

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8

SPRING 2000

THE PATTERNS OF POLISH SETTLEMENT IN MINNESOTA: RICE LAKE AND GNESEN TOWNSHIPS, IN ST. LOVIS COUNTY, 1870-1920

By Greg Kishel

In several presentations for the PGS-MN, Paul Kulas has shown that the last prominent published work on the geographic distribution of Polish-immigrant settlement in Minnesota in the early 20th century has significant inaccuracies.¹ Paul used data from the 1910 federal census² to demonstrate that Poles and their descendants were more demographically prominent in many rural areas in our state than previously thought. I found Paul's methodology so interesting that I adopted it when I researched the early history of the Polish settlement at Buyck Township in northeastern St. Louis County.³ As my interest in the Polonia of Minnesota's North Country moved on to Gnesen and Rice Lake Townships north of Duluth, I decided to do a similar study for them. Again, though, I researched the settlement in existing secondary sources while I did my number-crunching.

Immediately after the Civil War, northeastern Minnesota was a raw and wild place. Duluth had been named and established as a village in 1856, but as yet it was small, isolated, and in a tenuous and primitive

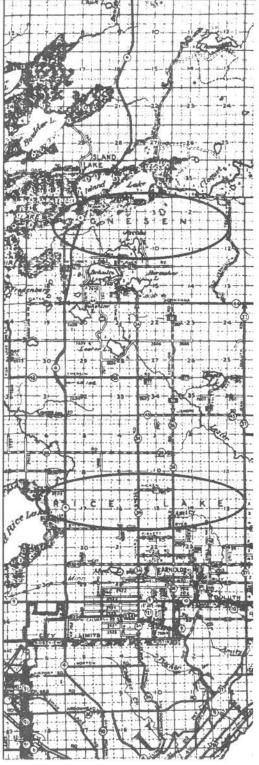
Patterns, continued on page 7

¹The work in question is Frank Renkiewicz, "The Poles," found in June Drenning Holmquist, ed., *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981) at pp. 362-380. Paul gave his presentations at the PGS-MN's 1997 appearances at Ivanhoe and St. Cloud, and the MGS's 1999 "Branching Out" meeting in Bloomington.

²The 1910 federal data more accurately reflected ethnicity than the 1905 Minnesota state census that Prof. Renkiewicz used as his major source. The 1910 count was the first one in which the enumerators were required to inquire about the *native language* of immigrant enumerants and their parents, and not just *their prior sovereign*. Before 1910, the identification of Poles and Polish-Americans had been hitand-miss, mostly miss--often as "Russian," "German," or "Austrian," rather than as "Polish." The 1910 federal schedules are much more precise.

³"The Patterns of Polish Settlement in Minnesota, 1910: Buyck Township, in St. Louis County," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 6, no. 4 (Winter, 1998-1999), pp. 10-13.

At right: Gnesen and Rice Lake Townships are located just north of the City of Duluth. (Source: Highway Map of St. Louis County, 1980 ed.)



NUMBER 1

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

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The **Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter** is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is included with membership. Dues are \$15.00 per year (See application form in the advertising insert).

Items submitted for publication are welcome and encouraged. Deadlines for inclusion are: March 15, June 15, Sept. 15 and Dec. 15 respectively. Articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries, ad copy, etc. should be sent to:

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President's Letter

by Greg Kishel

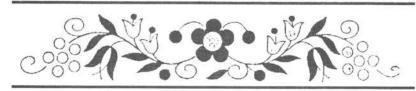
I'll make this one uncharacteristically short. As I write these words, it's a couple of days before our annual meeting. The election there will close out my term of four-plus years as our society's third president. It's been a lengthy tenure, and a lot of work, but I'm glad I did it.

I owe a lot to the people who worked with me to keep the PGS-MN going. Past presidents Blanche Krbechek and Kornel Kondy got the organization off a strong start. Barbara Rockman has been treasurer since the founding, doing the time-consuming but necessary management of the money, and has been a mighty voice for fiscal responsibility! Paul Kulas has been the society's single most powerful advocate-tirelessly promoting it by editing and publishing this newsletter, staffing our Polish Night at the MGS Library, organizing programs, and spreading the word far and wide. I've really enjoyed building friendships with the others on the board who've done the heavy lifting with us--Ed Brandt, Mary Ellen Bruski, Dan Nedoroski, Terry Kita, Genny Kieley, and John Radziłowski. And I owe much to the speakers, members and non-members alike, who've acceded to the entreaties I've made as program chair, for presentations at our meetings.

When I agreed to stand for president the first time, I ran on a platform of doing more outreach to outstate Minnesota's Polish-American communities, strengthening our newsletter, issuing other publications as we could, and seeing that our fledgling organization came into its own. I think I can say we've made great strides in most of those things. Other than our surname directory a couple of years ago, we still haven't published a book, or even a pamphlet. That's my only regret-but even in 1995, who would have predicted that a presence on the World Wide Web would supplant more traditional genealogical publications and enable members to broaden their research so much more? I haven't even been a shepherd to the quality and success of our Webpage--Kathleen Matelski and Mary Ellen Bruski have been the motive forces for that--but I'm proud that it happened on my watch. I can take a little more credit for the content of the newsletter--some of you may in fact tire of seeing so much verbiage from me--but again that's more due to Paul, and a whole crew of other contributors. I am happy, though, to have participated in a number of outstate presentations, and I will be organizing others.

Though I'll take the emeritus position of immediate past president, I will not vanish. I'll continue on the board in that status, through the end of my successor's term, and I've committed to continuing as program chair, at least through the end of 2000. After that, who knows? Research chair, perhaps, if my own time permits and the appointing power sees fit. I intend to continue my own diggings, genealogical and local-historical, and to publish the results here

I thank you all for your support during my term, and I urge you to increase your support for the PGS-MN. Renewing your membership for 2000 *now*, if you have not done so already, would be a big start. After that, pitch in on a committee, or as a board member for a term or two. We do have a lot of laughs doing the work of our society, and I think we can take a lot of pride in what we've accomplished together to strengthen and preserve our dual heritage as Polish-Americans and Minnesotans.



The Bulletin Board

PGS-MN Y2K dues are now due

If you have not yet renewed your membership to PGS-MN for the year 2000, please do so now! Our membership year runs from January to January. Check the code on the upper right of your mailing label. *If* the first two digits read "99", you are not current and this will be the last newsletter that you receive. If you think this in error, please notify the editor in writing at 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316 or e-mail him at <kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us> and we will check it out. If you have just recently sent in your renewal, it is possible that your code was not updated prior to the mailing labels being printed.

Hamburg website

We have received a letter and brochures from the *Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg* (Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg) promoting their website. This site will feature a data bank which includes the personal data of 5 million people who emigrated via Hamburg from 1850 to 1934. The site currently includes data from the years 1890-1893 and will grow, on a regular basis. Check it out at <www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/ welcome.htm> and let us know what you think of the site.

Poland trip

I am in the process of scrambling to get this newsletter laid out and to the printer before leaving on a three-week trip to Poland. Hopefully this issue will not have more than its usual number of production errors. I will report on my trip and on the results of the research that I hope to do there in the next issue of this publication. *PTK*





Polish parishes in Duluth diocese

Editor's note: Greg Kishel's articles about Duluth and Gnesen (PGS-MN Newsletter, Winter 1999-2000 and continued in this issue) have evoked response from our readers. The following letter is from a retired priest of the Diocese of Duluth. It is a good summary of the history of Polish parishes in the diocese and offers insights into the staffing and consolidation of parishes during this period of priest shortages.

St. John the Evangelist Parish in Woodland is my home parish. St. Joseph's in Gnesen is now a mission of St. John's. The early priests for Gnesen lived at our old Sacred Heart Cathedral downtown for a number of years and also went to Buyck. This was tough going since it was a long distance between those two parishes and Gnesen is about 35 miles from the cathedral. In the 1940s the pastor of St. Joseph's in Gnesen lived at the St. James Orphan's Home which cut off about 10 miles. He no longer had Buyck which was now attached to Orr, and also to an Indian Reservation parish much closer by. He was given another little parish outside of Duluth also named St. Joseph in Lakewood Township. Lakewood had been served until then by the priests of St. John's and the orphanage. Starting in the 1940s most of the priests at Gnesen have not been Polish. Fr. Tom Stack from Ireland built a rectory in 1950. Now it is rented to a caretaker and his family. Lakewood St. Joseph's is no more and Orr has always been in the hands of the OMIs (Oblates of Mary Immaculate).

I recognize a lot of the names listed in the articles. One of the 4th or 5th generation Lepaks lives a few blocks from me and he has a brother living in St. John's parish. There are still Lepaks at Gnesen. Some of the Kwasigrochs changed their name to Krosko. There is a Joe Cerniak with a polka band in Duluth's West End. My former parishioners at Sturgeon Lake and Split Rock Township, west of Moose Lake, were often interrelated with Gnesen, Buyck, Willow River, Duluth, and Superior and Cloquet Poles. Many also had connections with Browerville.

Duluth's West End had three parishes within a couple blocks of each other because of immigration and ethnic differences. St. Clement's was German and

English and established by the Benedictines (my father's home parish). St. Peter and Paul's was Polish and St. Jean Baptiste was French. Bishop Schenk closed St. Clement's (a major mistake since it had the best buildings and most solid parish) in the 1960s. The three parishes were consolidated in Holy Family, 3rd Street and Holy Family, 5th Street. St. Jean's was torn down about five years ago as was St. Clement's. St. Peter and Paul's was sold to a Protestant group two years ago and a new church was built on St. Jean's property and is known as Holy Family. The OMIs had St. Jean's and they now have Holy Family. A young priest from Poland is pastor. Our ex-bishop, Roger Schwietz, a Polish OMI from St. Paul was pastor of Holy Family before becoming bishop in 1990. Today he is coadjutor of Anchorage Alaska.

Across the street from St. Mary's Hospital close to downtown is St. Mary, Star of the Sea. Once a Polish parish it is now head parish of Center City Parishes. These include our former cathedral--now closed, Our Lady of Mercy on Park Point across the Aerial Bridge and St. Peter's, once an Italian parish about 13 blocks west of St. Mary's. Msgr. Pat McDowell is pastor of them all. He has a priest living on Park Point rectory who works with the Police Dept. and a newly ordained associate living with him at St. Mary's. The rectory of St. Peter's was sold by Bishop Paul Anderson (Also a mistake since a retired priest could live there and do the necessary sacramental things as is being done now in Babbitt. Fr. John Sustarcic is living in Babbitt and is loved and doing wonderfully even though he is almost blind and uses a powerful magnifying glass to say Mass etc. The deacon in Ely [15 miles] is the administrator and Fr. Jim Scherer in Ely is pastor of Babbitt too). About three blocks from St. Mary's is St. Josaphat's National Polish Catholic Church. Located in my home parish is Calvary Cemetery owned by the Diocese. Right next to it, with the fence now removed, is the Polish Catholic Cemetery which served both Catholics and National Catholics.

There were once Polish parishes in Cloquet and Virginia which have been consolidated with the larger parishes in those towns. St. Casimir's in Cloquet was completely sold to a Protestant group. St. John's in Virginia is in the middle of the same block as Holy Spirit. Its rectory is gone and Our Lady of Lourdes church and rectory were demolished and a new church with rectory attached to the school and six feet away from St. John's is now Holy Spirit. Our Lady of Lourdes church and rectory were in terrible shape and would have fallen down by now. I was sent by Bishop Schenk to Virginia in 1968 to build a church, school, rectory and convent on the south side. It was not feasible to do so when nuns were leaving and schools were shrinking in enrollment. So, after much consultation with our best minds, I suggested the consolidation to Bishop Schenk. McDowell was sent in by Bishop Anderson to carry it out (Bishop Schenk died while this was being planned). It is a good idea to have a new man to carry out the plan. Even when consolidation is wise, some people will be angry at the priest who plans it.

If you have contact with the writer of the articles I could give him a lot of information should he want to call on me when in Duluth.

Father Richard Partika, Duluth MN

More about the Warzecha surname

Editor's note: The article "Origins of the Warzecha surname" (Autumn 1999, pp. 10-11) continues to draw comment (See also "Letters to the Editor," Winter 1999-2000, pp. 4 and 6).

I have more information to add to the article entitled "More about the Warzecha surname" that appeared in the Winter 1999-2000 issue and was submitted by Lou Kruchowski.

Nickolas Warzecha was born 10 October 1829 in Poland. He died 25 May 1907. His wife, Rosalia (Zurr) Warzecha, was born 4 September 1830 and died 24 August 1907. They immigrated with their children: Eva, Sebastian, Anton, and Frank. A daughter, Victoria (Frank Czech), married in Poland and immigrated about 1875 with her husband. A son, John Warzecha, stayed in Poland. Nickolas, wife and children left Hamburg, Germany on 13 May 1879 aboard the ship *Cimbria*. It arrived in New York harbor on 10 July 1879.

Sebastian Warzecha was born 18 January 1863 and died 2 July 1925. He married Sophia Schlichting on 17 November 1885. Sophia was born 15 May 1868 and died 3 December 1950.

Sebastian and Sophia's children:

- 1. Lucy (m. Frank Trettel, 20 Jun 1905), b. 10 Oct 1886, d. 26 Feb 1978
- 2. Dorothy (unmarried), b. 6 Feb 1888, d. 28 Oct 1892
- 3. Victoria (m. Albert Puchalla, 20 Oct 1908 and then Sam Paspyhalla), b. 21 Dec 1889, d. 8 Jan 1978
- Zachaus (m. Mary Kulas, 29 Sep 1914), b. 22 Aug 1891, d. 16 Feb 1979
- Philip (m. Frances Pintok, 15 Jun 1920), b. 22 Aug 1891, d. 31 Jul 1976 (Zach and Philip were twins)
- 6. Frank, b. 26 Sep 1893, d. 6 Jul 1895
- Edward (m. Catherine Kuklok, 18 Sep 1917), b. 3 Oct 1895, d. 29 Sep 1972

- Stanley (m. Sally Kuklok, 13 Jul 1920), b. 8 Nov 1897, d. 21 Jun 1954
- Agnes (m. Nickolas Kuklok, 28 May 1918), b. 21 Dec 1899, d. 91 May 1997
- 10. Constance (m. Joseph Pintok, 22 Jun 1920), b. 16 Feb 1902, d. 16 Sep 1991
- 11. Cecelia (unmarried), b. 8 Jul 1904, d. 17 Feb 1923
- 12. Michael (m. Theresa Kulas, 13 Nov 1934), b. 8 Oct 1906, --still living
- Vincent (m. Rose Kuklok, 20 Oct 1930, then Catherine Kuklok, 8 Jan 1946), b. 3 Apr 1909, d. 31 Jul 1987

Anton Warzecha (son of Nickolas and Rosalia Warzecha) was born 11 June 1865 and died 31 Dec 1963. He married Mary Shatza.

I have a correction to the article in winter issue: Frank (not Prank) married Elizabeth CACHUCK on 24 Sep 1890.

I am very excited to be a member of PGS-MN as I am very actively researching my family's history. I was very happy to see the Warzecha name in the very first issue that I received!

Thank you so much. Kathy Warzecha, St. Cloud MN

Union of Polish Roman Catholics

Editor's note: In "Letters to the Editor" (Winter 1999-2000, p. 6), Kornel Kondy asks about the "Union of Polish Catholics in America." Here are two responses.

Dzień dobry! Excellent Winter Newsletter. I will send Kornel a brochure on the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. We have two societies in Minnesota--St. Jacob in Minneapolis and also one in St. Paul. I am involved in the Minneapolis society.

Do widzenia, Bernie Szymczak, Minneapolis MN

There is a Polish Roman Catholic Union in Chicago in the old Polish immigrant neighborhood off Damen Avenue. This is the neighborhood my Dad and his family moved into after leaving Poland in 1913.

Tom Zolik, Minneapolis MN

Letters, continued on page 23

TRACING SILESIAN ROOTS

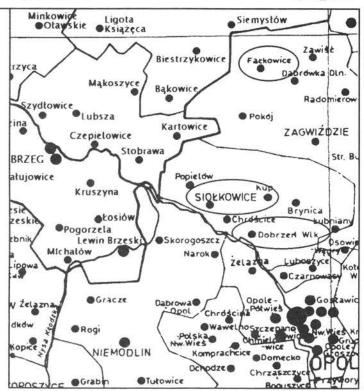
by Robert J. Prokott

In the latter part of the 19th century there were many persons who migrated from Upper Silesia to locations in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The largest settlement of these Poles was in central Minnesota, in Morrison, Stearns, and Benton counties. Smaller settlements were in Trempeleau County, WI., Wright County, MN. and Todd County, MN. Upper Silesia was then a part of Prussia. It was under Prussian rule from 1741 until 1945. The principal city in Upper Silesia was and still is the city of Opole. Upper Silesia was then known by its German name, Uberschleisen, and Opole's German name was Oppeln.

Opole is also the name of the district in which the city of Opole is located. Many descendants have been told by their ancestors that they had come from Opole and conclude that this means they came from the city of Opole. Nothing could be further from the truth. These persons who came from the Opole district to Minnesota and Wisconsin between 1870 and 1900, were farmers. They had lived in small towns and villages located mainly to the north and northwest of the city of Opole. The city of Opole has about 125,000 people and quite a number of parishes. Do not start your search in Poland by requesting records from a parish in the City of Opole unless you are sure that your ancestor definitely came from that parish.

The majority of Silesians who settled in central Minnesota came from the parishes at Falkowice, Stare Siolkowice and Dobrzen Wielki (then known by their German names of Falkowitz, Alt Schalkowitz and Gros Dobern). The parish at Falkowice included the villages of Domaradz (Damratsch), Lubnow (Liebenau), Zawisc and Dambrowka. The Stare Siolkowice parish includes the villages of Popielow (Poppelau), Chroscice (Chrositz) and Kaniow (Hirschfelde). The Dobrzen Wielki parish included the villages of Ladza (Salzbrunn) and Kup (Kupp). In 1898 Kup became a parish and Kaniow and Ladza became a part of the Kup parish. Other parishes in the area are located at Charnowasy, Pokoj, and Bakowice. A smaller number of persons came from those parishes.

Obviously, the best way to begin your search of Polish records is to establish the village from which your ancestors came. If that cannot be done, try to establish the village from which their neighbors came since persons who settled in this country often settled next door to persons who had been their neighbors in Silesia. If you can establish the general area from which they came, consider ordering the marriage



The map above shows Catholic parishes north and northwest of Opole. The three circled parishes were the villages of origin of many of the Silesians who settled in central Minnesota. (Source: Müllerowa, *Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish Peoples Republic in 1984*, Map E-5.) This item is available at the Polish collection at the MGS Library and is also for sale by PGS-MN (See advertising insert).

records for the nearest parish from the LDS Family History Center. Starting your search by checking marriage records increases your chances since those records usually include names of parents, also include the name of the village where the other party in the marriage lived. Nearly all marriages took place in the parish of the woman who was being married.

Marriage records for the Falkowice parish for the years from 1766 to 1870 are on LDS History Center Tape # 0923442. Dobrzen Wielki marriage records (1765-1870) are on Tape # 0937159. Stare Siolkowice marriage records (on Tape # 0937164) indicate that the records cover years from 1766-1863. However, they actually cover from 1766-1801 and 1829-1866. Records from 1801 to 1829 apparently were missed when the copying was done.

This information is provided in the hope it will be of help to persons searching for their roots in Silesia.

Patterns, continued from page 1

state of development.⁴ There was almost no white settlement in St. Louis County outside of Duluth. The only route north was the Vermilion Trail, a brushedout track that followed an old Indian footpath running north from Lake Superior to Lake Vermilion.⁵

The local economy was restarted by the beginning of harbor improvements and by Jay Cooke's revival of the plans for the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad. In 1869, an influx of population began when hundreds of men came to Duluth.⁶ Among these early arrivals were Polish immigrants, mostly young men from the German Partition. Some of them looked to the north, out of desperation with the chronic underemployment of the port (and probably yearning for the farm life of the old country). Lands outside of the Zenith City were being offered for settlement under the Homestead Act.⁷

Over the crest of the Lake Superior headland, immediately above Duluth's small settled part, was a densely-forested area. Much of the terrain was swampy, but there was higher ground with loamy soil suitable for cultivation and hay. The area that became

⁵Northeastern Minnesota pioneer George Stuntz cleared the trail in 1866, when thousands of men flooded into the region in response to reports that gold had been discovered at Lake Vermilion. MacDonald, *This Is Duluth*, p. 73. In 1868, the Minnesota legislature appropriated \$5,000.00 to cut a state road to Lake Vermilion, apparently along the same route. *St. Louis County, Minnesota Chronology: From the Earliest Times To and Including the Year 1900*, p. 33-34 (Duluth: St. Louis County Historical Society, 1924?).

⁶Van Brunt, Duluth and St. Louis County, v. I, pp. 171-191.

⁷MacDonald, *This is Duluth*, pp. 75-76, Stanisław Walczak (Kishel, transl.), "The Beginning of Polish Settlement in Duluth," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 7, no. 4 (Winter, 1999-2000), p. 8.

⁸In Twp. 51, the Poles were a small but significant minority of homesteaders. The earliest to receive title were Frank MUSOLF and Louis NOWISTSKI [NOWICKI] in 1875; John BOSOWJAK in 1876; Joseph REDLAK in 1877; John MATSCHEZESKI [MACIEJEWSKI?]; John DULINSKI, Martin GROCHOWSKY, and John MLYNARCZYK in 1882; and Andrew POLSKI in 1883. See U.S. General Land Office, Original Entry Tract Book Rice Lake Township (Twp. 51 N., Range 14 W.) is just north of the current Duluth city line. That which became Gnesen (Twps. 52 and 53 N., Range 14 W.) is above that. Polish immigrants were among the earliest applicants to file homestead claims, perfect their titles, and receive patents to lands in Twps. 51 and 52.⁸

Little narrative or oral history about the settlement of Rice Lake Township was preserved; however, there is some extant for the pioneers of Gnesen. Its content underlines the daunting prospects that faced them: braving the trek to their new homes, which in the earliest days was made on foot and in the open; fighting a harsh climate; and having to survive during the long process of carving a farm out of a difficult terrain. Martin LEPAK arrived in Duluth before the railroad was completed; he walked the path through the woods from the line's terminus at Pine City to the Head of the Lakes.⁹ The very first Polish settlers to head north from Duluth had to do the same; a branch of the Vermilion Trail, still suitable only for foot travel, went through Twps. 51 and 52.10 Early on, however, the residents of Twp. 51 cleared a wider road to the line between the two, on the route of the present-day Rice Lake Road. The MUSOLF, LEPAK, and TRADER families then cut the road north into Twp. 52, to meet

9"Martin Lepak, Gnesen Township Pioneer, Recalls Struggles of Early Days There," Duluth *News-Tribune*, Saturday, December 12, 1931, p. 7 ("Struggles"). This was in 1869. *Interview with Joseph Lepak*, taken by Arthur Roberts on September 17, 1960, tr., p. 1 (ms., in "Roberts, Arthur" file, Northeast Minnesota Historical Center, Duluth ["NEMHC"]). The first line to reach St. Louis County was the Lake Superior and Mississippi; it reached Duluth in 1870. *St. Louis County, Minnesota Chronology*, p. 34.

⁴Dora Mary MacDonald, *This is Duluth* (reprint ed., Ashland, Wis.: Paradigm Press, 1999; orig. pub., Duluth: n.p., 1950), pp. 56-58 and 60-66. "The panic [of 1857] and the Civil War had almost wiped Duluth out of existence when [Jay] Cooke came to the Head of the Lakes in the summer of 1866." *Id.*, p. 71. *See also* Walter Van Brunt, ed., *Duluth and St. Louis County: Their Story and People*, v. I, p. 162 (Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, 1921).

^{#3,} leaves 103-118 (State Archive of Minnesota film series ["SAM"] 46, roll 1.) (All homestead and census records cited herein are on microfilm at the Minnesota History Center, St. Paul.) As an ethnic group, the Poles of Twp. 52 were much more prominent among homesteaders. The first to receive title there were John POLSKI and Martin NOWAK, in 1877, Frank TRAD-ER, Frank NOWISKI, and John SZYMONKIVICIUS, in 1878; John TREDER, Jacob LEBUS, and Stanislaw KOSLAKOWICZ, in 1880; John KOSLO and Martin KUSNIEREK, in 1882; and Anton TARNOWSKI, in 1884. Others with Polish surnames perfected title in Twp. 52 the late 1880s and 1890s. *See U.S. General Land Office, Original Entry Tract Book #3*, leaves 119-130 (SAM 46, roll 1).

¹⁰"Struggles"; Joseph Lepak interview, pp. 5-6; Barbara June Tarnowski, *Southern Gnesen Township, with a particular emphasis on the Anton Tarnowski Family*, p. 5 (ms., NEMHC, in "Tarnowski, Barbara" file; copy held by PGS-MN as item no 37, Church and Local History Collection ["CLHC"]). The LE-PAK and TARNOWSKI families share a family tradition that their founding fathers hand-carried cast-iron kitchen stoves the last several miles to their Gnesen homestead, for lack of a wagon road or a wagon. Joseph Lepak interview, tr., p. 26; Tarnowski, *Southern Gnesen Township*, p. 4.

the farms that they were establishing. Though the roadbed was wet in many parts, it allowed travel into Duluth by oxcart or wagon.¹¹

The readily-available historical materials contain very little about the European origins of the first families of Gnesen. The LEPAK family traces its origins to Gniezno, in the German Partition of Poland, but the sources give no more detail than that.¹² The TAR-NOWSKI family tradition is that patriarch Anton was a Kaszubian, from the vicinity of Gdansk.¹³ Josephine KNITTER, who married Martin LEPAK in the U.S., knew members of the TREJDER/TRADER family in Poland, and may have immigrated with them; however, there is no indication in available sources as to the area or village they were from.¹⁴

One of the most noteworthy things about the Poles of this frontier is the readiness with which they established their own institutions, secular and sacred. A government for Twp. 51 was organized under the name of "Rice Lake" in late 1870.¹⁵ By 1879, the settlers in Twps. 52 and 53 organized a township government.¹⁶ Martin LEPAK, Martin KUSNIEREK, Henry

¹²Joseph Lepak interview, tr. p. 2

¹³Tarnowski, Southern Gnesen Township, p. 1. "Anton spoke a low Polish dialect called Kaszuby (equivalent to a U. S. Southern accent)," which made it "hard for the other Polish settlers [in Gnesen] to understand him." The family tradition, however, is that he spoke perfect German, and read mainstream Polish too. *Id*.

¹⁴Joseph Lepak interview, tr. p. 3.

¹⁶Van Brunt, Duluth and St. Louis County, v. II, p. 688.

¹⁷Joseph Lepak interview, p. 8. See also Warren Upham, Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance (reprint ed., St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1969) (noting that Gnesen "was named...for a city in the province of Posen, Prussia, reputed to be the oldest of Polish cities..."). MUSOLF, and Frank TRADER undertook the effort, and worked with St. Louis County Auditor George Bergeman. Probably at the instance of the LEPAK family, the organizers wanted to name the new township "Gniezno."¹⁷ Bergeman persuaded them to adopt a spelling more sonorous to Anglophone ears, "Gnesen," and so it was.¹⁸ The first township officers were all Poles.¹⁹ Forty years later, Polish Americans descended from the first settlers were still running the local government.²⁰

The Polish families of Rice Lake and Gnesen organized to meet their spiritual needs with even more alacrity. Martin LEPAK donated two acres at the corner of what are now Emerson and Church Roads for a church and cemetery.²¹ By the mid-1870s, the families had constructed a log chapel there, dedicating it to St. Joseph.²² As Fr. Evans has noted, these loyal Roman Catholics had a lot of pluck: they erected their church building without having resident clergy. Sharing most Polish immigrants' fierce desire to maintain the liturgy of their homeland, they wrote to the archbishop of Gniezno and Poznań to request that he dispatch a priest to them. The entreaty was frustrated by an ironic

¹⁹Martin KUSNIEREK was elected as the first-chair, Martin LEPAK as the assessor, and Henry MUSOLF as clerk.

²⁰The surnames of the township's and school-district's board members and officers in 1921 included TRADER, KRZEZEW-SKI, MACHNIKOWSKI, JAKUBEK, MOSINIAK, LABUD, and KARALUS. Van Brunt, *Duluth and St. Louis County*, v. II, p. 689.

²¹Joseph Lepak interview, p. 11. If the historical marker now at the cemetery is correct, the site had already been used for at least one burial, that of John TREJDER/TRADER, in 1868. See Greg Kishel, "A Transcription of St. Joseph's Cemetery, Gnesen, St. Louis County: Part II," this issue, pp. 12-17. PGS-MN member Betty Joyce, a descendant of Frank TRADER, has advised me that the sign and the modern headstone for John TRADER are in error, and that John actually died in 1879.

¹¹"Struggles"; Tarnowski, Southern Gnesen Township, p. 5, John Whitney Evans, Faith on a Changing Frontier: A History of St. Joseph's Parish, Gnesen, Minnesota, p. 5 (Gnesen, Minn.: n.p., 1996) [CLHC no. 17]. Frank MUSOLF was the overseer for one of the road districts in Rice Lake Township in the 1870s. See Elmer Foster, "History and Story of Rice Lake Community," p. 1, in St. Louis County Rural Community Histories Unedited, Minnesota Territorial Centennial 1949 (bound mss., n.d., NEMHC).

¹⁵Foster, "History and Story of Rice Lake Community," p: 1. The township first appeared on the county's tax sheet in 1873. Van Brunt, *Duluth and St. Louis County*, v. II, p. 724. In 1921, Michael DULINSKI, a descendant of one of the township's first homesteaders, was on its board of supervisors. *Id.*

¹⁸Joseph Lepak interview, p. 8. The transcriber of this interview gave the spelling of the original Polish as "Gneissenau." In 1930 the Duluth *News-Tribune* reported that the original form of the township's name had indeed been "Gniezno," but that " [d]uring the years since the frequent misspellings of the name Gniezno finally resulted in the popular spelling of Gnesen." "Gnesen Catholic Church to Celebrate Golden Jubilee," published Saturday, November 22, 1931, p. 18 ("Golden Jubilee").

²²Joseph Lepak interview, p. 10. In 1930, the Duluth newspapers variously gave the date of construction as 1872 and 1878. "Big Crowd Attends Golden Jubilee at St. Joseph's Church," Duluth *News-Tribune*, Monday, November 24, 1930, p. 22 ("Big Crowd"); "Golden Jubilee." Fr. Evans's research indicates that a log chapel with a bell tower and some features of Gothic architecture was completed by 1876. *Faith on a Changing Frontier*, p 5.

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twist of events in Europe,²³ but the Gnesen Poles gained some succor from the newly-appointed Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch of St. Cloud, head of the Vicariate of Northern Minnesota. Bishop Seidenbusch enlisted the aid of Fr. Jean-Baptiste Genin, an Oblate Missioner stationed in Duluth.²⁴ Fr. Genin visited Gnesen thereafter, and prevailed on other early Catholic missionaries to northeastern Minnesota to do so. After the establishment in 1883 of the Polish parish of St. Mary, Star of the Sea on Duluth's Central Hillside, that congregation's priests rode circuit to Gnesen.²⁵ The congregants of St. Joseph's, however, long prided themselves on having founded the first local parish church in the

For decades, the settlers of Gnesen identified themselves as "farmers." Their cultivation probably had little in common with that of the row-crop grain farmers of southern and western Minnesota. However, as they became more settled more of them were able to maintain a livelihood on their homesteads. Given the short growing season and limited range of feasible crops, it was necessary to earn some off-farm income; this came from maintaining boarding houses for loggers and railroad workers, road-building, and seasonal lumbering employment.²⁷ Wresting cleared fields from boreal forest and marsh was only the beginning; huge

numbers of glacial rocks had to be hand-picked from

²⁶Tarnowski, Southern Gnesen Township, p. 7; "Golden Jubilee"; "Big Crowd."

²⁷Joseph Lepak Interview, p. 20.

²⁸Joseph Lepak Interview, pp. 18-19. For awhile the Gnesen pioneers piled the rocks in roadside fences New England-style. After the St. Louis County Highway Department forbade the practice because it prevented snow from blowing off the roads, most of the rocks were hauled away to be used as fill. *Id*.

²⁹Joseph Lepak Interview, pp. 16-17; Tarnowski, Southern Gnesen Township, p. 4. In 1920, Walter and Emelia Janov, Polish-American residents of Rice Lake Township, gave their occupation as "lettuce farmers." *1920 U.S. Census, St. Louis* Cty., Minn., S. D. 8, E.D. 161, sheet 3B (film #860). the broken fields in the spring, after the winter frost had heaved them up.²⁸ The farmers of both townships grew such crops as hay, rye, oats, potatoes, and vegetables for market; as transportation to Duluth improved, they moved into milk, butter, and eggs.²⁹ Though some of the Polish homesteaders relied solely on agriculture for their livelihoods, the Anton TAR-NOWSKI family hedged their bets for several decades by purchasing property in Duluth proper and moving into town for city employment in the winter.³⁰

All of this brought me to my census sources--where Polish settlers on this frontier early showed up on the record. The 1870 federal census for St. Louis County includes a one-page schedule for Rice Lake Township.³¹ It shows settlers bearing the surnames of MANCHESTER, BOBRISKIE, NOVISKI, and MU-SOLF, who were identified as being from "Poland," and who constituted 64% of the enumerated residents in the township. The 1875 Minnesota state census for Rice Lake Township shows a greater predominance of residents of Polish background, 63 of 82, for 77%.³² Polish surnames in Rice Lake Township at this time included BROVIAK, MAUCHEJESKI (MACIEJEW-SKI?), PLOTNIZKI, NOVITZKI, SOBIESKI, HELE-SKI, DULINSKI, and others.

The 1880 federal census is the first one to show Gnesen Township in its own right. Its single-page schedule shows 29 residents in all, of whom 26 are unquestionably of Polish origin or extraction.³³ In 1880,

³¹1870 U.S. Census, St. Louis County, Minn., Rice Lake Twp., p. 1 (roll #10). (And, yes, it really says "MANCHESTER." Go figure.)

³²1875 Minn. St. Census, v. S-2, pp. 649-651 (Minn. State Pop. Census Scheds. ["MSPCS"], roll #15). The families of Martin LEPAK and Frank TRADER, Gnesen's very first settlers, are on this schedule. Judging by their presence, it appears that the enumerators of organized townships garnered the residents of adjoining unorganized townships into their count for the Minnesota state census. The 1895 letter reproduced with this article(p.11), apparently authored by Gnesen enumerator Martin Kusnierek, shows that this was the practice twenty years later.

³³1880 U.S. Census, St. Louis Cty., Minn., S.D. 3, E.D. 93, p. 7 (roll #632). To the extent that this schedule does not specifically identify enumerants as Polish-born, the fact can be gleaned from entries for them in later censuses. The remaining three residents, members of the family of George RORKA, might be of Polish extraction also. Their surname (given as HORKA on other census schedules) certainly sounds Slavic--though I have not found anything like it in William F. Hoffman, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* (Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 2d ed. 1997).

²³The archbishop had been arrested, imprisoned, and exiled for his resistance to the Prussians' Germanification campaign in Wielkopolska; he probably never saw the letter from the American Gniezno. Evans, *Faith on a Changing Frontier*, pp. 5-6.

²⁴Fr. Genin may well have been the "French priest... [who] understood the German language somewhat," mentioned by Stanislaw Walczak in "The Beginnings of Polish Settlement in Duluth," in our last issue.

²⁵Evans, Faith on a Changing Frontier, p. 6.

³⁰Tarnowski, Southern Gnesen Township, pp. 2-3.

Rice Lake residents of Polish extraction still constituted a 78% majority of the township's enumerants.³⁴ The Minnesota state census for 1885 shows the growing Polish-American presence in both townships.³⁵ The trend of Polonization split by the time the 1895 state census was taken, however. In that year, 93% of Gnesen's population was of Polish extraction, but new settlers of other ethnicity had so greatly outnumbered the remaining Polish pioneers of Rice Lake that only 18% of its population had roots in Poland.³⁶

By the taking of the 1900 federal census and the 1905 state count, Rice Lake Township's population was losing the distinctively Polish character that it had in its foundation; enumerants with Polish surnames or stated origins constituted only 23% and 13%, respectively, the township's count in these years.³⁷ Gnesen's Polish-Americans, on the other hand, both accepted new settlers and continued multiplying, showing majorities of 89% and 83% in the two years' counts.³⁸

³⁵1885 Minn. St. Census, St. Louis Cty., pp. 660-662 (Rice Lake) and 597-598 (Gnesen) (MSPCS, roll #42). The 1885 schedule for Rice Lake shows fourteen households, of which thirteen had members who are recognizably of Polish origin or extraction; they contained 95% of the township's 83 enumerants. The 1885 schedule for Gnesen shows fifteen households, all of the members of which were of Polish origin or extraction; Gnesen's population in 1885 was 100% Polonian. The Gnesen schedule includes most of the families recognized in the secondary sources as the pioneers of the township: TRADER, LEPAK, TARNOSKI, KUSNIEREK, MARCINIAK, LABUDA, POTULNY, and KOSLO/KOSLAKOWICZ.

³⁶1895 U.S. Census, St. Louis Cty., Minn., pp. 453-464 (Rice Lake) and 269-275 (Gnesen) (MSPCS, roll #94). By this time, though, residents of Scandinavian, German, and northeastern U.S. ancestry--and even a few Italians--constituted the majority. The lack of reference to the 1890 federal census is, of course, due to the American genealogist's perennial lament: the loss of nearly all the original schedules due to fire and water damage at the repository of the Bureau of the Census. The 1895 count shows new Polish family names in Gnesen: JAZDZEWSKI, HANCZ, MOSINIAK, FRANCKOWIAK, KAROLUS (KARALUS), JAKUBEK, SZCZEPANSKI, DATKE (DATKA), KOZIAREK, SOBCZYK, and KUJAWA.

³⁷1900 U.S. Census, St. Louis Cty., Minn., S.D. 6, E.D. 298, sheets 4A-6A (roll #790); 1905 Minn. St. Census, St. Louis Cty. v.1, E.D #31, pp. 43-52 (MSPCS7 roll #94). In 1900, the early Polish families of HELESKI, DULINSKI, MACIESKI (MACIE-JEWSKI), and WALKOWIAK were still present in Rice Lake. This brings us to the 1910 federal census, which is the focus of Paul's method of analysis. The Polonian component of Rice Lake's permanent population remained even with that of 1905, at 13%.³⁹ Because the northern half of Gnesen Township was being populated by people of other ethnicity, the ratio of Polonians in the township's total dropped to 76%--211 out of 277 residents in all.⁴⁰

And finally, the 1920 census for both townships shows another substantial increase in total population-to 916 for Rice Lake, and 329 for Gnesen--but another drop in the ratios of Polish-descended residents--to 7% for Rice Lake, and 64% for Gnesen.⁴¹

As Father Evans has pointed out, the demographics of Gnesen continued to changeeven more greatly over the rest of the twentieth century. The town is no longer

381900 U.S. Census, St. Louis Cty., Minn., S.D. 6, E.D. 298, Sheets 1A-3A and 7A (roll #790); 1905 Minn. St. Census, St. Louis Cty. v. 1, E.D. #32, pp. 79-88 (MSPCS roll #154). Sheet 7A on the 1900 census shows a logging or railroad camp in the township; the record does not establish the type. As I did in my analysis on Buyck, I have omitted the 22 inhabitants of this temporary economic installation from the total population, since our concern is permanent settlement. This gave a count of 204 Polonians out of 229 residents. Similarly, Sheets 9 and 10 on the 1905 census show a camp of some sort, in which there were no Polonians. I have omitted its 63 enumerants from my count also, resulting in a Polish to non-Polish ratio of 256:308 among Gnesen's permanent settlers. Prof. Renkiewicz's map shows the Polish-descended population of Rice Lake as comprising 2 to 10% of the total, and that of Gnesen as 25-50%. For Rice Lake, the map's undercount might be due to the schedules' identifying the ancestral homeland of the DULIN-SKI and GRACKOWSKI families as "Germany." The shortage for Gnesen is inexplicable, however, as enumerator Martin Kusnierek took pains to identify the roots of every single person of polski surname as "Poland," and by one of the three partitions.

³⁹1910 U.S. Census, St. Louis Cty., Minn., S.D. 8, E.D. 209, sheets 1A-6B (roll #723). By 1910, Rice Lake's total permanent population had grown to 530. Sheet 5B shows 50 inhabitants of a lumber or railroad camp, whom I have omitted from the total. Because the camp had 9 men professing Polish origins, this reduced the overall ratio from 14%. As I did for Buyck, however, I included the two Native American enumerants shown on a separate Indian Census schedule.

⁴⁰1910 U.S. Census, St. Louis Cty., Minn., S.D. 8, E.D. 209, sheets 8A-11A (roll #723).

⁴¹1920 U.S Census, St. Louis Cty., Minn., S.D. 8, E.D. 161, sheets 1A-10A (Rice Lake) and S.D. 8, E.D. 223, sheets 1A-4A (Gnesen) (both roll #860).

³⁴1880 U.S. Census, St. Louis Cty., Minn., S. D. 3, E.D. 93, pp. 5-6 (roll #632). This was so even with the transfer of Gnesen residents to a schedule for their own newly-organized township. Surnames of persons on Rice Lake's 1880 schedule who were noted as born in "Polish Prussia" or "Prussia" include PLOTZKI, OSTROVITZKI, KALLISKI (HELESKI?), SEBASKI (SOBIE-SKI?), NOVITZKI, MYROWICK, and MUSOLF.

In 1905, these four names were still scheduled, along with the GRACKOWSKI family. (In the 1905 schedules, however, the lineage of MACIEJEWSKI suffered an even more mangled spelling, now "MATSCHJSKE.").

an isolated farming hamlet, having become a something of a rural bedroom community for Duluth. All of the Polish pioneers are long gone; now their descendants to the third and fourth generations rest in the cemetery at St. Joseph's Church. Nonetheless, a bit of the culture of the pioneers survives, in the tradition of self-governance in the parish, in the old-country hymns sung for the Communion meditation there, and in the surnames of many of the township's present residents.⁴²

As we have seen, the crunching of the hard numbers bears out what the narrative sources suggest: both of these townships of Minnesota's North Country were among the earlier places of distinctively Polish settlement in Minnesota. Tough immigrants from a divided homeland tamed a frontier here, founded a community, created their own institutions, preserved the culture of their ancestors for decades, and gave their descendants the gift of American citizenship.

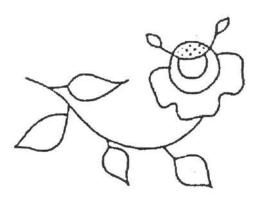
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WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS: I had assistance with the background research on this one. Pat Maus, curator at the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, got me into the NEMHC's files for Gnesen and Rice Lake and other localhistory materials. As we've gone forward separately into the early days of Duluth's Polish community, Ray Marshall and I have swapped notes and sources. New member Sandra Armstrong has shared information on the interconnectedness of those early Gnesen families--thanks, Sam! And Father John Whitney Evans, who currently serves St. Joseph's, has given cheerful support in the latter stages of this piece, I look forward to visiting with him at greater length later this spring. Dziękuję bardzo, koledzy i koleżanki!

⁴²Evans, Faith on a Changing Frontier, pp. 13-25.

incus 11.01140 say that 4-5-5-5 4.-50 gol no people reng 0-3-10- is one log ying comp entered in Canoria schedules mistake. As these people dons know themselves in what to c. hove und you ex on The U entra letter, adda Cenaux oting this satisf ruen

This letter to his superiors in the Census Bureau from Gnesen Census Enumerator, Martin Kusnierek, shows the difficulty of placing residents in their correct geographical location in Minnesota's northern wilderness. He notes that workers at a lumber camp: "don't know themselves in what town they live."



A TRANSCRIPTION OF ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY GNESEN, ST. LOVIS COUNTY: PART 2

By Greg Kishel

In the summer of 1999, I took a transcription of the Polish-American cemetery next to St. Joseph's Church, in Gnesen Township north of Duluth. In the last issue of this newsletter, I presented the first part of my results. Here is the second half, starting with the members of the family descended from one of the very first settlers. I have used the same system of notation as I did in the first installment.¹

Agatha A. LEPAK Mother 1872 † 1961 *R. 8; Grp. 70; FS, with Simon LEPAK*

LEPAK Alexander 1904 - 1990 R. 3; Grp. 10; FS, with Mary LEPAK

LEPAK Andrew S. D.D.S. 1883 - 1969 *R. 7; Grp. 56; HS, with Francis J. LEPAK*

Angela C. LEPAK May 15, 1892 January 14, 1968 *R. 8; Grp. 70; FS*

LEPAK Angela T. 1908 Married Sept. 30, 1933 *R. 14; Grp. 126; HS, with Ernest S. LEPAK* LEPAK Anton 1875 - 1949 *R. 7; Grp. 55; HS*

Barbara A. LEPAK 1918 R. 2; Grp. 3; HS, with Samuel John FRANCKOWIAK

LEPAK Carol M. 1940 -R. 14; Grp. 126; HS, with Dennis J. LEPAK

Casimer LEPAK Mar. 3, 1909 May 28, 1909 *R. 11; Grp. 93; HS*

LEPAK Catherine Mother 1860 - 1946 *R. 9; Grp. 80; HS, with Paul P. LEPAK*

¹The markers are signified as "HS," if a headstone; "FS," if a footstone; "Ob.," if an obelisk; and "Cr.," if a cross. (The latter two sorts of markers are limited to burials between about 1895 and 1920, but they are common for that period.) Where groups have both markers, I have used the notation "FS, under HS." Brackets around a surname mean that it is not present on the footstone; in that case, I attached the surname given on the associated headstone. To identify the location of the markers, I counted 18 rows in the cemetery, starting at the wall next to Church Road. Note that row 1 begins with group 1; row 2 with group 3; row 3 with group 9; row 4 with group 47; row 8 with group 57; row 9 with group 103; row 13 with group 116; row 14 with group 124; row 15 with group 130; row 16 with group 140; row 17 with group 144; and row 18 is group 147.

Daisy M. LEPAK 1911 - 1946 Mother *R. 7; Grp. 55; HS*

LEPAK Dennis J. 1937 - 1984 *R. 14; Grp. 126; HS, with Carol M. LEPA*K

Edward P. LEPAK Tec4 US Army Mar 26 1909 Jun 26 1975 *R. 12; Grp. 107; FS*

Ernest LEPAK Pvt US Army Jan 8 1905 July 29 1972 *R. 13; Grp. 121; FS*

LEPAK Ernest S. 1905 - 1972 Married Sept. 30, 1933 *R. 14; Grp. 126; HS, with Angela J LEPAK*

LEPAK Francis J. M.D. 1882 - 1969 R. 7; Grp. 56; HS, with Andrew S. LEPAK

Helen A. LEPAK Mother 1884 - 1965 *R. 11; Grp. 98; HS*

Ida H. LEPAK 1912 - 1949 *R. 10; Grp. 89; HS*

Jennette C. LEPAK 1886 - 1914 *R. 10; Grp. 82; HS*

Joseph [LEPAK] 1881 - 1964 Father *R. 7; Grp. 55; FS, under HS LEPAK*

Josephine LEPAK Died 4-17-86 *R. 3; Grp. 10; FS*

LEPAK Jozefina Matka 1851 - 1920 *R. 10; Grp. 82; HS, with Marcin LEPAK* Lorraine LEPAK Our Darling 1916 - 1926 *R.11; Grp. 98; HS*

LEPAK Marcin Ojciec 1847 - 1941 *R. 10; Grp. 82; HS, with Jozefina LEPAK*

Tu Spoczywa W Pokoju Sw. Pamięci Marcin LEPAK Jr. Urodził się D. 7 Paz. 1877 Umarł D. 1 Kwiet. 1908 *R 9; Grp. 73; Ob.*

Martin A. LEPAK Oct. 29, 1896 Dec. 9, 1975 *R. 7; Grp. 56; FS*

LEPAK Mary 1906 - 1985 *R. 3; Grp. 10; FS, with Alexander LEPAK*

Mary M. [LEPAK] 1879 - 1949 Mother *R. 7; Grp. 55; FS, under HS LEPAK*

Mary M. LEPAK 1914 - 1940 *R. 7; Grp. 55; HS*

Tu Spo. Maryjanna LEPAK 1885 - 1892 *R. 8; Grp. 60; HS*

LEPAK Paul P. Father 1858 - 1940 *R. 9; Grp. 80; HS, with Catherine LEPAK*

Pauline E. LEPAK R.3; Grp. 10; FS

Simon LEPAK Father 1869 † 1937 *R. 8; Grp. 70; FS, with Agatha A. LEPAK*

Stanley F. LEPAK Nov. 15, 1894 Feb. 14, 1974 *R. 7; Grp. 56; FS*

Veronica LEPAK Feb. 3, 1906 Mar. 3, 1906 *R. 11; Grp. 93; HS*

William LEPAK 1893 †1964 *R. 10; Grp. 82; HS*

Gordon Albert LUNDSTROM S1 US Coast Guard World War II May 22 1922 Dec 20 1986 *R. 17; Grp. 145; FS*

Mary June LUNDSTROM Mar 26 1924 Mar 3 1987 *R. 17; Grp. 145; FS*

MACHNIKOWSKI Anna 1883 - 1963 R. 11; Grp. 102; HS, with Kathryn and Francis MACHNIKOWSKI

MACHNIKOWSKI Francis 1920 - 1990 *R. 11; Grp. 102; HS, with Kathryn and Anna MACHNIKOWSKI* and also: Francis MACKNIKOWSKI US Army Air Corps World War II 1920 - 1990 *R. 11; Grp. 102; FS*

MACHNIKOWSKI Kathryn 1907 - 1991 R. 11; Grp. 102; HS, with Francis and Anna MACHNIKOWSKI

MALESZKA Frank 1892 - 1985 R. 3; Grp. 9; FS, with Theresa MALESZKA

MALESZKA Theresa 1891 - 1976 R. 3; Grp. 9; FS, with Frank MALESZKA Elizabeth V. MARSHALL Wife 1911 † 1955 *R. 10; Grp. 90; HS*

Patrice S. MAY Sweet Memories 1959 - 1994 *R. 14; Grp. 125; HS*

Patrice Steinhemmer MAY US Army Feb 15 1959 Oct 31 1994 *R. 13; Grp. 120; FS*

McHALE Bernice M. Mother 1903 † 1980 R. 15; Grp. 134; HS, with Francis H. McHALE

McHALE Francis H. Father 1900 † 1971 *R. 15; Grp. 134; HS, with Bernice M. McHALE*

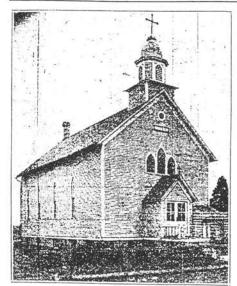
Margaretha MICHELS Nov. 27, 1835 Oct. 14, 1914 *R. 5; Grp. 35; FS*

MUSOLF George Son 1879 - 1932 *R. 14; Grp. 129; HS, with Henry and Michael MUSOLF* HS notes: Gnesen Pioneer

MUSOLF Henry Father 1840 - 1937 *R. 14; Grp. 129; HS, with Michael and George MUSOLF* HS notes: Gnesen Pioneer

Magdeline M. MUSOLF and also: Mother 1842 - 1917 *R. 6; Grp. 44; HS, with FS*

Mary MUSOLF June 9, 1847 May 9, 1895 Rest in peace *R. 6; Grp. 39; HS* Church to Celebrate Golden Jubilee



St. Joseph Catholic church, on the Emerson road, township of Gnesen, said to be the oldest parish in the Roman Catholic diocese of Duluth, will celebrate its golden jubilee at a banquet Nov. 23. The affair will be held in St. Joseph parish hall. The building shown above is the seebnd church, the first-being built of logs, and was torn down eight yars ago. The parish, which had about seventy-five families a lew ykars ago, now has thirty families. Many old families which once hvyd in Gnesen as old settlers are expected to attend the celebration., Tickets are in the hands of parishioners.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Gnesen (pictured above, ca. 1930) is said to be the oldest Catholic parish in the Diocese of Duluth.

MUSOLF Michael Son 1889 - 1931 R. 14; Grp. 129; HS, with Henry and George MUSOLF HS notes: Gnesen Pioneer

Myrtle MUSOLF Born Jun 19, 1903. Died Aug 16, 1903 *R. 5; Grp. 24; HS*

Josephine NOVITZKI Died July 20, 1884 Age 52 Years *R. 8; Grp. 67; HS*

Lukas NOVITZKI Died Oct. 4, 1922 Age 94, Years *R.8; Grp. 67; HS*

Leonard C. NOWAK T SGT US ARMY World War II Nov 22 1916 Apr 12 1995 *R.4; Grp. 17; FS* NOWAK Magdeline 1871 - 1953 Mother R. 5; Grp. 30; HS, with Peter. J. NOWAK

NOWAK Peter J. 1871 - 1957 Father R. 5; Grp. 30; HS, with Magdeline NOWAK

Peter Joseph NOWAK Minnesota PVT CO C 14 REGT MINN INF Spanish American War April 29 1870 May 24 1957 *R. 5; Grp. 30; FS*

NOWAK Ted 1915 - 1969 R. 4; Grp. 17; FS, with Verna NOWAK

NOWAK Verna 1915 R. 4; Grp. 17; FS, with Ted NOWAK

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Konstanty S. OLES 1895 - 1963 *R. 13; Grp. 122; FS*

Mary A. OLES 1895 - 1991 R. 13; Grp. 122; FS

Stella F. PIERCE Jan. 13, 1912 Aug. 4, 1998 "Grama Great" *R. 15; Grp. 130; FS*

Tu Spoczywa S.P. Katarzyna POTULNA Corka -- Urodziła się D. 1go List, 1883 Ro. Umarła D. 3go, Kwiet, 1896 Ro. R.I.P. *R. 9; Grp. 76; Ob. [N. side]*

Tu Spoczywa S.P. Jacob POTULNY Urodził się D. 10go Sierp. 1851 Ro Umarl D. 3go Listop. 1907 Ro. R.I.P. *R. 9; Grp. 76; Ob [W. side]*

Tu Spoczywa S.P. Jan POTULNY Syn -- Urodził się D. 18go Pazdz. 1881 Ro. Umarł D. 7go Lutego 1908 Ro. R.I.P. *R. 9; Grp. 76; Ob. [E. side]*

Joseph POTULNY Died Sep. 5, 1896 Age 6 Mos. *R. 9; Grp. 76; HS*

PUTREJKA Genevieve Jan. 1, 1880 July 16, 1943 *R.6; Grp. 37; HS*

PUTREJKA Mathew 1876 - 1970 *R. 6; Grp. 37; HS*

Fred ROTT R. 5; Grp. 25; HS

Josephine SCHITIZA Grandma 1807 - 1908 *R. 11; Grp. 95; HS* FRANK & VINA SCHOBER MEMORIAL R. 6; Grp. 36; statue of Christ

Peter SEIFERT B. 6-24-1824. D. 2-23- 1905. *R. 8; Grp. 63; Cr.*

Anastasia SINK 1903 - 1930 *R. 8; Grp. 69; FS*

Anna SOBCZYK Mother 1885 - 1946 *R. 7; Grp. 54; HS*

Tu Spoczywa Franciszka SOBCZYK Uro. 26 Mar. 1820 Um. 19 Mar. 1894 Prosi o Wes. do Boga. *R. 7; Grp. 48; Cr. (iron)*

J. SOBCZYK Ur. 15 Maja Um. 3 Lipca 1917 *R. 6; Grp. 45; HS*

Rose SOBCZYK Mother 1861 - 1940 *R. 7; Grp. 54; HS*

Thomas SOBCZYK 1879 - 1952 *R. 8; Grp. 66; FS*

Mary SOBIESKI 1867 - 1960 *R. 12; Grp. 104; FS*

Peter P. SOBIESKI Son 1893 - 1960 *R. 13; Grp. 117; FS*

Mike SOBISKY Father 1862 - 1942 *R. 12; Grp. 104; HS*

Tu Sp. Sw. Pa. Ig. SOPCZIK Ur. 1 Lutego 1848 Um. 2 Wrze. 1912 *R. 3; Grp. 13; Ob.*

Ustena SPICHALL 1833 - 1903 *R. 7; Grp. 52; HS*



Rubbing of a marker at St. Joseph's; note mixing of Polish and English in text.

Tu Spoczywa Agata SZCZESNA Urodziła się 1831 Umarła R. 1911 Matka *R. 7; Grp. 47; HS*

Paul A. SZCZESNEY Father 1865 † 1954 *R. 1; Grp. 1; FS*

Elizabeth SZCZESNY 1867 † 1957 *R. 11; Grp. 96; FS*

Frances SZCZESNY Born 1867 Died 1919 Mother *R. 2; Grp. 6; HS*

Józef SZCZESNY Ojciec 1863 - 1934 *R. 8; Grp. 71; HS*

Katarzyna SZCZESNY Matka 1870 - 1945 *R. 8; Grp 71; HS* Paul [SZICA/SCHITIZA] 1888 - 1913 *R. 11; Grp. 95; HS*

Walenti SZICA Umar 1916 Rok Jezus Marija Jozef R. 11; Grp. 95; HS

Stephen SZYBNSKI Father 1910 † 1971 *R. 15; Grp. 131; FS*

Tu Spoczywa S. P. Anna TARNOWSKA Urodzila sie 11go Maja 1883 Umarla 1go Listopada 1914 R.1.P *R. 10; Grp. 86; Ob.*

Mother Tu Spoczywa Maryanna TARNOWSKA Urodzona Roku 1852 Umarla Roku 1928 *R. 10; Grp. 86; HS*

Anthony S. TARNOWSKI Father Tony 1877 - 1949 *R. 11; Grp. 99; HS*

TARNOWSKI Evangeline D. 1896 - 1963 R. 3; Grp. 11; FS, with George P. TARNOWSKI

Florencyi H. TARNOWSKI Daughter 1912 † 1999 R. 10; Grp. 86; FS

Frank TARNOWSKI Born Died July 30 April 17 1909 1938 *R. 4; Grp. 20; HS*

TARNOWSKI George P. 1891 - 1969 R. 3; Grp. 11; FS, with Evangeline D. TARNOWSKI

Jacob W. TARNOWSKI June 12, 1883 Feb. 4, 1952 *R. 11, Grp. 99; FS*

Julius TARNOWSKI Father April 1, 1879 July 4, 1963 *R.11; Grp. 99; FS*

TARNOWSKI Paul E. 1887 - 1948 Father R. 10; Grp. 86; HS, with Rosie V. TARNOWSKI

Raphael Albert TARNOWSKI Father 1931 - 1993 *R. 3; Grp. 11; FS*

Rose G. TARNOWSKI Aug. 27, 1890 Feb. 9, 1967 *R.11; Grp. 99; FS*

TARNOWSKI Rosie V. 1890 - 1983 Mother R.10; Grp. 86; HS, with Paul E. TARNOWSKI Rock of Ages Jan. 14 1836 July 23 1908 *R. 10; Grp. 86; Ob.* Justin S. THIBAULT May 20, 1975 Feb. 21, 1991 *R. 15; Grp. 133; HS* Jozefa

Antonio TARNOWSKY

TOBOLA Feb. 17, 1820 Feb. 25, 1925 *R. 11; Grp. 97; HS*

TRADER Barbra 1829 - 1914 R. 6; Grp. 41; HS, with John TRADER

Frank J. TRADER Minnesota PVT. 358 INF 90 DIV. March 31, 1926 *R. 3; Grp. 12; HS*

TRADER John 1821 - 1868 *R. 6; Grp. 41; HS, with Barbra TRADER*

Katherine TRADER Mother Nov. 1858 Oct. 11, 1923 *R. 3; Grp 12; Ob*.

TRADER Mother Katherine 1885 - 1970 R. 2; Grp. 8; FS, with Peter TRADER

TRADER Father Peter 1880 - 1971 *R. 2; Grp. 8;* FS, with Katherine TRADER

Tu Spoczywa S.P. Wojciech TRADER 1882 - 1913 Prosi o Modlitwe *R. 3; Grp. 12; HS* Franciszek TREJDER Urodził sie d. 12 Pazdz 1849 R. Umarł d. 24 Wrzes. 1915 R. R.IP. R. 3; Grp. 12; Ob. Maryjan TRÉJDER Urodził sie 17. Kwietnia 1883 Umarł 11, Czerwca

R. 8; Grp. 59; HS Roman TREJDER Urodził sie 27 Marca 1888 Umarł

1893

30 Wrzesnia 1888 *R. 3; Grp. 14; HS*

Harold W WAKEFIELD Sr US Army World War II Jul 22 1919 Jul 23 1996 *R. 16; Grp. 143; FS*

Henry (Hank) WAKEFIELD 1944 - 1963 Son R. 15; Grp. 138; HS, with Jimmy WAKEFIELD

WAKEFIELD Jimmy 1965 - 1975 Son R. 15; Grp. 138; HS, with Henry (Hank) WAKEFIELD

William Roger WAKEFIELD SI US Navy Mar 26 1942 Jun 5 1997 R. 16; Grp. 143; FS

Margaret V. WALCZAK In Loving Memory Mother 1904 - 1995 *R. 12; Grp. 106; FS*

Michael C. WALCZAK In Loving Memory Father 1900 - 1957 *R. 12; Grp. 106; FS* WALKOWIAK Catherine 1850 - 1946 R. 5; Grp. 22; HS, with Joseph WALKOWIAK

WALKOWIAK

Clara E. 1895 - 1939 Mother *R. 4; Grp. 18; HS*

WALKOWIAK Frank M. 1882 - 1975 Father *R. 4; Grp. 18; HS*

George J. WALKOWIAK 1889 † 1964 *R. 6; Grp. 38; FS*

WALKOWIAK Gladys L. 1916 - 1987 R. 5; Grp. 22; HS, with Jacob E. WALKOWIAK

WALKOWIAK Henry W. 1878 - 1961 R. 5; Grp. 22; FS, with Victoria D. WALKOWIAK

WALKOWIAK Jacob E. 1908 - 1983 R. 5; Grp. 22; HS, with Gladys L. WALKOWIAK

John WALKOWIAK PFC US ARMY World War II Jan 13 1915 May 24 1992 R. 5; Grp. 22; FS

WALKOWIAK Joseph 1851 - 1900 R. 5; Grp. 22; HS, with Catherine WALKOWIAK

Joseph W. WALKOWIAK Minnesota Wagoner 54 Pioneer Inf World War I Sept 25 1886 June 17 1962 *R. 6; Grp. 38; FS*

Roman Charles WALKOWIAK PFC US ARMY World War II 1906 1982 *R. 5; Grp. 22; FS*

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

S. P.

Spoczywa

WALKOWIAK	
Victoria D.	
1885 - 1972	
R. 5; Grp. 22; FS, with	1
Henry W. WALKOWIA	

Bruno WIECZORKIEWICZ April 20, 1949 *R. 11; Grp. 100; FS*

Alice ZBARACKI Mother 1911 † 1957 *R. 14; Grp. 127; FS* Eugene P. ZBARACKI Dad 1908 - 1972 *R. 14; Grp. 127; FS* Kate ZBARACKI Busha 1888 - 1961 *R. 14; Grp. 127; FS* Tu Spociwa Antoni K. ZELEFSKI Urodzil 12 Maja 1887 Umaryl 20 Lipica 1912

R. 2; Grp. 7; Ob.

* * * * * * * * * * *

And no transcription of this site would be complete without the two hand-inscribed signs next to Church Road:

> St. Joseph's Cemetery The first recorded burial was of John Trader in 1868.

and

St. Joseph's Catholic Church The original church made of logs was erected in 1876. Construction of the present structure was started in 1896 and completed in 1900.

* * * * * * * * * * *

If you've reviewed the content of these inscriptions as intently as I had to, you've noticed the many ways in which they evidence two aspects of the township's social history: the Americanization of Gnesen's people, and the persistence of the Polish language and culture of the community's founders. Here are the ones I observed:

1. A couple of English-sounding surnames that I remembered from my years of living in Duluth turned out to have Polish origins. The surname TREJDER is still found in Poland in a small number today.² Early

on, though, the TREJDER family of Gnesen Americanized the spelling to TRADER.³ The real surprise for me was CHESNEY, the current holders of which have carried on the auto repair and salvage trade in Gnesen for decades. From its original SZCZESNY⁴ (which was given the correct suffix of -A for matriarch Agata), it was later inscribed as SZCZESNEY for Paul; then it was Anglicized into CHESNEY for the early American-born members of the family.

2. KRZESZEWSKI clearly became KRISKE--a form still suggesting Slavic origins, but eliminating all of the rammed-together consonants that render Polish so forbidding to the American reader. In the mid-20th century, the form of KUBICKI changed slightly, to KUBISKI. The spelling of the SZICA surname as such is not phonetically-correct in Polish.⁵ On another marker it bears a more German spelling in SCHITIZA.

3. Two other Polish-language inscriptions follow correct grammar in changing the form of adjectival surnames for female holders: Katarzyna POTULNA and Bronislawa GRONKOWSKA.⁶ Quite early on, however, the markers ceased to maintain this formality for women.

4. A frequent phrase on Polish-language inscriptions is "T. S. S.P.," or some variation of the unabbreviated "Tu Spoczywa Świętej Pamięci..." It means "Here Rests the Late..." or more literally "Here Rests, in Blessed Memory..." It was a popular one with the immigrant generation, and I'm sure it reflects the style of inscription in late 19th-century Poland.

5. Inscriptions totally in Polish or nearly so started with the very first interments at St. Joseph's, and continued as late as 1945. They always include the Polish names for the months, and sometimes the Polish denomination for the year, i.e. *1845 r.*, "1845 *roku*."

⁴The name comes from *szczęsny*, "happy, prosperous." Hoffman, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, p. 484.

⁵Hoffman, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, p. 487. The original form of the name might have been SZYC, from the German *schütz*, "marksman, shot." *Ibid.*, p 497.

⁶On the other hand, on the very same marker as the former, Rosalia Czolgosz POTULNY is given the masculine form of the family name.

²It originated in the German *treider*, "corn-merchant." William F. Hoffman, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* (Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 2d ed. 1997), p. 507. Hoffman indicates that in 1990 ten Polish citizens bearing the surname in the spelling used by the Gnesen settlers had registered for a government personal identification number.

³John TRADER was the earliest of the family to be buried in the cemetery, in 1868. The modern spelling on his headstone is attributed to the fact that it is a recently-erected marker, probably replacing an older one.

To a surprising degree, they use the proper diacritical marks for letters unique to the Polish alphabet. I counted one Polish-language inscription for a burial in the 1880s; seven during the 1890s; five for the 1900s; eleven for the 1910s; and four for the 1920s. Clearly, the impetus to preserve the burial customs of the old country waned as the pioneer generation passed. It was nice that the descendants of the long-lived Martin LEPAK identified him as *Ojciec*, "Father," on his passing in 1941. Note that we have a bit of Polish on a footstone as late as 1961, that of Kate ZBARACKI. Her grandchildren honored her with the affectionate diminutive *Busia*, "Grandma," in an Americanized spelling.

6. On the other hand, English phrases like "R.I.P." and "Mother" crept into the Polish text of inscriptions for members of the immigrant or first American-born generations. An example is our illustration, a rubbing from the marker for Maryanna TARNOWSKA; the four-sided obelisk for the POTULNY family provides others. In an interesting twist, the survivors of township pioneer Anton TARNOWSKI not only gave him an Hispanic-flavored form of his first name, they used the non-Polish suffix of "-sky" on his surname and the all-American endearment of "Rock of Ages" on his stone.

7 And lastly, note how the LEPAK family proudly attested to the upward mobility of its American-born sons Francis (a medical doctor) and Andrew (a dentist), both of whom died in 1969.

To close, let me give the story behind one of our illustrations; it's almost one of those "little ripples through time" that I wrote about in this Newsletter several years ago.⁷ When I first visited St. Joseph's in June, 1999, I noticed that the headstone of Mary MUSOLF had a large flattish expanse above her name, obviously for some sort of carved decoration. The shallow depth of the inscribing, the color of the stone, and the angle of the sunlight prevented me from telling what it was. To the touch, the design seemed complicated. Conditions for visibility were no better during four ensuing visits. Finally, in early November, I had to stop at St. Joseph's one last time to finish proofreading my typed transcription against the originals. It was cold, and I nervously hoped that the virtue of my mission would deflect any stray bullets from deer hunters--but I realized that it would be my last chance to finish the work before the snow flew.

I got the proofing done, and remembered the Mary MUSOLF marker. I decided to try a rubbing; I still

⁷PGS-MN Newsletter, v. 3, no. 4 (Winter, 1995-96), p. 5.

could not make out the design by eye, and the mystery bothered me. My hard artist's crayon worked on my Japanese rice paper despite the cold, and soon the design showed: an ornate architectural rendering. It was certainly very European in "feel," but it also echoed the medieval themes that were so common in American popular culture in the late 19th century.

I removed the tape and the rice paper. Literally just as I did so, the wan, indistinct November sun showed through the clouds for the first time that morning. The angle was just right to show the whole carving in relief; what artificial means had suggested, the pale light of nature now showed. The words came to mind, immediately and unprompted: "It's the gates of heaven," I thought. And maybe I flatter myself, but it seemed like a message that preserving the names of all of these Gnesen pioneers, in the several ways that I'd done it, had been a good thing.



The Gates of Heaven: Rubbing of the most complex carving on any marker at St. Joseph's.

PGS-MN NEWSLETTER

Surname Indexing Project

We are continuing to index the surnames included in the past issues of the PGS-MN Newsletter. The following listing includes all surnames that appeared in Volume Two, Nos. 1-4: Spring 1994, Summer 1994, Autumn 1994, and Winter 1994-5. The code used in this listing is as follows: the first number is the volume number, the second number is the issue number, and the third numbers are page numbers. We will index past volumes at the rate of one volume per issue. When we are up-to-date, we will publish a complete integrated listing of Volumes 1-10. We are indebted to PGS-MN member Audra Etzel for undertaking this project. Back issues of Volume One and Two are available from the editor of this newsletter for \$3.00 per issue.

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Letters, continued from page 5

Long lost cousins

Last week I hooked up with PGS-MN member Bernadine Kargul. She was searching for the **Schubert** and **Trutwin** in Morrison County so I emailed her. It turns out Bernadine and my grandmother-in-law are long lost cousins. We're exchanging information and hope to meet sometime in the future.

Audra Etzel <aetzel@mediject.com>

Missing family names

I recently joined the Minnesota Polish Genealogy Society and I do not find my name as a researcher for the following family names:

Florek - Swift County, MN and MT Kurkowski - MN and SD, Wrobel

Margaret Arnold <margrose@prodigy.net>

Lost Art Works of Poland

This website is really slick:

http://www.polamcon.org/newsletr/lostart.html

Ray Marshall <raymarsh@mninter.net>

Polish translator?

Here is my membership application and check.

Can you tell me if there are people who might be able to help translated a document form Polish?

My family has recently found records of lost relatives in Szrensk, Poland and we have some old documents that need translation.

I look forward to working with your organization and its resources and putting my membership to work.

Thank you for your help.

Robin PanLener, St. Paul MN

Editor's reply: For expert translations of Polish documents, letters, etc., you can contact Kornel Kondy (See advertising insert for additional information). Kornel is a past-president and a founding member of PGS-MN.

You might also bring your documents to "Polish night at the library." Depending on their difficulty and readability, our member on duty there might be able to help you. We also have several translation aids in our collection.

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

Marguerite Sommerfeld, 424 E. Carbon Ave. 77A, Bridger MT 59014 writes:

My dad was Casimer Anthony BRUSKI--born in Greenbush MN, 4 March 1905 and died 31 October 1987. My mother is Helen MARCINIAK (Bruski)-born in Greenbush MN, 22 April 1907. She is a current resident of the Wibaux County Nursing Home. They married 27 November 1928, St. Philip, Wibaux County MT.

My paternal grandfather was Jozef Bruski, born in Poland in 1859 and died 7 November 1919. My paternal grandmother was Lucia GERSZEWSKI (Bruski) (Quade), aka: Lucy Geirszewski--born in Czapiewice, Prussia, Poland, 24 December 1872 died 20 April 1936, St. Philip, Wibaux Co., MT. They married May 1888 in Warsaw, Walsh Co., ND. Lucy was a daughter of Valentine GIERSZEWSKI--born in Czapiewice, 11 February 1840 and died 21 February 1924, Warsaw ND. He married about 1865 to Maryanna KUKOW-SKI--born in Czapiewice, 1846 and died 4 December 1913, Warsaw ND. Valentine was the son of Tomasz Gierszewski--born in Kospbdy Bydoszcz, Poland, 13 December 1807. He married 28 November 1837, in Brusby to Regina ZYGMANSKI--born in Czapiewice Bydoszcze, Poland. Tomasz Gierszewski was a son of Francis Gierszewski--born 1750 in Kospbudy Bydgosrez, Poland. He married about 1796 to Katherina de CZORT.

Theodore QUADE Sr. was married to Lucy Gierszewski after Jozef died. Theodore was born in Danzig, West Prussia on 20 March 1859 or 1860. His first wife was Marianna HINSKI--born May 1861, Danzig, West Prussia. Her parents were Joseph Hinski and Mary LONGER. Other names I would like searched would be: John PIESIK married Mary EFTA. They had a daughter, Celelia, born on 9 January 1914.

My mother's dad was John MARCINIAK--born 12 January 1881, in Posnan, Poland. His dad was John Marciniak--born in 1852, in Posnan, Poland and married Jadwiga OLSZOWSKI--born in Posnan, Posen, Poland. We also would like more information about the family that was left in Poland. John and Jadwiga came to this country when my grandfather was about 14 years old. My mother's mother was Pauline EFTA, We know her parents were Joe Efta--born March 1857 in Poland. He married Anna GINTER. They had a son John before they came to this country. Any information we can find out from Poland would be new information. Anna later married Albin BABINSKI (in Minnesota) of whom we know nothing about. We have information about people born here in the US. We would like to have information from the old country.

My husband is Robert Deane SOMMERFELD-born 5 August 1930. His dad was George Sommerfeld born 31 March 1895 in Brownton, McLeod Co., MN and died 23 August 1973. George's dad was Gustav A. Sommerfeld. He married Helene B. BEUTOW on 7 December 1883, in Wright, Woodbury, Carlton, MN. Gustav had a brother that left Minnesota and went to the Kansas City area. My husband's mother was Bernice M. STORKEL--born 17 October 1904 in Princeton, MN--died 16 January 1985. She was the daughter of Charles P. Storkel and Elizabeth A. HARDING. Charles and Elizabeth's children were Earl, Floyd, and Walter U. (born in Redwing MN on 28 July 1895 and died 3 February 1974 in Seattle WA), Bernice M., Herman (born 1892 in Wisconsin, his spouse was Hildur). Elizabeth's father was U. S. Harding.

NEW MEMBERS; We welcome the following:

Sandra J. Armstrong, 827 Grand Ave #C, St. Paul MN 55105 <dsandj@aol.com> is a new member.

Jan Opatz Haller, 721W Cedar Ave., Fergus Falls MN 56537 is researching WARZECKA, OPATZ surnames. She writes: "I have received some information from Leona Opatz Lackner--that she received from Bob Prokott. I've also been in contact with Cheri Chrieton in Illinois."

Lucille Hantz, 209 S. Blackman, Duluth MN 55811 is a new member.

Amy M. Wolak Jowers, 11 Patterson Hill Rd., Henniker NH 03242 writes: "I am enclosing membership dues to PGS-MN. I'm researching my father's family--WOLAK--from Poland. I've just begun to ask his last two surviving sister what they know, but would appreciate any assistance you can offer as well. Thanks."

Dorothy Kotula, PO Box 27, Pt. Reyes Station CA 94956 writes: "Please find my membership check enclosed. Any information you are able to send me would be greatly appreciated since I am just beginning my search. The names I am looking for are: Philip KOTULA, Anna SOBOTA, Paul BUHL, Mary GOL-LA/GOLA, all born in the vicinity of Opole, Poland 1850 to 1870, I think. They came to Minnesota in the 1880s. I have found Kotulas in Poland but no one seemed to know their grandfather's name. Thank you so much for whatever you can do to help me. I did have someone in Poland check Opole church records and not find their names. Thanks again."

Editor's reply: See article by Bob Prokott on p. 6

Virginia Labud, 4878 Lavaque Rd, Duluth MN 55811 is a new member.

Jenny Lightstone, 9617 Xylon Ave S, Bloomington MN 55438 <BY ond18613@aol.com> is researching LIGHTSTONE, LICHTSZTEJN, GOLDBERG in Punsk (Suwalski-Bielstock) and in Montreal and PA.

Jerald Lubansky, 2673 Nightingale Ct, Chaska MN 55318 is a new member.

Don Paidosh, 2701 Townview Ave NE, St. Anthony MN 55418 <paid0005@tc.umn.edu> is researching PAJDOSZ in Radcze, Lublinie and in Minneapolis and Detroit.

Robin PanLener, 714 Holly Avenue, St. Paul MN 55104-7125 <randr@bitstream.net> is researching PANLENER, von UMINSKI, DROMBRAUSKI in Mlawa, Szrensk, Gilgenburg (Dabrowno), Poland and in Racine and Kenosha, WI.

Colleen Rustad, 2605 Forest St., Maplewood MN 55109 is researching TURCZYN/TURCHIN and KLIMEK in Poland and Germany.

Rosalie Schack, 714 Mineral Springs Rd, Owatonna MN 55060 <schack@hotmail.com> is researching ZITSKE, KRZAK, MODRZYNSKI in Posen Province, Pomerania and in the Midwest USA.

Galen W. Sommer, 2616 Harriet Ave So., Apt 314, Mpls. MN 55408 <galensommer@cs.com> is researching in Gross Friedruhsfeld, Schweidnitz, Breslau, Silesia. He writes: "My ancestry isn't Polish but German."

Marguerite Sommerfeld, 424 E. Carbon Ave. 77A, Bridger MT 59014 is a new member (see query p.24).

Richard Swienton, 3355 N. Xenium, Plymouth MN 55441 <swienton@leagent.net> is researching Anna KASZA and Stanley SWIETON in Krosno, Poland and in Chicago IL.

Diane Warzecha, 1762 Pine St. #8, San Francisco CA 94109 <dwarzecha@elanpharma.com> is researching WARZECHA in Daamerantz/Oppeln and in Central Minnesota.

Patricia Selensky Weitzel, 4418 - 66th Av. N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429 pweitzel@pro-ns.net> is

researching ZIELINSKI in Poznan, Posen Province and in Waverly, Bremer Co. IA.

Scott Writz, 104 Killdeer Court, Mankato MN 56001 <Kangaroo@mctcnet.net> is a new member.

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

Annette T. Alderson, 5316 Clinton, Mpls MN 55419 is researching TRUSO, TRUSTOSKI, LANGE/ LANGA. She asks about "Educational/Travel opportunities."

Editor's reply: See our advertising insert for information about a tour of Poland led by Past PGS-MN President, Kornel Kondy. Kornel also teaches Beginning and Intermediate Polish language classes at Como Sr. High in St. Paul during the Fall, Winter and Spring. Call or write him for further information. "Polish Language, History and Culture" classes are offered at the Columbia Heights Public Library on Thursday evenings. Call 612-782-2805 for additional information. These classes are led by PGS-MN member, Bernie Szymczak. The Polish Cultural Institute of Minnesota regularly offers classes on a variety of Polish topics including History, Culture, Folk Arts, etc. This Newsletter publishes information on these classes when they are offered. The University of Minnesota regularly offers Polish Language, Literature and History classes. They occasionally offer classes taught in Poland. Finally, we hope that this Newsletter and the programs that we present at PGS-MN and MGS meetings are educational.

Valarie C. Anderson, 402 Iona Lane, Roseville MN 55113 is researching FABIANSKI/FABYANSKI in Lang, Germany? and in Moundsview MN, SOIKA in Moundsview, MADJESKI/MODJESKI/MODRZE-JEWSKI in Plock, Poland and in St. Paul MN and the MALASKE surname.

Jeanette Bias, 657 Belland Ave., Vadnais Heights MN 55127 <Jeanette.Bias@Unisys.com> is looking for information on KUROPKA which is her great-grand-mother's name. She was born in Silesia near Sycow.

Jim Bogut, 34178 Unity Ave., Taylors Falls MN 55084-1809 is researching BOGUT, POHL, PALE-WITZ, PODGORSKI, MALECKI/MALACKY/ MALAKY in St. Paul MN.

Vivian V. Chamberlain, 32710 Maplewood, Garden City MI 48135-1689 <vivdonchamberl@cs.com> is

researching JARNOT, WADNIZAK, MOROŃ, WIESNER, WIZNER in Poznan and Kety in Poland and in MN and ND.

John L. Coulis, Hartwell villas #19A, Anderson SC 29626-6908 <jcoulis@carol.net> is researching KU-LAS, SZCZYPIOR in Wilno, Ontario. He writes: "PGS-MN is doing a great job."

Joan Davy, 8711 Summit Drive, Eden Prairie MN 55347-2326 <jcdavy@gateway.net> is researching NOVAK, ZYWICKI in St. Paul, Willow River and Duluth MN.

Col. James Ebertowski, 5631 Teterling Court, Chester VA 23831<JSuggo@aol.com> is researching KAS-PRICK/KASPRZYCK in Warsaw ND, EBERTOW-SKI in Lipusz in Poland and in Warsaw ND, STOLT-MAN in Brusy/Czersk in Poland and in Warsaw ND and Winona MN.

Rosanne Jaunich Eppel, 1462 Willow Drive North, Long Lake MN 55356 <lazywoods@aol.com> is researching JAUNICH in Brynica/Brinnitz in Opole Province and in Delano MN.

John J. Felcyn, 1304 W. Medicine Lake Dr. Apt. 322, Plymouth MN 55441-4853 is researching FELCYN in Ivanhoe MN.

Dr. Alfred E. Friedl, 3830 State Rt. 44, Rootstown OH 44272-9691 <aefriedl@bright.net> is researching MATROS in Silesia and in Elmdale MN.

Robert L. Graff, 6960 W. State Highway 4, Beatrice NE 68310-6865 is researching MUSIALOWSKI in the town of Szczepanowa, northeast of Poznan and in Beatrice NE.

Bernadine Grell, PO Box 576, Little Falls MN 56345 is researching PYKA/PEKA, HOHEISEL in Silesia, GALOMBECKI, TRETTER in Poland/Germany and all in Morrison Co., MN.

Suzanne Greenslit, 13853 Co. Rd. #116, Merrifield MN 56465 <subo@brainerd.net> is researching POL-ASHIK/POLASZYK in the Poznan area and in Chicago and then in Swan River Twsp., Little Falls MN.

Mrs. Dolores Herrmann, Bellingham WA has renewed. She writes: "I enjoy the newsletter and have learned so much."

David L. Hintz, 4116 - 87th Ln NE, Circle Pines MN 55014-4043 is researching WIATER/WIATR in Warsaw, SCHAB in Galicia, CIKOTA/TSIKATO in Bobruisk (Russia?), RYDZIEL in Wilno and KUCA in

Warsaw and all in Omaha NE and the last three also in Boston.

James/Joan Molesky, 5440 Mineral Ave., Mt. Iron MN 55768 <joan@the-bridge.net> are researching MILEWSKI in Janowka, Poland, SZYNKOWSKI in Low, Poland and both in MI and MN,

Susan James-Morrow, 4011 Hubbard Av N., Robbinsdale MN 55422-2223 <SMorrow987@aol.com> is researching BALDY, FAUTSCH, JANUS, GISDER in Brinitz, Wengern, Opole, Poland.

Patricia Janecula, 4310 W. 36th St., Mpls. MN 55416-4806 is researching JANIKULA, POGRZEBA, FARNICK, MOCKO/MOTSCHKO/MOTZKO in Groschowicz, Beynica, Koniglich, Zelasna and Chrzasczygz.

Michael Jarmuz, 808 Green St., Hudson WI 54016-1952 <mjarmuz@pressenter.com> is researching JAR-MUZ, SWITALA, SLUPECKA in Juncewo, Znin, Murczyn (all in Poland).

Jill Johnson, 157 76th Way NE, Fridley MN 55432-3073 <JJJ1JCS@aol.com> is researching KUKUSKA, BRYJA, LESSMANN, BRONK, GORNY in Rajcza, Brusy and in Winona.

Tom and Barb Kaminski, 4002 Allendale Ave., Duluth MN 55803-1801 <bkaminski@uswest.net> are researching KAMINSKI in Morrison and McLeod (Silver Lake) counties. They ask "How about covering Silver Lake MN. There is a big Polish cemetery there. There must have been a Polish community there at one time."

Editor's reply: We published an article about Polish settlement in McLeod County and the Church of Saint Adalbert in Silver Lake in Spring 1997 (pp. 10-11). See the advertising insert for information about ordering back issues of this Newsletter.

Evelyn A Karn, 4227 NE Washington St, Mpls. MN 55421-2853 is researching Henry A KUFFEL and Catherine BOGATSKI in Ronowa, Prussia and in Shimoken PA and later in St. Cloud MN.

Frederick Knox, 40 Summit Lane, North Oaks MN 55127-2547 is researching PIEKUTOWSKI in Markowo-Wólka, KNOFSKI in Sitno, OZYNKOWSKI, all in Poland and in Decatur IL and TRUSZKOWSKI in Śniadowo in Poland.

Rosemary Kobus, PO Box 798, Driggs ID 83422 ("actually I live in Alta WY--no post office--across the road from Idaho"). She is researching John KOBUS

and Johanna ZBLEWSKI at St. Josephat's Polish National Catholic Church (not Roman Catholic) in Duluth MN. They are buried in the Polish section of the cemetery in Duluth.

Kathy Kortus, 2340 16th Ave E., No. St. Paul MN 55109 <kmkortus@aol.com> is researching KORTUS, LUKACZEWSKI in Pozen (Chulodwo?). She writes: "Keep up the good work!"

Hubert G. Kukowski, 2424 South 76th Street, Milwaukee WI 53219-1850 <hubertk@execpc.com> is researching KUKOWSKI, STOLTMAN in Lipusch and in Winona MN and LUKASZEWSKI, GLOGOWSKI in Poznan and in Pine Creek WI and Winona.

Raymond D. Kush, 3404 Hennepin Ave. So., Mpls. MN 55408-3825 <raymonddkush@gateway.net> is researching FILUS in Szerzyny Galicia, FURMAN in Szerzyny and Chicago IL, NIEMIEC in Szerzyny, Chicago and Ontario Canada, POLAK, RYBA in Ołpiny, Galicia and KUŚ/KUSH in Ołpiny, Chicago and Ontario Canada.

Leona Lackner is renewed. She writes: "I really enjoy the newsletter. What a wonderful job everyone does!"

Bernard Larson, 2315 Blomquist Ave., Saint Paul MN 55110-4809 <larsvark@aol.com> is researching GRONSKI, GRĄDZKI, OŁOW in Suwałki and in St. Paul.

Lorrayne S. Lenarz has renewed. She writes: "The newsletter is very informative and I enjoy reading it. I have found it interesting that there are Polish names ending in "arz" as does mine, and these ancestors are from Prussia."

Florence Litchy, 19 Fairfield Ct., St. Cloud MN 56303 <Litchy@WebTV.net> is researching LITCHY, SOLARZ, JARNOT in Arban, North Praire and Holdingford, MN and in NY.

Cecelia M. McKeig, 11973 - 12th Ave NE, Federal Dam MN 56641-9704 <cecmckeig@hotmail.com> is researching WITKOWSKI, WANTA, KOTLOWSKI, GOSZKOWICZ, ZIELINSKI in Gowidlino (Kaszubia), Chelmza (near Torun) in Chelmno, Poland.

Sandra Nuss, 770 Summit Drive, Fairmont MN 56031 <snuss@fairmont.k12.mn.us> is researching the SO-LARZ, JARNOT, PHILIPSEK, MORAN, LITCHY surnames.

Marylea Osier, 3950 Orchard Ave No., Robbinsdale MN 55422-2153 is researching CHALUPA, CERNY, DUFEK, KRBEL, SOBATKA, HAJATEK in Moravia--Hluboky (Hlboké) (not Polish--but close). She writes: "We really enjoy the information in your newsletter."

Cecelia F. Pass, 556 Bolinger, Rochester Hills MI 48307 is researching EFTA, GINTER, PEPLINSKI, BEJAN, BURANT, NOVAK, JAZDZEWSKI in Montana, Winona MN and LaCross WI.

Karen Ploski, Minneapolis MN has renewed. She asks: "Why ask members for nine digit zip codes (on renewal forms) when only a 5 digit code is given here (on our return address)?"

Editor's reply: The US Post Office requests that we use nine-digit zip codes on our Newsletter and on other bulk mailings to our members. You probably will receive these mailings with only a five-digit code but perhaps you may get them a little faster with a ninedigit code.

Irene Poissant, 302 So 5 St., Cold Spring MN 56320 <reno@cloudnet.com> is researching TARNOWSKI, BIELAWNY, SKROWNEK in Rosenfald, Prov. Posen and in St. Anna MN.

Susan Riebeling, 1406 Galtier St, Saint Paul MN 55117-4483 has a new e-mail address: <suerie1406. aol.com> She is researching DOLNEY, WARAS, GRUBA, SCHRADDER, SNAZA, JARACH in MN, WI, and SD.

Linda T. Roddy, 4954 McAllister Ave NE, St. Michael MN 55376 <roddyl@hotmail.com> is researching PRONDZINSKI, PROZINSKI, KUCHINSKI, CAZENSKI in Koppitz, Austria and in Little Falls MN. She writes: "I hope you have more information days or nights such as your 9th annual MGS Branching Out meeting. It would be nice to have one in the northern suburbs. I missed the 3/25 meeting as I just had surgery 3/24. I love your Newsletters. Keep up the great work. Would you have handouts from the 3/25 meeting? If you do I would like to purchase them if possible."

Editor's note: We sent Linda the handouts that we had. We have tentatively arraigned to have a presentation "Finding your parish of origin in Poland" at the LDS Family History Center in Brooklyn Park in September. Look for our announcements of future meetings. Remember also that we have "Polish night at the Library" scheduled on the second Thursday of every month (See advertising insert for further information).

Kathryn Wilebski Schafer, 30222 Cty Rd 6, Strathcona MN 56759-9757 is researching WIELEBSKI/ WILEBSKI, JANUZIK/JANUSZEK, MASLOSKI, STEPHANOWSKI in the Poznan area; Bydogoski province including villages: Slesin, Miastowice, Szubin, Słupy and Dziewierzewo. She suggests that we "cover Polonia of northern Minnesota and the history of Polish colonization there."

Editor's reply: We published articles and a cemetery transcription about Buyck in northern Minnesota (Winter 1998-99, Summer 1999) and our last two issues have included articles and cemetery transcriptions of Gnessen which is north of Duluth. I suspect that you are interested more in the Polish communities of northwestern Minnesota. We plan to cover Polish settlement in all areas of the state eventually. Maybe you and/or other members whose ancestors settled in northwestern Minnesota can help us out by writing up what you have discovered about Polish settlement there.

Marianne Springer, 14968 Dundee Ave, Apple Valley MN 55124 <sashasplace@msn.com> is researching ZILKA/ZYŁKA in Borowy Młyn or Konarzyny, PIEKARSKI, CIEMINSKI, LIPINSKI in Borzysykowy and all of the above in Little Falls MN, and SLANGA/SLĘGA in Połajewo and Lubasz, KELASH /KIELINSKI in Gorzyce, Gora Znin, WITUCKI in Podlesie Koscielne and all of the last names in Silver Lake MN.

Lisa Trembley, 10149 Nottingham Tr., Eden Prairie

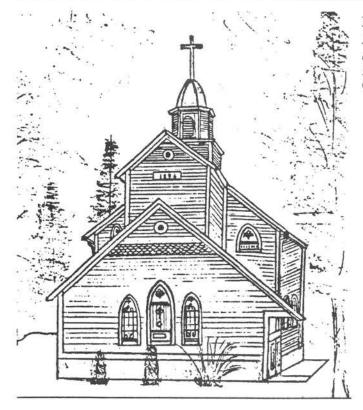
MN 55347-3164 <lctrembley@uswest.net> is researching RAFINSKI, ZIWICKI, LANDOWSKI in Benton and Sherburne counties in MN and in Chojnice and other as yet unknown regions in Poland.

Richard Wett, 1396 Baldup Park Rd, Orono MN 55391 <jrwett@yahoo.com> is researching PAN-KOWSKI, KASPROWICZ in Chicago IL.

Karen Whitmer, 7627 Blaisdell Ave, Richfield MN 55423 <whitmerj@aol.com> is researching AL-BRECHT in Kreis Schlochau, West Prussia and in MN.

Ed Wiorek, 4008 Manor Woods Dr. N.W., Rochester MN 55901-8426 <ewiorek@prodigy.net> is researching WIOREK, LEWICZ, OKONSKI, ZWADZICH, REWOLINSKI, NIEMCZYK, JAZDZEWSKI, WYSOCKI, RONKOWSKI, KUROWSKI, GAWIN, PLACZEK, WODAJ, CHRZAN in Pila, Lobzenica, Sadki, Brusy, Lesno, Wieli, Lipusz, Lubichowo, Zblewo, Koscierzyna and Wyrzysk.

Kathy Zawislak, 2144 Case Ave, St. Paul MN 55119 <kczawis@ties.k12.mn.us> is researching ZAWIS-LAK in Galicia, TARARA in Opole, DANIELSKI in Poznan and all in St. Paul and RYCHLICKI in Poznan and in St. Paul and Chicago.



Cemetery transcriptions of St. Joseph's Church in Gnesen continue on page 12 of this issue.

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