



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10

SPRING 2002

NUMBER 1

A SILESIAN EXPERIENCE

By Robert Prokott

Our paternal grandparents came to America from Silesia over 120 years ago. With the help of Dr. Martin Richau, a genealogist who lives in Berlin, Germany, we established that our grandfather, Peter Prokott, was born in Hirschfelde (now Kaniów) and our grandmother, Mary Gallus was born in Damratsch (now Domaradz). Both of these villages are located to the north of the city of Opole in upper Silesia. Martin has relatives in that area and visits there at least once a year. In late 1995, Martin provided us with the names of relatives living in Dobrzeń Wielki and Dobrzeń Mały, Poland, a few miles north of the city of Opole. Martin visited in Central Minnesota in 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000. He encouraged a visit to Poland and after some thought it was decided that a trip would be made in 2001. A decision was made over a year ago that my oldest sister and her husband, Dolores and John Madden, as well as my youngest sister and her husband, Jeanette and Herb Webb, would join me in making this trip. My wife, Marlene, dislikes flying and decided that such a long flight was not for her.

Dolores and John celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 3, 2001 at Denver, CO, where they reside, and while we were visiting together following this celebration we started making plans in earnest for our trip. We decided that we would go in late August or early September. We initially planned on flying to Berlin and then taking a train to Opole. Jeanette and Herb live in the Boston, MA area and Jeanette located PAT TOURS, a travel agency located in West Springfield, MA. They specialize in arranging tours to Poland and we decided to change our plans and go with an organized tour group for the first few days and then go mostly on our own for the rest of our trip.

PAT TOURS made the arrangements for our entire trip. We left on September 2 and returned to the USA on September 17. We arrived at Warsaw on September 3, were with the tour group traveling by bus through Częstochowa, Zakopane, Wadowice, Auschwitz and Kraków until September 8. We then took a train from Kraków to Opole where we stayed for three days. On September 11 we went by train to Prague, Czech Republic and stayed there for three days before taking another train to Berlin on September 14. We stayed in Berlin until September 17 when we left to fly back home.

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Crest
of
the
City
of
Opole

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**Polish Genealogical Society
of Minnesota**

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society
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<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 welcomed 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, editor, *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316-2145 or to e-mail: <kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us>

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President's Letter by Terry Kita

Our organization takes a summer vacation (as far as membership meetings are concerned) from May to September. Our Fall programs will resume in September. At this time only the October slot has been filled (see the notice on page 3). We try to present 4 or 5 programs for PGS-MN members annually, in addition to MGS Branching-Out and other outreach programs.

Attendance at each program usually numbers from 20 to 30 people. This number is fairly predictable, as are the names of those in attendance. We have approximately 260 paid members, about half of whom live within striking distance of the MGS Library in Golden Valley. We try to schedule programs during the decent weather season.

Our programs normally feature a speaker with a Polish genealogical or historical connection. Many of the recent surveys indicated an interest in both Polish and Minnesota history. In addition to information provided by speakers, our programs allow for interaction among members. The latter may provide the most benefit for those doing genealogical research. Our programs are fairly informal, and provide easy access to those with a lot of practical genealogical experience.

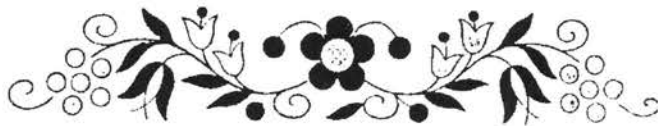
We would like to increase attendance at our scheduled programs, and involve more than just a core group of members. We invite you to attend one or more of our Fall programs. If you have genealogical questions, bring them with you to the meeting, and we will try to provide answers, or suggest resources. If you would like to present the fruits of your research or travel, let me know. We welcome your participation in any way. Fall meetings will be held at the MGS Library, at 10:00 am, on September 7th, October 19th, and November 2nd.

PGS-MN

has received word that one of our members

Bonita Erickson of Madison Lake, MN
died on Saturday, June 15, 2002.

We extend our sympathy to her loved ones.



The Bulletin Board

PGS-MN Fall Meetings:

We will have three programs at the MGS Library this Fall--one each in September, October & November. The only program definitely arranged at this time is as follows:

October 19, 2002

10:00 am to 12:00

MGS Library, lower level

Topic: Kashubian History and Genealogical Resources

The area immediately west and south of Gdansk is known as Kashubia. The Kashubs were a very early Slavic tribe whose territory was incorporated into a number of states--Pomerania, Prussia, the Teutonic Knights, and Poland. Kashubs immigrated to the USA and settled in Winona and other places in Minnesota, and in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

This program will include speakers from Winona, Minneapolis, and also Adeline Sopa from Green Bay. Information will include the history of Kashubia, and information about resources for genealogical research in this area.

More detailed information on this and the other Fall meetings will be provided as details become available.

--Terry Kita

Extra contributions

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

Richard Arras
Jim Bogut
Pat Bumgarner
Vern Broll
Michael Eckman
Rosanne Jaunich Eppel
Gertrude Pawlak Erickson
Mary Fehrman
Jim Franczyk
Dr. Alfred E. Friedl
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Albert Kowalczyk
Lucy Kruchowski
Millicent Kriske
Gary A. Litchy
Ray Marshall
John Marszalek
Harry McOuat
Susan Riebeling
Thomas E. Ross
Bernard L. Szymczak
Lisa Trembley

PGS-MN Program Summary

27 April 2002

Judy Larson, volunteer director of the Brooklyn Park FHC, presented an introduction to LDS Family History Centers. Her presentation was excellent, combining a thorough knowledge of her facility, several handouts, and a demonstration of software available at the FHC. John Kowles, PGS-MN Vice President, presented an example of his use of FHC archives. Attendance was the best we've seen in several years.

The Brooklyn Park Family History Center is located at 4700 Edinbrook Terrace. It is a fairly new FHC, with permanent films, a library collection, internet access, and access to LDS records. It may be less crowded than the Crystal FHC. It is one of four FHCs in the metro area. Judy recommended that first time visitors request a tour of the facility. It is best to call (763-425-1865) before visiting, especially in inclement weather.

Judy's presentation included the following topics:

1. An explanation of the purpose and function of a LDS Family History Center
2. Locations & hours for metro & Minnesota FHCs
3. What to expect when visiting a FHC facility
4. What is available at a FHC, & what does it cost
5. How can staff assist with research
6. An introduction to recent genealogical software available at FHC, including "familysearch"
7. New & future items at the Brooklyn Park FHC

Her handouts included the following:

1. An outline of her talk
2. Research helps available at the BP FHC
3. Locations & hours for all Minnesota & Wisconsin FHCs
4. Year 2002 classes available at the BP FHC--about one per month
5. A list of local resources/societies /repositories as well as internet sites
6. A "site map" for "family search" software program
7. A brochure from the Salt Lake City Family History Library
8. A brochure for beginners, outlining research steps

Several sets of Judy's handouts will be available on the MGS Library Polish collection shelves.

Judy made several important points about any research facility: Staff is available to help visitors find information sources--they will not do genealogical research for you; A researcher should be prepared before visiting, with ancestral names, dates, and other pertinent information..

--Terry Kita

Bulletin Board, continued on page 21



Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

Polish contributions

Many, many thanks for the list of people (*PGS-MN Newsletter, Winter 2001-01, pp. 8-10*) with a Polish connection who have contributed good things to the world. It is just what I had hoped for.

I don't remember the author at the moment, but have you heard of the political treatise written in the 16th century or thereabouts affirming the rights of man? It is said that Thomas Jefferson used this historical document when he wrote the Constitution of the US? If that is in fact true, why aren't more articles written giving this Polish patriot credit?

Eileen Opatz Berger <gebergers@aol.com>

Editor's reply: I forwarded your message to John Radzilowski. His response follows:

There was no single document in 16th century Poland that was equivalent to a constitution. However, a body of law and legal practice emerged that enshrined many rights that we today would find familiar.

For example, in 1505, the statute *Nihil Novi* was enacted. This is similar to our "no taxation without representation." In other words, new laws or decrees could not be enacted without the consent of parliament. This restricted the power of the executive (i.e. the King).

An even older practice was *Neminen Captivabimus* which prevented the government from arresting or imprisoning noblemen without due process, roughly equivalent to *habeus corpus*.

There was also a guarantee of religious freedom. King Zygmunt August declared: "I am not the king of your conscience."

By the latter part of the 16th century, Poland was functioning as a monarchical republic. Kings were elected by a vote of the gentry caste, which constituted about 10 percent of the population. (This is compared to France or England where the gentry estate was much smaller.) A greater percentage of people in Poland could vote in 1600 than could vote in America under the Article of Confederation, which preceded our US Constitution. There was a national parliament and local parliaments for each region of the country.

Not everything worked perfectly by any means; however, the system worked quite well for many years and compared to other European countries of that time, Poland was a beacon of freedom. The problem was that to achieve that freedom, Poland weakened its central government. So when war broke out there was often a lack of strong leadership at the top and no solid system of checks and balances. As a result, the nobles grew in power and everyone else lost and many nobles--like some of today's legislators--started looking after their own interests rather than those of the country as a whole.

At the time of our American Revolution, there was an effort to reform the government and the result was the Constitution of 1791, which was modeled in many respects after the American Constitution. In fact, the Polish Constitution was the world's second democratic constitution after only the American one.

Jefferson was certainly well aware of the Polish experiment with democracy. He was a corresponding member of Polish learned societies and of course was good friends with Thaddeus Kosciuszko. How this influenced him in writing the Constitution I'm not sure. The two men agreed on many things, though not slavery (which Kosciuszko hated and he even left money in his will to free and educate black slaves). Of course, many similar ideas were being discussed all over the world.

I hope this helps. Let me know if you have any other questions.

John Radzilowski <JRadzilow@aol.com>

Editor's note: Regarding the listing, "Great figures of Poland's history and culture" (Winter 2001-02, pp. 8-10); Hieronim Derdowski deserves a listing in the Literature section. He was well known in both Poland and in the United States. Known as the "Poet of the Kashubs," his writings are still studied in Polish schools. He immigrated to Minnesota and was the long-time editor of Wiarus, a Winona based Polish language newspaper. In its heyday, it was perhaps the most widely read Polish language newspaper in the United States. Two of his granddaughters, Joanne Lisson and Florence Zimmewicz, are members of PGS-MN.

3rd Poland Tour

Dates: September 14-28

Includes: Warsaw Gdansk, Malbork, Torun Poznan, Wroclaw, Krakow, Zakopane, Kashubian folklore dinner and much more.

For further info: Call Kornel at (612) 378-1739 or email: kornel@att.net

Researching Datta/Cieminski

I am trying to research two "Polish" families.

Martin Datta was born August 21, 1874. His place of birth is listed on various documents as Poland, German Poland and West Prussia. However, all documents obtained do indicate that his native tongue was Polish and his children were under the impression they were of Polish descent.

His Petition For Naturalization indicates he was born in "Sclesic, (sic) Germany," that he emigrated to the United States from "Bremmen, Germany" (sic) on or about the 6th day of April 1892, and arrived at the port of Baltimore in the United States, on the vessel "Nort Deuther?ogh (sic)." The passenger lists for this date are not available at the Family History Library in SLC --they tell me they do not exist. I do not know Martin's parents name; this is my goal. He was single when he came to this country.

There are two family traditions relating his journey to America. The first states that he was accompanied by his sister and came in 1888 settling in Chicago, the second version states that his sister, we believe her name was Francis (no records have been located for her) had married an American and had "sponsored" Martin to come to America, settling in Chicago. From Chicago he went to Minnesota, Montana, Florida and back to Chicago, then returning to Wibaux, MT to live with his son until his death.

Martin is listed in the 1900 Census --living in Polonia Township, Roseau County, in the State of Minnesota, boarding with a Polish family by the name of Stainslows Bocinski, working as a farmer. He could read, write and speak English. This information is interesting as grandchildren of Martin indicate that he "either couldn't or wouldn't speak English."

Martin married Marianna (Cieminski) Kujawa on November 23, 1904 in Florian, Marshall Co. Minnesota. Marianna was a widow with three small children. Her first husband Mike Kujawa had homesteaded in Minnesota.

The 1905 State of Minnesota Census reveals the Datta family is living in Augsburg, Marshall Co. Minnesota. They moved to Wibaux, MT about 1908.

I would like to discover Martin's family in Poland.

I am also researching the family of Teophil and Veronica Cieminski. Teophil and Veronica are the parents of Martin Datta's wife, Marianna Cieminski.

I found them in the State census of 1885 in Wright Township in Marshall County. I also have them on the 1900 U.S. census but lost them after that. I did check

the MN 1905 census and the indexes for the 1910 and 1920 IL censuses but I didn't find them. I did find a "clip" on them in the Florian, MN Catholic parish silver Jubilee book, indicating that they had sold their property and moved to Chicago. In fact, Teophil lost his homestead in 1891 in a foreclosure. I'd like to know what happened to them as well as their parent's names, village--the usual in Poland.

Elaine Cecil, Lake Havasu City AZ

<laney@citlink.net>

Editor's reply: At first I thought that "Sclesic" was a misspelling of the province of Silesia. But the more I look at the documents that you sent me; I don't think so. Documents indicate that Martin was from West Prussia which is a long way from Silesia (see map on p. 22). So, maybe Sclesic (or it is possibly spelled Salesie) might actually be the village where Martin was born. However, I can't find either in the index of my fairly detailed atlas of Poland. There are, however, 94 listed villages by the name of Zalesie (Zalesie would sound very much like Salesie to an American ear and therefore might have been recorded incorrectly). The problem now is to identify which of those 94 villages were located in the former West Prussia; find out where the parish church is located for each of them; see if the LDS Family History Library has filmed the records of those parishes; order the films and see if Martin Datta is listed in any of them. This will be a big job but not an impossible one. Good luck.

Corrections

Sorry to bother you with this trivia, but at least in one case someone may be trying to reach me regarding my "chain migration" project.

In the renewed members column (*Winter 2002-02*, p. 23), my email address is incorrectly shown as: "rebates," but should be "rgbates."

And on the real picky side, on the back, or ad page of the insert of the newsletter, the Library closure days shows 2001, I presume it should be 2002?

Rick Bates <rgbates@worldnet.att.net>

PGS-MN Newsletter (Winter 2001-02, p.24): Queries, Cecelia F. Pass, wrong e-mail. Should be "CcLPass@aol.com" not "CeLPass." Thank you!

Cecelia F. Pass <CcLPass@aol.com>

My phone number in the latest newsletter (*Winter 2001-01, p. 2*) is incorrect. The correct number is: 651-766-0147.

Jan Bias <Biasjm@aol.com>

Need info from Smilowice

I talked with you recently about my hope to get birth information on my grandfather, Mateusz NAWROCKI from Smilowice, Wloclawek, Poland. I have so far sent two letters to the parish at Smilowice, wrote a letter and sent two e-mails to the diocese and wrote to the state archives. I did receive a letter from the state archives which I have partially translated. I think it's referring to the fees that they charge. Because I am not receiving information from the parish and diocese I am considering getting professional research help. I mostly need to know the maiden name of my grandmother although I would like to have a copy of the actual birth information in the church files. I feel that I need to have someone with contacts in Poland. Do you have any recommendations?

I also think I may have a lead on my great grandfather, Nicholas MAKOWSKI. The 1900 census said that he came to America in 1874 from Austria. I checked the Hamburg passenger index and lists for that year and found a Makowsky who came with 2 sons, 9 and 7, from Frankenstein, Silesia. According to an online gazetteer that would be Zabkowice Slaskie (close to the Austrian border). He had 2 sons, Victor and John, who were about that age.

Marian Sawyer <dds997@worldnet.att.net>

Editor's reply: As far as Smilowice is concerned; Sometimes (usually) it takes awhile to get replies from parishes and archives (Also sometimes you never get a reply). It really has not been that long since you wrote. Did you write to them in Polish? Sometimes that helps.

I think I mentioned to you that the LDS Family History Library has filmed records from Smilowice covering the years 1808-1861. As I recall, the record that you are looking for is after those covered years. Perhaps the reason that they did not film beyond 1861 is that those records might be missing. Maybe you should order the 1808-1861 records anyway and see if the Nawrocki family name appears in those records.

As far as hiring a professional researcher; you need to hire someone who can go to the parish in Poland to check the records. I have two suggestions in this regard:

Rodziny, the Journal Polish Genealogical Society of America (Chicago) features columns by a researcher in Poland. Her name is Iwona Dakiniewicz. She lives in Łódź, which isn't that far from Smilowice. Maybe she would be willing to drive to Smilowice and check the records for you. Her e-mail address is: <genealogy@sys.com.pl> I would email her; describe your

problem; ask her if she would be willing to check the records at Smilowice; ask how much she would charge; and ask her how you should transfer the money. I don't know of anyone who has used this person for research, so I can't vouch for the quality of her work.

Another person that I do know people have used is: Henryk Skrzypiński, ul. Grunwaldzka 10a/68, 85-236 Bydgoszcz, Polska (Poland). Phone: 011-52-23-427-921 or 011-52-50-453-136. People who have used him, say he is very good. He speaks English. He is, I am told, a retired university professor. Bydgoszcz is not that far from Smilowice either. I don't have an email address for him, however. And he is probably getting fairly old by now, so I don't really know if he is still doing this kind of work or not.

I guess I would try the lady first, since we have her email address.

As far as Nicholas Makowski is concerned; I am not sure that you have identified the right person in the Hamburg passenger index. Frankenstein/Zabkowice Slaskie, Silesia was not in the Austrian partition (See map on page 22), so he would not have given "Austria" on the 1900 census. In any case, the Frankenstein/Zabkowice church records (1715-1921) have been filmed by the LDS Family History Library. You may want to order these records through your nearest LDS Family History Center to see if the Makowsky from Frankenstein, Silesia is your Nicholas Makowski.

Falkowitz records

I received my newsletter today. My email address was not included with my information as a new member (Winter 2001-02, p. 24). Could you please add it next time? Thanks! I have already received a query about the surname, SOBIECH, that I am researching. I hope to hear from more people.

I have microfilms from Falkowitz on indefinite loan here at my local Family History Center. They include birth, marriage, and death records for 1760-1870. I wouldn't mind doing look ups for people if they have a name and an approximate date to verify. I would also send them copies of the documents for what it costs me to copy and send. I have had so many people help me, I hope to be able to help others. Thanks again for the great newsletter!

Leeann Toone, Peoria AZ
<lfamhis@yahoo.com>

Wisconsin research

I thought the two short texts inserted below my signature might interest people who moderate local email lists or edit newsletters. Feel free to run them in your printed or email newsletter, forward them to your members, or place a link anywhere on a site you maintain.

Michael Edmonds, Deputy Director, Library/Archives Division, Wisconsin Historical Society
608-264-6538

1. "Wisconsin Local History on the Web"

The Wisconsin Historical Society Library recently mounted more collections on the World Wide Web for genealogists and local historians.

"Wisconsin Local History & Biography Articles" <www.wisconsinhistory.org/wlhba/index.asp> contains nearly 16,000 local newspaper articles published statewide between 1860 and 1940. These consist mainly of pioneer reminiscences, portraits of community institutions, interviews with early settlers, strange anecdotes of eccentric personalities, and other grass-roots information. These real stories of real people have not been altered in any way; images of the original newspaper articles display on the researcher's screen. All of them are easy to search by personal name or a variety of subject headings, about 50,000 pages of local history and genealogy in all.

There is no charge to use this collection. It is made possible by funding from the Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction through the Library Services and Technology Act and through a very generous donation from the late Scott M. Cutlip, a UW-Madison professor of mass communications.

If you have any questions about the website, contact Michael Edmonds, Deputy Director, Library/Archives Division, Wisconsin Historical Society, at: <miedmonds@whs.wisc.edu> or use the feedback buttons on the web site.

2. "Order Wisconsin Vital Records Online"

A new online service from the Wisconsin Historical Society lets you order a search of Wisconsin's pre-1907 birth, marriage and death records over the Internet.

Vital records are a fundamental information source for genealogists. They can reveal minute details about a person such as birth, marriage or death date, birth place, maiden name, and religious affiliation, as well as information about their parents. Genealogists use

them as stepping stones to other valuable sources such as obituaries and census records.

Requesting a search online is quite simple. After receiving your instructions and credit card payment via our secure Web site, staff trained in researching Wisconsin vital records will carefully search for the records you specify and send photocopies of their findings. All orders are guaranteed to ship within 4 weeks; rush service is also available for an additional charge. For more information, including the fee schedule, visit the Society's Online Genealogical Research Service at: <<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/ogrs/index.html>> or contact Michael Edmonds, Deputy Director, Library/Archives Division, Wisconsin Historical Society, at: <historydocs@whs.wisc.edu>

Minnesota farm directories

This is in response to the letter on page 13 of the Winter 2001-02 *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* wondering if there was ever published a Minnesota Farm Directory, by county or other way, listing names of farmers.

The following link contains information on Winona & Wabasha County, MN Farmers Directory and the Benton, Meeker, & Todd Counties, MN Farmers Directory 1913-1914: <<http://members.shaw.ca/justgen/mn.htm>>

Ron Zurek <Rzurek@aol.com>

County Coordinator, Benton County, Mille Lacs County and Kandiyohi County
MNGenWeb/USGenWeb Project
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnbenton>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnmillel>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnkandiy>

I saw the inquiry in the last *PGS-MN Newsletter* (Winter 2001-02, p. 13) regarding a farm directory for Minnesota. I subscribe to the Benton County Mail List and tonight a message came in regarding a Benton County Farm Directory for 1914 that is on <Ancestry.com>

Here is the message:

For those of you researching your farming ancestors in Benton County, <Ancestry.com> has a directory of farmers in the County during 1914. Listed in the database are the farmer's spouse, children names, family members living on the farm, and other useful information. The URL is: <<http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/5288.htm>>

Mary Ellen Bruski <mebruski@tcq.net>

Letters, continued on page 21

If you have not used the "Bookmark" option in your computer yet, you will be excited to learn how useful it is. This option keeps you from having to write down the long, difficult address of a website you like. You know how an old fashioned book mark is used for marking where you stopped reading the last time you put your novel down. The next time you picked it up you could see where you left off and begin reading at that point. Well, the Bookmarks in your computer are places where you have previously stopped by, thought it looked interesting and that you might like to come back. So you click on "Bookmark" and the URL (address) of the website is automatically added to your Bookmark list. In the Bookmarks option you will see "Edit Bookmarks." This is where you can go through the list of bookmarks you have made and put them into folders you create. I have a main one called Genealogy. When I click there, more folders open titled: Minnesota, Polish, Irish, General, etc. I can drag and drop the URLs from my Bookmark list and put them into the folder I want them to be in rather than searching the whole list to find the right one. --M.E.B.

Polish Research Websites

By Mary Ellen Bruski

Since we are all looking for different kinds of information to research our ancestors, I could not presume to come up with a list of "the best" websites for Polish genealogical research. My favorite might be of no use to you. And so, with that in mind, I am starting a column about websites that have been helpful to me or that have been reported to be helpful to another researcher. If you have done much "surfing" on the net previously, you will know that every website leads you to other sites. In the course of surfing, if you come across something that you would like to share with PGS-MN members, by all means let us know! We are in this organization to help each other. Send us an e-mail: Poland-MN@tcq.net.

<http://www.polishroots.org/genpoland/index.htm>

Here is a good place to start. Lots of questions can be answered by checking this page of the Polish Roots website. Many basic things are covered if you are beginning research and wish you had someone who would point you in the right direction. "How do I start my research?" "What is the present name of the XYZ province?" "What kind of records are available in Poland for my ancestors? Where can I find them?" as well as a list of archives in Poland.

<http://www.polishroots.com/>

This is the main page of the Polish Roots website referred to above. This page will direct you to the many other topics in their site. Surname search, culture and customs, geography and maps, heraldry, history, many, many reference sources, lists to search, etc.

<http://jove.prohosting.com/~guczy/>

All about Polish Genealogy links on the Web: "The goal of this site is to provide you with the most clear and comprehensive guide to sites, community, and utilities related to Polish genealogy."

There are a lot of different search engines. A search engine is sort of like a bus to get you to your destination. I like to experiment with what I can find by just typing in my surnames in the various search engines. At www.google.com I searched for Bruski. There were over 2,600 Bruski references! I found a number of references to myself because I have my name in several website surname lists. I also found *Bruski the Beerman*--my four sons will be disappointed to hear that someone already has that title! I also found the personal homepages of a number of people named Bruski who I could contact for leads on my Bruski research. I learned that there is a location in Alpena County, Michigan called the *Bruski Sink* where a major environmental cleanup has been conducted (with photos!). I found some websites with Bruski references in foreign languages. No problem, if I am really interested in what they say I can go to a translation website. (More about that later.)

Here are just a few search engines for you to do a search for your surname, or try typing in "Polish genealogy" as the topic to search for.

www.google.com
www.yahoo.com
www.lycos.com

Something a lot of researchers wish they had is some knowledge of the Polish language. You will want to bookmark one or two websites that can be used to translate short phrases:

<http://www.poltran.com/>

Poltran.com English-Polish translator: One word or a sentence. (They are also a seller of a handheld electronic Polish translator.) I do not know any Polish. But I wanted to test the on-line translator. I wrote "My grandfather was born in Gdansk" and the translation came back. "Mój *grandfather* by urodzony w Gdańsku." Apparently the translator didn't understand the word "grandfather" so then I tried "My mother's father was born in Gdansk" which came back "Ojciec Mojej matki by a urodzona w

Gdańsku.” I entered that Polish back in and asked that it be translated back to English and “It was born <give birth (be born)> in (to) father of my mother Gdansk” came back. You can give it a try if you want to compose a short letter in Polish. The PGS-MN has received e-mails from Europe that sounded much like the English translation above, and we figured out what the person was looking for.

You DO know Polish? Great, here’s a site where you can test yourself! <http://www.transparent.com/tlquiz/lwquiz/Polish/tpoli.htm> Languages of the world on line quiz--test your Polish!

My son alerted me to a website where his wife’s cousin in Germany found the Bruski name. When I went to the site I discovered it was entirely in Spanish! I highlighted the URL (address) of the site, hit “copy”

and then went to a translation website: <http://world.altavista.com/tr> In that page is an area where you can enter a URL, (“paste” what you copied) tell it to translate from Spanish to English, hit *Enter* and it will translate the entire site! The site was very interesting as it is about Polish Shields and clans. There is an alphabet to click on. I did a “find” search in each letter of the alphabet and finally did indeed find the Bruski name in the area under the Zabawa shield. I never would have known that Bruski had the same clan origins as *Dabrowski* and *Piels*. All were under the Zabawa clan. The address of this site is: <http://www.terravista.pt/fernoronha/5130/page5.01.html>

I hope you will try some of these sites and that you will learn something new. And of course, if you find something truly helpful to your research, we’d love to hear about it!

More internet sites

by Paul Kulas

The preceding article by Mary Ellen Bruski begins what will be a regular column written by her. We are happy to have her write about the internet sites useful for Polish genealogical research. In the process of editing this newsletter and in communicating with readers, I too sometimes come across useful websites.

“Where can I find the address of my ancestral parish in Poland so I can write to get parish records?” is a question that I am frequently asked. My first response is usually to inquire if the questioner has checked to see if the LDS Family History Library has filmed the records of that parish.¹ It is far better to rent the films and examine the records yourself than to write to the parish for those records--often it is a long wait for an answer. However, if the LDS FHL has not filmed the records of your particular parish, one has little choice other than writing to the parish and/or to the diocese.

A website that provides the addresses for parishes in Poland is:

http://maxpages.com/poland/Catholic_Research

This is a very useful site for Polish genealogical research with many interesting links. To find the address of a parish you should scroll down to and click on “Polish Cities with Churches, Temples, Shrines & Synagogues.” You will then find yourself at a site with two parts. Go to the second part entitled “Locating Churches, Temples, Shrines & Synagogues.” Before clicking on this link, you should probably make a copy of the directions as they are quite detailed. But the site

does work and you will end up with the address of the parish that you are looking for.

A site that provides email addresses for the various dioceses in Poland is:

http://home.att.net/~Local_Catholic-Poland.htm

Again, this is a very interesting site with many useful links. To find the email addresses of each diocese in Poland, click on “Select a Local Diocese.” Some (but not all) of the diocesan links will also provide the addresses of all of the parishes in that diocese.

When you write to a parish in Poland, it is helpful to write in Polish. Mary Ellen in the preceding article gives a helpful site in this regard. Marian Sawyer indicated to me (See, Letters, p. 6) that she used <trans@genealogy.net> to translate the letter that she sent to her Polish parish. You might try this site in addition to the one suggested by Mary Ellen.

Marian <dds997@worldnet.att.net> also sent the following note to me: “I also found several of my Ellis Island immigrant ancestors by using <<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ellis.html>>. You can find misspelled names by entering in as little information as initials, gender, age and year of immigration. I don’t know if you have heard of this website or not but it may be helpful to pass it along to others.”

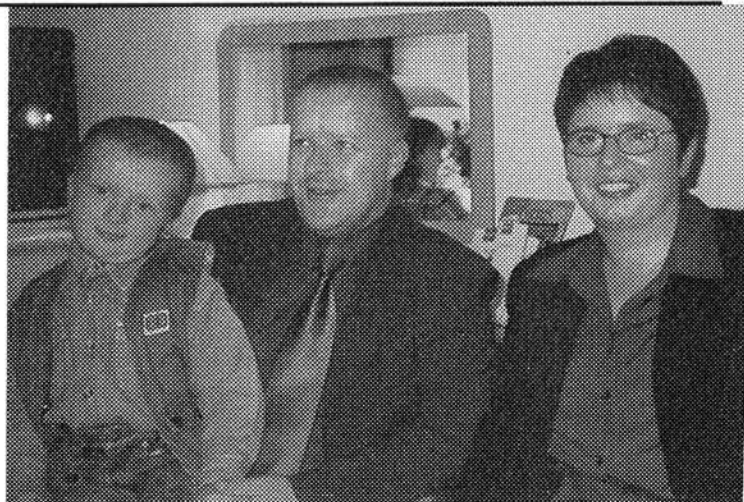
¹You can check to see if the LDS FHL has filmed your parish at <www.familysearch.org>. Click on “Library” and then on “Family History Library Catalog.” Click on “Place Search” and then enter the village where your ancestral parish is located and then click on “Search.”

Silesian Experience, continued from page 1

On Saturday morning, September 8th, we began what turned out to be the best three days of our European excursion. After an excellent buffet breakfast, we checked out of the Novotel Hotel in Kraków. Our taxi driver, Seweryn Filus arrived promptly at 10 a.m. to transport us to the railroad station. Mr. Filus was very helpful, led us to the correct track platform, then stayed to help us load our baggage onto the train before we departed for the Upper Silesian city of Opole at 11 a.m. This train trip took approximately three hours, as we traveled through a countryside that included farmland and wooded areas. The corn (*kukurydza*) and small grain fields were larger in size than they were in eastern and southern Poland. The terrain looked more and more like central Minnesota as we neared Opole.

The Hotel Opole was located only a block away from the railroad station so upon arrival at 2:10 p.m. we walked with our luggage to the hotel. Between May and July, 2001, I had written to Marek Prokot and Lucie Kokott, relatives living in Dobrzeń Wielki, and also to Helene Kokott, a genealogist living in the same town who is a cousin to Lucie. In these letters I had indicated when and where we would be staying in Opole, asked if they could arrange for a driver with a van to drive us around for two days. I also asked if we might be able to go to church on Sunday, September 9th, at Kaniów, the village from which our paternal grandfather had emigrated. I had received no return letters, however, Martin Richau, my genealogist friend from Berlin had visited with Helene Kokott in May and had spoken to her by phone after that. I had a phone conversation with Martin several days before we left on our European trip and he said, "They are waiting for you." That was an understatement.

After we had settled into our rooms at the Hotel Opole, I called Marek Prokot at 2:50 p.m. He answered the phone and when I explained that we were at the hotel, his response was "Juz?" (already?). They had expected us to arrive later in the day. He gave the phone to his wife, Ewa, who speaks a little English, and she said that they would be at our hotel at 4 p.m. Marek and his wife are a young couple, in their late twenties, have a son, Bartus, who is 5 years old. I was waiting in the hotel lobby when they arrived promptly at 4. Marek and Ewa were each carrying a bouquet of flowers and Bartus was with them. I led them up to Dolores and John's hotel room where Jeanette and Herb were also waiting and we gathered additional chairs from our hotel rooms so we could visit together. They indicated that an interpreter and another cousin, Peter Kwossek, were on the way. Peter is the youngest son of Monika Kwossek. Her grandmother, Johanna Prokot Lazik, was a sister to our grandfather, Peter Prokott.



Marek Prokot (center), his wife Ewa (right) and their son Bartus (left), taken shortly after they met their relatives from America at the Hotel Opole in September 2001.

We went down to the hotel lobby to get a couple of vases for the flower bouquets that they had brought for my sisters. Peter Kwossek and our interpreter, Kinga Pietrzykowska-Mroz, arrived at this time and joined the rest of us in Dolores and John's room. We had a great visit for about an hour with Kinga doing an excellent job as our interpreter. She teaches English at a technical school in Opole, is a native of Poznań who has lived in the city of Opole for a number of years. We had brought some small gifts from the USA for Bartus, including some toy cars and a Boston Red Sox baseball cap and he was having a good time.

After about an hour of visiting in the room, Kinga suggested that we take a walking tour of the area in close proximity to our hotel. This was a relatively slow walk where we continued visiting, going past the Rynek (City Hall), the Franciscan church, across a canal and past the Monument of Opole Nike, dedicated to the fighters for the maintenance of the Polish character of Opole Silesia.¹ This goddess allegedly helped the province retain its status during the new administrative division of Poland in 1998. At about six o'clock we went to Dobrzeń Wielki to have dinner. Marek, Peter and Kinga each had a car so the five of us split up into their cars for the ride to *Kuchnia Śląska* (The Silesian Kitchen). This is a very nice restaurant and we learned that Marek designed its interior. Marek is employed at

¹ *Editor's note: I believe that this monument commemorates the three Silesian uprisings (in 1919, 1920 and 1921) after World War I. The German-Poland border in this area was not settled until late 1921. After a disputed plebiscite, the Opole area (and much of Upper Silesia) was awarded to Germany while Katowice and its immediate environs were awarded to Poland. Most of German Silesia (including Opole) was returned to Poland after 1945.*

the city hall in Dobrzeń Wielki, also does architectural work as a sideline. Ewa is not employed outside the home but they are planning on opening a laundry business in the future.

Following an excellent meal including some good Polish beer and much additional conversation, we were driven back to our hotel in Opole about 10 p.m. Arrangements had been made to have a van pick us up at 8 a.m. on Sunday morning to be transported to Kaniów for Mass at 9 a.m. Kinga was to come to the hotel and we would all ride together in the van. A family get-together had been arranged at a restaurant in Dobrzeń Wielki, to occur at 1 p.m. on Sunday with a total of 36 persons present. It was planned that between the end of Mass and 1 p.m. we would go on a driving tour of the villages located to the north of Kaniów. We were being treated royally and it would only get better!

We had the customary buffet breakfast at our hotel on Sunday morning. Kinga arrived at around 8 a.m., followed a few minutes later by an 8-passenger van driven by Maciek who would be our driver for this day and Monday. We were taken to Kaniów and as we entered this small village we saw a large crowd near the church. This village has a new church built in 1993, serviced by priests from Kup. There is one Mass here on Sunday at 9 a.m. This was Harvest Festival day with Mass being celebrated by two priests who were brothers. One was the pastor at Kup and the younger brother had been in Madagascar as a missionary for 17 years, on leave in recent months, with plans to return there in the near future.

A procession was lined up outside the church for the Harvest Festival and the five of us plus Kinga were assigned a spot in the procession. The two priests headed the procession followed by a group of young girls carrying banners. We were behind these girls and just to the front of four women who were carrying a rather large harvest decoration consisting mainly of ripe wheat stalks. A person carrying a large, round loaf of bread followed. We were seated in the front pew on the right side of the church and before Mass began the presiding priest came to our pew and presented Jeanette with a flower bouquet and shook the hand of each of us. During the homily the priest referred to us as being visitors from America whose ancestors had left here many years ago, explained why they had left, etc. I was seated next to Kinga and she explained what the priest was saying since my understanding of Polish is not that great.

At the end of the Mass, I was invited to come up on the altar to say a few words. Kinga came up to the altar with me to interpret. I initially spoke a few words in Polish for which I received a hand. The people appreciated my attempt to speak in their language. I then



Parish church, Village of Kaniów



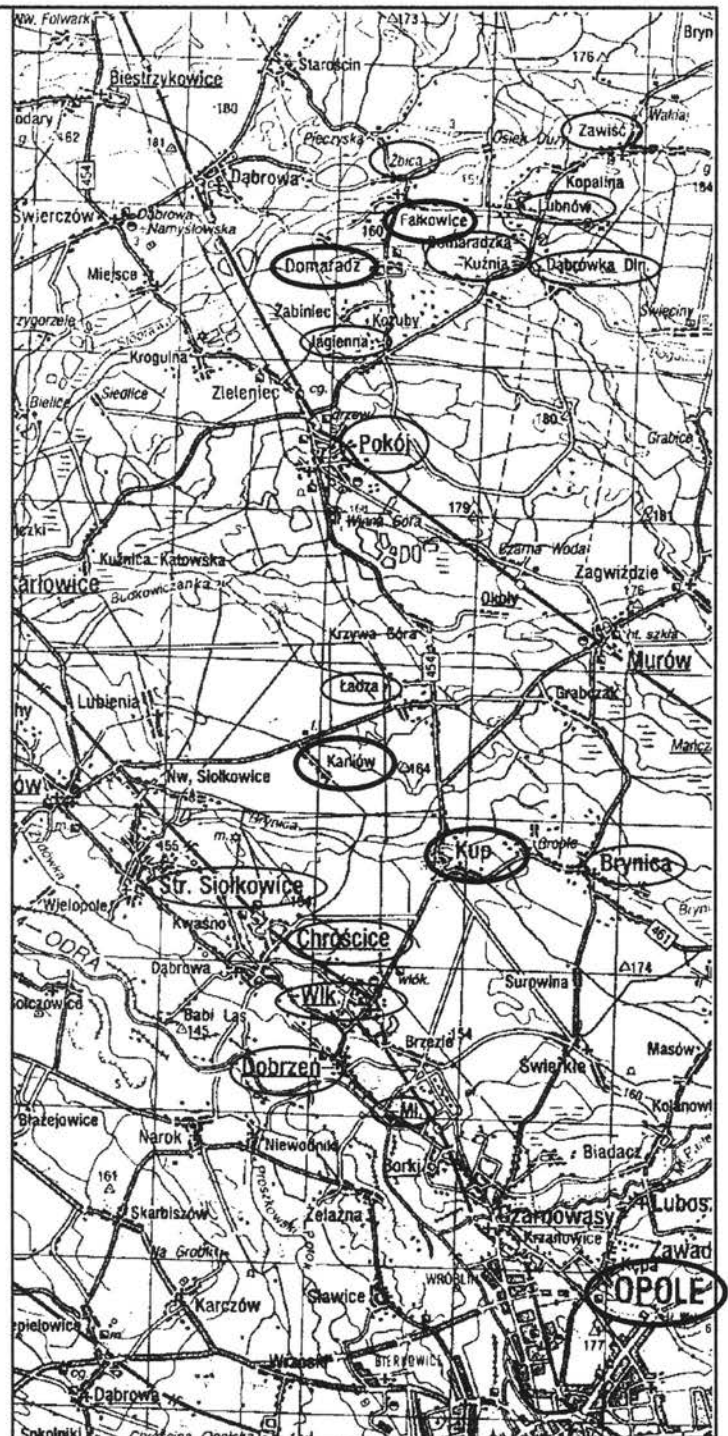
**Harvest Festival Celebration
Kaniów, 9 September 2001**

continued in English with Kinga doing the interpretation. Breaking up and eating the large loaf of bread is a part of the Harvest Festival. I was invited to take the first piece, with other people following prior to leaving the church. Mass lasted slightly over an hour and the choir was excellent. At the end of the Mass we were greeted by many of the persons attending. This was indeed a great experience for us all. After Mass I spoke with an elderly man who recalled that when he was a child a widow known to him as "Prokotka" lived in the second house from where the church is located. He could not further identify this person and said that she died during the 1930s. Some further genealogical study will be needed to further identify her.

After Mass, Maciek took us on a tour of the villages to the north of Kaniów, going to Ładza, Pokój, Jagienna, Domaradz, Fałkowice, Żbica, Lubnów, Zawisć, Domaradzka Kuźnia and Dąbrówka. We stopped at the cemeteries in Fałkowice and Zawisć, noted the grave markers are mainly less than 100 years old. We were told that often people are buried in the same place as where others had been buried over 60-70 years ago. In many cases the person is buried in the same lot as a grandparent or great grandparent had been buried previously. It was nearly 1 p.m. and we went to the restaurant for the scheduled family dinner.

A total of 38 persons were present for the family dinner at a restaurant located at the north end of Dobrzeń Wielki. We were all seated at a long table with the five of us (Dolores and John Madden, Jeanette and Herb Webb and myself seated in the center on one side and Kinga across from us. The Kwossek family was seated on one end of the table while the Kokott and Prokot families were on the other end. The Kwossek family members present were Monika, Peter, Genowefa and her husband, Josef Nowak, Rosa Muehmel and her daughter, Ania, Maria and her husband, Josef Pamuch, Franciszek and his wife, Renata, and Jerzy and his wife, Elzbieta. Prokot family members present were Marek, Eva and Bartusz, Irena Prokot-Zoska and her husband, Oswald, Anna Prokot and Krystian Prokot. The Kokott family included Lucie, Hilde and Gerhard Scheitza, Hedwig and Feliks Hiss, Helene Nowak, Gerhard Kokott, his wife Elizabeth and their granddaughter, Ewelina Koschny, Alojzy Kokott and his wife, Rosa. The Prokot and Kokott families are descendants of Joseph Prokot, who was a brother to our great grandfather, Valentin. The three other persons present were Helene Kokott, the genealogist who arranged for Kinga to be our interpreter, Kinga, and Maciek, our driver. Rosa Muehmel gave books about the city of Opole to us that were signed by all persons attending.

We all had plenty of excellent food and drink, much conversation and visiting, had a great time. This in-



Map of the area north of Opole

Many Polish immigrants to Central Minnesota came from this area north of Opole, Silesia. Bob Prokot's grandparents came from the villages of Kaniów in Kup parish and from Domaradz in Fałkowice parish (these villages are circled boldly above). Other villages visited by Bob and his party and described in his article are circled less boldly. Map source: *Mapa Topograficzna Polski* [Topographic Maps of Poland]. This 1:200,000 scale map set, covering all of Poland, is available in the atlas cases at the MGS Library.

cluded the singing of a Polish song I remember from my youth about making hay. The first three words of the song are "W Poniedziałek Rano" but I don't know if that is the title of the song. Our get-together dinner ended about 4 p.m. and we then went to Cróścice, Stare Siołkowice and Popielów, stopped at the cemeteries in those villages but found no grave markers dating back prior to 1880 when members of our family would have been buried. We returned to our hotel shortly after 6 p.m. and were told that we'd be picked up at 10 a.m. on Monday to visit at the homes of the Kwossek, Kokott and Prokot families. We had had a wonderful day and were looking forward to Monday's visits.

On Monday we had breakfast at 7:30 a.m., went to the Post Office across the street where Dolores and Jeanette mailed out some post cards. We returned to the hotel to await the arrival of our driver and interpreter. Maciek and Kinga arrived at 10 a.m. and drove us to the Kwossek home in Dobrzeń Mały. Monika, who is 85 years of age, lives here with her youngest son, Peter, who is single. Other family members present were Jerzy and Elzbieta Kwossek, Maria Pam-puch, Rosa Muehmel and her daughter, Ania. Rosa mentioned that her husband and one son both work in Berlin and were not home this weekend. The table was already set and we proceeded to enjoy food and drink including ham, bread, wine, and desserts. We ate and visited for about 3 hours during which time I was also able to update my genealogical information on their family.

We left the Kwossek home at about 1 p.m. to go for lunch at a restaurant in Brynica. On the way we stopped at the old St. Rochus church and cemetery in Dobrzeń Wielki where many family ancestors are buried. This parish has been here since 1657, the church is a beautiful, wooden edifice. We did not go inside the church but spent some time in the cemetery. We next stopped at the butcher shop operated by Jerzy and Elzbieta Kwossek in Dobrzeń Wielki. Their daughter operates a beauty salon next door to the butcher shop, within the same building. This is a nice, large butcher shop and Elzbieta gave us bags of sausages that we later ate while on the train to Prague and after we got to Prague. We arrived at the restaurant in Brynica at about 2 p.m., had an excellent lunch. Ania, who is 13 years old, ordered a Chinese lunch and was given chopsticks that didn't work very well so she ended up using regular utensils. Ania is able to speak some English since she is learning the language in school. After lunch, we bade goodbye to the Kwossek family and left for the Scheitza home.

We arrived at the home of Gerhard and Hilde Scheitza at about 4 p.m. Lucie Kokott, Hilde's older sister, lives with them and was also present. She is 80

years of age with failing eyesight. Hilde had some difficulty in walking and was scheduled for hip replacement surgery later in September. When we arrived at their home, the table was already set and we proceeded to eat some more. During our visit I was also able to get some additional information about the Kokott family. Gerhard also served us some cognac that was very good and shortly before we left, he asked "Jeszcze jednego?" (Yet one more?) This brought back memories from my later teen years when I went to dances in central Minnesota with friends who also spoke Polish. This question was often asked as an evening neared its end. In those days the answer was usually in the affirmative and my answer to Gerhard had to be "Yes." We left the Scheitza home at about 6 p.m., were driven to the home of Marek and Ewa Prokot.

Upon our arrival at the Prokot home, we were promptly seated at their table, since it was dinnertime. We enjoyed an excellent meal including soup, a couple of salads, sausages, beer, etc., had a great visit with the Prokot family which included Marek, Ewa, Bartusz, Marek's cousin, Krystian, his aunt Anna, his mother, Irina and her husband, Oswald. Marek's father, Alojzy, died in April of 1997. Oswald Zoska said that he had been born in Dobrzeń Wielki but has lived in Berlin for many years. He joked that he had come back to Dobrzeń Wielki to marry a Silesian woman when he married Irina in 1999 because Silesian women are much harder working than German women. Oswald and Irina live in Berlin. Krystian and Anna are single. We exchanged some gifts after dinner, had an excellent visit with the expert help of Kinga who was kept busy in keeping our Polish-English conversations going.

We left the Prokot home at around 9 p.m. to return to our hotel. It seemed as if we had one continuous meal on this day that lasted from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. We were treated in fabulous fashion by the people we visited, had discussions about various subjects and it appeared that a grand time was had by all. Kinga told us that she would come on Tuesday morning to see us off at the train station when we left for Prague.

After breakfast on Tuesday morning, September 11th, we went for a walk and some shopping near our hotel. We stopped at a bakery, bought some rolls in preparation for our train ride to Prague. Kinga arrived about 10:30 a.m. and we walked with our luggage to the train station a block away. Peter Kwossek appeared at the station and together with Kinga saw us off as our train departed Opole. We again asked them to thank all of the people who had treated us so well during our visit thanked Kinga for the excellent job she had done as our interpreter.

The first leg of our train trip was from Opole to

Wrocław where we arrived at around 12:30 p.m. The terrain between Opole and Wrocław looked very much like central Minnesota with relatively large fields of corn and small grain that had been harvested. We had a two hour layover in the Wrocław train station, then boarded a train for the seven-hour trip to Prague. During this train ride we ate rolls that we had purchased earlier in the day, also ate sausage that had been given to us the previous day by Elzbieta Kwossek. This was washed down with a bottle of wine that had been given to us by the Kwosseks.

We had arranged with PAT TOURS to have a guide meet us at the Prague train station, were transported by van to the Mercur Hotel. During our trip from the station to the hotel the guide informed us that earlier in the day terrorists had attacked the Pentagon and the World Trade Center in America. It was about 10 p.m. when we arrived at the hotel. We spent some time watching BBC on TV in our rooms to learn more about the terrorist attack before retiring for the night. We all felt that we had been treated like royalty during our visit in Silesia.

What's in a name?

Origins of the Stenzel/Stencel and the Lamusga/Lamuszga surnames

by Paul Kulas

Recently, Lawrence Stenzel of Decatur, Texas asked us to research the STENZEL surname.

According to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, **Stenzel** is the German spelling of the Polish surname **Stencel**. The Stencel surname, in turn, is derived from the given name *Stanisław*. Hoffman cites Hans Bahlow, *Deutsches Namenlexikon*, as the source for this information.

The Stenzel surname is not very common in Poland. According to *Słownik Nazwisk*. . . by Kazimierz Rymut, it appears only 504 times in a Polish governmental agency's records in 1990 (For the 1990 distribution of the Stenzel surname, see Map 1 opposite). As might be expected, the Stenzel surname is most numerous in areas in western Poland that were once part of the German partition (See also map on page 22). It is by far the most numerous in the Gdańsk area in northern Poland. Based on this distribution alone, one might guess that Mr. Stenzel's ancestors originated there. However, the surname is also numerous in Silesia (Wrocław, Opole, Katowice). The early Polish immigration to Texas was primarily Silesian.¹ If Mr. Stenzel traces his ancestry to this early Texas immigration, it is almost certain that his ancestors came from Silesia.

As might be expected, the Stencel spelling is much more common in Poland. It appears 4,380 times in 1990 records (See Map 2, opposite). This spelling too is most numerous in areas that were part of the German partition in the 19th century. It is again the most numerous in the Gdańsk area in northern Poland. It there-

fore might well be a Kashubian surname (See map and caption on pp. 22, 23). But again it is also common in Silesia especially in the Katowice area.

Jan Bias indicated that the Stencel families from the Wells, Minnesota area originated in *Nowa Wieś Książęca*, a village north of Opole and east of Wrocław.² If Mr. Stenzel's family has connections to the Wells area in Minnesota, it is possible that his Stenzel ancestors originated there also.

Peter Lamusga from Chisholm, MN asked us to research the LAMUSGA surname. He also asked to be put in contact with Bob Prokott who mentioned a Lamusga relative in a article published in this newsletter.³

The **Lamusga** surname is not a very common Polish surname. It is not listed at all in Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*. It probably is derived from the Polish word *lamus* which means "lumber-room, store-house." According to *Słownik Nazwisk*. . . by Kazimierz Rymut, the Lamusga surname appears only three times in a Polish governmental agency's records in 1990. All occurrences were in Katowice province in Silesia. The **Lamuszga** spelling is also listed in Rymut. It too is very uncommon and appeared only in Katowice and Opole provinces--both in Silesia (See map 3, opposite).

This limited distribution suggests Silesia as the origin of the Lamusga surname. Bob Prokott noted that Browerville in Todd County was the original home of the Lamusga family referred to in his article. Browerville was primarily a Silesian settlement.⁴ This further suggests Silesia as the place of origin in Poland of the Lamusga surname.

²Jeanette Bias, "Table of immigration information: Silesian Polish settlement in south central Minnesota," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Autumn 2000, 12.

³Robert Prokott, "The Opatz surname in America," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Winter 2000-01, 14

⁴See Harry McOuat, "Full Circle: Polish Catholics in Browerville, MN," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Autumn 1999, 8-9.

¹See "Panna Maria, Texas: The Oldest Polish settlement in Texas," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Summer 1997, 12-13 and also book reviews by Greg Kishel in *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Summer 2000, 16-17.



PGS-MN NEWSLETTER

Surname Indexing Project--Volume 6

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 Six, Nos. 1-4: Spring 1998, Summer 1998, Autumn 1998, and Winter 1998-99. The code used in this listing is as follows: the first number is the volume number, the second number is the issue number, and the third numbers are page numbers. We will index past volumes at the rate of one volume per issue. When we are up-to-date, we will publish a complete integrated listing of Volumes 1-10. We are indebted to PGS-MN member Audra Etzel for undertaking this project. Back issues of Volume 6 may be ordered from the editor of this newsletter for \$4.00 per issue.

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presents its

24th Annual Conference

Basics and Beyond

October 4-6, 2002

Ramada Hotel O'Hare

6600 N. Mannheim Rd., Rosemont IL 60018

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Letters, continued from page 7***E-mail from Poland***

The following are 3 new multilingual genealogical Homepages from Poland:

<http://free.ngo.pl/alleum> (Alleum Genealogical Society)

<http://free.ngo.pl/gento> (Silesian Genealogical Society)

<http://free.ngo.pl/worsten> (Worsten Genealogical Society)

Grzegorz Mendyka from Wroclaw in Silesia
<gento@free.ngo.pl>



The map at left shows Germany's Polish provinces as they existed from 1815 to 1918. Many of the Polish immigrants that settled rural Minnesota came from this area occupied by Germany/Prussia.

Bob Prokott's visit to the land of his Polish Silesian ancestors is featured in the lead article of this issue. Bob has documented Silesian settlement in central Minnesota (Morrison, Benton and Stearns counties) in the Winter 1996-97 [pp. 8-9] and Spring 2000 [p. 6] issues of this newsletter. Jan Bias also documented Silesian immigration to the Wells area in southern Minnesota (See Autumn 2000, pp. 1, 8-13). Likewise, Harry McQuat cited the Silesian settlement in Browerville in Todd County in central Minnesota (Spring 1998, pp. 14-15 and Autumn 1999, pp. 8-9). The Delano area, west of the Twin Cities, was also settled by Polish Silesian immigrants (See article about the Delano area parishes in Autumn 1994, pp. 5-8).

Kashubia (the subject of our October meeting--see page 3) is located in what was the German province of West Prussia. Kashubian immigration to Minnesota, particularly in the Winona area, has also been documented in these pages (See Winter 1993-94, p. 7 and Summer 1995, pp. 5-7). Despite its name, the Gnesen area north of Duluth was probably first settled by Kashubs (See Autumn 2000, pp. 20-21).

Missing Branches: continued from page 24

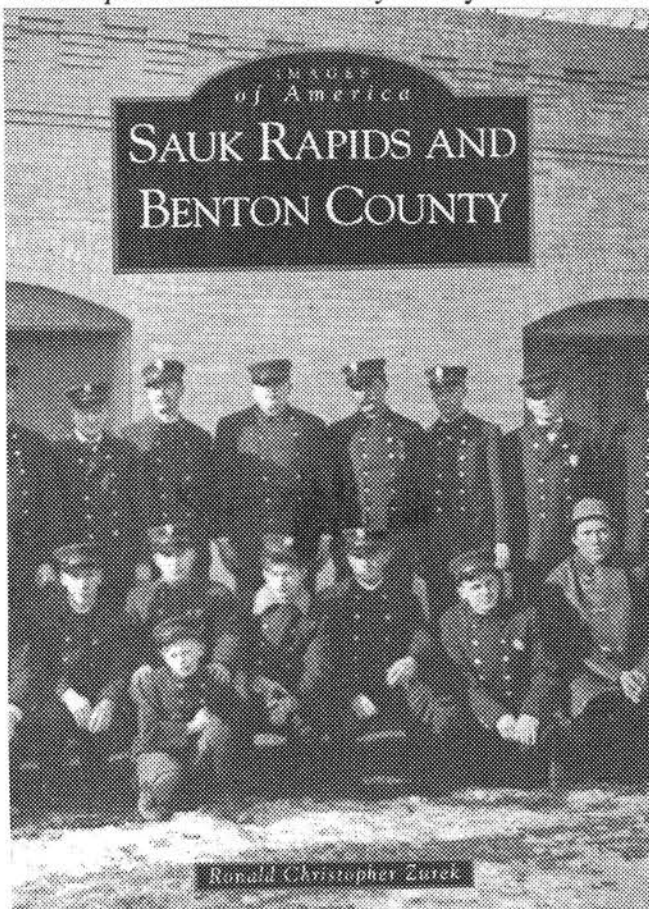
Colleen Rustad, 2605 Forest St., Maplewood MN 55109-1949 is researching TURCHIN/TURCZYN, KLIMEK, WITKOWSKI, JAJLA, STACKNIK in Kleszczyna and Slawianiowo in Poland and in Millerville and Urbank, MN.

Galen Sommer, 2616 Harriet Ave., Apt. 314, Mpls. MN 55408-1429 <galensommer@cs.com> is researching SOMMER in Stachowice, 11 km southeast of Swidnica in the district of Wroclaw in Silesia and KÜHN in Bystrzyca Gorna south of Swidnica, Wroclaw, Silesia and in Penn Twp., Mcleod County, between Brownston and Winthrop MN.

Mike Stodolka, 1407 Farmdale Rd., Mendota Heights MN 55118 <mstodolka@msn.com> is researching STODOLKA in Falkowice in Poland and in North Prairie MN and KARASH/KARISH, WILCZEK in Falkowice and in Royalton MN.

Patricia Weitzel, 4418 - 66th Av. N., Brooklyn Center MN 55529 <pweitzel@pro-ns.net> is researching ZIELINSKI in Poznan, Posen province and in Waverly IA, LOUCK, DUKEWITZ in German Poland and in Waverly and RADKE in West Union MN.

Sauk Rapids and Benton County takes you on a one hundred year journey from a primitive wilderness of the 1850s to a modern community of the 1950s. It tells the rich and interesting history of one of the oldest counties in the state of Minnesota.



Benton County was named for Thomas Hart Benton, long time Senator from Missouri, for his efforts in securing the passage of the Homestead Act that helped early settlers, their families, and their descendants live and prosper in this region. Sauk Rapids, one of the five original townships created in Benton County in 1858, was named for the rapids of the Mississippi River near downtown. Featuring nearly 200 vintage photographs, *Sauk Rapids and Benton County* takes the reader on a historic tour of the remarkable past, from the Indian settlements of the Ojibwe, to the Great Northern Railroad, to the Sauk Rapids Cyclone of 1886, to the Benton County ancestors, and to their present-day descendants with their businesses, industries, and daily activities. Author and PGS member Ronald Christopher Zurek tells the story of how these events changed the course of history for these central Minnesota communities. Ron has deep family roots to Benton County. His great-grandfather, Edmund Mark Zawacki, homesteaded in Gilmanton Township and worked for the government in charge of wood lots. Ron is the Benton County Coordinator for the MNGenWeb/USGenWebProject and has developed a Web site at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnbenton>> for individuals with a genealogical or other interest in this region. Many resources for researching family history can be found on this Website. *Images of America: Sauk Rapids and Benton County* by Ronald Christopher Zurek, ISBN 0-7385-1960-X, 128 pages. Arcadia Publishing, 3047 N. Lincoln Ave., Suite 410, Chicago, IL 60657. (Customer service and orders: 1-888-313-2665.) Book can be found in regional bookstores or it can be ordered direct through the publisher's Web site at <<http://www.arcadiapublishing.com>>

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

NEW MEMBERS: *We welcome the following:*

Nancy Jorgenson, 5730 Polk St. NE, Fridley MN 55432-5750 <njorgenson@aol.com> is researching MACIEJESKI, STRIEJNSKI, CIEŚLAK in Poznan, Poland and in Duluth MN.

Mary Beth Lindsay, 120 S. 51st St., Omaha NE 68132 <jmblinday@aol.com> is a new member.

Gary A Litchy, 10737 Pine Beach Pininsula Loop, East Gull Lake MN 56401 <GJLitchy@wzbtv.net> is researching LICHY in Halbendorf--Opole and in Arban MN.

John Marszalek, 413 - 127th Ave. NW, Coon Rapids MN 55448-1507 is a new member.

Lester Spreicher, 1120 5th St NE, Valley City ND <earll@daktet.com> is researching Ludwig SPEICHERT (born 1831 in Posen, Prussia, died 7-9-16 in St. Paul MN), his wife, Henrietta NICOLAI (b. 1835 in Posen, d. 1927 in St. Paul) and her brother, Julius NICOLI (b. 4-30-1841). Ludwig and Henrietta and two children (Auguste, Ernst) arrived 27 June 1870 in New York aboard the Argonaut from Bremen.

Darlene Springob, 18675 Brookfield Lake Dr., #43, Brookfield WI 53045 <rsrcher@aol.com> is researching SKUCZYNSKI in Wiele and Czersk in Poland and in Winona MN and TRZEBIATOWSKI in Lakie Gzłuchow, Bydgoszcz and in Little Falls, Morrison Co., MN.

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

Delores Berg, 20449 US Hwy 71, Sanborn MN 56083-3018 <bergfd@rrcnet.org> has renewed. She writes: "I'm always looking for ways to track people in the US that have moved from MN."

Vern Broll, 3716 Quiring Av. NW, Annandale MN 55302 is researching BROLL, BUHL, ROJ, GABRELICK in Silesia and in LaSalle, IL and Delano and Waverly, MN.

Veronica Freihammer, 13011 22nd Avenue NE, Rice MN 56367-9747 is researching WARZECHA, SCHLICHTING, KUKLOK, SCHNEIDER from the

Oppelin area in Poland and in Stearns and Morrison counties in Minnesota. She writes: "My GGGrandfather, Gottlieb Warzecha, married Maria Haas from Dammratsch in 1818 where he then stayed. The marriage certificate listed his home town or village as Koeln. I have yet to find where Koeln is or the parish he came from."

Gregory F. Kishel, <gfk1@cornell.edu> is researching KISIELEWSKI, WROCZYŃSKI, JAMIŃSKI, KUCZYŃSKI, PONIATOWSKI, PIENKOWSKI in Rajgród and Bargłów Kościelny in Poland and in St. Louis County MN and PIĄTEK, GUZMAN in Poznań and in Stevens Pt. WI and Bessemer MI.

Amy Jowers, 11 Patterson Hill Rd., Henniker NH 03242-3303 <puma79@attbi.com> is researching WOLAK in Minnesota.

Elgene Jorgenson, 11608 Wren St. N.W., Coon Rapids MN 55433 <ElgeneJ@aol.com> is researching ASMUS, GUSSMAN in Mischken, East Prussia and in Council Bluffs and Kingley, IA/

Jenny Lightstone, 9617 Xylon Ave S., Bloomington MN <JLightstone@mn.rr.com> is researching LIGHTSTONE/LICHTZTEJN in Punsck and in Montreal, Canada and GORDON in Kalvaria and in Philadelphia and New York.

Walter Madura, 33 Belleview Drive, Derby CT 06418-2304 <Maduraw@aol.com> is researching MADURA in Kolbuszowa Dolna in Poland and in Derby CT and Chicago IL; MARGANSKI in Kolbuszowa and in Derby and St. Louis MO; JADACH, BOMBA in Wyrenia in Poland and in Derby; BATORY in Wyrenia and in Stamford CT.

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Polish Genealogical Society
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