



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11

WINTER 2003-04

NUMBER 4

Upcoming Events!!

PGS-MN Annual Meeting

You are invited to our Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2004, from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Lakewood Cemetery, in Minneapolis.

Prior to the program, we will conduct a short business meeting, including the annual election of officers. All members who wish to stand for election to one of the positions should contact me. Positions include president, vice -president, secretary, treasurer, and three directors. We will publish a list of candidates at the meeting. Nominations will also be open from the floor.

Following the business meeting, Tom Rice will present the topic, "Research in Death Related Records and Cemeteries." He will discuss the various records that can be found around a death event. It will focus on cemetery and grave location, burial records, tombstone transcriptions and plot layout. Handouts will be available.

Tom Rice, Ph.D. is an experienced genealogy researcher and lecturer. He has completed the National Genealogical Society's course in American Genealogy and the Samford University's Institute in Genealogical and Historical Research courses in Advanced Methodology and Professional Genealogy. He has lectured frequently for the Irish Genealogical Society International and the Minnesota Genealogical Society. He serves on the board of both organizations. He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Following are the details for time and place:

Date: January 17, 2004

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: Lakewood Cemetery Chapel

Address: Hennepin Avenue South & West 36th St.,
Minneapolis

The Chapel is located on the road which runs just to the right of the cemetery main building, about 100 yards, on the left hand side (See the cemetery map on page 3). For directions to the cemetery, call 612-822-2171, or use Mapquest, or call me at 612-927-0719.

--Terry Kita

Upcoming events, continued on page 3

Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

In this issue . . .

Upcoming events.....page 1	
PGS-MN annual meeting	
President's Letter.....2	
Upcoming events, continued.....3	
February PGS-MN meeting	
MGS "Branching Out"	
Future PGS-MN meetings	
The Bulletin Board.....4	
Letters to the editor.....6	
Interpreting gravestones	
URL correction	
Silesia to America	
Johnnies Win!!.....7	
Immigration records	
Morzewo book	
Library Corner....Book Reviews.....8	
<i>In Their Words</i>	
<i>Genealogical Guide to</i>	
<i>East and West Prussia</i>9	
Drobne Echa #3.....10	
From <i>Katolik</i> , 1894	
Silver Lake,	
Church of the Holy Family.....13	
Program reports.....14	
Family histories	
Poland's changing borders.....15	
Where to look for records.....16	
A Mini-Historical Atlas.....16	
Library Corner, continued.....27	
Missing Branches.....28	

**Polish Genealogical Society
of Minnesota**

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Items submitted for publication are welcomed and encouraged. Deadlines for inclusion are: March 1, June 1, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1 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@ties2.net>

Mailing or e-mail address change?

Send address changes to: Lisa Trembley,
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e-mail: <ltrembley@mn.rr.com>

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President's Letter:

We are at the end of one year and the start of another which begins with our annual meeting. It will be held on January 17, at 2:00 pm at Lakewood Cemetery, in Minneapolis. More details are available in this *Newsletter* on page 1 and in separate mailed notice. I promise you it will be a program in a setting you will always remember.

We have scheduled five programs for 2004 in addition to the annual MGS Branching Out meeting in March. PGS-MN program dates are February 14, April 17, September 11, October 16, and November 13. Mark your calendars now! We are always looking for volunteers to share their research, experiences, and knowledge with us and we welcome your ideas for programs. Contact myself or John Kowles if you wish to speak at one of our programs. Because of the popularity of our September conference with three lectures by Ceil Jensen, we may plan another with an outside paid speaker for this Fall.

For those of you who may wish to volunteer for research projects, our Research Chairs, John Rys and Greg Kishel, may be able to use your help this year. Look for future *Newsletter* notices. They have begun an ambitious program to obtain and catalogue vital statistic information from Minnesota Polish churches/parishes.

Our membership has remained fairly constant over the past few years. This seems to be contrary to be trend for other genealogical groups. We hope you will continue as a member and an active participant in the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota.

Have a happy and peaceful New Year.

--Terry Kita

Upcoming events, continued from page 1

February PGS-MN meeting

Date: February 14, 2004
 Time: 10:00 am
 Location: MGS Library
 Address: 5768 Olson Memorial Hwy., Golden Valley

PGS-MN member **Mark Rucinski** will present a "digital" tour of his family tree research and photos of his recent visit to family sites in Poland (1,200 miles in 14 days). Mark will focus on the process and organization needed to keep the multitude of objects organized and accessible. Computers have become indispensable for keeping things organized and only a few simple rules need be followed. This prior organization really paid off when it came time to prepare a slide show in advance of his visit to Poland. With compact discs costing less than a dollar to produce, replication and distribution of the "digital" family photo album is inexpensive and easy to do. The translated Power Point slide presentation was a wonderful tool for displaying family photos and artifacts, enhancing communication and learning more about current and past generations.

MGS "Branching Out"

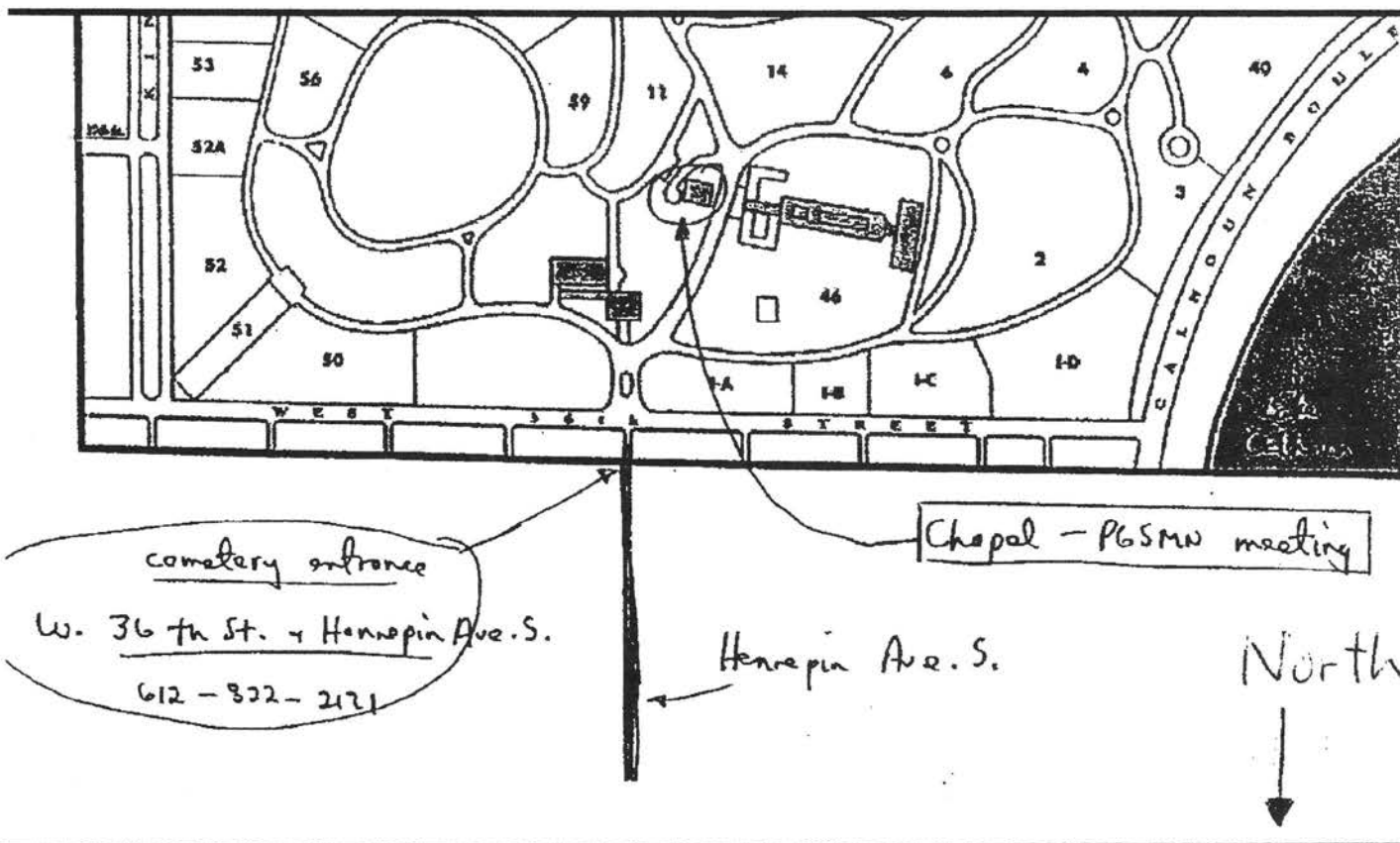
Date: 27 March 2004
 Time:
 Location: Valley View Middle School
 Address:

Harold Hinds will do the Keynote presentation: "Pre-tested Templates for Writing a Personal Family History."

PGS-MN will do two, possibly three presentations. More information will be forthcoming via separate general mailing and e-mail.

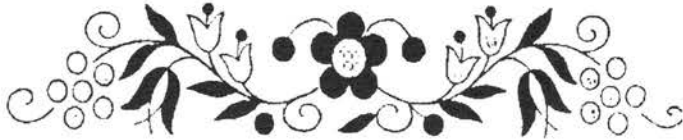
Future PGS-MN meetings

Dates: February 14, April 17, September 11, October 16, November 13, 2004
 Time: 10:00 am
 Location: MGS Library
 Topics: To be announced
Mark your 2004 calendars now!!



Map of Lakewood Cemetery

The Lakewood Cemetery Chapel is the location of PGS-MN's Annual Meeting on January 17, 2004



The Bulletin Board

Notice: e-mail change

My e-mail address has changed. My new address is: <kkulas@ties2.net> Please use my new address in all future electronic messages to me.

--Paul Kulas, editor, PGS-MN Newsletter

Extra contributions:

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

Suzanne Greenslit	Jenny Lightstone
Lucy Kruchowski	Ray Marshall

We are a non-profit educational organization. Contributions beyond basic membership dues may be income tax deductible.

We have also recently received donations of books and other materials for our library collection from:

Dr. Edward Brandt	Kornel Kondy
Shirley Mask Connolly	Blanche Krbecek
Michael Eckman	Rev. John Siebenand
Mike Konczak	Elaine Trutwin

and over the years from many others who were not duly thanked by mention in this newsletter. We apologize for that and we promise to do better in the future. We are always happy to accept books, maps, family histories, periodical articles and other suitable library materials for our collection. We are especially eager to receive histories of Polish parishes in Minnesota and elsewhere and the completed family histories of our members.

Ten-year members:

In the Autumn 2002, Winter 2002-03 issue of this newsletter, we listed current members who joined PGS-MN during our charter year of 1993 or before. The following listing is of members who joined in 1994--our second year of formal existence--and who remain members through 2003:

Mary Ellen Bruski, Robbinsdale
 Marcella Clemons, Apple Valley
 Shirley Mask Connolly, Ottawa ONT, Canada
 Luanne Kulas Coy, Eau Claire WI
 Thomas J. Draus, Hazel Green WI
 Gertrude Pawlak Erickson, Minneapolis
 Jenny L. Hall, Madison MS
 David L. Hintz, Circle Pines
 Bernadine Zak Kargul, Redford Twshp. MI
 Jerome Kolton, Andover
 John Kulas, Collegeville
 Cecilia F. Pass, Rochester Hills MI
 Ann T. Pohl, Stacy
 Mary Rundel, Greenfield WI
 Robert Stenzel, Wells
 Robert A. Stryck, Edina
 Paul Tushner, Winona
 Ed Wiorek, Mantorville
 Kathleen Zawislak, St. Paul

Thank you all for your loyalty to PGS-MN!

PGS-MN's website

Members: All of the surnames and locations that you are researching are entered into the PGS-MN website at <rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html> Since entry of that information is done by one person (me) who has to proofread her own typing, it is quite possible that errors can be made. Unfortunately, I know that I have made some in the past and probably will in the future. I feel really bad about it when I find that a member's e-mail address was entered incorrectly and has been that way for a couple years! I know that you may have missed being contacted by someone who is doing the same research you are. I would like you to do two things: First, check the entry of all your surnames in our website to be sure that I have entered your e-mail address correctly, and Second, if you have an e-mail address change please let me know so that I can make that change in the web pages where your surnames are. You can contact me at: <Poland-MN@tcq.net>

--Mary Ellen Bruski, Website Manager

PACIM Activities:

Editor's note: Though we have many members in common, the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) and the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGS-MN) are separate organizations. Membership in one does NOT include membership in the other.

Bal Karnawalowy

Invitations are now going out for our annual Bal Karnawalowy to be held February 21, 2004 at the celebrated St. Paul Hotel. If you don't get an invitation, be assured that we would love to have you! Please call Charlene at 651-423-5020.

Celebrated pianist Tadeusz Majewski will provide the musical interlude. The Dolina Polish Folk Dancers will perform a new Goral suite. "Stardust" will be supply the dance music.

The menu will be as follows:
 Sorrel Soup with Potato Dumplings
 Tomato and Cucumber Salad with Baby Romaine
 Caraway Seed Encrusted Roast Loin of Pork with
 Red Cabbage and Apples and Dumplings or:
 Vegetarian Mushroom and Noodle Casserole
 ala Zelazowa Wola
 Kinga's Chocolate Raspberry Roulade

Tickets are: \$50 (basic) and \$100 and \$150 expanded to support the PACIM Endowment Fund. Checks made out to PACIM should be sent to Steven Ukasick at 5317 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55419-1201. Please include the names of all of the people in your party.

Music Class

For two Sundays (February 1 and 8) from 2:00 pm. to 4:00 p.m., Cathy Rajtar will teach a small group of people how to sing a few Polish folk melodies, with the goal of forming a choir that would sing in nursing homes. The classes will be held at the PACIM Library. The charge is \$20, which includes the words and a CD with the words and music. Cathy suggests that students bring along a small recorder so that the pronunciation of the Polish words can be taped. She finds that it helps a great deal. Please call Judith at 763-571-9602 if you are interested in this class.

Kolendy

Each year PACIM members sing beautiful Polish Christmas carols at Catholic Eldercare, 817 NE Main Street, Minneapolis. This year the event occurred on January 4 and the carolers were accompanied by Bob Gacek and his magic accordion. Traditional Polish costumes were worn.

--Judith Blanchard <judytam@hotmail.com>





Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

Interpreting gravestones

In reply to Bill Schackman and the question he raised in the last issue ("Interpreting gravestones," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Autumn 2003, p. 5): In trying to interpret the gravestone, there are some problems. Where does the name Ludwick Pikula appear on the gravestone? How do you know it is Pikula's grave? Was the copy written down in the order as it appears on the tombstone? Some items are missing, perhaps due to erosion. If this is Pikula's tombstone, then my guess is that two people are buried here. Here is my interpretation:

Tu spoczywa ZYMA / Here lies ZYMA
 SP = świętej pamięci / in loving memory
 (Blank. Perhaps there should be another name here.)
 UR = urodzony / born 1608
 (Is this an error? It doesn't make sense--maybe 1898)
 SIERP = sierpnia / August (Died?) 1901
 UM = umarł / Died 1980
 LIPGA / July 1930

My guess is the second person buried here died in 1980 and was born in July 1930.

Kornel Kondy, Minneapolis

URL correction

I tried the website <http://home.att.net/~Local_Catholic-Poland.htm> as listed in the Spring 2002 Newsletter (p. 9) to access email addresses of dioceses in Poland and possibly addresses of parishes in that diocese. But I get the message that the address cannot be found. Have they changed their address OR????? Any help is much appreciated.

Bernice Mullen <mull.140@juno.com>

Try: <http://home.att.net/~Local_Catholic/Catholic-Poland.htm> See if that works. It works for me. Sorry about the misprint in the Spring 2002 issue.

I FINALLY GOT IT!!!!!! Just add the extra Catholic to what is in the Spring Newsletter. It works for me now. Thanks so much for your help.

Bernice

Silesia to America

I received my Fall 2003 copy of your newsletter today and couldn't put it down until I had read the whole thing. Of particular interest was Installment #2 from *Rolnik*. What a really wonderful series that is. I am anxiously awaiting "Dateline: Little Falls."

My paternal and maternal roots are in Little Falls, Poznan and Silesia.

I am treasurer of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan and recently wrote an article, "Silesians in America" which was published in our latest Journal. I asked and received approval of our Board of Directors to forward it to you. You will find a listing of surnames of people who emigrated from the Opole region to Minnesota which I found in your *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Winter 1996-97. The article was written by Bob Prokott and I received permission from him to use the list. Since this article is really more pertinent to Minnesota than to Michigan I thought you might be interested in it.

Bernadine Zak Kargul <BKargul@aol.com>

Bernadine's excellent article appears in the Fall, 2002 issue of the Polish Eaglet: Official Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan on pages 86-88. A copy of this issue is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. An excerpt from the article follows:

After describing the first Silesian (from Pluznica) settlement in Panna Maria, Texas in 1854, Bernadine writes:

In the period starting in 1868, other Silesian settlements came into existence in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Texas. The reason for this exodus of Silesian Poles was due to the "Kulturkampf" starting in the 1860s. Bismarck felt that the Pope in Rome was a threat, and attempted to suppress the Catholic faith in Silesia. The bishops were forced by threat of imprisonment to give religious instruction only in German. Two archbishops and 1300 priests were imprisoned. There were 1300 churches without priests.

School instruction was required to be in German. These actions along with letters from Father Xavier Pierz praising the terrain and the climate of central Minnesota led to this large migration to America.

Young families sold their possessions and took the train to Hamburg, Germany. They booked passage on a steamship and brought food for the

family for the long three-week voyage. In New York immigrant trains would carry them to the interior of the United States. Many stayed in Chicago or Milwaukee. Others went on to St. Paul, Minnesota. From there some went to central Minnesota between Little Falls and St. Cloud, to Delano Minnesota, to Wells in southwest Minnesota, and to Independence, Wisconsin which is northeast of Winona, Minnesota. The settlers in Wells came from the village of Trebaczow. Settlers in central Minnesota, Delano, and Independence from villages like Falkowice, Popielow and Domaradz.

All of these village locations including Pluznica are within 30 miles of the city of Opole

These pioneers who came with their families had no thought of returning to the homeland. The Silesian Poles took readily to farming. They built their Polish churches and communities and raised very large families. At the present time the descendants of the immigrants who came here from Silesia over a century ago are still operating many of the farms in these areas. The automobile industry benefited from these large families because many of the sons and grandsons of these early settlers came to Detroit to work in the automobile factories in the early years of the automobile industry. Henry Ford often said that the best workers on the assembly lines were the Poles. Their descendants are still living in the Detroit metropolitan area.

Johnnies Win!!

Congratulations to you and to St. John's on an impressive victory. You now have bragging rights.

Larry

My apologies to our regular readers but I couldn't resist putting this e-mail in. The Johnnies 24-6 victory over Mount Union (Ohio) for the NCAA Division III national championship was awesome. Mt. Union had previously won 55 straight games and 109 out of the last 110. I AM asserting my bragging rights. It is not often that this Minnesotan has bragging rights over cousin Larry who spent his adult life living in Ohio--a hotbed of football talent; the Gophers' record vs. Ohio State has been pretty grim over the years.

But back to genealogy and family history issues. How did Larry come to live in Ohio? The journey of Larry's dad (my Uncle Johnny) from Minnesota to Detroit to Ohio is a Polish-American success story that ought to be told in these pages. Larry, maybe you can write it up in greater detail.

Uncle John left Minnesota during the depression years looking for work. Like the workers mentioned by Bernadine Kargal in her article above, he found a job in Detroit working at Ford. He was active in the struggle to unionize Ford workers--many of whom were Polish (clandestine union meetings were held in the basement of his home--if they were found out the workers involved would have been summarily fired). The story of the unionization of the Ford Motor Company is a classic case in American labor history. Despite his union activity, John ended up in management at Ford. He ended his career as foundry manager of a new auto plant built near Cleveland.

Immigration records

My new email address is <jdparis@charter.net> Please make note of it in the newsletter. My old address was given in my new member entry in the Summer 2003 issue on page 28.

Would you happen to know where I could check immigration records-online-for Port of Baltimore? The story has it that my ancestors landed in Baltimore. One brother stayed and the rest came to Illinois where another brother stayed. Then my Great Grandfather came to Minnesota and stayed. I have a family reunion coming up this summer and I would really like to find when they came over and what ship. I hope you can lead in the right direction.

Dona Paris <jdparis@charter.net>

As far as I know the Baltimore records are not available online. I will pose the question in our next newsletter--maybe one of our readers knows if they are available online or not. Readers: how about it? They ARE available at the National Archives (nearest branch is in Chicago) and they may also be ordered through your nearest LDS Family History Center.

Morzewo book

Just a note to ask if the PGS-MN library would like a copy of my new book on the parish of Morzewo in Poland. It contains mostly Konczak extractions but might be of help to someone.

Mike Konczak, Baird TX

Yes, we would love to have a copy of your book on Morzewo, Poland. Off-hand, I know of at least two other members researching in Morzewo.

Readers: Mike sent us a copy of his book. We are happy to add it to our collection. Thanks Mike.

LIBRARY CORNER • • • • •

IN THEIR WORDS

A GENEALOGIST'S TRANSLATION GUIDE TO POLISH,
GERMAN, LATIN, AND RUSSIAN DOCUMENTS

by Jonathan D. Shea & William F. Hoffman



VOLUME II: RUSSIAN

Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman, *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents, Volume II: Russian* (New Britain, Conn.: Language & Lineage Press, 2002) (available for purchase from the PGS-MN; a copy is in our collection at the MGS Library in Golden Valley).

Reviewed by Greg Kishel

This is the second in a four-part expansion of the authors' seminal multilingual genealogical translation guide, *Following the Paper Trail* (1992).¹ It is also in large part an update of Jonathan Shea's *Russian Language Documents from Russian Poland* (1989).

¹Volume 1, published in 2000 and treating the Polish language, was reviewed in our Spring, 2001 issue. It also is available for sale from the PGS-MN and in our library collection.

Several varieties of "Napoleonic format" records of births, deaths, and marriages were memorialized in the Russian language and Cyrillic script in the Russian Partition of Poland from around 1868 until Poland's independence in 1918. At a first skimming, the Cyrillic handwriting in these documents is intimidating, even when it is well-formed. Once one is familiar with basic letter structure there is a temptation to assume that the vocabulary and meaning of the Russian words is the very same as in Polish--which sometimes it is not. Both of these reactions can hamper the effective use of these records. The authors devote nearly 100 pages to the techniques for translating them effectively. This treatment alone, thorough and detailed as it is, makes this book worth the price to anyone with roots in the Kingdom of Poland and other parts of the Russian Partition; the LDS Family History Library is now cataloguing and circulating large numbers of microfilmed Russian-language documents that originated in Poland between 1870 and 1900. In their calm, comprehensive explanations of the documents themselves and the language of their recording, Hoffman and Shea give invaluable help for using them.

The remainder of the volume numbers almost 400 additional pages. Over its span, the authors stretch backwards and forwards from the topics of most direct applicability for Polish-American genealogists. They open with 72 pages on the differences between the Cyrillic and Roman alphabets, the grammar of the Russian language, and the Russian vocabulary most likely to be needed by American researchers. They broaden the target population to the non-Polish ethnic groups that emigrated to the U.S. from the western regions of the Russian Empire--Jews, Lithuanians, Belarussians, and Ukrainians most prominently. There is a good review of the sorts of documents most likely to be found now, that might indicate ancestral points of origin within the Russian Empire; then, a survey of the documents generated in the New World by Russian consular sources or by lay members of the Russian-language emigre community that might be helpful in that search. There is a long section on geographically-oriented resources on the Russian Empire, including gazetteers in Russian, German, and Polish, with aids for understanding their entries whether in columnar or paragraph format.

For those who come up empty at the Family History Library or other American-based sources,

Shea & Hoffman, continued on page 27

BOOK REVIEWS

Genealogical Guide to East and West Prussia (Ost- und Westpreussen)

Records, Sources, Publications & Events

Modified 2003 Revised Edition



Edward R. Brandt, Ph.D.
Adalbert Goertz, Ph.D.

Edward R. Brandt and Adalbert Goertz, *Genealogical Guide to East and West Prussia (Ost- und Westpreussen): Records, Sources, Publications & Events* (Minneapolis, Minn.: published by author Edward R. Brandt, 2002) (available for purchase from the PGS-MN; a copy is in our collection at the MGS Library in Golden Valley)

Reviewed by Greg Kishel

Between 1850 and 1914, thousands of people of Polish and German ethnicity emigrated from the provinces of Ostpreussen and Westpreussen, in the German Partition of Poland, to the United States and Canada. The authors of this book have roots in East and West Prussia; Edward R. Brandt and Adalbert Goertz are both retired university professors, and Ed is a founding board member of both the PGS-MN and the Germanic Genealogy Society. They have written and compiled this huge, multi-focused, and extensively detailed genealogical guide to their ancestral territories.

The book's subject areas include the complex history and ethnicity of the region; those aspects of its peoples' languages that are relevant to genealogical research; the identity, content, and availability of primary-source records and secondary-source materials for family history research in the several most prominent ethnic groups; the geography of the provinces, and the changing nomenclature of places in them; the origin, organization, and fates of the many religious denominations that have been present there over the last millennium; and the places in the New World where East- and West-Prussian emigrants to Anglophone North America tended to cluster in settlement.

I would not call this a beginner's guide at all. Its coverage is so sprawling and detailed that it simply could not serve as one. However, beginning genealogists with roots in the provinces would be wise to acquire it, and to make progressive use of selected sections as their research gets more sophisticated. Goertz's compilation of "Frequently Asked Questions" in Part X would be a good place for a beginner or intermediate-level genealogist to start. The jointly-penned discussion of institutional sources in Part I could come next. The lists of parish and village localities for which the LDS Church has filmed records, in Appendices 1 and 2, would be a fine time-saver for anyone who has a German-form place of origin already documented; it will enable quicker access to the Family History Library Catalog on familysearch.org.

More-experienced researchers will appreciate the toponymic (place-name) content of Part VIII and the thousand-year historical dateline of political, military, and social events in Part IX. Part II traces the whereabouts of metrical and civil registers, an immensely complicated subject, due to the multiple and large-scale shifts of political boundaries in the region. This section might be extremely valuable to the researcher whose subject locale is not yet LDS-filmed. The authors' huge digest of articles, reviews, compilations, and other secondary sources published in the German language since 1950 is really nothing short of astounding.

Given the authors' own ethnicity, and the long-term intense German colonization of the Prussian provinces, it is no wonder that the bulk of the coverage is devoted to the Germanic peoples and German-

Brandt & Goertz, continued on page 27

DROBNE ECHA

Installment #3

From *Katolik*, 1894

Dateline: Silver Lake

By Greg Kishel

Via this column, I am presenting translations of local reportage of Polish-American communities in Minnesota, as it appeared in regional Polish-language newspapers around a century ago.¹ While searching Hieronim Derdowski's *Katolik* for a different item, I came across a report from the early Polish settlement at Silver Lake, in McLeod County.² It had everything I like to include in this column--early community and church history, the first Polish settlers identified by name, and some description of the local business and economy. Thus, I'm presenting it, for those members who have roots in this community.

From *Katolik*, February 22, 1894:

The Polish Colony in SILVER LAKE.

Around the year 1858 the Americans Wite [*sic*; probably should be "White"] and Mines settled on a hill known as Freemont, which slopes into a pretty lake, occupying around 400 acres of land. Because the name Freemont (*Wolna Góra*) had been often used earlier for the names of places during the time the Indians lived there (they having had their own traditional privilege of "Free Mountains"), the name was changed accordingly to Silver Lake (*Srebrne Jero* [*sic*; should be "Jezioro"]), for the beautiful silver waters of the lake, washing the shores of the hill. First they founded a mill and a small store for the convenience of the local German and American farmers, who hitherto had imported their goods from St. Paul.

In 1860 the first Pole arrived here, Andrzej BRYNK, a countryman from the Duchy of Poznań, who before then had resided in Texas for a couple of years. A few years later a relative of BRINK arrived, Stanisław JASKOWIAK. The esteemed Father Józef JUSZKIEWICZ was the first Polish priest to visit them, around the year 1871, and in JASKOWIAK's house he celebrated a Mass.

Shortly after that--this was in 1873--there arrived from various parts of America or directly from Poland a dozen Polish families or so, namely those of: W. IWŃSKI, P. PAWLAK, Wal. GRZECHOWIAK, Win. BIELEWSKI, Mar. WITUCKI, Sz. SZLANGA, H. RUMIŃSKI, Fr. MIKOŁAJCZAK, W. PAWLICKI, W. SOBKOWIAK, J. MALAK, W. MALAK, An. KIELAS, Fr. KARZMARZYŃSKI, J. KNIOLA, M. MAKOWSKI, and from the Polish area of Germany the German Albert SANATH. It was established that a Polish priest was to arrive here, through the permission of the Bishop in St. Paul, and jointly with the first two settlers they constructed a wooden chapel under the patronage of St. Wojciech.

Then the Czech priests arrived here: first of all Father SZYMONEK, and then Father POWOLNY, who was the first to permanently reside in Silver Lake, visiting the Czech and German settlements in the region. At the same time a Polish priest traveled from Delano to the local Poles.

In the year 1881 the first Polish priest was residing permanently in Silver Lake and was constructing a rectory here. He was the esteemed Father Laurenty ZAWADZKI, who is currently serving in Delano.

In 1888 Father Wł. TYSZKIEWICZ took over the parish; he remains in the position to this day. During his tenure a beautiful brick church, still under the patronage of St. Wojciech, 130 by 50 feet, was built in the year 1889, as well as a home for the organist and the teacher. Since the old church building was still serviceable, it and the basement of the new

¹The first installment, a short item on Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud, and Gilman published in St. Paul's *Stońce* in 1898, appeared in our Winter 2002-2003 issue; the second, seven reports datelined at Delano and published in Stevens Point's *Rolnik* in 1906-1909, appeared in our Fall, 2003 issue. The series title, meaning "Little Echoes" *po angielsku*, is borrowed from a column of short items of Polonian reportage that appeared regularly in Winona's *Wiarus*.

²Paul Kulas covered the history of Silver Lake's parish church in our Spring, 1997 issue. See also Waclaw Kruszk, *A History of the Poles in America to 1908, Part IV: Poles in the Central and Western States* (Washington, D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2001), pp. 118-119, and Sister M. Teresa, "Polish Settlements in Minnesota 1860-1900," originally published in *Polish American Studies*, v. V, pp. 65-73 (July-Dec., 1948), currently available at www.polishroots.org/paha/settlements_minn.htm.

church were assigned for a school; the first teacher was P. J. ZACZEK, and the current one is A. WAŁDOWSKI. Another 20 acres of land belong to the church, on which is a cemetery. There is admittedly still \$3,000.00 of debt on all this, but an equal amount is still owing from the people of the parish; when God gives a fertile year, they will pay this off with conviction.

Currently around 200 families belong to this church. Czechs also attend it in great numbers, and a few Frenchmen and Germans.

Since the Poles reside far from the church, in distances from 4 to 10 American miles as it is, their children accordingly attend church irregularly, and in small numbers in proportion to the number of Polish families.

A mutual aid Society of St. Wojciech is here, numbering around 70 members. There is also a Society of Education, under the protection of St. Jan Kanty. Its mission is the maintenance of the parish library and the lending of books for reading. More-over, the Rosary Sodality numbers around 200 members, and the Temperance Society has nearly 100 members. All of these societies were involved in the construction of the new church building. None of these societies are affiliated with the major Polish associations in America; each was self-organized and, better, was organized for domestic and parish work, believing that if each did what it could, the whole thus would come together itself. Along with the general Polish national movement in America, the societies in Silver Lake are striding forward, ever higher.

Currently in Silver Lake, the stores, sawmills, a flour mill, a brewery (*see ad at right*), etc. are exclusively in the hands of Poles or Czechs, as is the town government. Many of them hold even higher county clerkships.

The Polish farmers here have their own co-operative granary, to avoid being exploited and being unscrupulously taken advantage of by the agents of the two other elevators, which belong to the large trading companies. From it, grain is shipped out for sale in more distant places.

This year this business is going poorly, because the harvest is wretched and the other elevators are paying exaggerated prices in order to destroy the farmers' elevator. Still, on the whole this turns out well, because more is given for the wheat than in other places.

A Successful Home Production

Silver Lake Beer is becoming
more popular every day and is win-
ning praise from all sides. Its success
has been principally by making
a beer of absolute purity and being
properly aged before sent from the
brewery.

It has been brewed under the
most exacting conditions, according
to the latest scientific rules, by a
brewer that knows his business and
in a brewery where cleanliness is
made an important factor.

You will find Silver Lake Beer
rich--with the right color and the
right taste.

Chalupsky's Brewery,
Silver Lake, Minn.

The typography and spelling are a bit sloppy in this advertisement from the Silver Lake *Leader*, March 10 1906.

The first line of of the ad copy should read:
"Silver Lake Beer is becoming. . ."

The railroad that connects Silver Lake with Minneapolis, which is around 40 American miles away, was built in 1887 by the Great Northern company. Before then the railroad went up to a point around 12 American miles from Silver Lake. Thus likewise from the year 1887 the Polish colony in Silver Lake began to grow in size, in such ways as: the stores have grown in number, brick houses are being built, streets are being set out, sidewalks are being laid, the town has been lighted, etc.

**SPORTING
GOODS**

Our line of Sporting Goods is complete. We have
everything the hunter needs

Loaded Shells Powder and Shot
Shot Guns Hunting Coats

Threshers will find our line of
Belting, Valves, Oils, etc. as com-
plete and at lower prices than you
have to pay elsewhere.

GET OUR PRICES

**J. J. DANEK
HARDWARE**

An advertisement for Danek's Hardware Store
in the December 17, 1904 issue of the
Silver Lake Leader.

The soil in the whole area of Silver Lake is black, with a bottom layer of clay, producing an average of 40 bushels of wheat per acre. Corn always matures well here. On the other hand, in favorable climatic conditions beets produce weights of 15 to 35 pounds each.

This little item was composed a bit closer in time to its subject's founding than were the first two in our series, which means that its recounting of the first families is probably accurate. It places the Silver Lake community among the earliest Polonian settlements in south-central Minnesota, with those at Delano, Wells, and Minnesota Lake. It's nicely balanced in the attention given to clergy and lay-people, church institutions and secular livelihoods. It has the interesting observation of how

the local Poles created and maintained their own parishioners' organizations, not relying on St. Paul- or Chicago-based national groups for their programs or makeup.

It suggests that in McLeod County--unlike in central Minnesota--the Poles arrived early enough to get in on homesteading, or at least the larger-scale early purchase of good farmland; the author's lament about a large number of dispersed rural families not bringing their children to Mass regularly enough attests either to that, or to the Poles' prompt accumulation of acreage over the following two decades. In either case, it's clear that the Poles and the Czechs of Silver Lake accrued material stability for themselves; like their compatriots in Delano, they acculturated to the American polity and marketplace economy with reasonable success by the turn of the 20th century. And, by the time Father Kruszka was writing around 1908, they had burned the mortgage on that little brick church.³

³See Kruszka, *A History of the Poles in America to 1908, Part IV*, at p. 119. Father Tyszkiewicz, mentioned in this *Katolik* item, passed away only ten weeks after its publication. *Id.*

The following article has been sitting in my word processing program since 1999. So it is about five years old. I have intended to use it in this newsletter but never found an appropriate occasion until now. The preceding article by Greg Kishel gives a first-hand account of the founding of St. Adalbert's parish in Silver Lake. The following article gives a first-hand account of its closing. It therefore serves as a fitting bookend to Greg's translations.

The article was provided to me by Rev. Eugene Hackert from the Diocese of New Ulm. Fr. Hackert's hand-written note on the copy states: "This is a copy of Bishop Lucker's quinquennial report which every bishop personally takes to Rome while on official visit with the Holy Father. Each parish was invited to write their part." Thank you, Father Hackert, for this and your many other contributions over the years.

Saint Adalbert's baptism, marriage, death records (film #s 1705530 and 1705531) are on permanent loan at the LDS Family History Center in Crystal.

--PTK

Silver Lake, Church of the Holy Family

In the last five years great changes have taken place here at Holy Family. Five years ago there were two Catholic parishes here in Silver Lake a community of 700 people. One was the Church of St. Adalbert, a Polish national parish founded in 1878, and the other was the Church of St. Joseph, a Bohemian (Czech) national parish founded in 1895. Over the past fifteen years, due to the Plan for Parishes in the diocese to consolidate parishes and make more efficient use of facilities and staff, especially considering the priest shortage, it was decided to join these two parishes into one. Outside consultants came in to look at the buildings of both parishes (six blocks apart) to decide which had the better facilities to hold both congregations and had the better potential for future needs. The consultants decided on the St. Joseph set of buildings which included a four-room school, a church, and a rectory, a parking lot, and a whole block for playground.

In 1993 the old parish corporations were suppressed and the new parish corporation of The Church of the Holy Family was erected. It was decided that the St. Adalbert's buildings were to be closed and sold by the year 2000. It was also decided to build four more classrooms on the St. Joseph School Building and move the classes from St. Adalbert's building to the one building. Previous to this, grades one, two, and three were in St. Joseph's Building and grades four, five, and six were in the St. Adalbert's Building. The schools already consolidated in 1968 to form Silver Lake Catholic Schools. The addition was finished in 1993 and the classes were moved over to become Holy Family Catholic School. The parish councils, committees, and organizations were combined to form one of each for the new Holy Family Parish.

The parishioners were given a survey by the present pastor, Fr. Robert Mraz, as to when they wanted to discontinue the use of the St. Adalbert's buildings, now known as Holy Family East, and what they would like incorporated into the St. Joseph's Church, now known as Holy Family West, to make it truly Holy Family Church. Also they were asked what would they like to see done for the parishes in the mean time and what they would like to see for the closing ceremony. The parishioners of both congregations asked that the reredos, altar, and statues of Mary, as Queen, and the Sacred Heart with their shrines be brought over. They requested that St. Joseph's Centennial be celebrated as the church



Church of the Holy Family
The Polish national Church of St. Adalbert and the Czech national Church of St. Joseph were combined on August 26, 1993 to form the Church of the Holy Family.

corporation ended in its 98th year. They also requested that the closing of St. Adalbert's Church, when it should take place, be simple as it would be painful. But they requested that there be a parish celebration for a special joyful occasion before the closing in which former parishioners could return for a special Mass and meal. They also requested that a detailed history book of both parishes be written.

In response to these 1995-96 was the Historical Heritage year in honor of the centennial of the founding of St. Joseph's. It started with a Latin Mass and dinner with historical articles in both churches on display shared by the parishioners and found in the sacristies and archives. A pictorial directory was put out of all the parishioners with a brief history of the parishes and historic photographs. The year ended with a special Mass in which the New Prague Czech singers came and sang the hymns in the Czech language in national costumes. During this year also at

the parish festival, the Czech singers and dancers and the Polish dancers and singers performed. 1997 was the year to celebrate the Polish Heritage as requested so we had a special Mass with a choir of older parishioners who remembered singing in Polish at the Masses when younger, who sang an anthology of favorite hymns for each season. This was followed by a special dinner and music outside. The day was finished with the dedication of the St. Adalbert's Historic Monument in the Church Cemetery. A few months later the St. Joseph's Historic Monument was completed and erected and dedicated in the St. Joseph's Cemetery. The windows of the former St. Joseph's, now Holy Family, were rereaded and pictures of the historic buildings of both parishes and national symbols.

In 1997 the St. Adalbert's School was sold as were the rectory and the parking lot which would be used for the building of new housing. During this time plans were being made as to how to incorporate the furnishings requested and to update the church for present needs. This plan was not completed as yet when the parish received an offer for the pews of the St. Adalbert's Church by St. Joseph's Church in Fort Thompson, South Dakota, and the Salvation Army Chapel in St. Paul, Minnesota. They would have liked the pews for Christmas of 1997. Word of this was received in November, 1997. The parish was consulted and decided to sell the pews which closed the St. Adalbert's Church building. It was decided to wait until after Christmas to sell the pews and to hold the last Christmas there. Bishop Lucker came to the parish for his final visit on Holy Family Sunday. The final Masses were on Epiphany, 1998 with a procession of various articles representing the sacraments to the Former St. Joseph's Church (now Holy Family Church). The following Wednesday and Thursday the reredos, altar, statues, shrines, and baptismal font were brought over and installed temporarily until a final plan could be made for needed renovation and final placements. The closing Sunday was very emotional but the people appreciated the liturgy. The following Sunday they were surprised as to how well the requested furnishings fit in the church. The transition went fairly smoothly although there were some who are going to other parishes as was expected.

The furnishings and equipment are at present being sorted through to see what to keep and what is extra to make available to other parishes or parishioners. A parish history book with complete detailed histories of both former parishes is in the process of being written with the parishioners being interviewed for their input. The former St. Adalbert's Church will

soon be put up for sale once the contents are moved. The bell will be moved to the new Holy Family Church.

The parish has about 600 households, 900 adult envelope holders, with a population of about 1900 souls.

Program reports. . .

Family History Session November 22, 2003

About 30 people attended this session which featured a number of formats for family histories.

Jan Bias presented and discussed her Bias history book and the effort it required. Terri DiCarlo talked about her interview approach which resulted in her book: *Stella Simco's Memorials - As Told to Terri Simco DiCarlo*. John Rys explained his approach of putting everything on a video recording. John Kowles presented his approach of writing a story of each ancestral family.

The session evoked a good deal of interest and many questions relating to content, costs, etc.

FAMILY HISTORIES - A FEW THOUGHTS

John Kowles <johnkow@att.net>

1. Why Write a Family History?
 - Get a better understanding of your ancestors
 - More interesting than pedigree charts alone
 - Preservation for future generations
2. Questions to Consider
 - Who will be the audience?
 - Content (charts, pictures, maps, references)
 - Software
 - Physical Preservation - longevity
 - acid or lignin-free paper
 - photographs (black and white vs. color)
 - disk or CD
3. Ethics and Sensitive Issues
 - Strive for the truth - Be respectful of everyone's beliefs
 - What about skeletons and secrets (divorce, black sheep, children out of wedlock?)
 - Is it well known?
 - Do you have permission?
 - Can you let the reader find out on his or her own?
 - Caution: If it is really a secret - you never know how revealing it will turn out
 - I always say: "It's just history"

Highlights - Poland's Changing Borders

October 25, 2003 program

John Kowles <johnkow@att.net>

I. Partitions -1772 - 1795

Weak central government combined with German/Russian desire for expansion

- Partitions - 1772, 1793, 1795
- Modern constitution adopted May 3, 1791 extending rights - too late!
- Last King Stanislaw August Poniatowski abdicated in 1795
- Russia took largest part but still high-water mark for Germanic territory in Slavic lands
- Treaty of 1797 declared the word "Poland" should be abolished

II. The Duchies and Congress Kingdom - 1807-74

Never truly independent - many uprisings

Duchy of Warsaw

- Established by Napoleon in 1807
- A French protectorate - not strong
- Lasted until Napoleon's downfall 1815

Congress Kingdom

- Established in 1815 by Congress of Vienna
 - Tsar of Russia was made King of Poland
 - Came under military rule in 1874 after uprisings
- Grand Duchy of Posen
- Established in 1815
 - Eventually, denied autonomy after uprisings and incorporated into Prussia in 1849

Republic of Cracow

- A small free-city protectorate of partitioning countries
- Ultimately absorbed into Austria in 1846

III. German Empire Incorporates Prussian Areas

Bismarck's Kulturkampf (1872) intensified anti-Polish/Catholic campaign

- Included East and West Prussia, Posen, Silesia and part of Brandenburg
- Prussian kings now became German emperors

IV. World War I and War With Russia - 1914-23

A complicated, chaotic period but "The Second Polish Republic" is born.

Major Events

- Russia pulled out of Warsaw area in the 1914-15 time frame
- Many Polish casualties - Poles fought in German, Austrian and Russian armies
- President Wilson pushed for independent Poland in 1917
- Pilsudski and Polish military took control
- German collapse in 1918 led to Polish independence

- After the war many ethnic groups wanted territory
- At Paris Treaty negotiations Poland's history not given much consideration
 - * Parts of East Prussia (Heydekrug, Memel) became part of Lithuania
 - * Counties of Elbing, Marinburg, Stahm, Marienwerber, Rosenberg remained in East Prussia
 - * Largest part of Posen Province went to Poland
 - * Several German counties (Kreis) also changed: Fraustadt, Babimost to Silesia; Meseritz, Schwerin to Brandenburg; Filehne, Czarnikau, Kolmar to Pommern
- Prussia and Pomerania went to Germany; Danzig was to be a free city
- Polish corridor established allowing access to the sea - separated Germany territory.

Western Areas

- Plebiscites held in Prussia and Silesia in 1919-20
- Uprising of Poles in Silesia in 1919-21
- At Treaty of Versailles Allied Powers dictated terms but left Poles largely to fend for themselves leaving lots of border questions
- The bulk of the old Duchy of Posen became part of Poland

Eastern Areas

- After revolution in Russia in 1918, Bolsheviks wanted to expand
- Russians reached the outskirts of Warsaw but Pilsudski counterattacked and eventually took Kiev
- Armistice, reached in 1920, changed the eastern borders considerably
 - * Poland got Grodno, southern Suwałki, and western Galicia
 - * Lithuania got Northern Suwałki
 - * Ukraine got eastern Galicia

V. Germany and Russia Divide Poland - 1939

Stalin and Hitler have a secret agreement a month before war breaks out

- Division generally followed the Bug River
- NE Poland became part of Belarus, SE part of Ukraine, Germany took the rest

VI. Post World War II Agreements - 1945

Allies' decisions ignore people's historic lands

- At conferences it is decided to put divide Grodno with east going to Belarus and west to Poland.
- In Vilnius area, north went to Lithuania and south to Belarus
- Prussia was dissolved
- To compensate for eastern Polish lands lost the western border moved to Oder-Neisse River
- Poland also got East Prussian areas in north.

No border changes as a result of collapse of Soviet Union in 1989.

Where to Look for Records

October 25, 2003 program

John Kowles <johnkow@att.net>

For All Areas: The FIRST PLACE to start is the LDS Family History Center Site: <www.familysearch.org>

Poland:

- LDS has filmed about 80% of the records prior to 1865 and in many areas into the 1900s.
- Napoleonic Code was instituted in 1808 and is a great help in quickly translating records in the eastern areas which are mostly indexed.
- Sources of records in Poland:
 - * State/Civil Archives (if over 100 years old) first check: <<http://www.archiwa.gov.pl>> (PRADZAIID option most helpful)
 - Another useful site is: <<http://piasa.org/polisharchives.html>>
 - * Local State Office called *Urząd Stanu Cywilnego* (if less than 100 years old) - Be prepared to demonstrate your family relationship
 - * Local Religious Institution - "hit and miss"
 - * Diocese - more open, often the only source for older records

Former German Areas of Poland - East of Oder and Niesse Rivers:

- Pomeranian area records somewhat limited at LDS
- Prussia required church to keep records in 1804; civil records started in 1874.
- Many church records go back to 1600s - usually in tabular form
- A good cross-reference to places is: <http://www.Karten_Meister.com>
- Many records moved to Germany ahead of Russian advance in WWII
- In general, Catholic church records of primarily German areas moved to archdiocese:
 - Bischöfliches Zentralarchiv
 - St. Peters Weg 11-14,
 - D-93047 Regensburg, Germany
- Lutheran records were generally sent to Berlin archive.
- Some of these records are slated to go to Piłtusk Archive north of Warsaw.

Note: Two million Germans were moved to German territory after the WWII. These records are available in EWZ (Immigration Center) records available at FHC and National Archives. EW752 consists of 701 microfilms of people moved from Poland.

East of the Bug River/USSR-controlled Areas:

- Russian Orthodox Church records start 1722

- Greek Orthodox (Uniate, Byzantine Rite), Roman Catholic, Evangelical/Lutheran and Jewish started at various times in early 1800s.
- Only a few local copies of 1897 area census exist.
- Eastern Grodno area - try search of cities in Belarus
 - * Belarus archive in Minsk - ground rules on Internet
 - * Expensive - expect to pay about \$500 to get records many months later
- Some of these records in these areas returned to Warsaw archives-check first

Galicja/Now Poland:

- In Galicja area of Poland records should be in Polish archives
- Records generally available from 1772-84 time frame

Galicja/Now Ukraine:

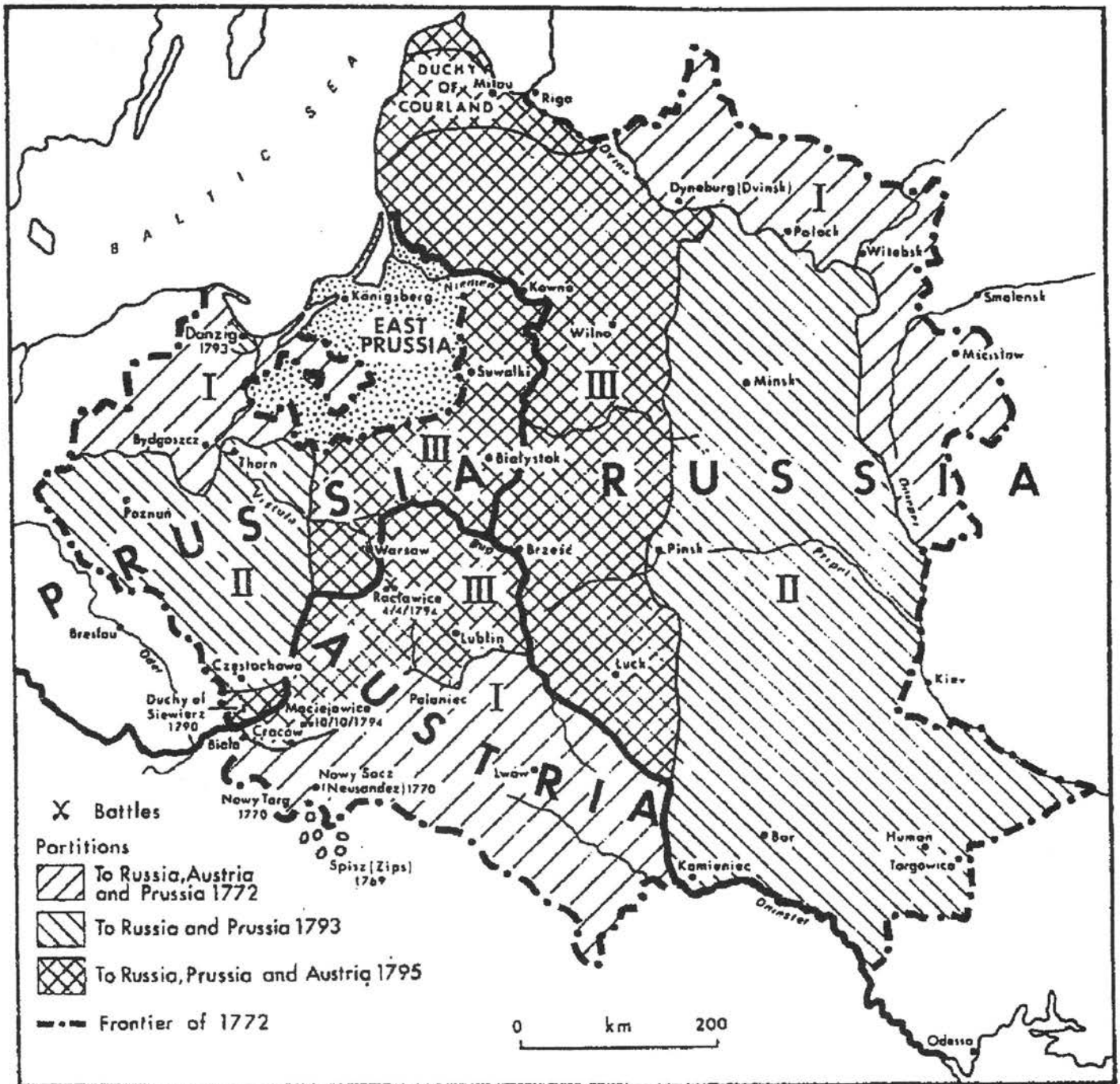
- LDS records limited in this area
- For Galician area of Ukraine, records should be in Ukrainian archives
- USSR removed many records during Soviet Period
- In Ukraine contact Central State Historical Archive
 - Tsentralnyi Derzhavnyi Istorychnyi Arkhiv*
 - Vosayedenyeniya 3A*
 - L'viv, Ukraine 290004*
- Regional archives are also located in Kyiv, Ternopol, and Ivano-Frankivsk
- Some of these records are also in the Lubaczów diocese in Poland

Northeast Area - not now in Poland

- FHC has some records from Lithuania but wide spread microfilming not allowed by the state - considered a national treasure
- Request from Lithuanian archive, records must be 75 years old, expect to pay about \$100 to get started. Lithuanian State Historical Archive:
 - Lieturos Valstybinis Istorijos Archyvas*
 - Gerisios Vilties 10*
 - 2015 Vilnius*
 - Lietura (Lithuania)*
- Surname list at <www.angelfire.com>

A Mini-Historical Atlas of Poland from 1795

The following pages include maps that illustrate the changing borders of Poland, 1795 to the present.



The Partitions of Poland (1772-1795)

Map source: Norman Davies, *God's Playground: A History of Poland in Two Volumes* Volume I, *The Origins to 1795* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984), 512.

The Congress of Vienna in 1815 modified these boundaries significantly. Much of the German and Austrian gains in the third partition (1795) were awarded to Russia and became known as "Congress Poland" or the "Kingdom of Poland." Russia's Tsar was titled "King of Poland."



The three partitions of Poland

Map source:
 Adam Zamoyski,
*The Polish Way:
 A Thousand-Year History of the Poles
 and Their Culture*
 (New York: Franklin Watts, 1988),
 252.



The Duchy of Warsaw, (1807-15)

Map source: Aleksander Gieysztor et. al., *History of Poland*
(Warszawa: PWN Polish Scientific Publishers, 1979), 349.

Poles had hopes that Napoleon would restore an independent Poland and many fought in French armies. He would greatly disappoint them. He did, however, set up the semi-autonomous Duchy of Warsaw which was far short of Polish expectations.

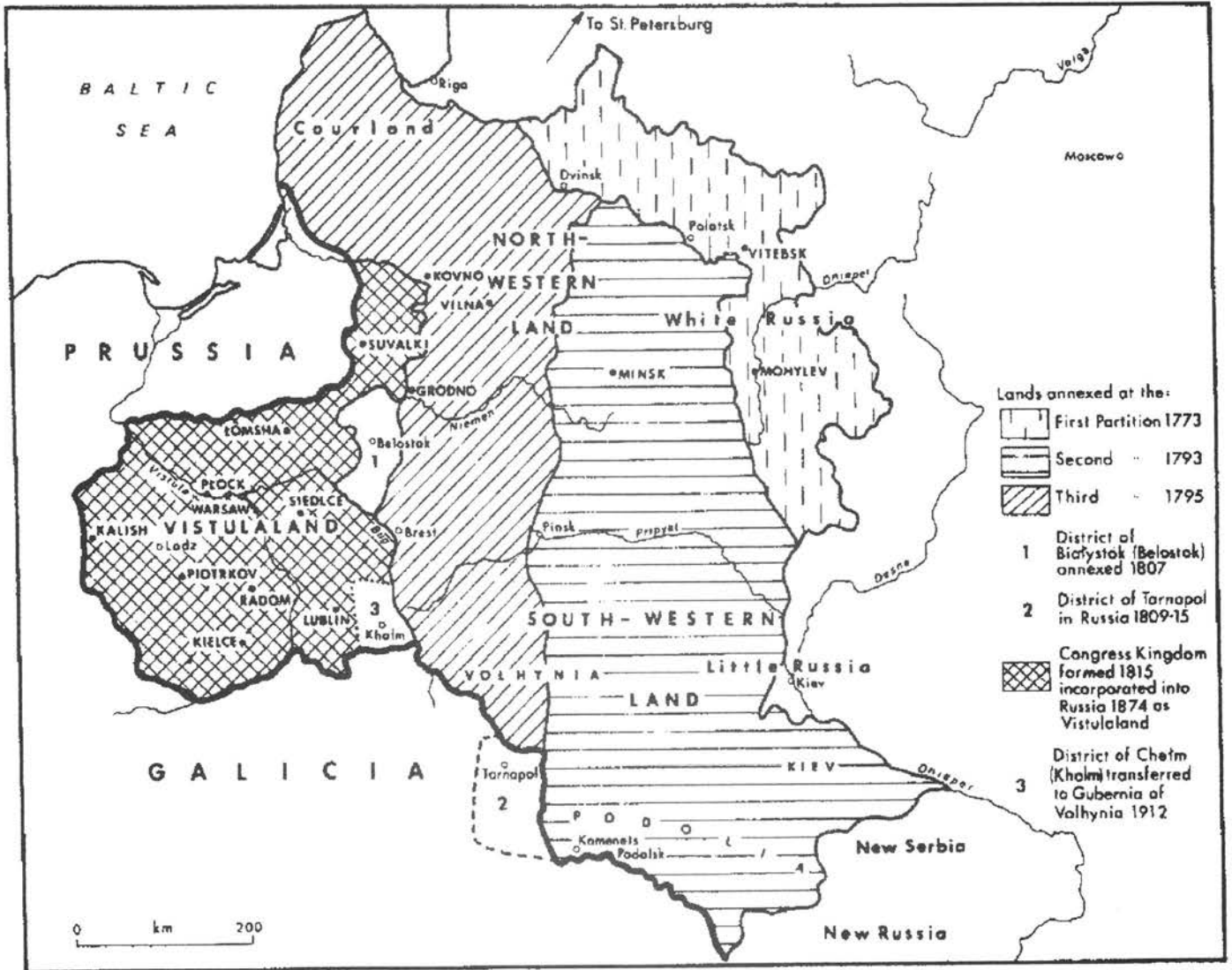


The Prussian Partition, (1773-1918)

Map source: Norman Davies, *God's Playground: A History of Poland in Two Volumes* Volume II, 1795 to the Present (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984), 113.

Most of Prussia's territorial gains in the third partition (1795) (Sud-Preussen and Neue Ost-Preussen, above) were lost to Russia at the Congress of Vienna in 1815.

Most Polish immigrants to rural Minnesota came from the Prussian partition--West Prussia, Posen and Silesia. A few came from East Prussia, mostly Lutherans who started parishes in Benton County.



The Russian Partition, (1773-1915)

Map source: Norman Davies, *God's Playground: A History of Poland in Two Volumes* Volume II, 1795 to the Present (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984), 83.

Most of Russia's territorial gains in the first three partitions have been permanently lost to Poland.

At the Congress of Vienna in 1815,

Russia gained territory acquired by Prussia and Austria in the third partition.

Vistulalands, above, became known as "Congress Poland" or "The Kingdom of Poland."

The Tsar of Russia took the title "King of Poland."

There were probably more Polish immigrants to Minnesota from the Prussian partition than from the Russian partition. And those from the Russian partition mostly came from areas adjacent to Prussia.

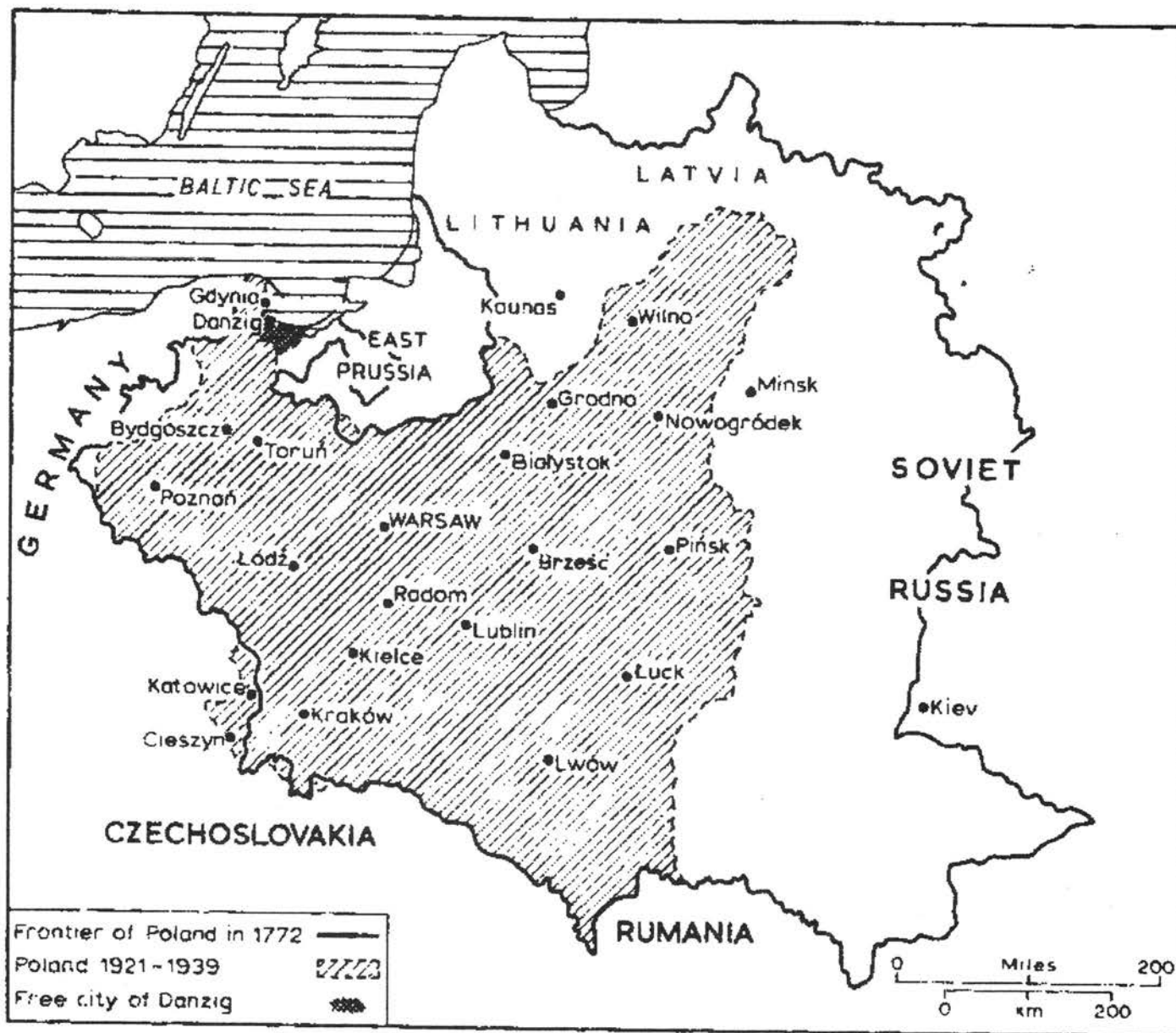


Austrian partition (Galicia), (1773-1918)

Map source: Norman Davies, *God's Playground: A History of Poland in Two Volumes* Volume II, 1795 to the Present (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984), 140.

Austria's territorial gains in the third partition were lost to Russia at the Congress of Vienna.

Most Polish immigrants to Minnesota from the Austrian partition arrived at a later date than did the immigrants from the Prussian partition and they generally settled in urban areas and took industrial jobs.



The Polish Republic (1918-1939)

Map source: Adam Zamoyski, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and Their Culture* (New York: Franklin Watts, 1988), 338.



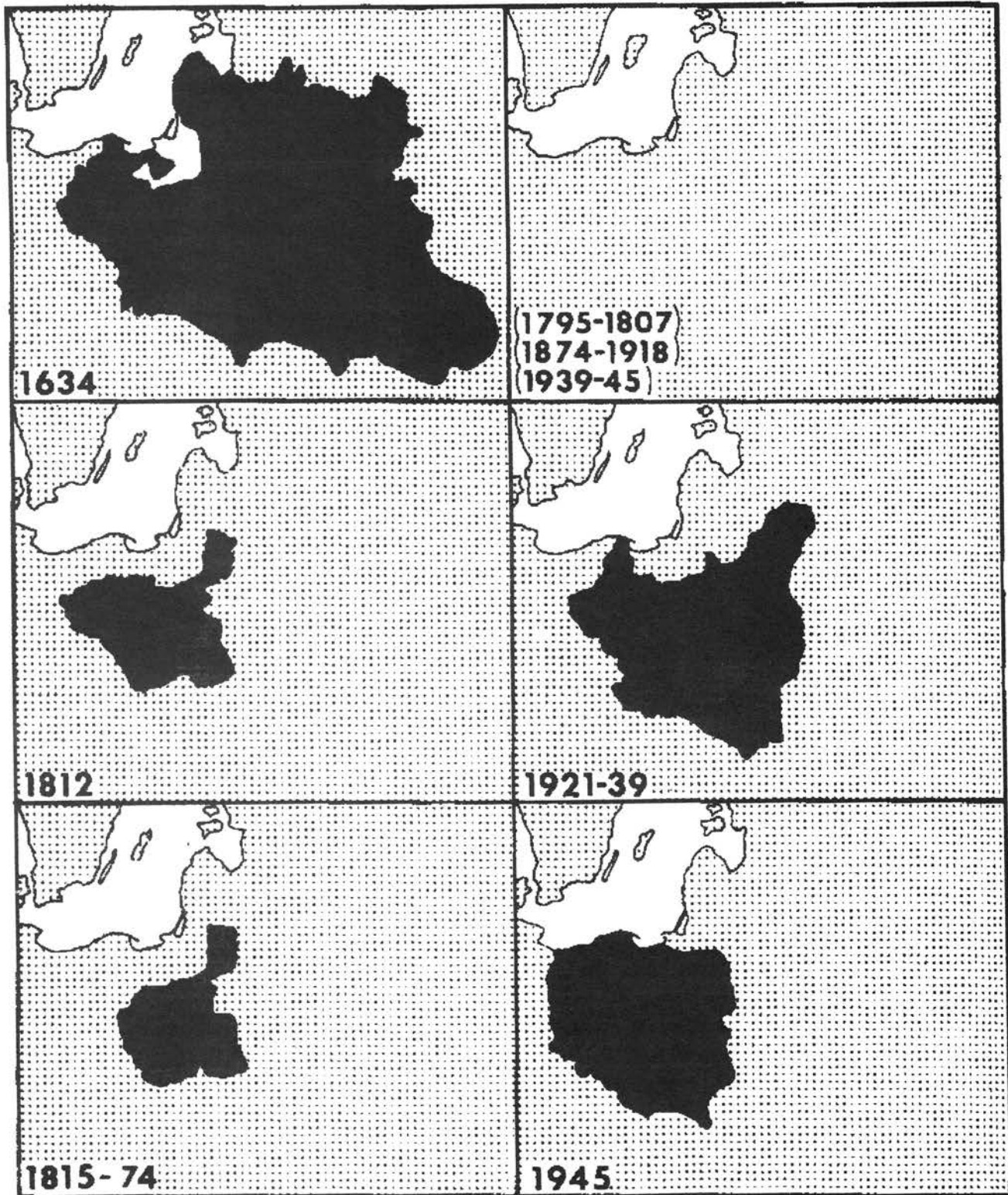
The Nazi-Soviet Partition of Poland, 1939

Map source: Adam Zamoyski, *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and Their Culture* (New York: Franklin Watts, 1988), 358.



The Polish People's Republic (1975)

Map source: Norman Davies, *God's Playground: A History of Poland in Two Volumes* Volume II, 1795 to the Present (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984), 612.



Poland's Changing Territory

Map source: Norman Davies, *God's Playground: A History of Poland in Two Volumes* Volume II, *1795 to the Present* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1984), 490.

Shea & Hoffman, continued from page 8

there are guides for writing letters to archives and churches in Russian, Lithuanian, Belarussian, Ukrainian, and Polish. The substantive wrapup is a lengthy treatment of a wide variety of "miscellaneous records," many related to emigration but others ranging through census, land transactions in Europe, and personal status. Finally, there are a long glossary of a wide variety of terms common in Russian-language genealogical records, and a long list of personal first names in their versions among the languages. Throughout, the Hoffman-drawn maps do much to place unfamiliar localities and political subdivisions onto the complex map of the Russian Empire and its component states.

As with the authors' first volume on Polish-language sources, there is a daunting amount of material here. It is best absorbed slowly and in pieces, as it is most useful to the particular reader's needs. The authors' writing style is so open, engaging, and entertaining that it is not difficult to study a particular section, reviewing it several times, before actually putting its content to use on one's own documents. Their own pleasure in research and discovery is patent throughout, and their offhand and conversational way of explaining difficult subjects is a real inspiration to keep going. This volume should be purchased by any Polish-American family researcher who has interests in the Russian Partition.

Missing Branches, continued from page 28

Mary Forsman, 6128 Upton Ave S., Mpls. MN 55410 <grandmamary@yahoo.com> is researching LYSCHIK, PIEKNEY in Falkowitz in Poland and in Bowlus, MN.

Muriel Karschnik, 33177 160th St., Worthington MN 56187-5220 <mkarschnik@hotmail.com> is researching Thomas RACZYKOWSKI in Kiostks, Poland and in La Salle, IL; Frank Raczykowski in Poland and in Hayward, WI; Martin WYSZYNSKA in Ksieztwo, Pozan and in La Salle, IL; Augusta (SCHULZ) BAUMGARDT in Faskerhutte, Germany and in Brewster, MN; Albertinz (RIECKE) MITTELSTADT in Gollin, Saatzig, Pommern and in Brewster, MN; August HUEBNER in Germany and in Heron Lake, MN; and Ludwig/Louie KARSCHNIK in Massow, Kreis Lauenburg and in Kimball twsp., Jackson Co. MN.

Walter Madura, is researching MADURA, JADACH in Kolbuszowa in Poland and in Derby, CT;

Brandt & Goertz, continued from page 9

language resources. However, there's a fair bit of material dealing with other ethnic groups--the Poles, the Jews, and the Lithuanians most prominently. And the coverage of the Prussian presence of more surprising ethnic groups--Scottish and English, Flemish, and French Huguenot among them--is rare indeed in an English-language publication.

This heavy book is of most utility to persons of German extraction with roots in these Baltic borderlands. Other-descended genealogists can get much help from it as well. As a whole, its content will have maximum value to those who are fluent enough in German to recognize pay dirt in the titles of the cited secondary sources and to read and exploit the articles and books themselves.²

For any of these constituencies, this is not a quick read or a particularly easy one. The authors are very adept at condensing large amounts of content into lesser numbers of words, but their sentence structure is sometimes cumbersome. This *Genealogical Guide* is best consumed in pieces, in order of the user's interests and in light of the user's experience, and then digested slowly and applied in sequence. For those committed to a long haul in tracing their roots in East and West Prussia, though, it is worth far more than its weight or price.

²One minor fault with the hundreds of leads to German sources is that the authors don't identify specific places where the magazines and books can be found in the U.S. Of course, this is just what the Inter-Library Loan system and its search function are for. Too, genealogists living in the Twin Cities of Minnesota will probably find most of the identified material in the GGS's library collection, maintained at Concordia University in St. Paul.

BOMBA in Kolbuszowa and in Seymour, CT; MARGANSKI in Kolbuszowa and in Derby; and WASIKOWSKI in Tarnow in Poland and in Derby, CT.

Mark Paynter, 5036 Vincent Ave N., Minneapolis MN 55430 <payntermn@lds.net> is researching WIZA in Lincoln, NE and Albert Lea, MN.

Hollie Ploof, 23160 Butterfield Dr. NW., St. Francis MN 55070 <hollirae@hotmail.com> is researching STRIKE/STREICH in Pommern, Prussia and in Isanti, MN.

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.2.net

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following:

Barbara Hammack, 15153 Holleyside Dr., Dumfries VA 22026 <barbhammack@yahoo.com> is researching SADOGIERSKI, RUTZ, KONIECZNY, KUJAWA in Poznan in Poland and in Halloway, Hastings, Flensburg and Swift Co. in Minnesota.

Mary Moriarty, 3885 Niagara Ln N, Plymouth MN 55446 <moriarty@cqc.com> is researching MURKOWSKI, CZUBEK in Kcynia and Bobowie in Poland and in Chicago.

Gilbert Mros, 5025 Johnson St. NE, Columbia Heights MN 55421-1957 <gil.mros@att.net> is researching MROS/MROZ, MROCZKA/MROZKA, GUTOWSKI in Sokołów Malopolski, Myszyniec Podlasie, Cupel Warminsko-Mazurskie, Lomza Podlaskie and Bialowieza Bialystok in Poland.

David L. Neumann, 3718 - 44th Ave. North, Robbinsdale MN 55422 <david.l.neumann@comcast.net> is researching NEUMANN, WITT, TABATT in W. Prussia and Posen and in Stearns County, MN.

Laura Schaefer Reuter, 5066 Sunnyside Road, Mounds View MN 55112 <laura_Reuter@msn.com> is researching BLANK, GABRYCH/GABRICK in Ugoszcz, LORBOIECKI(Y) in Lipusz, DUBERSEIN in ? and all in Winona, MN.

Clarice G. Ryan, 1018 East 24th St., Hibbing MN 55746 is a new member.

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

Adeline M. Copa/Sopa, 2711 Danbar Dr., Green Bay WI 54313-7022 <amessearch@aol.com> is researching COPA in Borzyszkowy parish in Poland and in Little Falls and Winona, MN and Amherst, WI; FELSKI in Borzyszkowy and Winona; TRZEBIA-TOWSKI in Borzyszkowy and Amherst, WI; and LEMANCZYK in Konarzyny parish in Poland and in Little Falls, MN.

Missing Branches: continued on page 27

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Our *Drobne Echa* series continues in this issue with translations from *Katolik*.

Dateline: Silver Lake is featured on pages 10-12. This advertisement is from the December 23, 1905 issue of the Silver Lake *Leader*.