



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12

SUMMER 2004

NUMBER 2

Polish Emigration.....

Minnesota Polish Immigration

By John Kowles, PGS-MN Vice President

Background - A Complicated History

The Polish State, once the most powerful in Europe, ceased to exist in 1795 when the last king, Stanisław Poniatowski, abdicated his throne. The final partitions, which had actually started some 30 years earlier, were implemented. The partitioning powers, Prussia, Austria and Russia, each took control of bordering segments. This control was interrupted for a brief period by Napoleon who viewed the Poles as allies in his attempts to conquer much of Europe. However after Napoleon's defeat the European powers at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 agreed Poland should be dismantled and eliminated from the map. Insurrections ensued in 1795, 1830, 1846, 1863 and also a near-insurrection in 1905. Poland regained its independence in 1918 with the defeat of the Axis Powers in World War I. Control of the eastern border was wrestled away from Russia in the conflict of 1920 - 1921. Poland was again occupied in 1939 by Germany and Russia as World War II started. This continued until the so-called Polish People's Republic was established, effectively under Russian control, in 1945. The Third Republic (present-day Poland) was established by 1990 with free elections after the breakup of the USSR.

Emigration Pushes, Pulls and Barriers¹

There were several forces at work to **push** Poles to emigrate:

- Conscription - Poles were required to serve in the military. This was especially severe in the Russian sector where there

Polish emigration, continued on page 24

¹For a detailed examination of the social issues of emigration in the Prussian, Russian and Austrian areas of Poland see Benjamin P. Murdzek, *Emigration in Polish Social-Political Thought, 1870-1914* (Boulder, Colorado: East European Quarterly, 1977, distributed by Columbia University Press, New York). A copy of this work is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

Polish White Eagle Association
1902 1st Avenue N.E. • Minneapolis, Minn. 55412



FRATERNAL INSURANCE SINCE 1900

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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. **Please use application form on advertising insert. Make checks payable to PGS-MN and mail to: Audra Etzel, Treasurer, 3487 Darrow Ave SE, Buffalo MN 55313.**

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 changes? Membership questions?

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President's Letter:

Because I have been able to trace my ancestors to Poland and to meet Polish relatives, I have spent very little time on my personal Polish genealogy in the last few years. I have instead turned my attention to my Bavarian and German-Bohemian quarter. The UNESCO English camp in Poland which I expected to be at was canceled this year. So I will take that opportunity to visit Bavaria for several weeks. I have done all I can think of, in this country, to find the place of origin of my KOEPPPEL ancestors. They settled in eastern Wisconsin. I have had much assistance from local genealogical and historical groups, as well as distant relatives that were uncovered during my research in Wisconsin. I have a myriad of information but as yet no connection to a place in Bavaria.

Recently I discovered that Bavarians who wished to emigrate were required (but not all complied) to submit "permission to emigrate" requests to local, police, church and state authorities. These request documents (called *Auswanderungsakten*) were then printed in a gazette and distributed to local communities for public use. This gazette, the *Königlich-Bayerisches Kreis-Amtsblatt für den Regierungsbezirk*, published each request for two weeks (sounds similar to marriage banns). The request information included name, occupation, residence, destination, date of emigration, and family members. These gazettes are available in Bavarian State libraries. If one is willing to tackle the Gothic script, one can wade through them. It helps to know when the emigration was to occur and to know that a family member did indeed apply for the "permission to emigrate." The official *Auswanderungsakten* documents can be found at the Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv (main state archive) in Munich or at one of eight district State Archives. Information about these "permission to emigrate" records was gleaned from the many Bavarian genealogical websites.

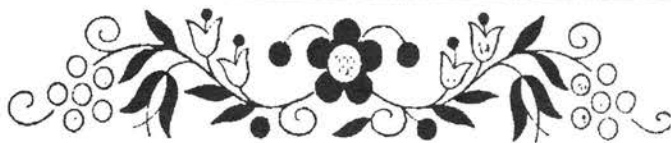
What makes this easier than pre-internet days is that one is able, with the very generous help of the archive and bibliothek personnel, to determine at which location the pertinent gazette is located, their hours of operation, when and if an English speaking librarian is available, the scheduling of materials and perhaps the opportunity

to get some help. The institutional personnel in Bavaria have been most helpful to me and I am sure their help will continue when I visit. Bibliothek catalogues can be searched on-line, Bavarian genealogical societies can be emailed, researchers can be queried, travel arrangements made, etc. before one departs. I do not know if the same opportunities are available in Poland, but it may be worth investigation.

One bit of searching I need to do in Poland is to find the location of more relatives. To help with this I have contacted several local Polish newspaper reporters and I am trying to entice them to publish stories about my search in Czarnkow area papers. Email and their knowledge of English makes this a much easier undertaking than in the past. I have no results as yet.

Wish me luck in my travels in Bavaria. Knowing that nothing is as easy as it seems, I will need it.

--Terry Kita



The Bulletin Board

PGS-MN Fall Kickoff Meeting

10 AM Saturday, September 11
at the MGS Library

For our opening meeting after the summer break we are planning a tutorial session on organization, preservation and storage of genealogical materials. Most of us have put much effort into our genealogical research. We should think about the protection of these accumulated documents and photographs from deterioration, or even worst, from disasters. Electronic media is good, but not a cure-all. You might be confused about the wide array of software formats: TIF, BMP, JPP, GIF, etc. all of which we will try to explain. A list of references will be handed out.

As usual, some time will be allowed for members to talk about their genealogical successes (or failures) over the summer and to ask questions about their research problems..

Please put the meeting on your calendar and plan to attend.

--John Kowles

PGS-MN Interactive Session Report

On Saturday, April 17 about 30 people came to MGS Library for our final meeting before the summer break. An interesting interactive session using computers and CDs was held. It seemed like everyone who attended found some new information.

Here is a sample of resources covered and where these items are available:

- *Germans to America* on CD (covers the years 1850 -1897 and includes many Poles especially those from the German partition). The complete volumes can found at the Minnesota History Center and the CD is available at the MGS Library.
- *Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland* on a new CD (Data is current as of September, 2002). This item has been placed on the data base at the MGS Library so you do not need the CD to access it. However, information about using this resource successfully is available in a binder stored with the CD collection.
- *Geographical Dictionary of Kingdom of Poland* on a new CD (Information is from the 1880-1902 period. The Dictionary is in Polish but the CD has introductory reference files in English). This item is available on microfilm at the MGS Library and we intend to procure the CD.
- *Family History Library Catalog*. This resource is available at any LDS Family History Center, on the internet at <familysearch.org> and the CD is available at the MGS Library.

--John Kowles

Corrections:

Two corrections to the Missing Branches column in the last issue (Spring 2004) are needed:

The e-mail address of **Jill Hopland**, a new member, researching the ORZOL and GRABOWSKA surnames is incorrect. It should read:<jilhop50@hotmail.com>

Also the mailing address of **John J. Kotowski**, a new member, researching the KOTOWSKI and PUKROP surnames is incorrect. It should read: John J. Kotowski #150583, 7600 525th Street, Rush City MN 55069.

--PTK



Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

Where is Pelka?

Do you have any idea where Pelka is located? My uncle has this on his WWI draft registration. Is there a Pelka in the Bydgoszcz area as I believe that is where they were from?

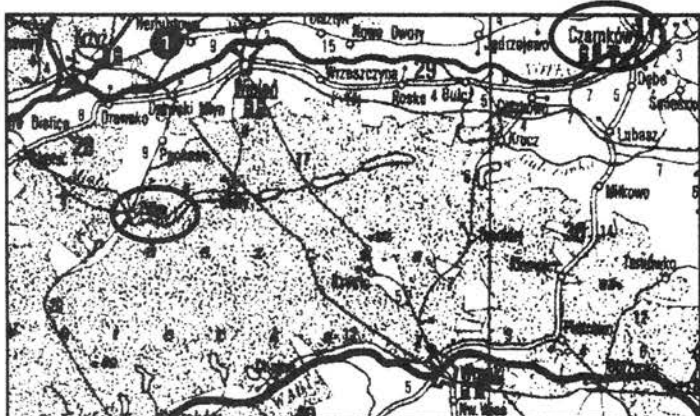
Cecelia Pass <cpass001@ameritech.net>

Concerning the location of Pelka: I was unable to locate a village with that spelling in the index of my fairly detailed atlas of Poland or in Słownik geograficzny--the very detailed gazetteer of Poland. I did locate a village with the Pelka spelling (the "l" has a slash through it) in Słownik but that village was located nowhere near Bydgoszcz.

I therefore checked a few alternative spellings. I found several villages spelled Piłka and three of them were about equidistant from Bydgoszcz. These villages were in the districts of Walcz, Czarnków and Oborniki. However, only one of these was within what was the provincial district of Bydgoszcz at the time of the partitions of Poland. That was the one in the district of Czarnków (See map below).

Słownik indicates that there was a parish church located in this Piłka. I checked the LDS Family History Library website <familysearch.org> and found that the records (1767-1919) of this parish have been filmed.

I don't know if this is indeed the village that you are looking for but I guess I would order the films at your nearest LDS Family History Center and check to see if your ancestors are listed in its records.



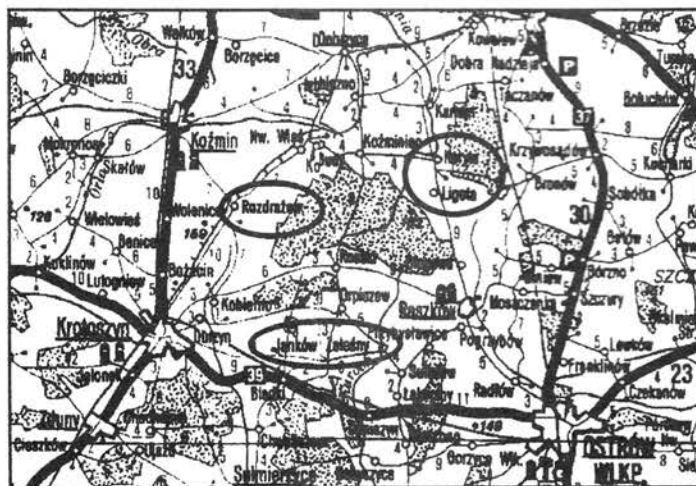
Visiting Poland

Our son, Todd, is going to Poland in a couple of weeks to do TV coverage for a international soccer tournament. He may have some free time to explore. With your knowledge of the area, would you be willing to give him the spots to see, etc.

Larry <labetkulisearthlink.net>

Todd, Your father (and my cousin) emailed me that you will be going to Poland. Where in Poland will you be going? I have visited most areas in Poland and can give you some tips on what you should see. It would be nice if you could visit the home villages of your great grandfather, **Jan Kulas** (Ligota, parish church in Koryta), and of your great grandmother, **Józefa Junik** (Henryków, parish church in Rozdrażew). (See map below.) Our Kulas ancestors lived in Ligota only one generation. The Kulas ancestral village is Janków Zalesny (also shown on the map below. I have traced our Kulas ancestry in Janków Zalesny back to the late 1600s.

What exactly will you be doing at the International Soccer Tournament?



I will be arriving in Warsaw on Monday, March 29 and will travel immediately to the city of Plock. On Tuesday we have a set up day for the US/Poland match which is on Wednesday, the 31st. I then fly home late Thursday out of Warsaw. I hope to have some time to tour the city on Thursday. I had hoped to have more free time off but unfortunately that will not be the case. I work almost exclusively now for ESPN as both a producer and a technician. If you have any insight as to some "quick hits" in either Plock or Warsaw I'd sure be interested in hearing back from you.

Todd <sfpproductions@earthlink.net>

Płock is one city in Poland that I haven't visited. According to my tour book, it is one of the oldest city in Poland and was the residence of its kings between 1079 and 1138. It was a wealthy trading center until the 16th century and it then declined. After WWII it became a significant industrial center when a gigantic oil refinery and a petrochemical plant were built there which altered the town's character and brought heavy pollution.

It is built on high cliff above the Vistula and a view of the town from the opposite side of the river evokes its illustrious medieval past. You should probably visit the cathedral which was built in the 12th century and contains the tombs of the two kings who resided in Płock--Władysław Herman and Bolesław Krzywousty. Note the exact copies of its original 12th century bronze doors--the original doors were stolen and are now located in Novgorod, Russia. You may also want to visit the Benedictine abbey and its baroque Church of St. Adalbert which were founded before 1172.

I've been to Warsaw several times. It is a large city (almost 2,000,000 people). With your limited time, I would concentrate on visiting the Stare Miasto (the Old Town) area. This area is included on UNESCO's World Heritage List of cultural treasures. Start your sightseeing at Plac Zamkowy (Castle Square) which contains the Column of Sigismund III and the Royal Castle. Like most of Warsaw, the Royal Castle was completely destroyed during World War II. It was lovingly reconstructed after the war and contains some wonderful art displays in its lavishly restored interior. If you tour the castle be sure not miss the Canaletto Room (Room # 11) which features paintings by Bernardo Bellotto (known in Poland as Canaletto). His amazingly detailed paintings of Warsaw (which survived the war) were used to faithfully reconstruct many of the city's historic monuments and buildings.

On your way to the Rynek Starego Miasta (Old Town Square) visit the reconstructed St. John's Cathedral--also completely destroyed in World War II. The Rynek is the most elegant square in Warsaw. Totally destroyed in World War II it was rebuilt to its 17th and 18th century appearance. Interesting stops are at the Historical Museum of Warsaw (entrance through house # 42) and the Fukier House (# 27) which was a famous tavern and wine cellar and now accommodates the excellent Fukier restaurant and wine bar.

You should probably buy a tour book and not rely exclusively on what I say here. Two very good guides are Poland: Blue Guide and Poland: Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit. Both of these are available at any good book store.

PGS-MN in Virginia, MN

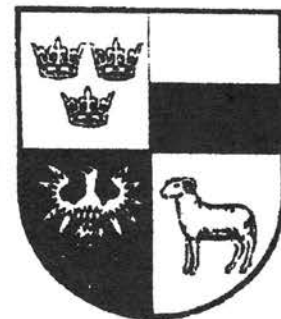
We were so happy to have you and Greg Kishel at our annual meeting of the Virginia Area Historical Society in Virginia. Greg is an excellent speaker. The meeting was supposed to be held in the Viking Room but because of the response it was changed to the larger Chippewa Room. We had to stop selling tickets at 115. Greg held their attention wonderfully. Everyone told me how excellent he was.

Thank you for sending me the Winter issue of the newsletter. I was especially happy to get the maps. I just heard of the Alien Registration of 1918 and went to Ironworld and found my father-in-law's birthdate and birthplace. My husband speaks Polish and used it serving during WWII. He was in charge of some prisoner of war camps since he could understand German. I am also happy to have the listing of newsletter articles that you sent.

Dorothy Petroskey, President
Virginia Area Historical Society

The program cover for the Virginia meeting is reproduced below:

The Polish Pioneers of Early Virginia



Virginia Area Historical Society
26th Annual Meeting
Park Inn International
May 7, 2004
5:30 PM

In Memoriam

We have been notified recently of the deaths of several people associated with PGS-MN.

They are:

Richard Wett

long-time member, in March

Bill Magratten

long-time member, in April
(see note by his wife, Ellen, below).

Dean Rockman

husband of founding member and long-time PGS-MN Treasurer, Barbara Rockman, in June.

We extend our sympathy to their families

Dave Koslo

In the newsletter issue dedicated to Polish-American sportsmen (*Summer 2002*) you omitted mentioning my cousin, Dave Koslo (KOSLOWSKI/KOZŁOWSKI), from Menasha, Winnebago County, Wisconsin. He was a pitcher for the New York Giants, among other teams, and became a hometown hero. They even named a park after him. Enclosed is a copy of the dedication (*See the reproduction of the program cover below*). Also enclosed is a record of the marriage of his parents at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Menasha (*see copy at right*). Both parents came from the German Partition. Dave's father, Stanisław Kozłowski, was born in *Koenigl. Wierzchucin* (now *Wierzchucin Królewski*) and baptized in *Polish Krone* (*Koronowo*), Province Posen on 7 August 1881. His parents were Jan Kozłowski and Anastasia SZULC. His mother Teodosia KONIECZKA was born in *Ciosna* and baptized in *Ostrowo*, Province Posen on 23 May 1887. Her parents were Stefan Konieczka and Stanisława GRACYALNA. I was unable to locate the village of Ciosna; it may be that it doesn't exist anymore as such.

W Kornel Kondy, Minneapolis

Sadly, Bill Magratten passed away last week. He did not complete his genealogy search. However, I will try to continue the search as soon as I am able to devote some time to it. Thanks for the opportunity to access the information. Bill always enjoyed all of the PGS-MN functions.

Ellen Magratten <magratten@yahoo.com>

I always enjoyed visiting with Bill at PGS-MN meetings. See the article page 8 for a brief account of one of our conversations. --PTK

New guide coming

I am now working on a companion volume to my *Genealogical Guide to East and West Prussia*. It will include Poznan, Pomerania, Silesia and East Brandenburg. It will also have information on the eastern tip of Saxony (now part of Polish Silesia), the Duchy of Warsaw and, if I can find out more about pre-1772 Polish records, I will also include that for historic Great Poland and Kuyavia as well as German material from South Prussia. This might also pave the way for a potential future revised edition of my *Genealogical Resources for Polish-Americans and Polish-Canadians*.

Ed Brandt <brandtfam@prodigy.net>

Ed's Genealogical Guide to East and West Prussia is available through PGS-MN (See advertising insert). See also a review of this resource in our Winter 2003-04 issue on page 9.



Dave Koslo Day
Koslo Park Dedication
Monday, May 31, 1976

24
 Registrum Matrimoniorum in Ecclesia *Sti. Joannis Baptistae*
 Diocesis *Sinus Viridis*

Nomen Familiae	A. D. Dia Mensis	REGISTRUM MATRIMONIORUM	Dispensationes
<i>Die 12 Junii 1911</i> <i>Stanislaus Kozłowski</i> <i>et</i> <i>Theodosia Konieczka</i>		<p>Ego infrascriptus, ad hoc officium invitatus ac rogatus, nec vi aut gravi metu constrictus, <i>Præmissis</i> <i>testibus</i> denuntiationibus, et mutuo contrahentium consensu habito per verba de present, matrimonio conjuncti <i>Stanislaus Kozłowski (Sordum)</i> e loco <i>Menasha, Wisconsin</i> Filium <i>Joannis Kozłowski, et Theodosiae Sente</i> baptizatum <i>Polish Kow, Prov. Posen, Germany (nata August. Anglucina)</i> die <i>7</i> mensis <i>Aug.</i> Anni <i>1887</i> in hac parochia, per <i>5</i> mens (vel) ann commorantem, cujus de statu libero satis constabat a <i>Theodosiam Konieczka</i> e loco <i>Menasha, Wisconsin</i> Filiam <i>Hypham Konieczka et Stanislawi Gracyalua</i> baptizatum <i>in Ostrow, Prov. Posen, Germany</i> (nata in <i>Ciozna</i>) die <i>23</i> mensis <i>Maii</i> Anni <i>1887</i> in hac parochia, per <i>2</i> mens (vel) ann commorantem, cujus de statu libero satis constabat, Praesentibus testibus <i>Francisco Pawłowski</i> a <i>Julia Gracyalua</i> Hujus Matrimonii notitiam mihi ad Rectores ecclesiarum in quibus praedicti Sponsi baptizati sunt. <i>Petrus Kurzejta</i> Pastor (and) delegatus a Sponsis { Parocho Ordinario</p>	

Latin language marriage record of Stanisław Kozłowski and Teodosia Konieczka in Menasha, Wisconsin on 12 June 1911.

Notice the parish of origin in Poland is given for both the bride and groom. Can anyone guess where the seat of the Diocese of *Sinus Viridis* is located? A prize of a one-year membership extension will be awarded to the first member who contacts me (by phone, e-mail, letter or in person) with the correct answer. No Kornel, you're not eligible for this prize. The officers of PGS-MN aren't eligible either. --PTK

Finding your Polish village of origin

Finding the village of origin of your Polish ancestors is key to making progress in tracing your Polish ancestry. Research into records on this side of the ocean is essential to find that elusive information. Contributors in this issue give several examples of where this information can be found.

The record from Kornel Kondy (above) and the article by John Rys (pp. 20-23) demonstrate that Church marriage records often record both place of

birth AND parish of baptism. John's article (on pp. 14-19) shows that insurance records also indicate place of birth. The Declaration of Intention of the grandfather of John Kowles (on p. 27) also gives the place of birth in Poland. And Dorothy Petroskey (p. 5) indicates that she found her husband's ancestor's birthplace in "Alien Registration Records." These are just four examples of where the place of origin of in Poland might be found.

Readers: Write and let us know how you found your ancestral village of origin Poland. --PTK

NPASHF Class of 2004

Longtime NHL center/forward **Ed Olczyk**, Oakland Raider great **Steve Wisniewski** and hard-hitting outfielder **Richie Zisk** have been elected into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame.

The election of Olczyk, Wisniewski and Zisk brings the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame roster to 92. The Hall of Fame was founded in 1973 and former St. Louis Cardinals baseball great **Stan Musial** was the first inductee.

Olczyk was the top vote-getter being named on 135 of the 285 ballots cast. Wisniewski, former All-American at Penn State and All Pro tackle with the Oakland Raiders, was second with 130 votes. The top two of 20 candidates are elected. Zisk, now a hitting instructor with Chicago Cubs minor league system, was selected by the Hall's Veterans Committee.

Eight former athletic greats received 100 or more votes in the balloting. Football's **Ted Kwalick** finished third with 128 votes, wrestling great **Killer Kowalski** received 122, and pitcher **Ron Reed** who received 114 votes round out the top 5.

Olczyk, now coach of the Pittsburgh Penguins, was a gifted playmaker and strong skater. At 18 he was the youngest player in the NHL when he was selected third overall in 1984 by the Chicago Blackhawks. He played 16 seasons, scoring 342 goals and 452 assists for 794 points. In 1994 Olczyk helped the New York Rangers win the franchise's first Stanley Cup in 54 years.

Wisniewski was a standout collegiate guard twice earning All-American honors (1987-88). He played on three bowl teams including the '86 National Championship Fiesta Bowl team. Wisniewski spent his entire 13 year NFL career (1989-01) with the Oakland Raiders. Named eight times to the Pro Bowl, Wisniewski was also named to the Raiders All-Time team in 1995.

Zisk, a three-time minor league home run champ, played 11 full seasons in the major leagues for the Pirates, White Sox, Rangers and Mariners. He had a lifetime batting average of .286 with 1,477 hits, 207 HRs and 792 RBIs. Zisk played on 2 All-Star teams and was named AL Comeback Player of the Year in 1981.

Information on the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame is available on its website at: <www.polishsportshof.com>

Greats of the Past

By Paul Kulas

The Summer, 2002, issue of this newsletter reported on Polish American athletes inducted into the National Polish American Sports Hall of Fame. While that issue had relatively little to do with genealogy, I received more feedback from it than from any other during my eleven years of editing this newsletter.

Several members contacted me about athletes they thought should have been among those selected. Ray Marshall wrote that his grade school-mate in Duluth, **Gene Kotlarek**, was missed (*See PGS Newsletter, Autumn 2002, Winter 2002-03, p. 4*). Gene won U.S. Ski Jumping Championships in 1963, 1966 and 1967. New York native, Bill Magratten, cornered me after one of our membership meetings and insisted that a resident of his old Polish neighborhood in New York, **Joe Lapchick**, should have made the list. Joe is a member of the Basketball Hall of Fame. And recently Kornel Kondy wrote that his cousin, **Dave Koslo**, should have been among the chosen elite (*See p. 6, this issue*).

Tom Tarapacki, the sports columnist for the *Polish American Journal*, reports (*April 2004, p. 11*) that the NPASHF recently added a new category of membership--"Greats of the Past." Eligible candidates are those whose careers ended prior to 1973 when the Hall was established. This, I think, is a great idea. I too, am of the opinion that several outstanding old-timers have been overlooked.

In the Summer 2002 sports issue (*pp. 13-14*), I proposed the names of six candidates for admission. Three of them are eligible under this new category. They are: College Football Hall of Fame member, **Emil Sitko**, who lead Notre Dame to four-straight undefeated seasons (1946-49); **Harry Coveleski**, who had three consecutive seasons winning 20 or more ball games (1914-16); and **Ed Modzelewski**, the hero of the 1952 Sugar Bowl when his underdog Maryland team defeated Number 1-ranked and previously unbeaten Tennessee. And I am sure that Ray, Bill, and Kornel also want their favorites to be considered for admission.

In addition, I am proposing four additional nominees (I could name others but these are my personal favorites). They are: **Johnny Niemiec**, whose game-winning touchdown pass to Johnny "One-play"

Greats continued on page 23

Hero in a far-off land

Poles remember a Minnesotan's valor in World War II

By Patricia Lopez, *Star Tribune* Staff Writer

Editor's note: This article is excerpted from the June 23, 2004 issue of the StarTribune. The hero of the story, Walter Shimshock, is the brother of PGS-MN charter member, Bernie Szymczyk.

LOMIANKI, POLAND—On Tuesday, Gov. Tim Pawlenty and dozens of citizens from this small Polish town paid elaborate tribute to a 19-year-old tailgunner from Columbia Heights, who died here 60 years ago during the Warsaw uprising.

Of the thousands of planes and millions of victims claimed by World War II, none has taken on more symbolic significance for this town just outside Warsaw than the death of Walter Shimshock.

Little known in his own country, Shimshock has become a hero in Lomianki, generating a legacy far beyond anything a lanky Pole fresh out of DeLaSalle High School could ever have dreamed.

At a war cemetery where the people of Lomianki have erected a granite monument to the fallen crew, veteran Jerzey Rygulski grabbed Pawlenty's hand in greeting and told him through an interpreter what he had seen that night so long ago, on Sept. 18, 1944:

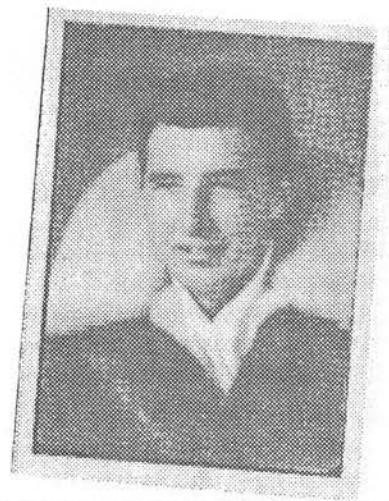
"Squadrons were coming from London," he said, the words coming out in a tumble. "German artillery shot one of the planes down. Soldiers were jumping in parachutes, using little white flags to indicate surrender. Nevertheless the Nazis shot them down.

"Two survived. Shimshock was one."

"He survived but was executed because of his Polish heritage. Each year we have a beautiful ceremony here to remember them," Rygulski said.

When Pawlenty thanked veterans for their efforts to build the monument 20 years ago in the face of Communist opposition, Adam Kurdele, another snowy-haired veteran of the uprising, bowed slightly in front of Pawlenty. "We always consider this is our obligation," he said.

In Warsaw as part of a five-day trade mission to Poland and the Czech Republic, Pawlenty made the Lomianki ceremony his last stop in Poland.



Walter Shimshock of Columbia Heights was executed by the Nazis after his capture in Lomianki, Poland in September 1944. His plane was shot down while on a mission to drop supplies to the resistance fighters of the Warsaw uprising.

With a police escort to cross Warsaw in rush-hour traffic, Pawlenty arrived at the war cemetery to find the town band waiting, trumpets in hand; school children bearing flowers, flagbearers, and nine Polish soldiers lining the walk to the memorial. Each soldier stood at attention, bearing a 2-foot-wide beribboned floral wreath of red and white, the national colors.

Lomianki Mayor Lucjan Sokolowski told Pawlenty how the townspeople of Lomianki watched the plane crash in a courtyard that night, pulled bodies from the wreckage, and tried to hide the two survivors, only to watch them be hauled off and executed.

"We will never forget the courage of these magnificent fallen American airmen," Sokolowski said. "They gave their lives out of a sense of duty. We will never forget their sacrifice."

The soldiers marched to a drum roll, laid the wreaths one-by-one, saluting stiffly. Pawlenty kneeled at the memorial and carefully arranged the ribbons on the American wreath of red, white and blue flowers. One wreath was laid for each crew member, with two young children in red-and-white sashes, laying the final wreath and bowing deeply.

While all the airmen of that crew are honored, Shimshock has a special place in the hearts of Lomianki citizens, Sokolowski said, because he was Polish.

From Shimshock's death, have come a deep sister-city relationship between Lomianki and Columbia Heights. The local hospital in Lomianki is developing a relationship with Minneapolis Children's Hospital. George H.W. Bush visited the memorial site erected by the people of Lomianki when he was vice president, as did Al Gore. Shimshock has a street in Lomianki named after him.

Hero, continued on page 27

Origin of the *BIAS*, *KUROPKA*, *STALOCH* and *PIETROK* surnames

by J. M. Bias

I know where all of my Polish immigrant ancestors were born; however, I thought it would be interesting to research my ancestral surnames in Kazimierz Rymut's *Słownik Nazwisk*. All 16 of my great great grandparents were born in the province of Silesia near *Syców* in Poland. *Gross Wartenberg* is the German name for the village. On the maps shown in this article, *Syców* would be located in the very southern-most part of Kalisz province. All eight of my great grandparents immigrated to Wells, Minnesota¹ and its immediate vicinity.²

I am fortunate that the records of my ancestor's parishes of origin have been either microfilmed or that I have been able to find their records at a parish rectory when I traveled to Poland. I have done a lot of my research in the records of my ancestral parishes and I know to whom I am related to and to whom I am not related. It is a maze but I have a computer and a family history program to keep track of everyone listed in these records. In all cases, without exception, I have found no relationship between people with identical surnames to my ancestors with that same surname if they were not born in the same town even when the town is only a few kilometers apart. That is pretty intriguing and it took me quite a few years to come to this conclusion.

The research on my ancestors is not complete by any means. I am also going to continue research on other families that immigrated to Wells, Minnesota from Silesia. The records of the Polish settlers of Wells are in the same records that I have been using in my search for my ancestors. It is all a matter of organizing the information and not getting everyone mixed up.

The *Bias/Kuropka* and *Staloch/Pietrok* surnames considered in this article are the surnames of my great grandparents on my paternal side of my family. They

¹In the Winter 2003-04 issue on page 7 (Silesia to America), there should be a correction. Wells, Minnesota is located in south-central Minnesota and not in southwest Minnesota.

²See also: Jeanette Bias, "How Many Cousins Were in Your 8th Grade Class? Silesian Polish settlement in south central Minnesota." PGS-MN Newsletter 8 (Autumn 2000):1, 8-13.

all immigrated in the 1870s or 1880s. In a future article I will write about the surnames of my great grandparents on the maternal side of my family.

The Bias Surname

My great grandfather, **Christian Bias**, was born in *Bischdorf* now *Biskupice*, Poland and immigrated with his family to Wells, Minnesota. My grandfather, John Karl Bias, and his siblings were born in *Blatnig* now *Blotnik* in Poland. The name of this village was changed to *Rubensfelde* in 1937. It was pretty confusing to have three different names for the same village. (Editor's note: In the 1930s, the German government changed the names of many Silesian villages it thought sounded too Polish to something indisputedly German. It was a Nazi attempt to erase the Polish history associated with areas that they claimed were always German.)

The *Bias* surname is not very common in Poland. According to *Słownik Nazwisk* there are only 122 *Bias* surnames in the 1990 directory (See map below).³ I'm not surprised that there are such few *Bias* surnames. Christian Bias was the only one in his family to immigrate. His obituary said he had one brother that stayed in the old country. There were people with the *Bias* surname that were born near Opole and who immigrated to Stearns County. They are not related to my ancestors.



³This and the subsequent maps presented will show only the southwestern portion of Poland. Notice that all four of the author's ancestral surnames discussed are concentrated in areas that were part of the province of Silesia prior to World War I.

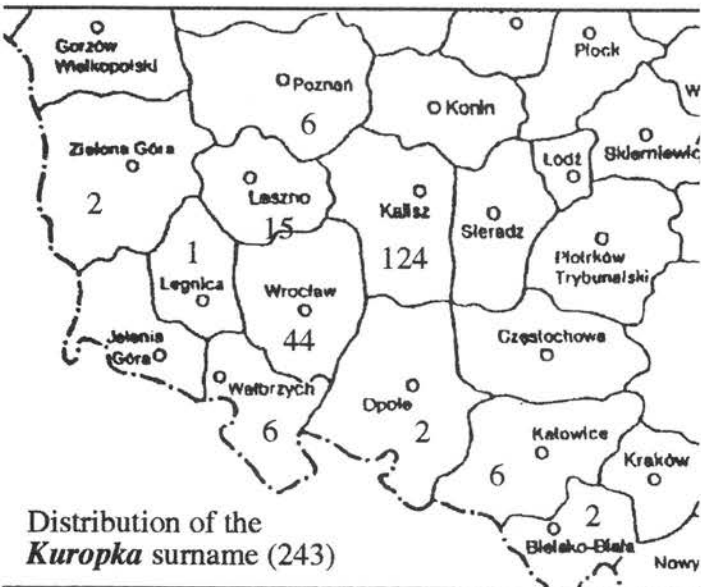
The Bias surname is very common throughout the United States and the world. The surname is found among many different nationalities. The only ones I am related to are the descendants of Christian and Elizabeth Bias. If you have an ancestor with the Bias surname who was not born in Bischdorf now Biskupice in Poland then we are not related.

The Bias surname does not appear in Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*.

The Kuroпка Surname

My great grandmother **Elizabeth Kuroпка Bias** was born in Trembatschau now Trębaczów in Poland. The Kuroпка surname is not very common in Poland. According to *Słownik Nazwisk*, it appeared only 243 times in Poland in 1990 (See map below).⁴ It is most numerous in the province of Kalisz where Elizabeth was born.

I have found that women are more difficult to research than men and I haven't completed my research on this line. However, I found one male Kuroпка that immigrated to Minnesota and he was single. His married sister (Rosina) also immigrated to Minnesota. They may or may not be related to Elizabeth. I would need to go back to the 1700s to see if there is a connection. I have other Kuropkas in my database and



⁴Though still concentrated in areas that were part of the province of Silesia prior to World War I, the Kuroпка surname is a bit more widespread than the other surnames discussed this article. In addition to the distribution shown above, the surname also appears in the following provinces: Piła (1), Gdańsk (1), Toruń (4), Łódź (2) and Warszawa (20).

they may or may not be related.

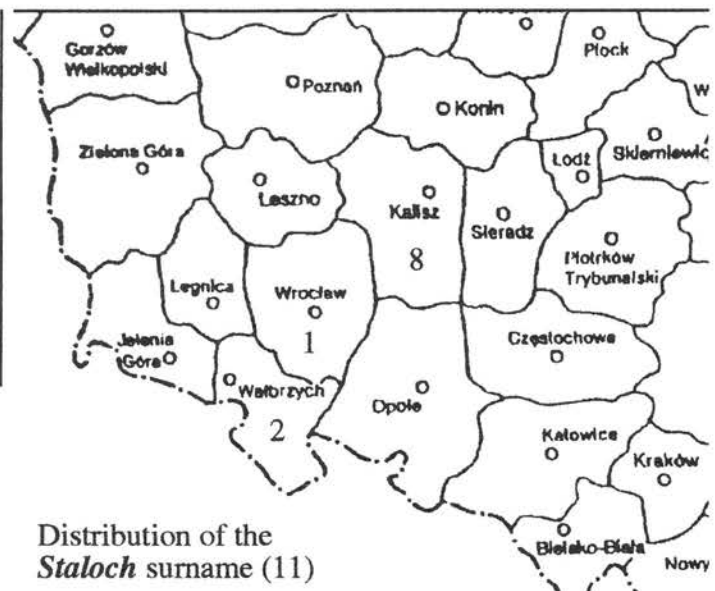
I found Kuroпка families born in Trembatschau in the International Genealogical Index on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints website. Otherwise, there are no Kuropkas in the United States.

According to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, the Polish word *kur* means "cock" and the Polish *kura* means "hen." There is also a *Kur* coat of arms.

The Staloch Surname

There are hardly any Staloch surnames listed in *Słownik Nazwisk* and I am not surprised because they all immigrated to Minnesota from Silesia! It only appears 11 times with the largest concentration in Kalisz where my ancestors were born (See map below). My great grandfather, **Frank Staloch**, and all of his siblings and half-siblings immigrated to Minnesota except for a half-brother that got on the wrong ship and ended up in Brazil. I am related to practically all the Stalochs in the United States. There are some Staloch families in northern Minnesota and they are not related to me. There is a Staloch family (he changed his name to Staloch before he immigrated) born in Trembatschau that immigrated to Wells and there is no relation to my Staloch family. If your Staloch ancestor was not born in *Neudorf* now *Nowa Wieś Książęca* in Poland, we are not related.

According to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, the Polish *stal* means "steel." It is a term used often for a smith or other metalworker.



The Pietrok Surname

My great grandmother **Susanna Pietrok Staloch** was born in *Neudorf* now *Nowa Wieś Książęca* in Poland. There is only one Pietrok in *Słownik Nazwisk*. It is in the province of Katowice.

A John Pietrok born in Trembatschau immigrated with his family to the Wells vicinity. I originally thought John and Susanna were brother and sister but they are not. His descendants are known as *Petrok*. Also an Anton Pietrok, his spouse (Rosina Kuroпка), and his family immigrated to Wells, Minnesota. He was born in Neudorf but his male descendant did not marry. A sister to Anton who was married also immigrated. They may or may not be related to Susanna. I would need to go back to the 1700s to see if there is a connection.

There are Pietroks in the white pages in western United States but I am sure we are not related. If your Pietrok ancestors were not born in Neudorf now *Nowa Wieś Książęca* in Poland, we are not related.

According to Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, *Pietr* is the Polish given name for "Peter."

P.S. My pedigree chart (at right) shows four generations including my 16 great great grand-parents. I can go back an additional one or two generations on most lines There are three female SOBOTA surnames but they are from different villages and are not related. However, Franz STALOGH and Elizabeth STALOGH are brother and sister; therefore, my parents were third cousins. --JMB

First ever Bias Family Reunion held this past summer

From the *Wells Mirror*,
Wells, Minnesota
October 16, 2003

The first-ever Bias family reunion was held August 16, 2003 at the Days Inn in Albert Lea. The reunion was held to celebrate the completion of the *Bias Family History Book* by Jeanette Bias. The events on Saturday included a social time at 2 PM, a visit to St. Casimir Catholic Cemetery, Mass at 5 PM and a sit down dinner at 7 PM. About 90 relatives attended from Texas, California, Maryland, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Four generations were represented. The oldest member was Clem Bias, age 93, a grandson of Christian and Elizabeth Bias, and the youngest member was Clem's great grandchild, Stephanie Redman, who was 2 months old at the time of the reunion.

The Bias ancestors, Christian and Elizabeth (Kuroпка) Bias, and their 5 children immigrated on September 28, 1889 and settled near Wells, Minnesota. There are more than 345 descendants. Colored charts on the wall showed all descendants and their spouses. There are many, many Bias surnames in the United States, however, the only Biases we are related to are the ones in the *Bias Family History Book*.

Jeanette Bias of Vadnais Heights, Minnesota, great granddaughter of Christian and Elizabeth Bias, organized the event and published the *Bias Family*

History Book. It was 268 pages and included about 150 pictures. Bias spent many months and hundreds of hours working on the "Book." The "Book" included the normal events in a person's life plus pictures, obituaries, pictures of gravesites and copies of death records. To make the *Family History Book* unique, she asked for information on occupation, education and religion. These facts and any family history are especially important to document from the older generations.

Bias has traveled to her ancestor's birthplaces in Poland (it was part of the German empire when the Bias ancestors were born) and the "Book" included pictures of the birthplaces where the Bias family was born. Christian, Elizabeth and their children were born in Bischdorf, Trembatschau and Blattinig respectively near the town of Gross Wartenberg in the province of Silesia. These villages are now Biskupice, Trebaczow and Blotnik near the town of Sycow in Poland.

Bias is continuing her research on the other sides of the family and this will keep her busy for many years to come.

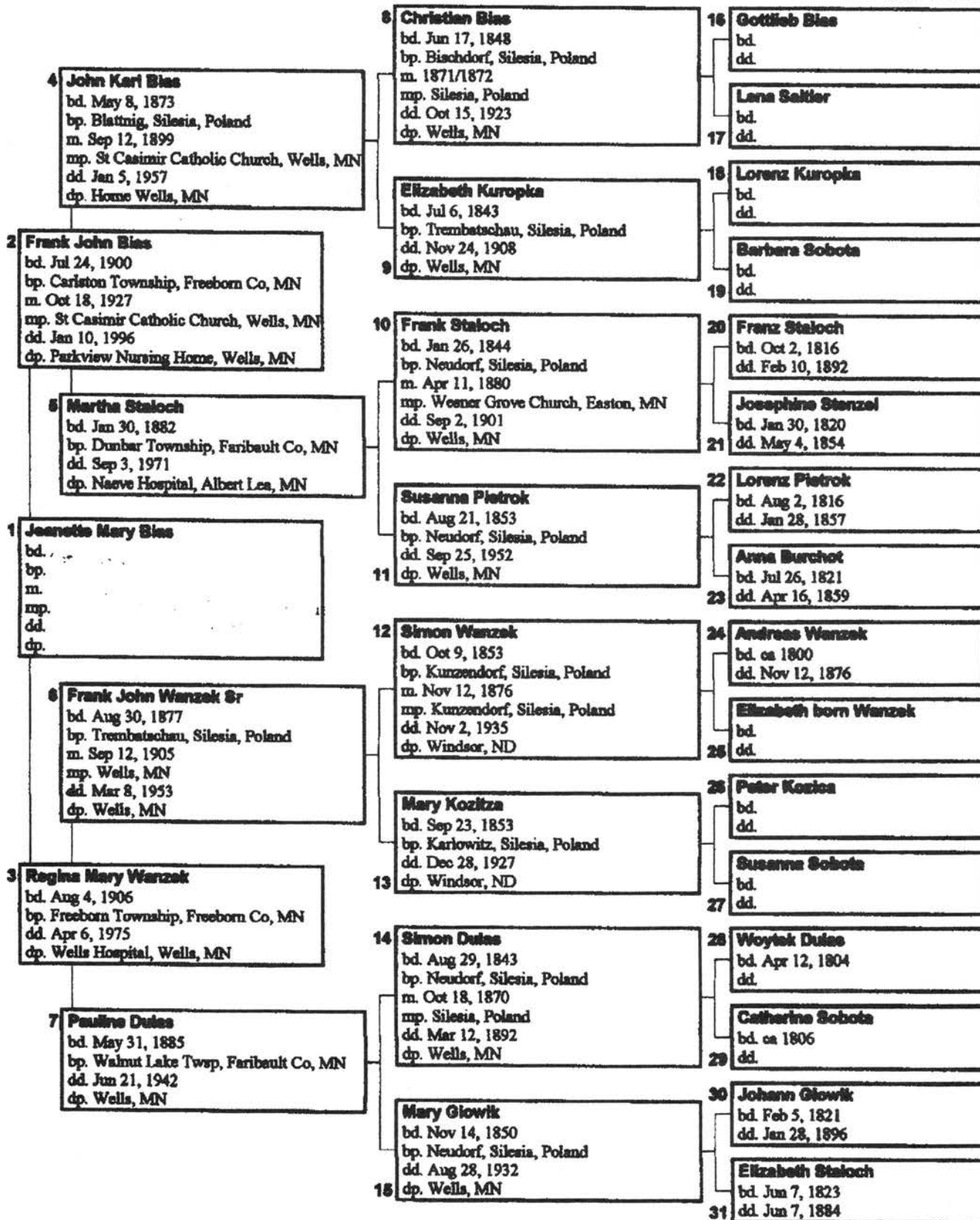
Jeanette Bias is a Director and Library Chair for PGS-MN. This article in the Wells Mirror, describes two events every genealogist ought to be involved in sooner or latter; planning and hosting a family reunion, and, writing and publishing a family history.

Readers: If you have had a family reunion recently we would like to hear about it. And if you have published your family's history, please send us a copy for placement in our library collection and for possible review in these pages.

--PTK

Cascading Pedigree

Chart #1



Polish White Eagle Association

Insurance Records

By John L. Rys, PGS-MN Director and Research Co-Chair, john@john.rys.name

This article describes a database created from claim information related to life insurance policies written by the Polish White Eagle Association in the state of Minnesota. For archival storage, the insurance records were donated to the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. Database creation and data entry on this project was conducted by the author during March and April, 2004. The database was particularly exciting for me to work on, since my father, Anthony J. Rys, was a group financial secretary for the Polish White Eagles and in 1941 worked on the purchase of the Polish White Eagle Association building in Northeast Minneapolis at 1300 N.E. Second Street.

Polish White Eagle Association (PWEA)

The Polish White Eagle Association (PWEA), a fraternal organization, was established in the autumn of 1906. According to the historical account written for the PWEA Diamond Jubilee publication, the organization had three stated objectives: 1) To promote unity and fraternity within its community; 2) To openly express loyalty and appreciation to their adopted country, the United States of America, and; 3) to make it possible for their fellow members to participate in a program offering death benefits to beneficiaries designated in their plan and later in their policies, at low premiums.

In 1926 the organization filed its official "Articles of Incorporation" in the state of Minnesota and the PWEA was allowed to sell insurance as a corporation. At that time, insurance policies with the association were available only to persons who were Roman Catholic and of Slavic origins. This was later changed to accept memberships from all Christians. Policies were written primarily for residents of Minnesota.

At one time, the Polish White Eagle Association had 3,000 members and was organized into groups with each group holding its own meetings and social activities. Each group had a set of officers to determine its activities and responsibilities.

The Polish White Eagle Association later became known as the Eagle Fraternal Life Association. It reflected a change of direction which opened membership to a more diverse clientele and started insurance groups for Hmong, Liberians, Chicano,

Gambian and Anuak clients. Finally, in the fall of 2001 it merged into the Degree of Honor Protective Association. Following that merger, the older Polish White Eagle insurance records were donated to the Immigration History Research Center.

Immigration History Research Center (IHRC)

The IHRC's stated purpose is to be "an international resource on American immigration and ethnic history. The IHRC was founded in 1965. The Center promotes the study and appreciation of ethnic pluralism through an active program of archival collection development, publications, lectures and exhibits." In the year 2000 the IHRC moved to the newly completed Elmer L. Andersen Library on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. For more information on the Immigration History Research Center, log onto their website at www.ihrc.umn.edu.

Elmer L. Andersen Library

The Elmer L. Andersen Library, located on a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, is uniquely suited for its purpose of preserving archival documents, manuscripts, and artifacts. The unique underground document storage system makes use of two large caves tunneled into the sandstone of the high river banks where a constant optimum natural environment is maintained. Each cavern is two stories high and the length of two football fields. This massive storage area is sixty feet below the library atrium.

Polish American Studies Fund at IHRC

The Immigration History Research Center claims the nation's most extensive resource for the study of Polish American history. A Polish American Studies Fund was recently established as part of the University's Campaign Minnesota. The stated purpose is: "to raise public consciousness of Polish American history, foster wider understanding of the contribution of Polish immigrants to American life, and make a significant investment in future scholars of the Polish experience in the United States." Further information about this fund is available at the IHRC website (www.ihrc.umn.edu). *Editor's note: See also the ad on the advertising insert of this newsletter.*

Photograph #1.

Left to right:

John Rys,
author of this article;

Daniel Necas,
IHRC assistant curator
and information technology
expert;

Halyna Myroniuk,
IHRC senior assistant
curator;

Joel Wurl,
IHRC curator
and assistant director.

**Project History**

Susan Smith, a graduate student volunteer at the IHRC, contacted Paul Kulas of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGS-MN) about a recent donation of Polish White Eagle Association insurance records to the IHRC. PWEA had turned over 40 boxes of materials. Paul Kulas in turn notified the PGS-MN board members, Greg Kishel and John Rys, who are responsible for research and databases. John Rys contacted Susan Smith and was then referred to Joel Wurl, curator of the IHRC.

In October, 2003 a meeting was arranged with Joel Wurl, Greg Kishel and John Rys to examine approximately six boxes of insurance policy claim records at the Immigration History Research Center. Most of the insurance claims were contained in individual brown business-sized envelopes. In many cases, policy and claim information had been recorded on the front of the envelopes. A determination was made that the initial index would be a simple index composed of the policy holder and some essential policy information. After some strategy discussions, John Rys returned on March 2, 2004 to begin the creation of the database using the software package called Microsoft ACCESS.

The staff members at the IHRC were very supportive of the project. The curator, Joel Wurl handled the administrative matters and obtained the necessary approval to proceed with the database project. Once started, the author worked on document storage and

computer matters with the assistant curator and IHRC information technology expert, Daniel Necas, the resident Czech materials specialist. While working on the project the senior assistant curator, Halyna Myroniuk, a Ukraine materials specialist, assisted in general matters (See photograph #1, above).

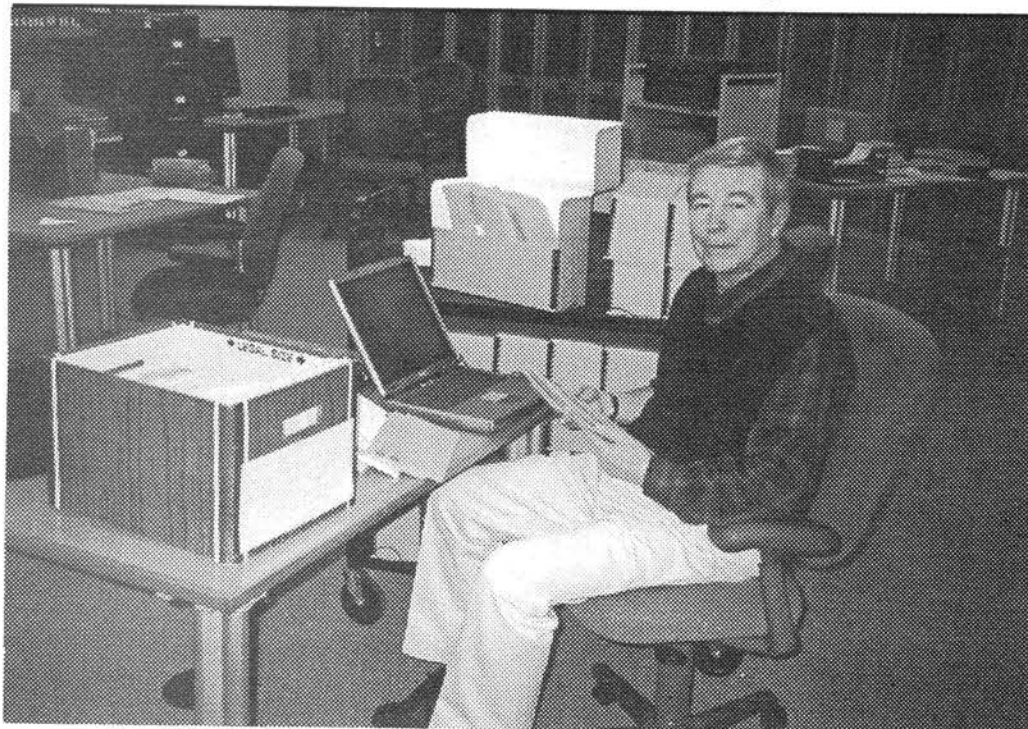
The Database

The fields of the database are as follows: surname, first and middle names, claim number, policy number, date of claim, date of death, and age. The first record in this claim collection is dated 1938 and the last death claim record found in the database is dated 1993. The database is complete, in the sense, that all the available death claim records received by the IHRC have been entered. There are gaps in the death claim records for years prior to 1938, for the years 1952 through 1969, and the years 1975 -1976.

The database was created using the software package Microsoft ACCESS. The IHRC already has in place an extensive relational database system using MS ACCESS, so this new database fits into the overall system used at the IHRC.

Storage Boxes

When the insurance records were received from the Polish White Eagle Association, they were in large dark brown cardboard storage boxes measuring 12" wide x 15" long and 10" high. These large boxes were not constructed of acid-free cardboard and the



Photograph #2.

On the table is an original type of storage box and the new archival type boxes are on the cart behind the author **John Rys.**

decision was made to transfer the insurance claim records into acid free archival storage boxes of a smaller size measuring 5" wide x 15" long and 10" high (See photograph #2, above). In the photograph the large box on the table shows how the records were received. The insurance claim records were then re-boxed into the smaller boxes as seen in the photograph on the book cart in the background.

Condition of Envelope

Some envelopes had been stored under humid conditions, resulting in some envelopes becoming partially sealed. The insurance records from 1987 to 1992 were not in envelopes, but were stapled together and some staples began to rust. The staples were removed while reading the documents for information to be entered into the database.

Content of the Insurance Envelopes

Generally there were four basic records included in the claim envelope. After 1986 envelopes were not used and claim information documents were stapled together.

1) **Application for membership.** The very early insurance applications are three pages in length. Later the application form increased to four pages. The first page contains personal information about the applicant, including the place of birth. This type of information may help genealogists "bridge

the gap" between the United States and the village of origin in Poland. Pages 2 and 3 contain the examining doctor's report including standard medical questions. The questions concern the physical condition of the applicant including height, weight and vital signs. These two pages also include questions about the parents of the applicant and brothers and sisters, both living and dead. This information may be a source of clues about other family members. Page 4 contains administrative information and payment tables.

See the illustrations on pages 18 and 19 for an early application dated May 30, 1920. This is a good example of discovering early information. The applicant, whose name is Wiktorya (Victoria) Szyszka, was born on June 6, 1885 in the village of Toporzysko in Małopolska. The second page gives her father's name as *Jozef Cieslak* and her mother's maiden name as *Liepak* and cites two brothers and "dwie" sisters. For some, this could be a genealogy goldmine.

Małopolska or Little Poland is traditionally the name given to the large area surrounding Krakow, Poland. Toporzysko is southwest of Krakow. The author's grandfather, Jan Rys, was from Toporzysko and apparently helped fill out this particular application because both his signature and handwriting are on the application as the representative. The author learned from this application that his grandfather could read and write both Polish and English.

2) **Death Certificate.** A death certificate was the document needed to trigger the payment. These are notarized copies of the original death certificate as usually received from a municipality. Exceptions to this rule came in the early to mid-1940s where a letter or a telegram from the War Department indicating the war time death of a son or daughter was used in lieu of a certified death certificate. In the 1944s the letters referred to the war time deaths in Europe. In the 1945s the letters referred to war time deaths in the Pacific.

3) **Policy Certificate.** This is the original large sized formal certificate which was prepared by the Polish White Eagle Association.

4) **Death Claim Form.** This form was used until about 1971. This final document was prepared as a summary of the claim, indicating the disposition and beneficiaries of the claim. Latest records do not have a formal death claim form.

The envelope may also contain miscellaneous documents. Examples are: newspaper obituary notices; correspondence on a variety of matters (some letters are still in the original stamped envelope); funeral bills; *Raport Smierci* (PWEA Group Report); double

indemnity form if applicable; payment (dues) books in a 3 inch by 5 inch format; change of beneficiary forms; and an occasional probate document.

Index Format

At this point, the work product of the project is a printed index in the format shown in the illustration. It is a straight forward index sorted alphabetically by surname. It gives the surname, first name, claim number, claim date, date of death, and box location number (See Illustration below). This index is available only at the IHRC.

Summary

The Polish White Eagle Association insurance death claim records are a good source of genealogy information. If village information was recorded on the application, then it is useful for those who need to "bridge the gap" from the United States to Poland. Family information, recorded as part of the application medical history data, is also a source for interesting and helpful information. The application asks questions about parents and siblings and may be a source of leads to siblings of the insured person.

Below: Sample excerpt of the index prepared for manual searching of PWEA insurance claims.
Dates of death are not shown.

Polish White Eagle Insurance Claims Index - By Name

Immigration History Research Center - University of Minnesota

Record Count: 1055

Index printed: 08-Apr-04

Last Name	First Name, MI	Claim #	Claim Date	Death Date	Box #
Abrahan	Ludwik	293	24-Jun-47		2
Adamczyk	Frank	900	08-Jul-69		4
Adamczyk	Josefa	203	15-Aug-42		1
Adamczyk	Marya	189	22-Aug-41		1
Adams	Anne K.	1571	14-Nov-88		10
Adler	George	1436	26-Oct-84		9
Alfuth	Aniela	1604	05-Jul-89		11
Andryski	Joseph	1234	29-Sep-78		7
Andryski	Stanley	997	26-Nov-71		5
Andrzejewski	Boleslaw	363	20-Mar-51		3
Antolak	John	353	22-Aug-50		3

ORGANIZACYA
BIAŁY ORZEŁ POLSKI
 W PÓLNOCNÝCH STANACH AMERYKI

No. Porządkowy. 537

No. Towarzystwa. 2 Grupa No. Członka.
 Tow. Białego Orła Polskiego
 w Minneapolis

APLIKACYA

Imię Członka. Wiktorya Szyszka

Adres. 216 31 Ave North

Miejscowość. Minneapolis

Urodził się w. Toporzysko mała Gółka
dnia 6 czerwca 1885 r. przy lat. 35

Opiata w. klasie. II po. 65 obrót 5 zł

Zatrudnienie. domowe

Kawaler, żona czy wdowiec? żona

Pośmiertne ma być wypłacone. meżowi
Janowi Szyszka
w sumie 600 zł

Do jakiej organizacyi należysz? do Romana

Ja niżej podpisany, niniejszem oświadczam że mam
 szczerą chęć wstąpić do Organizacyi Białego Orła Pol-
 skiego, że jako człowiek honorowy i wyznający wiarę
 rzymsko-katolicką, podaję odpowiedzi zgodne z prawdą i
 wiedzą. Jestem przekonany o dobrem zdrowiu mojem i
 mej żony.

Zgadzam się w razie wykrycia jakiego fałszu w zez-
 naniach przestępnie popełnionych, albo w razie suspendo-
 wania, wykluczenia lub dobrowolnego wystąpienia, stracę
 razem z moją rodziną prawo do pośmiertnego wsparcia,
 tak w starości jakoteż w kalectwie; i. rzeknę się wszel-
 kich pretensyj do funduszów tejże Organizacyi.

Wiktorya Szyszka
Podpis kandydata - Imię i nazwisko

Przedstawiony przez
Jan Rys

Niniejszem poświadczam się, że ob.

został przyjęty do Towarzystwa 2 Grupa
 na posiedzeniu dnia 30 maja 1920
Stanisław Malochowski Sekretarz.

Członek przyjęty do Organizacyi Białego Orła Polskiego
 w Ameryce, dnia 11 lipca 1920
John Galuszka
 Sekretarz Generalny

Organization of
Polish White Eagle
 In States of North America

Policy number 537

Branch (Group) number ... Group 2 Member Number
 Society Polish White Eagle
 in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Application

Member's name .. Wiktorya Szyszka

Address ... 216 31th Avenue North

Locality ... Minneapolis

Born in ... Toporzysko ... Little Poland

On the 6th day of June... 1885 Years of age .. 35

Fee and class ... II Up to 65

Occupation House wife

Single, married or widow(er)

Pay after death to Husband

..... Janosz (John) Szyszka

Amount of \$600.00

To which organization do you belong? Roman Catholic? ...

X Wiktorya Szyszka
Signature of candidate - Name and surname

Representative
..... Jan (John) Rys

Present to attest about

To be accepted in branch Group 2

Upon meeting on day of May 30 1920

..... Stanisław Malochowski Secretary

Membership accepted to the Polish White Eagle Association
Of America on the 11th day of July, 1920

..... John Galuszka
Secretary General

Above: Example of early insurance application dated 1920.

First page was translated by the author at right. Notice that the place of origin of the applicant is given.

Applicant's Certificate - Zeznania Kandydata.

Minneapolis Minn 1920
Wiktorya Lyska

Examination of - Zeznania kandydata.....
 for admission into Branch No..... O. P. w A. - przyjęcia do Towarzystwa No. O. P. w A.
 I was born on the *6* day of *ever* 18*85* and I am *35* years of age.
 Urodziłem się dnia *6* miesiąca *ever* roku *1885* i liczę lat *35*

Is your father living?..... Age..... State of health..... Name *Josef Cierlak*
 Czy ojciec żyje? *no* Wiek..... Stan zdrowia.....
 If dead, at what age?..... Cause of death.....
 Jeżeli zmarł, to w jakim wieku? *50* Przyczyna śmierci.....

Is your mother living?..... Age..... State of health..... Maiden name *Liepala*
 Czy matka żyje? *yes* Wiek *65* Stan zdrowia *good* Nazwisko z ojca.....
 If dead, at what age?..... Cause of death.....
 Jeżeli zmarła, w jakim wieku?..... Przyczyna śmierci.....

Number of brothers living..... Age..... State of health.....
 Ilość żyjących braci *2* Wiek *25, 30* Stan zdrowia *good*
 Number of brothers dead..... Age at death..... Cause of death.....
 Ilość zmarłych braci *no* Zmarli w wieku..... przyczyna śmierci.....

Number of sisters living..... Age..... State of health.....
 Ilość żyjących siostr *dwie* Wiek *20, 18* Stan zdrowia *dobry*
 Number of sisters dead..... Age at death..... Cause of death.....
 Ilość zmarłych siostr..... Zmarły w wieku..... Przyczyna śmierci.....

1. Are there any hereditary diseases in the applicant's family? - Czy nie ma dziedzicznych chorób w rodzinie kandydata..... *no*

2. Have you ever had any severe illness, deformity, or undergone any surgical operation? - Czy nie przebywał kandydat jakiej ciężkiej choroby, czy nie miał lub nie ma jakiego kalectwa, czy nie podlegał jakiej operacji?..... *no*

3. Have you ever been subjected to or have any of the following disorders or diseases? - Czy nie miał lub nie ma których z następujących chorób: *no*

Asthma - Dychawica..... Apoplexy - Apopleksya..... Colic, hepatic or renal - Kolki żółciowe lub nerkowe.....
 Fistula..... Convulsions - Konwulsje..... Gravel - Kamień..... Insanity - Pomieszanje zmysłów.....
 Delirium tremens - Biała gorączka..... Paralysis - Parali..... Swelling of the feet or face - Puchlina nóg lub twarzy.....
 Eye diseases - Choroby oczu..... Chronic diarrhoea - Rozwolnienie chroniczne..... Cancer or tumor - Rak lub inny nowotwór.....
 Difficulty of hearing, of vision, or loss of consciousness - Słabość lub czasowa utrata wzroku, słuchu, przytomności..... Inflammatory rheumatism - Zapalny reumatyzm stawów..... Raising of blood - Hodowanie krwi.....
 Varicos - Rozszerzenie żył..... Rupture, single or double - Ruptura, pojedyncza lub podwójna.....
 Laringitis Chronica - Zapalenie gardła chroniczne..... Acites - Wodna puchlina brzucha..... Hemorrhoids - Hemoroidy.....
 Difficulty of urinating - Zatrzymanie moczu lub bóle przy oddawaniu go..... Habitual cough - Kaszel chroniczny..... Pleurisy - Zapalenie opłucnej..... Pneumonia - Zapalenie płuc..... Syphilis - Syfisy.....
 Hemoptysis, or spitting of blood - Plucie krwią..... Open sores - Nie gojące się rany.....

4. Are you temperate? - Czy prowadzi życie umiarkowane?..... *yes*

5. When were you successfully vaccinated? - Kiedy miał skuteczną szczepioną ospę?..... *no*

6. How long since you were attended by a physician or had occasion to consult one? - Jak dawno używał porady lekarskiej, z jakiej przyczyny potrzebował porady?..... *no*

For what disease? - W jakiej chorobie?..... Give name of physician and address -
 Podaj nazwisko lekarza i jego adres.....

I hereby warrant the truthfulness of all the foregoing answers and statements - Wszystkie powyższe odpowiedzi są zgodne z prawdą, co poświadczam własnoręcznym podpisem.....

APPLICANT'S NAME - Nazwisko Kandydata *Wiktorya Lyska*
 APPLICANT'S ADDRESS - Adres Kandydata *210 - 31 av north*

Signed in the presence of - Podpisane w obecności..... Med. Exam. - Lekarz Egzam.
Jan Byo

Above: Second page of application is bi-lingual, Polish and English. Notice that the name of the applicant's father and her mother's maiden name are given.

Matrimony Records at the Church of St. Philip, Minneapolis, Minnesota

By John L. Rys, PGS-MN Director and Research Co-Chair, john@john.rys.name

In the Spring, 2003 issue of *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*, I reported on the computer database pilot study at the Church of St. Philip (See Spring 2003 issue, volume 11, Number 1, page 1, 14-17). In that article I described the database of baptismal records from the Church of St. Philip. The Church of St. Philip was my home parish in the 1940s and 1950s.

I finished the data entry of all matrimony records for April 1909 to October 1932. The total number of matrimony records for this time period is 339 records. All 339 records are included in a printed volume with indexes prepared for use at the Church of St. Philip.

The original matrimony records, all handwritten, generally use a Latin version of the first name and the Polish version of the last name (surname). The matrimony registry book used by the church is a commercial type produced in a standard format. I assume this was the normal matrimony registry book used by the diocese of St. Paul in the early 1900s (See illustration # 1 below, for a photocopy of a

MATRIMONY RECORDS UPDATE

This article is a progress report on the matrimony records as part of the computer database project at the Church of St. Philip in Minneapolis. In August 2003,

Illustration #1. Photocopy of sample record of the Matrimony Registry at St. Philip's.

Notice that parish of origin in Poland (Jordanów) is given for both the bride and groom,

Registrum Matrimoniorum Ecclesiae *St. Philippi*
 Minneapolis, Minn. Diocesis *St. Pauli*
 A. D. *1910*

Contrahentium Nomina	Die Mensis Anni	Notanda
<i>Stephanus Ledechlik</i>	<i>23. Maii 1910. Tribus</i>	
<i>Josephum Tranyk</i>	<i>missis bannorum proclamatio tribus</i>	
<i>Minneapolis</i>	<i>Matrimonio Coniugii</i>	
<i>Laurantii Tranyk</i>	<i>ex parochia St. Philippi</i>	
<i>Jordanow</i>	<i>Diocesis St. Pauli</i>	
<i>Victoriam Szoka</i>	<i>Thuse Szaborow baptizatum in parochia</i>	
<i>Catherinae Kopras</i>	<i>Diocesis Cracoviensis</i>	
<i>Jordanow</i>	<i>ex parochia St. Philippi</i>	
	<i>Diocesis St. Pauli</i>	
	<i>Stawiska Szoka</i>	
	<i>daptizatum in parochia</i>	
	<i>Diocesis Cracoviensis</i>	
	<i>Antoniusz Mordogun et</i>	
	<i>Victoris Piatai</i>	
	<i>Stephanus Ledechlik</i>	
	<i>Pastor Eccl. St. Philippi</i>	

sample matrimony church record from the Church of St. Philip).

The form is written in Latin, so to understand the information, a quick translation of the form was made as a guide for inputting the information (See illustration # 2 below, for translation of the Latin church matrimony form).

DATABASE

The individual matrimony record contains information on: 1) Date of marriage; 2) Name of groom; 3) Groom's home parish; 4) Name of bride; 5) Bride's home parish; 6) Groom's father; 7) Groom's mother; 8) Parish where groom was baptized (parish of

groom's parents); 9) Bride's father; 10) Bride's mother; 11) Parish where bride was baptized (parish of bride's parents); 12) Witness #1; 13) Witness #2 and; 14) Notation field.

The notation field indicates there is some type of additional handwritten notation on the record. The notation field does not give the nature of the notation, just the fact that there is a notation on the record. An interested person has to review the original record to find out the nature of the notation.

The original parish of both parents is of special interest to Greg Kishel, Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota board member, who researches "chain migration" patterns, that is, immigration from specific

**Registrum Matrimoniorum Ecclesiae St. Philippi
Register of Matrimony at Church of St. Philip**

At right:

Illustration #2.

Translation of Latin from register of matrimonial records

(Latin words are italicized, English translation and types of names to be entered are in parenthesis.

Compare with marriage record at left).

Die (On the day) *Mensis* (Month)..... *Anni* (Year),
 *miss*....(beforehand the)...*bannorum proclamation* (bands were proclaimed),
 ... **(Priest's Name)** *Matrimonio Conjuxia* (joined in matrimony),
 ... **(Groom's Name)** *ex parochial* (from the parish) **(Parish of Groom)** ...,
*Diocesis* (of the diocese) **(Diocese of Groom)** ...,
filium (son of) **(Groom's father's name)**,
*et* (and) .**(Groom's mother's name)** *baptizatum in parochial* (baptized in parish),
(Parish Groom baptized in) . *Diocesis* (diocese) ... **(Diocese Groom baptized in)**...,
et (and) ...**(Bride's name)** ... *ex parochial* (from the parish) **(Parish of Bride)** ..,
Diocesis (Diocese) .. **(Diocese of Bride)**..*filiam* (daughter of)**(Bride's father's name)**,
et (and).... **(Bride's mother's name)** *baptizatam in parochial* (baptized in parish of)...,
(Parish Bride baptized in) ... *Diocesis* (diocese) **(Diocese Bride baptized in)**.
Testes adfuerunt (Best man, witness)
 (Witnesses to) (Bridesmaid, witness)
 (Priest)
 (Pastoral title)
Notitiam de Matrimonio ut supra Contracto, misi Die,
 Notation of the above contract of matrimony is made this Day,
Mensis (Month)..... *Anni* (year), *ad* (to),
 (Name of Archdiocese),
 (Signature of Priest).....
 (Pastoral title)

areas in Poland to individual Minnesota churches. Greg has given presentations and published previous PGS-MN articles on this topic.

This type of parish information, that is, the parish in which the bride and groom were baptized is a valuable source for those who need to make that bridge from the United States parish to the specific location in Poland. The place where the groom and bride were baptized is the same as saying this is the parish of the parents. In other words, this vital

information contained in matrimony records may be valuable for those who have hit the "brick wall."

Once all the records are included into the database, data may be sorted and a variety of printouts and indexes may be created. The main body of the matrimony printout is a listing by marriage date. This listing contains all the information contained in the original matrimony record (See illustration # 3 below, for some sample records).

Marriage Records by Date - 1909-1932 - Full Record

Marriage Date: 23-May-1910	Page <input type="text" value="8"/> No: <input type="text" value="1"/>	Parish/Diocese
Groom's Name: Traczyk	Joseph	St. Philip/St. Paul
Groom's Parents: Traczyk, Laurehtii	Klaborn, Annae	Jordanow/Cracovicusis
Bride's Name: Sroka	Victoriam	St. Philip/St. Paul
Bride's Parents: Sroka, Stanislaw	Kopras, Catharine	Jordanow/Cracovicusis
Witness-1: Mozdzyn, Antonius	Witness-2: Bialon, Victoria	(Contains a Notation)
Marriage Date: 30-May-1910	Page <input type="text" value="8"/> No: <input type="text" value="2"/>	Parish/Diocese
Groom's Name: Szeremata	Steph.	St. Philip/St. Paul
Groom's Parents: Szeremata, Zachariae	Kochanczyk, Pela	Koworowa/Lembergensis
Bride's Name: Pustelnik	Ludovicam	St. Philip/St. Paul
Bride's Parents: Pustelnik, Laurenti	Sikora, Annae	Rajca/Cracovicusis
Witness-1: Szepot, Michael	Witness-2: Rusin, Maria	
Marriage Date: 25-Jul-1910	Page <input type="text" value="9"/> No: <input type="text" value="1"/>	Parish/Diocese
Groom's Name: Hobot	Stanislaum	St. Philip/St. Paul
Groom's Parents: Hobot, Valentini	Miernik, Annae	Letownia/Cracovicusis
Bride's Name: Orzeszak	Franciscam	St. Philip/St. Paul
Bride's Parents: Orzeszak, Vincenti	Kowalczyk, Anna	Letownia/Cracovicusis
Witness-1: Malachowski, Stanisla	Witness-2: Konieczna, Stephania	
Marriage Date: 10-Aug-1910	Page <input type="text" value="9"/> No: <input type="text" value="2"/>	Parish/Diocese
Groom's Name: Nikiel	Adalbertum	St. Philip/St. Paul
Groom's Parents: Nikiel, Johanis	Markolowski, Mar	Pisarzowic/Cracovicusis
Bride's Name: Smietana	Susannam	St. Philip/St. Paul
Bride's Parents: Smietana, Johanis	Zur, Victoriae	Rabka/Cracovicusis
Witness-1: Folwarski, Jacobs	Witness-2: Urbanska, Maria	

Illustration #3. Sample records from printout by date giving complete information.

Notice the parish of origin in Poland for each of the above couples is given in this sample. The first record indicates that both the groom and bride were baptized in Jordanow in the Diocese of Kraków (Cracovicusis). The second record indicates that the groom was baptized in Koworowa in the Diocese of Lwów (Lembergensis [Lemberg]) and the bride in Rajca in the Diocese of Kraków. The third record indicates that both were baptized in Letownia in the Diocese of Kraków. The fourth indicates that the groom was baptized in Pisarzowic and the bride was baptized in Rabka, both in the Diocese of Kraków.

There are four other indexes sorted by groom, bride, witness #1 and witness #2 (See illustration #4 below, for a sampling of the groom's index).

CONCLUSIONS

Again, the pilot study is a success in achieving its stated goals of ensuring the preservation of the records and in making the information more accessible. The computer database ensures an additional back-up of the church records in a magnetic medium. The database provides the added

benefit of customized queries and reports.

As with the baptismal records, data entry of the matrimony records requires a familiarity with Polish surnames and the deciphering of 1900s scripted European type handwriting. These skills were developed "on the fly" as the project progressed. Two books by William F. Hoffman, (*Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* and *First Names of the Polish Commonwealth*, both available from the PGS-MN) were indispensable in the interpretation of surnames and first names and vital in developing this skill.

Marriage Index by Groom's Name - 1909-1932

Groom's Name	Bride's Name	Marriage Date	Page No.
Adams	Fotis T. Halek	Annam	24-Jun-30 160 1
Aniolkowski	Joannem Dombrowicz	Cecylia	12-Nov-1912 30 1
Anus	Felix Gracik	Ceciliam	09-Nov-1915 72 1
Baloga	Stephanum Wanecki	Sabinam	08-Nov-1923 119 2
Banas	Josephum Klonc	Honora	19-Feb-1912 22 1
Banik	Jacobum Laskowska	Leokadium	27-Sep-1915 70 2
Baran	Joannem Weglarz	Juliam	27-Sep-1920 104 2
Barczak	Josephum Czeladka	Agnetem	25-Oct-1917 92 1
Baron	Sebast. Yoniety	Victoriam	16-Oct-1929 153 1
Barr	James Labijak (Labyak)	Mariam	26-Nov-1924 125 1
Barton	William Dusek	Stephaniam	13-Aug-32 174 1
Baslie	Joseph Wolak	Mariam	19-Jan-1928 149 1

Illustration #4. Excerpt of a sample page of the groom index to the records.

Greats, continued from page 8

O'Brien enabled Notre Dame to defeat the heavily favored Army team in 1928 in what is perhaps the most famous football game ever played--the "Win one for the Gipper" game. **Bill Swiacki**, whose acrobatic catches for Columbia ended Army's 32 game winning streak in 1947 (I can still visualize the photo of Swiacki's finger-tip catch--his body horizontal to the ground--that set up the game-winning touchdown, that appeared in that Sunday's "Peach Section" of the Minneapolis paper [Does any other old-timer remember the peach-colored sports pages?]). Bill is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame. "**Big Ed**" **Konetchy**, a slugger in the "dead ball" era, played in 16 big league seasons

(1907-1921). Baseball guru, Bill James, states that Konetchy was one of the "best players of this era . . . not in the (*Baseball*) Hall of Fame" (*The New Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract 2001*, p. 104).

Casimir "Jim" Konstanty, whose 16 wins, 22 saves, 74 appearances (all National Leagues highs) and 2.66 ERA led the Philadelphia Phillies to the NL championship in 1950. Konstanty was named the league's Most Valuable Player that year. All four, as well as the others listed in this article, deserve membership.

Also, does anyone know the ethnicity of Pro Football Hall of Famer, **August "Iron Mike" Michalske**? Sounds Polish to me, but he may have been Prussian with that "-ke" ending to his last name.

Polish emigration, continued from page 1

was little allegiance and initially required 18 to 20 years. It was reduced to six years in the late 1800s. Even if the Poles did not serve in the military they were taxed to pay for the wars of the occupying powers.

- **Controls** - In many areas Poles were barred from owning land and sometimes sent into exile. Polish institutions and language were suppressed. Again, this was worst in the Russian sector but also very severe in the Prussian partition. In Kashubia,² in the Prussian sector, Kashubians were encouraged to sell their land to German settlers and emigrate and many Poles and Jews were expelled outright.
- **Economics** - This was the biggest push in the late 1800s. With the beginning of agricultural modernization and increasing population, the land could not support the number of workers available. Poles now had to start learning trades. Galicia, the Austrian-occupied southern partition, was also hard hit with cholera epidemics.

There were also many **pulls**:

- **The Industrial Revolution** - Workers were needed and this was especially true in the U.S. which was viewed as a land-of-opportunity.
- **Recruitment** - Transportation companies, factories, and packing houses openly recruited workers. Exaggerations of life in America were common. Here is one description from the late 1800s:

*Here in America you can take as much land as you need. You do what you like. Nobody watches you. Wheat and other grain is harvested twice a year. The land needn't be manured or tilled. Manure is burnt or thrown into the water. Gold is dug like potatoes., etc.*³

And in selling Minnesota in the 1870s, the recruiting was not much better:

²Kashubia is in the northwest part of Poland bordering the Baltic. It is a land of lakes and forests with poor sandy soil. The appearance is not unlike northern Minnesota. It has a complex history with a culture that is a mixture of Polish and German.

³Cited by Wincenty Witos, *Jedno Wies (One Village)*, Chicago, 1955.

Come to the fertile bluegrass region of Minnesota. It is blessed with the soil of the river bottoms and climate of the mountains. It is the home of cereal grains. Southwestern Minnesota is supplied with an abundance of pure wholesome water. The surface of the land is made up of rolling prairies, interspersed with natural and domestic groves. The scenery is magnificent.

The 1880 Polish settlers of Lincoln County in southwestern Minnesota did not find this statement completely truthful. When they arrived they found the land covered with knee-high prairie grasses. The only trees were young saplings growing near the sparse lakes and streams. Since these early settlers couldn't build wood houses, they built dugouts and sod shanties.⁴ Besides it was not mentioned that Lincoln County, one of the last to be settled in the state, had a shorter growing season because of its high elevation on the Buffalo Ridge.

- **Easier Travel (after 1850)** - Railroads could get to Germany after 1850 and steamships were available to cross the Atlantic by 1880.
- **Chain Migration** - Once a few relatives, friends or townspeople emigrated it became much easier for others to follow. This pattern prevailed in many Minnesota Polish communities.

While the pushes and pulls were at work the emigrants had to overcome a number of **barriers**:

- **Limited Transportation (before 1850)** - There were few passenger ships before 1830, no railroads to central or eastern Poland before 1850 and limited steamship availability before 1870.
- **Government Control** - This involved paperwork, fines, taxes, even arrest to prevent emigration. They needed "manumission" i.e. to be set free.
- **Wars** - In the U.S. the Civil War was a discouragement.
- **Peasant Enfranchisement** - Peasants were not always free to leave. The process of enfranchisement was gradual but eventually all were freed by 1860. Interestingly in my research of 1880 Baltimore immigration records I found at least one who listed his occupation as "peasant." Old labels were apparently hard to shake.

⁴*St. John Cantius Church Centennial History*, Jean Guggisberg, Project Director, 1983.

*The Great Emigration*⁵

The initial Polish emigration to America did not start until the 1850s. In the 1870 to 1914 time frame up to 2.6 million (3.6 million worldwide) emigrated from "historical" Poland and came to the United States. This constituted 20% of the Polish population. They were chiefly from the former peasant class. Great numbers left the German areas in the 1870 - 1890 period. The peak influx into Minnesota was at the end of the 1870-1914 time period.

Typically in the later 1800s the emigrants could take a train to Germany and ultimately to the ports of Hamburg and Bremen where they could get passage to America. While free passage⁶ was sometimes offered for workers, it usually cost \$45-60. They arrived in U.S. via the ports of Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia and Boston. Sometimes it was cheaper to go through Canada in which case they would arrive at Halifax or at Grosse Île, Quebec which was as far as they could travel before the St. Lawrence Seaway was constructed.

Generally the immigrants were required to have from at least \$10 to as much as \$50 to enter the country. With the railroad expanding westward they could go to the Midwest. I have reviewed a large portion of Baltimore ship passenger arrival lists and found their destinations were largely the industrial cities of the East and Midwest. Sometimes they would state as their destination a city or county in Minnesota. Minnesota was not the major state to receive this influx but was in the top fifteen behind states like New York, Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut.

⁵This section was largely adapted from the following sources: Sister M. Teresa, O.S.F., "Polish Settlements in Minnesota 1860-1900" (It can be found at http://www.polishroots.org/paha/settlements_minn.htm); Waclaw Kruska, *A History of Poles in America to 1908*, Part IV, *Poles in Central and Western States*, (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2001); Frank Renkiewicz, "The Poles," in *They Chose Minnesota*, ed. June Drenning Holmquist (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1981). To probe further consult references listed in "Publications on Poles in Minnesota," *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* (Summer 2003): 5.

⁶Free passage was discontinued in the 1880s because it was thought it could lead to indebted bondage.

*Polonia*⁷ in Minnesota⁸

The earliest significant Polish settlement in Minnesota were immigrants who came to Winona in 1855. The first settlers came from Kashubia. They arrived in New York, traveled to St. Louis and then no doubt took a Mississippi steamboat up river. By 1886 there were 700 Polish families in the city.

Some Polish colonies started in the 1860s including Marion Lake, Gnesen, Duluth, Silver Lake and St. Anthony (before incorporation into Minneapolis). The 1870s saw numerous settlements spring up in Duelm, North Prairie, Flensburg, Little Falls, Opole, Long Prairie, Perham, Delano, Fairbault, Foley, Wells, Appleton, Elk River, Taunton, Elmdale, Gilman, Minnesota Lake and Browerville and sizable populations in St. Paul and Northeast Minneapolis.

In the 1880s colonies sprung up in St. Cloud, Florian (originally Stanislawo), Gniezno and Wilno. An Immigration Society promoted settlement in northwestern Minnesota in 1896. In the 1890s they reached Sturgeon Lake, Owatonna, Grygla, New Brighton, Willow River and Cloquet. By 1904 there were some 60 Polish settlements in the state. The map on page 22 identifies the earliest locations mentioned.

Polish immigration in Minnesota peaked in 1914 and then decreased due to World War I - virtually to zero after 1920. In 1930 the major concentrations of Poles were to be found in the population centers of Hennepin, Ramsey and St. Louis counties.

Poles established their own Polish parishes and fraternal and insurance organizations wherever they settled. However, many did not completely sever their ties with their native land. Perhaps as many as 10% chose to re-emigrate and return to Poland. Those that stayed proved to be good U.S. citizens. It was not difficult for Poles, then without a country, to renounce their allegiance to the Emperors of Prussia or Austria or to the Tsar of Russia as my grandfather did in 1918 in his Declaration of Intention (reproduced on page 27). He had arrived in New York on the third voyage of the ill-fated Lusitania where he worked as a fireman. On the declaration he gave his birthplace as Kalusen, Russia - now Katuszyn, Poland. Poles always were ready to serve their adopted country in

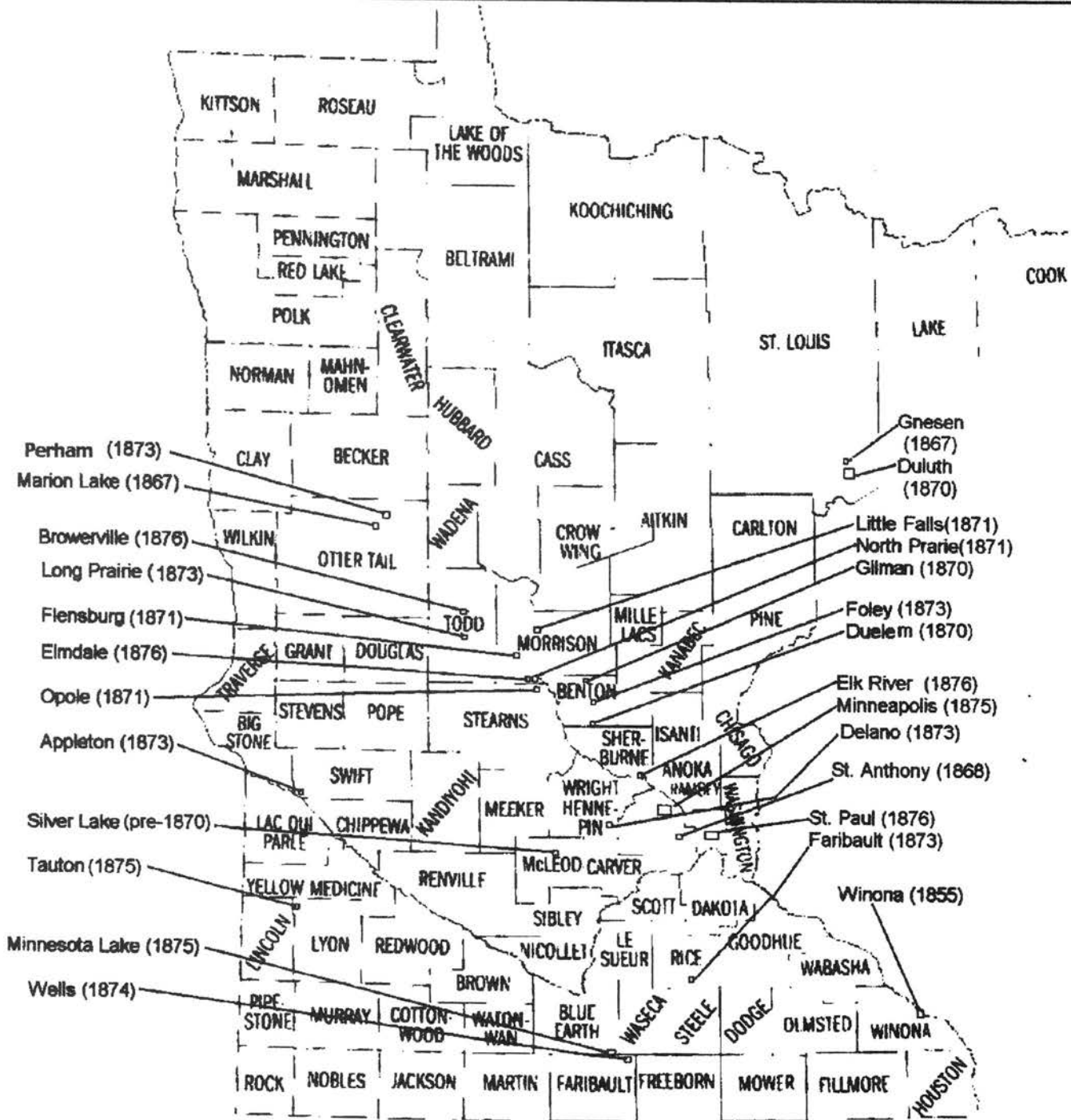
⁷Polonia is a term used for people of Polish extraction who live abroad

⁸See footnote # 5

times of war. While constituting only 4% of the population of the United States they suffered 12% of the World War II dead. In the 1948-53 time frame about 3000 Polish Displaced Persons (known as DPs) settled Minnesota.⁹ In the 2000 census 223,000 Minnesotans and about nine million in the U.S. indicated they were of Polish ancestry.¹⁰

⁹Edward Reimer Brandt, "Polish Immigration and Polish-American Genealogical Resources," *Minnesota Genealogist* (June, 1993).

¹⁰Jagoda Urbab-Kraehn, *Polish Culture* (It can be found at <http://bellaonline.com>.)



Pre-1880 Polish Settlements in Minnesota (Years are approximate).

Map produced by John Kowles.

At right:

Declaration
of
Intention
of
Alexander
Jaworski

Note that it gives his place
of origin
in Europe--
Kalusen, Russia
(Katuszyn, Poland).

DECLARATION OF INTENTION
(Valid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of Minnesota ss: In the *District* Court
County of Lincoln of *Lincoln County*

A. Alexander Jaworski, aged *32* years,
occupation *Blacksmith*, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color *white*, complexion *fair*, height *5 feet 6 inches*,
weight *150* pounds, color of hair *Brown*, color of eyes *Blue*
other visible distinctive marks *None*

None: I was born in *Kalusen Russia*
Actually 1885 on the *15* day of *Oct*, anno
Domini *1895*; I now reside at *Waukegan Minnesota*

I emigrated to the United States of America from *Liverpool England*
on the vessel *Lusitania*; my last
foreign residence was *Warsaw, Russia*
(If the alien arrived here by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.)
I am married, my wife name is Josephine, she was born in Minnesota, now resides in
It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to
The present Government of Russia, of which I am now a citizen subject; I
arrived at the port of *New York*, in the
State of *New York* on or about the *13* day
of *Dec*, anno Domini *1907*; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:

Hero, continued from page 9

Shimshock's brother, Bernie Szymczyk, 79, who uses the traditional Polish spelling of the family name, said his brother would be stunned. "He was just a kid when he went in," Szymczyk said, wiping his eyes at the mention of his brother. "He got drafted in 1943, not too long after he graduated from DeLaSalle. Never even had a girlfriend. Biggest thing we ever did before he went in was a trip to Chicago in 1937 to see our first baseball game and ride on the El."

"I'll Be Seeing You," a B-17 Flying Fortress, had been airlifting supplies to men and women of Warsaw waging a 63-day, ultimately futile battle to liberate their city from Nazis at the close of World War II. The doomed flight was, Szymczyk said, his brother's 13th mission.

One of Szymczyk's few surviving pictures of his brother shows a cocky, smiling young man in a brown leather aviator jacket, with the standard white silk

scarf tucked in at the neck.

Shimshock's body was returned to the United States and buried at Fort Snelling at his mother's request. But his name and memory are honored yearly in Lomianki.

Sokolowski said the townspeople started raising money for a memorial in 1978, despite threats from the Communist government. The town typically commemorates the crew on Sept. 18 but did so this year in June to coincide with Pawlenty's visit.

After Tuesday's ceremony was over, one elderly woman came up to Pawlenty and said, tears in her eyes, "God bless the Yanks. God bless Columbia Heights and Minnesota."

Said Mayor Sokolowski, "This was a great chapter in our history. Today we stand in the sunshine of a free Poland—thanks to these brave soldiers."

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:

Jerome Biedny, 6909 West 82nd St., Bloomington MN 55439 <jaybiedny@juno.com> is researching BIEDNY, ANTKOWIAK, PYSSA, MAJCHZAK, ZYDORKA in Poznan (Oborniki); FYDA, JACHOWICZ in Nowy Sacz (Kruslowo); BARTKOWIAK, JANYSAK in German Poland; MAICHER in Russian Poland; DOBOSZ, BARNAS, RUSIN, FRYG, NAPPORA, SZALDA, GAIDA, ZAWORA, BOGDAN, OZIMEK, LANUCHA, BUKSON, KOPACZAWZA, PISKOROWNA, PISKOWAK in Rzeszow (Mielec); and also in Mpls. MN, Buffalo NY and Winston Salem NC. Jerome sent us his very impressive family tree--some lines going back eight generations to the mid-1700s.

Polly Callister, 1005 - 9th St. So., Virginia MN 55792 <rmc@rangenet.com> is researching MIELDZIOC (or MELDICH) in Mlynowa, Poland

(or Wolino, Russia) and in Virginia MN.

Paula Colwell, 789 New Century Blvd., Maplewood MN 55119 is a new member.

Irene M. Czapiewski, 1317 - 44th Ave N.E., Mpls. MN 55421 is researching GERSZEWSKI, CZAPIEWSKI, PASCHKE, EBERTOWSKI in Poland and in Warsaw, ND.

Shawna Kishel, 8726 Metsa Rd., Cook MN 55723 is a new member.

Eunice Larson, 57 Aalapapa Place, Hailua HI 96734-3118 is a new member.

Dorothy B. Petroskey, 702 So. 4th St., Virginia MN 55792 <dorovirginia@msn.com> is researching PETROSKEY in Shilitz, Poland, BENKUSKY in Danzig, and both in Virginia, MN.

Claudia Ripley, 1319 Wilderness Curve, Eagan MN 55123-2815 is researching SIK, DONCZEWSKI in Slawianowo in Poznan; SKOWRONSKI, KOSTRZEWSKI in Poland; SARBIA, SIENNO, ZBIETKA in Gniezno and all in Saginaw and Menominee in Michigan.



Letterhead logo used by the
Polish White Eagle Association

A report by John Rys concerning the indexing of the Polish White Eagle insurance records is presented on pages 14 - 19 in this issue.

Minnesota Genealogical Society
Polish Genealogical Society
of Minnesota
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