



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8

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NUMBER 3

## How Many Cousins Were In Your 8th Grade Class?

### Silesian Polish settlement in south central Minnesota

by Jeanette Bias <Jeanette.Bias@UNISYS.com>

I grew up in the farming community of Wells, Minnesota in Faribault County. The Catholic population was predominantly of Polish descent and many were from the same small villages in Poland near Syców.<sup>1</sup>

Approximately 200+ individuals immigrated from Poland to Wells, Easton, Minnesota Lake, and Mapleton in south central Minnesota.<sup>2</sup> These towns are located in Faribault and Blue Earth Counties with extended settlement in Freeborn County.<sup>3</sup> These 200 individuals have many thousands of descendants and they are scattered across the United States from New York to California and Alaska and even overseas.

The first immigrants to the Wells area were the three Sonnek brothers from Trembatschau (Trębaczów) in the Province of Silesia in what was then Prussia. They immigrated in approximately 1851 to Mayville, Wisconsin where they worked on farms and did tailoring. The Sonnek brothers desired to farm on their own. This desire motivated them to move to Minnesota in 1859 and 1860. It was slow going by oxen to their new land southwest of Minnesota Lake. They homesteaded 160 acres each.<sup>4</sup> This was an improvement in their fortunes as an average size farm in the old country was 40 acres.

St. Mary's Church of Wesner's Grove near Easton, Minnesota was the first Catholic Church in Faribault County. In 1866 the Catholic community built the log church and named it St. Mary's, although it was commonly known as the Wesner's

*Cousins, continued on page 8*

<sup>1</sup> See maps on pages 10-11.

<sup>2</sup> I derived this number from my Family History database of over 7100 individuals and "finding" everyone born in Silesia.

<sup>3</sup> See map on page 8.

<sup>4</sup> Sonnek Family History from Robert Sonnek, 1977.

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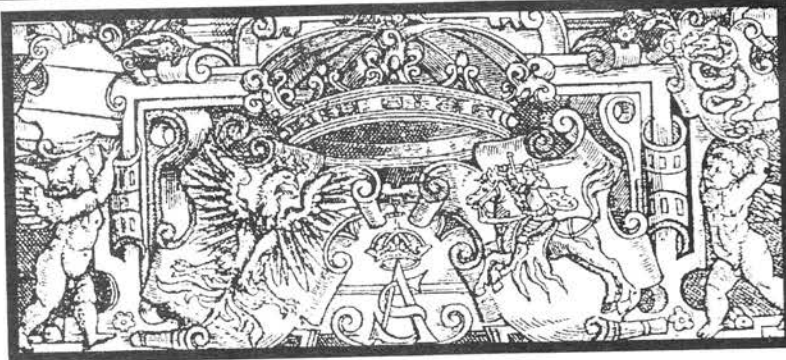
The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is included with membership. Dues are \$15.00 per year (See application form on the advertising insert).

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

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## President's Letter

by Terry Kita

Our recently updated membership list shows 285 dues-paying members, of which 150 have a listed email address. While membership was fairly constant, the members with a listed email address increased by 40 from last year. Those who have a personal computer, which they use for genealogy, know the benefits they derive from it, whether they use it to keep research notes, organize their data, or have a genealogy software program. There are many programs available, many of which can be previewed for free.

The personal computer can also be used, via an internet connection, to access the many data banks available for genealogical research. PGS-MN, via the Minnesota Genealogical Society, maintains a website, with which one can enter the world of historical/genealogical information. More and more archival and public records, such as birth, death, cemetery records, plat maps, etc., are being made available by governmental entities, universities, individuals, and genealogical organizations.

An internet connection is fairly economical, at a cost of perhaps \$10 per month. There are minimum personal equipment requirements which one should have to properly use the internet, but most recently purchased personal computers meet those requirements. Those who use the internet at/for work become familiar with information searches through practice, but even those who are novices can soon find the internet very useful. My wife is a good case in point. It is like most anything else, in that once started, practice and a purpose are required for maximum benefit.

Many historical and genealogical records may never be available on the internet, and it will not soon replace the books, microfiche and microfilmed records available through the LDS and other organizations. It will continue to be used as a supplementary resource. My favorite use of the internet is not for the records that I can access, but for the sources I can contact via email. Email operates via the internet, and requires only that 2 persons have internet email addresses to communicate with each other.

While I can access genealogical records via the internet, it is when I contact a volunteer, who specializes in a certain

area or family, via email, that I unearth a mother lode of information, and "speak" to yet another enthusiast. For me it is preferable to the phone, and at times to an in-person discussion. It is fast, allows one to keep printed records, and to reflect when answering a question. I find that archivists, such as those I contact regularly in northeastern Wisconsin, enjoy discussing requests for information via email. It is via email that I am able to juggle simultaneously the search for ancestors scattered around Europe, and quickly pass this information back and forth among my interested relatives. It is very stimulating to contact someone whom you have never met, in another part of the world, but with the same interest. It is much less personal than a "blind" phone call, and is therefore preferable for me.

Besides the individual's use of the internet and email for genealogical research, there is an advantage from an organizational standpoint also. We periodically

send messages to members, sometimes on short notice, about a particular program or event. This requires that we design, print, label and mail the notice--all of which takes time and money. The same notice, sent by email, requires the design and electronic sending to be considerably faster and less expensive. We will set up such a system for those who have email addresses, while using US mail for those who do not yet have email. Our membership records are computerized, allowing us to contact members with email easily. It is important that members help us to maintain their current, correct email address.

If you are not yet connected to the internet, it is possible to preview it at your local library, or at a friend's house. Once you begin to use email, whether for genealogical research, or personal use, it is like entering a new dimension.



## The Bulletin Board

### Attention members with e-mail:

As you know, one of the perks of your membership in PGS-MN is the posting of your surnames on our website at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/mnpgs/pgs-mn.html>>

In the course of entering all those surnames and all those e-mail addresses it is very easy for me to make a mistake. E-mail addresses come in *dot coms* and *dot nets* and if I make that one little error, or even drop one letter or number from your address, you won't get an e-mail from the very person who holds the breach to your "brick wall" of research! I apologize for errors like these, but they are all too easy to make. So I am going to ask each of you with internet access and an e-mail address to take a few minutes the next time you are on line and check out our website. Be sure to check every surname you have submitted to us. Following your surname will be your last name and the most recent issue of the newsletter that it appeared in. Double click on that colored area and see if an automatic e-mail form pops up with your CORRECT e-mail address in it.

If I have entered your e-mail address incorrectly, please send me a message at <[Bruski@voyager.net](mailto:Bruski@voyager.net)> Tell me every surname where it appears wrong. And again, I apologize for any errors.

--Mary Ellen Bruski

See additional comment about this notice on page 7.

### Mark your calendars:

We have reserved the meeting room on the lower level of the MGS Library in Golden Valley for FUTURE MEETINGS on the following dates in 2001: February 24, April 28, October 13, and November 10. In addition, the PGS-MN will again participate with several sessions in MGS's annual "Branching Out" meeting on March 24, 2000. Announcements of speakers and topics will follow separately in future issues of this newsletter and via mailed flyers.

--Greg Kishel

### Membership data

We request and retain the following information for each of our members: name, address, phone number, email address, & names/locations being researched.

In addition we maintain the current dues status of each member. Each member receiving a newsletter can verify the accuracy of their name, address and dues status that is listed on the mailing label. Dues status is shown by the four digit number to the right of the surname: first two digits = year that dues are paid through. Second two digits = first year of membership, i.e.. 0095 = dues paid through 2000, joined in 1995.

We would like to update membership data, including phone number & email address. We request that you notify us if you question your dues status, or have had an address, phone or email change. If you are uncertain whether we have your phone number or email address, either send a note, typewritten if possible, or an email to one of the following addresses:

Lisa Trembley, 10149 Nottingham Trail. Eden Prairie, MN. 55347

email to: [bruski@voyageur.net](mailto:bruski@voyageur.net)

--Terry Kita

*The Bulletin Board, continued on page 6*



## Letters to the Editor *Liśty do Redaktora*

### ***A good book about the Kashubs!***

Enclosed is a copy of the set of the articles by Father Rekowski that appeared in the newspaper serving Barry's Bay, Ontario, in 1982-86. I am pleased that the PGS-MN accepts my donation. I understand that Father Rekowski drew upon the enclosed articles in preparing his book *The Saga of the Kashub People in Poland, Canada and in the U.S.A.*

For your information, Father Rekowski and I are third cousins. We are both descendants of Albert Zywicki and Mary (Kolinski) Zywicki who came from or near Lesno, Kashubia, to Renfrew, Ontario, in 1859. Albert, Mary, and their children anglicized the surname Zywicki to Ross sometime between 1859 and 1871. I understand that the root noun for Zywicki translates to "rosin" in English; that probably is the source of Ross. The family used Ross on the 1871 Canadian census. The family used Zywicki and Ross interchangeably into the early 20th Century. My father and his siblings have used Ross exclusively.

Sincerely, **Thomas E. Ross, San Diego CA**

*Tom responded to Mary Ellen Bruski's inquiry in this column in our last issue (p. 8). The collection that he sent is extensive--103 articles. Mary Ellen will review these articles in our newsletter. We thank Tom for his contribution. It is a welcome addition to our library collection.*

### ***German Military Records?***

In the summer issue (p. 9), I saw a query from Jan Bias about German military records. We met Jan on a recent trip to Poland.

The genealogy magazine *Heritage Quest* always has a German research column (several pages). I read this column first because my husband is 100% German. Herr Horst Reschke authored *German Military Records as a Genealogical Source*. He has 53 years of experience in family history research and was born in Hannover, Germany.

Send \$25.00 research fee with SASE to: Heritage Quest Magazine, P.O. Box 27161, Salt Lake City, UT 84127-0161.

Good luck, **Delores Herrmann, Bellingham WA**

### ***Traveling in Poland?***

Thank you for sending me the two most recent issues of the *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*. I noticed in the spring issue you mentioned a three-week trip to Poland. I am planning on traveling to Poland next April. My great-grandparents were born and raised in Sobotka and Szcurzy, respectively, both of which are approximately ten miles north of Ostrow Wielkopolski. Since I do not speak Polish or German, I am wondering about travel to the rural areas of Poland. Is car rental a good idea? Is it advisable to hire a driver/interpreter? What might the cost be? Can one be arranged in a town such as Ostrow? How does one go about finding a driver and having confidence that the driver will be reliable? I would greatly appreciate any advice you might have for me.

**Paul Kilgore, Duluth MN <Pbkilgore@aol.com>**

*Editor's reply: I have traveled in Poland on five different occasions. I traveled by train, bus and by rental car. You should buy a good travel guide and become familiar with its contents, I personally like the "Lonely Planet" travel guides. They put out a very good guide to Poland and I think that their "Getting there and away" local travel hints are excellent.*

*Travel by train between larger cities in Poland is quite easy and convenient. I believe that you can easily get to Ostrów Wielkopolska by train. To get to the smaller villages you will need to take a bus or rent a car. Car rental is easiest in the larger cities. It is also quite expensive. You can probably rent a car in Ostrów, but I'm not sure. You might want to consider renting one in either Poznań or Wrocław.*

*Some of our members have hired guides in Poland--I have not. The following is a name and address of a guide/driver that several of our members have used: Henryk Skrzypiński, ul. Grunwaldska 10a/68, 85-236 Bydgoszcz. Tel:(48-52) 42-79-21. Everyone I know who has used him speaks very highly of him.*

*You might want contact PGS-MN member Jan Bias (see her article in PGS-MN Newsletter, Winter 1999-2000, p. 20) to see how she arraigned to meet her guide/driver in Wrocław. Her e-mail address is: <Jeanette.bias@unisys.com> I am sure that she would be happy to help. Also, we have just received an article submitted by Lou Kruchowski <lkruchowski@prodigy.net> who also recently arraigned in advance for a guide/driver to meet her in Wrocław. You can also discuss hiring costs with Jan and Lou.*

*Readers: Anyone who has hired a guide/driver in Poland may write about their experiences/ recommendations and send them to the editor of this newsletter.*

## Where is Rutzenwalde?

I am a member of the PGS-MN and I have a question for you about a town name I have come across in relation to my Zylka/Zilka surname.

On an 1852 marriage record for my 2nd great-grandparents, it lists a town called Rutzenwalde in the "where from" column. This marriage record is from Borzyszkowy Parish in Bydgoszcz (I think now in Slupsk). I know that my 2nd great-grandfather was born in the town of Nierostowo, Konarzyny parish, Bydgoszcz (I think now in Slupsk). I wondered if this could be a German name for the town of Nierostowo. The only other time I see this town name is on two other records of people with the same surname.

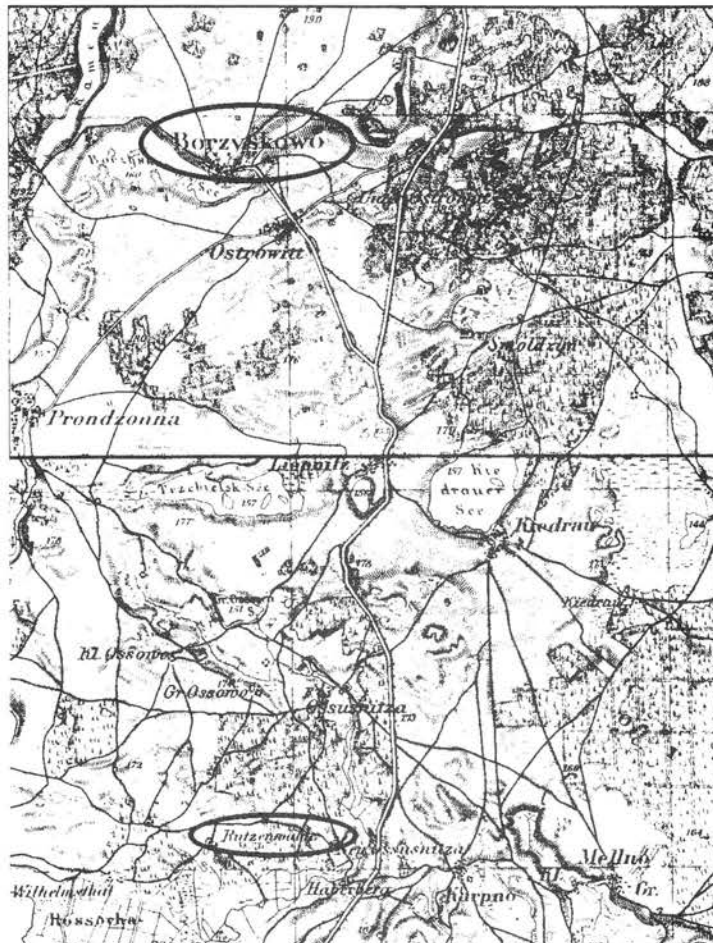
I can't find a marriage record for my 3rd great-grandparents or baptism records for them in the town of Nierostowo and wondered if Rutzenwalde might also be a German name for the town they were from originally.

Do you know of a source that would list Polish towns and parishes with their German names also listed? I have tried entering Rutzenwalde into the FHC computer and come up empty.

Thank you for any help you can give me.

**Marianne Springer,**

<sashasplace@email.msn.com>



*Editor's reply: I looked up Rutzenwalde in Słownik geograficzny . . . The following is a rough translation of the entry:*

**Rutzenwalde**, a manor/farm (folwark) at Osusznica, in the district (powiat) of Człuchów, post office in Zielona, the Catholic parish is in Borzyszkowy; In the year 1885 there were 7 houses with 78 inhabitants. Named after the present owner Jan Rutz.

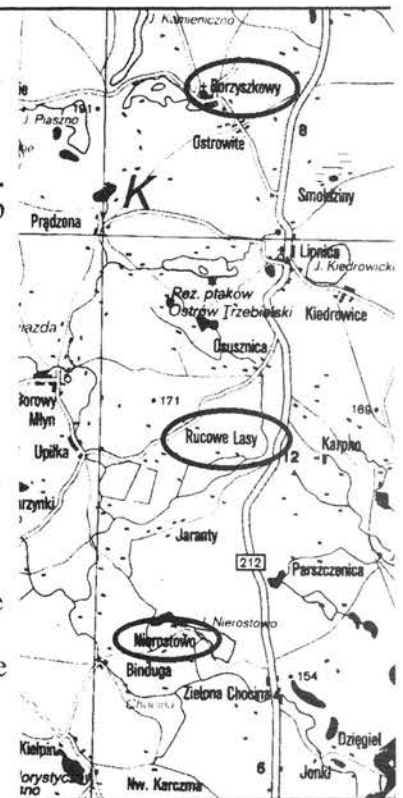
*The present Polish name for Rutzenwalde is "Rucowe Lasy." The 19th century German name for Nierostowo was "Nierostaw." I determined these place name equivalents by comparing a 19th century German map with a modern Polish map (See maps below).*

*The primary source for German/Polish place name equivalents for areas recovered by Poland after World War I is **Deutschfremdsprachiges (fremdsprachig-deutsches) Ortsnamenverzeichnis** [German-foreign language (foreign language-German) place name changes] (LDS FHC film # 583,457). A discussion of this work appeared in "The Bulletin Board," **PGS-MN Newsletter**, 6 no. 3 (Autumn 1998), p. 8.*

*The primary source for German/Polish place name equivalents for areas recovered by Poland after World War II is **Ortsnamenverzeichnis der Ortschaften jenseits von Oder und Niesse** [List of Names of Localities East of the Oder and Niesse]. A discussion of this work appeared in "Library Corner...Book Reviews," **PGS-MN Newsletter**, 8 no. 2 (Summer 2000), pp. 14-15.*

**At left:** A portion of a 19th century map showing German place names. Borzyszkowo and Rutzenwalde are circled. Nierostaw is off the map to the south.

**At right:** A modern Polish map of the area showing Polish place names. Borzyszkowy, Rucowe Lasy and Nierostowo are circled. Rucowe Lasy is a literal translation of Rutzenwalde (Rutz's forest). The map at left has a scale of 1:100,000 while the map at right has a scale of 1:200,000. Therefore the map at right covers a larger area in a smaller space.



## Youth international exchange

I am writing to you today from Youth For Understanding International Exchange in Washington D.C. We are celebrating our 50th year of promoting the benefits of cross-cultural education to high school students worldwide. We currently offer excellent year and summer programs to Poland. Students will be enrolled in a school and live with a host family on the year program. Our Discover Poland program is a six-week homestay in the summer.

We would like an opportunity to promote our programs to Poland in your newsletter. I'm sure you would agree that a global education is a valuable asset to young people. I'm hoping to encourage more and more students to visit this part of the world! If you have media kit available, I would be happy to receive it. I also invite you to check out our web site for more information about our programs, including Poland!  
<www.YouthForUnderstanding.com>

I appreciate your time. Sincerely,

**Jacob Chizzo**, Admissions Counselor  
Youth For Understanding International Exchange  
International Center, 3501 Newark Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20016-3167 USA  
202-895-1167 <chizzo@us.yfu.org>

## E-mail from Poland!

Greetings. I looked at your webpage, which was very interesting. There is one problem. Where can I find out about the name MURLOWSKI? Our ancestors emigrated from their homes in Silesia over 120 years ago. Respectfully,

Eric Murlowski <murlowski@secura.pl>

*Translated from the original Polish by John Radzilowski.*

---

*Bulletin Board, continued from page 3*

## Extra contributions

We acknowledge and thank the following members for their additional monetary contributions to PGS-MN:

John Coughlan  
Bobby Hoyt  
Evelyn A. Karn

Millecent Kriske  
Donna Marie Lanners

Your extra contributions help us build our reference library (See "Library Corner--Book Reviews" on page 19 for recent additions to our Polish collection at the MGS Library).

--PTK

## Corrections:

When we acknowledged extra contributions to PGS-MN in our last issue ["The Bulletin Board," *PGS-MN-Newsletter*, 8 no. 2 (Summer 2000), p.3], we misspelled two names. They should read: **Mary Alice Rekucki** and **Bernie Szymczak**. We apologize.

Also, Bob Prokott informed us that the names on the translated marriage record ["Where is Koeln?," *PGS-MN-Newsletter*, 8 no. 2 (Summer 2000), p. 5], should read **Johann Jany** and **Gregor Hylla**. Both surnames, he said, were common among Polish settlers in central Minnesota.  
--PTK

## Seeking anecdotes

PGS-MN member Earl "Jim" Lasworth is seeking anecdotes about THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF POLISH-AMERICANS. His first compilation, **American Polonians, 1795 to 1918—Another Chronology**, will be shelved in our collection at the MGS Library soon, and will be reviewed in the next issue of the *Newsletter*. Jim wants to document the early history of Polish-American communities throughout the United States through the stories of their individual members. Jim can be contacted at 704 Navajo Trail, Marshall, TX 75672-4566.

--Greg Kishel

## Panna Maria Historical Society

We have received four recent issues of the newsletter of the Panna Maria Historical Society; they are now lodged in a binder with our collection at the MGS Library in Golden Valley. The PMHS is currently promoting the restoration of the architectural landmarks of the first Polish colony in America, at Panna Maria, Texas. Of more direct interest to us genealogists, it maintains a large database of the family trees of the Poles who settled in central Texas in the mid-nineteenth century. PMHS volunteers will search the database for a very reasonable fee. Those who have roots in Polish Silesia, particularly around Strzelce Opolskie/Gross Strehlitz, should make use of this resource; you might find you have cousins in Texas! Dues for the PMHS are \$10.00 per year; application can be made to Panna Maria Historical Society, P.O. Box 52, Panna Maria, TX 78144.

--Greg Kishel

## What the heck did that word mean?

*Mary Ellen Bruski's request for correction of e-mail addresses appearing on our web postings (see page 3) lead to an exchange of e-mail messages. She had ended her notice as follows:*

... I apologize for any errors. I have found some by myself and have banged my forehead on the screen a few times calling myself the only Polish word my father ever used--*goppa!*

*She added an aside to me:*

At the end I typed a word the way it sounds--do you have any idea of the correct spelling? It's a Polish word for "dumb" or "idiot" (I'm referring to myself when I use it).

*I didn't know what to make of the word but it sounded like one that I did know, so I replied to her:*

Are you sure the word isn't *dupa*? It means, ahhhhh--well, it means "behind, rear end."

*Mary Ellen wasn't real happy with my suggestion. She replied:*

Well, if you can't find it in any Polish dictionary, don't put it in the newsletter. Just end the article with something about my disgust with myself as a typist. I never did see that word written, I just remember my dad using it when he meant someone did something stupid. And yes, I know that other word--*dupa!*

*I thought that I'd better get a little help with identifying the word. I forwarded her question to colleagues John Radzilowski and Greg Kishel. John replied:*

I think it is *glupi* or *glupa*--meaning "stupid or dummy." It may come out differently in some dialects of Polish.

*And Greg replied:*

At first, I guessed that she was referring to the adjective *glupi* (fem., *glupa*), meaning "foolish, silly, idiotic, asinine," etc. etc. I can remember kids on the Range calling each other "goops," probably from the related Slovenian or Croatian word. But then I remembered my father referring to dumbos or yokels with a Polish word very much the same as the one M.E. quotes, "goppa" in phonetic spelling. And there 'tis in *Wielki Słownik: gapa*, defined as "giddy goat, empty-headed gawk, booby, lout." I'll be darned--another one of those childhood words slips into context. One

of these days I must find another one that Dad used, something sounding like "rasspooshnyok," which he tagged to any kid who was acting like a weasel.

*Greg also sent his reply to Mary Ellen, who replied:*

Hey, thanks Greg! My poor father was half Irish and half Polish. The only kid with an Irish surname attending St. Adelbert's school. His Irish uncles used to dress up like Santa Claus at Christmas and make him kneel down and say his prayers in Polish before they'd give him his presents. Then they'd laugh and laugh at him (nice guys). So I don't blame my dad for only hanging onto one real good word he could mutter when the occasion called for it.

*Latter she wrote:*

As an addendum to the *gapa* story; I just remembered that when my first son (my father's first grandchild) finally learned to talk, he couldn't say "Gram-pa." But he'd run behind my dad calling "Gapa! Gapa!" I recall my dad rolling his eyes and saying, "Oh great, that's just perfect."

*She added:*

This episode could turn into an article for the newsletter all by itself! We could call it "What the heck did that word mean?"

*And here it is!*

--PTK

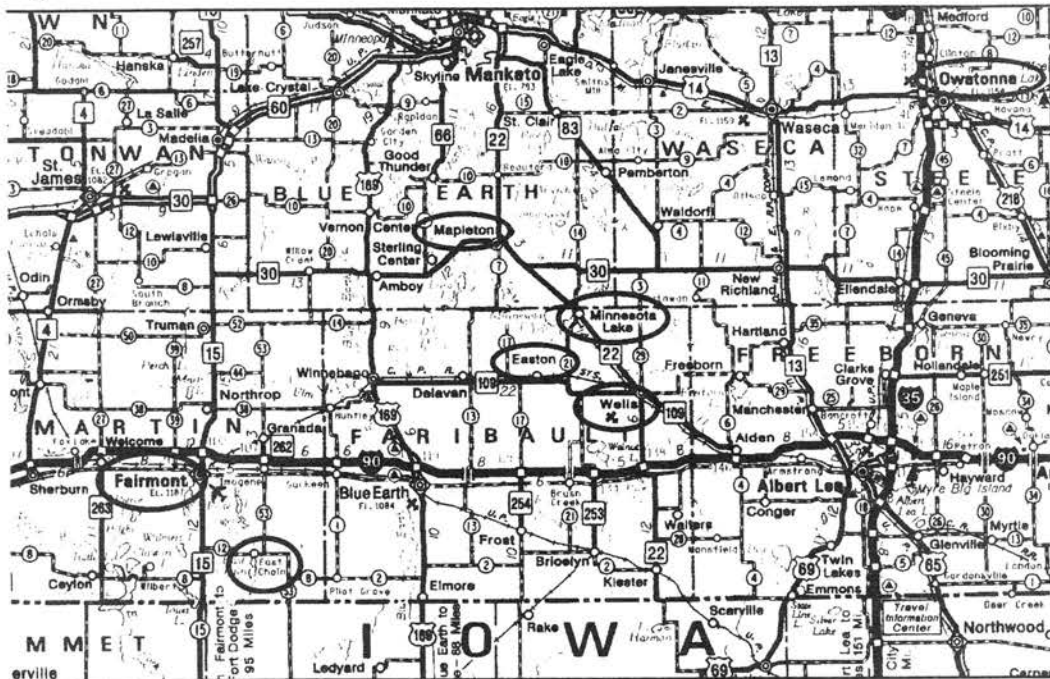
### The Rose Ensemble presents: Rose in the East - a Slavic Holiday

A concert of vocal music from ancient Poland and Czechoslovakia will be presented this December at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. Much of this music is newly researched and transcribed from medieval manuscripts and has never been performed in the United States! Also featured in the concert will be tales of ancient heroes and saints from Eastern Europe, in addition to several hymns (in Gregorian chant), extolling the virtues of these legendary figures.

Travel with us to medieval Eastern Europe this holiday season! Leave behind the stress of last-minute shopping and visit ancient Prague and Krakow, where mysterious chants, psalms, and joyful carols are mingled with tales of saints and folk of good will.

8:00 p.m. Friday & Saturday, December 22 & 23, 2000. The Basilica of Saint Mary, 17th Street & Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis. Tickets: \$8 any person of limited means, \$17 general admission.

--John Radzilowski



At left: *Polish settlement in south central Minnesota.*

Polish immigrants settled in Easton, Wells, Minnesota Lake in Faribault County, and in Mapleton in Blue Earth County, with extended settlement in Freeborn County. Other Polish settlement in south central Minnesota occurred in the Owatonna area in Steele County and the East Chain/Fairmont area in Martin County.

(Map source: 1997-1998 Official Highway Map of Minnesota.)

### *Cousins, continued from page 1*

Grove Church. Many of the early Polish immigrants were married in this church. My great-grandparents, Frank Staloch and Susanna Pietrok, were married there on April 11, 1880. In less than 20 years the log church became too small for the congregation and so the Catholic community decided to build a new church in Easton. The new town had been plotted following the laying of the Southern Minnesota Railroad. A new frame church was completed in 1885 on the site of the present brick church.<sup>5</sup>

The history of St. Casimir's Catholic Church in Wells, Minnesota began in 1881 with the arrival families of Irish descent. Settlers of Polish descent soon followed. Among the Poles were Felix Schultz, John Troska, Ignatius Rathai, John Dulas, John Janski, Mathias Smolka, Michael Praiss, Frank Staloch, Frank Chirpich, Ignatius Weilowski, Lawrence Staloch Sr., Bartholomew Sonnek, John Kulla, and John Kalis. They departed from Prussian Silesia, bringing along with them their own language--Polish.<sup>6</sup>

I began the research for my ancestors by finding their obituaries in newspapers on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul. Some obituaries mentioned the birthplace but many did not.<sup>7</sup> The places of birth named were Neudorf, Nowa Wies, and Wartenberg, all in German Poland. The provinces named were Silesia and Posen. The place names were usually misspelled and it was very confusing. At the John Borchert Map Collection at the University of Minnesota, I used Ritter's *Geographisch-Statistisches Lexikon* (1874); I found there were 146 towns by the name of Neudorf. So how did I find the right one? I

went to the Family History Library and did a "Locality Search" from their Catalog for both Neudorf and Nowa Wies and found microfilm for 29 towns by the name of Neudorf and three towns by the name of Nowa Wies. When I looked at the microfilm for Nowa Wies Książęca (Kępno)<sup>8</sup> from the province of Posen, I found many of my ancestors and relatives listed. It was my best source for verifying the birthplace of my ancestors (and finding their parent's names) and for anyone else from Neudorf.

Information I found on the Internet helped me understand the boundary changes for Silesia and Posen.<sup>9</sup> Part of the province of Silesia, where my ancestors were born, was changed to the province of Posen (Poznań) and was returned to Poland after World War I. Syców and its vicinity are near the border between Posen and Silesia in what is now southwestern Poland. I was in Poland in 1999 on a two-week tour and managed a side trip to my ancestor's birthplaces<sup>10</sup> and

<sup>5</sup>Celebrate OLMC 125 Years of Living Faith -- 1991 (OLMC = Our Lady of Mount Carmel)

<sup>6</sup>St. Casimir Church, Wells, Minnesota Centennial, June 1985, page 9

<sup>7</sup>It was not very common among small town Minnesota newspapers of the early 20th century to mention the birthplace.

<sup>8</sup>See FHL note in "Table of Immigration Information" on page 12.

<sup>9</sup>Website: <http://members.aol.com/genpoland/pos.htm>

<sup>10</sup>See: Jeanette Bias, "A Dream Come True," *PSG-MN Newsletter* 7 no. 49 (Winter 1999-2000): 20-22.





***St. Mary's Catholic Church of Wesner's Grove***

St. Mary's was the first Catholic Church in Faribault County. It was built in 1866 near Easton, Minnesota.

found the topography near Syców and Faribault county are very similar. They are both farming communities and the surrounding countryside is very flat.

How did I find so many people from the same villages?<sup>11</sup> When I was researching my direct ancestors (Staloch, Dulas, and Wanzek), I found the same surnames kept turning up as their spouses--Chirpich, Kalis, Krowiorz, Kullot, Lenort, Rathai, Schultz, Stencil, Stenzel, Troska, Yokiell, Chicos/Cichos, Zimney and Woitas.<sup>12</sup> My curiosity led me to find out where they were born and died. Many obituaries mentioned when they immigrated so I verified the information by looking at the *Germans to America Passenger Ship Index*. I could not find everyone, of course, because the Index has omissions and misspelling of names. I looked at many Passenger Ship Manifests looking for clues to the immigrants' places of birth. Most said Prussia, Germany and a very few said Poland. The Passenger Ship Manifests for Vincent Stenzel (21 March 1882) and the John Staloch family (20 May 1886) show the destination as Wells, Minnesota.

When I begin researching my ancestors, I wondered if Elizabeth Staloch Glowik on my mother's side and Franz Staloch on my Dad's side were related. I discovered Elizabeth and Franz had the same parents, Valentin Staloch and Maria Cichos.<sup>13</sup> This means my parents had the same great-great-grandparents and were third cousins although I don't believe they knew it.

The following should give you some idea of the close-knit nature of these communities in Europe and America: There were 24 pupils in my 8th grade graduation class at St. Casimir's Catholic Grade School. I have 16 of these classmates in my Family History database. Of those 16, I am some kind of cousin to nine of them.

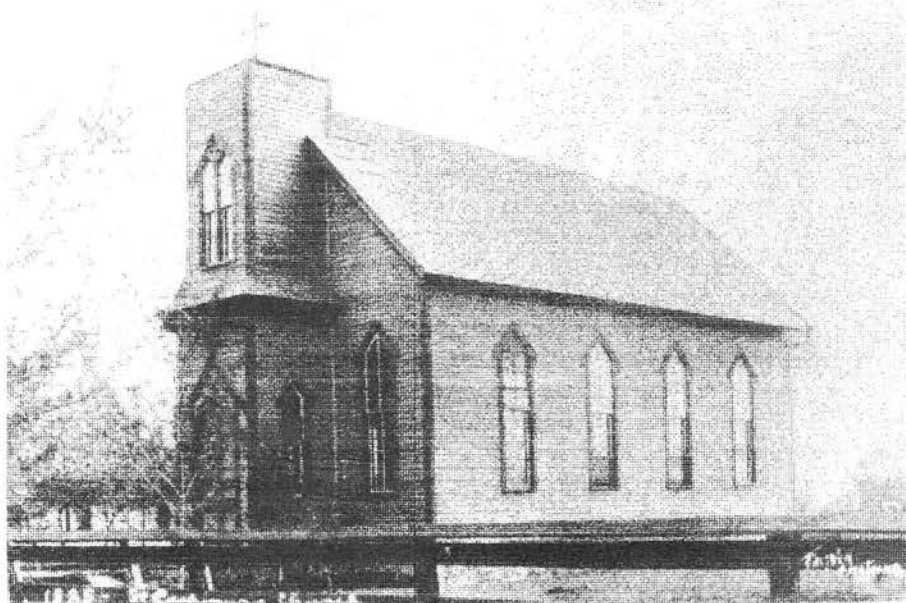
I have by no means completed my family history research. I haven't had time to research or verify the exact birthplaces of Chicos/Cichos, Dusza, Kensok, Zimney and Woitas who are also from these same villages in Poland.

I feel very fortunate to have many genealogical contacts throughout the United States who helped with much information on our common family histories. Thanks to them all.

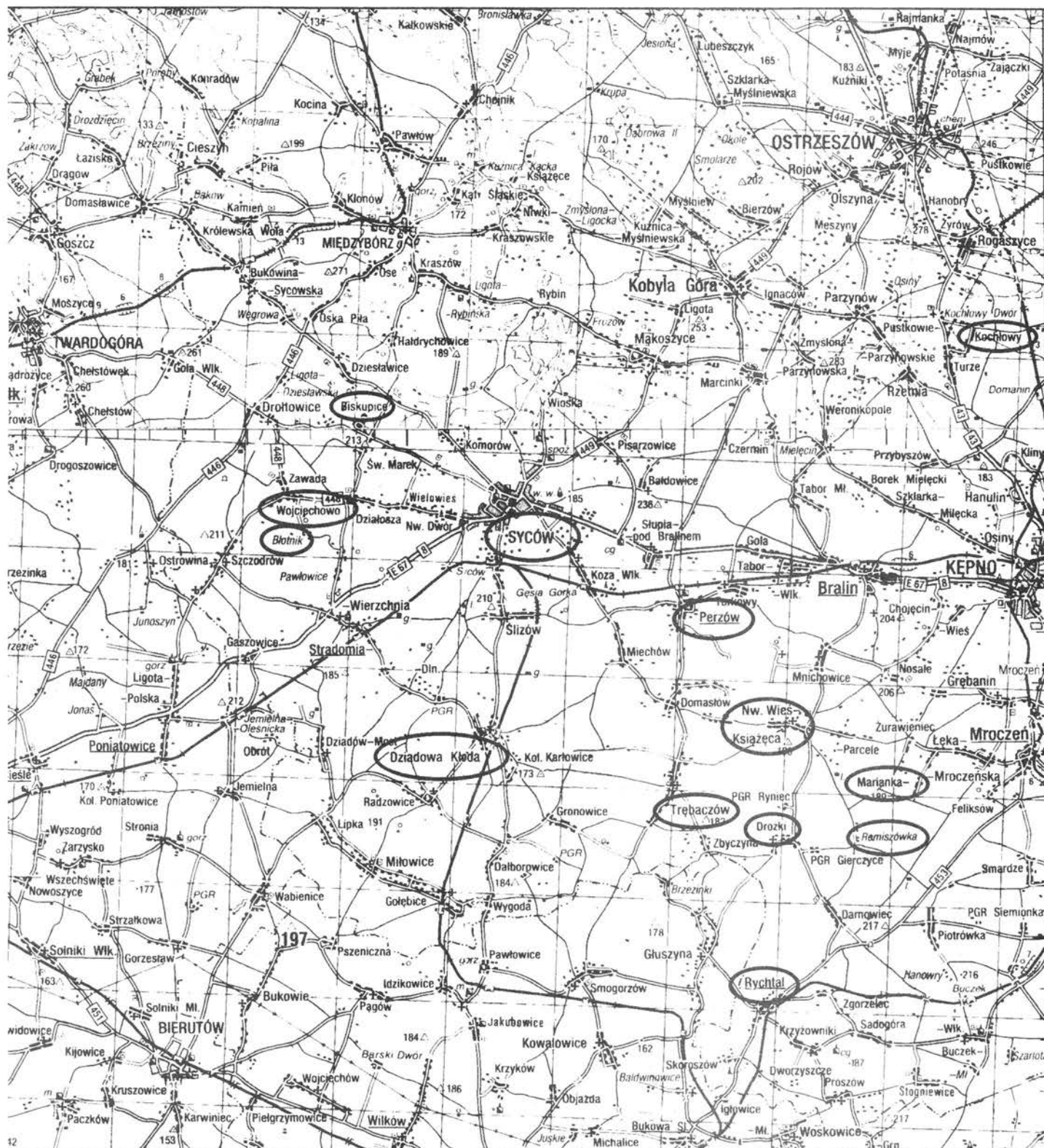
<sup>11</sup>See "Table of Immigration Information" on pages 12-13.

<sup>12</sup>Many people ask: "If we are Polish, why doesn't our name end in 'ski'?" Very few Silesian surnames end with "ski." Silesia was separated from Poland for almost 600 years. It was during this period of separation that the practice of using surnames developed. Therefore, different surnaming practices evolved in Silesia than in Poland proper.

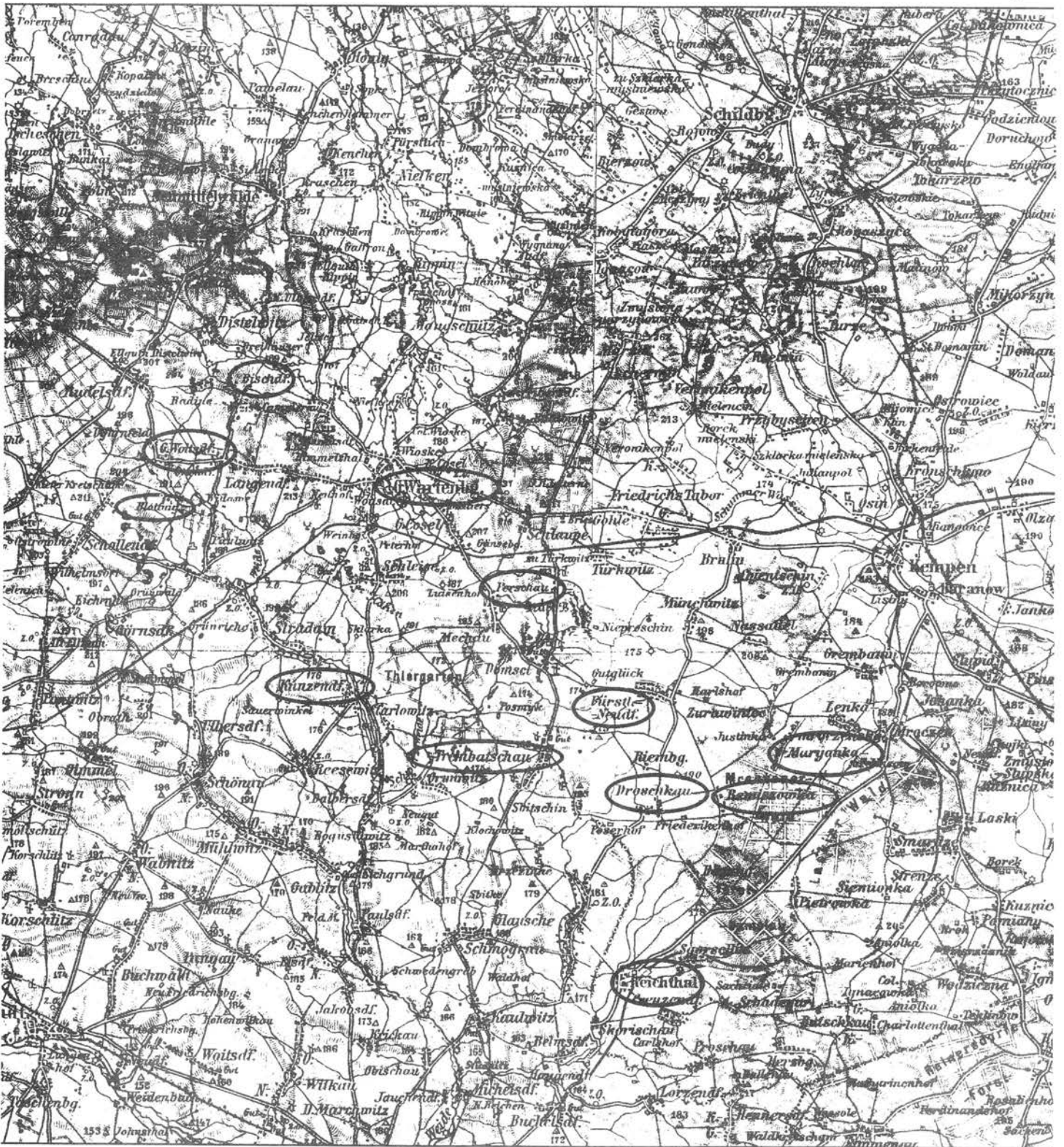
<sup>13</sup>Family History Library microfilm 2041929, Item 29, #20 (Death record of Elizabeth Staloch Glowik). Family History Library microfilm 2041930, Item 24, #3 (Death record of Franz Staloch).



***St. Casimir's Catholic Church (1885) in Wells, Minnesota***



**Above: Modern Polish map showing the native villages in Poland of many of the settlers in the Wells area.** Roughly clockwise from the upper right they are: Kochłowy, Marianka, Remiszówka, Rychtal, Drożki, Trębaczów, Nowa Wieś Książęca, Perzów, Syców, Dziadowa Kłoda, Błotnik, Wojciechowo and Biskupice. These are the modern Polish place names. See map and caption at right for 19th century place names. The map above is a composite of a portion of two maps from the *Mapa Topograficzna Polski* [Topographic Maps of Poland] map series. This complete map set can be found in the map files at the MGS Library (See a review of this map set on page 19). The top portion of the map above is from the southeast corner of map *M-33-VI--Ostrów Wielkopolski*. The bottom portion is from the northeast corner of map *M-33-XII--Wrocław*.



Above: Late 19th century Austrian map showing the native villages in Poland of many of the settlers in the Wells area. Roughly clockwise from the upper right they are: Kochlow, Maryanka, Remiszowka, Reichthal, Droschkau, Trembatschau, Fürstl. Neudorf, Perschau, Groß Wartenberg, Kunzendorf, Blatnik, Groß Woitsdorf, and Bischdorf. These are 19th century German place names. See map and caption at left for modern Polish place names. The map above is a composite of a portion of two maps from the *Austrian Map Series of Middle Europe*. The Polish areas of this map set can be found in the map files at the MGS Library (See a review of this map set on page 19). The left portion of the map above is from the western part of map 35°51° Breslau. The right portion is from the eastern part of Map 36°51° Oppeln.

## TABLE OF IMMIGRATION INFORMATION: Silesian Polish settlement in south central Minnesota

This table shows when the families from the Wells area immigrated, where the place of birth was found, the Polish name of the town, and the town in Minnesota where they settled.

<u>Polish name of town</u>	<u>German name of town</u>
Biskupice	Bisdorf
Błotnik	Blatnick (Ruebenfelde) German name changed in 1937
Drożki	Droschkau
Dziadowa Kłoda	Kunzendorf
Kochlowy	Kochlow
Marianka	Maryanka (Lenka Mroszenska)
Nowa Wieś Książęca	Furstlich Neudorf
Perzów	Perschau
Remiszówka	Remiszowka
Rychtal	Reichtal
Syców	Gross Wartenberg
Trębaczów	Trembatschau
Wojciechowo	Gross Woitsdorf

**These towns are circled on the maps on pp. 10-11.**

A modern Polish map is on page 10. A 19th century German language map is on page 11.

### Key to notes in table

\* = my ancestors

\*\* = Different Staloch/Dulas than my ancestors

FHL = Baptism records (1854-1880) from Neudorf/Nowa Wies found on microfilm 1191125 item #9 and microfilm 1191160 item #1 from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City

*Wells Mirror* = Weekly newspaper of Wells, Minnesota

<u>Immigrated</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Place of Birth Found</u>	<u>Polish Town</u>	<u>Minnesota Town</u>
Circa 1851	Sonnek, Andrew	Sonnek Family history	Trębaczów	Minnesota Lake
Circa 1851	Sonnek, Joseph (NY)	Sonnek Family history	Trębaczów	Stayed in New York
Oct 1855	Sonnek, Albert	Sonnek Family history	Trębaczów	Minnesota Lake
Oct 1855	Sonnek, Philipp	Sonnek Family history	Trębaczów	Minnesota Lake
Oct 1863	Troska, Albert	Troska family history	Trębaczów	Wells
Oct 1863	Troska, Franz	Troska family history	Trębaczów	Wells
1867-1875	Schultz Families	Schultz Fam His & Obits	Remiszówka	Wells
May 1873	Staloch, Frank *	Brother's Obit	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
May 1873	Staloch, Lawrence	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
1874-1886	Staloch Families *	FHL & <i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells/Easton
May 1874	Stencel, Franz & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Minnesota Lake
May 1874	Yokiel, Thomas & family	FHL & <i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
May 1874	Troska, Johann & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
May 1874	Pietrus, Andreas & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
June 1874	Kalis Horn Staloch, Josephine	Nephew's Obit ( <i>Wells Mirror</i> )	Marianka	Easton
	Immigrated with Elizabeth Schultz		(Remiszówka-a few kilometers away)	
Nov 1874	Chirpich, Frank	Chirpich Family History	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Nov 1874	Pietrok, John & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Nov 1874	Rathai, Ignatz	Rathai Family History	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Minnesota Lake
Apr 1875	Latussek, John & family	Author's educated guess	Probably near Sycow	Wells
May 1875	Wiorek, Johann & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Circa 1876	Kulla, Mathias	Author's educated guess	Probably near Sycow	Wells
July 1876	Kalis, John G & Thomas	Nephew's Obit ( <i>Wells Mirror</i> )	Marianka	Wells

<u>Immigrated</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Place of Birth Found</u>	<u>Polish Town</u>	<u>Minnesota Town</u>
July 1876	Kulla Kalis, Antonia	Grandson's Obit ( <i>Wells Mirror</i> )	Marianka	Wells
Circa 1878	Domogalla Staloch, Mary	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Trębaczów	Wells
1877/1878	Lenek Schultz, Pauline	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Rychtal	Wells
Nov 1878	Yainske, Johann & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
June 1879	Pietrus, Johann & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Circa 1879	Pietrok Staloch, Susanna *	Funeral Book	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Circa 1879	Sonnek, Bartek	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Trębaczów	Wells
Nov 1879	Osdoba, Philip & family	Trębaczów Church Record	Trębaczów	Minnesota Lake
Circa 1880	Bushlack, Caroline & family	Boslak/Bushlack Family History	Kochlowy	Wells
before 1881	Rzotkiewka, Johann & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Circa 1876/1881	Sonnek, Barbara	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Trębaczów	Wells
Circa 1881	Dulas, Johann & Johanna **	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Nov 1881	Poziemba, Johanna	FHL & <i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
May 1882	Staloch, Peter **	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Trębaczów	Wells
1882-1884	Stenzel families	FHL & <i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
March 1883	Juszczakowska, Elizabeth (m. J. Kalis)	Author's guess: Probably Marianka	Probably Marianka	Wells
Circa 1883/88	Krowiorz families	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Trębaczów	Mapleton
Circa 1884	Mikolai, Frank & family	Wife's Obit ( <i>Wells Mirror</i> )	Trębaczów	Wells
Nov 1884	Dulas, Simon & family *	FHL & <i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Nov 1884	Lenort, Thomas & family	FHL & <i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Circa 1885/92	Kullot families	FHL & <i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Mapleton
May 1886	Yokiel, Josef & family	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Trębaczów	Wells
May 1886	Yokiel, Franz & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
May 1886	Gohla, Christina (Immigrated w/Yokiels)	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Probably Trębaczów	Wells
May 1886	Troska, Valentine	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obits	Trębaczów	Wells
Aug 1886	Kalis, Anton & family	Son's Obit ( <i>Wells Mirror</i> )	Marianka	Wells
Aug 1886	Kalis, John J	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Marianka	Wells
Aug 1886	Nowak Kalis, Julia	<i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Drożki	Wells
Sept 1887	Wanzek, Simon & family *	Frank Wanzek Birth Record	Trębaczów	Wells
Sept 1887	Kozitza Wanzek, Maria *	Marriage Record 1876	Dziadowa Kłoda	Wells
Sept 1889	Bias, Christian & family *	Sister's Golden Anniversary write-up <i>Wells Mirror</i> Obit	Biskupice	Wells
Sept 1889	Kuropka Bias, Elizabeth *	Trębaczów Church Records	Trębaczów	Wells
Sept 1889	Bias, John *	Archdiocese of Wroclaw Archive	Błotnik (Syców)	Wells
May 1890	Głowik, Johann * & Elizabeth	FHL & Hamburg Passenger Ship Info -- Internet	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
June 1891	Troska, Andrew (Sr)	Hamburg Passenger Ship Info-- Internet & Brotheris Obit	Trębaczów	Wells
July 1891	Utzka, Jacob	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
May 1892	Pietroek, Anton & family	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Circa 1893/96	Wirth Staloch, Rosella & fam	FHL	Nowa Wieś Książęca	Wells
Circa 1893/96	Wirth, Julius	Archdiocese of Wroclaw Archive	Perzów	Wells



## Syców

woj. kaliskie

Prawa miejskie uzyskał w XIV wieku. Nazwa miasta pochodzi od nazwy osobowej Syc (od wyrazu syty). Herb przedstawia w polu czarnym jeźdźca na białym koniu, dmącego w złoty róg, pomiędzy trzema złotymi gwiazdkami w układzie w roztrój. Godło jest znane z pieczęci miejskich od XIV wieku.

## Syców

Kalisz province

The city charter was acquired in the fourteenth century. The name of the town derives from the personal name Syc (from the word "satiated; well-fed; full"). The crest presents a black field, in which there is a horseman on a white horse blowing on a golden horn, among three golden stars in an open triangle. The symbol is known from the city seals from the fourteenth century.

**Herb** (official crest) of the town of Syców. Source: Andrzej Plewako and Józef Wanag, *Herbarz Miast Polskich* (Warsaw: Wydawnictwo Arkady, 1994), 218. The English translation of the Polish caption is by Greg Kishel.

From *Słownik geograficzny*:  
**THE HOMELAND OF THE  
 POLISH PIONEERS OF WELLS:  
 SYCÓW AND SELECTED NEARBY VILLAGES**  
 By Greg Kishel

At a PGS-MN meeting in March, 1999, member Jan Bias told me about her realization that many of the first settlers in her home town of Wells, Minnesota had come from the vicinity of Syców in southwestern Poland. To some extent, the phenomenon of this chain migration was already a matter of public knowledge; I recalled that one of our members--Ed Brandt or John Radzilowski--had remarked on it in one of his past writings. However, it looked like Jan had done a very respectable amount of work to actually *document* this decades-long process while doing her own genealogy. I strongly suggested that she pursue her research as far as it would go, community-wide, and then write up her results for our *Newsletter*.

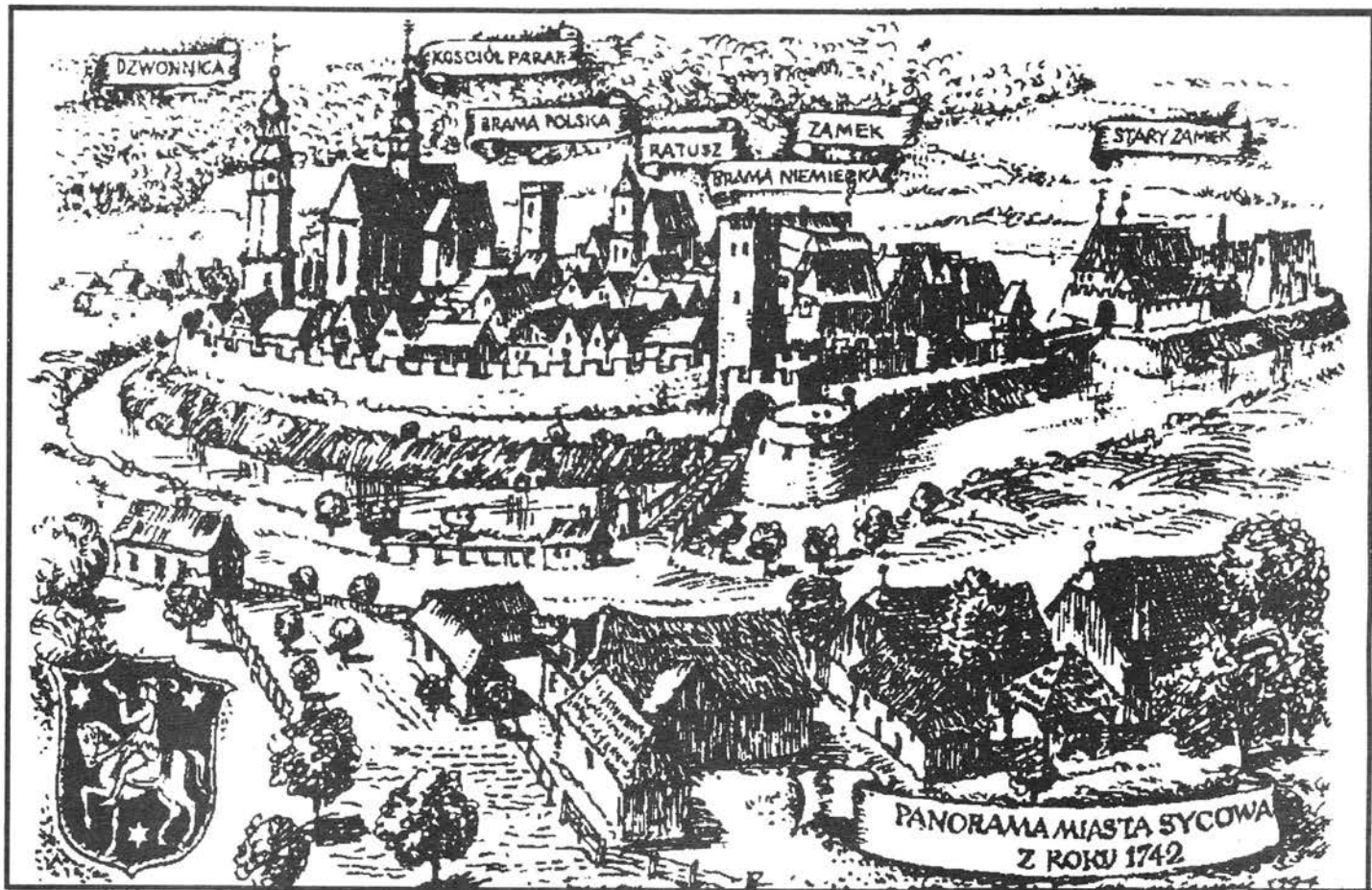
A week or two later it struck me that a good accompaniment for Jan's article would be a group of translations from *Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego*, the principal gazetteer of the Polish lands in the 19th century, much like the ones I had done for my ancestral parishes of Rajgród and Bargłów Koscielny. I offered that to Jan as a further inducement for her submission. Over the past year we forged ahead separately with the foundations for our pieces, and then coordinated the final written products. Thus, here's a snapshot of the region from which the Polish pioneers of Wells sprung, starting with the principal town of the area and then covering as many of the villages of origin as Jan and I could find in *SGKP*:

\*\*\*\*\*

**Syców**, in German *Polnisch Wartenberg*, in the year 1276 *Syczow*, in 1312 *Wartinberg*, a *powiat*/district town in the regency of Wrocław, in Prussian Silesia, at 51°17'56" north latitude and 35°21' 37" east longitude, altitude 489 feet above sea level, it lies 8 miles to the northeast of Wrocław and 3 miles from Kępno and Ostrzeszów (in the duchy of Poznań). It has a Roman Catholic parish church, a Lutheran parish church, schools (including a trade school), a train station on the Kępno-Oleśnica line (25 km. away), a postal and telegraph clerk, two castles, an English park with a pheasantry. 219 hectares of land (150 of farms) belong to the town. The town has 214 houses (587 farmsteads) and 2320 inhabitants (887 Catholic, 127 Jewish). The castle *gmina*/township (*Wartenberg Schloss*) has an area of 29 hectares, 31 houses, 215 inhabitants (43 Catholic). The estates (*Wartenberg Schloss*) have an

area of 164 hectares, 7 houses, 67 inhabitants (31 Catholic). The town forest land has an area of 300 hectares. The village-settlements (with a railroad station, restaurant, manor farm with castle, and sheep-fold) have 5 houses, 112 inhabitants. A flax market is held in Syców. The town was formerly surrounded by walls; only in the year 1809 were the fortifications destroyed and the moat filled up. Of the four gates, one is named the Polish one and two are named German. There are suburbs as follows: a Polish one, a German one, and Komorów (*Kammerau*). Syców is headquarters of the national and fideicommissioner district (*Standesherschaft*) "Wartenberg," belonging to the princes of Biron. The Catholic parish church, named for Saints Peter and Paul, was in existence by the year 1444, and from 1560 to 1601 was kept in the hands of the Lutherans; it was destroyed in the fire of 1813, and was reconstructed in 1840. In the cemetery stands the chapel of St. Mark. The second church, St. Michael's, was given to the Lutherans in 1601; after a fire it was turned into an exchange warehouse. The Lutheran parish of Sts. John and Peter, next to the castle, was built in 1785-1789. Before that there was a Lutheran chapel at the castle (from 1735). The Lutheran services were given in the Polish language. The city walls were erected in 1576. Great fires destroyed the town in the years 1444, 1544, 1616, 1637, 1742 and 1813. In the histories of Syców it appears as a market in 1276. In the records of the distribution of territory among the Silesian princes from 1312 it is mentioned as "Wartinberg cum suo districtu." In the treaty of Jan, the Czech king, and Kazimierz the Great from 1337, it is mentioned as "Wortenberg," as a city, in which the *starosta* of Wrocław was required to conduct the criminal courts (Kod. Wielkp., Nr. 952 and 1166). After 1490 Syców belonged to the duchy of Oleśnica. In 1570 Baron Jerzy Braun, descended from an early Silesian family, bought Syców from the widow Elżbieta Maltzan for 133,000 [thalers?], and afterwards purchased Międzybórz and Goszcza. He restored trade and manufacturing in the town. He attempted to regulate and improve the condition of the peasantry through the issuance of a decree in 1575. His son Jerzy Wilhelm assumed the estates after the death of his father (in 1585). He was a reckless adventurer. In 1591 he sold Syców to the Burgrave Abraham of Donin for 140,000 thalers. The new purchaser wanted to restore to their own native Catholics the churches that had been converted by annexation, the population put up resistance. From among 36 Protestant churches which existed in the area of the jurisdiction of Syców between 1571 and 1597, six converted to Catholicism through 1598, two in 1601, and the rest (with the exception of Międzybórz) converted in the years 1605-1654. In 1869 the parish of Syców, of the deanery of the same name, had 4998 Catholics, 10,000 Lutherans, 255 Jews. In 1869 the deanery of Syców, of the diocese of

**Syców. Panorama miasta z 1742 r. wg ryciny B. Strachowskiego**



**Syców. Panorama of the town in 1742, according to the print of B. Strachowski.**

Note the Polish and German gates (*Brama Polska* and *Brama Niemiezska*). Source: Jerzy Kuratek and Teofil Lijewski, *Leksykon Miast Polskich* (Warsaw: Muza, 1998) p. 847. This work is available at the MGS Library.

Wrocław, numbered 13,179 Catholics, 37,483 Lutherans, 472 Jews, 6 dissenters. It was put together from 7 parishes: Bralin, Międzybórz, Syców, Drołtowice, Szczodrów, Trębaczów and Turków. The services were held in the Polish language. The history of Syców is compiled in fragmentary monographs by: Gomolke, Kurtz, Koenigk and Josef Franckowski. The work of Schoenborn is also concerned with Syców.

*Syców powiat/district* lies in the northeast part of the area of the regency of Wrocław. It borders on the south with Namysłów *powiat/district*, on the west with Oleśnica and Mielicz [Milicz] *powiaty/districts*, and on the north and east with the Grand Duchy of Poznań. The area of the district amounts to 14 ½ square miles. It presents sandy-clayish plateaus, with towering, prominent ridges (Trzebnicki, a/k/a Kocie gory), running from Kępno (in the Grand Duchy of Poznań) toward the west on beyond Trzenica [Trzebnica], toward the Odra River valley. The elevation of these prominences reaches 768 feet (the mountain above Bołęcín--

*Pollentschiner Berg*). From the northern slopes of that ridge flow the waters of the Barycz River (to the Odra), and from the south slopes flows the Widawa River (also to the Odra). The capital of the district lies along the line of the watershed of the two rivers, on the ponds draining off to the Barycz River. The soil is insufficiently fertile, conducive only to the growing of flax and the raising of sheep. The numerous ponds (near Syców) serve for the raising of fish. Throughout the area we find the cultivation of fruit trees and wine grapes. The wooded areas are fairly extensive. Glass and iron works are among the industrial plants. The village of Bukowina has iron ore deposits. The area of the district, amounting to 81,287 hectares, is composed of 41,741 hectares of fields, 8229 hectares of meadow, 24,497 hectares of forest. The net earnings from the hectares of fields amount to only 9.40 marks (while in other districts they earn 37 marks). 408 hectares of land (270 hectares of fields) belong to the towns; the rural townships have 29,797 hectares (21,213 hectares of fields); the greater estates have 51,682 hectares

(20,249 hectares of fields, 3819 hectares of meadow and 23,263 hectares of forest). The principal proprietor is Prince Biron. In 1871 the full population of the *powiat*/district amounted to 52,195 and in 1884 51,197. In 1870 there numbered 57% Poles, 2% Czechs and 41% Germans. In the towns there live 7254 inhabitants (numbering 3051 Catholics, 208 Jews); in the rural townships there are 37,200 inhabitants (14,625 Catholics, 137 Jews); in the area of the greater estates there are 8097 inhabitants (3194 Catholics, 11 Jews). Apart from Syców there are only two towns: Twardygóra (Festenberg) and Międzybórz, as well as two markets: Bralin and Goszcz. Groups of Hussites occupy the settlement Friedrichstabor. Among the Lutheran population is a considerable percentage of Poles. *Br. Ch.* [Bronisław Chlebowski, principal editor of *Słownik geograficzny*] [SGKP v. 11, p.733-734]

**Biskupice**, ... 3.) in German *Bischdorf*; a village and *powiat*/district, parish in Syców, the population is almost entirely Lutheran. [SGKP v. 1, p. 238]

**Błotnik**, in German *Blatnick*, manor farm of the estates of Wojcieszkowice Wielkie in Syców *powiat*/district. [SGKP v. 1, p. 252]

**Drożki**, in German *Droschkau*, a village in Namysłów *powiat*/district, Smogorzów parish, it has a succursal [branch] parish. The colony settlement of Pojedynek belongs to Drożki. [SGKP v. 2, p. 164]

**Dziadowa kłoda**, in German *Kunzendorf*, a village, Syców *powiat*/district, [Roman] Catholic parish Slizów, with a beautifully managed farmstead and mill called Cholewa. [SGKP v. 2, p. 260]

**Kochłów** 1.) a village, Ostrzeszów *powiat*/district; 23 houses; 171 inhabitants; 25 Lutheran, 146 Catholic; 43 illiterate. The post office, telegraph office and railroad station are in Domanin about five km. away, about 7 km. from Ostrzeszów (*Schildberg*). ... [SGKP v. 4, p. 226]

**Łęka** ... 4.) ... *Mroczeńska*, a village and *gmina*/township, Ostrzeszów *powiat*/district, two places: a) Łęka Mroczeńska, village; b) Maryanka Mroczeńska, colony settlement; 82 houses, 694 inhabitants, 68 Lutheran, 626 Catholic; 88 illiterates. The nearest post office, telegraph station and train station are in Kępno. [SGKP v. 5, p. 659]

**Myjomice** ... in the documents *Miomicze*, a village, and *Ostrowiec*, a colony-settlement, Ostrzeszów *powiat*/district, 55 houses, 389 inhabitants. The post office is in Domanin about 3 km. away, the highway about 4

km. away, the train and telegraph stations in Kępno about 5 km. away. It has a parish church with a branch in Kierzno. ... [SGKP v. 6, p. 824]

**Nowa Wieś Książęca**, in German *Neudorf fuerstlich*, in 1452 *Newdorff*, a village, Syców *powiat*/district. In 1843 there were 104 houses here, a castle, a farm, 935 inhabitants (70 Lutheran), a Catholic chapel, a branch of Trębaczów, a Catholic school, a sheepfold (2000 sheep), and cattle-breeding. The farms of Neuvorwerk, Sorge, and Troska belong to Nowa Wieś Książęca. [SGKP v. 7, p. 212]

**Remiszówka**, a rural settlement, Ostrzeszów (Kępno) *powiat*/district, about 12 km. to the southwest from Baranów and Kępno, on the border of Szląsk/Silesia, in the midst of forests; parish of Baranów, post office in Kępno, train station in Bralin in Szląsk/Silesia, about 10 km. away, in the rural district of Grębanin; 10 houses, 104 inhabitants. [SGKP v. 9, p. 614]

**Rychtal**, ... 2.) ... in German *Reichthal*, a small town, on the Studnica river, Namysłów *powiat*/district, elevation 484 feet above sea level, it lies 9 miles from Wrocław. It has a Catholic parish church, named St. John the Baptist, several chapels, a Catholic school, a brewery, about 1300 inhabitants occupied chiefly as shoemakers and in cultivating the fields. In 1842 there were 127 houses, 1310 inhabitants (1077 Catholic, 220 Lutherans, 13 Jewish). The Polish population predominates. It was founded in 1386 and it was endowed with the Nissański law. Until 1810 it lay in the estates of the bishop of Wrocław. In 1782 a fire devastated the whole settlement. In 1869 the parish of Rychtal, of the deanery of the same name, had 2025 Catholics, 1300 Lutherans, 59 Jews, 20 dissenters. In the same year the deanery of Rychtal, of the diocese of Wrocław, had 7474 Catholics, 10,056 Lutherans, 103 Jews, 20 dissenters, in 5 parishes: Kowalowice, Kreuzendorf, Rychtal, Schmogran, Wallendorf. [SGKP v. 10, p. 74]

**Trębaczów** 1.) in German *Trembotschau*, estates and a village, Syców *powiat*/district, Lutheran parish Drożki, [Roman] Catholic parish Trębaczów. In the year 1885 the estates had 1625 hectares, 11 houses, 325 inhabitants (102 Lutheran); the village had 1051 hectares, 136 houses, 1104 inhabitants (96 Lutheran). It has a Roman Catholic parish church (services in Polish), a Catholic school, and a castle. To Trębaczów [parish?] belong: Juedelforwerk, Korupke, Posnik, Wierzniok, Trębaczowska Lgota. In 1869 the parish of Trębaczów, Syców deanery, had 2544 Catholics, 2520 Lutherans, 26 Jews. ... [SGKP v. 12, p. 474]

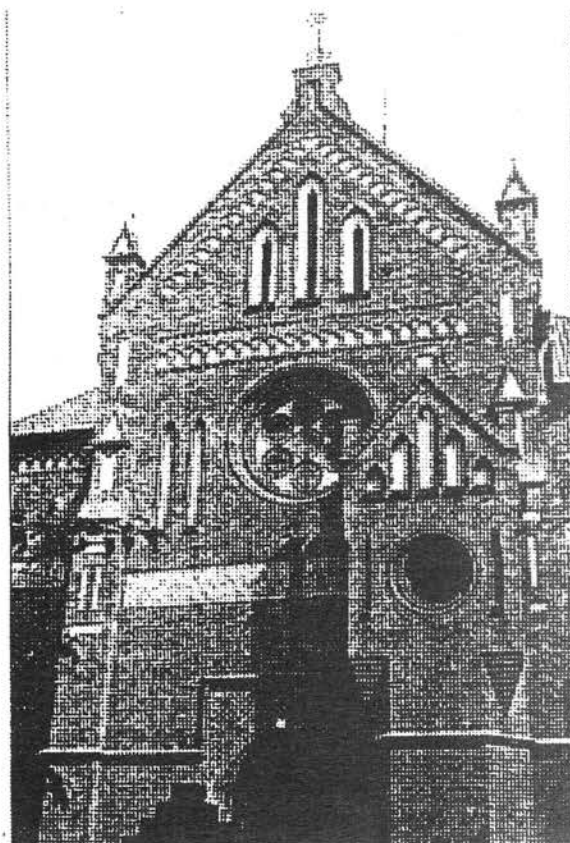


**Wojcieszkowice Wielkie** and *Małe*, in German *Woitsdorf Gross* and *Klein*, in 1416 *Foytzdorff*; a village and estates, Syców *powiat*/district, Catholic and Lutheran parish in Syców. In 1885, the estates of Wojcieszkowice Wielkie were 507 hectares in area and had 155 inhabitants (28 Catholic); the village was 177 hectares in area and had 38 houses, 256 inhabitants (28 Catholics). The estates of Wojcieszkowice Małe were 22 hectares in area, and had 2 houses, 39 inhabitants (18 Lutheran); the village was 76 hectares in area, and had 23 houses, 197 inhabitants (87 Lutheran). To it belong the village-settlements: Błotnik, Bąklawe and Niwki, a/k/a Góry Garbarskie. [*SGKP* v. 13, p. 743]

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Neither Jan nor I could find an entry in *SGKP* for Perzów, the home village of at least one of Wells's early settlers; while the gazetteer is huge, it is not 100% comprehensive. It also looked like there was no listing for the village called *Gross Woitsdorf* in the records for Jan's grandfather John Bias, and now known as Wojciechowo; the several *SGKP* entries under the latter name were clearly for places elsewhere in Poland. While I was proofreading my final draft of this article, though, I noted that Błotnik was connected to a place called Wojcieszkowice Wielkie. After seeing the same root word in both place names, and remembering that *wielkie* means the same thing as *gross*--"large, great"--I looked in a modern-day road atlas and found that Błotnik was immediately south of Wojciechowo. A last-minute trip to the MGS Library produced our featured entry for Wojcieszkowice Wielkie, which definitely seems to be the place. This is another example of how both surnames *and* place names have wandered in form and spelling over the last century in Poland. It also underlines how one must use a little imagination to find a place in *SGKP*, if it isn't there under the spelling first assumed.

The text of the entries for Syców town and *powiat*/district shows that this area was a borderland in at least two different ways. In the geographic and political sense, the area was on the marches between Poznań, populated more by Poles, and Silesia, with its mixed population; the former was subjected to Prussian rule only by the Partitions, but the latter had been part of a German state for over five centuries. Too, the area clearly was on a religious borderland--the lines having been drawn initially in the sixteenth century, but then having swung back and forth between the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation. Not only did the *powiat*/district have a significant population of *ewangelicki*--Lutherans of Polish ethnicity--it also had small numbers of Hutterites--apparently of German extraction--



### *Syców. Kościół św. Pietra i Pawła*

The Church of SS. Peter and Paul in Syców--parish church of some of the immigrants to the Wells area. Source: Jerzy Kuratek and Teofil Lijewski, *Leksykon Miast Polskich* (Warsaw: Muza, 1998) p. 847.

and of "dissenters"--probably Calvinists of what we would now term "Baptist" affiliation.<sup>1</sup> Jan Bias found this part of the translation directly useful for her own genealogy, as it reinforced her finding as to her great-grandfather's birth village; he was a Lutheran when he emigrated, and her genealogical sources had indicated he was from Biskupice/Bischdorf. There, as *SGKP* had it, "the population [was] almost entirely Lutheran."

The other thing about everyday life that jumps out from these texts is the relative diversity of the economy: agriculture (though not on very good soil, not very productive, and not as concentrated in grain crops as in regions further north), aquaculture (!), heavy industry

<sup>1</sup>I consulted William F. "Fred" Hoffman, dean of *SGKP* translators, for help on the meaning of the abbreviation *dys./dyss.* that appears in the enumerations of religious affiliation. He advised that "dissenters" is the most likely translation. From there I took the jump of inferring that this word had the same connotation as in English religious parlance--identifying adherents to one of the Calvinist denominations that split from the mainstream local Protestant church in the Second Reformation.

on a small scale,<sup>2</sup> and shoemaking and brewing. The increasing difficulties of feeding a rapidly-growing population on soil more suited for flax and grazing must have provided some of the impetus for emigration.

As a last note, I should mention some points of the art of translation.

The first goes to those readers who like to get a feel for the size of things. Though the literal translations of the words *mila* and *stopa* are "miles" and "foot," these are *not* the traditional English units we use in the U.S. In fact, the archaic Continental European "mile" was quite long--about 7400 meters. On the other hand, the so-called Prussian or Rhenish foot was, at 0.3238535 meters, pretty close to an English foot. The metric hectare, for us backward Americans, is 10,000 square meters--or a square 100 meters on a side.<sup>3</sup>

The second goes to several political and geographical terms. The first such is *starosta*, often explicated by Fred Hoffman in his *SGKP* translations in the *Bulletin of the Polish Genealogical Society of America* but perhaps unfamiliar to our members. The *starosta* in nineteenth-century Poland was a regional official of the royal government, empowered to perform fiscal, law enforcement, and judicial functions. The *starostwo* was his domain.<sup>4</sup> A *fideicommissioner* apparently had comparable functions, perhaps from the more formal and centralized German suzerainty. And again in this round of translations I had to wrestle with the term *osady*, abbreviated as *os*. In any Polish-English dictionary this word is literally translated as "settlement." In the ways I've seen it used in *SGKP*, however, it clearly refers to human habitations of different magnitudes; the contexts of the usages are very different. I decided that henceforth I would make a jump of inference, to refer to "village-settlements" when context suggested a larger group of individual dwellings, and "homestead-settlements" when it seemed to denote individual houses or farmsteads. I also decided to translate *kolonia* as "colony settlement" rather than as "colony." The single-word definition has a heavier denotation for us Americans, and I am reasonably sure that the *kolonii* of Poland were not carved out of virgin wilderness as our British-American ones were!

Finally, I decided to follow the lead of other *SGKP* mavens, and not identify *powiat* exclusively as "district" or "county," or *gmina* as "township." As Fred Hoffman points out, the concepts are rough analogues, but don't entirely match.<sup>5</sup> To keep the references comprehensible to American readers, I just decided to use both words, separated by the ubiquitous slash.

\* \* \* \* \*

*WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS:* First, a tip of the hat to Jan Bias, for providing the impetus for this project. Fred Hoffman again got me through the more obscure words and abbreviations that I found in this batch. In the first round, his assistance came through a simple reference to the *SGKP* section of *In Their Words*. In the second, Fred once again responded cheerfully and immediately to an e-mailed cry for help on the really puzzling ones. Finally, every time I've gotten fed up over this past year while slogging through Polish text in my foggy amateur way, I've been revived by the work of two very different translators: Sir Richard Francis Burton, and Everett Fox of Clark University. A biography of Burton, and the Modern Library edition of his *Arabian Nights*, were my vacation reading this year. And, last October 31, I had the pleasure of hearing Prof. Fox speak at the Jewish Community Center in St. Paul. His translations direct from the ancient Hebrew of *The Five Books of Moses* and *Give Us a King! Samuel, Saul, and David* are an astounding revelation, right through ancient but newly-recreated eyes: here is another world, whose differences from ours are accented by the vividness of the text, but whose structure is hauntingly familiar from our own learning. Enabling that sort of illumination is really what the translator's art is all about.

<sup>2</sup>As a native Mesabi Ranger, I was intrigued to encounter the term *źródło* and to see it generally translated as "source." In this context it obviously means "ore deposit" or "ore body." I would guess that the Bukowina beds were only bog iron, though.

<sup>3</sup>I gleaned these equivalents from Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman, *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents, Volume I: Polish* (New Britain, Conn: Language & Lineage Press, 2000), at p. 84. I will be reviewing this major new aid for Polish genealogy in the next issue.

<sup>4</sup>Shea and Hoffman, *In Their Words*, p. 83; and, e.g., William F. Hoffman, "Tips on Translating Entries from the *Słownik Geograficzny*," *Rodziny: The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, v. XXIII, no. 1 (May, 2000), at p. 3.

<sup>5</sup>William F. Hoffman, "From the *Słownik Geograficzny*," *Bulletin of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, vol. VIII, no. 3 (Summer, 2000), at p. 12; William F. Hoffman, "Powiat's and Wola's and Grod's, Oh My!," *Rodziny: The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, v. XXI, no. 2 (August, 1998), at pp. 2-3.

# LIBRARY CORNER • • • • • BOOK REVIEWS

**Austrian Map Series of Middle Europe.** (Wien: published by various agencies of the Austrian government, based on 19th century land surveys and printed in color between 1910 and 1937).

**Mapa Topograficzna Polski** [Topographic Maps of Poland]. (Warszawa: Sztab Generalny Wojska Polskiego Zarząd Topograficzny, various dates in the 1990s).

**Reviewed by Paul Kulas**

We recently reviewed a newly acquired map set--Karte des Deutschen Reiches [Maps of the German Empire] in this column [see "Library Corner--Book Reviews," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 8 no. 2 (Summer 2000), pp. 14-15]. We have purchased all maps of this series that includes "recovered territories"--areas that are now in Poland. These maps are based on 19th century Prussian land surveys and are on a scale of 1:100,000. Thus they are very detailed maps and they depict the landscape at the time when most of our ancestors were emigrating from Poland (An example of a portion of a map from this set is found on page 5). This map set does not, however, include some areas of modern Poland that were parts of the Austrian or Russian partitions (see map grid in issue cited above, p. 15).

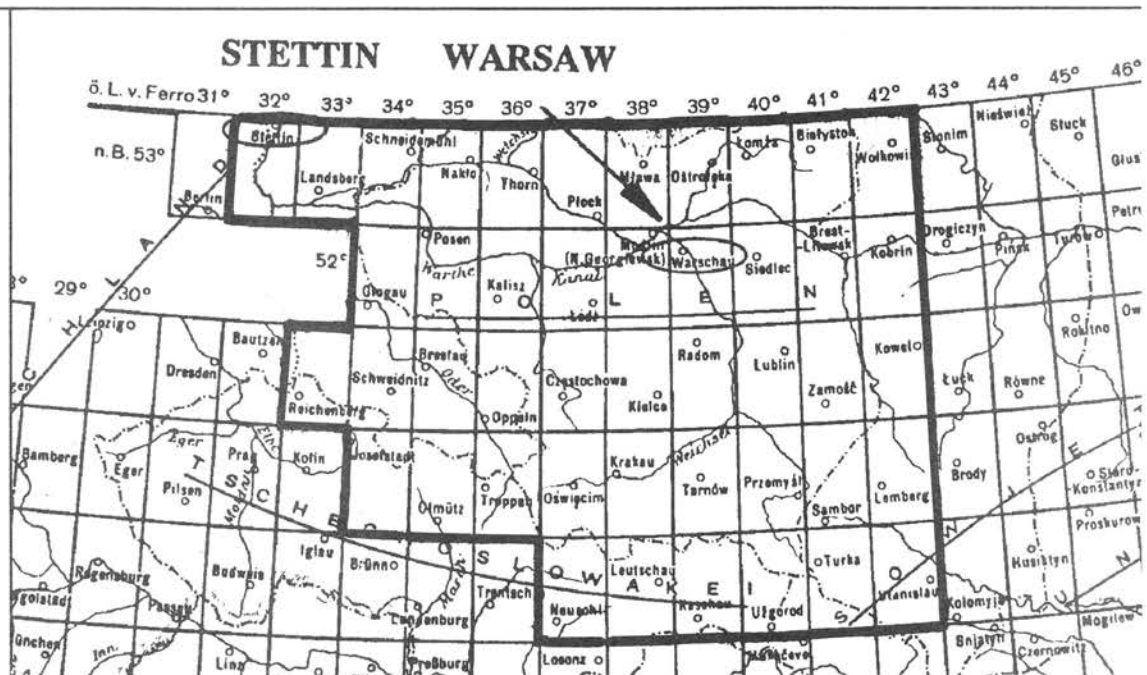
We have now acquired a map set that does include these areas. This set does not have a formal title (that I could see) so I have named it "Austrian Map Series of Middle Europe." The series covers most of Middle

and East Central Europe from Germany to Greece, but we have purchased only those maps which cover "Polish" areas (see map grid below). These maps are based on topographic surveys done in the late 1800s, thus they too depict the landscape at the time that our ancestors were emigrating (see a composite of portions of two maps from this set on page 11). They are, however, on a scale of 1:200,000 and therefore look a bit more "crowded" than the Prussian maps.

A third map set--Mapa Topograficzna Polski [Topographic Maps of Poland] is one that we have had in our collection at the MGS Library for a year or two. It is a beautiful and complete set of maps of all areas of modern Poland. The scale of these maps is 1:200,000. It is useful to compare maps from this set to those from the Austrian series. They are of the same scale and you can easily see place name changes when they are placed side by side (I have done this on pages 10 & 11 in this issue). You can also see if any changes have been made on the countryside during the last century.

With the addition of these three sets we feel that we at PGS-MN have a very fine collection of maps of 19th and 20th century Poland--perhaps the finest in Minnesota with the possible exception of the Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota. We are indebted to our Sponsor Members and to those who have made additional contributions to our Library Fund (see "The Bulletin Board," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 8 no. 2 (Summer 2000), p. 3 and on page 6 in this issue). Their extra contributions to PGS-MN made the acquisition of these materials possible.

**At right:** Map grid of Middle Europe. All maps within the heavy black outline will soon be in our Map Collection at the MGS Library. These maps are based on surveys made in the late 1800s. Note: This map series uses Ferro, not Greenwich, as longitude 0 degrees. You must add 17 degrees, 40 minutes to the Greenwich longitude.



## GNESEN AND RICE LAKE: A POSTSCRIPT by Greg Kishel

Readers will recall my two-issue treatment of St. Louis County's earliest distinctively Polish-American settlement, in Rice Lake and Gnesen Townships north of Duluth.<sup>1</sup> In preparing my articles, I largely relied on written secondary-source materials from libraries and history centers, and on the sweat-equity of my own transcribing. I did not consult anyone from the area, or anyone who had done research of their own.

As I'd expected, the publication of my stuff generated responses from those with roots in the townships--and some data that bore directly on the historical dimension of my work. Longtime PGS-MN member Betty Joyce is a descendant of Gnesen pioneer Frank TRADER; she forwarded the results of her genealogical research. Betty had traced the TREJDER/TRADER lineage to the village of Tuszkowy, in the parish of Lipusz in Kaszubia southwest of Gdańsk. Prompted by this, I looked at the entries for TREJDER and TREJDER in *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych*, the multi-volume work that places surnames onto the map of present-day Poland according to their frequency in government records in 1990. As I'd noted in my earlier article, TREJDER, in that spelling, is not a common one in Poland now; it appeared only ten times in the register, and from no place near Gdańsk. The form of TREJDER, however, was just the opposite, appearing for 1209 individuals in pre-1999 Gdańsk province, 395 in the adjacent former province of Słupsk, and a scattering in other former provinces. The concentration is the very area from which the Minnesota TRADER family springs.<sup>2</sup>

Through correspondence with Sr. Theresa Lepack, of Pembroke, Ontario, Betty had also learned that the birthplace of Martin LEPACK was Brusy, near Chojnice, again southwest of Gdansk. Betty's belief is that none of the earliest settlers of Gnesen were from the vicinity of Gniezno, and that the township's oral tradition to that effect was apocryphal. Judging by the fruits of her research, that's likely. Given the TARNOWSKI

<sup>1</sup>It consisted of a two-part transcription of St. Joseph's cemetery, in our Winter 1999-2000 and Spring 2000 issues, and "The Patterns of Polish Settlement in Minnesota: Rice Lake and Gnesen Townships, in St. Louis County, 1870-1920," in the Spring issue.

<sup>2</sup>The relevant entries are in vol. IX of *Słownik nazwisk*, at pp. 577-578. This may not mean that the ancestral spelling in Poland actually was TREJDER; surname spellings have wandered over the last century in Poland as well as in the New World.

family's tradition of its origin,<sup>3</sup> it appears that Gnesen was at least in part a Kaszubian outpost in its earliest years.<sup>4</sup>

Betty also advised that Larry Oraskovich, another TRADER descendant and a PGS-MN member in years past, has assembled a lengthy compilation of the family's genealogy in Poland and the U.S. We hope to obtain a copy of Larry's work for the PGS-MN library collection.

During a visit to the new facility of the Immigration History Research Center this summer, I finally inspected the treatment of Minnesota in Father Wacław Kruszkowski's *History of the Poles in America*, in its original Polish-language publication. His coverage of Gnesen<sup>5</sup> is disappointingly short, not even noting the historical primacy of St. Joseph's among the Roman Catholic parishes of the Arrowhead. It does note that Gnesen had a *Towarzystwo Młodzieży Polskiej*--"Society of Polish Youth"--in the early 20th century. It also reveals that in 1905 St. Joseph's was attached to the Polish-American parish at Virginia, Minnesota, as a mission church. With Fr. Kruszkowski's usual bombast in proclaiming the civic prominence of American Polonia, he maintained that the schools serving Gnesen, Rice Lake, "Hermanstown," and "Biwabick," while "maintained by the state," were "clearly Polish, as crowded as they are by Polish children." He also noted that "the post offices [of all these communities] are in the hands of Poles."<sup>6</sup>

I had another latecoming discovery from a different direction. At work and at home, I've been accused of

<sup>3</sup>Barbara June Tarnowski, *Southern Gnesen Township, with a particular emphasis on the Anton Tarnowski Family*, p. 5 (ms., Northeast Minnesota History Center, Duluth, in "Tarnowski, Barbara" file; copy held by PGS-MN as item no. 37, Church and Local History Collection).

<sup>4</sup>Readers will recall that I commented on the variant spellings and vocabulary on several Polish-language headstones at the cemetery in Gnesen. "A Transcription of St. Joseph's Cemetery, Gnesen, St. Louis County: Part 1," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 7, no. 4 (Winter, 1999-2000), p. 10, n. 4. I now wonder whether some of these inscriptions were in the Kaszubian dialect. Can anyone out there help us on this?

<sup>5</sup>*Historia Polska w Ameryce*, v. XI, pp. 40-41 (Milwaukee: Kuryer, 1907). Through 1999, the Catholic University of America Press had published three volumes of a translation of this work, all of which are in the PGS-MN's library collection. We await delivery of the final volume, which includes the entries for Minnesota. It should be shelved at MGS after the expected publication date in February, 2001.

<sup>6</sup>The translations are mine. We'll see how accurate I am when the *real* translation arrives.

being a bit pokey and incomplete in my transition to the digital age. I'm afraid that a venture on-line this spring proved that, right into my Rice Lake-Gnesen project.<sup>7</sup> For the first time, I checked into the Minnesota state sector of the USGenWeb Project--and I found a large, varied, and high-quality page for St. Louis County, for which Shirley Solem and Deb Rychlak are the GenWeb coordinators. It features transcriptions for about a dozen cemeteries scattered throughout the county--and among them is one for St. Joseph's in Gnesen.<sup>8</sup> There's also a multi-part transcription of the larger Duluth Polish Cemetery, taken by Pauline Majchrzak, which should also be of interest to PGS-MN members.<sup>9</sup> As of press time, I've just met most of these mavens of Polish American family history in the Duluth area, at the "Digging for Your Roots" seminar in Chisholm; I will be corresponding with them soon!

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the work that PGS-MN member Ray Marshall has posted on the Web. "The Polish Churches of Duluth, Minnesota" is found on the site of the Federation of East European Family History Societies, at <[www.feefhs.org/pol/mn/duluthpc.html](http://www.feefhs.org/pol/mn/duluthpc.html)>. Ray has collated thumbnail histories of St. Joseph's and the three other parishes of Polish ethnicity in Duluth,<sup>10</sup> as well as his gleanings on resources for Polish-American genealogy in the Zenith City. As he himself says, his article is an invitation for expanded research. For the early history of Polonia in Duluth, it's the best jumping-off point that we have now.

So, I found that I owed my readers an expansion and corrective advisory right after I published my work--even though I'd carried on my document-

<sup>7</sup>In my researches in genealogy and local history, I fall by default into the time-honored hard-copy, original-document, microform-centered research methods of my undergrad days as a history major. Slow as it is, there's nothing better for merging into the past.

<sup>8</sup>See <[www.rootsweb.com/~mnstloui/gnesen.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnstloui/gnesen.htm)>. Taken on November 7-8, 1998, by Kathleen Nelson, Barb Rogers, and Shirley Solem, this is a nice comprehensive collation of the birth, death, and marriage data from the inscriptions. My own transcription has the surrounding text verbatim, in Polish or English. That's the historian supplanting the genealogist in my approach.

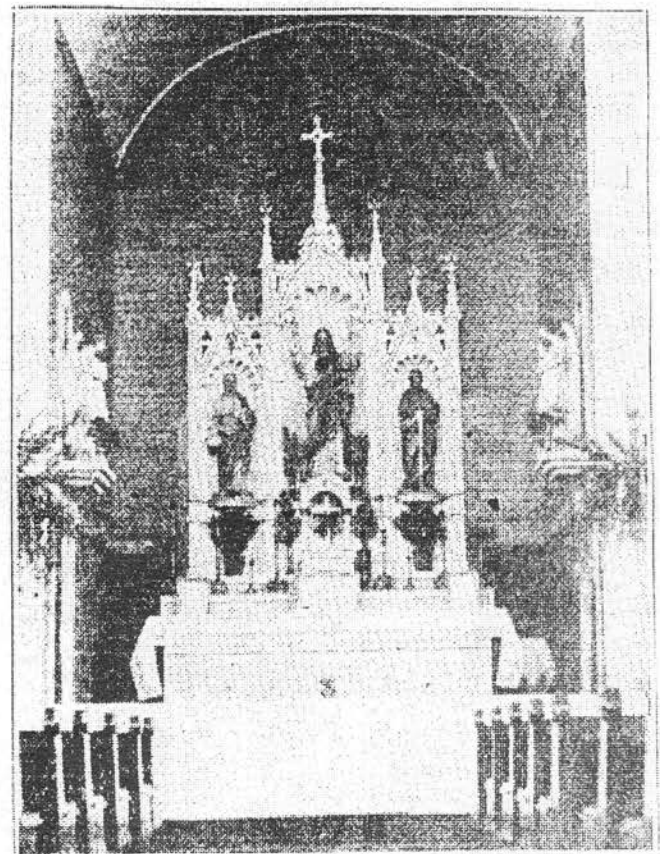
<sup>9</sup>I still intend to do a verbatim transcription of the Polish Cemetery for publication here, as I planned awhile back. Thanks to Pauline's making the basic data available, though, I will defer it for a year or two while I work up a couple of untranscribed Polish-American cemeteries in northeastern Minnesota.

<sup>10</sup>St. Mary, Star of the Sea; Ss. Peter and Paul; and St. Joseph's Polish National Catholic.

oriented research for over a year. There's a simple lesson here: if you are doing local ethnic history centered on families, *consult people in the locality, or people with roots there*. As I said in my penultimate President's Letter,<sup>11</sup> our Polish-American ancestors have received precious little attention from generalist historians and genealogists. We are unlikely to find comprehensive treatments of their communities in broadly-available secondary sources. People with connections to the communities' bloodlines are more likely to have quietly preserved, collected, or reconstructed the stories. In the last instance, they may provide the best leads that we genealogists need.

<sup>11</sup>In our Winter, 1999-2000 issue.

### Gnesen Catholic Church Celebrates



Above is shown the altar of the St. Joseph Catholic church, the oldest Catholic parish in the district. The church will celebrate its golden jubilee tomorrow with a solemn high mass in the morning and a banquet at 5:30 p. m.

Altar at St. Joseph's Church, Gnesen, 1930.  
Source: *Duluth Herald*, Saturday, Nov. 22, 1930, p. 18.

## Origin of the MAGRYTA surname

by Paul Kulas

I received the following request from PGS-MN member Bill Magratten:

*Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 to cover the research of the origins and meanings of the MAGRYTA surname. This was my grandfather's surname at birth. He was born in Paszczyna in 1867, in the parish of Lubzina, near Ropczyce, Galicia. At the time of his birth, Galicia was part of the Austria Hungary Empire. Previously, Galicia had been part of Poland. His particular region is now again part of the Polish nation.*

I replied:

According to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* the Magryta surname is derived from the Latin given name *Margarita* (Polish--*Małgorzata*). The Magryta surname is not a very common one. According to *Słownik Nazwisk. . .* by Kazimierz Rymut, it appeared only 584 times in a Polish governmental

agency's records in 1990. A related surname, *Magryś* is found 354 times in 1990 governmental records (A map showing the provinces where the Magryta surname was found in 1990 is shown below).

The villages that you mention (Paszczyna and Lubzina) straddle the border of the pre-1999 provinces of Tarnów and Rzeszów (Paszczyna is in Tarnów province while Lubzina is in Rzeszów province-- see map on p. 23). Notice that there is some concentration of the Magryta surname in this area. But the largest concentration is located in Zamość province. Smaller concentrations are located a bit further north in Lublin and Chełm provinces. Małgorzata is a common Polish given name. The surname derived from it could have arisen anywhere in Poland. However it is by far the most common in southeastern Poland--Galicia. Based on this distribution, I would guess that the Zamość area is the likely place of origin of the Magryta surname. People with this surname probably subsequently moved to adjacent areas from the Zamość area through the years.

Have you done much research on this surname? How far back does it go in the Tarnów/Rzeszów area?

### Map at right: Distribution of the MAGRYTA 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.





Place names mentioned by Bill Magratten are circled on the map above. Notice the pre-1999 provincial boundary line running between Paszczyna and Lubzina. Map source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy* [Poland: Road Atlas] (Warszawa: GeoCenter), 213.

Bill replied to my question as follows:

*Thank you for your input on the Magryta surname. I have recently taken the first look at the baptismal records from the LDS Library. Lubzina, Paszczyna, Ostrow and a few smaller towns were considered to belong to the Lubzina parish.*

*The first legible noting of the Magryta name was in 1790. There may have been some before this, but I could not decipher the handwriting. I uncovered my grandfather's date of birth in 1867. It appears that his father may have been born in 1848, however, there were two gentlemen with*

*the same name. I will have to find out who was the right one, by finding who was the son of who, etc. ....*

The distribution pattern on the map on page 22 needs to be interpreted a bit. You will recall that Poland regained territory on its western border from Germany after the end of World War II (See map below). The Poles called these territories the "Recovered Territories" because they were part of the Polish nation at one time. But some areas along the German border had not been Polish for almost 600 years. Consequently very few Poles lived there just prior to World War II. When Germans left that area during and after WWII, Poles moved in. Most of these were Poles from territories in the east that were lost to the Soviet Union (areas now in Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine--see map below). Eastern Galicia is now in Ukraine. Many Poles living in these areas moved west after WWII. Notice that there is an arc from Wałbrzych in the southwest to Gdańsk in the north along the German frontier where the Magryta surname appears but very few occurrences of this name between there and southeastern Poland--the area that was part of the Austrian partition known as Galicia. Poles with the Magryta surname probably did not originate in those western areas but in eastern and southeastern Poland and beyond. People with the Magryta surname left areas that became part of the Soviet Union, moved west, possibly picked up relatives living in Zamość, Tarnów and Rzeszów along the way and settled along the current Polish/German frontier.

Map at right: **The Recovered Territories.** Shaded areas in western and northern areas of present day Poland are territories "recovered" by Poland from Germany following WWII. The shaded area to the east of present day Poland are territories lost to the Soviet Union after WWII. These areas are now in Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine. Map source: Norman Davies, *God's Playground: A History of Poland, vol. 2, 1795 to the Present* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984), 612.



Northern and Western Territories 'recovered' from Germany
  Eastern Territories 'recovered' by U.S.S.R.
  frontiers: 1939
  present day



## PGS-MN NEWSLETTER

### Surname Indexing Project--Volume 3

*We are continuing to index the surnames included in the past issues of the PGS-MN Newsletter. The following listing includes all surnames that appeared in Volume Three, Nos. 1-4: Spring 1995, Summer 1995, Autumn 1995, and Winter 1995-56. The code used in this listing is as follows: the first number is the volume number, the second number is the issue number, and the third numbers are page numbers. We will index past volumes at the rate of one volume per issue. When we are up-to-date, we will publish a complete integrated listing of Volumes 1-10. We are indebted to PGS-MN member **Audra Etzel** for undertaking this project. Back issues of Volumes 1, 2 and 3 are available from the editor of this newsletter for \$3.00 per issue.*

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## Missing Branches:

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

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

**John Coughlan**, 3707 Fifth Ave., San Diego CA is researching MODRZINSKI, WANDREY, RICHELLEN in Pniensy (Szamotny) Poznan, Poland and in Fond du Lac, WI and Redwood Co., MN.

**Janet B. Gianos**, 5800 Pennsylvania Ave N., Crystal MN 55428 is researching MACIEJEWSKI/MACIEWSKI, JANUSZEWSKI, WOJCIECHOWSKI, JANKOWSKI in Kalisz and Poznan, Poland; in Menzikal, Prussia; in Danzig, West Prussia; WORWA, DOMBROWSKI in Hungary or Austria; and all in Winona, Perham and Little Falls, MN, Pine Creek and Ladysmith, WI, Philadelphia, PA and in Canada.

**Rebecca Kramer**, 10606 Drake Street NW, Coon Rapids MN 55433 writes: "I'm interested in becoming a member of PGS-MN. I was referred to you by a friend who told me that the last couple newsletters have had information on the WARZECHA family. I'm wondering if I could get copies of those newsletters."

**Peter Lamusga**, 6 NW 9½ St., Chisholm MN 55719 <PDLCOM@2Z.NET> is researching LAMUSGA in Prussia and in Browerville MN.

**Donna Marie (Oczak) Lanners**, 12140 Larchgate Drive, Dallas TX 75243-5053 <donmar@lcs-intl.com> is researching OCAZK, BIJAK, GRABOWSKI, KROKOSH in St. Paul, MN.

**Evangelina A. (Peplinski) Nolde**, 4943 Osgood Ave N., Stillwater MN 55082 <enolde@aol.com> is researching WOJCIECHOWSKI, JANUSZEWSKI, PEPLINSKI in Kalisz, Poznan, Warsaw and Peplin in Poland; Danzig, West Prussia; Menzikal, Prussia; and

in Perham, Winona, Little Falls and Brainerd, MN, Pine Creek, WI and in Canada.

**Ronald J. Parrish**, 716 - 37th Ave NE, Mpls. MN 55421-3607 is researching ZMUDA, ZAJAC in Poland and in NE Mpls.

**Mark Paynter**, 5036 Vincent Ave N., Minneapolis MN 55430 <payntermn@ens.net> is researching WYZA/WEISS/WIZA, DZIUBER, SZARKOWSKI/SHARKOWSKA, WITECKA in Mrotschen (also Immenheim-Wirsitz), Posen, Germany--now Mrocza, Bydgoszcz, Poland and in Omaha NE and Albert Lea MN.

**Laurentia J. Smieja**, 1639 Woodbridge, St. Paul MN 55117 is researching the WARZECHA, CZECH, KOTZER, SMIEJA, LOEFFLER, KLIMEK names. She writes: "I do have some info on all--need more!"

**Shirley Solem**, 5959 Cant Rd., Duluth MN <SSolem8522@aol.com> is a new member.

**Judy Stickney**, 6702 w. Pike Rd., Embarrass MN 55732 <Stickney@rangenet.com> is researching

BZOSKI, HALAS, NOJAJ, JUSIK, PERS in Poland and in MN and Pennsylvania.

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

**Bobbi Hoyt**, E. Skyline Pkwy., Duluth MN 55805 <bobbihoyt@aol.com> is researching BRONIKOWSKI, SOBCZAK, WALKOWIAK in Duluth and Gnesen and CZEKALSKI aka Shea in Duluth, Milwaukee WI and Elmira NY. She writes: "Great Newsletter!"

**Charles Ponagai**, 34442 Munger. Livonia MI 48154 <cchuck@email.msn.com> is researching TARGOSZ/TORGOS in Stryszawa, Poland and in Rib Lake WI and Minneapolis MN.

**Mary H. Rundel**, 7935 W. Plainfield Ave., Milwaukee WI 53220-2840 <Rundel@execpc.com> is researching BREZA in Brusy, Poland and in Canada, MN and WI; BRZESKA, BRZOSKA in Brusy and WI; SZAMGLIK, KRAINSKI in Czersk, Poland and in WI; and WAS aka WONS in Lag, Poland and in WI.



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**Herb** (official crest) of the town of Syców. Many Polish immigrants of the Wells, MN area came from the Syców area in Poland (See articles on pages 1, 8-13, 14-18.).