



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8

SUMMER 2000

NUMBER 2

The Origin of Polish Settlement in Northwest Minnesota

by John Radzilowski

The Polish communities of northwestern Minnesota were among the last of the truly successful Polish rural colonies in the United States. Polish-American organizations and some Roman Catholic bishops and priests had been promoting rural colonies since the mid 1870s, either for political reasons or for social and moral reasons.

Polish settlement in the Red River valley did not, however, begin in Minnesota, but in North Dakota. Polish farmers began arriving in the 1870s in Walsh County, near Grand Forks, where the community of Warsaw was established. Some of the Poles who went to North Dakota would later migrate to new farms on the east side of the valley. In addition to North Dakota, Poles could also be found in some small, scattered settlements north of the border in Manitoba.

Communities like Warsaw, N.D., were probably sustained by chain migration: a few families came and were joined by friends and relatives, each of whom brought a few more people, so that the community gradually built up over time. Communities like those of Florian, Stanislawowo, and Kroze were planned colonies where a large number of families came within the first year or two.

In the case of northwestern Minnesota, the driving force behind colonization was James J. Hill's Great Northern Railroad. In the beginning, the GN was highly resistant to settling Poles who were believed to be inferior human beings. A GN agent wrote his supervisors to say "do not send out any Polacks" (sic). Sending out Poles or Chinese to settle an area, he said, would cause other settlers to shy away from that area. Such bigotry was common, but economic realities overrode ethnic prejudice. The GN (through its subsidiary the Minnesota and Manitoba) had more land than people, especially in northwest Minnesota, where harsh winters and the remoteness of the area kept people away.

Franciszek Gryglaszewski provided the vital link between the GN and the Polish community. As a traveling businessman,

Northwestern Minnesota, continued on page 18

In this issue . . .

The Origin of Polish Settlement in Northwest Minnesota.....	page 1
President's Letter.....	p. 2
The Bulletin Board	
Thank you for your extra contributions	
September PGS-MN meeting.....	p. 3
Letters to the Editor:	
Where in Poznań?	
Where in Prussia/Poland?	
Where is Pawłowice?.....	p. 4
Where is Koeln?.....	p. 5
Information on Konarskie?.....	p. 6
Release from Prussian citizenship....	p. 7
A good book about the Kashubs!	
Gnesen cemetery	
Duluth cemetery transcriptions?	
Hamburg emigration website.....	p. 8
Silesian ancestors	
Polish e-mail locator	
Union of Polish Roman Catholics	
German military records?	
Przewodnik Handlowy.....	p. 9
The annual meeting: An introduction to the new IHRC.....	p. 10
Origins of the Kuczek surname.....	p. 11
SS. Peter & Paul All Name Index.....	p. 12
Library Corner....Book Reviews	
Ortsnamenverzeichnis . . .	
Karte des Deutschen Reiches.....	p. 14
Library Corner....Book Reviews	
Polonian Settlements in Texas	
Silesian Profiles.....	p. 16
Northwest Minnesota, continued.....	p. 18
Letters to <i>Gazeta Polska Narodowa</i> ...p.	19
Digest of burials at Holy Rosary cemetery, Lancaster, Kittson County.....	p. 21
Letters, continued	
The bulletin board, continued	
PGSA 22nd annual conference	
Surname indexing project.....	p. 24
Origins of the Zamysłowski and Niezgocki surnames.....	p. 25
Missing Branches.....	p. 26

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

5768 Olson Memorial Hwy.
Golden Valley MN 55422

<http://www.mtn.org/mgs/branches/polish.html>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>

Officers/Board of Directors:

President.....Terry Kita (612-927-0719)
<terry.kita@federalcartridge.com>
Vice President.....Vacant
Secretary.....Mary Ellen Bruski (763-588-3801)
Treasurer.....Barbara Rockman (763-493-8465)
Past President.....Greg Kishel <gfk1@cornell.edu>
Director.....Genny Zak Kieley (763-424-3747)
Director.....John Radzilowski (651-604-0210)
Director.....Lisa Trembley (952-941-0574)

Committee Chairs:

Library & Newsletter.....Paul Kulas (763-427-4523)
Membership.....Terry Kita (612-927-0719)
Program.....Greg Kishel <gfk1@cornell.edu>
Research.....Michael Eckman (612-929-4534)
Website.....Mary Ellen Bruski <bruski@pclink.com>

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter

Newsletter Staff:

Editor.....Paul Kulas (763-427-4523)
Contributing Editor.....W. Kornel Kondy
Contributing Editor.....John Radzilowski
Printing.....Genny Zak Kieley
Labels.....Mary Fleegel
Mailing.....Genny Zak Kieley, Greg Kishel

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:

Paul Kulas, PGS-MN Newsletter
12008 West River Road
Champlin MN 55316-2145

or to e-mail: kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us

© 2000 Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota



President's Letter

by Terry Kita

It is the task of the Board of Directors and of all our members to continue the growth and progress started by our past presidents, Blanche, Kornel, and Greg, and by other founders of PGS-MN. This organization and newsletter were started over seven years ago to coordinate the efforts of those researching their Polish roots in Minnesota. Since that time it has grown in membership to approximately 300 persons/organizations. The size and content of the newsletter continues to grow and develop as do the number of our educational programs, Polish genealogical research projects, library collection, and interaction with other genealogical organizations. We will endeavor to continue this progress.

We are continuing the task of updating the surname index, gleaned from past newsletter editions, until it is current. This should be completed in year 2001.

Our website has been up and running for some time, and will continue to be maintained and improved. It provides valuable links to other genealogical researchers and to other genealogical organizations.

We are increasing the size and quality of the "Polish Collection" at the MGS Library. Perhaps as early as September of this year we will add a Saturday morning to compliment our "Thursday night at the Library" program when an experienced researcher is available to help members with their Polish research problems.

Our membership database is being upgraded to make it easier to keep track of members joining and renewing. It may be possible to link limited member information with research information. This needs to be carefully researched.

From my personal experience searching for Polish, French-Canadian, German, Dutch, Bohemian and other ancestors, the internet provides fast and easy access to others searching for similar information, as well as access to public and institutional records. It does not replace the dogged search through printed and microfilmed records. As more records and information become available electronically, our organization will need to determine how our genealogical data is to be accessed.

It is important for us to increase our membership to help fund the newsletter, our library acquisitions, and other projects. To do this, we need your feedback and your continued membership. We have discussed a formal survey of members, to help us improve the organization. Until this is done, members need to direct comments, both pro and con, along with suggestions for improvements to our Board members. We are accessible via phone or email, or in person.

The main goal of the PGS-MN remains the sharing of genealogical information among those with common interests. We will try to keep this always in mind.



The Bulletin Board

Thank you for your extra contributions

We have been remiss in not publicly acknowledging extra monetary contributions from our members. These contributions come in the form of "sponsor" memberships or in the form of additional contributions to our Library Fund. Our annual dues cover the costs of running our organization--but just barely. Our major expenditures pertain to the publishing this newsletter--printing and mailing costs are by far the largest items in our yearly budget. It is the extra voluntary contributions that allow us to do extra things for our members; things like building our library collection, for example. We recently purchased a 19th century map series --*Maps of the German Empire* (See "Library Corner.... Book Reviews" column, pp. 14-15). It was a rather expensive purchase. This purchase, along with other major purchases in the past--*Słownik geograficzny . . .*, *Słownik nazwisk . . .*, a series of maps of modern day Poland--would not have been possible without the generous contributions from many of our members. We are grateful to the following for their contributions:

James Bogut
Ed Brandt
Vern Broll
Sandra Bolstad
Jim & Charlotte Broskie
Marcella Clemons
John Coulis
Ethel Demaree
James Ebertowski
Mike Eckman
Roseanne Eppel
Gertrude Erickson

Mary Fehrman
John Felcyn
Suzanne Greenslit
Roger Grusznski
Diane Gustafson
Wayne Hacholski
John Hemak
Delores Herman
Dan Hines
David Hintz
Albina Horsch
Elizabeth Jamieson

Michael Jaros
Rod Julkowski
Bernadine Kargul
Stanley Kava
Gene Kishel
Rosemary Kobus
Margaret Kowalewski
Arne Kowalzek
Darren Kozak
Millicent Kriske
David Kroska
Lucy Kruchowski
Herbert & Mary Kukowski
Paul Kulas
Clare Larkin
Gilbert Laskowski
Lorrayne Lenarz
Joe Lineweaver
Ray Marshall
Michael Masiach
Donald McCavic
Harry McOuat
Delores Meyers
Harry Mruz
Dan Nedaroski
Richard Niemiec
Barbara Odette
Thomas Opatz

John Pawlak
Jeanette Petterman
Catherine Polanski
Polish American Cultural
Institute of Minnesota
Polonie Club of
Minneapolis
Charles Ponagai
Tad Radzilowski
Helen Richards
Mary Alice Rukucki
Fran Saucedo
Kathryn Schaefer
Nora Schroeder
Marianne Springer
Rick Sredzinski
Annette Stenger
Robert Stryck
Bernie Szymczyk
Elaine Trutwin
Barbara Walsh
Phyllis Warzecha
Richard Wett
Jerome Wiegenant
Fred Wilebski
Ann Wrampelmeier
Roman Zylla

September meeting

PGS-MN will participate in a

Family History Center Open House

EXPLORE YOUR FAMILY TREE

30 September 2000

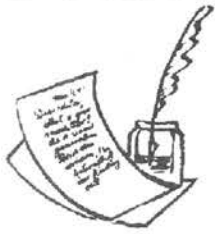
LDS Anoka Stake Family History Center
4700 Edinbrook Terrace, Brooklyn Park

Included among classes being offered is "*Finding your ancestral village in Poland*" presented by Paul Kulas. This will be offered during the first class session 9:00-10:15 am. During the second class session (10:45-12:00 noon) we will have a "Question and answer" session. Bring your Polish research problem to this session and we will try to help you or direct you to someone who can help. Between the two sessions, we will have a PGS-MN membership meeting.

Other classes offered include: 1) Beginning Family History, 2) Organizing your Family History, 3) Familysearch.org, 4) Advanced Internet research, and 5) Census research.

PGS-MN members are invited to attend any class being offered. Admission is free.

The Bulletin Board, continued on page 24



Letters to the Editor *Liśty do Redaktora*

Where in Poznań?

I recently became a member of PGS-MN. I am a descendant of Stanislaus KOCINSKI and Mari Anne SZYMCZAK, who emigrated to Duluth from Poznan province in the early 1880s. Are you aware of any materials dealing with the Duluth Polish community or Polish immigration to Minnesota in the 19th century in general? I am most interested in locating the village from which the Kocinski and Szymczak families emigrated. Any suggestions you might have would be greatly appreciated.

Paul Kilgore, Duluth MN

Editor's reply: Greg Kishel's articles in the recent Winter and Spring issues of our Newsletter contain considerable information about Polish settlement in the Duluth area. You received these issues as part of your membership to PGS-MN. I forwarded your letter to Greg. Perhaps he has additional information concerning Duluth resources.

Regarding locating the place of origin of your Polish ancestors: Unfortunately I cannot give you an easy, tried and true method to do that. You need to check all possible American records where that information might be recorded. These include, but are not limited to, the following: old family letters and documents, relatives, newspaper obituaries, funeral prayer cards, the family Bible, civil and church records, church and community histories, ships passenger lists, Hamburg emigration lists, citizenship papers, WPA interviews, census records and also in collections of state, county and local historical societies and in local museums. When searching these sources, remember to check not only the records of your direct ancestors but also siblings and other relatives, neighbors and other early residents of the locality where your Polish ancestors first settled.

Were Stanislaus and Mari Anne married in Poland or in the U.S.? If they were married in the U.S., the first place I would check is their church marriage record. Places of origin are often listed in church records. Secondly, I would check to see if they might have immigrated through Hamburg. Hamburg emigration records are available through the LDS Family History Centers. These records usually give the place of origin of the immigrants.

I will reprint your letter in our Newsletter. Maybe one of our members knows something about your ancestors that may be of help. Thank you for joining PGS-MN. Good luck with your search.

Where in Prussia/Poland?

I've been researching my family history on-and-off for 16 years and still have no idea where in Germany/Prussia/Poland my relatives are from. In my research I've found census records, death certificates, marriage certificates, wills, land grants, naturalizations, etc..., but not one of these records tells me where exactly they came from. I know a lot of other people doing research can at least get it down to a province and/or village. What am I doing wrong?!? I've been to the LDS in Golden Valley, but have not had good luck looking through their records. What do you suggest?

Audra Etzel <aetzel@mediject.com>

Editor's reply: Please see my reply to the previous letter. You probably have not been doing anything wrong--you just have not yet found the document that gives you the needed information. Keep looking for it in American records. Finding your ancestors' places of origin in Poland is perhaps the most difficult aspect of Polish genealogical research. It can be done--though it may take a bit of time.

I will be giving a presentation on just this topic on September 30, at the LDS Family History Center in Brooklyn Park (See announcement in the Bulletin Board on page 3). While I can't give you a single sure-fire method of locating your ancestral villages, I can show you several examples of where that information might be found.

Where is Pawłowice?

I have enclosed some information on Joseph PIOTROWSKI. We are looking for his baptismal record and, if possible, the names of his siblings. Last summer my sister-in-law and I went to Poland. We found a small village named Pawłowice. I don't think that this was the right place. Joseph came to the U.S. with his father, Casper, and with his sister, Sophie. His father stayed in the U.S. until Joseph got married and then he returned to Poland. Joseph lived in Philadelphia for 13 years and then moved to Stanly, Wisconsin. They immigrated in the fall of 1887. Joseph's father, Casper Piotrowski, had a brother named Piotr. Joseph's mother was named Mary Anna KOZIELA. There were seven children: Sophie, Josephina, Joseph, John and three others. Joseph was born in Germany/Poland. His son said that Joseph was born in Pawłowice.

Thanks, **Jan Piotrowski, Stacy MN**

Editor's reply: I guess we need to have a few more clues to find the birth record of Joseph Piotrowski. My fairly detailed Polish road atlas lists 21 localities (at least 10 of these were in what was the German part of divided Poland) with the name Pawłowice. Somehow we need to establish which one your Joseph Piotrowski came from. We just need more clues as to his place of origin (see my reply to the first letter on page 4 for places to look for these clues). I think the best places to look at first are: 1) The church record in the US where his marriage took place. 2) The Hamburg emigration lists--if he left from Hamburg. Also, Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish People's Republic in 1984 by Müllerowa (available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library and also for sale by PGS-MN--see advertising insert) lists six localities named Pawłowice that have Catholic churches. Three of these were in the former "German Poland." They are: 1) in the Diocese of Katowice, 2) in the Diocese of Poznań, and 3) in Wrocław-Pawłowice in the Diocese of Wrocław. I guess that I would see if the LDS Family History Library has filmed the records of any of these, order the films and see if your Joseph Piotrowski is recorded.



The key phrase in the record reads: "Gottlieb Warzecha aus Koeln." "Koeln" is an equivalent spelling of "Köln." Köln is, of course, the name of a large city on the Rhine River in western Germany (the French and the usual English spelling of this city is "Cologne"). But this is a long way from Dammratsch in Silesia, so I don't think that Gottlieb is from that city.

The next step is to look to see if there is a village in the vicinity of Dammratsch with something similar to that spelling. You highlighted the villages of Neuköln (new Köln) and Altköln (old Köln) on the map that you sent (see map above). I think that one of these two villages is the likely hometown of Gottlieb Warzecha.

The Polish spellings of these two villages are now "Nowe Kolnie" and "Stare Kolnie." It looks to me (from the map in my Polish Road Atlas) that both of these villages might be in the parish at Stobrawa but I would check the Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen (described in PGS-MN Newsletter, Spring 1999, p. 17) first to make sure. (The film # for Silesia is 806,633, item 4). It is in the permanent collection at the Crystal LDS Family History Center and may be in the permanent collection in the St. Cloud LDS FHC also--if it is not, it should be, given the many descendants of Silesian immigrants in the Stearns, Benton and Morrison County area. Otherwise you can order the film from Salt Lake City.)

After you have determined the parish to which these two villages belonged, you can see if the LDS Family History library has filmed those records and then order the film to see if Gottlieb is listed.

Where is Koeln?

Editor's comment: PGS-MN member **Veronica Freihammer** of Rice MN indicated to me that she was stymied in pursuing a line of an ancestor. His marriage record indicated that he was from a locality that was not in the parish and that she couldn't figure out the name of the town or where it was located. I asked her to send me a copy of the marriage record. It appears below. A translation of this document follows:

On April 14, 1818 in the parish church of Dammratsch after banns had been announced twice the pastor Reverend Wurm joined in marriage Gottlieb Warzecha son of a cottager from Koeln and Maria Jstylla(?), daughter of a gardener from Dammratsch. The witnesses were Johann Franz Kunist(?) and Gregor Jstylla(?) from a house on the village green. (Translated by John Kulas)

Dammratsch am 14ten
April 1818

Am 14ten des fünfzigsten Heubriefs nach geyoffenem Dammratsch
Proclamation des in dem Pfarrhaus Wurm im Ort Dammratsch
von Gottlieb Warzecha aus Koeln mit gebornen Tochter
Maria Hedwiga Dammratsch Copuliert worden die Zeugen
waren Johann Franz Kunst Gregor Jstylla beywohnend am

Handwritten notes at the bottom left of the page, including "Kulas" and other illegible scribbles.

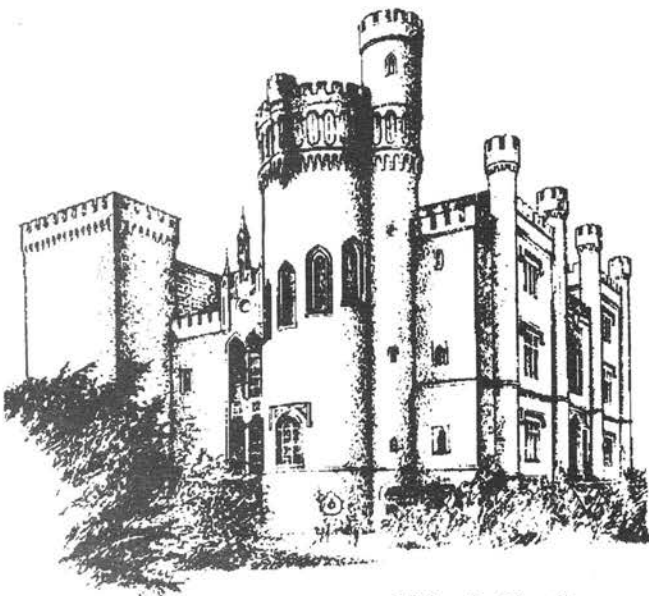
Information on Konarskie?

Does PGS-MN have any information on Konarskie, in Bnin parish, Śrem deanery, Poznań archdiocese? Would there be maps showing this area in the 1820s-1860s? SASE and donation to PGS-MN enclosed.

Milly Kriske, International Falls MN

Editor's reply: I found a reference to the village in Słownik geograficzny . . . (published between 1880 and 1902, a microfiche copy of this work is available at the MGS Library). A rough translation of that information follows:

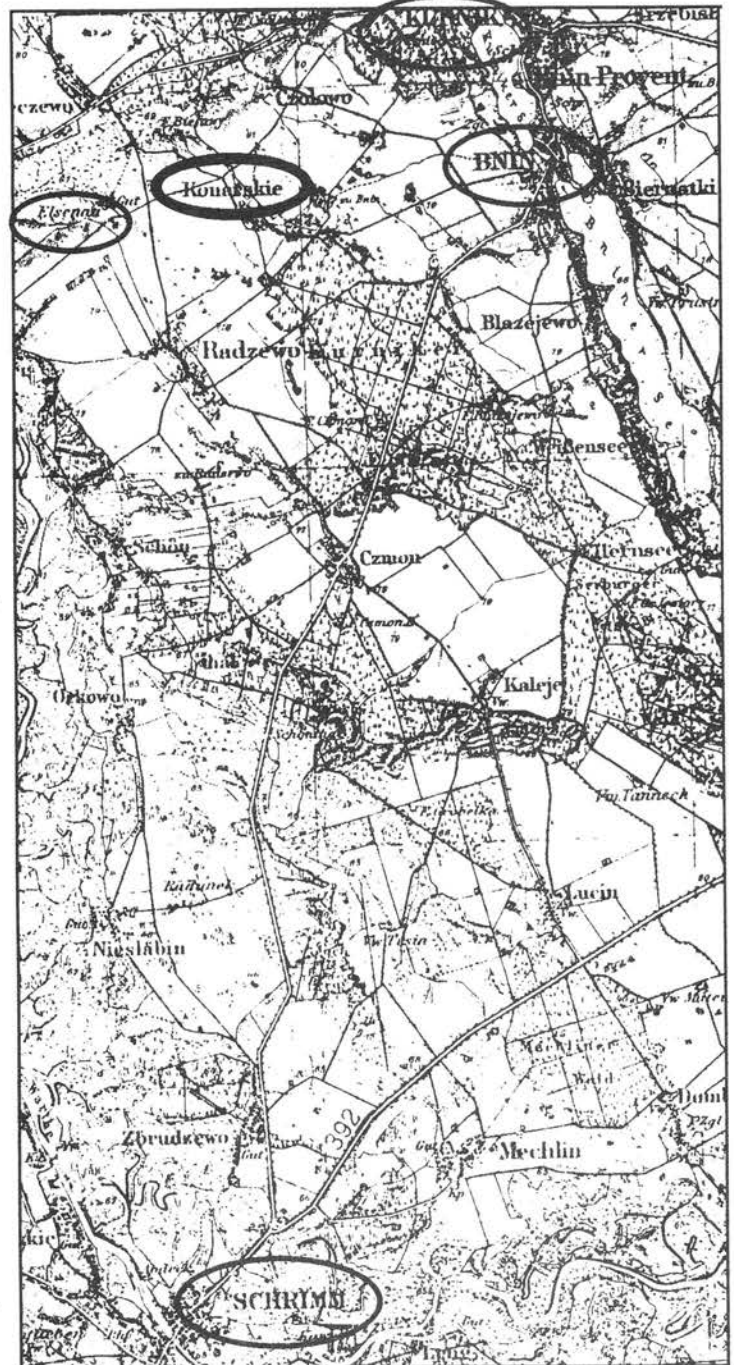
Korarskie: 1) in the parish of Bnin. It is the name of both a village (wieś) and a township (gmina) in the county/district (powiat) of Śrem. It consists of two localities, the village and a farmstead/manor (folwark) called Dworzysko (in German called Elsenau). It contains 262 mórg (a land measurement--equal to 1.388 acres) and open spaces. It has 40 houses, 330 inhabitants--all are Catholic and 88 are illiterate. The post office and telephone station are in Kórnik, 6 kilometers distance and the railroad station is in Gądko (in German, Gondek) 10 kilometers distance.



Kórnik Castle

Kórnik Castle is situated six km. from Korarskie. It is located about 20 km. southeast of Poznań. The castle was the home of the influential Górka (15th C to 1592) and Działyński (1592-1939) families. Today it is a popular tourist destination. Source: Jasper Tilbury and Paweł Turnau, *Poland: Blue Guide* (New York: WW Norton, 2000), p. 517.

Below is a portion of German map of the area. The map is from a series of maps that we have purchased for our library collection (See Library Corner...Book Reviews column on pp 14-15). These maps (scale: 1:100,000) are based on Prussian land surveys done in the 19th century. Korarskie, Bnin, Śrem (Schrimm), Dworzysko (Elsenau) and Kórnik (Kurnik) are circled. Gądko is off the map to the north.



Source: *Karte des Deutschen Reiches* [Maps of the German Empire], Großblatt 80. These maps were based on Prussian land surveys done in the 19th C. Maps from this series of areas now in Poland are now available in our collection at the MGS library.

Release from Prussian Citizenship

Editor's comment: PGS-MN member Lou Kruchowski from So. St. Paul sent us a copy of her ancestor's release from Prussian citizenship along with a translation of the document. They are reprinted here:



Oppeln, den 13ten Mai 1879.

Der unterzeichnete Königl.che Regierungs-Präsident bescheinigt hierdurch, daß für den 50 Jahre alten Garten-Handwerker Nikolaus Warzecha mit Dammratsch im Kreis Oppeln auf sein Ansuchen und Behuf seiner Auswanderung nach Nordamerika nebst seiner Ehefrau, geborenen Zur (Rosalie) und folgenden minderjährigen, unter väterlicher Gewalt stehenden Kindern:

- Lena geboren am 19. September 1861,
- Rosalie " " 13. Juni 1863,
- Anton " " 11. Juni 1865,
- Franz " " 26. September 1871.

die Entlassung aus der Preussischen Staats-Angehörigkeit erteilt worden ist.

Diese Entlassungs-Urkunde bewirkt für die ausdrücklich darin benannte Person mit dem Zeitpunkt der Aushändigung den Verlust der Preussischen Staats-Angehörigkeit, sie wird jedoch unwirksam, wenn der Entlassene nicht binnen sechs Monaten vom Tage der Aushändigung der Entlassungs-Urkunde seinen Wohnsitz außerhalb des Bundesgebietes verlegt oder die Staats-Angehörigkeit in einem anderen Bundesstaate erwirbt. (§ 18 des Gesetzes über die Erwerbung und den Verlust der Bundes- und Staats-Angehörigkeit vom 1. Juni 1870. B.-G.-Bl. S. 355.)



Der Königl.che Preussische Regierungs-Präsident.

[Signature]

Entlassungs-Urkunde.

[Signature]

[Signature]

Translation:

1 1/2
Mark

Oppeln, May 13th 1879

The undersigned royal government President hereby states:

that for the 50 year old gardener Nikolaus Warzecha of Dammratsch from the County of Oppeln

for his request and in behalf of his emigration to North America

with his spouse, Rosalie nee Zur and the following children who are under his paternal authority:

- Eva, born 19 December 1860
- Sebastian, born 18 January 1863
- Anton, born 11 June 1865
- Franz, born 26 December 1870

the release from Prussian citizenship is granted.

This discharge document causes for the specifically herein named persons concurrent with the receipt of same the loss of Prussian citizenship, however, it will be void if the discharged within six months from the date of issue of the discharge document has not moved their residence outside the federal territory or empire or acquire the citizenship of another federal state. (Paragraph of the law regarding the acquisition and the loss of federal or state citizenship of 1 June 1870. B. G. B. S. 355.)

Seal

(Royal Prussian government in Oppeln)

The royal Prussian government-president (signature)

Discharge document #

Lehnert
(probably the signature of the scribe)

A good book about the Kashubs!

We don't have a copy of the book by Fr. A. J. Rekowski, C.S.S.R. entitled *The Saga of the Kashub People in Poland, Canada and in the U.S.A.* do we? I have seen it referenced a number of times in regard to good reading about the Kashubs. I saw something on one of the mail lists that I belong to, that said it was out-of-print. I was wondering if we could put a note in our newsletter asking if anyone has a copy or comes across one if they would donate it to our library or tell us where one might be purchased used.

Mary Ellen Bruski <bruski@pclink.cim>

Editor's reply: We do have Father Rekowski's An Anthology of Kashub-Polish Family Names in Poland, Canada, U.S.A. in our collection but not the title that you mention. How about it, folks? Does anyone have a copy they might donate or does anyone know where we might purchase a copy?

Gnesen cemetery

I was looking at your transcription of Gnesen Cemetery in the last newsletter. Many of my ancestors are buried in that cemetery. In fact my great grandfather, Frank Trader, was one of the two original settlers of the township. He and Martin Lepak were the first to homestead in the township. The story goes that the Lepaks gave the land for the church and Traders donated the land across the road for a school which did stand there for many years. When you are transcribing the dates for John Trader, Frank's brother, the death date is wrong. It should be 1879 (Aug. 20) not 1869 which I recall it says. Many have said he was the first one buried in that cemetery which is not true as the church was not constructed until 1876. Frank and Martin most likely did not settle in Gnesen until after the 1870 census was taken in the spring. Frank was living in Chicago with his brother John and family when they first arrived in the US. I have not been able to find Frank or Martin Lepak on any 1870 census. As Frank was single we speculate he was free to leave Chicago to seek work and perhaps worked on the railroad that was being built in Minnesota and discovered the Duluth area. For a couple of years he maybe moved back and forth between Duluth and Chicago. In 1970-71 Frank and Martin filed their properties for homesteading. A distant cousin of mine, Larry Oraskovich, has been working on the Trader family history and several years ago he printed a book. Much of the history of Gnesen is described in his book. I will try to get a copy in the library. It is a very interesting book. Also I don't know if you have heard the oral history tape done of one Martin Lepak's sons in which he describes early life in Gnesen Township. I know it is at the genealogy section

at the Duluth Public Library. I have a transcript if you would like to see it. Back to the cemetery, I know there are many graves that aren't marked. The old records were burned in a fire. I have visited the cemetery many times and my mother has given me lots of information. My mother spoke of all the times she would ride up in a buggy from Duluth to play the organ at the church on Sundays.

Betty Joyce <joyce@augsborg.edu>

Duluth cemetery transcriptions?

I received my membership packet today and also the newsletters that have been published this year. I noticed that certain cemeteries have been transcribed. Is there an index of all cemeteries that have been transcribed to date? I am interested in the Polish Catholic Cemetery, Calvary Cemetery (both on Howard Gnesen Road in Duluth, St. Louis County) and the Oneota Cemetery (located on Highland Street in West Duluth, St. Louis County.) Thanks so much. I will read the newsletters cover to cover and I'm sure learn so much in the process. You have a huge responsibility, I can see that! I appreciate the efforts put forth by the Society's representatives!

Dorothy Huotari <jhuotari@erols.com>

Editor's reply: Greg Kishel's cemetery transcriptions of Buyck and Gnesen (and the digest of the Lancaster cemetery on pages 21-24 in this issue) are our first efforts in this regard. We hope that we will be able to do more. The cemeteries that you list may have been transcribed and published elsewhere however. Readers: Does anyone know if the above Duluth cemeteries have been transcribed and where the transcriptions can be found?

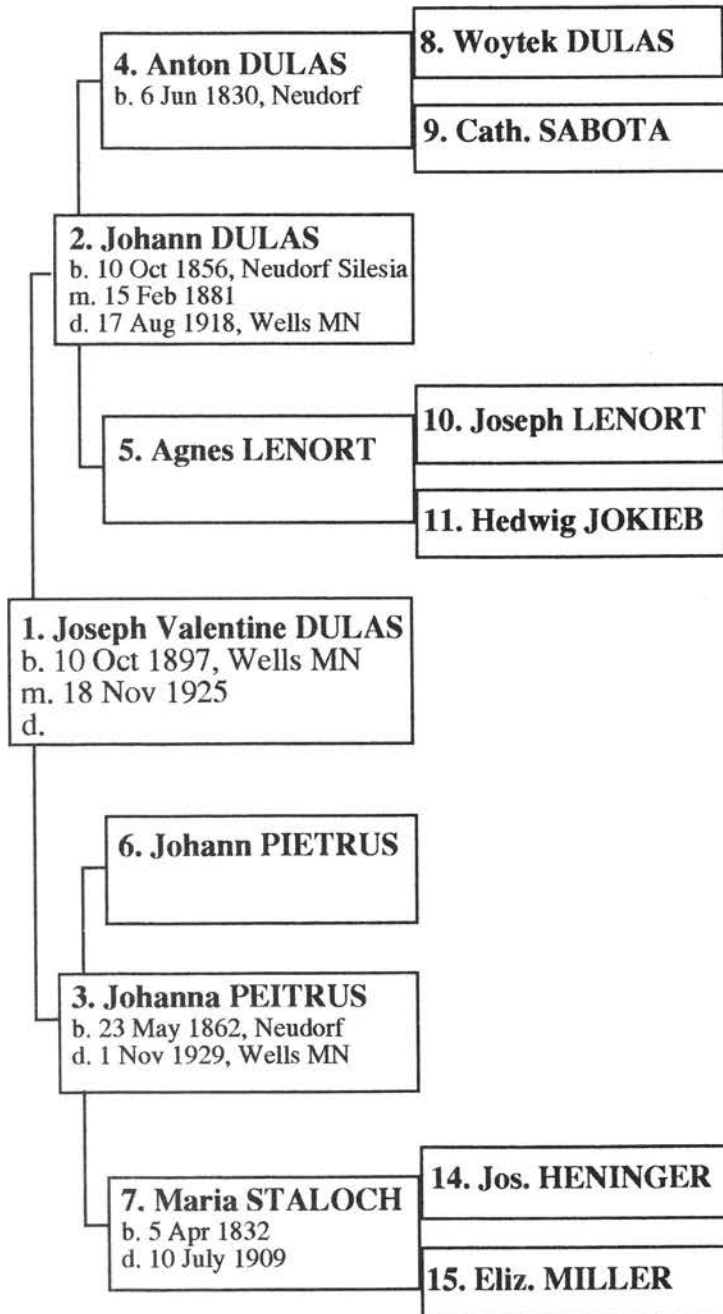
Hamburg emigration website

The Hamburg website <<http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm>> (see *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Spring 2000, p. 3) is a most wonderful, amazing internet site. The first phase will include the data on emigrants from 1890 to 1914. At a later date the years 1850 to 1934 will be included. By the year 2003, the city of Hamburg expects to display the lists for the entire period covering emigration from 1850-1934. And it gives place of residence! The year 1890 has been completed and I found my great-great-grandfather Johann Glowik and daughter Elizabeth (misspelled as Glowig). I recently found his immigration information in the *Germans to America* volumes. I had been looking for two years because I did not have his actual date of immigration.

Jan Bias <Jeanette.Bias@UNISYS.com>

Silesian Ancestors

*Editor's note: The following is a portion of an ancestor chart sent to us by PGS-MN member **Jeanette Dulas Peterman** <peterman@earthlink.net> from Cloverdale CA. Starting with her father, Joseph Valentine Dulas, it shows the Silesian ancestors that she has identified.*



Polish E-mail Locator

It's been awhile since this site was mentioned: <<http://www.polska.net/book>> Type in a surname and maybe you'll come up with folks in Poland who have email addresses with the same surname.

I don't know if you saw this message on GENPOL, but it might be a help for some people. I saw two of my "rare" Polish names there.

Ray Marshall <raymarsh@mninter.net>

Union of Polish Roman Catholics

Editor's note: In "Letters to the Editor" (Spring 2000, p. 5), Tom Zolik responds to Kornel Kondy who asked about the "Union of Polish Catholics in America." We received this correction from Tom.

I made a mistake!! That is another Polish organization on Damen Avenue. The Polish Roman Catholic Union is on: 984 Milwaukee Ave, Chicago IL 60622. Phone: 773-384-3352. I'm sending some information on the library and museum at the same location. The museum has some wonderful collections and I highly recommend it. The library has a very extensive collection. Both are worth the trip.

Tom Zolik, Minneapolis MN

German Military Records?

Do you know how to access records for the German Army in the 1800s (approximately 1860-1895). This is for the province of Silesia in German-Poland. Are they on microfilm or on the Internet? Thanks for any information.

Jan Bias <Jeanette.Bias@UNISYS.com>

Editor's reply: I don't know but I too would like to know about researching German military records. Readers: Does anyone know anything about this matter? If so, please let us know.

Przewodnik Handlowy

PGS of New York State has completed indexing *Przewodnik Handlowy*. This is a treasure trove of genealogical information for anyone doing research in western New York. The index is available on our website at <<http://pgsnys/Przewodnik>> I thought you'd like to share this with your members.

David Newman, President, PGS-NYS

Letters, continued on page 24

THE ANNUAL MEETING: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW IHRC

By Greg Kishel

On May 13, 2000, the PGS-MN held a belated annual meeting for 2000 at the brand-new digs of the Immigration History Research Center, on the West Bank campus of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Our first order of business was the election of officers and board members for the millennium year. As *de facto* chair of the Nominations Committee, I delivered my report. With one modification from the prior announcement, the proposed slate was elected by white ballot. The governing body for our Society for this year will be:

President: Terry Kita
 Vice-President: <vacant>
 Secretary: Mary Ellen Bruski
 Treasurer: Barbara Rockman
 Directors: Genny Kieley
 Lisa Trembley
 John Radzilowski

In addition, Mike Eckman has agreed to continue to serve in an appointed capacity as chair of the Research Committee; pursuant to our constitution, I will serve as Immediate Past President during the tenure of my successor. We still need a Vice-President, however, whom our new President can nominate subject to confirmation by the board. We invite anybody who'd like to help build the organization to contact any of us. You need not commit to serving as President--just be willing to pitch in a bit to help stage our activities.

Joel Wurl and Heather Muir of the IHRC's curatorial staff then made a presentation. They gave us an introduction to the Elmer L. Andersen Library, the innovative new building in which the IHRC shares space with several other University and state archives, and a review of the resources that the IHRC offers us as genealogists. The history of the facility's authorization and planning was an interesting one of politics on the legislative and university levels. Joel thanked the genealogical community for its strong support for a new location for the IHRC,¹ and said that it had been an influential constituent voice at the legislature. The tale of the construction was fascinating; most of the

¹The former location on Berry Avenue off Highway 280 was in a converted coffee warehouse made of concrete block. Anybody who'd done research there can attest to how much more pleasant it is to work in the new place. Too, there's simply no comparison between the two in the quality of their climate control--for visitor comfort and archival preservation.

archival and storage space of the Library is underground, in large bays tunnelled into the St. Peter Sandstone that underlies the central part of the Twin Cities around the Mississippi, and is protected by an inner "envelope" wall. We got smaller-group tours through one of the cavern-like bays, and got to look briefly at the hard-copy collection of Polish-based materials in storage there.

To a great extent, the IHRC's collection is unique nationwide; it is designed to reflect the 125-year experience of the members of twenty-eight ethnic groups from eastern, southern, and central Europe, from Finland down to the Balkans and across to Ukraine, in their trans-Atlantic passage and their new lives in the U.S. It documents both the process of Americanization, and the maintenance of the motherland cultures. It includes large stocks of ethnic and foreign-language newspapers, annual calendars, church records, personal papers, the books of fraternal societies and publishing houses, and more.

Items of direct interest to us in the PGS-MN include microfilmed Polish-language newspapers from all over the U.S.,² a large collection of materials on the institutional history of the Polish National Catholic Church, the records of several Polish-ethnic publishing houses, and the papers of several Polish-American writers and artists. There are also a number of local church histories and jubilee books. The IHRC's Polish collection is not as large or as comprehensive as those it's assembled for several other ethnic groups, but if you have genealogical interests in the outposts of Polonia anywhere else in the U.S. it is definitely worth a try.³

The IHRC maintains a website at <www.umn.edu/ihrc> which you should consult for further information--and directions on how to navigate to the Andersen Library!⁴ The website can also get you to the

²In my own genealogical research, I have already made use of the IHRC's films of *Rolnik*, the weekly published for nearly 70 years by the Worzała publishing concern of Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

³It's a collection that we ourselves could help build, from gleanings from Grandma's attic. A couple of us in the PGS-MN have donated items to the IHRC, when they didn't fit into the four corners of our own library collection.

⁴The Library is street-addressed as 222 21st Ave. South, and is only a short walk off the Seven Corners area of the West Bank, one building toward the river from the U of M Law School. As any University alum can testify, however, the street and building layout there is, um, confusing at best; new construction at the Law School is only making things worse this summer. I cobbled together the directions for our publicity flyer for the annual meeting, but they were not quite adequate--as several late-arriving members took pains to announce.

University Libraries' LUMINA online catalog, which you can use to search the IHRC's collection in advance of your visit. The new telephone number is 612-625-4800. The IHRC is open on weekdays year-round (University holidays excepted), from 8:30 to 4:30. Joel advised that the staff is giving thought to extending hours to the weekend, which we as a group heartily endorsed.

The IHRC's reading room, where one can review hard-copy materials, is large and bright. The microfilm room has three microfilm readers (two printing and one non-printing) and two microfiche readers. The staff members are helpful and unfailingly cheerful. Now that our Minnesota taxpayer dollars have provided it with its new location and moved it, we should all make use of this facility.

Origins of the KUCZEK surname

by Paul Kulas



PGS-MN member, Walter Madura of Derby CT asked: "Would you please send the distribution of the KUCZEK name in Poland." He did not give any indication of where in Poland the name might be from, but I think we can safely say his Kuczek ancestors came from Galicia. The image, at left, of Our Lady of Częstochowa was depicted on his note. My reply to him follows:

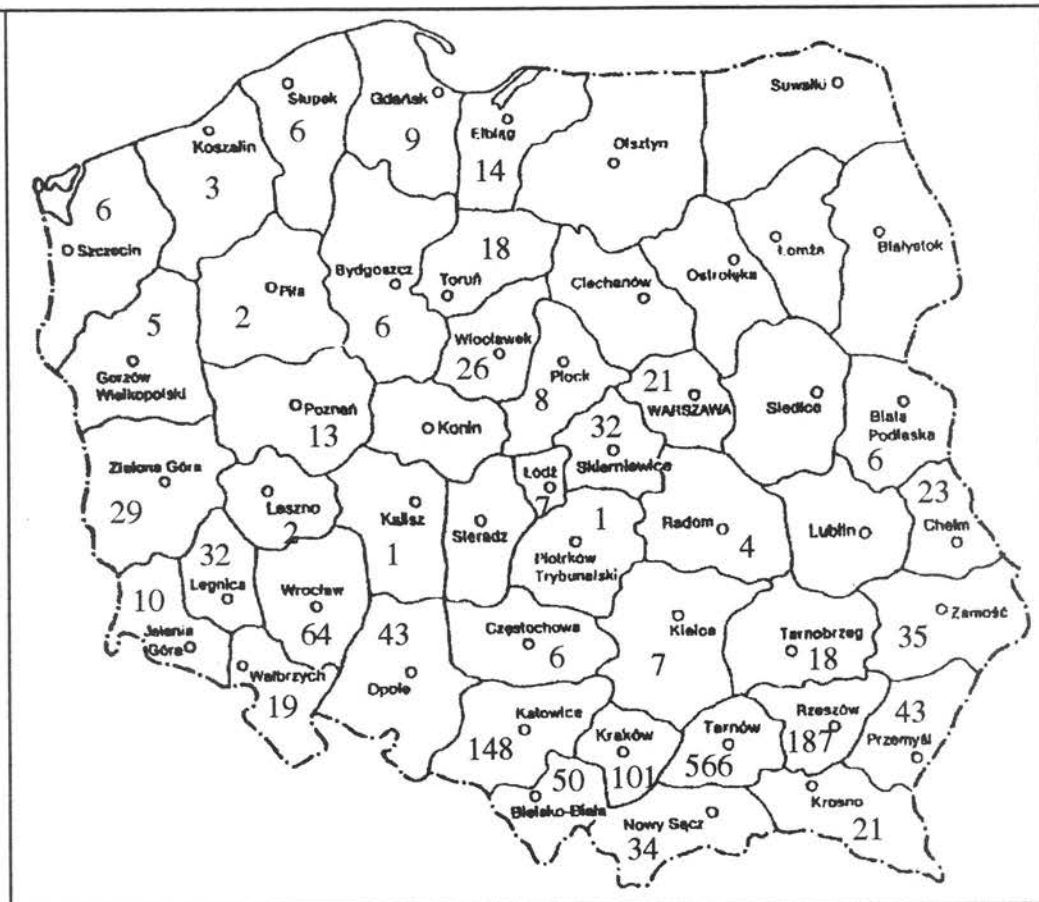
According to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* the Kuczek surname is derived from the Polish word *kuczyć* which means "to tease, annoy" or from the word *kuczka* which means "hut, tent" or from *kuczka* which means "a small heap." The Kuczek surname is not real common. According to *Słownik Nazwisk...* by Kazimierz Rymut, it appeared 1,626 times in a Polish governmental agency's records in 1990. A map showing the distribution of the Kuczek surname in 1990 is shown below.

As you can see, the Kuczek surname is distributed throughout Poland but it is by far the most numerous in southern Poland in the province Tarnów. Notice also that the neighboring provinces of Kraków and Rzeszów have quite a few instances of the Kuczek surname. Based on this distribution, I would guess that the Kuczek name came from what was known as Galicia or the Austrian partition in the 19th century, quite possibly from the Tarnów area.

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

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.



SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Duluth, Minnesota

1901 - 1926 Silver Jubilee Album

All Name Index

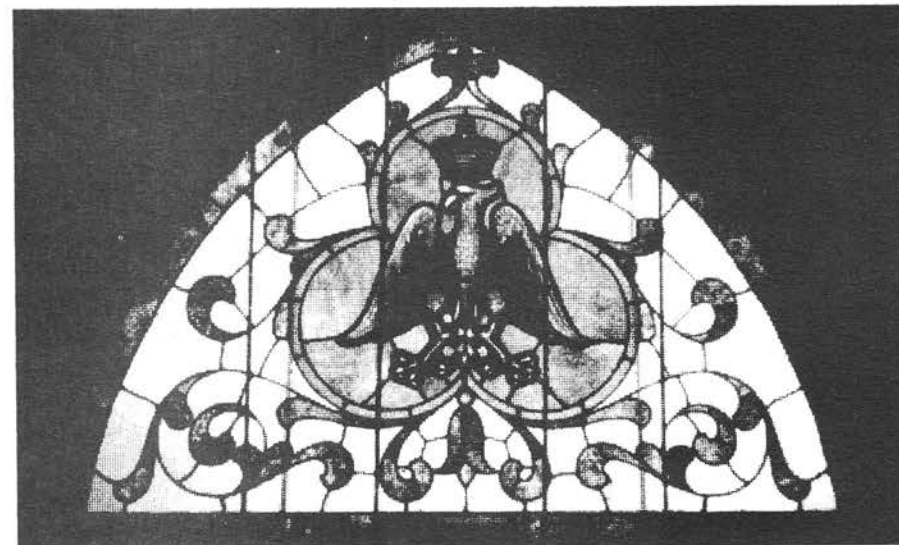
compiled by

Ray Marshall <raymarsh@mninter.net>



- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Adamiak, Jan | Kusnierek, Franciszek | Redlak, Jozef |
| Adamiak, Michalina | Kusnierek, Irena | Rosik, Jakub |
| Andrzejewski, Jan C. | Kusnierek, Irena D. | Rosik, W. |
| Budzynski, Jan | Kusnierek, Marcin | Rozancowe, Panny |
| Burak, Ignacy | Kusnierek, Teodor | Rybak |
| Cieminski, Ks. Jozef | Ladzinska, Franciszka | Saskowska, Marta |
| Cieslak, Jadwiga | Laskowski, Ks. Leon | Schultz, Ks. Franciszek |
| Czelusta, Marja | Lecka, Franciszka | Sengir, S. |
| Dunajski, Stefan | Lecki, Marcin | Sikora, Cecylja |
| Frankowski, Kasper | Lecki, Michal | Singer, Ks. Michal |
| Galezki, F. | Lepak, Marcin | Slomka, Jozef |
| Galezki, Franciszek | Lepak, Pawel | Sobczyk, Jozef J. |
| Gierdal, Stanislaw | Lewandowicz, Adam | Sobczyk, K. |
| Giernat, Agnieszka | Lewandowicz, Teodor | Solak, W. |
| Grochowska, Anna | Lewandowska, W. | Sroka, Ks. Jan |
| Gruenholtz-Zielinski, Klemens | Lewandowski, Franciszek | Sternal, Antoni M. |
| Gulcz, Ignacy [Golez] | Lutczak, Tomasz | Sternal, Antonina |
| Hero, Wladyslaw | Maciejewski | Sternal, Wincenty |
| Hopa, M. [Hoppa] | Maczynski, Ks. Jan | Sternal, Wojciech |
| Horka, Wojciech | Majchrzak, Jan | Switala, Marja |
| Janalik, Weronika | Manelska, Julja | Szulak, Ks. |
| Jankowski, Hipolit | Manikowski, Nikodem | Szymczak, Antoni |
| Jeziarska, Franciszka | Marciniak | Telega, Anna |
| Jurewicz-Werbella, Stefanja | Marczak, Jozef | Wagner, Marja |
| Karasiewicz, S.F. | Marlega, Jan | Walczak, Antoni |
| Karasiewicz, Stefan | Milostan, Wojciech | Walczak, Antonina |
| Kasprzak, Jan | Musolf, Marcin | Walczak, Elzbieta |
| Kasprzak, Jozef | Muszolf, Rozalia | Walczak, M. |
| Keslakiewicz, Jan | Myszka, Andrzej | Walczak, Marjanna |
| Kobylinski, Aleksander | Myszka, F. | Walczak, Michal |
| Kocinska, M. | Myszka, Jan | Walczak, Otylja |
| Kocinski, Stanislaw | Niezgodka, Jan | Walczak, Stanislaw |
| Konieczny, Anna | Nowakowska, M. | Walczak, Wojciech |
| Konieczny, Antoni | Nowakowski, Stanislaw | Walczak, Zuzanna |
| Konieczny, Emilja | Nowicki, Lukasz | Walczynski, F. |
| Konieczny, Mieczyslaw | Olszewska, Franciszka | Walczynski, Stanislaw |
| Kostrzewska, Katarzyna | Paszkiwicz, Emilja S. | Walkowiak, Marja |
| Kramnic, Antonina | Paszkiwicz, Helena | Walkowiak, W. |
| Kramnic, Feliks | Pelewska, Maryanna | Walkowiak, Walenty |
| Kramnic, Jan | Piwon, Stanislaw | Winczewski, Jozef |
| Krawczyk, R. | Plocieniczak, Marjanna | Wisniewski, Robert |
| Kryspin, B.W. | Polski, Jan | Wojcik, Ks. Jakub |
| Kryspin, Boleslaw | Przybylski, Franciszek | Zmetrowicz, Jan |
| Krzyszewski, Walenty | Ptaszek, Ignacy | Zmyslony, Ludwik |
| Krzewinska, Marjanna | Ptaszek, Pawel | Zoltek, Jozef |
| Kuras, Franciszka | Putrejka, J. | Zoltek, Jozefa |
| Kurek, J. | Radni | Zych, Aleksander |
| Kusnierek, Antoni | Rakowski, Ks. W. | |

Right: The former Church of Saints Peter and Paul on Duluth's West Side towers over neighboring houses. This former Polish parish is now a part of the consolidated Holy Family Catholic Church. The sign at the right front corner of the church indicates that the building is now the "Great Lakes Gospel Church." The sign partially covers a stone plaque that reads: "The cross on the steeple is in memory of Matt Koneczny 1883 - 1956." (Unfortunately, I cut the cross off of the steeple when I snapped this picture. --PTK)



Left: One of the few remaining indications of the building's Polish past is the stained glass window over the front entrance of the church. It displays a crowned white eagle with a stained glass panel indicating the name of its donor--Michał Walczak. In the building's interior, the Stations of the Cross with their Polish inscriptions have been removed and the stained glass windows no longer indicate the names of their Polish donors. The building's interior is now undergoing extensive renovation so perhaps all traces of its Polish past will be erased.

Right: Statues recovered from their former church buildings are displayed in the Gathering Space of the newly built Holy Family Catholic Church. From left to right they are of: St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and St. Clement. They are an indication of the former ethnic mix of Duluth's West Side. They are from the French parish of St. Jean Baptiste, the Polish parish of ŚŚ. Piotra i Pawła, and from the mostly German parish of St. Clement.



LIBRARY CORNER

Ortsnamenverzeichnis der Ortschaften jenseits von Oder und Neiße [List of Names of Localities East of the Oder and Niesse], compiled by M. Kaemmerer (Leer, Germany: Verlag Gerhard Rautenberg, 1988).

Karte des Deutschen Reiches [Maps of the German Empire], (Berlin, Reichsamt für Landesaufnahme, various dates).

Reviewed by Paul Kulas

The above items were purchased for our "Polish Collection" at the MGS Library by means of contributions made by members in addition to their regular membership dues (See a list of these contributors on page 3). We are indebted to them. The second item especially was a rather expensive purchase. Without additional funds provided by our "sponsor members" and by additional contributions to our Library fund, these items could never have been purchased. They are extremely useful additions to our collection.

The first item, *Ortsnamenverzeichnis der Ortschaften jenseits von Oder und Neiße* [List of Names of Localities East of the Oder and Niesse], lists the pre- WWII German place names and their Polish equivalents in areas east of the Odra and Nysa Rivers. These areas, which are now in Poland, include almost all of Silesia, the eastern part of the former German province of Brandenburg, much of Pommerania, the southern two-thirds of East Prussia, and areas in the Danzig (Gdańsk) vicinity. For German place names and their Polish equivalents in areas regained by Poland after WWI you still need to consult *Deutsch-fremdsprachiges (fremdsprachig-deutsches) Ortsnamenverzeichnis* [German-foreign language (foreign language-German) place name changes] (LDS FHC film # 583,457).¹

The second item is a series of maps that are based on Prussian land surveys done in the second half of the 19th century. Thus they depict the landscape as it existed at the time when most of our ancestors were emigrating from Poland. The maps that we purchased

are copies of a series that were reprinted in the 1930s and 40s for use by the German military. Revisions to the 19th century maps mainly reflect changes in transportation systems (primarily railroad lines). These topographic maps are highly detailed and have a ratio of 1:100,000. They cover all of the areas recovered by Poland after WWII in addition to areas recovered from the German Empire after WWI (the former provinces of Posen and West Prussia). (See map on page 15.)

To illustrate the usefulness of these acquisitions, let me describe actual research problems that arose at our "Polish Night at the Library" sessions. PGS-MN member, Galen Sommer, showed up one night with the German place names referring to the village of his great-grandfather, William Sommer. These were: the village--*Groß Friedrichsfelde*, Kreis--*Schweidnitz*, County--*Breslau*, and Province--*Silesia*. He wanted to know the current Polish place names. Using our newly acquired *Ortsnamenverzeichnis . . . von Oder und Neiße*, we determined that *Groß Friedrichsfelde* was now *Stachowice* (see figure below) and that *Schweidnitz* was now *Świdnica*. *Breslau* is now, of course, *Wrocław* and *Silesia* is called *Śląsk* in Polish. (The current name of the province is *Dolnośląskie* or "Lower Silesia.") We were also able to locate these locales on a modern road atlas of Poland (see map, lower left on page 15).

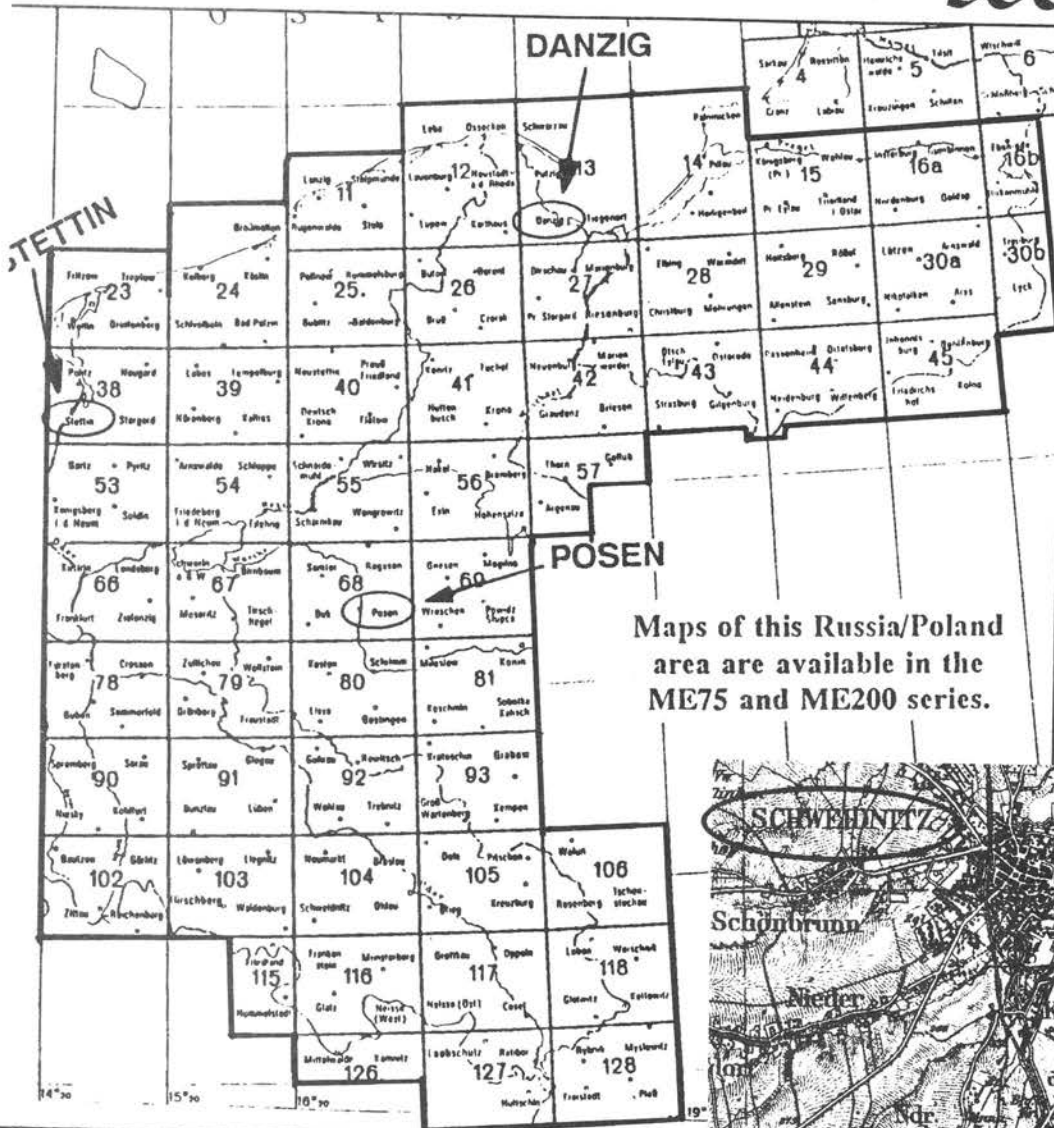
The next month Galen came in with another ancestral village in the same area--this time *Ober Weistritz*. Again using *Ortsnamenverzeichnis . . .* we were able to determine that the village is now called *Bystrzyca Górna*. We since have acquired maps that show these village as they existed in the 19th century (see map, lower right on page 15). You can see that these new additions to our library collection can be very helpful in solving genealogical research problems. The maps can also give you a visual picture of the of the landscape of your ancestors, from Poland.

¹See "The Bulletin Board," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 6 no. 3 (Autumn 1998), p. 8 for a discussion of this work.

Brandb - pV
Drożyska Wielkie gm - pow Złotów - Pom
Groß Friedrichsdorf Gm 1062 - Kr Niederung
- Ostpr - sv
Groß Friedrichsfelde - Gm Leutmannsdorf -
pV
Stachowice - gm Lutomia
Groß Gablick Gm 743 - Kr Lötzen - Ostpr -
pV
Gawliki Wielkie gm - pow Giżycko - PomM

Figure 1: At left is a portion of page 49 in *Ortsnamenverzeichnis . . . von Oder und Neiße* showing the listing for *Groß Freidrichsfelde*. It indicates that the former *Groß Freidrichsfelde* was in Gemeinde *Leutmannsdorf* and is now called *Stachowice* and is in Gmina *Lutomia*. This listing is in Part 1--the German to Polish listing of place names. Part 2 gives the Polish version of the locality in alphabetical order and then gives its former German name.

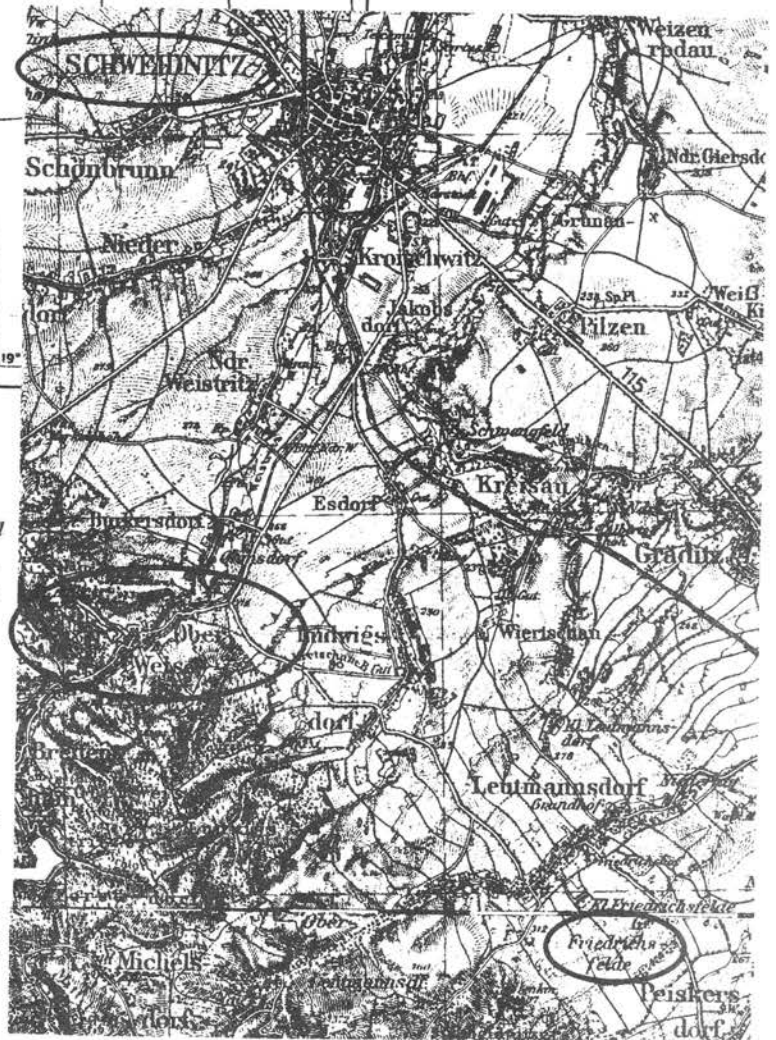
BOOK REVIEWS



At left: Map grid of the 1871 German Empire of areas that are now in Poland. All maps within the heavy black outline are in our Map Collection at the MGS Library. 19th century maps of areas that were in the Austrian and Russian partion are also available. These will be our next major library purchase.

Below: Portions of two maps from the Maps of the German Empire series showing *Schweidnitz*, *Ober Weistritz* and *Groß Friedrichsfelde*. Notice the hilly terrain on the southwest corner of the map. These are the foothills of the Sudety Mountains along the Czech border.

Maps of this Russia/Poland area are available in the ME75 and ME200 series.



At left: Polish map showing Swidnica, Bystrzyca Gorna and Stachowice. Source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy [Poland: Road Atlas]*, p. 170. Note that this map has a ratio of 1:200,000 while the one at right has a ratio of 1:100,000. Therefore it covers the same area in a smaller space.

LIBRARY CORNER

Polonian Settlements in Texas: An Illustrated Chronology, compiled by Earl James Lasworth (Marshall, Texas: published by the author, 1999)

Silesian Profiles: Polish Immigration to Texas in the 1850s, by the Silesian Profiles Committee, Janet Dawson Ebrom, chair (Panna Maria, Texas: The Panna Maria Historical Society, 1999)

Reviewed by Greg Kishel

With the addition of these volumes, the PGS-MN's Church and Local History Collection has more on Texas than it does on any state other than Minnesota. They join our copies of Prof. T. Lindsay Baker's *The First Polish Americans: Silesian Settlements in Texas* [1979] and *The Polish Texans* [1982] as a mini-collection on Lone Star Polonia.

The town of Panna Maria southeast of San Antonio was the first place in the entire United States where Poles settled *en masse*; under the leadership of Father Leopold Moczygemba, a group of Polish Silesian families founded an agricultural colony there in December, 1854. Within two years, Panna Maria was followed by the initiation of settlements at Bandera, Martinez/Saint Hedwig, Meyersville, and Yorktown, and the beginning of a Polish-American neighborhood in San Antonio. In a very real sense, the sesquicentennial of Panna Maria in 2004 will also be the anniversary of Polonia in the U.S. Texans of Polish heritage are appropriately proud to point that out, with the brass that is central to their state's character.

Of these two books, *Polonian Settlements in Texas* has the broader scope. PGS-MN member Jim Lasworth has compiled a story in timeline format, 115 pages long, with lengthy excerpts from published histories of Polish Texas and numerous reprinted illustrations. A retired academic research librarian, Jim has a fine eye for the little vignette that is both entertaining and illustrative of larger historical trends. His collation begins with Tadeusz Kosciuszko's bequest for the emancipation of American slaves, goes on to cover the fortunes



Moczygemba /Moczigemba Brand: *The Texas Stock Directory*, Jackson and Long, 1865, p. 79, Karnes County. Source: *Silesian Profiles*, p. 113.

and misfortunes of solitary Polish adventurers in the Mexican province of Tejas and the early Texas Republic, and begins in earnest with the town foundations of the mid-1850s.

The stories of the earliest farmer-colonists are fascinating but sometimes harrowing, tinged by danger and tragedy. Because of their foreign culture, Roman Catholic affiliation, and refusal to own slaves before the Civil War, the rural Poles were subjected to intimidation and harassment at the hands of Anglo settlers in the earliest days of Reconstruction. (There is no doubt that this is a tale of Texas--*viz.* the account of how Fathers Adolf Bakanowski and Felix Zwiardowski packed six-shooters when they rode circuit to their rural communicants, before Federal troops arrived to bring more order.) As the Poles' early struggles started bearing fruit--interrupted by disease, drought, and other hardships--they built stone churches, stores, and mills, and matured their communities. When new arrivals and natural increase swelled their numbers, the Texan Polonians did the same as their old-line American neighbors--they dispersed across the state as its lands opened to settlement, through the Rio Grande territory and up to the Panhandle.

The style of writing and excerpting here is episodic and anecdotal--following a true timeline format--and there really isn't any analysis of the events. There are credit-lines after most all of the text blocks, showing sources, and usually quotation marks surround text that has the style of an original source. Nonetheless, from time to time it is not clear whether a passage is a direct excerpt or a compiler's summary; page citations would have helped. These are small quibbles, however; *Polonian Settlements in Texas* is clearly intended to be an outline review, history with an accent on the *story*--and it definitely succeeds in that. Jim wanted his work to prompt readers to do deeper research of their own, and it serves that purpose very well.

Silesian Profiles is a different undertaking--a snapshot rather than a timeline--but an equally successful one. It's a truly collaborative effort of the membership of the revived Panna Maria Historical Society, which



Długosz / Dlugosch Brand: DeWitt County Marks and Brands, Volume B, p. 228, #1375, 28 May 1863. Source: *Silesian Profiles*, p. 41.

BOOK REVIEWS



Kielbassa / Kiolbassa Brand:
DeWitt County Marks and
Brands, Volume B, p. 92,
#809, 20 August 1857.
Source: *Silesian Profiles*, p. 61.

publishes a regular newsletter and has been promoting the restoration of its town's architectural landmarks. The volume is a handsomely-produced hardcover, a compilation of very detailed one- or two-generation genealogical portraits of seventy of Panna Maria's founding families. The book opens with a three-page "Brief History of Silesia" by Msgr. Franciszek (Frank) Kurzaj, maps of the relevant areas of both Texas and Silesia, and long lists of the families' home villages in both Poland and America. The text is broken up with interesting photographs, architectural renderings of houses and outbuildings, and deeds and other documents. This being Texas, each family's registered cattle brand is included. (One or two of these sure look like the distinctive *szlachta* marks on the family crests of the Polish lesser gentry. This might be worth a comparison with a good *hebarz* [Polish armorial index].) All of the genealogical material was submitted by the subjects' descendants; the family entries are very detailed as to names, places, dates, and significant life events.

Silesian Profiles is a very successful bridge between local history and genealogy, a fine example of either that has great utility to both. We in Minnesota would do well to emulate it; Winona comes to mind as the logical local subject for a similar treatment.

You might ask whether these Lone Star tales have any utility to us, as Midwestern Yankee genealogists. We can quickly answer the question, and in the affirmative. First, as historians of Minnesota's Polonia we can look to these books as an inspiration. In their different ways, they're just the sort of thing I called for in my President's Letter a couple of issues back.

Second, the little saga of these communities has a backdrop common with several of our own. The Poles who founded Panna Maria and many later Texan arrivals came from the same area as did many of the Polish pioneers of central Minnesota--upper Silesia in the vicinity of Opole--and fairly closely in time; the first emigration to Texas was only about a decade before a group of Silesians settled near Delano, northwest of Minneapolis, and perhaps fifteen years before

so many Opole-area natives emigrated to Morrison, Benton, and Stearns Counties around St. Cloud. (The Silesian locale of Strzelce/Strehlitz is mentioned prominently in both of these volumes. Readers will recall Kornel Kondy's translation of recent tourist guide entries for Strzelce Opolskie in our Winter 1999-2000 issue, done for a Minnesotan with roots in the same town.) From these Texas-oriented sources, we Minnesotans can get background material on the history of *Górny Śląsk* for the period just before our own ancestors' emigration. (These two volumes are good for this, but even better are Prof. Baker's more formal academic treatments of the factors that moved the Texas pioneers to emigrate from Silesia.)

Finally, these materials just might enable one to make a direct and close connection in the family tree. Given the common place of origin, in an area of fairly limited size, it's entirely possible that Minnesotans of Silesian ancestry have distant cousins in Texas; the connections may be suggested by the names cited throughout these books.

These items, then, are useful accessions to our library collection; their broader historical interest alone makes them worth a look, and they might have direct utility to one's own genealogical research.

As an aside, and a final recommendation: the perfect background music is found on Brian Marshall & His Tex-Slavik Playboys, *Texas Polish Roots* (Arhoolie CD 464). It's a rollicking collection of waltzes, polkas, schottisches, and obereks from the Chappel Hill-Bremond area, revived by a young fiddler whose ancestors bore the surname *Marszalek*. The music is a marvelous overlay of Texas swing influences, and even a bit of Mexican *norteño*, onto the strains of Galicia and Kujawa. It's played with great energy by someone who didn't want to see this heritage go into oblivion. The CD is a great listen and, yes, you *can* dance to it. *Buy it!*



Rzeppa Brand:
The Texas Stock Directory,
Jackson and Long, 1865,
p. 73, Karnes County.
Source: *Silesian Profiles*,
p. 165.



Letterhead used by an immigration society promoting three Polish settlements in northwestern Minnesota in 1895. Source: *They Chose Minnesota* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981), p. 366

Northwestern Minnesota, continued from page 1

Gryglaszewski was well aware of areas for possible Polish colonies. In addition, he was the powerful Censor of the Polish National Alliance (PNA or Związek Narodowy Polski), a Chicago-based fraternal insurance society that was fast becoming the largest Polish organization in America. He also had contacts with some of the leaders of the Nationalist faction in Chicago Polonia politics, including Władysław Dyniewicz, a wealthy and influential publisher. Gryglaszewski was an enthusiastic promoter of Polish rural settlement and helped many Polish families find farms in America. He used his contacts with Dyniewicz and others to publicize his efforts. (It is likely that the small hamlet of Grygla, Minnesota, was named for Gryglaszewski in honor of his efforts in settling the area.)

In the case of northwest Minnesota, the settlement of Poles began in 1895, the year Piotr Wylepski wrote his letters to Dyniewicz's paper *Gazeta Polska Narodowa* (Polish National Gazette) (see the text of two of these letters on page 7). The GN railroad created Polish-language brochures and letterhead for a colonization society, examples of which survive in the archives of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul (see example above). In addition, Gryglaszewski and others promoted the colonies.

Wylepski was one of the first Polish settlers. He came to the U.S. and settled in La Salle, Ill., where he was among the founders of St. Hyacinth parish (parafia św. Jacka). From there, he migrated to Wilno, Minn., when that colony was formed in the early 1880s and

was among the first members of St. John Cantius parish (parafia św. Jana Kantego). From there, he moved on to work on the railroad in Dempster, S.D. (then still a territory) before coming to northwest Minnesota. As one of the first Polish settlers, Wylepski played an important role in the new community and his letters suggest he may have been a local part-time agent for Gryglaszewski and the GN, at least in the early years. He housed prospective settlers who were visiting the area and his letters to *Gazeta Polska Narodowa* show that he took a hand in promoting the colony.

Polish settlers came to the area from other Midwestern Polish communities: Winona, the Twin Cities, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Illinois, and Michigan, as well as Missouri and Pennsylvania. Some families did come from Poland directly, brought either by relatives who had already decided to settle or by Gryglaszewski through his wide-ranging contacts. (An article from a paper in Marshall, Minn., records the experiences of a family from Poland who spoke no English mis-routed by the railroad to the city of Marshall instead of Marshall County!) There also seem to have been a few Czech families that joined the community and became Polonized. By 1900, the colony had attracted enough people to build a permanent church, Our Lady of the Rosary in Lancaster (Kroze), more commonly known as Holy Rosary. Prior to that, the community had been served by visiting Oblate fathers from Winnipeg.

Like most promotional letters that appear in Polish newspapers of the day, Wylepski's letters downplay the hardships of pioneer life and the fierce winters of northwest Minnesota. Yet, unlike other land agents and

promoters, he himself was also living in the colony. Despite the hardships, Wylepski and his fellow pioneers persevered and created farms, towns, and futures for themselves and for their children and wrote a chapter in history of the Polish community in America that has yet to be fully explored.

SOURCES:

The author would like to thank Kathryn Wilepski Schaefer of Lancaster, Minnesota, for her assistance in providing sources and information for this article. Other sources include:

Holy Rosary Church, Lancaster, Minnesota: 75th Anniversary, 1900-1975 (Lancaster: n.p., 1975).

Papers of the Colonization Department of the Great Northern Railroad, St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society.

Radzilowski, John. "Hidden Cosmos: The Life-Worlds of Polish Immigrants in Two Minnesota Communities," Ph.D. diss., Arizona State University, 1999.

Radzilowski, John. "A New Poland in the Old Northwest: Polish Rural Colonization on the Northern Great Plains, 1875-1920," forthcoming in *Polish American Studies*.

Renkiewicz, Frank, "The Poles," in *They Chose Minnesota* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981).

Letters to Gazeta Polska Narodowa

Translated from Polish. Submitted by Kathryn Wilepski Schaefer. Edited by John Radzilowski.

Letter regarding Peter Wylepski to *Gazeta Polska Narodowa* [Chicago, Ill.] May 23, 1895; Page 1

Hallock, Minn., May 15, 1895

To the Editor and Mr. Dyniewicz,

We the undersigned thank you very cordially from the bottom of our hearts. With the help of your newspaper we found out about land in Minnesota that Mr. Gryglaszewski surveyed and was advertising, not only from the government but from the "Great Northern" [Railroad] company. It is cheap with longlending payments. One can still get good land from the government and that is why we signed up.

We came the 8th of May together with Mr. Gryglaszewski to Hallock and there he measured and surveyed the land. We then went with horses 60 miles around to look at and view the land. Everyone could see for himself if it was good or not. At that time I, Michal Blazewjewski, and Jan Markiewicz decided to live by Peter Wilepski. Since he was already there for two weeks, he explained everything to us, and we are very pleased with his help. We are thankful to Mr.

Gryglaszewski and his newspaper for their help.

Each 160 acres of land has exquisite soil with beautiful grass and highest quality water. It is very good land and not very far from the railroad. We really like it here and we will stay here and we thank you again and hope you will advertise to other people. We want other people coming here to live with us in the healthy climate of Minnesota. With God's help, if more people come we can make a Polish colony.

One hundred years ago Poland was divided into thirds by Russia and Germany and Austria. This year will be the 100th anniversary of that partition. Kosciusko was the leader of Poland at that time. We are thinking of naming our colony after Thaddeus Kosciusko. I think our colony would have very happy people because of the very good soil here.

I had never seen Mr. Gryglaszewski before and had only heard of him from the newspaper. I thank Mr. Gryglaszewski for finding a place for us in Minnesota. I think we will have a good future here. A good example is that we have lots of neighbors around here. Most of the people have a place to live and sleep and they have a good life and food. From the time we arrived we had a comfortable place to stay.

In our group eight people traveled together on the journey to the station in Crookston. There we met our Polish brothers from Winona and Pine Creek, Wis. About 20 families came from that area. We put all our belongings in covered wagons and traveled together. Those people told us that more families would be coming.

We invite the Polish people to come here and buy cheaper land. You better come now and not wait. Come, buy land and live here. After a few years you will be in a better situation than the people who live in the city and work in the factories and the coal mines. If you want a better life come here. If you want more information write to Mr. Gryglaszewski or write to us. We promise you, you will not be sorry if you come here. If you want to buy land just write to Mr. Gryglaszewski and he knows people who can sell land cheaper. He has surveyors and he will measure the land and help you with everything that you need.

With brotherly greetings,

P. Wylepski, Box 48, Hallock, Minn.
J. Markiewicz, 84 Bremen Str., Chicago, Ill.
M. Blazewjewski, E. Lake, Mich.
St. Clehus, Hurley, Wis., Dodge P. O.
Fr. Wyska, Pine Creek, Wis.
J. Naplatek, Pine Creek, Wis. Trempealeau Co.

Letter of Peter Wylebski to *Gazeta Polska Narodowa*
[Chicago, Ill.] September 5, 1895, p. 2

From Hallock, MN

Thank you Mr. Franceszek Gryglaszewski of Minneapolis, and Mr. Dyniewicz [editor of *Gazeta Polska Narodowa*], for the help the newspaper gave us in which we found out about the place we are living right now. God helped us to find the land and the place where we live. Everyone can receive 160 acres from the government. We did not have to pay anything, Mr. Gryglaszewski told us, except for our houses. If you come, you can take horses and drive around and look at the land and everyone will get 160 acres of good land.

I am Peter Wylebski. I came here on the 15th of May 1895, from Dempster in [South] Dakota, where I worked on the railroad. I came and bought 100 acres of land for less than \$50. I started living on the land when there was nothing there. The cost of building the house was \$50. I got lumber in Hallock from the railroad station. From the beginning there was a nice and comfortable house. I can prove that everybody signed and witnessed the building of the house. The other people came and lived with me when they built their houses.

I plowed 10 acres and I planted barley, corn, and potatoes. I made hay for the cows and horses and had enough hay for the whole winter. I had everything that I needed from the beginning. I think in a year or two years more people will come and they will have a good future on the land here. I am sorry more people didn't come this spring, because I wanted more Polish people around and am worried there will not be enough land if they want to come. If there isn't enough government land, land can be bought from the railroad company--railroad land. I am happy that in the fall more Polish people will be coming to buy land from this company and Mr. Gryglaszewski got them a deal for many years of payments.

Everybody will live close to a church that is going to be built and a Polish priest is coming. The priest who came from Poland, comes out of Stanislawowo [what is now Florian]. If enough Polish people come to this area in the future we will build our own church.

We asked the newspapers to advertise that there was **NEW LAND FOR SALE**. We also asked the organizations such as the *Zwiazek Narodowy Polski* [Polish National Alliance, a Polish ethnic fraternal based in Chicago], and the Roman Catholic Church to send delegates from there so they could see for themselves that there is good land and good climate and good water.

We want you to see what a good life you could have here and to advertise it to other Polish people.

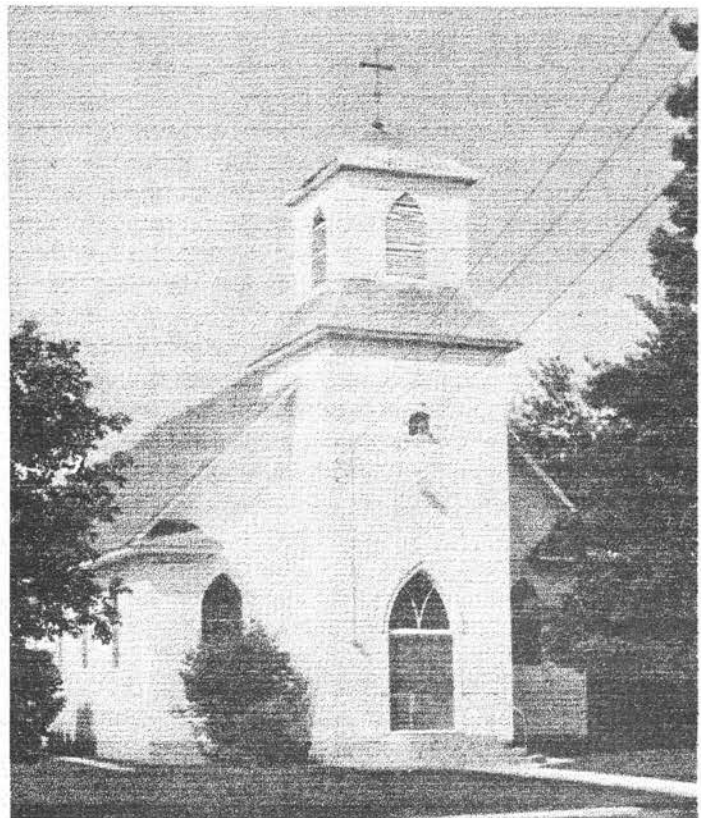
All my life I will thank Mr. Gryglaszewski and also the newspaper and railroad company and we all will thank him. Everything that Mr. Gryglaszewski told us and wrote to us about how it is here was true. I wish Mr. Gryglaszewski good health and that God helps him and his family. If he has a long life he can help other Polish people who will come here.

Remember if you have good land you will have a good life. Come here, don't wait because you can see that you will make a good choice.

I am writing this letter to the Polish people that this fall they have land for 50 families on government land and 1000 families can get land from the railroad company.

Piotr Wylepski	M. Blazejewski
Stanislaw Guzel	Jan Grabowski
Albert Mastowski	Jan Cyrawski
Jan Juezko	

My address: Box 48, Hallock, MN
(Signed) Piotr Wylepski



1900 -- 2000
Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Lancaster MN

A DIGEST OF BURIALS AT HOLY ROSARY CEMETERY, LANCASTER, KITTSOON COUNTY

Prepared by **Raymond and Bev Masloski**

Submitted by **Kathryn Wilebski Schafer**

Edited by **Greg Kishel**

Greg Kishel speaking: Member Kathryn Wilebski Schafer sent us materials on the Polish-American community at rural Lancaster, in Kittson County in the far northwestern corner of Minnesota. Among them was a list of names and dates relating to burials at the cemetery affiliated with Holy Rosary Church. Kathryn tells me that Raymond and Bev Masloski, the sextons at the cemetery, gave her a copy of the official plot map dated May 18, 1995, updated and annotated with dates of birth and death that they gleaned from the markers during their walkover in late June, 2000.¹ Raymond and Bev advised that a number of unmarked graves were listed on the map as occupied by "unknown"; also, several of the markers were so badly weathered as to be indecipherable.²

Kathryn excerpted all of the names and dates and sent her work with a copy of the map. Paul Kulas asked me to organize the excerpts for publication as a companion piece to the materials from Kathryn's other submissions. I went back and identified each burial by its location on the plot map.³ I then tried to use a format and typesetting comparable to that I developed for my own published transcriptions of Polish-American cemeteries.

I have called the result a "digest," rather than a "transcription," because the data are not a verbatim copying of the inscriptions on the headstones. The data come from Kathryn and the Masloskis with the caution that the plot map and the inscriptions themselves may not be 100% accurate on spellings and dates. Nonetheless, it's a nice effort to preserve and disseminate genealogical information about a very little-known outpost of Polonia in Minnesota. If you see an evocative surname, you can consider it as a springboard for further research

¹Raymond is Kathryn's father's first cousin, or her first cousin once removed.

²We have included the one or two indecipherables, but have omitted the "unknowns." Absent some deep research, it will have to be "Here, known but to God..." for these forgotten Polish pioneers.

³The cemetery is divided up into 42 numbered rows and 12 lettered columns

Anton BERNAKO

1920
R. 19, Col. J

Christine BLAZEJEWSKI

1879 - 1948
R. 10, Col. I

Frank BLAZEJEWSKI

1884 - 1978
R. 11, Col. G

Michael BLAZEJEWSKI

1849 - 1938
R. 11, Col. I

Nick BLAZEJEWSKI

1891 - 1968
R. 12, Col. G

Valentine BLAZEJEWSKI

1910 - 1983
R. 12, Col. F

Dominek BOROSKI

1887 - 1980
R. 35, Col. D

Julia BOROSKI

1900 - 1985
R. 33, Col. H

Katherine BOROSKI

1890 - 1946
R. 37, Col. H

Mike BOROSKI

1922 - 1982
R. 34, Col. H

Steve BOROSKI

1880 - 1949
R. 36, Col. H

Walter BOROSKI

1891 - 1972
R. 32, Col. H

Sadie A. COSTA

1979
R. 25, Col. G

Frank DEBITTIGNES

1883 - 1962
R. 5, Col. J

Helen DEBITTIGNES

1884 - 1958
R. 4, Col. J

Ann DEW

1939 - 1997
R. 3, Col. F

Dale Jeffery DEW

1971 - 1971
R. 2, Col. F

Adam GORSKI

1882 - 1942
R. 12, Col. I

Cezaria GORSKI

1890 - 1938
R. 13, Col. I

Danny GORSKI

1958 - 1996
R. 13, Col. H

Florence GORSKI

1934 - 1999
R. 14, Col. H

Agnes HMIELEWSKA

R. 33, Col. K

Charles JASZCZAK

1894 - 1967
R. 12, Col. H

Clara JASZCZAK

1906 - 1995
R. 6, Col. F

John JASZCZAK

1945 - 1963
R. 10, Col. H

Joseph JASZCZAK

1865 - 1956
R. 3, Col. I

Joseph JASZCZAK

1907 - 1907
R. 40, Col. K

Kasmer JASZCZAK

1906 - 1926
R. 34, Col. I

Katherine JASZCZAK

1866 - 1938
R. 2, Col. I

Peter JASZCZAK

1947 - 1999
R. 10, Col. G

Peter JASZCZAK

1910 - 1910
R. 34, Col. J

Theresa JASZCZAK

1912 - 2000
R. 11, Col. H

Victor JASZCZAK

1904 - 1991
R. 5, Col. F

Lawrence JEROME 1897 - 1965 <i>R. 29, Col. L</i>	Anton KUSHINSKI 1901 - 1989 <i>R. 8, Col. G</i>	Andrew MASLOSKI 1851 - 1917 <i>R. 20, Col. J</i>	Frank S. OLSONOSKI 1930 - 1963 <i>R. 30, Col. G</i>
Mary W. JEROME 1910 - 1978 <i>R. 28, Col. L</i>	Carl KUSHINSKI 1938 - 1965 <i>R. 9, Col. G</i>	Anton J. MASLOSKI 1961 <i>R. 21, Col. C</i>	John OLSONOSKI 1919 - 1992 <i>R. 31, Col. G</i>
Agnes KARBOVIAK 1881 - 1947 <i>R. 2, Col. H</i>	Cecilia KUSHINSKI 1899 - 1964 <i>R. 7, Col. G</i>	Felix MASLOSKI 1907 - 1923 <i>R. 11, Col. J</i>	Joseph OLSONOSKI 1891 - 1951 <i>R. 28, Col. G</i>
Balbina KARBOVIAK 1926 - 1929 <i>R. 13, Col. K</i>	Edward KUSHINSKI 1937 <i>R. 37, Col. I</i>	Louis F. MASLOSKI 1922 - 1974 <i>R. 23, Col. G</i>	Joseph OLSONOSKI 1937 - 1957 <i>R. 29, Col. G</i>
Jerry KARBOVIAK <i>R. 21, Col. I</i>	John KUSHINSKI 1851 - 1941 <i>R. 36, Col. I</i>	Mary C. MASLOSKI 1901 - 1981 <i>R. 22, Col. G</i>	Julia OLSONOSKI 1895 - 1977 <i>R. 27, Col. G</i>
John KARBOVIAK 1918 - 1984 <i>R. 4, Col. B</i>	Mary KUSHINSKI 1860 - 1954 <i>R. 35, Col. I</i>	Mary MASLOSKI 1857 - 1934 <i>R. 20, Col. H</i>	Mary OLSONOSKI 1883 - 1965 <i>R. 28, Col. H</i>
Stanley KARVOBIAK 1860 - 1931 <i>R. 3, Col. H</i>	Scott J. LeDOUX 1979 - 1979 <i>R. 23, Col. F</i>	Victoria MASLOSKI 1899 - 1940 <i>R. 21, Col. J</i>	Rose OLSONOSKI 1869 - 1907 <i>R. 29, Col. J</i>
Anna KIELB 1861 - 1908 <i>R. 28, Col. J</i>	Carl LIPINSKI 1885 - 1984 <i>R. 33, Col. E</i>	William MASLOSKI 1896 - 1941 <i>R. 22, Col. H</i>	Stanley OLSONOSKI 1863 - 1926 <i>R. 28, Col. I</i>
Felix KIELB 1920 <i>R. 24, Col. K</i>	Stella LIPINSKI 1898 - 1983 <i>R. 34, Col. E</i>	Delores Otto McGIVER 1938 - 1996 <i>R. 2, Col. C</i>	Verna OLSONOSKI 1981 <i>R. 27, Col. F</i>
John KRASKA 1891 - 1963 <i>R. 23, Col. H</i>	Sheryl LOCKMAN 1966 - 1966 [no stone]	Karl MULZOF 1899 - 1982 <i>R. 26, Col. G</i>	William OLSONOSKI 1958 <i>R. 28, Col. F</i>
Josie KRASKA 1894 - 1980 <i>R. 22, Col. F</i>	Bolasow LUBINSKI <i>R. 30, Col. J</i>	John MULZOF 1857 - 1942 <i>R. 24, Col. H</i>	Edmond OTTO 1942 - 1952 <i>R. 7, Col. I</i>
Leo KRASKA 1932 - 1990 <i>R. 21, Col. F</i>	Julia LUBINSKI 1859 - 1916 <i>R. 22, Col. J</i>	Mary Ann MULZOF 1858 - 1956 <i>R. 25, Col. H</i>	Edward OTTO 1950 - 1983 <i>R. 3, Col. C</i>
Leonard KRASKA 1920 - 1921 <i>R. 22, Col. K</i>	Madsolona LUBINSKI <i>R. 25, Col. J</i>	Burnes OGOREK 1925- 1932 <i>R. 19, Col. I</i>	Gerald OTTO 1946 - 1946 <i>R. 8, Col. I</i>
Martin KRASKA 1863 - 1935 <i>R. 23, Col. I</i>	[?] MALINOSKI[?] [unreadable] <i>R. 19, Col. H</i>	Josie OLISH 1894- 1962 <i>R. 7, Col. H</i>	Lawrence OTTO 1937 - 1988 <i>R. 6, Col. C</i>
Mary KRASKA 1919 <i>R. 25, Col. K</i>	Aloyuias MALINSKI 1892 - 1918 <i>R. 15, Col. J</i>	Adam OLSONOSKI 1922 - 1990 <i>R. 28, Col. E</i>	Sophie OTTO 1914 - 1995 <i>R. 4, Col. C</i>
Pauline KRASKA 1858 - 1931 <i>R. 22, Col. I</i>	Adam MASLOSKI <i>R. 29, Col. K</i>	Baby OLSONOSKI 1961 <i>R. 40, Col. D</i>	Walter OTTO 1905 - 1987 <i>R. 5, Col. C</i>
Helen KROPOLSKI <i>R. 15, Col. K</i>	Alex MASLOSKI 1900 - 1949 <i>R. 20, Col. G</i>	Casmier OLSONOSKI 1916 - 1996 <i>R. 17, Col. G</i>	Petra PETRAMENT 1871 - 1934 <i>R. 17, Col. I</i>

Leo J. POLACK 1926 <i>R. 33, Col. I</i>	Joseph SCOTNICKI 1911 - 1989 <i>R. 3, Col. A</i>	Albert Wojciek SOBERASKI 1873 - 1926 <i>R. 27, Col. I</i>	Anton Shablow SZABLEWSKI 1840 - 1922 <i>R. 3, Col. J</i>
Agnes POLEJEWSKI 1909 - 1909 <i>R. 35, Col. K</i>	Sally SCOTNICKI 1912 - 1998 <i>R. 4, Col. A</i>	Baby SOBERASKI 1918 <i>R. 42, Col. C</i>	Julia Shablow SZABLEWSKI 1851 - 1936 <i>R. 2, Col. J</i>
Eva POLEJEWSKI 1901 - 1901 <i>R. 37, Col. K</i>	Adam SMOLAK 1931 - 1932 <i>R. 1, Col. K</i>	Hedwick SOBERASKI 1882 - 1916 <i>R. 23, Col. J</i>	Steve USCENSKY 1922 - 1963 <i>R. 31, Col. F</i>
Victoria POLEJEWSKI 1924 <i>R. 8, Col. K</i>	Andrew SMOLAK 1912 - 1976 <i>R. 6, Col. K</i>	John SOBERASKI 1916 - 1930 <i>R. 20, Col. I</i>	Melvin WADSWORTH 1958 - 1995 <i>R. 7, Col. C</i>
Cashmere POLOCK 1921 <i>R. 14, Col. J</i>	August SMOLAK 1929 - 1929 <i>R. 4, Col. K</i>	Joseph SOBEROSKI 1935 <i>R. 14, Col. I</i>	Joseph WALLENBERG 1867 - 1914 <i>R. 24, Col. J</i>
Victoria POLOCK <i>R. 14, Col. K</i>	Baby SMOLAK 1924 - 1924 <i>R. 5, Col. K</i>	Albert STEINART 1910 - 1984 <i>R. 4, Col. G</i>	Laura WALLENBERG 1873 - 1955 <i>R. 35, Col. F</i>
Agnes POTRAMENT 1895 - 1967 <i>R. 34, Col. F</i>	Benidick SMOLAK 1931 - 1931 <i>R. 2, Col. K</i>	Elizabeth STEINART 1876 - 1950 <i>R. 6, Col. H</i>	Marion WALLENBERG 1869 - 1955 <i>R. 36, Col. F</i>
Casmer POTRAMENT 1907 - 1936 <i>R. 18, Col. H</i>	Francis SMOLAK <i>R. 31, Col. L</i>	Elizabeth STEINART <i>R. 26, Col. J</i>	Mary WALLENBERG 1921 <i>R. 23, Col. K</i>
Frank POTRAMENT 1903 - 1983 <i>R. 16, Col. H</i>	Helen SMOLAK 1910 - 1918 <i>R. 26, Col. K</i>	Frank STEINART 1870 - 1955 <i>R. 5, Col. H</i>	John WALUKIEVICZ 1931 - 1994 <i>R. 25, Col. F</i>
John Willie POTRAMENT 1930 <i>R. 15, Col. I</i>	John SMOLAK 1939 - 1995 <i>R. 4, Col. L</i>	Lewis C. STEINART 1898 - 1970 <i>R. 6, Col. G</i>	Marie WALUKIEVICZ 1905 - 1976 <i>R. 26, Col. H</i>
Lena POTRAMENT 1912 - 1999 <i>R. 15, Col. H</i>	Kasmier SMOLAK 1877- 1960 <i>R. 6, Col. K</i>	Thomas STEINART 1901 - 1980 <i>R. 5, Col. G</i>	Sylvester WALUKIEVICZ 1875 - 1958 <i>R. 27, Col. H</i>
Stanley POTRAMENT 1927 - 1987 <i>R. 33, Col. D</i>	Linda Lou SMOLAK 1953 - 1960 <i>R. 3, Col. K</i>	Charles SWIONTEK 1897 - 1981 <i>R. 36, Col. I</i>	Anna WILEBSKI 1866 - 1921 <i>R. 26, Col. I</i> [unmarked; presumed]
William POTRAMENT 1951 - 1982 <i>R. 18, Col. I</i>	Martha SMOLAK 1888- 1924 <i>R. 6, Col. J</i>	Marion SWIONTEK 1898 - 1985 <i>R. 35, Col. E</i>	Edmund WILEBSKI 1918 - 1918 <i>R. 27, Col. K</i>
William POTRAMENT 1896 - 1969 <i>R. 33, Col. F</i>	Martin SMOLAK 1906 - 1906 <i>R. 31, Col. K</i>	Mike SWIONTEK 1950 <i>R. 4, Col. H</i>	Franciazek WILEBSKI 1854 - 1928 <i>R. 24, Col. I</i>
Jacob PRZEKwas 1917 <i>R. 21, Col. J</i>	Paul SMOLAK 1923 - 1947 <i>R. 9, Col. I</i>	Rose SWIONTEK 1923 <i>R. 10, Col. J</i>	Frank WILEBSKI 1911 - 1992 <i>R. 26, Col. L</i>
Stanlous RINGER 1840 - 1923 <i>R. 9, Col. J</i>	Victoria SMOLAK 1934 - 1994 <i>R. 3, Col. L</i>	Wilhelmina SWOINTEK 1899 - 1984 <i>R. 2, Col. G</i>	Mary WILEBSKI 1961 <i>R. 27, Col. L</i>
Larry SCHMEIDEBERG 1942 - 1983 <i>R. 31, Col. E</i>	Katherine SOBCZNSKI 1924 <i>R. 7, Col. J</i>	William SWOINTEK 1894 - 1961 <i>R. 3, Col. G</i>	

Mary WILEBSKI
1885- 1961
R. 13, Col. J

Frank WILHARD
1860 - 1933
R. 17, Col. J

Peter WILEBSKI
1845 - 1926
R. 25, Col. I

John WILHARD
1903 - 1936
R. 17, Col. H

Priscilla WILEBSKI
1923 - 1981
R. 25, Col. L

Sophie WILHARD
1876 - 1921
R. 16, Col. J

Tom WILEBSKI
1920
R. 18, Col. J

* * * * *

And Greg Kishel back, for the wrapup: In the laborious process of inputting this information to run my cemetery-transcription sort function, I couldn't help but notice a few interesting patterns. There was the number of first settlers who lived to ripe old ages-- a lot of 70+ and 80+ year-old decedents in that initial generation! A local booster in the 19th century style would have attributed that to the salubrious climate of rural Minnesota. A more likely explanation is good genes, simple food without too much fat and processed sugar, lots of hard farm work, and much praying of the rosary. The second was the intriguing and numerous surname OLSONOSKI. Kathryn tells me that this is a common name in the vicinity of Lancaster and Hallock, sometimes in the alternate spelling of OLSO-NAWSKI. I've not yet consulted Fred Hoffman's book on Polish surnames or our library copy of *Śłownik nazwisk*, to see whether this was really the old-country form, or what it might have been. But any impudent Minnesotan raised on ethnic humor would have to ask: "Were they trying to pass for Swedes?"⁴ I also noted the surname MULZOF, which might be a variant on the MUSOLF surname so common in the Polish communities of Duluth and just north of it.⁵

And in the last instance, the most interesting thing about this data is that it's there, and that the Poles were there in such a concentration. Though this was a small place, it again was a distinctively Polonian one--and one whose existence and story were largely unknown to us and you until your fellow members⁶ shared them.

⁴Scions of the family should not hesitate to correct me--and should not take offense in the first place!

⁵The conjecture was prompted by the fact MUSOLF was mangled into MAULZOF on a census schedule or two from the Duluth area that I've reviewed in my research.

⁶We have a copy of a jubilee booklet from Holy Rosary Church in our Church and Local History Collection, courtesy of long-time member Fred Wilebski; if your interest is piqued, it's worth a trip to the MGS Library to review it.

Letters, continued from page 9

New E-mail Address

My new address is <bsyzdek@mac.com> Please make necessary corrections.

Thank you for the fine newsletters.

Bruno C. and Phyllis M. Syzdek, Las Vegas NV

Haller's Army Casualty List

The website at <http://www.polishroots.com/hallers_casualty.asp> is my latest attempt at getting the word out on the Polish Army in France. The cards have not been seen in years before being located in the archives of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. It may be a small group but the information on these cards is extremely valuable when you hit paydirt. I hope that you can fit it in an upcoming issue of your newsletter.

Dr. Paul S. Valasek, Chicago Il

GenDobry!

The first issue of the e-zine, *GenDobry!* is posted at <http://polishroots.org/GenDobry_vol1_no1.htm> It's just a start, and right now only comes out four times a year. Still, I know you're interested in anything that goes on in the field of Polish genealogy, so you might want to give it a quick look.

Fred Hoffman <WFHoffman@prodigy.net>

The Bulletin Board, continued from page 3

PGSA 22nd Annual Conference

The Polish Genealogical of America (Chicago) will present its 22nd Annual Conference on October 6-8, 2000 at Four Points Hotel in Schiller Park IL. The conference is entitled: Bridging the Gap--Genealogy and Technology. For further information, contact: Bernadine Saelens, PGSA, 277 E. Gladys Ave., Elmhurst Il 60126. Phone: 630/833-1355.

Surname Indexing Project

The *PGS-MN Newsletter* Surname Indexing Project which was begun in the Winter 1999-2000 issue and continued in our Spring issue will continue in the Autumn 2000 issue. We regret that space constraints precluded the appearance of the indexing of Volume 3 in this issue. Our apologies to our readers and to Audra Etzel who is doing the surname indexing of past issues of this newsletter.

Origins of the ZAMYSŁOWSKI and NIEZGOCKI surnames

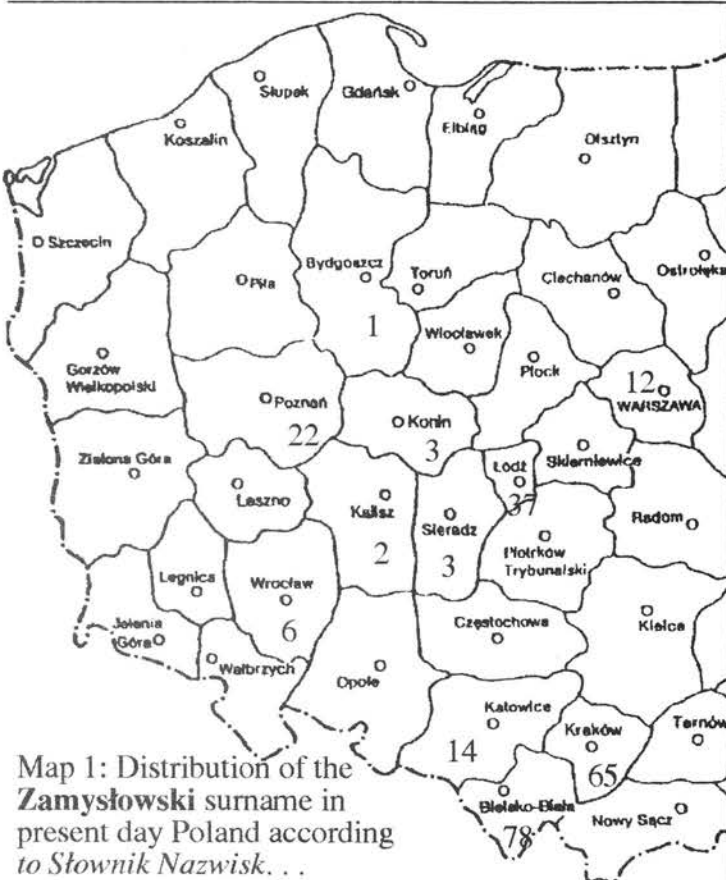
by Paul Kulas

Karen Westphall of Quincy IL wrote to ask if our offer to research Polish surnames was still open. Yes it is! For \$10.00 per surname, we will check William F. Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* and Kazimierz Rymut's *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w polsce używanych*. We regret that we have not always had the space to include samples of these requests in each issue of our newsletter. In this issue we include two such requests (see also p.11). Karen states that she'd like to have her mother's parents' names researched. Her mother has lived in Minnesota her entire life. Her mother's father's name was ZAMYSŁOWSKI and her mother's mother's name was NIEZGOCKI. My response to her follows:

The **Zamysłowski** surname is probably more properly spelled Zamysłowski. A "l" and a "ł"--an l with a slanted bar though it--are two different letters in Polish. According to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* the Zamysłowski surname is derived from the Polish place names *Zamysłów, Zamyśłowicze, or Zamysłowo*. The Zamysłowski surname is not a very common one. According to *Słownik Nazwisk. . .* by Kazimierz Rymut, the name appears only

243 times in a Polish governmental agency's records in 1990. A map showing the provinces where the Zamysłowski surname was found in 1990 is shown below. As you can see, the Zmysłowski surname is most numerous in southern Poland in the provinces of Bielsko-Biała and Kraków. Based on this distribution, I would guess that your mother's father's family originated in one of these two provinces. Do you know if this family came from the Austrian partition?

According to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* the **Niezgocki** surname is derived from the Polish word *niezgoda* which means "discord, dissension." Related surnames are: Niezgoda, Niezgódka, Niezgodzki. The Niezgocki surname is even less common than Zamysłowski. According to *Słownik Nazwisk. . .* by Kazimierz Rymut, the name appears only 25 times in a Polish governmental agency's records in 1990. A map showing the provinces where the Niezgocki surname was found in 1990 is shown below. As you can see, the Niezgocki surname is most numerous in the province of Sieradz. Based on this distribution, I would guess that is where your mother's mother's family originated. Do you have any information about where your mother's parents originated? When did they immigrate? Where did they settle in Minnesota? Were they married in Poland or in the U.S.? The answers to these questions may alter my guesses as to where they may have originated.



Map 1: Distribution of the Zamysłowski surname in present day Poland according to *Słownik Nazwisk. . .*

Map 2: Distribution of the Niezgocki surname in present day Poland according to *Słownik Nazwisk. . .*

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*

Milly Kriske, 2541 Town Rd 269, Int. Falls MN asks about Walenty MAJCHRZAK (born: 1856 or 1865) and his brother Kasimier (b. 1870). They emigrated from Poznan to Philadelphia in 1892.

Lucy Phillips(ek) Kruchowski, 1100-6th Ave. So., South St. Paul MN 55075 <lkruchowski@prodigy.net> writes: "I would like information on a connection between my grandfather, Casper PHILLIPSEK and the WARWAS surname in the Opole/Holdingford area and in Chisholm MN. Thank you."

Correction:

Joan Molesky, 5440 Mineral Drive, Mt. Iron MN writes: "I noticed in the new members column that I am researching the correct names of MILEWSKI and SZYNKOWSKI but my e-mail address is wrong! Corrected it is <joanm@cpinternet.com> Can this be corrected in the next issue please? If someone is trying to contact me they would be unable to reach me at the one in the letter. Thanks."

NEW MEMBERS; *We welcome the following:*

Richard Bates, 1724 Norton Rd., Duluth MN 55803 is researching KRUCZKOWSKI in West Prussia, Grudziaz and in Chicago IL and Lake Co. MN; BUSA in Poznan, Wagrowiec and in Duluth; ZIEMSKI, BOROWIAK in Poznan, Wagrowiec, Jarocin and in Duluth; WALCZAK, ZIMNY, CIESLAK, KRAJEW-SKI, SOBCZAK, STERNAL, KUBIAK in Poznan, Ostrow Wlkp. and in Duluth; KOZIAREK in Poznan, Ostrow Wlkp. and in Chicago and Duluth; GORKOWSKI, ROGACKI in Poznan, Pleszew and in Duluth. Note: Locations in Poland are general locations only--specific community/parish are not shown due to multiple appearances of the same surname in many of the same parishes in the general area.

Earl A. Czech, 4682 - 104 Ave NE, Circle Pines MN 55014-1571 <CEarlretired@aol.com> is researching CZECH, WARZECKA in Falkowitz and in Opole MN and KLIMEK in Gdansk and in Millerville MN.

Dorothy M. Huotari, 8705 Gateshead Road, Alexandria VA 22309-4020 <jhuotari@erols.com> is researching KOWALCZAK and spelling variations KOWALZAK/KOWALCZUK/KOWALIK with first names Michael, Anton, Frank, Joseph and BOJKO/BOYKO (first name Julia) in Mogielnica (south of

Warsaw) or possibly in Galicia and in Duluth MN. Estimated US arrival dates:1900-1914.

Paul Kilgore, 20 Northfield St., Duluth MN 55803 <Pbkilgore@aol.com> is a new member. He writes: "I am a descendant of Stanislaus KOCINSKI and Mari Anne SZYMCZAK, who emigrated to Duluth from Posnan province in the early 1880s."

Mary Ann Maniak, 8711 62nd Ave N., Minneapolis MN 55428 is researching KUBICKI, OLSZEWSKI, KUSZLOWICZ, MANIAK in Poland and in Buffalo NY.

Joseph P. Rasinowich, 10808 27th Ave So., Burnsville MN 55337-1008 <JRASI@AOL.COM> is researching RASIMOWICZ, MAZYNSKI in Calumet MI and KRUSZKA/GRUSKA in Olselyn and Calumet.

Louis Scherschel, 19 South 1st St., Unit B-1504, Mpls. MN 55401 <l.scherschel@worldnet.att.net> is researching KAMASKI, OSTROWSKA, FALKOWSKI/FALKOFSKI, WOJKOWIAK in Łukawica and Bialystok in Poland and in Konstantinovka, Ukraine and in Chicago, Illinois, and Indiana.

Maryann Schires, 21871 Co Rd 111, Greenbush MN 56726 is a new member. She writes: "Kathy Schafer of Stratcona showed me her *Newsletter* and I am interested in receiving it myself. I read and write Polish."

Judy Swenson, 1498 Grant McMahon Blvd., Ely MN 55731 is researching MICHOR, KUHARSKI, IGNA-SIAK, MARSZALKIEWICZ in Posen and in Duluth.

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

Jean Blazek, 2309 Horizon Road, Burnsville MN 55337-3061 <jeanblazek@worldnet.att.net> is researching SABINASH, KULING/KULINK, WILMA surnames.

Ed Brandt, 13 - 27th Ave SE, Minneapolis MN 55414-3101 <brandtfam@prodigy.net> has renewed. The names he is researching are listed on his website at: <<http://pages.prodigy.net/brandtfam/general/>> He writes: "I have a huge number of names and places, mostly Germans, in all three partitions."

Jin & Charlotte Broskie, 311 State St., Hastings MN 55033-1038 <Jamesb3453@aol.com> <Charley106@aol.com> are researching BZOSKI, HALAS, PERS, BUSCOVIAK, WYREMBEK, NOGAJ in Biedruskoa

and Mrowino in Posen, Poland and KOTULA in Browerville MN.

Adele Cloutier, 1226 E. 3rd St., St. Paul MN 55106-5706 is researching GAWARECKI in the Lincoln Co. area.

Irene R. Colston, 5357 - 35th Ave So., Minneapolis MN 55417-2121 is researching JAWORSKI (Leo) (Thomas), PRYLINSKA (Anna), MEISTERSKI (Carl), ORCHIKOWSKI (Magdalene) in Thorn County (Torun), Biskupitz, Schoenwalde, Lubiankaw and Lesroz.

Michael Eckman, 4937 Queen Ave S., Minneapolis <mike.eckman@reliastar.com> is researching COPA and ECKMAN.

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

Joyce Gelderman, 1625 Bonner Trail, Oregon WI 53575 is researching RUMPZA, ZAKRZEWSKI, LESNAR, BRESKE, MIOTKE, MELCZEWSKY in Lusin, West Prussia and in MN and SD.

Diana Gustafson, 1565 NE 148th Ave., Portland OR 97230-4615 <gramgus@worldaccessnet.com> is researching KUCHARSKI in Raciaż and in Sturgeon Lake MN and Grays River WA and URBANIAK, SZLACHTA in Skrzebova and in Sturgeon Lake.

Pauline Jagusch, 1824 W 5th St., Red Wing MN 55066-2019 <pjag@rocketmail.com> is researching JAGUSCH, FRIESE, PADINA in Opolskie and Pomorskie and in MI and WI.

Terry Kita, 5036 Queen Ave S., Mpls MN 55410 <terry.kita@federalcartridge.com> is researching KITA, SZMIT, BOMBOLCZYK, FURMAN in woj. Pozan, Pila specifically in the Czarnkow area.

Margaret Koegel, 41519 Cruz Way, Temecula CA 92592 <jimk@pe.net> is researching LASKOWSKI, LASSO, LUBINSKI in Milwaukee WI and Winona MN.

Arne Kowalzek, 114 7th St. NE, Little Falls MN 56345-2823 is researching KOWALCZYK, SWARA in Łubiany, NNE of Opole in Poland and Wright and Morrison counties in Minnesota.

Blanche Krbechek, 2041 Orkla, Mpls. MN 55427-3429 has renewed. Her e-mail address is: <bkrbechek@att.net>

David Kroska, 30725 Melanie Way, St. Joseph MN 56374 <DAKROSKA@aol.com> is researching KRZOSKA, MALAK, KUSZTELSKI, KUPFERSCHMIDT, RAKOWSKI, SZMEL in Poznan and West Prussen.

Ray Kulvicki, PO Box 4197, Covina CA 91723 <kulvickt@earthlink.net> is researching KULWICKI in Rypin, Toruń, and Płuck and in New Jersey and Indiana.

Earl James Lasworth, 704 Navajo Trail, Marshall TX 75672-4566 is researching LASIEWICZ, WALKOWIAK, KANIA, WOZNIAK, SWIERZY, WIEZY, BREZEZINSKI surnames. He suggests that we list Polish Genealogical Source addresses, telephone numbers and internet websites and contacts across MN and Midwest states. *Jim: Note the Walkowiaks in the Gnesen cemetery transcription! GFK*

Marlene Trader Molisee, W7395 Hwy 12, White-water WI 53190 <mmolisee@ameritech.net> is researching TRADER, LEPAK, SOBIESKI, TARNOWSKI, KULUS, COULAS in Poland, MN, IL, FL, PA, NH, and ND

William F. Muchlinski, 6253C Magda Dr., Maple Grove MN 55369 is researching MUCHLINSKI in Muchlin, Poland--others live in Gdansk. There are Muchlinskis in Germany also. Also checking in California--Los Angeles area. I am also interested in the variation MACHLINSKI in eastern--mid Atlantic states and Erie County NY.

Harry & Bernice Mullen, 1108 Charlton St., West St. Paul MN 55118-1221 <Mull140@juno.com> are researching CHMIELEWSKI, JABLONSKI, DUNAJSKI, SŁOMKA, WROZUMIALSKI in Chomentowo, Barłozno and Demblowo in Poland and in Chicago Il and Winona, Silver Lake, Sturgeon Lake, Pine Co. in Minnesota.

Dan Nedoroski, 2470 Beverly Road, St. Paul MN 55104-4904 <DNEDOROSKI@AOL.COM> is researching Josef NIEDOROSZCCYK, Honorata BARNOWSKA, DOPRIAK, BARNOWSKI, BABIAK, JONCEZKO in Łabowa, Barnowiec and Orlov.

Amy Schauer Nelson, 1610 N 23rd St., #4, Bismarck ND 58501 <SchauerNelson@cs.com> is researching TASZAREK, NOWAK, WAWRZYNIAK, BLASCSZYK in Biezdziadow, Poznan, Poland.

Low Ochocki, 9157 Alamo St. NE, Blaine MN 55449 <lochocki@goldengate.net> is researching OCHOCKI, PARULSKI and LIPINSKI.

Barbara Odette, 8219 S Kilbourn, Chicago IL 60652-3063 is researching CZUBERNAT in Nowy Targ, Poland and in Chicago and Minneapolis.

Jeanette Peterman, 26607 River Rd., Cloverdale CA 95425-4315 <JaPeterman@earthlink.net> is researching DULAS, PIETRUS, TILLMONEY, NIERLING in Poland and Germany and in MN and IA.

Jim & Jo Petron, 5300 Fillmore St. NE, Mpls. MN 55421-1305 <JandJPetron@cs.com> are researching PETRON/PEITRON, OSTOJ, RUDOLPH, SYMANIETZ, SMALLY, BIAS/BJAS surnames.

Kevin Proescholdt & Jean Swanson, 2833 43rd Ave S., Minneapolis MN 55406-1867 <Kevin@friends-bwca.org> are researching CZAPIEWSKI, STOLTMAN, KUKLINSKI in Brusy, Poland and in Minneapolis and Winona MN.

John Radzilowski, 1363 W. Cty. Rd. B #A2, Roseville MN 55113-4215 <jradzilow@aol.com> is researching all Minnesota Polish communities.

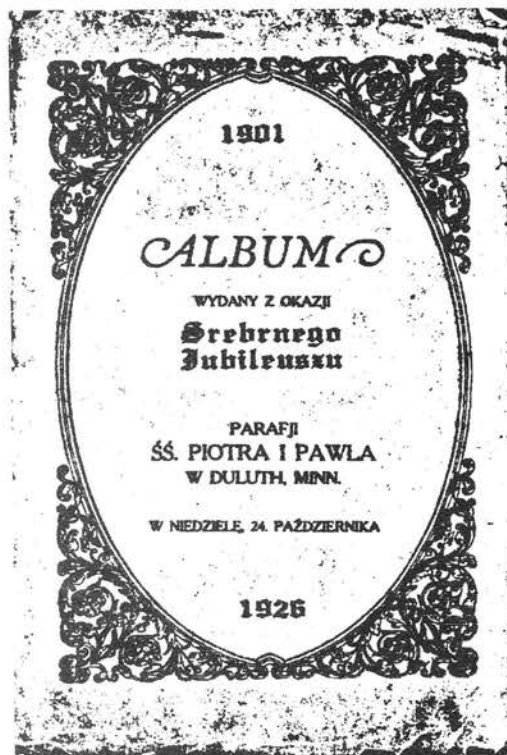
Rose Spangenberg, 33709 E. Shamineau Drive, Motley MN 56466-2424 is researching BERCZYK in Gorale, Poland; JOHN in Opole, Poland; WEIS-HALLA/WEISCHHALLA in Dziekanstwo, Poland;

GUZINDA /GUSINDA, SMOLKA in Long Prairie MN and all in Browerville MN. Also MORCINZEK/MORZINCIK, BENNING, MOTZEK in Browerville.

Mrs. Annette Stenger, PMB 1624, 116 Rainbow Drive, Livingston TX 77399-1016 <fransten@juno.com> is researching NALIPINSKI/NALEPINSKI of St. Paul MN in Posen, Poland and Detroit MI from 1843 onward; EUDZERSKA/ENDERSKI in Poland from 1850; PRZYBYLSKI/PRZYBYLA/PRYBLE in Poland and in North Branch and St. Paul MN from 1858; ADAMSKI in Poland and North Branch; LUCKY/LUCKI in Kryworecka, Poland and in St. Cloud and St. Paul from 1886 to 1964; KLIMEK in Poland and in St. Paul from 1890 to 1950. She writes: "Thanks for the great job on the *PGS-MN NEWSLETTER*." She suggests that we "let us know when notes from Seminars are available and how to get them for those of us who are unable to attend meetings."

Robert F. Stenzel, 16070 State Hwy 109, Wells MN 56097 is researching STENZEL, SONNEK in Lower Silesia.

Mike Stodolka, 1407 Farmdale Rd., Mendota Hts. MN 55118 <SHED@MPLS.USWEST.NET> is researching STODOLKA, KARAZCH, WILCZEK in Falkowice, Opole, Poland (Upper Silesia).



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

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

PGS-MN member **Ray Marshall** has indexed all the surnames that appear in this Polish language Silver Jubilee Album of SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Duluth (see pp. 12-13).