



# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8

WINTER 2000-01

NUMBER 4

## Upcoming events:

**Saturday, 24 March 2001**  
MGS and its Branches present the  
**10th Annual MGS "Branching Out" Meeting**  
at Kennedy High School in Bloomington

**Keynote Address: Janet Roseen**  
"The Genealogy Collection at Wilson Library,  
University of Minnesota"

with presentations by:

***The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota***

### ***Tracing Chain Migrations in Minnesota's Polonia***

hosted by Greg Kishel and Jan Bias:

Techniques for researching large-scale immigration from specific areas in Poland to small towns in the Midwest, with examples from south-central Minnesota and the Iron Range.

### ***Silesian Settlement in Minnesota***

An open forum hosted by Robert Prokott:

Presentation and discussion will concentrate on immigration from Silesia--the origin of many Minnesota Polish settlers. Handouts will include a map of Silesia as well as the names (both in Polish and German) of the villages of origin.

### ***Finding your Ancestral Place of Origin in Poland using***

***Słownik nazwisk . . .*** hosted by Paul Kulas:

The usefulness and limitations of using *Słownik nazwisk . . .* to find your family's place of origin in Poland will be discussed. Help in using this important reference work will be provided.

Presentations by other groups belonging to MGS include: Lutheran Church Records, State Censuses, and Computer, Irish, Germanic, Norwegian, Swedish Genealogy and possibly others.

PGS-MN will also have a table where a selection of books and other materials relating to Polish genealogy will be sold.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., the keynote address is at 9:20 and the Polish "break-out" sessions are at 11:00, 1:30 and 2:45. Cost: \$12.00 payable to MGS. Directions are found on page 3.

## In this issue . . .

Upcoming events.....	page 1
10th Annual MGS "Branching Out" Presentations by PGS-MN	
President's Letter.....	p. 2
The Bulletin Board.....	p. 3
Letters to the Editor:.....	p. 4
Sending GED files by email? A research resource Member research on website From our website chair Trip to Poland? Research in Korfantów.....	p. 5
Name of Church? Research in Kościerzyna.....	p. 6
Bingo! 25 years in the making!!! A reply to Ray.....	p. 7
Enjoyed Bias article Records update Membership number? Guide/interpreter.....	p. 8
A new member in Germany! Clarification concerning German Military Records.....	p. 9
Missing Branches.....	p. 10
Origins of the Matros surname.....	p. 12
The Opatz surname in America.....	p. 14
Library Corner....Book Reviews.....	p. 16
Prussian Catholics: Stanke, <i>Katholische Kirchenbücher in     Ost-und Westpreußen</i> Stanke, <i>Collegium Marianum in Peplin:     Schülerverzeichnis 1858-1920</i>	
A return to the homeland of my ancestors.....	p. 18
Searching for Rys in Poland: A practical guide for achieving genealogical results.....	p. 20
Rys ancestor chart.....	p. 22
PGS-MN Newsletter	
Surname Indexing Project.....	p. 23
St. Hedwig's Church Barry's Bay, Ontario.....	p. 28

## 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>

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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

In addition to the very interesting Polish genealogical information in this newsletter edition, there are a number of other items for your consideration. The Board has proposed that our Constitution be amended, primarily to hold our annual meeting in the first quarter rather than the last quarter of each year. Most of our programs including those of the MGS, are held early in the year. An early annual meeting may help remind members that a new dues-paying year has arrived. We will present the proposed constitution changes at the annual meeting, for discussion and approval.

The election of officers is the second item to which I call your attention. A slate of officers is presented in the Bulletin Board column on page 3. We have an opening for the position of Vice President. Office in our organization is open to any member who is willing to serve and participate in meetings and other duties. If you have an interest in any office, please contact me now or at the annual meeting. Officers serve a one year term.

Our organization was begun in 1992. A member survey was conducted in 1996. About 30 % of the surveys were completed and returned. Results were used to make changes or additions to our programs, newsletter features, and to our library collection. A new survey form is included with this newsletter. We ask that each of you complete and return it as soon as possible. In addition to the questions asked, we need your comments. As more and more information becomes available on the internet, we want to make sure that members are able to make internet connection a possibility. Several questions on the survey pertain to use of the internet for genealogical research.

We will publish summary results of the survey in a future newsletter after it appears most replies have been returned. Please return surveys as soon as you can and print or type if possible.

One of the things we ask you to consider is to present, either in written or verbal form, the fruits of your completed genealogical research. This should be done, not only because of the possible links to other researchers, but also as an encouragement to others. The presentation can be as formal or informal as you wish, at any of our future meetings.

We hope to see as many members as possible at the February 24th Annual Meeting at 10 am in the meeting room at the MGS Library. Directions to the library can be found in the advertising insert in this newsletter



## The Bulletin Board

### MGS "Branching Out" meeting:

The meeting will be at Kennedy High School, 9701 Nicollet Ave. South in Bloomington. Ample parking is available in the lot between Nicollet and the school. Directions: From 35W exit on 98th Street. Go east to Nicollet Avenue. From Cedar Ave. (77), go west on Old Shakopee Rd. to 98th Street. Go west to Nicollet.

### Future meetings:

On April 28, 2001: PGS-MN member, Jill Johnson will speak on her genealogical trips to Galicia. Details will follow via flyer!

Mark your calendars: We have reserved the meeting room on the lower level of the MGS Library in Golden Valley on the following dates in 2001: October 13 and November 10. Announcements of speakers and topics will follow separately in future issues of this newsletter and via mailed flyers and on our website.

### Annual Business Meeting and Election.....

You should have received a flyer announcing the details of our Annual meeting scheduled for February 24, 2001 (You will probably be receiving this newsletter after that date). The following is the proposed slate of candidates:

President:	Terry Kita
Vice-President:	(vacant)
Secretary:	Mary Ellen Bruski
Treasurer:	Barbara Rockman
Directors:	Audra Etzel
	John Radzilowski
	Lisa Trembley

A proposed constitutional amendment will also be presented and voted upon. The effect of the amendment will be to change the convening of the annual meeting to the first quarter of the calendar year. Results will be reported in the next issue of the newsletter.

### 2001 membership dues are due

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2001, please do so now! Check your mailing label on page 28. If the first two numbers on the label are "00" you need to renew. Your prompt renewal saves us much time and extra work by not having to send out individual renewal notices.

### Mailing, e-mail address change?

Send new E-mail address to: Mary Ellen Bruski at <bruski @voyager.net>

Send mailing address changes to: Lisa Trembley, 10149 Nottingham Trail, Eden Prairie MN 55347.

### Extra contributions

We acknowledge and thank the following for their monetary contribution to PGS-MN (either through Sponsor membership or additional contribution to the Library Fund):

Sandra L. Batalden	Gerald J Keeville
Jim Bogut	Le Roy J. La Motte
Marcee Clemons	Harry McOuat
John L. Coulis	Madeline Shinbach
Jerome B. Gracyalny	Marianne Springer
Rod Julkowski	Ann Wrampelmeier

### FHL films on permanent loan

Most LDS Family History Centers will now keep the films that you have ordered three consecutive times on permanent placement at their centers.

Bob Prokott (see story on pp. 12-13) reports that six films for **Falkowice** parish (1765-1870, film #'s 0923439 to 0923444) are permanently stored at the LDS FHC in Crystal. **Members:** If you know of films of parishes in Poland that are on permanent loan at any LDS FHC, please let us know. We will publish that information here so others may make use of these films.

Remember too that PGS-MN has arranged to have the films of the Polish parishes in the Diocese of New Ulm placed on permanent loan at the LDS FHC in Crystal. These include: St. Adalbert's in **Silver Lake** (film #'s 1705530-31), St. John Cantius in **Wilno** (#'s 1728361, 1728378-79), SS. Peter and Paul in **Ivanhoe** (1728358, 60), SS. Cyril and Methodius in **Taunton** (1711138, 1711269), St. Joseph's in **Rosen** and St. James in **Nassau** (1710897-98) and St. Joseph's in **Halloway** (1710900).





## Letters to the Editor *Liśby do Redaktora*

### ***Sending GED files by email?***

I really enjoy reading the *PGS-MN Newsletter*. Thank you for all your efforts and hard work.

I would like to send my family tree information to my cousin in England by email. I understand this can be done by sending a GED file as an email attachment. I have Family Tree Maker, version 7.5, by Broderbund. My cousin in England has Generations Family Tree, Starter Kit, version 8.0 uk, by Sierra Home. Both programs can create GED files. I have tried sending various forms of a GED file to him but none have worked so that he can import the information into his program. He can open the files in a word processing program but that would mean retyping all the information. Do you or anyone you know have any suggestions?

Thank you for any help you can give.

**Michael Jarmuz <mjarmuz@pressenter.com>**

*Editor's reply: I forwarded this query to several members who I thought might be able to help. Readers, if you have suggestions for Mr. Jarmuz, please contact him.*

### ***A research resource***

I belong to the PolandBorder Surnames mail list and they have a web page with tons of resources. You don't have to be a member of the mailing list to use the resources pages. One article in there is titled "Help me, I don't know what town in Poland my ancestors were from." That would be a good source to point people to when you get those queries. You can get there via:  
<<http://maxpages.com/poland>>

**Mary Ellen Bruski <bruski@voyager.net>**

### ***Member research on website***

Please add my e-mail address to member surname research on your website. It is not behind the surnames for BRONIKOWSKI, SOBCZAK, WALKOWIAK and CZEKALSKI aka SHEA.

I have to say I read my newsletter as soon as it arrives and although I subscribe to many, this one I would never lend out. Keep up the good work.

**Bobbi Hoyt <bobbihoyt@aol.com>**

### ***From our Website Chair***

I am forwarding to you a message I received from someone who "hit the jackpot" after I provided him with the address and phone number of a PGS-MN member he inquired about. I told him to ask her to write a little note about their success for our newsletter. I wish more people would let us know about their successes because of the website.

**Mary Ellen Bruski <bruski@voyager.net>**

Hi Mary Ellen,

Thanks for sending me the identification and location for QUADE. It looks as though we have a common background lineage. Everytime I mentioned a name to her, she said "Oh my God." We plan on getting together one of these days and exchange info. Not only that but she just lives a couple of miles away from me.

**Bob DeVries <RDeV5360@aol.com>**

*Editor's note: I second Mary Ellen's plea that members who have success write up something for our newsletter. If you have made contacts or have made breakthroughs because of our website--let us know. We have no way of knowing unless you tell us.*

### ***Trip to Poland?***

Please let me know if there are, or, if someone may know of any scheduled or planned trips to Poland in the Spring, Summer or Fall of 2001. Any suggestions or contacts will be appreciated.

**Bruno and Phyllis Syzdek <bsyzdek@mac.com>**  
Phone: 702-876-3861

*Editor's reply: The Pol-Am Newsletter (February 2001) lists a "Heart of Poland Tour," on August 5-21, 2001. All inclusive cost from Minneapolis is \$2840. For an illustrated brochure write to: Fred Wisniewski, 35659 110th Ave., Stanley, WI 54768. Phone: 715.644.2518 or 1.800.388.0988.*

*PGS-MN member Kornel Kondy has led tours to Poland the last two summers. I don't know if he plans to do so again this summer or not. His address is: 619 S.E. Seventh Street, Minneapolis MN 55414. Phone: 612.378.1739.*

*Jonathan Shea of the PGS of Connecticut/PGS of the Northeast regularly leads genealogical tours of Poland. Again, I don't know if one is planned for this summer or not. PGS-CT/NE address is: 8 Lyle Road, New Briton CT 06053. E-mail: <pgsne2@aol.com>*

*Readers: Any suggestions for the Syzdeks?*



## Research in Korfantów

About a year ago my husband and I met with you at "Polish Night at the Library." You assisted us in the beginning of our research related to my grandmother Mathilda HOHEISEL. I was able to make contact with Father Furman from Korfantow Poland and received a copy of Mathilda's birth record. I then requested a copy of Mathilda's mother and father's birth and marriage record. I did not receive either one.

My sister and I were planning to go to Poland and requested a visit with Father Furman and an interpreter. We met them in September. They were very cordial and willing to help. But to this day we have not heard from either of them. I send a letter and money upon our return and a card at Christmas with money for the church. They said they would look at the church records and if need be the civil records. I sent registered mail. My question is, can you assist me or offer any recommendations?

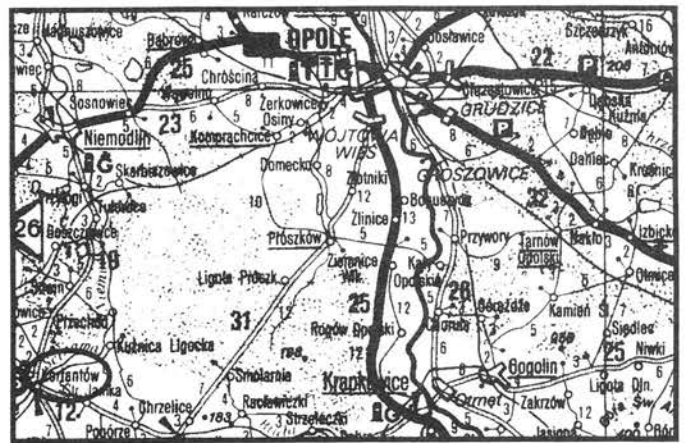
**Mary Jelinski <Rmjelinski@aol.com>**

*Editor's reply: Research by mail takes time. Priests in Poland are very busy and we have just come through the Christmas season which places additional demands on their time. When you do research by mail, you are at the mercy of the people who are doing the research for you. You just have to be patient.*

*Also, I guess I would hesitate to send money through the mail. You can never be certain that it will get to the place intended.*

*You may recall that when I met with you at the MGS Library, I emphasized the importance of first seeing if the LDS Family History Library had filmed the records of the parish where you intended to do research. Upon receiving your message, I checked the FHL's website. I see that the church records for Korfantow have been filmed for the years 1838 to 1870 (three films--#s 936533 to 936535). Civil records for Korfantow for the years 1874-1884 have also been filmed (three films--#s 2091796 to 2091798). This is a limited time period but if your research dates to any of these years, you can order these films and do the research yourself. When you do your own research, you don't have to wait until it is convenient for someone else to do the search. You can order these films at your nearest LDS Family History Center. Good luck.*

*Readers: It is now possible to check to see if the LDS Family History Library has filmed records from your ancestral parish without going to a local LDS Family History Center. Just log on to their website at: <<http://www.familysearch.org>> Click on "Library," then on "Family History Library Catalog," and then on "Place Search" and follow the instructions.*



Korfantów is located about 30 km. southwest of Opole. Map source: *Samochodowy Atlas Polski* [Road Atlas of Poland] 1:500000, Map #27.

## Name of Church?

Is it possible to find out the name of the parish church in Czeszewo where my CZAJKOWSKI relatives were from? I believe it to be St. Andrew the Apostle but I am not sure.

**Roger F. Krentz, Jersey City NJ**

*Editor's reply: Yes. the name of the parish is St. Andrew the Apostle--św. Andrzeja Apostola. Website <[http://maxpages.com/poland/Catholic\\_Research](http://maxpages.com/poland/Catholic_Research)> will give you this information. Scroll down and click on "Polish Cities with Churches, Shrines, Temples and Synagogues" and then follow the directions given at the site.*

*Readers: this site not only gives the name of the church but also a complete mailing address. In this case: Parafia Rzymsko-Katolicka p.w. św. Andrzeja Apostola, Czeszewo 33, Czeszewo, 62-121, Polska (Poland). It also gives the telephone number of the parish. In this case: (67) 2615438.*



Czeszewo is located 15 km. northeast of Wągrowiec and about 40 km. north of Gniezno. Map source: *Samochodowy Atlas Polski* [Road Atlas of Poland] 1:500000, Map #14.

## Research in Kościerzyna

Enclosed is a check for back issues 2:1:12, 3:2:06 and 3:3:01. The "Surname Indexing Project" indicates that these issues list the WRYCZA surname. It has been exciting for me to have found the home town of my great-grandparents this year. They were from Berent/Kreis Berent of West Prussia (Now the town is called Kościerzyna). I am interested in finding more information about them. I wrote to the church in Kościerzyna and they referred me to an archive for the Catholic church in Regensburg, Germany. I have yet to write them. I have much information to retrieve.

**Scott Writz (Wrycza), Mankato MN**

*Editor's reply: The Catholic archive in Regensburg does indeed hold many Catholic records from Poland that were taken to Germany ahead of the advancing Russian army at the end of World War II. However the Catholic records for Berent/Kościerzyna have been filmed by the LDS Family History Library, so it is not necessary to write to Regensburg--simply go to your nearest LDS Family History Center and order the films. The Kościerzyna records, dating from 1642 to 1906, are contained on 13 rolls of microfilm (film #'s 69991 to 69995, 500546 to 500543, 161850 to 161852, 1864632--this information was found on the website, [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)--see editor's note on page 5).*

*A word of caution, however. Berent/Kościerzyna was a Kreisstadt--the principal city in a Kreis (comparable to a county in the U.S.). In the German portion of partitioned Poland, the Kreis and its principal city had the same name. When Polish immigrants indicated their place of origin, they often indicated the name of the Kreis. Therefore, your Wrycza ancestors may have actually been from smaller village in the Kreis rather than from the Kreisstadt itself. This a problem that many researchers encounter when they are trying to identify their ancestor's place of origin.*



Kościerzyna is located about 50 km. southwest of Gdańsk. Map source: *Samochodowy Atlas Polski* [Road Atlas of Poland] 1:500,000, Map # 3.

## Bingo! 25 years in the making!!!

Can you pronounce BUDZISZEWKO???

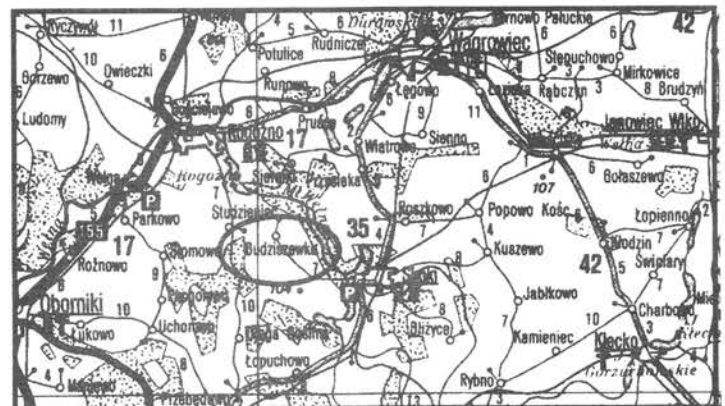
After 25 years of looking, well, not continuous to be sure, with lots of help from family and friends, I have finally found out where my MARSZALKIEWICZ family came from in Poland. Budziszewko is a tiny village NW of Skoki, SE of Rogozno, SSW of Wągrowiec, just a bit NW of Gniezno and NE of Poznan city. I don't know anything yet about the area.

But this morning, thanks to a lot of tips and help (credits will come later), I found the birth/baptismal records of Jan Marszalkiewicz, his brother Andrzej and sister, Anna Michor, who immigrated to Duluth about 1872. I also found a bunch of brothers, sisters and cousins, AND the wedding of their parents, Thomas Marszalkiewicz and Maryana Januszewska (previously that name was unknown).

To those of you who say "what do I care" please note that there are a lot of Duluth Polish names in that vicinity, particularly, Michor, Budnik, Walkowiak, Marciniak, Majchrzak, Banack, Hopa, Gramza, Sengir, etc. This kind of confirms the previously unproven theory that a lot of the Duluth early Polish immigrants knew each other in Poland. The names were found on LDS film No. 1191494, Parish of Skoki, Poznan Province, Poland. The film may be on permanent loan at the Duluth LDS Library.

The nicest treat in the search is that at least for the baptisms, the penmanship on the film is fabulously neat and readable. If you decide to look, you will find it pretty easy to figure out, even if you don't know Latin. It'll take me a few days to sort this out, probably weeks to go back over the films and see what I missed, and then on to the BOROWIAKs, who still remain a mystery, but who very well may have come from that area.

An ebullient **Ray Marshall**  
<[raymarsh@mninter.net](mailto:raymarsh@mninter.net)>



Budziszewko is located about 15 km. southwest of Wągrowiec and about 35 km. north of Poznań. Map source: *Samochodowy Atlas Polski* [Road Atlas of Poland] 1:500,000, Map #14.

## A reply to Ray

*Editor's note: Ray sent the preceding message to several members who are doing research in the Duluth area. The following is one reply that he received.*

My great grandfather, Frank TRADER (TREJDER) and his brother John, settled in Gnesen Township and came from Budziszewko. A distant cousin of mine completed a book on the Trader family a couple of years ago and traced the family from there. You may find that family name listed in the records. I would be interested in knowing if my gg grandfather, Jan (John) SOBIESKI, who is on the St. Mary Star of the Sea founders list, is from that same area. Let me know if you see that name. I have not had any luck tracing him. Also I think you may find a number of the original settlers in Gnesen Township may be from that area. Keep me posted. Thanks for your work.

Betty Joyce <joyce@augsborg.edu>

## Enjoyed Bias article

I enjoyed the article by Jeanette Bias so much. I am enclosing a check for 5 copies of Vol. 8, Autumn 2000, No. 3. I am from the Wells MN area and my grandfather was Johann DULAS.

I don't know if I gave you my email address:  
<j2petterman@earthlink.net>

Jeanette Dulas Petterman, Cloverdale CA

## Records update:

From: Bruno Syzdek, 4625 Rip Van Winke Ln., Las Vegas NV 89102-5768 <Bsyzdek@MAC.COM>

<u>Family name</u>	<u>Village in Poland</u>	<u>Year Emigrated</u>	<u>Where Settled</u>
Bielamowicz/Biel	Slawecin, Aust./Pol.	1870-80s	Bremond Robertson Texas
Bukowski		1870-80s	Near Bryan/Brazos Texas
Dykas			Wisconsin
Furmanek	Baczal Dolny, Aust/Pol.		unk.
Gocal	unk., Aust/Pol.		Indiana, Illinois
Golen	Baczal Dolny, Aust/Pol.		
Kulik/Kalik/Kula	Baczal Dolny, Aust/Pol.		
Kapchinski/Kapczynski/ Kapzynski	unk., Prussia/Pol.	1870s	
Panek	Baczal Dolny, Aust/Pol		
Papciak/Papazak/Papczak	Slawecin, Aust/Pol.		
Putz/Puc	unk., Prussia/Pol.	1870s	Bryan/Brazos Texas
Savara			Michigan
Syzek/Szydek/Sysdek/ Sysdeck/Syzdeck/Szydeck	Opacie, Aust/Pol.	1880s	Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, Massachusetts
Tresniciski/Truzesniowski/ Trzesniciski	Baczal Dolny, Aust/Pol.		
Zabawa	Baczal Dolny, Aust/Pol.		Bremond Robertson Texas
Kempinski			Bremond Robertson Texas
Konieczny	Baczal Dolny, Aust/Pol.		

## Membership Number?

I have already read my Autumn 2000 issue cover to cover for the first time (I find them so interesting and informative, I read them several times)! Joining PGS-MN was one of the most educational things I have ever done! Thank you and others for all your hard work and generosity!

I noticed that my mailing label no longer reflects my membership no. of 5099; but rather 0000. On 12/5, I sent in my check to continue membership through 2001; perhaps it hasn't been processed, but need I be concerned? Thanks for looking into this for me!

Dorothy Huotari <jhuotari@erols.com>

*Editor's reply: No, you need not be concerned. The number on your mailing label is not your membership number. Rather it is a code to enable us to keep track of when members joined PGS-MN and when their membership expires. The first two numbers indicate the year through which you are paid and the last two indicate the year that you joined. The number 0000 on your last mailing was correct. It shows that you were paid through the year 2000 and that you joined in the year 2000. Your label on this mailing should read 0100 --indicating that you are paid through 2001. So the number on you label will change each time you renew.*

*Readers: Check your mailing label on this issue. If the first two numbers read "00," it is time to renew your membership for 2001.*



## Guide/interpreter

I responded by E-mail to the recent request in the *PGS-MN Newsletter* [8 no. 3, (Autumn 2000), p. 4] by Paul Kilgore from Duluth, MN where he is seeking a tour guide/interpreter in Poland. I recently returned from a trip to Poland in September and hired a professional genealogy searcher recommended by Stan Schmidt of the Polish Genealogical Society of America.

Her name is Iwona Dakiniewicz <genealogy@pro.onet.pl> and she proved to be just what we needed. She made advance appointments with the parish offices we wished to visit and made the suitable hotel arrangements for us and provided transportation. She is knowledgeable in Polish, English and some German and some Latin.

After I returned I put together a genealogy video tape for my relatives and especially for my and their children. It is a more meaningful genealogy record because it contains the family tree chart and it includes video tape of the records as I found them in Poland. It includes village scenes and a video of the original Rys residence in the 1800s. It also contains video of detailed maps so future generations know where to return, if they become interested. I gave out a number of copies as Christmas presents with the hope it will inspire interest in the next generations of my relatives.

If you wish to view this tape as an example of how to use the video media to pass this information onto future generations, I can send you an extra copy and it may be of interest for viewing at a future meeting of the Minnesota Genealogical Society of Minnesota meeting. The full tape is a little over an hour.

**John Rys <mmmpc665@isd.net>**

*Editor's reply; Thank you for the tape. I passed it on to our Program Chair, Greg Kishel. We will be looking to schedule it for a future PGS-MN meeting.*

## A new member in Germany!

Enclosed is my check for membership in PGS-MN. My mother was Katheryn A. SCHMOLKE. She was born in Little Falls, Minnesota in December, 1899. She married Norman Francis La Motte of Centerville, Minnesota in the early 1920s. Mother's parents were Jakob Schmolke and Agnes Przybilla/Przybilla (?) -- I have seen it spelled several different ways.

My great-grandfather, Jakob Schmolke was born in Schidlow, Oberschlesien, Deutschland on 16 Juli 1828 and died in St. Cloud, Minnesota on 21 October 1917. He lived in Buckman, Minnesota (I am taking this data from a remembrance card given at his funeral). My grandfather, Jakob Schmolke (married to Agnes Przybilla), was born in Oberslesien, Deutschland on

14 October 1875 and died on 14 October 1921 in St. Raphael's Hospital in St. Cloud, Minnesota--this information is from a copy of his remembrance card.

My email address is <leroylamottell@netscape.net> I work for the United States European Headquarters Command for Europe and the Middle East in Stuttgart, Germany. I would like to know more about my Schmolke ancestors so I can do more research while I am here in Europe.

I have been looking for information for the last three years, but have had a great deal of problems, because of the lack of a full time priest or secretary at St. Michael's Church in Buckman. The cemetery at St. Michael's has most of my Schmolke ancestors buried there. My mother, when she was alive, showed me where they all were buried. Is there any possible way of getting all of the names of the people buried there and their dates of birth and death? Then too, is there any way of obtain a copy of the church records or registers of the parishioners who attended the church and were baptized, received first communion, were confirmed, married and buried from the church? This would a wealth of information to have in genealogical society for reference. The Minnesota Historical Society could not help me, because they said these records were not available to the general public. Is this true and why?

I am most grateful to you for all of the help you will be giving to me in finally getting the records for my mother's side of the family. I really thought I was up a dead-end street until I happened upon your pages on the internet.

As I type this letter we are having the normal wet cool early winter weather. Our weather here in Stuttgart, Germany is nowhere like it is back home in Minnesota.

God bless and keep you in His ever present care, love and help. Ich bin sehr dankbar fur deine helfe. Gott schutzen Sie, immer in alle seit.

**Le Roy J. La Motte**

*Editor's reply: Well, I am not sure that we will be able to provide you with all of the information that you are requesting. First of all, the records of the parishes of Diocese of Saint Cloud have not yet been filmed and made available to the public (unlike the Diocese of New Ulm, whose records have been filmed by the LDS Family History Library). The best that you can do here is to write to St. Michael's and ask for copies of the records of your ancestors. Be specific and ask for just a few records at a time. Write to: St. Michael's Church, PO Box 638, Hwy 25, Buckman MN 56317-0638.*

*The St. Cloud Area Genealogists, Inc. have transcribed many of the cemeteries of the St. Cloud area,*

*Letters, continued on page 9*

## *Clarification Concerning German Military Records*

by Ed Brandt

*Editor's note: In a letter to the editor [PGS-MN Newsletter, 8 no. 2 (Summer 2000), p. 9.], Jan Bias asks about the possibility of accessing German Military Records. In a response [PGS-MN Newsletter, 8 no. 3 (Autumn 2000), p. 5], Delores Herrmann suggests that she consult Horst Reschke's German Military Records As a Genealogical Source. This article by Dr. Brandt is a response to both of those letters.*

Horst Reschke's 12-page *German Military Records As Genealogical Sources* (1990; now available only in libraries or on FHL fiche 6,001,596) is indeed a wonderful resource for those with ancestors who came from the areas he covered, i.e., those whose records have been preserved.

Unfortunately, it will not be of much help to many who have Polish ancestors, except for those whose ancestors lived in Galicia. That is because virtually all of the records of the German army, and previously the Prussian army, were destroyed by bombing toward the end of World War II. I have heard reports that the Library of Congress Manuscript Division may have made some copies of some prewar German military records, perhaps on film or fiche, but thus far I have not been able to verify this.

Rather, Reschke's book describes what military records are available for Austria (although in less detail than some later publications) and those who served in various German principalities which were not part of Prussia or before they became part of Prussia.

While a considerable number of Poles migrated to the Rhine-Ruhr industrial area after the Industrial Revolution began in Germany, Rhineland and Westphalia had belonged to Prussia since 1815. Reschke's book includes the records for the Grand Duchy of Berg in this area, but that duchy ceased to exist in 1813, well before the migration of industrial job-seekers.

Reschke has a short bibliography of German-language books for researching the former Prussian army, but don't expect too much genealogical information in them, even if you can read German. If you can, try Alexander von Lyncker, *Die Preussische Armee 1807-1867 und ihre sippenkundliche Quellen* (1939; reprinted in 1981 by Verlag Degener & Co.; available on FHL film 477,807, item 1, according to Riemer).

Regimental histories, few of which are still in print, may include names, ranks, and possibly limited other data of those killed in battle or decorated for bravery. There may also be some records at the Prussian State Privy Archives in Berlin, but its inventory is in such a form that it is difficult even for me to figure out exactly what is in those records. If this repository represented a major resource for military records, we would have certainly heard about it long ago.

German genealogical guides and periodicals are conspicuous for their scanty mention of data for those who served in the Prussian or German armed forces. There are records for those who served in World War II (and even a few earlier ones), but they refer mostly to casualties, prisoners of war, etc.

Non-commissioned muster rolls (*Stammrollen*), troop lists (*Stammlisten*) and officer rolls (*Ranglisten*) exist. The most detailed troop lists provide the names of wives, names and birthdates of children, and the place and date of marriage, but this apparently is the case with only a few. If you know in which unit or where your ancestor served, but don't know where he came from, these sources are much more likely to be helpful.

For more details, check the FHL fiche of Reschke's book or Shirley J. Riemer, *The German Research Companion*, rev. ed., published by Lorelei Press, P.O. Box 221356, Sacramento, CA 95822-8356, in 2000. The 1997 edition, with differing content and organization (German military records in Chapter 20), is at Concordia (R929.108931 R444g).

For a list of German military parish registers and where they are located, check Wolfgang Eger's 2-volume *Verzeichnis der Militärkirchenbücher in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* (1993, 1996) in the GGS Collection at Concordia (R929.1 Eg23v).

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### Letters, continued from page 8

*but I don't know if they have transcribed the Buckman parish cemetery. Perhaps one of our readers knows.*

*You do know where in Poland your Schmolke ancestors originated. That is the key to tracing your ancestry in Poland. I believe that Schidlow is now Szydłów which is located about 15 km. southwest of Opole. I believe the parish church is located in Tułowice. If so, you are in luck because the LDS Family History Library has filmed those records (1714-1870). You should find out where the nearest LDS Family History Center is located and order those films.*

## 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:*

**LeeAnn Anderson**, 37 Helberg Rd., Esko MN 55733 is researching KNAPP in Poland.

**Kathryn Goehl**, 4020 Lakehill Circle, White Bear Lake MN 55110 <[JGOEHL@hotmail.com](mailto:JGOEHL@hotmail.com)> is researching KARPINSKI in a town near Warsaw and in Virginia and Little Falls, MN and BONK/BUNK/BONCK in a border town between Poland and Germany and in Stevens Point, WI and Virginia and Little Falls, MN.

**Fr. Jerome J. Kamla**, 8316 E. Calypso Ave., Mesa Az 85208 is researching KAMLA in Szalkowica in Poland and in Arcadia WI and KOWAHL in Independence WI.

**Edward M. Konczak**, 219 Market, Baird TX 79504 <[SKONCZAK@camalott.com](mailto:SKONCZAK@camalott.com)> is researching KONCZAK in Morzewo, Oborniki, Gostyn and Janik in Poland and in Osakis MN and in Wisconsin, SPCHALA in Oborniki and Osakis and RELLER in MN.

**Albert A. Kowalczyk**, 3704 Ladyslipper Ln., Brooklyn Park MN 55443 <[JKowal0009@aol.com](mailto:JKowal0009@aol.com)> is researching Joseph KOWALCZYK and his father Sabastian and John and Anna or Agnes ROMANSKI in Lubla and Lwow/Lemberg in Galica and in Winona MN.

**LeRoy Joseph LaMotte**, Unit 30401 P. O. Box 2931, A.P.O. AE. 09131-2901 <[leroylamottell@netscape.net](mailto:leroylamottell@netscape.net)> is researching Jacob SCHMOLKE who was born in July 1828 Schidlow, Oberschlesien and died 21 Oct 1917 in St. Cloud MN. Jacob settled in Morrison Co., MN.

**John Rys**, 3613 Williamsburg Court, Woodbury MN 55129 <[mmmpc665@isd.net](mailto:mmmpc665@isd.net)> genealogy website at: <[www.isd.net/mmmpc665](http://www.isd.net/mmmpc665)> is researching RYS in Toporzysko, GŁOWCZAK, PEPELLA in Spytkowice, MACIASZEK in Wysko, JAROCZ, MADON in Jordanow, SARNA in Wysko and Jordanow, and some of the above also in Minneapolis MN (see ancestor chart on page ???).

**Shirley Schaikoski**, PO Box 89322, Sioux Falls SD 57109 is researching SCHAIKOSKI, SOPCZAK in Posen/Poznan and in Ivanhoe MN, Illinois and Wisconsin.

**Madeline Shinbach**, 127 Woodlawn Ave., St. Paul MN 55105 <[smadeline@uswest.net](mailto:smadeline@uswest.net)> is researching GOLAB, PACIOREK in the Krakow area in southern Poland and in Springfield, IL and Detroit MI.

**Ann Wrampelmeier**, 3249 Worthington St. N.W., Washington DC 20015 is researching KUKOWSKI, STOLTMAN, CHRZAN in Kasubia and in Winona MN.

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

**Walter Bennick**, 524 W. Wabasha St., Winona MN 55987-5207 <[wbennick@rcconnect.com](mailto:wbennick@rcconnect.com)> is researching SREGZINSKI in Str. Warpechy, FALKOWSK in Bransk, CZARNIECKI in Rajrod, MAKOWSKI in Stare Tajno, BIENIEK in Mszana Dolna, PUSTELNIK in Glisne and all in Virginia MN.

**Eileen Opatz Berger**, 2535 So. Shore Blvd., White Bear Lake MN 55110 <[e.opatz-berger@a.o.l.com](mailto:e.opatz-berger@a.o.l.com)> is researching OPATZ, BIENIEK in Silesia and in Little Falls MN and SOBIECH, TRUTWIN in Falkowice Dombrovka in Poland and in Two Rivers Twp., Bowlus MN.

**Jim Bogut**, 34178 Unity Ave., Taylors Falls MN 55084-1809 <[JBOGUT@cornernet.com](mailto:JBOGUT@cornernet.com)> is researching MALACKY/MALECKY(I), PODGORSKI in St. Paul MN, PALEWICZ, POHL in Glenwood City WI, BOGUT in Mt. Carmel PA and also the MAKAS surname.

**Pat Bumgarner**, 524 NE 20 Av., Mpls. MN 55418 <[dougbgood@aol.com](mailto:dougbgood@aol.com)> is researching RICHTER in Poznan, Chojnice and in Sobieski (Little Falls) MN. She adds: "One Richter brother, born late 1800s, went West--would like to get in contact with Richters in Montana."

**John Coulis**, Hartwell Villas #19A, Anderson SC 29626 <[jcoulis@carol.net](mailto:jcoulis@carol.net)> has renewed. He writes: "I am still interested in the KULAS and SZCZYPIOR families that emigrated from Lupusz, Prussia (now Poland) in about 1858. My great grandfather, Constantine Albert Kulas, was one of the original



1859 Kaszube settlers in the Ottawa Valley in Ontario. My grandfather, Lawrence George Kulas, his wife, Johanna Szczypior, and children moved to the Cobalt, Ontario area in about 1905 and changed the spelling to COULIS. My father, Frank and his siblings moved to the Niagara Falls area in the 1920s and 30s.

**Jerome B. Gracyalny**, 3640 Louisiana Ave N., New Hope MN 55427 is researching GRACYALNY in the Great Dukedom of Poznan, GATZA in Germany/Poland and both in Menasha WI.

**Rod Julkowski**, 2410 Rosewood Ln., Plymouth MN 55441-3921 <julko001@tc.umn.edu> is researching JULKOWSKI in Chelmza in Poland and in Minneapolis MN and POLLOK/POLLOCK in Opole in Poland and in Browerville MN.

**Gerald J. Keeville**, 9120 Barrington Terrace, Brooklyn Park MN 55443 is researching LESNO and WRECA in Danzig and KACZMAREK in Silver Lake.

**Margaret Koegel**, 41519 Cruz Way, Temecula CA 92592 <margeintem@pc.net> is researching LASKOWSKI in Glesno, Poland and in Milwaukee WI, LASA/LASSA in Kraczk and Dabki and in Milwaukee, Lubinski in Winona MN, GINTER in Osusznic and in MN, CIEMINSKI in Glisno and Chojnice and in Winona.

**Mary Ann Maniak**, 8711 62nd Av. N., Minneapolis MN 55428 has renewed. She writes: "I really look forward to each newsletter issue."

**Harry McOuat**, 4 Walton Lane, Wakefield MA 01880 <HarryQM1215@aol.com> is researching JAKUBIK, MATROSS in Laskowice (Opole) in Poland and in Browerville MN and also the SOBOSZCZYK and BIENIEK surnames.

**Lou Ochocki**, 9157 Alamo St. NE, Blaine MN 55449 <LOCHOCKI@goldengate.net> is researching OCHOCKI, LIPINSKI, PARULSKI in Wilno and Ivanhoe MN.

**Diane Pallas**, 502 7th Ave. N., So. St. Paul MN 55075 <dpallas@isd.net> is researching SZAFARZ in St. Paul and Little Falls MN.

**Cecelia F. Pass**, 556 Bolinger, Rochester Hills MI 48307 <Ccpass@aol.com> is researching EFTA in Bydgoszcz, Poland and in Lexington, MN, GINTER in Bydgoszcz and in southern MN, PEPLINSKI in

Weile and in Winona MN, BOJAN, BURANT in Bytow and in Winona, NOVAK, GENTHER in LaCrosse WI.

**R. J. Prokott**, 820 - 50½ Av. N.E., Columbia Heights MN 55421 <dprokott@pconline.com> is researching PROKOTT in Stare Siolkowice and in Morrison Co., MN, GALLUS, OPATZ, KLISCH/KLESCZ, CZECH in Falkowice and in Morrison Co, EGGERT in Lubichowo and in McLeod Co., MN and KACZMAREK somewhere in Poznan Province.

**Marguerite Sommerfeld**, PO Box 570 (424 E. Carbon Ave), Bridger MT 59014 is researching EFTA, MARCINIAK in Posnan in Poland and in Greenbush MN, BRUSKI, GEIRSWESKI, KUKAWSKI in Greenbush and in Canada.

**Rose Spangenberg**, 33709 E. Shamineau Dr., Motley MN 56466-2414 is researching BERCZYK in Gorale, Poland and in Browerville MN and JOHN, SMOLKA, MOTZEK in Opole, Poland and in Browerville.

**Paul Tushner**, 5120 W. 7th St., #3, Winona MN 55987-5607 <Paul3181@aol.com> is researching CIERZAN, NARLOCH, SZUMINSKI, MILLER in Wiele, Kłaczno, and Kamien Krajenski in Poland and in Winona MN.

**Ed Wiorek**, 4008 Manor Woods Dr., N.W., Rochester MN 55901 <EWiorek@prodigy.net> is researching CHRZAN, WIOREK, LEWICZ, OKANSKI, in Morzewo, Lobzenica, Blugowo, NIEMCZYK, JAZDZEWSKI, WYSOCKI, SYLKE, RYK, DYX in Lesno, Brusy, Lipusz, Koscierzyna, KUROWSKI, RONKOWSKI, JEZEWSKI in Lobichowo and all in Milwaukee WI.

**Vincent J. Zotkiewicz**, 3100 Timber Brook Dr., Plano TX 75074-8742 <vinzot@worldnet.att.net> is researching ZOTKIEWICZ, RZOPKIEWIC in Virginia MN and ARASIM/ARASIMOWICZ in Wozna Wies, Poland and in Virginia MN.

## Notice!!

### Surveys!!

A membership survey is inserted in this issue of the newsletter. Please complete and return as soon as possible.

## Origin of the MATROS surname

by Paul Kulas

I received the following letter from PGS-MN member Dr. Alfred E. Friedl of Rootstown, Ohio.

*I continue to enjoy your most excellent newsletter. I read it from cover to cover as soon it arrives.*

*After seeing the results of your research of various surnames, I finally decided to ask you to research the origins of my maternal grandparents, named MATROS. We do not know where they lived in Poland except that it was probably in Silesia, possibly near Posen province.*

*My check for \$10.00 is enclosed.*

*We wish you and your family a most blessed and joyous holiday season.*

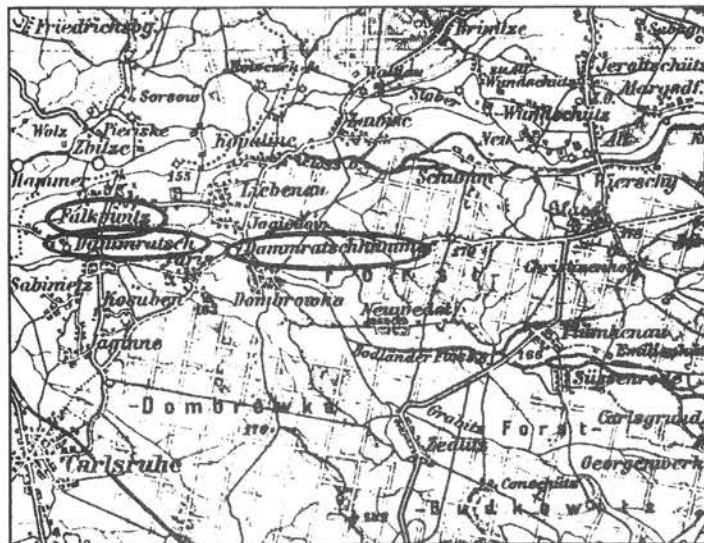
*Cordially, Al*

First of all, a little background; Al and I are first cousins. We are not related through our Polish ancestors but through our Bavarian forbears. His father, Max Friedl, and my mother, Mathilda Friedl, were brother and sister (Incidentally, I have traced lines of our mutual Bavarian ancestors back several generations--the earliest documentation is the baptismal record of a 7th great-grandfather, Michael Liebl, born 24 September 1629).

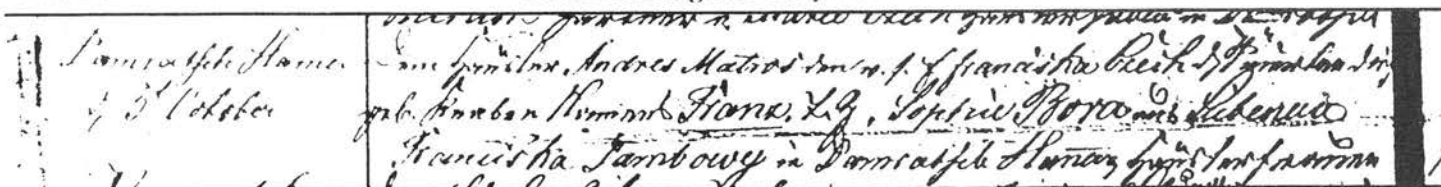
Al's maternal grandparents, Frank Matros and Magdalena Jakubik, settled in southern Morrison County in Minnesota (see: Letters to the Editor. "Grandfather's biography found." *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Spring 1997, p. 5.). At about the time that I was completing the formal response to Al's request (see page 13), the renewal application from Harry McOuatt crossed my desk (see page 11). I noticed that Harry was searching the Matross and Jakubik surnames and his people had settled in nearby Browerville, MN. I thought that there might possibly be a connection. Moreover, Harry had identified a place of origin in Poland--Laskowice (Opole). I also called Bob Prokott, our Morrison County and Silesian expert, for his advice. He indicated that he was not only familiar with the Matros surname in southern Morrison County (see: Robert Prokott. "Silesia to America--A Heritage: Polish Silesian Settlement in Central Minnesota." *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Winter 1996-97, pp. 8-9), but that it also occurred in the records of Falkowice near Opole in Silesia. Bob also indicated to me that the films of Falkowice parish records (1765-1870) were on permanent loan at the LDS Family History Center in Crystal.

I was going to suggest that a search of the parishes of Falkowice and nearby Laskowice and any parish in between might be a fruitful way for Al to proceed with his search. In an exchange of letters and e-mails, I learned the birth dates of both Frank Matros (4 October 1866) and Magdalena Jakubik (22 July 1868). Since the Falkowice records were already at the Crystal FHC, I thought I would check those records. Sure enough, I found the baptismal records of both Frank (see page 13) and Magdalena.

There are several important lessons that can be learned from the above process: (1) If the ancestral surname that you are researching is not real common, there is a good chance that you can narrow it down to one or two of the pre-1999 Polish provinces by using *Słownik naswisk*. . . --as shown by the Matros surname distribution at right. (2) You can narrow your search still further by clues from others who are searching the same names from the same general area. (3) but most important, by consulting another who has done research of immigrant ancestors who settled in the same area where your ancestors settled in Minnesota--even if they are not related--you can sometimes find the specific place of origin in Poland. Polish immigrant settlements in Minnesota were often "transplanted communities"--neighbors in Minnesota were often neighbors in Poland as well.



Above: The circled villages are: Falkowitz (Falkowice), the site of the parish church; Dammratsch (Domaradz), the home of Magdalena Jakubik; and Dammratschhammer (Domaradzka Kuźnica), the home of Frank Matros. Map source: 36°35'Oppeln (from the *Austrian Map Series of Middle Europe*--available at the MGS Library). The LDS Family History Library has filmed the Falkowice church records ((1765-1940). These are contained on nine rolls of microfilm. Film #s are: 923439 to 923444 and 2063071 to 2063073.



Above: The baptism of Frank Matros in Falkowice parish records. Translation: In the left hand column--the place of birth: Dammratsch Hamer, and date: 5 October (1866). The text in the right hand column--"(I baptized) the infant boy named Franz born on the 4th of this month (October) to the villager Andres Matros and to his wife Franciska Czech. Sponsors: Sophie Bora from Liebenau and Franciska Dambowy who are married to villagers in Dammratsch Hamer."

**Origin of the MATROS surname:**

According to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* the **Matros** surname is derived from the Latin word *mater* which means "mother." Hoffman cites Rymut, *Nazwiska Polaków* as his source for this information. Other Polish surnames deriving from the Latin *mater* are: Matera (1493), Materek (827), Matarka (724), Materna (1256), Maternowski (525), Materny (163) Materski (372) Matracki (698), Matras (1729), Matraszek (836) and Matura (864). The number in parentheses refer to the frequency of each surname in a Polish governmental agency's records in 1990.

None of the above surname are very common Polish surnames. Neither is the Matros surname. According to *Słownik Nazwisk...* by Kazimierz Rymut, it appeared only 143 times in a Polish governmental agency's records in 1990. A map showing the provinces where the Matros surname was found in 1990 follows:

Given the numerous variations in the spelling of Polish surnames derived from the Latin word *mater*, it is probable that Matros is a regional spelling variation. The distribution of the surname as indicated by the map below, suggests that the surname likely originated in Silesia--most likely in Opole province. It is also numerous in Katowice province (also part of Silesia), but that is a principal industrial region of Poland and it is likely that people with Matros surname moved there seeking employment. Bydgoszcz, Łódź, Lublin, Wrocław are large cities where people seeking employment might have moved to, so it is unlikely that the name originated in those provinces.

Many Polish immigrants that settled in southern Morrison County came from the Opole area in Silesia. This fact, plus the surname distribution indicated below leads me to believe that Frank Matros also came from that area.

**Map at right:  
Distribution of the  
MATROS 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.





## The *Opatz* Surname in America

By Robert Prokott

In looking at records from the Falkowitz (now Falkowice) parish in Poland we found this name was originally spelled OPAC. Records later showed the name as OPACZ and OPPATZ but in most records after 1820 the name is OPATZ. All persons named Opatz in America are descendants of Thomas Opatz and Mary Krystosek who spent their lives in the small Upper Silesian village of Dombrowka (Dąbrówka). It is located about 30 kilometers north of the city of Opole, Poland. Dombrowka is within the Falkowitz parish. Thomas, fifth in a family of nine children born to Valentin Opatz and Hedwig Neuman, was born on 18 December 1815. On 15 January 1844 he married Josepha Kubitzki, age 18, the widow of Joseph Barton. She had married Barton on 12 June 1842 and he died shortly after their marriage. Thomas and Josepha had three children prior to her death on 29 March 1852. Thomas then married Hedwig Krystosek on 1 February 1853. Their first five children, Thomas, Alex, John, Stephen and Maria, eventually migrated to America and any person bearing the Opatz surname and living in America is a descendant of those four oldest sons.

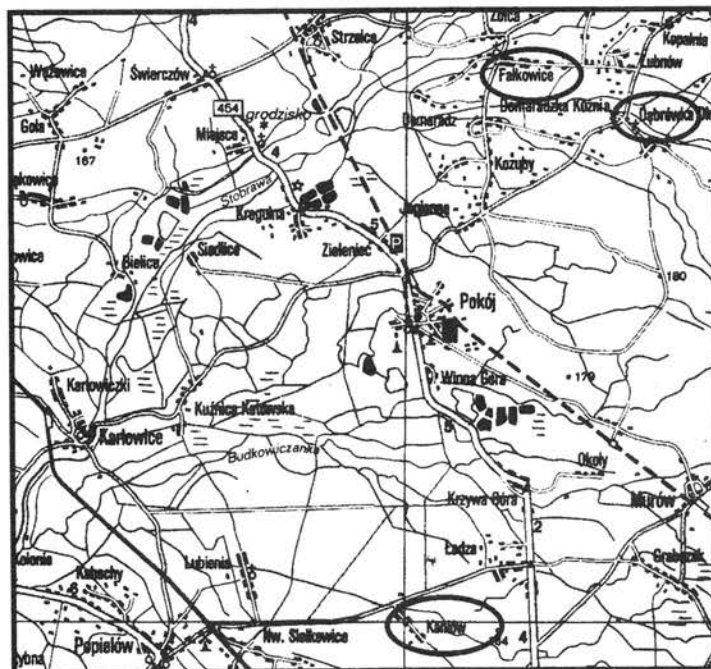
Thomas Opatz, born 19 December 1854, stated on his application for naturalization that he landed in the port of New York on or about May of 1881. He presumably then went to the vicinity of North Prairie, MN, in southern Morrison County, to join other settlers from Upper Silesia who had first come to this area in 1870. He married Elizabeth Prokott at North Prairie, MN on 26 November 1883. She came to America in November, 1881 with her widowed mother and brother, Peter, from the small village of Hirschfelde (now Kaniów), located about 15 kilometers northwest of Opole. Thomas and Elizabeth had a total of 12 children who were born between 1884 and 1900. They farmed in the vicinity of Opole, MN until 1921, then retired and lived in the village of Bowlus. Both died at St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls, Thomas on 10 August 1927 and Elizabeth on 14 January 1946. Elizabeth lived with her bachelor son, Peter, after the death of her husband. Peter was known in Bowlus as "Pepsi Cola Pete."

Alex Opatz, born 9 July 1857, stated on his application for citizenship, dated November, 1892, that he landed at the port of Montreal in April, 1888. How long he remained in Canada is not known. He was married to Gertrude Bieniek, daughter of Victor Bieniek and Pauline Yaeger, at Opole, Mn. on 15 July 1895. Shortly after that they moved to a farm located 2 miles north of Bowlus and remained there until Alex

died suddenly on 25 June 1936, probably from a heart attack. Gertrude later moved into the village of Bowlus where she passed away on 26 June 1955. George, the youngest of their 13 children, continues to live on the same farm that has been in the family for over 100 years. Gertrude Whittemore, now 88 years of age, is the only other living offspring.

John Opatz, born 12 December 1859, sailed from Hamburg and arrived at the port of New York aboard the ship MORAVIA on 6 May 1884. On 10 October 1887 he married Catherine Gamroth at Opole, MN. She was a daughter of Jacob Gamroth and Elizabeth Kamla. They farmed near Opole, MN and had a total of 11 children, born between 1888 and 1908. The youngest child, Anna, died in infancy and son, Thomas, age 16, died during the flu epidemic in November 1918. The other children lived to adulthood but are now deceased. John died on 28 December 1933 and Catherine (Kate) on 16 September 1942.

Maria Opatz, born 16 July 1862, married Victor Wochnick, son of Alexander Wochnik and Francizka Jendro, on 3 June 1890 in Falkowitz (now Falkowice). They had five children while living in Dombrowka, and three more children born in Stearns County after the family came to America in 1900. Victor died on 17 December 1937 and Maria (Mary) on 19 September 1939. The youngest daughter, Barbara Wochnick Lamusga, is the only surviving offspring and lives in Edina, MN.



Villages circled are: Falkowice, the location of the parish church of the Opatz family; Dąbrówka, their village of origin; and Kaniów, the village of origin of Elizabeth Prokott. Map Source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy* [Poland: Road Atlas], 172.

Stephen Opatz, born 15 December 1864, married Christina Kampa, daughter of Michael Kampa, at Falkowitz (now Falkowice) on 18 April 1893. They had four children in Dombrowka, including Sophie, who was only 2-3 months old when she died on the ship when the family was coming to America in 1900. Six more children were born in Stearns County between 1903 and 1914. Both the Stephan Opatz family and the Victor Wochnick family came to America on the same ship, the FUERST BISMARCK, which arrived in the port of New York on or about 1 October 1900 (as indicated on Stephen's application for citizenship dated 17 September 1906). Stephen and his wife farmed near St. Wendel, MN after coming to America. He died suddenly of a heart attack while at the home of a neighbor, Peter Lempart, on 15 March 1938. Christine died at home of a heart ailment on 27 June 1940. Their youngest son, George, lives in North Dakota and is their only surviving child.

Other children in the family of Thomas Opatz and Hedwig Krystosek were Philip, born 23 May 1867; Hedwig, born 1 October 1869; Anton, born 21 December 1871; and Anna, born 14 July 1875. Anton and Anna died in infancy and Hedwig married Franz Bieniosek at on 4 June 1895 in Falkowitz. Records about Philip other than the birth record have not been located.

We have documented over 2200 descendants of Thomas Opatz and our research is still far from complete. The great majority of descendants in the Opatz family continue to reside in Minnesota but some have migrated to other parts of the U.S., living in various states including California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Oregon, North Dakota, and Texas. While all who came to America were farmers, most descendants now are working in areas other than agriculture, including a Minnesota State Representative and a professional basketball player. Barbering also has been a popular occupation in the Opatz family for approximately 70 years with Opatz barbers being located in Little Falls, Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud, MN.

### *And a Postscript:*

**Adeline Sobiech Opatz** of Sauk Rapids MN recently celebrated her 100th birthday. She was born on 15 December 1900 near North Prairie MN, the daughter of Stephen Sobiech and Elizabeth Trutwin. On 16 September 1923, she married Simon Opatz, son of Alexander Opatz and Gertrude Bieniek. Sam was a barber in Sauk Rapids prior to his death on 11 November 1974. Adeline has 38 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.

## *Descendants of Thomas Opatz*

### *Generation No. 1*

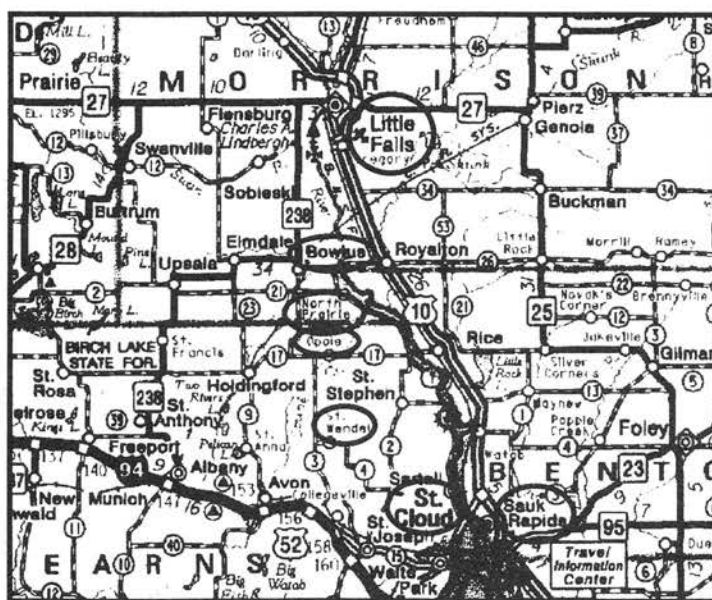
THOMAS OPATZ was born 18 December 1815 in Dombrowka, Prussia. He married (1) JOSEPHA KUBITZKI on 14 January 1844 in Falkowitz, Prussia., daughter of MATHEUS KUBITZKI. He married (2) HEDWIG KRSTOSEK on 1 February 1853 in Falkowitz, Prussia, daughter of MATHIAS KRSTOSEK and MARIA SIKULUS.

Children of THOMAS OPATZ and JOSEPHA KUBITZKI are:

1. FRANCISKA OPATZ, b. 11 September 1846, Dombrowka Prussia; m. VALENTIN WEIDEL, 12 November 1872, Falkowitz, Prussia.
2. JACOB OPATZ, b. 17 July 1849, Dombrowka, Prussia.
3. ANTON OPATZ, b. 12 January 1852, Dombrowka, Prussia; d. 24 March 1852, Dombrowka, Prussia.

Children of THOMAS OPATZ and HEDWIG KRSTOSEK are:

4. THOMAS OPATZ, b. 19 December 1854, Dombrowka, Prussia; d. 10 August 1927, Little Falls, MN
5. ALEXANDER OPATZ, b. 9 July 1857, Dombrowka, Prussia; d. 25 June 1936, Morrison County, MN
6. JOHANN OPATZ, b. 12 December 1859, Dombrowka, Prussia; d. 28 December 1933, St. Cloud, MN
7. MARIA OPATZ, b. 16 July 1862, Dombrowka, Prussia; d. 19 September 1939, Stearns County, MN
8. STEPHEN OPATZ, b. 15 December 1864, Dombrowka, Prussia; d. 15 March 1938, Stearns County, MN
9. PHILLIP OPATZ, b. 23 May 1867, Dombrowka, Prussia.
10. HEDWIG OPATZ, b. 1 October 1869, Dombrowka, Prussia; m. FRANZ BIENIOSEK, 4 June 1895, Falkowitz, Prussia.
11. ANTON OPATZ, b. 21 December 1871, Dombrowka, Prussia; d. 1 May 1877, Dombrowka, Prussia.
12. ANNA OPATZ, b. 14 July 1875, Dombrowka, Prussia; d. 20 May 1877, Dombrowka, Prussia.



Places circled are mentioned in the article and are associated with the decendents of Thomas Opatz and Hedwig Krystosek. Map source: 1997-1998 Official Highway Map of Minnesota.



## LIBRARY CORNER

### Prussian Catholics:

Marianne Stanke, *Katholische Kirchenbücher in Ost- und Westpreußen (Stand 1999)* [Catholic Parish Registers in East and West Prussia: Status as of 1999]. Bonn: Author, 2000. 66 pp. DM 22.

Marianne Stanke, *Collegium Marianum in Pelplin: Schülerverzeichnis 1858-1920* [Collegium Marianum in Pelplin: List of Students, 1858-1920]. Bonn: Author, 1999. 277 pp. DM 30.

Reviewed by **Ed Brandt**

Stanke, who lived in Gdańsk until 1989, is bilingual in Polish and German. She recently published two important books which are useful for all who have Catholic ancestors from West or East Prussia (as these provinces existed prior to the finalization of arrangements following the Treaty of Versailles), regardless of the ethnic identity or primary language of those ancestors. Since most of the Catholics in West Prussia and in southwestern East Prussia (excluding historic Warmia) were Poles, these books are especially useful for researching Polish ancestors.

The list of parish registers for the dioceses of Danzig-Gdańsk, Warmia [German: Ermland], and Kulm/Chełmno is easy to use, since the format is quite similar to those of the inventories of registers in Leipzig and Berlin. Stanke's inventory includes those registers which are currently still in the local parish office or in Polish archives. It also includes those registers in the German Catholic Archives in Regensburg (Central Archives for eastern registers) and in Münster (limited to Warmia, i.e., central and northwestern East Prussia), for which no inventories have been published.

Wolfgang Eger's two-volume inventory of German military parish registers includes all military parish registers now in Germany. A leaflet inserted in Stanke's book includes the specifically Catholic military registers for East and West Prussia in the *Kirchliche Archiv des Katholischen Militärbischofsamt*, which recently moved from Bonn to Weidendamm 2, D-10117 Berlin, and apparently some others which may be in Poland, but not the non-denominational registers for units in which many Poles served.

The bishopric of Warmia approximates interwar East Prussia--including the eastern part of pre-1919 West Prussia. The bishopric of Gdańsk approximates the territory of the interwar Free State of Danzig. The

bishopric of Chełmno approximates the rest of West Prussia including the Polish Corridor to the Sea. Also included are three registers for Schochau (Człuchów) County, but none for the other two southwestern counties which remained part of Germany, because they belonged to a different diocese.

As you might expect, the largest number of entries are for the diocese of Chełmno and the least for Gdańsk.

Each parish is listed alphabetically by its German name and the county in which it had been located, separately for each diocese, with the Polish name below it in parentheses. There is an alphabetical index in Polish at the end of the book, organized by diocese. In the case of cities, the place is listed first and then the name of the church.

Column a) lists baptisms and births; b) lists marriages; and c) burials. Underneath each the years are listed, along with the location, which can be identified by the list of abbreviations (*Abkürzungen*) after the German and Polish tables of contents. I have prepared an English translation of the abbreviations (but not of the archival addresses).

Also noted are those registers which are known to have been destroyed, those which are missing, or those which have disappeared (implying they are known to have survived World War II). Stanke also mentions registers which have been filmed by the Family History Library, but for which she has no further information. Among these, I presume, are those registers in Regensburg which were formerly at the Prussian State Privy Archives in Berlin.

(By the way, Stanke is in the process of preparing a similar inventory of Evangelical parish registers in East and West Prussia. Most of the Poles in East Prussia were Protestants. While most of the Poles in West Prussia retained their Polish (or Kashubian) self-identity, most of those in East Prussia eventually became assimilated--although not necessarily by the time of overseas emigration.)

The book, listing students at the Catholic classical "high school" in Pelplin is in German, but only a relatively modest number of terms need to be translated and the itemization of contents which follows may well be all you need in most cases.

It is much more than just a list. The numbers following the alphabetized (by surname) list represent:



## BOOK REVIEWS

1. Day and year of entry into the school
2. Number in the list of students (presumably as entered in school records, since it is neither alphabetical nor chronological)
3. Place and county of birth, plus age or date of birth
4. Home residence
5. Name and occupation of the father or guardian
6. Maiden name of the mother
7. Grade to which they were admitted (V, VI, or VII in most cases, presumably because the non-specialized German elementary school usually covers the first four grades)
8. Completion of previous schooling (a lower grade and earlier date)
9. Comments

This wonderful genealogical tool is not quite as great as this sounds--not all of the data is provided for all students. The omissions still leave plenty of room for excitement if you have a male ancestor with a classical education.

While most of the students seem to have come from throughout all parts of West Prussia, some came from Warmia (central East Prussia), Pomerania, Silesia, Greater Poland (apparently meaning Posen/Poznan in this case, although an occasional entry indicates residence in areas outside the German Empire) and even Berlin. I did not see any entries for students from the heavily Catholic southwestern corner of East Prussia, which does not preclude the possibility that there may be a few. There are data on 4,119 students.

You cannot judge the proportion of Polish and German students accurately from the names, because many self-identified Poles bore surnames of German origin, and vice versa. But it seems apparent that a majority of the students were Poles.

The text does not use Polish diacritical marks, but the last page lists the proper Polish spelling with reference to the number. Just preceding this is an index of the listed maiden names of mothers, including the Polish -a ending (which is not applicable to all names). Since an "a" does not replace an "i" in all cases where it would be applicable, one can guess that where the -i ending is used, the mother (or family) might have been self-identified Germans, because Germans did not use the Polish feminine ending, even if they had names of Polish origin.

The first name can also be helpful, since many

names are rendered as they are in Polish or German (frequently different).

By the way, Stanke published a two-part article, "Verzeichnis der Schuler des Bischöflichen Knaben-Erziehungs-Instituts zu Pelplin/Westpreußen von 1836 bis 1858" [List of Students of the Bishop's Boys Educational Institute at Pelplin, West Prussia, from 1836 to 1858], in the *Ostdeutsche Familienhunde* in 1996. (This periodical is in the Germanic Genealogy Society Collection at Concordia University, St. Paul, but these holdings are not on the Concordia computer. While many earlier volumes are bound and shelved with the books in the Reference Room, those for more recent years are placed in boxes as loose individual issues. These boxes are in the very northwestern part of the Reference Library, near the two GGS file cabinets.)

The Pelplin school, founded by the bishop of Kulm/Chełmno in 1836, was elevated to a Progymnasium in 1858, although it remained a school for boys. The earlier list includes similar, but somewhat less comprehensive, vital data. After 1858, the school curriculum emphasized languages above all: Latin, Greek, German, Polish and French.

In the interest of inter-ethnic sharing, all periodicals are welcome to reprint this review, with credit to the original periodical (this version in the *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* differs somewhat from the one in the *Germanic Genealogy Journal*).

I have ordered some copies of both of Stanke's books, which will be sold on a first come, first served basis and am willing to order additional books for the time being, but my health is such that I don't know how much longer I will be able to do so. The cost of each book, including shipping, will not exceed \$20-\$25, barring a drastic unfavorable change in the dollar-mark ratio. Write me at 13 - 27th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414-31017.

*Editor's note: Edward R. Brandt, Ph.D. is a co-founder of PGS-MN and a frequent contributor to the PGS-MN Newsletter, the Germanic Genealogy Journal, and to other genealogical periodicals.*

*We have reserved one copy of each of the two books reviewed above for inclusion in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. We will let you know when they are available.*

## A Return To The Homeland Of My Ancestors

By Lou Kruchowski

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The LOT-Poland Tour gathered at St. Paul/Minneapolis Airport on September 14, 2000. We picked up additional tour members at Chicago Airport and boarded LOT Airlines and then we were off to Warsaw, Poland. We arrived in Warsaw on the 15th and were met at the airport by our driver and our English-speaking guide, Tomasz. We visited Eastern and Southern Poland and arrived in Wrocław on September 24th for a 3-day stay. I had previously arranged for a driver for Tuesday, the 25th, to visit the Opole area--the origin of my maternal and paternal grandparents.

After a wonderful breakfast at the Art Hotel, my daughter and I meet our taxi-driver, Piotr Czapski, in the hotel lobby. Piotr was an excellent guide and was proficient in English. After introductions, we left and drove to Kiełczów, Oleśnica, Wilków, Namysłów and then saw a roadside sign to Damaszwice and decided to explore. We stopped at the local church and spoke with the Associate Pastor. He asked us into the office and showed us the parish records. In the records, we found a WARZECHA which was my mother's maiden name. The names in this family were: Stanislaus, Elisabet, Krzysztof and Natalie. The family lived in the village of Wierzbica Górna, House No. 123. After taking pictures of the church and area we drove to a near-by cemetery. We stopped to take pictures of headstones and graves, which were entirely covered with flowers and plants of all kinds. This was a new cemetery with all new headstones. We drove back to the Village Hall, and were informed their records go back only 60 years.

After receiving directions, we followed a dirt road out to the country, and found House No. 123, which was a tile house with block and wooden out-buildings. Mr. Warzecha was not at home, but a neighbor lady informed us that he was working "out in the forest." She directed us to a dirt country road, which became a wagon trail, and then an impassable logging road. After parking the taxi, we walked about one block along a muddy trail into a forest of tall beautiful pine trees and a smell of mushrooms. We were met by a man in uniform, evidently the foreman, who informed us that Mr. Warzecha was not here, but working in another location. The foreman informed Piotr that this was a controlled harvest of pines and a permit was required to cut trees. It was close to lunch time, so we

drove back to No. 123 to await Mr. Warzecha's return. We waited about 20 minutes, but because we were pressed for time, we could wait no longer. From the neighbor lady, we got his phone number and Piotr said he would call him later.

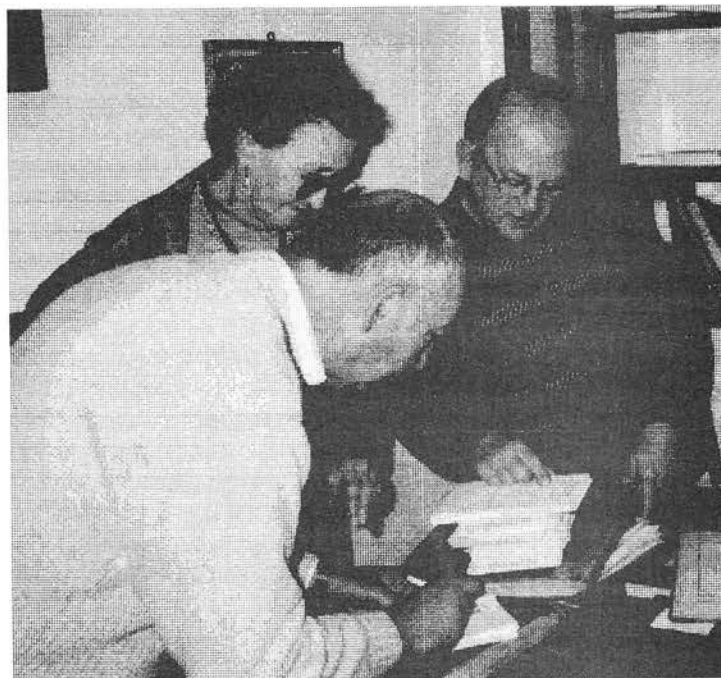
We continued on toward Opole and after a few miles, stopped at a Church (St. George, built in 1897). Piotr talked to workmen in front of the church and they said there was a Warzecha family living in the area. But we needed to continue on toward Opole. As we approached the village of Czarnowey, we saw a beautiful old all-wooden Church and had to stop for photos. As my daughter took pictures of the church, I wandered around the cemetery and read inscriptions on old headstones. I came upon a very old, weather-beaten stone on a grave-site which was completely over grown with weeds and brush. We took pictures of the head stone and grave and hand copied the inscription:

### WARZECHA

ALBERT	BARBARA
23-4-1840	15-12-1840
15-2-1914	26-10-1932

LET US STAY HERE FOR ALL TIME  
(Translated by Piotr)

We spoke to an older man who was also visiting there and he told us that this was St. Anne's Church and it was over 300 years old.



Researching at the parish office in Domaszowice



**The parish church at Domaszowice**

After arriving in Opole, we went to the Office of Documents. Records are kept there, but we were told that I would need exact names and birth dates of any relatives I was researching. It was suggested that we go to the Diocesan Office in town for all the Catholic records. At the diocesan office, we were told that St. Stanislaus Church in Dammaratsch, my maternal grandparents' village, had burned and was destroyed in 1925. A new church was built but he did not know the location or if it was under a new name. We had lunch at a local restaurant—coffee, a great omelet with potatoes, onions, and mushrooms and dark bread.

I also have an interest is PHILIPSEK. It was my father's name which he Americanized to Phillips. Before I left on this trip, I was in contact with relatives on my father's side, and was told they believed that the Philipseks had immigrated from Mechnitz (the name of the village in 1882) and perhaps now Mechine in present day Poland. We left Opole and headed west

across the Mlynowka River which flows into the Odra. Piotr told us of the high waters of the Odra in 1997 and that much of the area was completely flooded.

We drove through Wrzoski, then a left to Chroscina Opolskiej. We stooped because the church here was so interesting looking. The priest had gone to Zakopane for a week, but the housekeeper unlocked the church and allowed us take pictures. She said the church was from the 17th century; the wooden alter was beautiful.

The church was celebrating the Harvest Festival and in front of the altar were sacks of potatoes, apples, pumpkins, walnuts, corn and other farm products. There was even a nest of eggs with real (but not alive) chicks, hen and rooster. Each pew was decorated with a cob of corn entwined with greenery. Outside we saw the portal of the original church and a granite slab with a listing of men lost in the 1914-1918 war We took many pictures, thanked the housekeeper and left her a donation for the church.

It was getting late in the afternoon, so we headed back to Wrocław to meet our group for 7 P.M. dinner. We drove along Super Highway A-4 which goes between Berlin and Russia. It is not completed but, our driver said that it had been built very rapidly. The land was purchased from private owners, pines had to be cut and land cleared. The highway will intersect a new highway from Gdansk to Rome.

Our driver, Piotr has been driving taxi for 15 years and he was extremely knowledgeable about Poland's history, its present problems and hopes for the future. He was 5 years old when Germany invaded and has memories of what happened in his parent's home. Everyone was asked, "Are you a Jew?" and your fate was determined by your answer. I came on this tour basically to see my ancestors homeland and came back home very impressed with the people of Poland, their friendliness, how they have survived invasions from all sides and how they have re-built after World War II.





## *Searching for Rys in Poland:* A Practical Guide For Achieving Genealogical Results

by John L. Rys

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In September of 2000 Judy, my wife, and I set out for Poland to add to the RYS Polish family tree (website: <www.isd.net/mmmpc665>). The primary trip objective was to visit the villages of my grandparents and to find the baptismal record for my namesake grandfather, Jan Rys, born in 1857. I had baptismal records for my other three Polish grandparents. Baptismal records from that time frame are valuable because they identify the parents and grandparents of the baptized person. I needed that information to complete my genealogy records for four levels of ancestors.

We had the good fortune of locating a Polish speaking professional genealogy-searcher-translator-guide with a car. We found Iwona Dakiniewicz <genealogy@pro.onet.pl> through the *Bulletin of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*. Stan Schmidt had just finished a trip to Poland in 1999 and recommended her in a written note in the *Bulletin*. This started a series of E-mail messages back and forth with Iwona and it resulted in scheduling four days with her in southern Poland in September of 2000. All arrangements were made by E-mail without using the telephone (expensive rates) or the regular mail (time delays).

The search seemed to be straight forward, since I had the birth date of my grandfather as July 3, 1957. The village location was probably one of four villages just south of Krakow and west of Rabka. All my grandparents were from the villages of **Spytkowice**, **Toporzysko**, **Jordanow** and **Wysoka**. Before we arrived, Iwona had telephoned the churches in those villages and made appointments to search the records.

The search process consisted of Iwona searching the records and making hand written notes from any entry that looked like it had relevance to the names we were searching for. These notes were E-mailed to me after they were put into a word processing system. I also made some handwritten notes. Copy machines are not available and besides, the church records are written into very large sized bound books.

In addition to the written notes, I wanted to have a visual record of some of the information. As equipment, I brought along a Sony video camera (camcorder). I tested the close-up capabilities at home and found I could focus very well on printed documents including fine print. So during the search process I used the Sony camcorder to record some of the searching, the resulting records, and spoken comments including name pronunciations. The advantage of the camcorder is that it does not require extra lighting or a flash. Normal camera flashes have a degrading effect on older documents and flashes are generally not allowed in museums or archives. The camcorder worked very well even in low lighting. I now can review the written notes with the visual and spoken discussion at the time of finding the record.

Our search began in Toporzysko because of parish scheduling. This was fortuitous because my grandfather, Jan Rys, was born in that village and within one hour Iwona had located my grandfather's baptismal/birth record. The date I had was one day off, but that was a small matter. An unanticipated bonus with birth/baptismal records from that time is, the home address is also recorded. This is of great assistance to genealogy searching because it is a piece of information that may help confirm search results. It also means you can scan the record books for family activity by home address.

My grandfather's baptismal record included the basic home address as 129 Toporzysko. This address showed up on subsequent family records confirming the address as our original home. The parish priest was very helpful in locating the former address of 129. We found the original dwelling, which was now a storage building for farm supplies used by a family living in a new residence on the property. Iwona sought permission for us to enter the dwelling to look around. The "ultimate thrill" was when we were able to purchase the key, (a large seven inch long skeleton key) for the door of the old dwelling, as a memento of the family homestead. This was truly a moving moment and gains emotional impact as I continue to think about it and view the tapes with my sisters.

I had achieved my primary objective and more on the first day. Now we could do some additional searching with the goal of expanding the genealogy chart to the fifth generation level. The next few days were packed with other discoveries of relatives and generations, including a distant great-grandmother, Regina Koscielniaczki, (a name as long as her age) who according to her death record lived to be 100 years old (1726-1826). (See Ancestor Chart on page 22).

## From our experiences the following suggestions are offered as practical aids.

1) Do all you can to identify the general location of the relevant villages. Knowing the villages of your Polish ancestors is the biggest help. Identify any approximate dates and names. Any type of family information is a clue. Contact relatives who might know them. Write this information down and save it.

2) If you make a trip to Poland, hire a guide/translator to help you, especially if you do not speak/read fluent Polish. The best choice is someone knowledgeable in searching church records. Pre-scheduling with churches makes searching more efficient and is helpful in gaining the cooperation of the priests.

3) Leave a "searching fee" with the parish priest. We left a suitable amount (around \$100) with the parish priests for all their helpful cooperation, especially in Toporzysko where the priest took us to the original Rys home site.

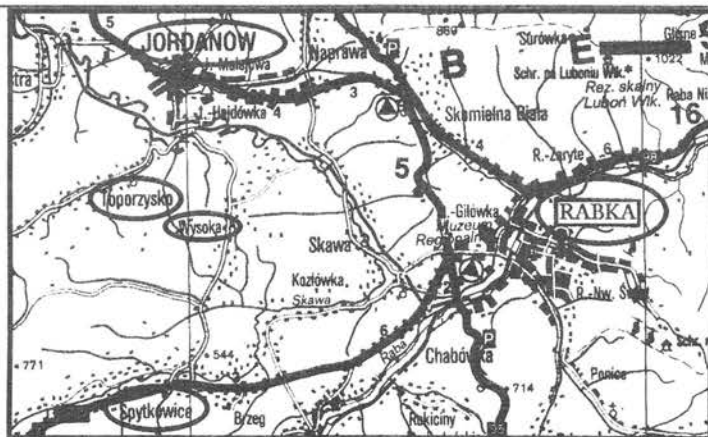
4) Prepare a list of objectives before you leave, but be flexible when you arrive. Have specific goals and some idea of how you will achieve these goals.

5) Purchase and review a copy of the book *Polish Records of the Roman Catholic Church; Their Use and Understanding in Genealogical Research* by Gerald A. Ortell, 1996 (This book is available from the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota).

6) Consider a video camcorder. I recorded the information using a Sony Digital Video Camera (model DCR-TRV103). It focused well even in rooms with low background lighting and the handwriting is quite readable when viewing the tapes. The beauty of using the video camera was the ability to record the spoken comments about the records while we were searching. This was helpful and useful for getting the Polish pronunciation of the names and cities. Another advantage is that my two sisters, who did not make the trip with me, can now view the tapes and feel that they were part of the actual search process.

7) Bring many pre-labeled tapes for the cam-corder. I brought 10 tapes and pre-labeled them for the cities and villages we visited. Use a separate tape for each village. This saves later confusion and keeps records categorized by village or city.

8) Get a large battery for the camcorder with a capacity of at least eight hours and some type of backup battery. Bring a camcorder battery recharger for use in the evening. I used a AMBICO brand recharger for the Sony Lithium batteries.



Jordanów, Toporzysko, Wysoka and Spytkowice are located just west of Rabka. Rabka is located about 50 km. south of Kraków. Map source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy*, [Poland: Road Atlas], p. 222. A copy of this 1:200,000 scale atlas is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

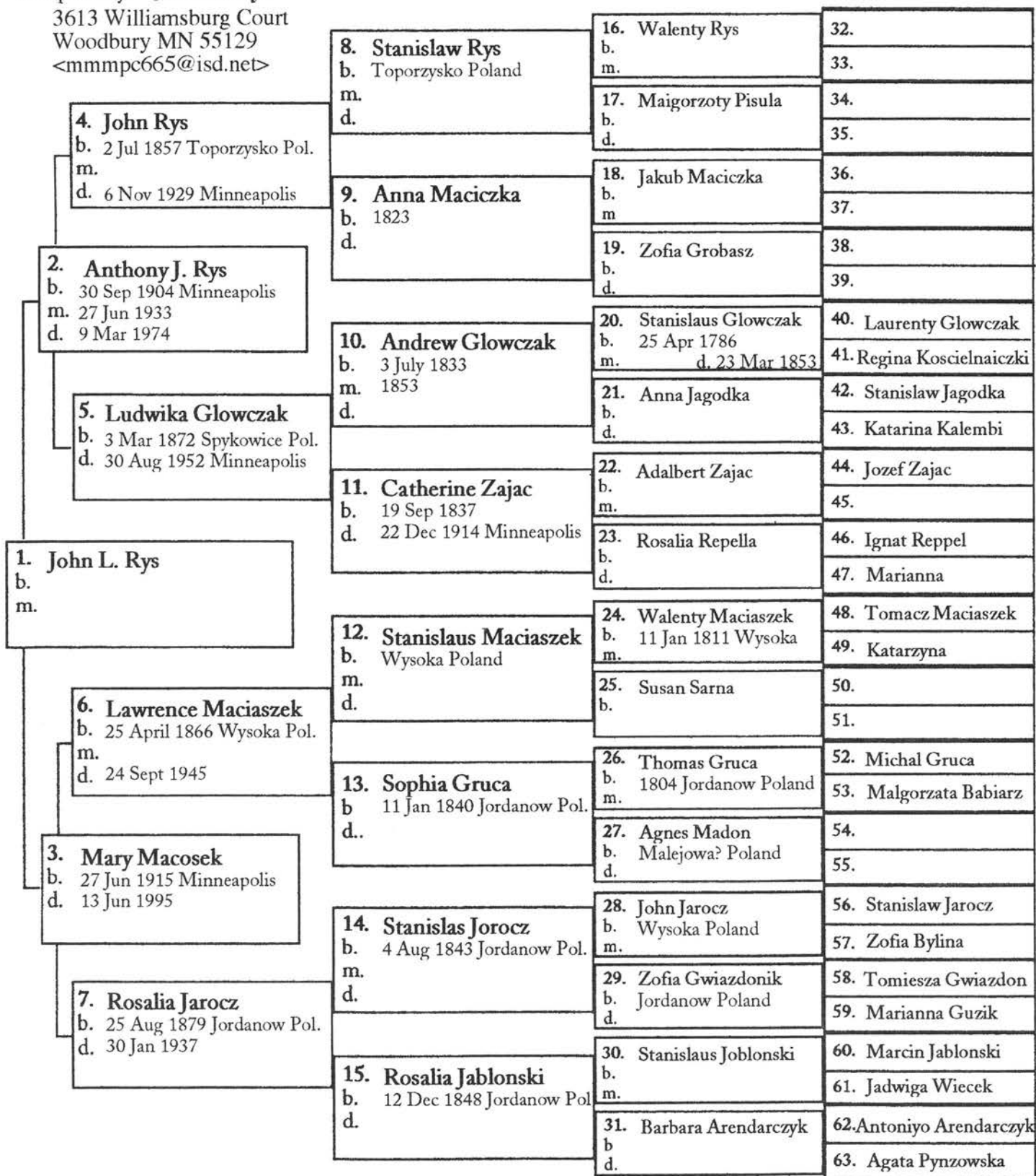
9) Buying the right power adapter and converter/transformer for the recharger was a real test of perseverance. Poland uses 220 volts and 50-cycle frequency. The U.S. appliances run at 120 volts and 60-cycle frequency. A simple adapter allows you to plug the converter into the electrical outlet in the wall. According to my reading: a) use a converter with electric appliances such as hair dryers, and b) use a transformer with electronic items such as computers and rechargers. The problem is that manufacturers use the term "converter" in a generic sense and this causes confusion. Also some converters or transformers are designed for non-continuous use and for certain wattages. Radio Shack has one that worked well. It was a adapter/converter-transformer (Model 273-1426) designed to operate for electronic equipment up to 85 watts and was for continuous use so I could leave it on at night. This converter with adapter worked well in a hotel in a small city like Rabka. A few places like the Marriott Hotel in Warsaw have pre-converted electrical outlets in their hotel rooms, which do not require any converter or transformer for American appliances.

**SUMMARY.** This trip was a huge success in achieving our defined goals and it was a very fulfilling experience in touching the past and understanding our grandparents. The use of a professional searcher/translator saved us untold time and money and provided us with information and memories beyond our wildest imaginations. We feel very fortunate and realize that this is not always the case, but it worked for us. The use of a video camcorder helps to preserve those exciting moments of discovery and I am enjoying them over and over again with other relatives. The major success of this adventure is due to our Polish friend Iwona Dakiniewicz.

# Ancestor Chart

compiled by: John L. Rys

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## PGS-MN NEWSLETTER

### Surname Indexing Project--Volume 4

*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 Four, Nos. 1-4: Spring 1996, Summer 1996, Autumn 1996, and Winter 1996-7. 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, 3 and 4 are available from the editor of this newsletter for \$3.00 per issue.*

#### A

- Afelski 4:3:11  
 Afelskie 4:4:06  
 Ahern, Catherine 4:3:08  
 Ahern, Garrett 4:3:08  
 Allison, Brent 4:1:10  
 Anderson, Eleonore Wasowicz 4:2:13  
 Anderson, Karen M. 4:1:11  
 Anderson, Rita Kasowski 4:4:14  
 Andrejewski, John 4:3:07  
 Andrzejek, Martin 4:2:10  
 Andrzejek, S.A. 4:3:08  
 Andrzejek, Stanley 4:3:09  
 Andrzejek, Walter 4:3:09  
 Anzelc, Patrick 4:2:07; 4:3:01,03
- #### B
- Baerman, Mrs. Carol 4:1:07  
 Baranowski 4:3:11  
 Baranowski, Adalbert 4:2:10  
 Baron 4:4:09  
 Bartkowiak 4:2:13; 4:3:11  
 Barton 4:4:09  
 Bartosiewicz, Constantine 4:2:10  
 Bartoszewicz, Heien 4:2:09  
 Bartoszewicz, Konstanty 4:2:09  
 Becker, Henrius 4:3:09  
 Bednarek, J. 4:2:08  
 Bednarek, Peter 4:2:08,09  
 Bednarek, Piotr 4:2:10  
 Behnke, Augusti 4:3:09  
 Benusa 4:4:09  
 Berczyk, Charles 4:1:11  
 Berczyk, Joseph 4:1:11  
 Berg, Dorlores M. 4:1:11  
 Berzinski 4:2:12  
 Betker 4:2:12  
 Bielawny 4:4:14  
 Bieniek 4:3:11; 4:4:09  
 Bieniek, Barbara 4:2:11  
 Bieniusa 4:4:09  
 Bienkowski 4:2:12  
 Biernat 4:2:13  
 Bieber, Michal 4:2:09  
 Binczik 4:2:13
- Bingham, Paul K. 4:2:12  
 Blanchard, Emman Josepham 4:3:09  
 Blaskewitch 4:2:13  
 Blaszak, Frank 4:2:10  
 Blaszyk 4:4:09  
 Blaszkowski, John 4:4:12  
 Blaszkowski, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Bloch, Julian 4:4:04  
 Bloch, Julyan 4:4:04,15  
 Block, Julian 4:4:04,15  
 Block, Martha 4:2:15  
 Block, Martha F. 4:2:12  
 Bobick 4:4:09  
 Bobik 4:4:09  
 Boczkaj 4:2:12  
 Bodus 4:3:15  
 Bogatski 4:2:13  
 Bogus 4:2:12  
 Bogusz, Andrew 4:2:12  
 Boike 4:4:15  
 Bolek, Father Franciszek 4:1:07  
 Bona 4:2:13  
 Bonczek, Frank 4:2:09  
 Bonna, Thomas G. 4:4:14  
 Borasch 4:4:09  
 Borash 4:4:09  
 Boros 4:4:09  
 Borucki 4:3:11  
 Borutskie 4:4:06  
 Boryczka 4:2:12  
 Boska 4:4:12  
 Bouwman LaVonne 4:3:10  
 Brandt, Dr. Edward R. 4:1:10  
 Brandt, Ed 4:1:03; 4:2:01,02,03,04; 4:3:03,05; 4:4:01,10  
 Brandt, Edward R. 4:1:09; 4:3:11  
 Brandt, Edward R., Ph.D., A.G. 4:4:03  
 Bratek, Jacob 4:2:13  
 Bratek, Lucille (Kowalik) 4:2:13  
 Braun 4:3:11  
 Brenny 4:4:09  
 Brescoll, Stanley 4:2:03  
 Brescoll, Stanley Jr. 4:1:10; 4:2:13
- Breza, Barbara 4:2:13  
 Breza, Elizabeth (Wicka) 4:2:13  
 Breza, Joseph 4:2:13  
 Brezinski 4:2:12  
 Brilowski 4:4:14  
 Brisk 4:2:12  
 Briske 4:2:12  
 Brock, Thomas 4:2:12  
 Broczkowski 4:2:12  
 Brosko 4:2:13  
 Bruell, John 4:1:11  
 Bruell, Susan 4:1:11  
 Bruski, Mary Ellen 4:2:13; 4:4:03,13  
 Brusy 4:4:09  
 Bryza 4:2:13  
 Brzeski 4:2:13  
 Buccholz 4:3:11  
 Budnik, J. 4:2:08  
 Budnik, Rosa 4:3:09  
 Budnikowski, Andrew 4:3:07,08  
 Buhl, John 4:1:11  
 Buhl, Susan 4:1:11  
 Bukoski, Tony 4:2:01  
 Bulowski 4:3:11  
 Bungarner, Pat 4:4:14  
 Burant 4:2:12; 4:4:12  
 Burczyk, John 4:2:10  
 Burse 4:4:09  
 Bzbok 4:4:09
- #### C
- Canute 4:2:16  
 Carlino, Therese Wilk 4:1:04; 4:3:04  
 Casimir III the Great 4:4:08  
 Cecz, Matilda 4:2:09  
 Cekalla 4:4:09  
 Cherchowski, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Cherubin 4:1:11  
 Chihanski, Frank 4:2:09  
 Chlophowiak, Joannes 4:2:09  
 Chlophowiak, Maryjana 4:3:08  
 Chlopkowiak, Andrew 4:2:10  
 Chlopkowiak, Margariata 4:2:09  
 Chlopkowiak, Michael 4:2:09  
 Chmiel 4:2:12  
 Chojnacki, Ludwig 4:2:10
- Christyniak 4:3:10  
 Chrobry, Boleslaw 4:2:16  
 Chrowski, Mary 4:2:09  
 Chrzan 4:2:13; 4:3:11  
 Chudzik, Peter 4:2:10  
 Cichon 4:4:09  
 Cichosz 4:2:12; 4:4:14  
 Cichy 4:4:09  
 Cierpisewski, Casimir 4:2:09  
 Cierpisewski, Casimer 4:2:10  
 Cierpisewski, Kazimisz 4:2:09  
 Cincebeaux, Helene 4:1:10  
 Citerman, Frank 4:2:10  
 Clemons, Marcee (Ross) 4:2:04  
 Cmiel 4:2:12  
 Cnut, King 4:2:16  
 Connolly, Shirley Mask 4:3:11; 4:4:01,03,06,12,13  
 Conwers, Jacob 4:3:09  
 Copa 4:4:14  
 Copa, Adeline 4:2:13  
 Copa, Adeline M. 4:3:04,16  
 Copeland, Justice Joseph Tarr 4:1:06  
 Cowles, John 4:1:11  
 Cowles, Judy 4:1:11  
 Cox, Mary 4:4:14  
 Coyne, Karen 4:4:14  
 Cyman, Valentine 4:2:10  
 Cysewski, Helena 4:2:12  
 Cysewski, Lucille 4:2:12  
 Cysewski, Mr. 4:2:12  
 Cysewski, Mrs. Franciszka 4:2:12  
 Czaikowski, Alexander 4:3:09  
 Czapiewski 4:4:12  
 Czarobski, Ziggy 4:1:08  
 Czech 4:4:09,14  
 Czekala 4:4:09  
 Czop 4:4:15  
 Czubernat 4:4:15  
 Czwak 4:4:09
- #### D
- Dabek, Adalbert 4:2:08,10  
 Dabek, Jacob 4:2:10  
 Dabrowski, Father Joseph 4:1:05,06  
 Dabrowski, Stephan 4:2:10  
 Dambowy 4:3:11  
 Danielski 4:2:13

- Danielski, Florian 4:3:09  
 Danielski, Josephum 4:3:09  
 Datta 4:3:11  
 Davidson, H. Paul 4:3:03  
 Dec, Michael 4:1:02  
 Dec, Mr. 4:2:05  
 Dekaiser, Jules 4:3:10  
 Dekaiser, Mary 4:3:10  
 Demaree, Ethel 4:2:13  
 Dembinski, Kathleen 4:2:13;  
 4:4:03  
 Devos, Emil 4:3:10  
 Devos, Hattie 4:3:10  
 Devos, Helen 4:3:10  
 Devos, Phil 4:3:10  
 Dewing, Carolina 4:3:08  
 Dewing, Henry 4:3:08  
 Dietrich, Wilhelm Frederick  
 4:2:12  
 Dittberner, August 4:2:12  
 Dittberner, Karl 4:2:12  
 Dobkowski 4:2:13  
 Dobrenski, Rev. S.F. 4:3:08  
 Dobrinski, Frank 4:3:07  
 Dolney 4:4:15  
 Domagota, Mary 4:3:09  
 Domak, Michael 4:3:08  
 Dombek, Jacob 4:2:10  
 Dombovy 4:4:09  
 Dombowy 4:4:09  
 Dombrowski 4:3:10  
 Domek, Frank 4:2:10  
 Domek, Jerome 4:3:09  
 Donajkoska 4:1:11  
 Dorkowicz, Josepha 4:2:09  
 Doschka 4:4:09  
 Doska 4:4:09  
 Dowil, Anthony 4:2:10  
 Drabelina 4:3:11  
 Drabelis, Maryann (Huncha)  
 4:3:11  
 Drabelis, William 4:3:11  
 Drodzinski 4:4:14  
 Drubel 4:3:11  
 Dubiel 4:4:09  
 Duczmal 4:4:14  
 Dudek 4:2:13  
 Dudkiewicz, John 4:2:10  
 Dykas 4:2:12  
 Dzdzieic, Magdalena 4:3:10  
 Dzdzieiz, Magdalena 4:3:10  
 Dziabas 4:3:11  
 Dzieminski, Michaci 4:4:12  
 Dzierbicka, Agnes 4:2:09  
 Dziewior, Jacob 4:2:10
- Ε**
- Eakle, Dr. Arlene H. 4:1:10  
 Eames, Patricia 4:4:11  
 Eames, Patricia A. 4:1:10  
 Ebert 4:2:13  
 Edlund, Thomas Kent 4:1:10  
 Eichman 4:2:12  
 Ellingson, Irmgard Hein 4:3:03  
 Engeler 4:4:15  
 Erickson, Bonita A. 4:4:05,14
- Ζ**
- Fabian 4:4:09  
 Fautsch 4:4:09  
 Fautsh 4:3:10  
 Fehrman, Mary 4:4:14  
 Felcyn, Michael 4:2:08  
 Felcyn, Waurzyn 4:2:08  
 Fellows, Eugenie 4:2:12  
 Fels 4:4:14  
 Felski 4:2:13  
 Felzyn, Lawrence 4:2:10  
 Felzyn, Michael 4:2:10  
 Fier, Anton 4:3:07  
 Fier, Anton F. 4:3:08  
 Fier, Antonius 4:2:09  
 Fier, Carl 4:3:10  
 Fier, Frank 4:3:10  
 Fier, George 4:3:10  
 Fier, Hattie 4:3:10  
 Fier, Helen 4:3:10  
 Fier, Maria 4:3:08  
 Fier, Mary 4:3:10  
 Fier, Pauline 4:3:10  
 Fier, Valeria 4:3:10  
 Fier, Walter L. 4:3:08  
 Fijer, Antonius 4:3:08  
 Filip 4:4:09  
 Filla 4:4:09  
 Filosof 4:1:11  
 Filozof, John 4:1:11  
 Fisher 4:4:15  
 Fitting, Francine 4:4:13  
 Fitting, Francine Palubicki  
 4:3:11  
 Fitzgerald, Mrs. Veronica R.  
 4:2:12  
 Florek 4:4:15  
 Florek, Frances 4:1:11  
 Florek, Jacob 4:1:11  
 Florek, Joseph 4:1:11  
 Florek, Susan 4:1:11  
 Forkbeard, Swein 4:2:16  
 Frank 4:2:13  
 Franks, John M. 4:3:10; 4:4:14  
 Frederick the Great 4:4:08  
 Frenczko, Martin 4:2:10  
 Frenski, Martin 4:2:08  
 Friske, George 4:2:09  
 Fritz, Alfred 4:4:03  
 Fritz, Ida 4:2:12  
 Fritz, Otto F.P. 4:2:12  
 Fussy 4:4:09
- Γ**
- Gacek 4:2:13  
 Gaida 4:4:09  
 Gallus 4:1:11; 4:4:09  
 Gamroth 4:4:09  
 Gaouette, Mrs. Clare Ann  
 4:1:09  
 Gardiner, Dr. Duncan B., C.G.  
 4:1:10  
 Gawarcki, Francis 4:3:08  
 Gawarcki, Francis 4:3:08  
 Gawarcki, Joannem 4:3:08  
 Gawarcki, John 4:3:08  
 Gawarcki, Suzanna 4:3:08  
 Gawarecki, Frank 4:3:07  
 Gawarecki, Ignace 4:3:07  
 Gawarecki, Ignatius 4:2:10  
 Gawarecki, J. 4:3:08  
 Gawarecki, Frank 4:3:08  
 Gawerecki Mary 4:3:08  
 Gaweriecki, Ignatius 4:3:08  
 Gawin 4:2:13  
 Gazda, Dr. Gregory 4:3:03  
 Gladis, Joseph 4:2:08  
 Gladys, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Glaydys, Maria 4:2:09  
 Glegola 4:2:13  
 Glemp, Jozef Cardinal 4:1:06  
 Gładysiewicz 4:1:11  
 Gmur 4:4:14  
 Gmyrek 4:4:09  
 Gocal, Marcia Jean 4:1:11  
 Gocal, Michael 4:1:11  
 Gocal, Millecent Marie 4:1:11  
 Gocal, Walter Raymond 4:1:11  
 Godzinska 4:3:11  
 Goga, Larry 4:1:10  
 Golata, A. 4:3:08  
 Golla 4:4:09  
 Golombecki 4:4:14  
 Gonia, John 4:2:08,09,10  
 Gordenier, Joan Marie 4:3:11  
 Gorecki, Jacob 4:2:04,08,10  
 Gorecki, Rose 4:2:04  
 Gorka 4:1:11  
 Gostomczyk 4:2:13  
 Grabowski 4:2:13  
 Graff, Geo. 4:3:08  
 Graniczna 4:4:15  
 Grell, Mrs. Rod 4:4:14  
 Grodzinska 4:3:11  
 Gruba 4:4:15  
 Grudnowski, Michael 4:4:12  
 Gruhot, Albert 4:3:07  
 Gruhot, Thomas 4:3:07  
 Gruska 4:2:12  
 Grusznski, Roger 4:4:14  
 Grzenia, Joseph 4:4:12  
 Grzybowski, Simon 4:2:10  
 Gumminga, Father Ted 4:2:02  
 Gustafson, Diana 4:4:03  
 Gustafson, Mary Jane  
 Sokolowski 4:3:06  
 Gusza, John 4:2:08  
 Guza, John 4:2:10  
 Guzicki 4:3:11
- Η**
- Hackert, Rev. Eugene 4:2:07  
 Hall, Jerry Lynn 4:2:13  
 Hamerski, Michael 4:2:10  
 Harmans 4:4:09  
 Harmanza 4:4:09  
 Hart, Leon 4:1:08  
 Hebish, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Helewski 4:2:13  
 Herdoba 4:3:11  
 Heston, Mary 4:3:02  
 Himka, John-Paul 4:4:11  
 Hınca, Joseph 4:4:12  
 Hinz, Joseph 4:4:12  
 Hobbs, Keren 4:1:10  
 Hodorowski 4:4:15  
 Hoffman, John 4:2:08,10  
 Hoffman, Stanislaus 4:2:08,10  
 Hoffman, William 4:3:13  
 Hoffman, William F. 4:3:03  
 Hommernik 4:4:12  
 Horsch, Abina T. 4:3:11  
 Hruska 4:2:12  
 Hudzik, Peter 4:2:10  
 Huller, John 4:3:08  
 Huncha, Maryann 4:3:11  
 Huncia 4:3:11  
 Hyla 4:4:09
- Ι**
- Ireland, Bishop John 4:2:08
- Ј**
- Jablonski, Roch 4:2:09  
 Jager, Father 4:3:08  
 Jager, Rev. Francis 4:3:07  
 Jagiełło, Władysław 4:3:06  
 Jagusch 4:4:09  
 Jakubiak 4:4:09  
 Jakubik 4:3:11  
 Jambor 4:4:09  
 Janek 4:4:09  
 Janesek 4:2:05  
 Janey 4:4:09  
 Janicek, Carolius 4:2:05  
 Janicek, Franciscum 4:2:05  
 Janicek, Joanne 4:2:05  
 Janicek, Marianna 4:2:05  
 Janicek, Vaslavas 4:2:05  
 Janikula 4:4:15  
 Janish 4:4:09  
 Janiszewski, Frank 4:2:08,10  
 Janiszewski, Matthew 4:2:01  
 Jankowski, Martin 4:2:08,10  
 Janowiak 4:2:13  
 Janski 4:4:09  
 Januczek 4:1:11; 4:2:05; 4:3:04  
 Januczek, Antonia 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Carolius 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Catherine 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Clara 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Felix 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Florence 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Franciscum 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Gertruda 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Joanne 4:3:10  
 Januczek, John 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Joseph 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Josepha 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Marcha 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Maria 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Marianna 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Mary 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Maryanna 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Pelagia 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Thomas 4:3:10  
 Januczek, Vaslavas 4:3:10  
 Janunich 4:1:11  
 Janusik 4:2:05  
 Janusik, Maria 4:2:09  
 Januszik 4:2:05  
 Jany 4:4:09  
 Jarczakovski 4:2:13  
 Jaroch 4:4:15  
 Jaros, Mike 4:4:14  
 Jarozynska-Kirchmann, Anna  
 D. 4:1:09  
 Jasinski 4:3:11  
 Jasinski, Casimir (Kazimierz)  
 4:3:06  
 Jasinski, Konstancja 4:3:06

- Jasinski, Lucille (Ludwika) Zanderowska 4:3:06  
 Jasinski, Stanislaus 4:2:08,10  
 Jasinski, Stephan 4:3:06  
 Jasińska, Kanstancja 4:3:06  
 Jaunich 4:1:11  
 Jazdazewski 4:4:12  
 Jazdiewski, Rev. Henry 4:2:09  
 Jazdzewski 4:2:13  
 Jed 4:3:11  
 Jedrysko 4:2:13  
 Jefferson, Thomas 4:4:02  
 Jendro 4:4:09,14  
 Jendrysek 4:4:09  
 Jereczek 4:4:12  
 Jerzak 4:3:11  
 Jerzak, Andrew 4:2:08,09  
 Jerzak, Francis 4:2:09  
 Jesionowski 4:2:13  
 Jesok 4:4:09  
 Jessesky 4:2:12  
 Jezak, Andrew 4:2:10  
 Jezak, Frank 4:2:10  
 Jezok 4:4:09  
 John Paul II, Pope 4:1:06  
 Johnson, Carol A. 4:2:12  
 Johnson, Carol 4:2:04  
 Jolkowska, Martha 4:4:06  
 Jolkowski, Albert 4:4:06  
 Jolkowski, Barbara 4:4:06  
 Jolkowski, Frances 4:4:06  
 Jolkowski, Frank 4:4:06  
 Jolkowski, Julianna 4:4:06  
 Jolkowski, Marianna 4:4:06  
 Jonietz 4:4:09  
 Jorek 4:4:09  
 Joyce, Betty 4:4:13  
 Joyce, Elizabeth 4:2:13  
 Junik, Jozefa 4:4:14  
 Junik, Michal 4:4:14  
 Jurek 4:4:09
- K**
- Kabat, Casimir 4:2:10  
 Kaczarowski John 4:2:10  
 Kaczmarczyk 4:2:13  
 Kaczmarek, Agnes 4:4:07,13  
 Kaczmarek, Elizabeth 4:4:13  
 Kaczmarek, Estelle 4:4:07  
 Kaczmarek, Ignatius 4:4:13  
 Kaczmarek, John 4:4:13  
 Kaczmarek, Joseph 4:4:13  
 Kaczmarek, Louis 4:4:07  
 Kaczmarek, Ludovicus 4:4:07  
 Kaczmarek, Mary 4:4:07  
 Kaczmarek, Michael 4:4:13  
 Kaczmarek, Stanislaus 4:4:06,07  
 Kaczmarek, Stanley 4:4:07,13  
 Kaczmarek, Victoria 4:4:13  
 Kacznowski, John Jr., 4:3:08  
 Kahn, Dr. Bruce E. 4:1:10  
 Kaizer 4:4:12  
 Kaldunski, Peter 4:4:12  
 Kalis 4:4:09  
 Kalisz, Catherine 4:3:10  
 Kalita 4:3:11  
 Kaluza 4:2:13  
 Kaluza, Rosa 4:2:11
- Kaminski 4:2:13  
 Kampa 4:2:13; 4:4:09  
 Kapoczynski, Albert 4:2:09  
 Karakow 4:4:14  
 Karasch 4:4:09  
 Karczmarz 4:4:14  
 Kam, Evelyn 4:2:13  
 Karoll 4:4:09  
 Kasella 4:4:09  
 Kasowski 4:4:14  
 Kasperek 4:4:09  
 Katowski, Ambrose 4:2:09  
 Katowski, Anastazy 4:2:09  
 Katzmark, Agnes 4:4:07,13  
 Katzmark, Ed 4:4:06,07,13  
 Katzmark, Elizabeth 4:4:13  
 Katzmark, Estelle 4:4:07  
 Katzmark, John 4:4:13  
 Katzmark, Joseph 4:4:13  
 Katzmark, Louis 4:4:07  
 Katzmark, Michael 4:4:13  
 Katzmark, Mrs. Stanley 4:4:06  
 Katzmark, Stanley 4:4:13  
 Katzmark, Victoria 4:4:13  
 Kazubski 4:2:13  
 Kiclijan 4:2:13  
 Kiser, Charleen 4:2:13  
 Kishel, Greg 4:1:02,03; 4:2:02; 4:3:02,03,05; 4:4:02,03,12,13  
 Kita, Terry 4:1:11; 4:4:03  
 Klarkowski 4:4:05  
 Klarkowski, Josef 4:4:14  
 Klarkowski, Marta Lamczyk 4:4:14  
 Klarkowski, Michaelena 4:4:14  
 Klegie, Frank 4:3:07  
 Klekacz, Jacob 4:2:10  
 Klekoszweske 4:3:11  
 Kluszcz 4:4:09  
 Klimek 4:2:13; 4:4:09  
 Klisch 4:4:09  
 Klosak 4:2:13  
 Kloss 4:4:09  
 Klupp, Frank 4:2:08,10  
 Klyszcz 4:4:09  
 Knapke 4:2:12  
 Knopik 4:4:12  
 Knut 4:2:16  
 Koenig 4:2:13  
 Kokot 4:4:14  
 Kokott 4:4:09  
 Kolinska 4:4:15  
 Kolinska, Mary 4:4:14  
 Kollodge 4:4:09  
 Kolodziej 4:4:09  
 Kolodziejska, Magdalena 4:4:14  
 Kolodziejski 4:2:05; 4:4:14  
 Kolton, Jerry 4:3:11  
 Komorowski 4:2:13  
 Kondej, Franciszek (Francis) 4:1:11  
 Kondy, Kornel 4:1:03; 4:2:04  
 Kondy, W. Kornel 4:1:11; 4:2:16; 4:4:05,09  
 Kondy, Walter Kornel 4:3:06  
 Konietzko 4:3:10  
 Kopitski, John 4:3:07
- Kopka 4:4:09  
 Koprowski 4:4:14  
 Koralewski 4:2:13  
 Korcal, John 4:2:08,09,10  
 Kornder, Katie 4:3:10  
 Korpai, Frank 4:2:10  
 Kosciuszko 4:3:01  
 Kosiolek, Rev. Damian 4:2:09  
 Kosmalski, Albert 4:3:07  
 Kosmolska, Helenae 4:3:08  
 Kostreba 4:4:09  
 Koszik, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Kowalczyk 4:2:13; 4:4:09  
 Kowalewski, Margaret 4:4:03  
 Kowalewski, Margaret A. 4:3:11  
 Kowalik 4:2:13  
 Kowalzek, Arne 4:2:13  
 Kozak, Darryn 4:2:13  
 Kramer 4:3:11  
 Krankowska, Suzanna 4:3:08  
 Krawczyk 4:2:06  
 Krbechek, Blanche 4:1:03; 4:2:03,12,15; 4:3:03,15; 4:4:01,03,16  
 Kreft 4:2:13  
 Kriedl, Manfred 4:4:01  
 Krol 4:4:09  
 Krol, John Cardinal 4:1:05  
 Kroll 4:4:09  
 Kroska, David 4:2:13  
 Kroska, Dr. David 4:4:03  
 Krszeszewski 4:2:12  
 Kruck, John 4:2:08  
 Kruk, John 4:2:10  
 Kruse, Anton 4:3:08  
 Kruszewski 4:2:13  
 Kruszka, Wacław 4:1:05  
 Kryniak 4:3:11  
 Krystosek 4:4:09  
 Krzeszewski 4:2:12; 4:4:15  
 Krzoska 4:2:13  
 Kuba 4:2:12  
 Kubat, Father Alfons 4:1:10  
 Kubes, Joe 4:3:08  
 Kubik, Francis 4:4:12  
 Kubiszewski, Andrew 4:2:10  
 Kubiszewski, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Kucyba 4:2:13  
 Kuduk 4:3:10  
 Kufel, Simon 4:2:10  
 Kuffel 4:2:13  
 Kuka 4:4:09  
 Kuklok 4:4:09  
 Kukowski 4:2:12; 4:3:11  
 Kulas 4:2:13; 4:4:15  
 Kulas, Anna 4:2:05; 4:3:10  
 Kulas, Jan 4:4:14  
 Kulas, John 4:3:10  
 Kulas, Louis 4:3:10  
 Kulas, Paul 4:1:03,05; 4:2:02; 4:3:02; 4:4:03,13,14  
 Kulas, Paul Theodore 4:2:07; 4:3:07; 4:4:01  
 Kulczycki, Dr. John 4:3:03  
 Kulig 4:4:09  
 Kulla 4:4:09  
 Kullot 4:2:13
- Kulot 4:2:13  
 Kupferschmidt 4:2:13  
 Kupka 4:4:09  
 Kurowski 4:2:13  
 Kusznierek, Andrew 4:2:10  
 Kusztelski 4:2:13  
 Kwaczynski 4:3:04  
 Kwaczynskówna 4:1:04  
 Kwasigroch, Anthony 4:2:10  
 Kwasigroch, Antonie 4:2:09  
 Kwasigroch, Joannes 4:2:09  
 Kwiatkowski, Joseph 4:2:10,12
- L**
- Lamczyk 4:4:05  
 Lamczyk, Eva 4:4:14  
 Lamczyk, John 4:4:14  
 Langa, Isidor 4:2:10  
 Langer 4:4:09  
 Larek 4:2:13  
 Larkin, Clare Elaine 4:3:11  
 Larson, Vicky 4:3:10  
 Lasnetski, William 4:2:09  
 Lasota 4:4:09  
 Ledvina, Sister M. 4:4:13  
 Lemanczyk 4:2:13  
 Lempart 4:4:09  
 Lempka 4:4:09  
 Lenius, Brian J. 4:1:10; 4:4:10  
 Lenszal, Elizabeth 4:4:13  
 Lesnicki, Valentine 4:2:10  
 Lewandowski 4:2:12  
 Lewicz 4:2:13  
 Libera 4:4:12  
 Lica 4:4:12  
 Lilla 4:3:11  
 Lindgren, Dallas R. 4:1:10  
 Lipinski 4:2:12; 4:3:11  
 Lipinski, Lawrence 4:2:10  
 Lipinski, Michael 4:2:09,10  
 Lisowski 4:4:14  
 Lisson, Joanne 4:4:03  
 Literski 4:3:11; 4:4:12  
 Litzner 4:4:12  
 Lochocki, Peter 4:2:10  
 Lonka, Antonius 4:3:08  
 Lopata 4:2:13  
 Lorbetski 4:4:12  
 Lowe, Patricia A. 4:1:10  
 Lozinska, Francisca 4:2:09  
 Lsarynska, Francisca 4:3:08  
 Lubienski, Andrew 4:2:10  
 Lubonska, Josepha 4:3:09  
 Ludwickoski, Anna 4:3:10  
 Ludwickoski, Thomas 4:3:10  
 Ludwikowski 4:4:14  
 Ludwikowski, Anna 4:3:10  
 Ludwikowski, Thomas 4:3:10  
 Lujack, Johnny 4:1:08  
 Lukawski 4:2:13  
 Lutzwick 4:3:10  
 Lyga 4:2:13  
 Lygman, Frank 4:2:10  
 Lyrek 4:3:11
- M**
- Machnikowski, James 4:3:08  
 Machnikowski, Michael 4:2:10  
 Machud 4:4:12  
 Machut 4:4:12



- Maciej 4:4:09  
 Maciuszko, Jerzy 4:4:01  
 Madey 4:3:11  
 Magocsi, Paul Robert 4:4:10,11  
 Maida, Adam Cardinal 4:1:05  
 Mainka 4:4:09  
 Majkowski 4:3:11  
 Malak 4:2:13  
 Malcer 4:3:10  
 Malil 4:2:12  
 Manczas, Michael 4:2:10  
 Manderfeld, Ben 4:4:15  
 Manderfeld, Mary 4:4:15  
 Manka 4:4:09  
 Marcina, Sister M. 4:4:05  
 Marek 4:3:11  
 Mareski 4:2:12  
 Maresky 4:2:12  
 Marodeck 4:2:13  
 Marsolek 4:4:09  
 Marston, Mrs. Otto 4:4:07  
 Marszczynski, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Marzanek, Josephus 4:3:08  
 Maserek, A.J. 4:3:08  
 Mask, Stella 4:4:06  
 Mask, Stella (Visneskie) 4:4:13  
 Maslajak 4:4:15  
 Maslak, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Masloski 4:1:11  
 Maslow 4:1:11  
 Maslowski 4:3:11  
 Masog 4:4:09  
 Maszk 4:3:11  
 Matelski, Kathleen 4:2:03,04  
 Matros 4:4:09  
 Matz, A M. 4:3:08,09  
 Matz, John 4:3:08  
 Mazany, Martin 4:2:10  
 Mazur 4:4:14  
 McCavic, Donald A. 4:4:04,15  
 McDowell, Father Patrick 4:4:13  
 McNeal, William 4:4:08  
 McOuat, Harry 4:2:03; 4:3:04  
 McOuat, Harry B. 4:2:06; 4:3:11  
 Megier 4:3:11  
 Mehr, Kahlile 4:4:11  
 Meling 4:3:11  
 Michalski, Frank 4:2:10  
 Mieszko, Duke 4:2:16  
 Migacz 4:4:15  
 Migatz 4:4:15  
 Mihm, Amolia 4:3:09  
 Mihm, J.C. 4:3:08  
 Mikuiewicz, Romuald 4:2:10  
 Milewski 4:2:13  
 Milier 4:2:12  
 Mills, Diane Kathryn Bogush 4:2:12  
 Milosz, Czeslaw 4:4:01  
 Minczeski, John 4:2:01  
 Mioch 4:4:15  
 Misch 4:4:09  
 Mish 4:4:09  
 Miś 4:4:09  
 Moczko 4:4:09  
 Moczygamba, Father Leopold 4:1:05  
 Mondry 4:1:11; 4:3:11  
 Moralewicz 4:2:12  
 Moras 4:4:14  
 Motzko 4:4:09  
 Mrosek 4:4:09  
 Mrosła 4:4:09  
 Mrotek 4:2:13  
 Mroz 4:2:12  
 Mrozla 4:4:09  
 Mruz, Henry F. 4:2:12  
 Muchlinski, Donald 4:3:10  
 Muchlinski, Frank 4:2:09  
 Muchlinski, William F. 4:4:15  
 Mueller 4:2:13  
 Musial, Stan 4:1:08  
 Muzurek 4:2:13  
 Müller 4:3:11  
 Myroniuk, Halyna 4:1:10  
 Myslajak, John 4:4:15
- M**
- Nagl, Father 4:4:09  
 Nagl, Reverend Edward J. 4:4:08  
 Nalipinski, Bernice 4:4:07  
 Namyst 4:4:14  
 Nawart, Lawrence 4:2:10  
 Nedoroski, Dan 4:4:03  
 Nedoroski, Daniel A. 4:3:11  
 Nevin, W.H. 4:3:08  
 Nevin, William 4:3:09  
 Nicki, Stanislaus 4:2:10  
 Niederowski 4:3:11  
 Niemczyk 4:2:13  
 Nir, Rev. Roman 4:1:07; 4:2:14  
 Nogosek 4:2:13  
 Novak 4:4:15  
 Nowakowski 4:2:12  
 Nowotarski 4:2:13
- O**
- Obalczak 4:4:14  
 Odette, Barbara 4:4:15  
 Olszewski 4:4:14  
 Omernic 4:4:12  
 Opacz 4:4:09  
 Opatz 4:4:09  
 Orlikowski 4:3:11  
 Oslowski, Stephan 4:2:10  
 Osucha 4:2:13  
 Otto, Francis 4:2:09  
 Owazarzak, Anna 4:3:09  
 Owazarzak, Petrus 4:3:09  
 Owczarek Martin 4:2:10  
 Owczarz 4:4:14
- P**
- Pacer 4:3:11  
 Pacewicz, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Pacypa, Dr. Dominic 4:3:03  
 Paliwoda, Volodymyr 4:4:11  
 Pallas, Diane (Safarz) 4:3:11  
 Palluch 4:4:09  
 Palubicki 4:3:11  
 Paluch, Anthony 4:2:10  
 Panaka, Adalbert 4:2:10  
 Panka, Adalbert 4:2:10  
 Panov, Dimitry A. 4:3:05  
 Papakin, Heorgij V. 4:3:09  
 Parulski, John 4:2:10  
 Paschelke 4:2:12  
 Patalita, Cecilia D. 4:1:11  
 Patalita, Cecilia Dybas 4:2:05  
 Patek, John 4:2:10  
 Pawlak, John 4:4:03  
 Peka 4:4:09,14  
 Pellowski 4:4:12  
 Peplinski Des 4:2:13  
 Peplinski, Paul 4:4:16  
 Pernala 4:2:13  
 Pershell, Dick 4:2:12  
 Pesek, James 4:3:08  
 Peslka 4:2:13  
 Peters, Thomas A. 4:1:10  
 Petron 4:4:09  
 Philip 4:4:09  
 Piechowski 4:3:11  
 Pientok 4:4:09  
 Piepas, Frederike Augusta 4:2:12  
 Pierz, Father Xavier 4:4:08  
 Pierzina 4:4:09  
 Pietrick 4:4:09  
 Pietron 4:4:09  
 Pietrzak 4:4:09  
 Pikula 4:3:11  
 Pintok 4:4:09  
 Piotrowski, Martin 4:2:10  
 Plaziak, Agnes 4:4:13  
 Pleve, Dr. Igor R. 4:4:11  
 Plewako, Andrzej 4:4:09  
 Plucinski, Frank 4:2:10  
 Pluskwik, Maria 4:2:11  
 Podgorski 4:3:11  
 Podlasek 4:2:12  
 Pogrzeba 4:4:09  
 Polaczyk 4:3:11  
 Polejewski, Stanley 4:3:07  
 Polingo 4:4:15  
 Polkowski, John 4:2:08,10  
 Pollok 4:4:09  
 Popowska, Agnes 4:2:09  
 Popowski, Joanne 4:2:09  
 Popowski, John 4:2:08,09,10  
 Posch 4:4:09  
 Pozovski 4:2:05  
 Pozovski, Annam 4:3:10  
 Pozovski, Francis 4:3:10  
 Pozovski, Francisca 4:3:10  
 Pozovski, Helena 4:3:10  
 Pozovski, Joanne 4:3:10  
 Pozovski, Josepha/Pelagia 4:3:10  
 Pozovski, Maryanna 4:3:10  
 Pozovski, Stefanum Julius 4:3:10  
 Pozovski, Valentinus 4:3:10  
 Prokopp 4:4:09  
 Prokott 4:4:09  
 Prokott, Bob 4:4:03  
 Prokott, Robert 4:4:01,08  
 Prusinski, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Pruszynski, Martin 4:2:10  
 Przybilla 4:4:09  
 Przybilski 4:4:14  
 Przymus, Anna 4:3:09  
 Przymus, Konstantia 4:3:09  
 Przymus, Matt 4:3:09  
 Psyck 4:4:09  
 Psyk 4:4:09  
 Puchopinski, Dominic 4:2:10  
 Pukrop, Adalbert 4:2:10  
 Pukrop, John 4:2:09  
 Pulaski 4:3:01  
 Puschalla 4:4:09  
 Pyka 4:4:09,14
- R**
- Radziej 4:4:09  
 Radzilowski, Dr. Thaddeus 4:2:04,09  
 Radzilowski, Dr. Thaddeus C. 4:1:06  
 Radzilowski, John 4:1:9,10; 4:2:01,03,08,09,10; 4:3:01,03; 4:4:03  
 Rajtar, Edward 4:1:12; 4:2:01  
 Rakowski 4:2:13  
 Ralte, Mrs. Estelle 4:4:06  
 Ratte, Mrs. Louis 4:4:07  
 Razinski 4:2:12  
 Recca 4:4:12  
 Reincke, Henrietta 4:2:12  
 Rekowski, Father Al 4:3:04  
 Rekowski, Fr. Aloysius 4:3:04  
 Rekucki, Mary Alice 4:4:03  
 Renkiewicz, Frank 4:1:07  
 Retza 4:4:12  
 Reymont, Wladyslaw 4:4:01  
 Rhode, Father Paul 4:1:05  
 Richard, Helen M. 4:4:15  
 Richard, Mrs. Helen 4:2:12  
 Riebeling, Susan 4:4:15  
 Rippley, Prof. La Vern J. 4:1:10  
 Risstock 4:3:11  
 Robasse, Jim 4:2:15  
 Rockman, Barbara 4:3:02; 4:4:05  
 Rockman, Barbara Jasinski 4:3:06,11  
 Rockman, Dean 4:3:06  
 Rogala, John 4:4:12  
 Rogalski 4:2:12; 4:3:11  
 Rogers, Joseph Summer 4:1:06  
 Rolbiecki 4:3:11; 4:4:12  
 Rolewicz, Adalbert 4:2:10  
 Ronkowski 4:2:13  
 Rosinski 4:2:12; 4:4:15  
 Ross, Catherine (Gorecki) 4:2:04  
 Ross, John 4:3:07  
 Ross, Marcel 4:3:08  
 Ross, Marcel (Ruskiewicz) 4:2:04  
 Ross, Thomas 4:4:14  
 Ross, Thomas E. 4:4:15  
 Rossa 4:4:09  
 Roszczek 4:4:09  
 Rousinski 4:2:12  
 Roy, Rev. Peter 4:3:08  
 Rozanski 4:2:12  
 Rudek 4:4:09  
 Rudnik 4:2:12  
 Rumble, Alexander R. 4:2:16  
 Rusel, Waiter 4:3:03

- Russell 4:2:12  
 Ruszkiewicz 4:2:04  
 Ruszkiewicz, Francisca  
 (Lsarzynska) 4:3:08  
 Ruszkiewicz, M. 4:3:08  
 Rybak 4:4:15  
 Rybarczyk, Joseph 4:2:10  
 Rybinski, Joseph 4:2:09  
 Rybinski, Mariae 4:2:09  
 Rybinski, Petrus 4:2:09  
 Rychlicki 4:2:13  
 Rymarkiewicz 4:3:11  
 S
- Sadowski, Mathias 4:4:12  
 Sadowsky 4:3:11  
 Safarz, Diane 4:3:11  
 Saikowski, Frank 4:3:09  
 Saikowski, John 4:3:09  
 Sanowski, Joseph 4:3:07  
 Saranna, Albert 4:1:11  
 Saranna, Josephine 4:1:11  
 Saranna, Nicholas 4:1:11  
 Saranna, William 4:1:11  
 Saucedo, Fran Konietzko  
 4:3:10  
 Scepurek 4:4:09  
 Schafer, Kathy 4:1:11  
 Schelonka 4:4:09  
 Schibilla 4:4:09  
 Schietza 4:4:09  
 Schlichting 4:4:09  
 Schlyter, Daniel 4:3:03  
 Schmidt, Nick 4:3:08  
 Schmidt, Stan 4:3:13  
 Schmidt, Stanley 4:3:03  
 Schmidtke 4:3:11  
 Schmitz, Victoria 4:4:13  
 Schroeder, Frances 4:2:09  
 Schroeder, Frank 4:2:10  
 Schularitzski, Victoria 4:2:09  
 Schuster, Kathleen 4:3:11  
 Schutta 4:2:13  
 Schwientek 4:4:09  
 Schwintek, Albert 4:4:08  
 Schwintek, Frank 4:4:08  
 Schwintek, John 4:4:08  
 Schwintek, Margaret 4:4:08  
 Serszen, John 4:2:10  
 Sfora 4:2:13  
 Shea, Suzanne Strempek 4:2:01  
 Sheitza 4:4:09  
 Shudy 4:2:13  
 Shushack 4:4:12  
 Sienkiewicz, Henryk 4:3:04;  
 4:4:01  
 Sik, Anthony 4:2:10  
 Sik, Stanislaus 4:2:10  
 Singer, Isaac Bashevis 4:4:01  
 Sitek 4:2:13  
 Skiba 4:4:12  
 Skibinski 4:4:14  
 Skibo 4:4:12  
 Skiera, Jacob 4:2:10  
 Skorcowski, Michael 4:2:09  
 Skorczewski, Joseph 4:3:09  
 Skorczewski, John 4:2:08,09,10  
 Skorczewski, Michael 4:2:10  
 Skorczewski, Rose 4:2:09
- Skotarka 4:4:14  
 Skroch 4:4:09  
 Sluchoche 4:2:13  
 Smarzyk, Agnes 4:3:10  
 Smarzyk, Anton 4:3:10  
 Smarzyk, Bernice 4:3:10  
 Smarzyk, Cathrina 4:3:10  
 Smarzyk, Franciscus 4:3:10  
 Smarzyk, Joseph 4:3:10  
 Smarzyk, Matthew 4:3:10  
 Smarzyk, Paulus 4:3:10  
 Smarzyk, Valeria 4:3:10  
 Smarzyk, Victoria 4:3:10  
 Smazyk, Matthew 4:2:10  
 Smieja 4:4:09  
 Smishek, John 4:3:08  
 Smuda 4:4:14  
 Sobania 4:4:09  
 Sobiech 4:4:09  
 Sobierocki 4:1:11  
 Sobiescek 4:2:12  
 Sobieski 4:2:13  
 Soboszczyk 4:3:11  
 Soboszczyk, Blaze 4:2:11  
 Soika 4:2:13  
 Sojka 4:2:05; 4:4:09  
 Sokolowski, Andrew 4:2:10  
 Solorz 4:4:09  
 Soltys 4:2:12; 4:4:14  
 Sonnek 4:2:13  
 Sopa, Adeline 4:2:13  
 Sopa, Adeline M. 4:1:10;  
 4:2:03; 4:3:04,16  
 Sopcak, A. 4:2:10  
 Sorana, Albert 4:1:11  
 Sorana, Josephine 4:1:11  
 Sorana, Nicholas 4:1:11  
 Sorana, William 4:1:11  
 Soshnikov, Vladislav 4:4:10  
 Sotis 4:2:12  
 Sowada 4:4:09  
 Sowul, Anthony 4:2:10  
 Soyka 4:4:09  
 Spangenberg, Rose (Berczyk)  
 4:1:11  
 Speda 4:4:09  
 Sperfka, Mike 4:3:07,08  
 Spieda 4:4:09  
 Spierewka, Frank 4:2:10  
 Spiner, Anna 4:3:10  
 Spiner, Bernard 4:3:10  
 Spiner, Franciscus 4:3:10  
 Spiner, Gertruda 4:3:10  
 Spiner, Joanna 4:3:10  
 Spiner, Petros 4:3:10  
 Spiner, Rosalia 4:3:10  
 Spiner, Stanley 4:3:10  
 Spinner 4:2:05  
 Spinner, Cascilian 4:3:10  
 Spinner, Clara 4:3:10  
 Spinner, Francisca 4:3:10  
 Spinner, Franciscus 4:3:10  
 Spyner, Peter 4:2:10  
 Sredzinski, Rick 4:2:12  
 Stachowiak, John 4:2:09,10;  
 4:2:08  
 Stanek 4:4:09  
 Stanka, Wilhelmina 4:2:12
- Starszewski 4:4:15  
 Steffer 4:2:13  
 Stellmach 4:4:09  
 Stenzel, Robert F. 4:2:13  
 Stephan 4:2:13  
 Stilller 4:4:09  
 Stoczynski 4:4:14  
 Stodolka 4:4:09  
 Stoltman 4:3:11  
 Stosel 4:2:12  
 Strisik 4:2:13  
 Stryczak, John 4:2:10  
 Stryk, Robert A. 4:2:13  
 Strysick, Susanne 4:2:13  
 Strzelecki, Boleslaw 4:3:05  
 Strzelecki, Paul Edmund  
 4:3:05  
 Stwosz, Wit 4:1:08  
 Styczynski, Thomas 4:2:10  
 Suistor, Emilia 4:4:04  
 Sulewski 4:2:13  
 Sulinski 4:3:11  
 Sullivan, John 4:3:09  
 Sura 4:4:09  
 Surma 4:4:09  
 Suska 4:4:09  
 Swanson, Rhonda 4:2:13  
 Swara 4:2:13  
 Swedzinski, Casimir 4:3:08  
 Swedzinski, Casmier 4:3:07  
 Swedzinski, Frank 4:3:08  
 Swedzinski, Michael 4:3:08  
 Swintek 4:4:09  
 Switalla 4:4:09  
 Swora 4:2:13  
 Sydor, Dick 4:3:11  
 Symalla 4:4:09  
 Sywicki 4:4:12  
 Syzdek, Anna 4:3:10  
 Syzdek, Appollonia 4:1:11  
 Syzdek, Bruno C. 4:1:11;  
 4:2:12; 4:3:10  
 Syzdek, Emily 4:1:11  
 Syzdek, John 4:1:11  
 Syzdek, Joseph 4:2:12  
 Syzdek, Josephine 4:1:11  
 Syzdek, Marciel (Marshall)  
 4:3:10  
 Syzdek, Wojciech (Albert)  
 4:1:11; 4:2:12; 4:3:10  
 Szarzynska, Maria 4:2:09  
 Szarzynski, Joseph L. 4:3:11  
 Szarzynski, L.P. 4:3:08  
 Szarzynski, Thomas 4:3:07,08  
 Szatkowski 4:3:11  
 Szczepurek 4:4:09  
 Szczypior 4:2:13  
 Szkudlarz 4:4:14  
 Szlichzin 4:4:09  
 Szoka, Edmund Cardinal  
 4:1:05  
 Szolors 4:4:09  
 Szostak 4:4:14  
 Szpiner 4:2:05  
 Szrajder, Frank 4:2:10  
 Szucs, Loretto Dennis 4:3:03  
 Szukala 4:2:13  
 Szurra 4:4:09
- Szwedzinski, Casimir 4:2:10  
 Szykowny 4:4:14  
 Szymala 4:4:09  
 Szymborska, Wislawa 4:4:01  
 Szymczak, Bernie 4:4:03  
 Szyperski 4:2:13  
 T
- Taborski, Boleslaw 4:4:01  
 Talaga 4:4:14  
 Tarara 4:2:13  
 Thalnofski 4:3:11  
 Tolik 4:2:13  
 Tomala 4:4:09  
 Tomalla 4:4:09  
 Tomczak, John 4:2:10  
 Tomek, Thomas 4:3:08  
 Trader 4:2:13  
 Tramer, Jacob 4:4:08  
 Trebiatowski 4:4:14  
 Treder 4:2:13  
 Trettel 4:4:09  
 Trojanowski, John 4:2:08,10  
 Trutwin 4:4:09  
 Trzebiatowski 4:2:13  
 Trzmiel 4:2:12  
 Turzynski 4:4:12  
 Tykwinski, Michael 4:2:09  
 U
- Urban 4:4:09  
 Urbanski, Peter 4:2:10  
 V
- Valasek, Dr. Paul S. 4:2:01;  
 4:3:03  
 Viniski, Alec 4:4:07  
 Visneskie 4:4:13  
 Visneskie, Bronis (Alec)  
 4:4:07  
 Visneskie, Mary 4:4:06  
 Visneskie, Stella 4:4:06,07  
 Wojtanek 4:2:12  
 W
- Waldoch 4:3:11  
 Walck 4:4:09  
 Waletzki 4:4:09  
 Waletzko 4:4:09  
 Walsh, Barbara 4:3:11  
 Wanag, Jozef 4:4:09  
 Waras 4:4:15  
 Warzecha 4:4:09  
 Wasowicz 4:2:13  
 Wawarek 4:4:09  
 Wawarek 4:4:09  
 Weinkauff 4:3:11  
 Weiss, Robert 4:1:10  
 Welna 4:4:09  
 Wesolowski 4:4:14  
 Wexa, Martin 4:2:03,09  
 Wiatrak 4:4:09  
 Wicka 4:2:13  
 Wiczorek 4:4:09  
 Wielepski 4:1:11  
 Wielepski, Agnes 4:3:10  
 Wielepski, Frank 4:2:10  
 Wilczek 4:4:09  
 Wilebski 4:3:04  
 Wilebski, Antonia 4:3:10

Wilebski, Franceszek (Frank) 4:3:10	Wisniewski, Frank 4:4:06	Wrzeszcz, Martin 4:2:10	Zawislak, Kathleen 4:2:13
Wilebski, Frank 4:1:11; 4:4:13	Wisniewski, John 4:2:10	Wurl, Joel 4:1:10	Zazyk, Frank 4:2:10
Wilebski, Fred 4:1:11; 4:2:05; 4:3:05,10; 4:4:13	Witek 4:4:14	Wylebski 4:1:11	Zblowski 4:4:12
Wilk, Józefa (Kwaczynskówna) 4:1:04	Wiza, Martin 4:2:09,10	Wyrwas 4:4:14	Zelazny 4:2:13
Wilk, Józefa (nee Kwaczynski) 4:3:04	Wochnick 4:4:09	Wysocki 4:2:13	Zgoda 4:3:10,11
Wilk, Stanislaw 4:1:04; 4:3:04	Wodarz 4:4:09	<b>Y</b>	Zgoda, Vincent 4:2:10
Wincenciak 4:2:13	Woell, Marcus 4:2:13	Yankowski, Father 4:4:06,07	Zielonka 4:4:09
Winiarski 4:2:13	Woisniewski, Francis 4:3:08	Yolkowski 4:4:06	Zientara, Martin 4:2:10
Wiorek, Ed 4:2:13	Wojcik, Joseph 4:3:16	Yolkowskie 4:4:06	Zimnoch, Frederick S. 4:3:05
Wisniewska, Mary 4:4:07	Wojnar 4:2:13	Yonick 4:1:11	Zneyslona, Victoria 4:4:07
Wisniewski 4:3:11	Wojtaszek 4:4:09	Yorek 4:3:11; 4:4:09	Zowada 4:4:09
Wisniewski, Andreas/Henry 4:4:06	Wojtyla, Karol Cardinal 4:1:06	Yourczyk 4:4:09	Zur 4:4:09
Wisniewski, Andrej/Henry 4:4:06	Wollak 4:4:09	<b>Z</b>	Zwack 4:4:09
	Wrampelmeier, Ann 4:3:11; 4:4:03,	Zabawa, Joseph 4:3:10	Zwadzich 4:2:13
	Wricza 4:2:13	Zaleski, Jan Steven, A.G., 4:1:10	Zywicki 4:4:12,15
	Wright, Prof. William E. 4:1:10	Zalewski, Father 4:3:08	Zywicki, Albert 4:4:14
	Wrobel 4:4:09	Zandarowski 4:3:11	Zywicki, Charles 4:4:14
			Zywicki, Stephen 4:4:14

## St. Hedwig's Church

Barry's Bay, Ontario,  
Canada

Drawing by  
Shirley Mask  
Connolly

St. Hedwig's Church, Barry's Bay, Ontario was built in 1914 to serve the needs of the large Polish population of the area. Rev. Peter Biernacki, founder and first pastor of the parish, was also the first Canadian born priest of Polish origins. Msgr. Ambrose Pick, a native son of the parish, has been pastor since 1978. The impressive single spired church sits among century-old pines, overlooking the picturesque northern bay of Lake Kaminisgeg and the rolling fields of Mask Island. The Romanesque style interior is resplendently illuminated by stained glass windows and beautifully decorated with a number of Polish inspired motifs and icons. Mass is still celebrated in Polish on Sunday mornings.

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