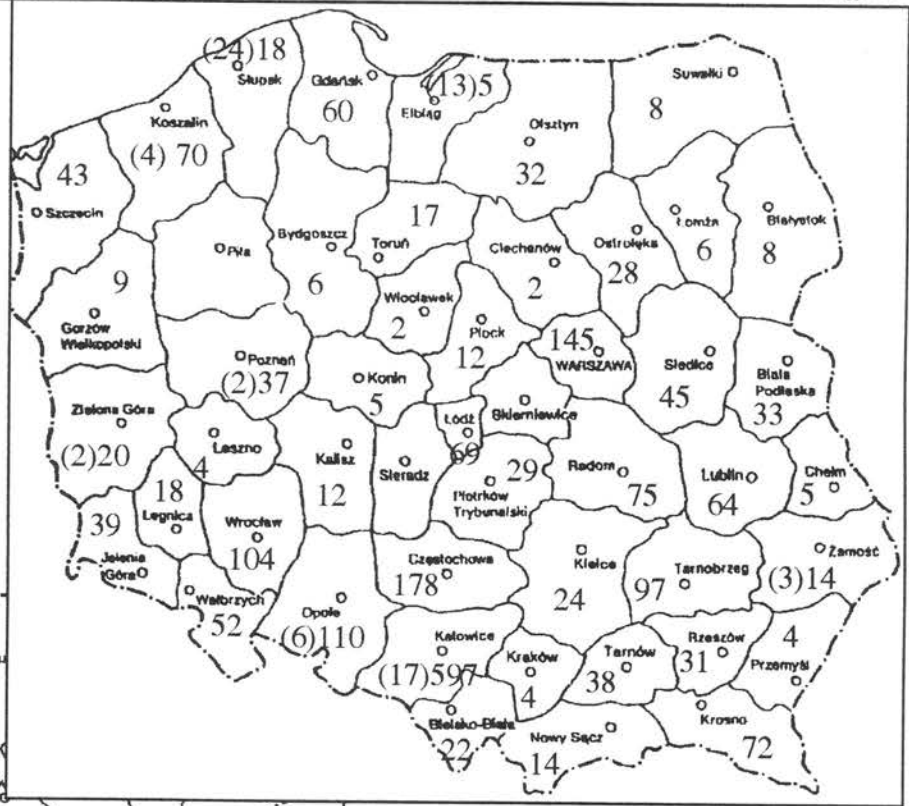
As you might expect--baking being such a everyday activity--the **Piekarski** surname is a very common one. According to *Słownik nazwisk* . . . it appeared 13,292 times in records in 1990. Because the surname is so common, it is widely distributed throughout Poland (See map at right). Based on this distribution alone it is impossible to guess where your **Piekarski** ancestors originated. However, it does seem to be a bit more common in the areas of the former German partition (Notice especially Gdańsk, Bydgoszcz, and Katowice provinces).

Hoffman uses the *piekarz* root that forms the basis of the **Piekarski** surname as an example several times in his discussion on the use of suffixes in forming Polish surnames (see *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, 2nd ed., pp. 30, 32, 82).

In this regard, I would like to make an observation regarding the suffix *-ski*: I have, on occasion, had people tell me that they were descended from Polish nobility and as their only proof they pointed out that their name ended with *-ski*. This is, of course, nonsense. It is true that the Polish nobility often used the name of their principal estate plus the *-ski* suffix when first choosing a surname (a notable example is the **Zamoyski** family surname-- their estate **Zamość** plus *-ski*). But the vast majority of Polish names ending in *-ski* are not of noble origin and **Piekarski** is a good example. It means "of, from, or pertaining to a baker." No self-respecting Polish nobleman would include such a menial task as "baking" in his surname (the Polish nobility, like the nobility elsewhere, were a rather arrogant and pompous lot). As surnames spread through Polish society, a baker might choose as his surname the more elegant-sounding **Piekarski** rather than the more common-sounding **Piekarz**. It had nothing to do with noble birth.

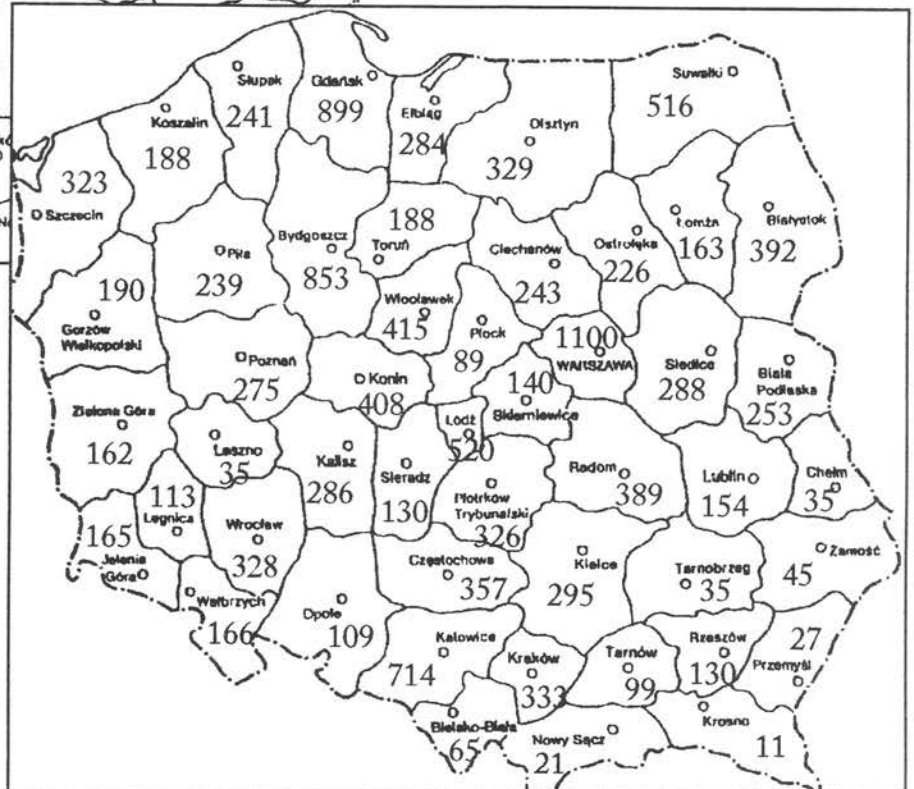
We continue our offer to research your Polish surnames in William F. Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* and in Kazimierz Rymut's *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w polsce używanych*. Send your request to: Paul Kulas, editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316. Include \$10.00 per surname. Make check payable to PGS-MN.

Map at right:
Distribution of the ZYLKA and
ZYLKA surname according to
Słownik nazwisk...
 ZYLKA numbers are in
 (parentheses).



Map at left:
Distribution of the ZILKA and
ZYLKA surnames according to
Słownik nazwisk...
 ZILKA numbers are circled.

Map at right:
Distribution of the
PIEKARSKI surname
 according to *Słownik nazwisk...*



More on Flötenstein/Koczała!!

by Paul Kulas

My article (see: *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Autumn 1998, pp. 3, 9-11) about the settlement in Minnesota of German-speaking Catholics from Flötenstein, West Prussia--now Koczała, Poland--has drawn reaction from Alaska to Minnesota to Germany. Of particular interest was the mention in the article of the discovery by **Rev. Eugene Hackert** of 19th century Flötenstein church records that had been previously reported as having been destroyed.

The first to respond was Coleen Mielke (*PGS-MN Newsletter*, Winter 1998-99, p. 4) who inquired about the possibility of getting these records filmed. Since then there has been steady correspondence (both electronic and regular) about this matter. Of particular interest is correspondence with Fr. Hackert which he graciously shared with us. The letters follow:

The first is from **Coleen Mielke** of Wasilla, Alaska <coleen@mtaonline.net>

Father Hackert...I have tried to get in touch with you many times. I originally heard about your trips to Floetenstein from Paul Kulas. My family comes from Floetenstein. My husband's grandfather was Franz Paul Mielke, born 22 September 1885 in Floetenstein. His parents were Johann Paul Mielke, born 30 May 1854 (not certain it was Floetenstein) and Susanna H. Roggenbuck, born 9 August 1847 in Floetenstein to Franz Roggenbuck and Anna Elizabeth Leo. They left Floetenstein and came to the US aboard the ship AMERICA in 1892. They lived in both Bellingham and Nassau, Minnesota. I would love to find birth records for Johann and Susanna's children (they had several that didn't live before they came to US) and I would love to find out who Johann Mielke's parents were.

I am so excited to make the connection with you. Tell me about Floetenstein. What records have you seen and is there any chance of getting them copied or photographed? I would LOVE to hear from you.

The second is from: **Jonny Roggenbuck**, Schulenhörn 56, 25421 Pinneberg, Germany:

While researching my own family history your name came to my attention by an article written by Mr. Kulas in the *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*. With the help of another researcher in Minnesota (Ray Karels)* I got your address. *Editor's note: *PGS-MN member, Ray Karels, has done much work tracing Minnesota descendants of Flötenstein immigrants (We're*

looking for an article or two about this, Ray).

The matter of this inquiry is the existence of the church book of Flötenstein from the years 1814-1845. From what we know so far, you visited Flötenstein (Koczała) some years ago and researched on your own family branch. We (several hobby researchers connected via Internet) hope that you can help us. The main question is: Is the book still in the church of Koczała or is it in an archive somewhere else?

How did you get in contact with the local priest? Do you think he is willing to share the information with other researchers? Do you have a name or other contact information? I live close to Hamburg Germany. It would just take a day to travel by car to Koczała.

All the research results so far end up in 1860 to 1880 in Flötenstein. And to have a look in the family history before that date would solve many unknown relations between Roggenbuck, Kanthak and Spors.

If you have any access to the Internet you can have a look at my homepage to see what we put together so far about our ancestors from Flötenstein.

Regards, Jonny Roggenbuck <<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/jonnyroggenbuck>>

In Father Hackert's response to these two letters he described how he came to discover the 19th century Flötenstein church records. The following is his reply to Jonny Roggenbuck:

I am Fr. Eugene Hackert, pastor of the Church of St. Willibrord (a rare name for a church in this country) in Gibbon, Minnesota 55335-0187. My home area is Rosen, Minnesota, where the majority of the immigrants came in 1879 to 1890 directly from Floetenstein. My parents are deceased. My mother, born Josephine Bublitz, came from Neukirch, a bit east of Konitz, now also deep into Poland. My father was born in Lac qui Parle county in 1885. My grandmother, Mathilda Hackert, geb. Stolpman, was a sister to Theodor Stolpman as found in your page: "John II Roggenbuck Descendants." My grandfather, Peter Hackert, had married previously, and his first wife was Suzanna Roggenbuck, married in Floetenstein. The record of this marriage I found at the rectory in Floetenstein when I was handed the old leather-bound volume, which I placed on a desk, randomly opened it somewhere near the center of the book, and there was the record on that page! I could hardly believe what I was seeing.

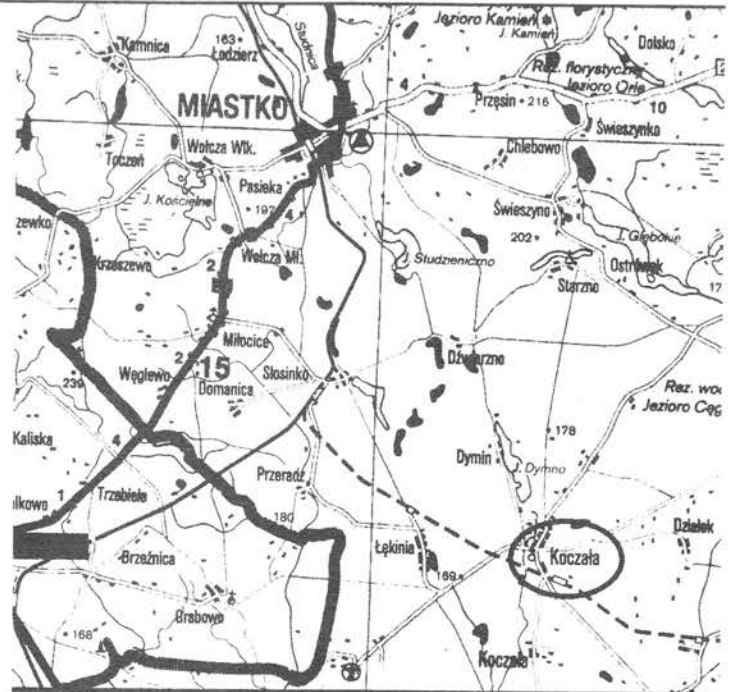
Concerning the parish records at Floetenstein: In 1995 I visited this town and others of the area, traveling with a cousin of mine from Winnebago

MN and his wife. The real guide for this trip was another cousin of mine from Munich: Magdalena Musolff, geb. Netkowski, and her husband, Burkhardt. Magda knew no English but knew German and was fluent in Polish and Russian (raised and educated in Neukirch and Konitz). Burkhardt knew a bit of English, fluent in German, but knew no Polish. So we had three stage translations in our conversations. Knowing Polish was important in gaining entrance into rectories. The other helping factor was that I am a priest. We saw records that no outsider knew existed. Most inquirers are told the records were destroyed (many were). The pastor in Floetenstein was very gentle and wanted to help, but said, in our triple translating project: "There are some old records here, but it's no use--they cannot be read." I realized his problem. He did not know German (forbidden to be spoken or taught under communism) and it was in the old gothic script. I could read that, and Burkhardt knew it well. So I begged to see the three inch thick precious book, and he went into the office closet, brought it out, handed it to me, and what happened I told above. This volume contained: baptismal records 1814 to 1846, as it said on page one, marriage records 1814 to 1845, deaths, 1815 to 1965, all well preserved. Obviously it ran well beyond these dates of the title page or I would not have found the Peter Hackert-Suzanna Roggenbuck marriage record.

I then searched for Peter Hackert's second marriage, to Mathilda Stolpmann, but could not find it in the short time I was there. Any help from you, Jonny, would be appreciated. Possibly that wedding was in another parish? I returned two years later, traveling with others on a tight time schedule, and I could not find that second record, even though there were two visiting priests there, one a missionary who knew English, who helped search. A second volume of old records covered a later time span. These two are the only old records in that parish. The storage closet was well searched while I was there.

Another factor (in the difficulty of obtaining access to records) is the inconvenience to the pastors who have much work to do as most have more than one parish and are on pre-Vatican II schedules (pastor does all). In Stegers (Rzeczynica) in the short time we were there, three couples in German autos and a motorcycle came to search records. No wonder they are told "not here," etc. How do we get these records microfilmed? Negotiate with the Mormons? A priest in another parish (Foerstenau/Gwierzazin) said there was much unemployment there. The records could possibly be researched by a reliable local person who could be compensated.

All these contacts were made with the advantage of being a priest and having a Polish interpreter. I



Koczala (Flötenstein) is located 60 kilometers south of Słupsk near Miastko and Biały Bór. Map Source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy* [Poland: Road Atlas], p. 29.

do hope to visit the area again in early September, if plans materialize.

I wish I had more time for this research, but as yet I am primarily pastor of this parish. I appreciate the work you are doing and now appreciate the value of a computer and its extensions. Maybe someday.... I have had contacts from persons in Alaska and Wisconsin concerning Floetenstein. Fr. Robert Altmann at St. Matthew's in Wausau, WI has also visited that area a few years ago. He is researching Lentz, Flatau, Spors, Komischke backgrounds.

As I e-mailed to you, I have a cousin in Rosen (P.O. Bellingham, MN.), Alfred Volkenant, 84, who has a good mind for history, knew all the original Roggenbucks who settled in Rosen and Nassau areas, stories about them, is familiar with the cemetery and its records. If this is the type of information you are seeking, I could visit with him and tape-record the conversation.

With Warm Regards, Fr. Eugene Hackert

This exchange of letters illustrates the value of technology in making contacts worldwide while researching family history. But they would not have been made had not the article about Flötenstein first appeared in this newsletter. We urge all members to write up their research problems and stories and to submit them for publication in this newsletter. You may be surprised with the number of new contacts you will make. In the meantime, we will continue to follow and report on the developing story about Flötenstein/Koczala research.

LIBRARY CORNER

Recent additions to the Polish collection at the MGS Library:

Miriam Weiner, in cooperation with the Polish State Archives, *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories* (Secaucus, NJ: The Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc., and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York, 1997), 446 pp.

Reviewed by Ed Brandt

It is certainly no exaggeration to say that this book is the most fantastic thing which has ever happened for those who are researching Jewish ancestors from Poland. My first reaction was: Why couldn't we get something similar for those with non-Jewish ancestors?

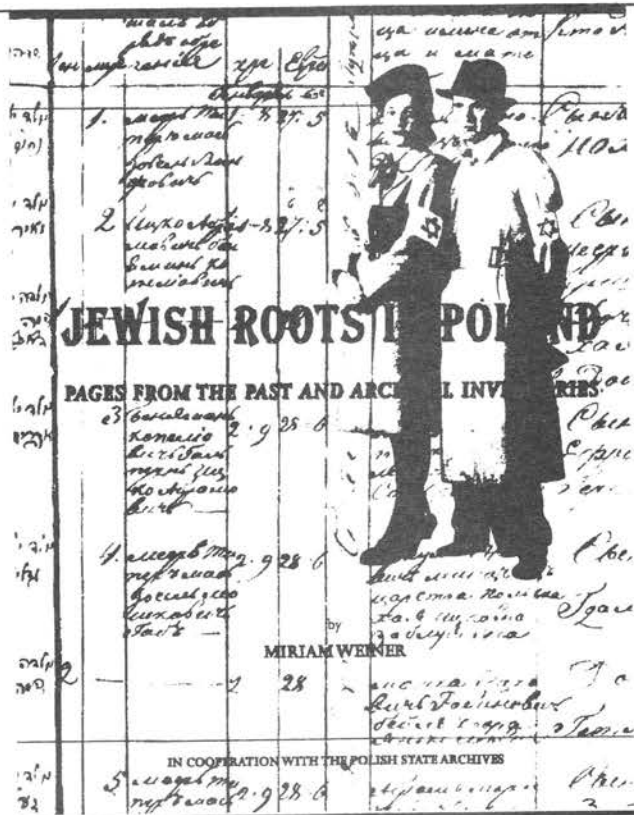
But the good news is that despite its heavily Jewish orientation, Weiner's book does indeed identify specific records which are relevant for everyone, providing the archival location, as well as the collection and file numbers.

For non-Jewish genealogists, the heart of this book is Chapter Four: "Archival Inventories." About half of the 22 different kinds of records she inventoried are relevant for all groups. Some key ones are: lists of inhabitants, family lists and books of residents (with census-like detail); land and property records; school records, including documents with the names of many students and teachers; tax lists; and army and draft registrations (not actual military records).

Nearly half of her book is devoted to line-by-line entries showing which kinds of records for which period are located in which archive. There are separate indexes by town and by repository, since the records are not always where you would expect to find them. The amount of detail is incredible and yet the format makes it very easy to find what you are looking for.

Although the largest number of line entries are for Jewish birth, marriage and death records, most such records for gentiles have already been filmed by the Family History Library.

The extent of the records she found is, as might be expected, quite uneven. For example, there are census-like records for many localities, but they are lacking for a majority of places. Some go back to the early nineteenth century, while others begin in the twentieth century. Only those localities which were identified as having Jewish residents are covered. But the three



million Polish Jews lived in many places throughout Poland.

The primary emphasis is on archives in contemporary Poland, but there is some information about the inter-war eastern territories. Chapter Four, which describes the civil registry offices briefly, is helpful in this respect.

Several other chapters include information of interest to non-Jewish genealogists--and even to non-genealogists. For example, Chapter Two describes 28 "Cities and Towns in Poland," which had at least 10,000 Jewish residents in 1939. The chapter has a colored map of the area surrounding each town, but apart from bibliographic entries, it consists mostly of pictures--some modern ones, but most predating the re-establishment of an independent Poland. The ratio varies considerably from place to place, but about half the photos are of a general nature, mostly town scenes. I found interesting pictures of three ancestral hometowns, only one of which was in the Prussian Partition.

In addition, there are 14 maps of Poland, only six of which have a specifically Jewish focus.

The book as a whole represents a major contribution for anyone who is interested in Poland, not just ethnic Poles. But even if your interests are not that broad, it has much that is well worth looking at.

BOOK REVIEWS

*Editor's note: The 3rd edition of Lenius, **Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia**, updates the 1st edition that is in the Polish collection in the MGS Library. That 1st edition was reviewed by Kornel Kondy on page 10 in the Spring 1995 issue of this newsletter. This review by Ed Brandt compares the new 3rd edition with the 1st.*

Brian J. Lenius, **Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia**, 3rd, exp. data ed. (Anola, MB: Author, 1999), 14 + 184 + 46 + 57 + 13 + 45 pp.

Reviewed by **Ed Brandt**

The multiple numbers of pages refer to those for the introductory material (well worth reading, since it includes an annotated list of sources used by the author and a thumbnail historical sketch) and the five appendices which make up the heart of the gazetteer. Because there is more material per page, due to font changes, the number of pages does not reflect the amount of data which has been added. For example, the previous 184-page Primary Village/Town/City List (Appendix A) has been condensed into a 163-page Primary Community/Estate List with somewhat more entries (excluding introductory material and endnotes).

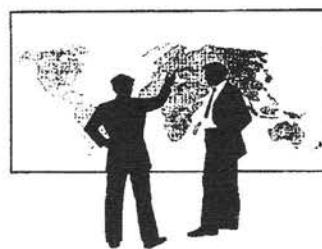
Ethnic Poles are most likely to be interested in Appendices A and B, although descendants of the significant Polish minority in many parts of eastern (Ukrainian) Galicia will find the greatly expanded Ukrainian-Polish Place Names List (Appendix C) very helpful. The Ukrainian names in the Cyrillic script have now been added to the transliterated spelling, which will help those desiring research in Ukraine, either on-site or through correspondence, or for comparison with postwar Ukrainian maps.

The Supplementary Place Names (Appendix B) have been increased by 398, or more than 10% (although the number of pages hasn't changed). It includes some alternate names (which may apply to places in Appendices A or B), since it was common in continental Europe to have a popular name for a community which differed from its official designation.

Otherwise, this list refers to hamlets; suburbs of towns and cities; areas which were part of another community, but had their own separate name; farmsteads often at some distance from the landlord's yard; groups of scattered houses; isolated houses separated from others American-style; and settlements of foreigners, most often Germans. These kinds of places are identified more clearly in the 1999 edition, with a slightly revised categorization, showing the equivalent Polish

Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia

Expanded
Data
Edition



Brian J. Lenius

(and in most cases German) terms. This expanded appendix will be most helpful to genealogists whose ancestors came from such places.

The previously well-developed Primary Community/Estate List, which is half the gazetteer, does not have a greatly increased number of listings, although separate listings for estate names which do not coincide with community names have been added and the number of footnotes has increased considerably. But new information has been added, especially the name of the land cadastral community, which is critically important for land and tax records, often accompanied by very detailed maps, and far more Evangelical parishes and Jewish registration districts. Dotted lines now make it easier to follow an entry horizontally across the page to other information pertaining to the place.

The substantially expanded endnotes for Appendix A include much new information about Polish and Ukrainian repositories of records from eastern Galicia. Tables listing new Roman Catholic parishes established in 1772-1906 and possible alternate parish names have been added. Information is also provided about Jewish, Protestant, Greek Catholic and Armenian Catholic vital records.

The essence of the various articles by Himka and Pihach in the *East European Genealogist* on the very

detailed Josephinian land cadaster [1785-88], the Franciscan land cadaster [1819-20] and the cadastral maps [1840s-1860s], which were apparently prepared for Galicia mostly in the 1850s, is summarized in these endnotes.

The 21 reference maps in Appendix E have been improved by adding both Greenwich and Ferro latitudes and longitudes. Moreover, each map now has a reference to the *Spezialkarte der österreichisch-ungarischen Monarchie* on a 1:75,000 scale (in addition to *Generalkarte von Mitteleuropa* maps on a 1:200,000 scale, which were used as the direct basis for Appendix A).

Altogether 14,000 additional place names and over 93,000 political and religious jurisdictions are listed (a 27% increase over the earlier edition). Moreover, 1,300 changes have been made to the earlier edition, as a result of time-consuming cross-checking of data.

The author also offers to check a variety of political and parish gazetteers for a modest fee.

Although the biggest gainers from the revised, expanded data 3rd edition will be descendants of non-Polish, non-Catholic ancestors, there is still a significant amount of added and revised data for Polish Roman Catholic place name searchers, especially for cadastral research and research in Ukraine. The author showed me an incredibly detailed map with pie charts of the pre-war ethnic composition of each Galician village now in Ukraine. I was surprised by the large number of predominantly Polish villages, especially around Lwow (L'viv) and in a broad strip to the west.

Bulletin board: continued from page 3

Polish Art Exhibit in Chicago

The story of the exciting and momentous Baroque era in Poland is the subject of an extraordinary traveling exhibit currently in Chicago. **Land of the Winged Horsemen: Art in Poland 1572-1764** will be at the Art Institute of Chicago through September 6, 1999.

The exhibition includes a crown, scepter and throne of Polish kings, historic paintings as well as tapestries and furniture of Polish nobility, religious images and liturgical objects including a 17th century painting of Our Lady of Częstochowa, rugs from the Orient, highly decorated battle regalia, a spectacular Turkish tent captured at the Battle of Vienna, and a suit of hussar armor complete with feathers and leopard skin. The feathered armature, which produced an intimidating rushing sound as the cavalymen rode into battle, inspired the title of the exhibition.

The exhibit opened in Baltimore in March and after Chicago will continue in Huntsville, AL in September and in Tulsa, OK in March before returning to Poland.

Poland's Provinces 1975-1999

Editor's note: The following is from PolandGenWeb, a Polish genealogical site on the internet. This site is accessible through our PGS-MN website at: <<http://www.mtn.org/mgs/branches/polish.html>>. It was contributed by PGS-MN member Jerry Kolton.

On 1 January 1999, Poland's interior was reconstructed. The forty-nine provinces were reduced to sixteen. Below you will find an explanation of which new province absorbed each of them.

- Biała Podlaska:** lubelskie; a small area in the northwestern part in mazowieckie
- Białystok:** podlaskie
- Bielsko Biala:** śląskie; portion of east in małopolskie
- Bydgoszcz:** majority in kujawsko-pomorskie; northern-most section: pomorskie; tiny southwestern part in wielkopolskie
- Chełm:** lubelskie
- Ciechanów:** mazowieckie; a small portion of the northwest in warmińsko-mazurskie
- Częstochowa:** most in śląskie; small portion of northwest in opolskie; tiny part of north in łódzkie; tiny part of east in świętokrzyskie
- Elbląg:** majority in pomorskie; northeastern section and southwestern corner in warmińsko-mazurskie
- Gdańsk:** pomorskie
- Gorzów Wielkopolski:** lubuskie; the north in zachodniopomorskie; southeastern area in wielkopolskie
- Jelenia Góra:** dolnośląskie
- Kalisz:** wielkopolskie; a very small part of the southeast in łódzkie; very small part of southwest in dolnośląskie
- Katowice:** śląskie; an eastern part in małopolskie
- Kielce:** mainly in świętokrzyskie; a part of the south and west in małopolskie
- Konin:** most in wielkopolskie; a very small section of the east in łódzkie
- Koszalin:** zachodniopomorskie
- Kraków:** małopolskie
- Krosno:** podkarpackie; a very small part in małopolskie
- Legnica:** dolnoslaskie
- Leszno:** more than a third in wielkopolskie; a small western part in lubuskie; a larger southwestern part in dolnośląskie
- Lublin:** lubelskie
- Łomża:** majority in podlaskie; the western and southern borders in mazowieckie
- Łódź:** łódzkie
- Nowy Sącz:** małopolskie
- Olsztyn:** warmińsko-mazurskie

Opole: opolskie

Ostrołęka: majority in mazowieckie; small northern section in warmińsko-mazurskie

Piła: almost entirely in wielkopolskie; a small area of the northwest corner in zachodniopomorskie

Piotrków Trybunalski: łódzkie

Płock: northern portion in mazowieckie; southern part in łódzkie

Poznań: wielkopolskie

Przemyśl: podkarpackie

Radom: mazowieckie

Rzeszów: podkarpackie

Siedlce: mazowieckie; south-eastern part in Lubelskie

Sieradz: łódzkie

Skierniewice: mostly in łódzkie; a northeastern section in mazowieckie

Słupsk: pomorskie

Suwałki: the smaller eastern part in podlaskie; western part (roughly two-thirds of the former province) in warmińsko-mazurskie

Szczecin: zachodniopomorskie

Tarnobrzeg: the northwestern portion in świętokrzyskie; a small part of the north and east in lubelskie; the central and south area in podkarpackie

Tarnów: małopolskie; a smaller eastern part in podkarpackie

Toruń: mostly in kujawsko-pomorskie; a small section in the northeast in warmińsko-mazurskie

Wałbrzych: dolnośląskie

Warszawa: mazowieckie

Włocławek:

kujawsko-pomorskie

Wrocław: dolnośląskie

Zamość: lubelskie

Zielona Góra: majority in lubuskie; a small northeastern part in wielkopolskie

Old:



New:



settlers' surviving farmhouses, all of which are still occupied.

Marge had to get back to finish the luncheon preparations, so we dropped her off and headed toward the Vermilion River. We found the township hall and the original, now deconsecrated structure of St. Joseph's Church, right where she described them. After a short trip north along Highway 24 to see the cemetery and the old homestead of Julian and Emilia Block, we headed back to the Portage Inn.

In the meantime, Marge's place had utterly filled up--with scions of Buyck and with *food*. She had coordinated a remarkable community potluck: three different kinds of *pierogi*, stuffed cabbage both Polish (*golabki*) and Slovenian (*sarma*), potato dumplings, *kietbasa*, homemade head cheese, salads, and desserts including strudel and *potica*. After that fine meal, we got down to the business of Buyck history and Polish-American genealogy.

It was a very successful get-together. I had prepared by scouting the Minnesota Historical Society's collection for post-1906 naturalization records from the St. Louis County District Court for as many of Buyck's founding generation as I could find. Copies of the records enabled us to find several attendees' ancestral villages in my Polish road atlas. I gave a pitch for the PGS-MN which got results: four new members (for a total of six with Buyck roots now), and a sellout of the ten copies of the winter issue of our *Newsletter* that I'd brought with me. I received two items for the PGS-MN's Church and Local History Collection: *Silver Anniversary 1957-1982, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Buyck, Minnesota*, from Jim Majeski (a very detailed jubilee book for the "new" St. Joseph's building, with much local history), and *As I Remember: An Autobiography*, by Bernice Parda Povroznik. The latter came from Marcia Pokorny, the author's daughter, through the intermediaries of Jessie Hoffman Rutar and Marge.

I also received leads on new material for newsletter articles. With our new CLHC acquisitions, some other stuff I've found, and some more research, I will be doing a narrative article on the early years of Buyck's settlement. I swapped a story or two about Hipoleit (Charles) Buyck with Charles Hoffman, a direct descendant of his, and I hope to find out more on a future visit. And Tony Rutar gave me a good lead on another, smaller area of concentrated Polish settlement in northern St. Louis County, along Gooseman Road in Greaney and Gheen southwest of Orr. I will be doing some on-site exploration of that area before the weather turns in the fall, and will complement that with a census study like the one I did for Buyck.

Among all this, we didn't get to cover nearly as much Buyck family history as I'd hoped. After a very busy three-hour visit the crowd began to disperse, and we gave the Portage Inn back to Marge and her regular customers. Pleased with the new genealogical friends I'd made and the progress for the PGS-MN, I headed back to Virginia with my mother. Marge then gave us a really nice write-up in her column in the April 22 *News-Herald*--which may yet generate more interest in our Society.

Because I didn't get to talk to as many folks as I'd wanted, I will see if we can't make a repeat visit next year--to speak on beginning Polish genealogical research for our new unofficial northern chapter *and* to gather some oral history in earnest. So, to our new friends up there between Lake Vermilion and Crane Lake--thanks for your fine North Country welcome, and stick with the PGS-MN! And, if any of our members are that far "up north" for camping, boating, or fishin'--stop by and tell Marge that Greg sent you!

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*

Evelyn A. Karn, 4227-NE Washington St., Mpls. MN 55421-2853, writes: "My grandfather was Henry A. KUFFEL, born Nov. 1866 in Prussia (Ronowo). His father was John Kuffel who died when Henry was 3 years old. Henry was about 7 when he came to the US. His mother was Katarzyna HILDERBRANDT, born 13 Dec 1824. She remarried Mathias GRAJA--I don't know if that was before or after she came to the US. They settled in the Shimaken, PA area. I have been told that 2 children were left in Poland with a relative and came later with another family. I have looked at Ships' Passenger Lists but never found Graja or Kuffel. I understand that the children used the Graja name until they became of age. Henry had three brothers--Anthony, Joseph and John--and two sisters--Rosa and Frances. They came to the US in 1872-73-74 (the years that I've seen on census records). Thank you."

Margaret Koegel <jimk@pe.net> writes: "It said in my great uncle John Cieminski's obituary that he was born in Grajecki Poland. I've been trying to find out where Grajecki Poland is. So far I've come up empty. This could be the Americanized spelling for Grajecki, which may be why I'm having a hard time locating this town or province, whichever it is. Would you happen to know the correct Polish spelling of this place and its location on the map of Poland?"

Dick Zelenski <dickz@sparc.isl.net> writes: "I just received the Spring 1999 issue of the *PGS-MN Newsletter* and see that my email address is misspelled in the Missing Branches section (page 24). The correct address is: dickz@sparc.isl.net. Thank you for your attention to this correction."

NEW MEMBERS; *We welcome the following:*

Walter Bennick, 524 West Wabasha Street, Winona MN 55987 <wbennick@rconnect.com> is researching SREGZINSKI in Warbechy, Wyszach; FALKOWSKI in Falkow, Bransk; CZARNIECKI and CZAJKA in Woznawies, Lomza; MAKOWSKI in Braglow, Lomza; KIZENKIEWICZ in Rajgrad, Lomza; BIENIEK and RUSTIK in Mszana Dolna, Nowosadecki; RUSTELNK in Jlisne, Nowosadeckie and all in Virginia, MN. Also MALEC in Mszana Dolna and in Eveleth, MN.

Eileen Opatz Berger, 2535 So. Shore Blvd., White Bear Lake MN 55110 is researching OPATZ, TRUTWIN-FABIAN, SOBIECH, CZECH in Falkowice/Damratch, Dombrowka in Silesia and in Two Rivers Township (North Prairie and Bowlus, MN).

Richard W. Bialka, 1217 Borealis Ln., Col. Hghts. MN 55421-1968 is researching SCHLICHTING, BOZYCH, KRAWIECKI in Chicago, IL.

Roseanne Eppel, 1462 Willow Drive North, Long Lake MN 55356 is a new member.

Karen Johnson Gorz, 1388 Ames Ave., St. Paul MN 55106 is researching GORZ in Zakopane, Galicia, Poland and in New York City and Chicago.

Margaret A. Fanaselle, 115 E. Chisholm St., Duluth MN 55803 is researching LUKASZEWSKI (changed to LUCAS) in Pozen, Poland and in Duluth, MN.

James L. Hoffman, 403 So. Pokegama Ave., Grand Rapids MN 55744-3817 <JHoffman@Northernnet.com> is researching ZINDA, FLOREK and STEEP surnames.

Patricia Janecula, 4310 West 36th St., Minneapolis MN 55416 is researching JANIKULA, ZARNIOK, MOTZKO, POGREBA in the vicinity of Opole, Poland.

Gene F. Kishel, 6558 Holly Drive, Virginia MN 55792 <gfkishel@rangenet.com> is researching KIESELEWSKI (KISHEL) in Poland.

Irene Kolb, 6044 - 48 St, N., Oakdale MN 55128 is researching Michael STUCINSKI, born in Dec. 1888 in Kowno, Poland.

Earl James "Jim" Lasworth, 704 Navajo Trail, Marshall TX 75672-4566 is researching LASIEWICZ, SWIEZY, KANIA, WALKOWIAK, BARTOSZ, BREZEZINSKI, MATYSIK surnames.

Leonard Mankus, PO Bx 248 - 4473 Hwy 53, Orr, MN 55771 <Evie@Rangenet.com> is researching JOHN A. MANKUS in Sayersville, New Jersey.

Zigmund F. Mankus, Sr., 8082 Reid Rd., Britt, MN 55710-8120 is researching Joseph RUTCHASKY and Joseph MANKUS.

Susan James Morrow, 4011 Hubbard Av. N., Robbinsdale MN 55422-2223 <SMorrow987@aol.com> is researching BALDY in Brinitz in Opole province and FAUTSCH in Horst, Upper Silesia and both in Deleno, Wright Co., MN.

Kevin Proescholdt & Jean Swanson, 2833 43rd Ave S., Mpls MN 55406 <Kevin@friends-bwca.org> is researching CZAPIEWSKI in Brusy and STOLTMAN in Niezaprzeco and both in Winona, MN.

Pat Zimmerman, 7614 Mankus Rd., Buyck MN 55771 is a new member.

Vince Zotkiewicz, 3100 Timber Brook Dr., Plano TX 75074-8742 <vinzot@worldnet.att.net> is researching: ZOTKIEWICZ, John--came to the US in 1905--lived in Virginia, MN at least until 1912--relocated to PA--m. Victoria Arasim in Biwabek in 1910; ARASIM, Victoria in Wozna Wies, Lomza, Poland--came to US in 1900--lived in Virginia, MN at least until 1912--m. John Zotkiewicz; SOBLESKA, Stephania in Wozna Wies, Lomza--came to US ab 1909--lived in Virginia, MN until relocating to PA in 1912--married Alesander BRZOSTOWSKI in Virginia in 1909.

Roman Zylla, 12632 Terrymill Dr., Herndon VA 20170 <randczylla@aol.com> is researching ZYLLA and KAMPA in Opole, Poland and in Swan River and St. Cloud, MN.

RENEWED MEMBERS: *The following are renewed members who indicated their e-mail address for the first time or more complete areas of research:*

Mrs. Dolores Berg, 20449 - US Hwy 71, Sanborn MN 56083-3018 <bergfd@rrcnet.org> is researching FLOREK, GALLUS, BUHL, JAUNICH/ YONIK in the Opole area of Poland, BRZOZA in Berkowitz, Poland and all in Delano, MN.

Ed Brandt, 13 - 27th Ave. SE, Minneapolis MN 55414-3101 writes: "Enclosed is my check for the 1999 dues. Our family e-mail address is: <brandtfam@prodigy.net >. I also have a website where I have

my where-do-you-find-the-information Polish books listed. It is found at: <<http://home.cwix.com/~brandt@mci2000.com/edward.htm>>. Besides my books, this site now includes the lineages of my mother-in-law's ancestors in the Austrian Partition, as well as the surnames I am researching in the Prussian Partition (my ancestors) and in the Russian Partition (my father-in-law's ancestors). There are only two Polish surnames among the 180 or so: SIECZKA and GODZINSKA. The latter may have been a Polonization of a German name. Both lived in rural villages near Lodz. No ancestor with either name came to North America--only their descendants, who emigrated from Volhynia to Manitoba in 1905 and 1907. Sorry I can't get to meetings any more, but I still enjoy the newsletter."

Elizabeth Brown, 749 1/2 Investment St., Rodeo CA 94572 <BetteBr@msn.com> is researching PIERZINA, CZECH, BARON, JANUSZEWSKI surnames.

Sharon K. Burkhardt, 707 N. Main, Fairmont MN 5603 <burkhardt@bevcomm.net> is researching JANKE, JANIKE in Posnon, Pozan and in WI and MN.

Shirley Connolly, 21 Granville Ave., Ottawa Ont. K1Y 0M5, Canada <maskconn@intranet.ca> is researching all Kashubian surnames from A to Z in the parishes of Lipusz, Lesno, Wiele, Parchowo, Koscierzyzna, Sierakowice and Stecyca in Kaszuby and in Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada; Polonia, WI; St. Paul and Winona, MN.

Adeline Copa/Sopa, 2711 Danbar Drive, Green Bay WI 54313-7022 is researching COPA, FELSKI, LEMANCZYK in Borzysz Kowy parish in the Chojnice district of West Prussia and in Winona, Little Falls and St. Cloud in Minnesota.

Editor's note: Attention everyone with Kashubian ancestors. If your ancestors are from Kaszuby (the area just west and southwest of Gdańsk) and you have reached a dead-end with your research, you should contact the above two researchers. Both Shirley and Adeline have done extensive research on Kashubian immigration. They just may have information about your Kashubian ancestors.

Mary Kathleen Dembinski, 5437 E. Cortez, Scottsdale AZ 85254 <MKDembinski@Prodigy.com> is researching FRANK, MAZUREK, DEMBINSKI, NOWOTARSKI, SZYPERSKI, DOBKOWSKI, LUKAWSKI family names from Puck and Znin, from Augustowo in Suwalki and from Podgorz in Konin.

Veronica Freihammer, 13011 22th Ave NE, Rice MN 56367-9747 <verfrei@juno.com> is researching the WARZECHA surname in Dammratsch, Oppeln, Silesia (Polish name for the town is Domaradz). She writes: "I

enjoy your newsletters. My research for ancestors has not gone well. I was at the LDS in St. Cloud, but they couldn't help much. Although, they did say if I could find the church my grandfather attended it would help."

Elaine Haag, 2331 131st Ave. NW, Coon Rapids MN 55448, <larry.haag@worldnet.att.net> is researching MRUZ/MROZ in Lomazy, Poland and in Minnesota and ROZANSKI, BRZEZINSKI, CYDEJKO in Poland and in Minnesota.

Wayne A Hacholski, 256 S. Wrightwood St., Orange CA 92869-4942 <Wayne.Hacholski@UBOC.com> is researching CHOCHAŁEK, BAJÓR, BASARA, CZAJKA, TRZNADEL, MICHNAL, GLINIK, NIEMIECKI in Olchowa and Dębowiec in the Rzeszów area.

Linda Huggard, 9663 Virgil, Redford MI 48239 <lmhug@aol.com> is researching BLAZEJEWSKI, WALKOWSKI in Duluth, MN, PIERNATZSKI in Houghton, MI and all in Posen province, Poland.

Linda Huss, 409 Fairfax Avenue, Kalamazoo MI 49001-4259 <ljh@voyager.net> is researching KUNZA/KUNZE/KUNTZE/KUNZIE in Cerkwica, West Prussia and, PAULUBICKI, BELKA and BUCHOLZ in Kasubia and also ADAMSKI and all in Ottertail County, MN.

Jill Johnson, 157 - 76th Way NE, Fridley MN 55432-3073 <JJJ1JCS@aol.com> is researching KUKUCHA PAULUS, BRYJA, GORNY, LESSMAN in Wiele, Rajcza and Brusy.

Terry Kita, 5036 Queen Ave S, Mpls. MN 55410 <terry.kita@federalcartridge.com> is researching KITA, ZAK, SZMIT in the area near Czarnkow/Lubusz, formerly in Poznan powiat, now in Piła powiat.

Margaret Koegel, 41519 Cruz Way, Temecula CA 92592 <jjmk@pe.net> is researching CIEMINSKI, GINTER/GINTHER in Borzyszkowy in Poland and in Winona, MN and LASKOWSK, LASA/LASSA in Glesno in Poland and in Milwaukee, WI.

John Kowles, 3429 - 45th Ave. S., Minneapolis MN 55406-2924 <johnkow@worldnet.att.net> is researching KOWALEWSKI, JAWORSKI, SOVELL/ SO-WUL, FORTUNSKI, GRABOWSKI, ASHLAGER and LEGUS in Pomerania, Warsaw, Sulwaki and Crakow in Poland and in Chicago, IL, Winona and Lincoln County in MN and Shamokin, N. Umberland County in PA.

Millicent R. Kriske, 2541 Town Rd 269, Int. Falls MN 56649 is researching MAJCHRZAK (MICHOC) in Gniezno/Poznan in Pennsylvania then Minnesota.

David Kroska, 30725 Melanie Way, St. Joseph MN 56374 is researching KRZOSKA in Sadki, formerly Poznan province and in Silver Lake, St. Paul and St. Cloud, MN; RAKOWSKI in Samostrzel, Poznan province and in Silver Lake and St. Paul; MALAK in Szubin, Poznan and in Silver Lake; KUSTELSKI in Rogalinek and Swiatniki, Poznan and in Winona, MN and St. Paul; KUPFERSCHMIDT in Alt Kischau/Dirschau, West Prussia and in Winona and St. Paul.

Clare Larkin, 524 - 12th St., Red Wing MN 55066 <larkin@win.bright.net> is researching BUCCHOLTZ, SZATKOWSKI in Kownitz/Chojnice in Poland and in Chicago, then Green Bay, WI.

Gilbert I. Laskowski, 8306 Cherry Valley Lane, Alexandria VA 22309-2118 <Laskowski.Gil@EPA.GOV> is researching LASKOWSKI, KALKA, ANDERWALD, MARKOWSKI, GRAJEWSKI in Brodnica, Kadlub.

Mary Kremer Manderfeld, 6480 134th St. E., Northfield, MN 55057 is researching FLOREK in Zelesna, Biadacz and Klein Dobern, all in Opole province; BRZOZA in Opole, Opole; JANIKULA in Grosowice, Opole; WYSTRACH in Follwark, Opole and all in Delano, MN. Also PIELINGA, HONCZA in the Opole area and in Texas then Delano. She adds: "I'd love to see a group charter to the Opole area."

Ray Marshall, 4052 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls. MN 55406 <Raymarsh@mninter.net> is researching MARSZOLKIEWICZ, LUDWIKOWSKI, KUSHURA, IGNASIAK, BONOWIAK, CHORZEWSKI, MICHOR in Poznan and in Duluth, MN.

Donald A. McCavic, 5487 Lehigh St., Ventura CA 93003-4009 writes: "I am still looking for my grandfather Julijan/Julian BLOCK'S birthplace in Poland. His parents were Joseph Bloch and Rose GADOSKI. Julian came to the US in 1899-1900 and lived first in Superior, WI and then homesteaded in Buyck, MN."

Mildred Moellers, 8250 Hemlock Rd., Fayette IA 52142-9144 is researching PRZETAKIEWICZ from the Zielun area and LABRYK from the Sanok area.

Dan Nedoroski, 2470 Beverly Rd., St. Paul MN 55104-4904 <dnedoroski@aol.com> is researching NEIDEROWSKI, BARANOWSKI in Nowy Sacz--southern Poland--Labowa.

Sandra Nuss, 770 Summit Drive, Fairmont MN 56031 <snuss@fairmont.k12.mn.us> is researching JARNOT, SOLARZ, PHILIPSEK surnames.

Cecelia F. Pass, 556 Bolinger, Rochester Hills MN 48307 <RTPass000@ameritec.net> is researching EFTA, PEPLINSKI, BURANT, GINTER in Winona, Lexington and Greenbush, MN and Wibaux Co, MT.

Jeanette Peterman, 26607 River Rd., Cloverdale, CA 95425 <peterman@sonic.net> is researching DULAS, PIETRUS in Wells, Faribault Co., MN and TILL-MONEY, NIERLING in Iowa and in Wells, MN and Nierling and BUCK in Illinois.

Mrs. Helen M. Richard, Rte 1 Box 280, Burtrum MN 56318-8936 <JAHMRICHARD@JUNO.COM> is researching KRSZESZEWSKI, ROSINSKI, SOBIESCEK, NOWAKOWSKA in Silesia and Posen and in Duluth, North Prairie and Little Falls in Minnesota.

Barbara Samarzia, 4190 2nd Ave., Holyoke MN 55749 <samarzia@cp.duluth.mn.us> is researching MAHA, PRAHL, MADER, WICHARY in Bischof, Silesia.

Fran Konietzko Saucedo, 12706 Sandpiper Dr., Live Oak TX 78233-2738 <fran.saucedo@cwix.com> is researching KONIETZKO, FAUTSCH, MUCHA, NIEDWOROK in Horst/Swiekle, Opole Dist., Poland and in Delano and Litchfield, MN.

Kathryn Schafer, 30222 Cty Rd 6, Strathcona MN 56759 is researching WIELEBSKI (WILEBSKI), MASLOSKI, JANUCZEK, STEPHANOWSKI from possibly Śląska in Poland and in LaSalle, IL, then Wilno, MN and finally in Krose in Kittson Cty., MN.

Corrine L. Schultz, 750 1st St NW, Wells, MN 56097 is researching SCHULTZ, KULLA, KALIS, BUSH-LACK/BOZLOK, LENEK in the Wroclaw area in Poland and in Minnesota Lake and Wells in southern Minnesota.

Rose Spangenberg, 33709 E. Shamaineau Drive, Motley MN 56466-2414 is researching BERCZYK, MORZINZIK, CEBULA, GUSINDA, KLAMA, WIESHALLA, BENNING in Gorale, Poland and in Browerville and Long Prairie, MN.

Richard J. Wett, 1396 Baldur Park Rd., Orono MN 55391 <rjwett@BLACK-HOLE.Com> is researching PANKOWSKI, KASPROWICZ surnames.

Gary C. Wolf, 4701 LaCantora Ct., Rio Rancho NM 87124 <GCWolf@compuserve.com> is researching DEMSKI and LAMCZYK in St. Paul, MN.

Dan Zinda, 1115-6th Ave., DeWitt IA 52742 <73412.2000@compuserve.com> is researching ZINDA/ZYNDA in Posen and in MN, IL, MT; MADAY/MADAJ in MN and IL; BRANDYS in Spitzkowitz and IL; PIOTROWSKI/PETROWSKI, STEEP in MN; KOWALSKI in Bialonze?/Gniezno? and IL.

Tom Zolik, 7001 Hill Place, Mpls MN 55427-2125 is researching ZOLIK, STYGAR, ORLOWICZ, JANUSIK surnames.

Viewpoint-- Once Upon a Time in America

by John Radzilowski

Editor's note: PGS-MN member John Radzilowski writes a regular "Viewpoint" column in the Polish American Journal published in Buffalo NY. This article appeared in the June 1999 issue. We reprint it here because we feel that it is especially appropriate for our readers.

There once was a man named Stanislaw. He came from near Ciechanow, north of Warsaw. He could neither read nor write and he worked as a migrant laborer, following the harvests across the Russian frontier into Prussia, picking crops on the estates of the German Junker barons. As hard as he worked, he did not get ahead much and his toil did little to help his family. One day, he decided to make a great journey, halfway around the world, far away from his family, friends, everything he had known. He left behind everything that he treasured and loved. He was 23 years old. On April 27, 1899, from the deck of the German ship "Treve," he caught sight of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor. After passing immigration, he journeyed to Michigan where he had a relative. He eventually found work in one of Detroit's many auto factories. He met a young woman--Franciszka--and later they got married and had eight children.

His work was hard, and the hours long, but once upon a time in America this former migrant worker raised his family and helped to build a gigantic Polish church that towered over the smokestacks of the auto plants. He and his family had their own house, close enough to the church that Stanislaw could go to Mass every morning before work.

Maybe you have heard this story, or something similar, before. This is my family's story, now marking a century in America, but it could be yours.

In looking back, we look forward. By following the thread of stories back into our past we learn about who we are, and we find that one end also leads to us and from us into the future.

The story does not end there. Two of Stanislaw and Franciszka's daughters joined the all-Polish Felician order and later built and ran the largest hospital in the Detroit area. One of their sons almost became a pro baseball player. Their six grandchildren all got college degrees, as have most of their sixteen great grandchildren.

Once upon a time in America, the heartbreaking journey and sacrifice of one migrant laborer who could neither read nor write and never really learned to speak English, led to professors, doctors, writers, musicians, poets, corporate vice presidents, and school teachers.

This story may sound familiar. Change the names and the places and it could be any number of Polish American families. We are not used to seeing ourselves and our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents as part of a story, one with tragedies, joys, humor, sadness. We see the pictures of our grandparents and great grandparents staring back at us from black and white photos, these pictures of familiar, beloved foreigners. They often told us their own stories. Sometimes the real stories of leaving their families behind to seek a better life for their children were too painful to think about. So they told us other stories about leaving Poland one step ahead of the tsar's secret police. It was a small deception, so that we would learn early on that life we have here, the life they gave us, was better than the one they left behind, no matter how hard the separation from their old homeland. Better to forget the pain, they might say, than to pass it on to their children. But that, too, is part of the story.

In looking back, we look forward. By following the thread of stories back into our past we learn about who we are, and we find that one end also leads to us and from us into the future. And the story is still being written, with pages and pages yet to fill. My story. Yours. Ours.

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