



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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DROBNE ECHA

Installment #9

Dateline: New Brighton and Mounds View

From *Wiarus*, 1890, 1900 - 1903, 1906-1907, 1914

By Greg Kishel

For the ninth installment of this series on Minnesota's past in the Polish-language press, we'll drop into the arc of the modern-day Twin Cities metro area, to New Brighton in Ramsey County. A century ago, long before it was engulfed by urban sprawl out of Minneapolis and St. Paul, New Brighton was a free-standing small town with a strong independent industrial base.¹ More to our interests, outside of their town centers New Brighton and its neighbor Mounds View were farming communities—settled in large part by Kaszubians from the Polish lands.² I have translated the following reportage on these two villages, all of which appeared back then in *Wiarus*, the Polish-language newspaper that was published in Winona.³

From the issue of October 30, 1890:

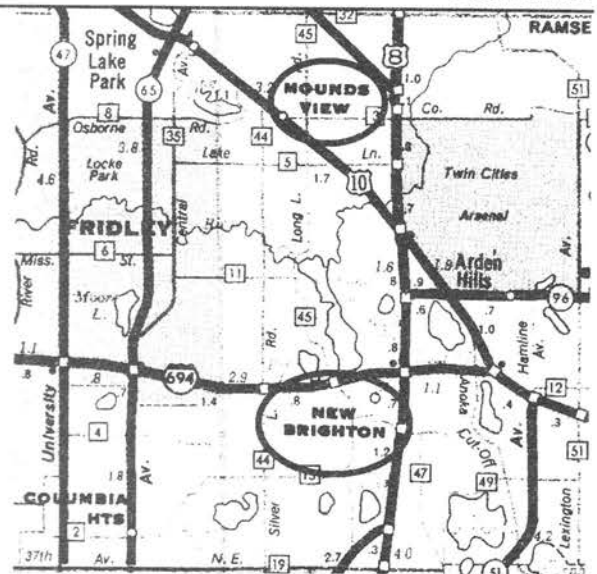
MOUNDSVIEW, Minn. Our village has grown so much larger through the building of a slaughterhouse and various residence houses that it is trying to be counted in the community of cities. Three Polish farmers, who are also supposed

Drobne Echa, continued on page 5

¹See text accompanying nn. 14-17 *infra*.

²Wacław Kruszka, *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), p. 121; John Radziłowski, *Poles in Minnesota* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2005), pp. 8-9. Father Kruszka based his coverage of the Poles in New Brighton almost entirely on the letter in the March 27, 1902 issue of *Wiarus* presented herein.

³I retrieved all but one of these items by using John Radziłowski's research into the Minnesota-bylined correspondence that appeared in *Wiarus* during its three-decade run; the 1890 item I discovered myself.



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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

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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.**

Items submitted for publication are welcomed and encouraged. We require that feature-length articles be submitted exclusively to PGS-MN only. 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>

Address changes or membership questions?

Contact: Lisa Trembley, Membership Chair
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President's Letter

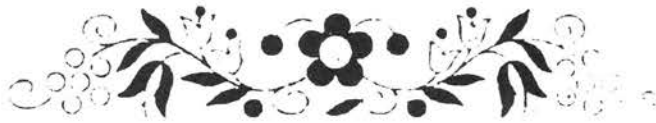
The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota was established in 1992 and its first newsletter was published in 1993. In 2007, PGS-MN and the Minnesota Genealogical Society will honor founders of our organization--details on page 7.

In 2006 we presented seven programs including our annual meeting/ luncheon in January, Branching-out in March, and a very successful, well-attended out-state program in Duluth. We will try to continue to schedule one out-state program per year. Our membership remains fairly constant at about 260 paid members. Our newsletter has grown from the initial issue of eight pages to about four-times that size. We send the newsletter to members, to other genealogical organizations and send some complimentary issues. In 2007 we will continue the newsletter publishing/editorial transition from Paul Kulas to John Kowles. Except for the very first issue, Paul is the only publisher our newsletter has had. Paul will continue to do portions of the newsletter. We have an equal number of programs scheduled for 2007, and as always we look for new and interesting ideas from our members. You can send your ideas to me or any other board member or make an offer to present a program yourself.

We also invite members to run for one of our elected offices or volunteer as a committee member. We need to continually introduce fresh blood and new ideas into our leadership positions. Our organization runs as smoothly as it does thanks to those who perform the accounting, membership, research, website, programming, publishing, library, and other tasks to maintain it.

For some years we have maintained a website with links to many other sites. We will continue to volunteer at the MGS Library on each first Saturday of the month and would like to introduce fresh faces to this task. Volunteers should contact Jan Bias. Her e-mail address/telephone number is listed on this page. Volunteering at the library is a good opportunity to learn about the facility and its materials. In 2007, the MGS Library will relocate to an as yet unknown building and we will move with it.

--Terry Kita



The Bulletin Board

Extra contributions

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

Pat Baumgarner
Renata G. Coates

Veronica Freihammer
Rita Otto

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

We also wish to thank **Gerald (Jerry) Bensing** of the New Brighton Area Historical Society and St. John the Baptist parish for supplying the photos that appear on pages 13, 15 and 17 of this issue.

New Director elected

At our annual meeting in January, we elected **Jerome Biedny** to serve on the PGS-MN Board of Directors. Welcome aboard, Jay!

E-mail address change:

Please note the address change of our Membership Chair, **Lisa Trembley**. Her new e-mail address is: <ltrembley@comcast.net>. Contact Lisa with your address changes or membership questions.

PGS-MN member honored

PSM-MN member, **Shirley Mask Connolly** from Ottawa, Canada, was honored in Poland recently as the first North American recipient of the Bernard Chrzanowski medal "Poruszył Wiatr Od Morza" [He Made the Sea Wind Blow]. This award is presented by the Zrzeszenie Kaszasko-Pomorskie [Kashubian Pomeranian Association]. It is the highest honor given to individuals or organizations from outside the Polish Pomeranian region whose activities contribute to the development of the region and its promotion in the fields of culture, science and economy. This medal is awarded to one person or organization per year. Congratulations, Shirley!

Article published

Polish American Studies has recently published an article by PGS-MN member **John Radziłowski**. The article entitled "Wojciechowo: Polish Immigrants in St. Paul, Minnesota, 1875 to 1925" appeared in the Autumn, 2006 issue, pages 23 - 57. A copy of this issue is available in the Polish collection at the MGS Library. *Polish American Studies* is a publication of Polish American Historical Association.

A new *History of Poland* written by John has also been recently released (See advertising insert for more information).

Surname indexing project

Our Surname indexing project continues in this issue on pp. 20-29. This index lists surnames appearing in Volume 8 (issues published in 2000) of this newsletter. Previous surname indices were published in Winter 1999-2000 (for surnames in Volume 1), Spring 2000 (V. 2), Autumn 2000 (V. 3), Winter 2000-01 (V. 4), Spring 2001 (V. 5), Spring 2002 (V. 6) and Autumn 2005 (V. 7). The indices covering Volumes 1 through 6 are also listed on our website at <www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>.

A message from the editor:

With the printing of this issue of the newsletter, I will be turning over editorial responsibilities to **John Kowles**. John has been working with me over the last few issues.

I have been publishing this newsletter for the past fourteen years. It's time for a change. As Terry Kita notes in his President's Letter, our organization (and that includes this newsletter) is in continuous need of "new blood and fresh ideas." John, with help from all of you, will seek to provide that. Please continue to furnish John with a supply of newsworthy materials. From now on, send all newsletter items to John at his address: 3429 - 45th Ave. So., Minneapolis MN 55418 or to his e-mail address: <johnkow@att.net>.

I want to thank the PGS-MN Board of Directors and all of our readers for allowing me to serve as your editor. It has been a most rewarding experience and I have learned much in the process.

Although I am retiring as editor, I will continue to remain active in PGS-MN. Maybe I'll even have time to write some articles for the newsletter now that I don't have to worry about getting the next issue out.

Sincerely, **Paul Kulas**



Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

New email address

Thank you for publishing that information on Hieronim and Teofil Derdowski in the last issue of the newsletter. Could you put some notice in the letter that my email is <mikederdowski@yahoo.com>? For some reason, my email account has become inaccessible and this is my new one...Best regards,

Mike Derdowski <mikederdowski@yahoo.com>

Thank you for sending us the information. We wanted to do an article on Heironim Derdowski for quite some time and your contribution provided us the impetus to get it done.

Space constraints have forced us to delay publication of the other article that you contributed-- "A Kettle of Kushubians." Readers, Watch for it in a future issue.

Seeking name of town?

I received an electronic copy of my great grandfather's WWI draft record (attached) (*see below*). I was wondering if someone could take a look to see if the town name looks familiar or if you have any suggestions as to what the real name of this town would be. I've checked maps (old and new) and there is not a town anywhere that fits this spelling or anything that comes close. My guess is that it might be a phonetic spelling or an educated guess by the person filling out the form. My grandfather did not write in the information on the card. Any suggestions or guidance to more resources to find where this is would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Dana <dhalberg@yahoo.com>

How about it, folks? Does anyone have a suggestion for Dana? Please contact her (and us) if you do.

I found a "Siniarzewo" in the index of my Polish Road Atlas. The first and last eight letters seem to be a match but there are additional letters after the "S" in the name of the town in your document.

Seeking Kolodziey, Jendro

Hallo, Years have passed by and genealogy progresses. I am still interested in my ancestor's history, so I try again to find out resources. I am looking for KOŁODZIEYs in Minnesota. Maybe nowadays the internet is fast enough and the research on the Kolodziey history has moved forward. It would be very kind if you may mail me a list of the ancestors. I am working with family tree maker 2005 software, where ftw-files are used. If you have incidentally your data of Silesia Kolodzieys and JENDROs in that format would be great. Let me know what happens meanwhile. I can send you my investigations also. Thanks,

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Readers, if you have any information about the Kolodziey and Jendro names please respond to Herr Kolodziey. Send your comments to us also.

I asked our organization's Silesian expert, Bob Prokott to reply to the above query. Here is Bob's response:

I knew KOLLODGES in the Morrison-Stearns County area during the mid-fifties. The name originally was KOŁODZIEJ and these people were Silesian from the Falkowitz area.

I know an excellent genealogist who lives in Berlin, Germany, who is currently in the process of writing a book about the Falkowitz parish. His name is Dr. Martin Richau and he lives at Wiesbadener Str. 58F, D14197, Berlin, Germany. His telephone number is 030 - 824 47 27. I note that the person inquiring in this case is also from Germany and suggest that he contact Martin. Martin's grandmother was a Kolodziej from Falkowitz and he has researched the family to a great degree. If you wish, you can forward this e-mail to the requestor.

Bob Prokott <prokott@backpack.net>

5	Where were you born?	Siniarzewo	Wassowa	Poland
		(Town)	(State)	(Nation)

Free vital records web link

I attended a genealogical meeting recently where the topic was "Free Vital Records Indexes on the Web." The presenter briefly explained and used the first two major links from the URL listed below and did some hands-on searching for the audience. I thought you might be interested in learning the URL, which follows: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wargl/freevr/index.html> Happy Hunting,

Dorothy <dpjen@comcast.net>

Need tombstone help

I have a tombstone reading "29 Pazd 1840 – 25 Lst 1897." Can someone help me translate?

Lisa

These are probably birth and death dates.

Born: 29 October (Październik) 1840

Died: 25 November (Listopad) 1897

Cleveland website

Hello, I am the new webmaster for the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland. I would like to invite you to visit our website at www.freewebs.com/pgsgc Our intention in the future is to provide links to local genealogical information. If anyone of your members has an interest in Polish genealogy in the Greater Cleveland area, we invite them to visit our site. Thank you.

Trina Galauner <galauner@yahoo.com>
Webmaster, PGSGC

November meeting

Regarding the topics presented in your November meeting-- Topic 1: Galicia, Topic 2: DNA, Topic 3: Surnames in Poland--presented by John L. Rys. I hope these topics will be in the next newsletter. I am in Yuma, AZ and will not be able to attend this meeting. But I am very interested in these topics. Thanks for all your help.

Annette Nalipinski Stenger
<fransten@peoplepc.com>

We asked John to write-up summaries of the topics that he presented. See his reports on pages 8 to 11 in this issue of the newsletter.



Kashubian Guesthouse
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Kaszub visitor

Stanislaw Frymark's interest in Kashubian Polish immigrants to the United States brought him 4,500 miles to Winona this week. It's his third visit in a year from Lesno, Poland, where the 34-year-old bed and breakfast owner hosts visitors at a farm guesthouse.

For more of this story, click on or type the URL below: <http://www.winonadailynews.com/articles/2006/12/04/news/01kashubian1204.txt>

James Kulas <polishpop1@earthlink.net>

Stan has been in North America for awhile. The News from the Wilno (Ontario) Society indicates that he was in Canada in November. And I saw him at "Urban Expedition: Poland" in St. Paul last Sunday (Feb. 18). He gave me his card (see above).

Need Birth Certificate

I am trying to obtain a birth certificate. I was born on Sept 26, 1943 in Heilsberg, East Prussia which is now Lidzbark Warminski, Poland. Do you have any suggestions as to who I would contact? I have tried the US Polish Embassy with no luck. Thank you!

Helmut Winter <helmut.winter@micorp.com>

Many German records (I am assuming here that you are ethnic German) were transported to Germany proper ahead of the advancing Russian armies in the closing days of World War II. Where they are now is a question that a Germanic genealogist might answer.

I see <familysearch.org> that the LDS Family History Library has filmed "Evangelische" records (1776-1930) of Heilsberg "von Manuskripten in Berlin-Dahlen und Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche der Union, Berlin." Perhaps 1943 records are housed there as well. The LDS FHL has also filmed the Catholic records (1588-1896) of Heisberg/Lidzbark Warmiński.

Programs. . .

Recent PGS-MN Meetings

September 9, 2006 - The kickoff meeting for the year was co-sponsored by PGS-MN and the Twin Ports Genealogical Society. This was an outreach meeting for PGS-MN, held at St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in Duluth. The all-day session was attended by about 80 people, mostly from the Duluth area. They enjoyed three interesting presentations:

- **Rick Bates**, a Polish researcher from Duluth, spoke on origins of selected families and how they influenced immigration to the area.
- **Ray Marshall** spoke on the early immigration to the area from 1865 to 1910 and the history of the Catholic Church and formation of the local Polish National Catholic Church, St. Josephat's.
- **Greg Kishel's** presentation concerned U.S. and European resources and the use of historical materials to broaden your genealogical story.

During the lunch break we toured St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church. Following the last presentation, many of us took a short walk for a talk and tour of St. Josephat's Polish National Catholic Church.

See also "Articles about Polish Immigration and Settlement in Northeastern Minnesota published in the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter" on page 19.

October 7 - Ron Galewski came up from Winona to present a program on the Polish Kashubian Community of Winona, Minnesota and Dodge/Pine Creek, Wisconsin. As usual, Ron had many historic photos and interesting insights.

November 4 - The main topic presented by **John Rys** was the history of, and research in, Galacia. He also presented an introduction to DNA testing which is currently a popular genealogy topic. John also talked about the latest tools to determine the distribution and density of surnames in Poland. This can now be done at the powiat (county) level. While the technique is not exactly user-friendly, John offered to help members generate maps of the distribution of their ancestral surnames for a contribution to PGS-MN.

See also topic summaries by John Rys on pp. 9-11.

January 20, 2007 - Our annual meeting was held at the *Gasthof Zur Gemütlichkeit*. It included election of officers, reports, and Polish food.

Other early 2007 PGS-MN meetings include:

February 3 - Topic: Polish immigration

March 3 - Topic: Beginning Polish genealogy

Summaries of these meetings will appear in the Spring newsletter.

Future Sessions

We are always open to suggestions for topics for PGS-MN meetings and are also always looking for new presenters--no experience needed. Please try to attend our meetings if you can. There is always something of interest, refreshments, and we try to have a closing Q&A session, time permitting. Look for announcements of the remaining 2007 meetings via our website, e-mail and regular mailing, and in this newsletter.

17th Annual Minnesota Genealogical Society "Branching Out" Meeting

Saturday, 14, April 2007, 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
(Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.)

Location: Lake Junior High School,
3133 Pioneer Drive in Woodbury MN.

Directions: From the junction of I 494 and I 94 go south on 494 to Lake Road. Go east on Lake Road 2-1/2 miles to Pioneer Drive. The school is at the corner of Lake Road and Pioneer Drive.

Keynote (9:15 a.m.): Genetics and Genealogy
"Using DNA in Family History Research and
Analyzing the Results"

Presented by:
Matthew Aaron Bower, MS,
Certified Genetic Counselor

Using DNA for Family History research has been promoted and used a lot in the last few years. This presentation will explain what to expect from the different tests that are being offered. A case study will be used to show how a DNA test case can be set up to assist a family history project and how to analyze the results.

PGS-MN will present two programs:

Break-out Session # 1 (11:00): Greg Kishel will describe the concept of **Chain Migration**. He and others will present examples of the discovery of this phenomenon during their research.

Break-out Session # 2 (1:30): At a **Question & Answer Session**, a panel of PGS-MN members will field questions on any and all subjects related to Polish genealogy.

PGS-MN will also have a display and book sales table.

Other sessions of interest to the Polish researcher:

Break-out Session # 1 (11:00 to 12:00)

“Beginning Genealogy” offered by MGS
“Pomeranian Churches” by Paul Stenberg,
Pommern Regional Group

Break-out Session # 2 (1:30 – 2:30)

“How to get the most out of Census Research”
by Beth Mullinax, Irish Genealogical Society

Break-out Session # 3 (2:45 – 3:45)

“Web sites for Germanic Genealogy”
by Kent Cutkomp, Germanic Genealogy Society

**“Resources for Ethnic Research at the
Minnesota Historical Society”**
by Ruth Anderson, MHS Reference Librarian

**“Probate Records: A Genealogical
and Family History Treasure”**
by Harold Hinds, Jr., Yankee Genealogical Society

Box Lunches: For your convenience, an optional box lunch is offered. Payment for the box lunch must be received in advance (no later than 7 April). Send your name, address, and a check for \$7.00 for each box lunch to: Minnesota Genealogical Society, 5768 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, MN 55422-5014 attention program committee. You are welcome to bring a bag lunch or go to a local restaurant if you prefer.

Registration: The cost for this meeting is \$25.00. Registration will be accepted by mail (See MGS address above). You may also register at the door on the day of the meeting, or register on the MGS website <www.mnsgs.org> and use PayPal to pay.

Minnesota Genealogical Society 2007 Awards/Recognition Banquet - April 19, 2007-

A gala banquet,
recognizing the many tremendous efforts of branch
genealogical groups, volunteers, and members
will be held on April 19, 2007,
at the Minnesota Historical Society
(345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN).

Tickets for \$35.00 are available from MGS
(5768 Olson Memorial Highway,
Golden Valley MN 55422)
or can be purchased online (mnsgs.org) thru PayPal.
Reception, dinner, and awards start at 5:30 p.m.
Space is limited, so purchase your tickets now.

Entertainment includes: Civil War Reenactors,
the Min Kim Harp and Flute Duet
and Dan Chouinard from MPR
and the Prairie Home Companion.

Dinner - with speaker Rudy Vecoli,
Immigration History and Research Center,
author of
“Italian Voices: Making Minnesota Home”

Autumn Trivia Challenge...

There were only four entries to last issue's trivia contest; Sandra Nuss, Mike Eckman, Harry McOuat and John Kulas. All entries were correct. Sandra was the first to enter and the winner. She is also a first-time winner. Congratulations! Here are the answers:

1. Community with the highest percentage of people with Polish ancestry according to the 2000 census? Swan River, Township, Morrison County, 41.5% (*Answer found on page 3*).
2. The Jagiellonian dynasty reigned from 1382 to 1572 (*page 6*).
3. Teofil and Hieronim were brothers (*pp. 11, 27*).
4. Two Winona newspapers edited by Hieronim? *Wiarus* and *Katolik* (*pp. 13, 15*).
5. The Hamburg passenger lists are important because they usually show the hometown of each passenger (*p. 16*).
6. Call number of the index to Polish parish baptismal records at the MGS Library? MN H-1 217 Rys (*p. 3*).

Thanks to those who entered. There is no contest in this issue.

PGS-MN PRESENTATION SUMMARY

Nov. 4, 2006 Meeting, Presentations by John L. Rys

TOPIC 1: *What and where was Galicia? How long did it exist? Why is it important to know about this partition? What were the regulations regarding church record keeping in Galicia? Also, who and where are Lemkos? Who and where are the Capatho-Rusyns?*

Why is it important to know about Galicia? Why is it important to know about the partitions? The answer is simple: Because most of our ancestors left Poland at the time when Poland was partitioned. Partitions started in 1772 and were completed in 1795. They lasted 123 years until 1918. The partitions affected how our ancestors recorded geographic information and the partitions affected Polish people culturally in different ways depending on the partition.

Events in Galicia during the Partitions

(From: Ortell, Gerald A. Polish Parish Records of the RC Church, PGSA, 1996, pg. 2)

1772.	Invasion and occupation by the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
1780.	The beginning of the statistical census and social reforms.
1781.	The technical end of serfdom.
1786.	The Land Kataster requiring registration of all lands.
1793-1795.	The Kościuszko War for Independence.
1805-1812.	Napoleonic wars.
1830-1831.	Anti-Russian War.
1831.	The first Asiatic cholera epidemic.
1830's.	Attempts at Germanization.
1836.	Heavy floods.
1846.	The great Galician peasant uprising.
1847.	Typhus and cholera outbreaks: the unknown fever.
1848.	The emancipation of the Galician serfs.
1850-1858.	Railroad building.
1853-1855.	The Great Famine.
1854.	The Wielka [Great] cholera.
1863.	The Polish insurrection.
1866.	The Austro-Prussian War.
1869.	The development of political activism.
1873.	The Little Cholera.
1880- 1900.	The breakup of the estates.
1905.	The year of strikes.
1907.	A hunger year.
1914- 1918.	The First World War.
1919-1921.	The Russo-Polish War.

Resources about Galicia

Books:

- Lenius, Brian. *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*. Self-pub. Manitoba, Canada, 2nd ed. 1994.
 Ortell, Gerald A. *Polish Parish Records of the Roman Catholic Church*. PGSA, 1979.
 Wynne, Suzan F. *Finding Your Jewish Roots in Galicia*. Avotaynu, Inc. Teaneck, NJ 1998.

Articles:

- O'Shea, Jonathan D. *The Keeping of Vital Records in the Austrian Partition*. Vol. 9, Pathways & Passages. Winter 1992. At website: <www.halgal.com/vitalrecordsaustria.html>
 Bielawa, Matthew. *Catholic Vital Records of Galicia/Halychyna*. 2004 FEEFHS Conference.
 At website: <feefhs.org/bielawa.pdf>
 Gwozdz, Peter. *South Poland Catholic Records Microfilms*. January, 2004.
 At website: <www.rootsweb.com>

Websites: <<http://www.halgal.com>> <<http://www.feefhs.org>>

Polish Church Records and their Regulations in Galicia

1563: Council of Trent--Catholic Church to keep written records of baptisms and marriages.

1614: A directive was made calling for parishes to maintain death records.

1784: Austrian regulations were clearly defined and implemented in Galicia (See below).

1784 RECORD REGULATIONS IN GALICIA

(From: O'Shea, Jonathan D. "The Keeping of Vital Records in the Austrian Partition." Vol. 9, *Pathways & Passages*. Winter 1992. At website: <www.halgal.com/vitalrecordsaustria.html>)

Civil Aspects:

- 1) Catholic Priests Are Civil Registers
- 2) Tax and Military Aspects

Registry Format:

- 1) Three Separate Registers
- 2) Separate by Villages
- 3) Column Format
- 4) Latin is Official Language
- 5) Grandparents Recorded
- 6) Midwife Recorded
- 7) Use Page Numbers
- 8) Error Correction Procedures

9) Records Review

Records Security:

- 1) Records Not To Leave the Parish
- 2) Keep Records in Sacristy

Procedures:

- 1) Only Live Births Were To Be Recorded
- 2) Out of wedlock Births
- 3) Baptisms by Lay People
- 4) Extraterritorial Baptisms
- 5) Hospital Baptisms
- 6) Military Baptisms

Map showing Lemko and Carpatho-Rusyn area



Map source: <<http://carpathorusynsociety.org/geography.html>>

TOPIC 2: DNA - We heard about it, but how is it being used in genealogy?

Much of the material for this presentation was derived from the material and charts available at the website <www.smgf.org>.

DNA is often referred to as the molecule of heredity. As our ancestors move around the globe, and records that can connect us with them are lost, destroyed, DNA becomes valuable in re-connecting individuals, surnames, and families. DNA is a historical record transmitted from parents to child. It is much like a family tree contained in your body.

DNA, or **deoxyribonucleic acid**, is the fundamental building block for an individual's entire genetic makeup. It is a component of virtually every cell in the human body. Further, a person's DNA is the same in every cell. For example, the DNA in a person's blood is the same as the DNA in their skin cells, and saliva. When cells divide and form new ones, a copy of the DNA is duplicated into the new cells. DNA is a powerful tool because each person's DNA is different from every other individual's, except for identical twins.

DNA is found in most cells in the human body and can be classified into three types:

- Y-chromosome DNA (Y-DNA)
- Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)
- Autosomal DNA

Y-DNA is carried only by men and they inherit it from their father and it is associated with surnames. Mitochondrial DNA or mtDNA is inherited by men and women from their mother. Autosomal DNA is responsible for our physical characteristics.

DNA is a long molecule and it is shaped like a stepladder with rungs in between the two sides of the step ladder. This helps in the translation of the chemical structure into a language that can be searched by DNA. You translate these chemical elements into a understandable language by establishing markers along the long DNA stepladder molecule.

Sampling of Genetic Genealogy Organizations and their websites

<u>DNA Organization</u>	<u>Website</u>
DNA Fingerprint	<www.dna-fingerprint.com>
DNA Heritage	<www.dnaheritage.com>
Family Tree	<www.familytreedna.com>
Genographic (National Geographic/IBM)	<www.nationalgeographic.com/genographic>
Oxford Ancestors	<www.oxfordancestors.com>
Relative Genetics	<www.relativegenetics.com>
Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation	<www.smgf.org>

The Sorenson Foundation is promoting their Genetic Genealogy system to genealogical societies in the United States. Recently they made a presentation at a Swedish Genealogical Society of Minnesota meeting. They took DNA samples and a number of people volunteered.

TOPIC 3: Distribution and Density of Surnames in Poland on the Web.

Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland (Słownik Nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych).

Most of this presentation has already appeared in the *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*. Refer to the following issues:

Rys, John L. "Website Analysis of Polish Surnames Using Słownik Nazwisk." *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*, vol 14, No. 1&2, (Spring/Summer 2006):pages 16-21

Rys, John L. "What's in a Surname?" *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter*, vol. 12, No. 4, (Winter 2004-05): pages 10-12.

.THERE ARE 3 MAJOR REFERENCE BOOKS FOR SURNAMES.

1) *Słownik Nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych.* [Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland]. Kazimierz Rymut, ed. 10 volumes. Kraków: Polska Akademia Nauk - Instytut Języka Polskiego, 1992.

This is an alphabetical dictionary of the majority of Polish surnames used in Poland. It is based on information in Polish databanks at the end of 1990. Population of Poland in 1990 was little over 34 million and the surnames of about 30 million people made it into the dictionary. It is arranged in Polish alphabetical order--meaning letters with diacritical marks are treated as separate letters of the alphabet.

2) *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings.* William F. (Fred) Hoffman. 2nd edition, revised. Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1998.

This is an important reference book based on the ten volume *Słownik Nazwisk* described above. Hoffman's book distills the number of entries into a very readable form. The Polish Surnames book is easy to use because it combines the letters and the Polish letters with diacritical marks into one alphabetical order.

3) *Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland at the Beginning of the 21st Century.* Kazimierz Rymut, compiler. 2002. CD-ROM edition. Kraków-Chicago: Polish Academy of Sciences - Polish Language Institute and the Polish Genealogical Society of America, 2002.

This is basically a new and greatly expanded version of the 1992 *Słownik Nazwisk* directory reviewed above. The population base for this dictionary is 38 plus million people. It is arranged in the Polish alphabetical order meaning the letters with diacritical marks are treated as separate letters of the alphabet.

In 1998 changes in the administrative divisions in Poland resulted in reducing the number of provinces from 49 to 16. These 16 provinces are subdivided into a second tier of 315 counties and 65 cities with county status. Then there is a further subdivision into a third tier of districts. The new dictionary breaks out the statistics at the second tier county level.

A Polish website does an automatic website analysis of surname entries from both editions of SŁOWNIK NAZWISK. The website address is at: <<http://www.genpol.com>>

+ Kazimierz Rymut + 1935 - 2006

Professor Kazimierz Rymut died on November 14, 2006. Professor Rymut was an eminent Polish linguist and scholar whose name became familiar to many Polish American genealogists (see items #1 and 3 in the article above). Many of us have used his work to find the particular area in Poland where our ancestral Polish surnames appear most often. This in turn enabled some of us to find the places of origin of our immigrant Polish ancestors. We also used his work to find out how common our surnames are in Poland, and to establish the correct/original spelling of those surnames. Polish American genealogists owe Professor Rymut their gratitude.

Drobne Echa, continued from page 1

to be annexed to the city, fear that they are imposing a further increase in taxes on them, like on wealthy persons, so that it would be easier to take their land. Saloons and stores are springing up here, like mushrooms after the rain, because more and more people are coming in.

From the issue of March 22, 1900:

THE POLES IN NEW BRIGHTON, in the settlement closest to St. Paul, Minn., are sticking together effectively, as is proper for Poles to do. Through the township elections the following Poles have now been chosen: Messrs. Józef SKIBA and Jan SZUTA, as supervisors, Jan Wiktor SKIBA as justice of the peace, Tomasz FABIAŃSKI, Jan GRUDNIEWSKI and Józef OLSZEWSKI as commissioners of the roads. (*Road overseer*). – This is an example deserving of imitation by other settlements of Polish nationality.

From the issue of May 10, 1900:

IN NEW BRIGHTON, Minn, Mr. Józef SKIBA has already given a second daughter in marriage this year—to Mr. Michał KUCZYŃSKI, also from New Brighton.

From the issue of May 23, 1901:

IN NEW BRIGHTON, Minn., not far from St. Paul, 70 Polish families, among them being many well-to-do farmers, are proposing to detach from the Polish parish in St. Paul and to build their own church for themselves. However, Archbishop IRELAND does not want to give permission for the construction of this church, until the number of Polish families in New Brighton has increased to 100.

From the issue of March 27, 1902:

**From New Brighton
(MINN)**

We need a Polish church here like we need our daily bread, and the Reverend Fr. Dominik MAJER from St. Paul is coming to our aid on this and Arch-

bishop IRELAND wants to give us permission to build a church. Only with it is the dilemma, that there is no unity among us every single Pole wishes that the church would be erected in front of his house. This circumstance is standing in the way of the building of a Polish church for us here, and thus they still have an Irish Catholic church here.

These Poles, who would not want to give a thing for a Polish church, are sticking together with the Irish. Almost all the young people stand on the Polish side, and there are around 70 families of Poles here while there are only 8 of Irish.

On May 11 the township elections took place here and with the exception of the position of town clerk, which went to the Irishman Patrick FARREL, we elected only Poles.

As supervisors were elected: Józef LANGA, Antoni SKIBA and Jan GRUDZIESKI—as assessor Jan V. SKIBA—as constable Ignacy KUCZYŃSKI—as justice of the peace Jan V. SKIBA—and as treasurer Franciszek JANUSZEWSKI.

For the most part, it is Kaszubians who live here.

Józef SKIBA.

From the issue of May 21, 1903:

Moundsview, Minn., May 15.

For almost a year already we have had our own parish and our own pastor here and yet he has read nothing in the newspapers about all this. There are only those gentlemen from St. Paul and Minneapolis who write unkind things about us, because we are not going to them as often. – At this time, in our parish we have the reverend Father SZCZUKOWSKI as pastor, and a chapel in Moundsview. We do not have either a rectory or a school, but they are slowly coming about. This year we are building a rectory, and we would have had one already but for the Most Reverend Archbishop from St. Paul not knowing which location would be the most suitable for a church property. Our chapel was built more than 18 years ago it is small and now is worn out and besides, it stands on small lots which would not be sufficient for a rectory, school, etc. And above all we would have to build a new church and, besides, this chapel was founded by an Irish priest, not the Poles, and we have a couple of Irishmen here who hold sway. Now

the Poles want to build their own church, and with the aim of attaining that Mr. J. SKIBA has offered five acres of his own fields, some that he would readily give entirely as a gift, or for a small recompense the lands would be abandoned, provided that the church was erected near the farms. At this time, though, the Archbishop has directed that the church be built in the neighboring village of New Brighton. Thus there the church will stand and there we will be building the rectory this year.

Last week we had penitential rites here. In assistance to our reverend pastor there came: the reverend Father D. MAJER and Father K. KOBYLINSKI from St. Paul, Father A. ZALEWSKI from Silver Lake and Father Fr. GAWŁOWICZ from Warsaw in North Dakota. Heartfelt thanks to all of our spiritual Fathers, who gave us such consolation whereas, more particular thanks to our pastor, Reverend Father SZCZUKOWSKI, for the arranging of the rites and for all of the endeavors and labors he has assumed for our new parish. With greetings for all readers of *Wiarus*.

Your subscriber.

From the issue of July 9, 1903:

On the feast day of the patron saint of our parish, St. John the Baptist, we had penitential rites here again. Our beloved parish priest invited several priests, and because this was during the week, not

on Sunday, the priests did come. There were the esteemed fathers from St. Paul, Fr. MAJER and Fr. KOBYLINSKI from Minneapolis, Fr. JAŻDŻEWSKI, and another one of the neighboring non-Polish priests. The Reverent Fr. KOBYLINSKI delivered a sermon in the English language, but he did this like a native Irishman. (We have a dozen or so Irish families here, now there's a people who smack with their mouths, as if for ice cream.) Perhaps our priests did that intentionally, or they were even playing a prank in language on the Irish but anyway, besides the English language the Irish do not have anything to their credit. I must also mention on this occasion, that the rectory in New Brighton is already being finished. This will be a splendid little building it is expected to cost more than four thousand, for which we can congratulate ourselves, because neither in St. Paul nor in Minneapolis, and perhaps nowhere in Minnesota, does a Polish priest have such a magnificent rectory, like ours will have. We are building it from wood and brick (*brick veneered*), from materials not very costly but good, and from hardwood for the interior. The fixtures in the house will be according to the newest styles. – Soon we will be quarreling among ourselves, as to where the church will be placed, whether in New Brighton or in Moundsview—certainly it will be in New Brighton, according to the will of the bishop—and then we will have a parish just like they do in a large city, God grant it, Amen!

A SUBSCRIBER TO WIARUS.

At right:

The original rectory at St. John the Baptist parish in New Brighton

The rectory was erected in 1903 before work was even started on the parish church.

Photo source:

St. John the Baptist parish archives
[all rights reserved by source]



From the issue of February 8, 1906:

From NEW BRIGHTON, Minn.

Jan Skiba's secret development of the cultivation of the early potato "Ohio"

The new development of the improvement of the early potato "Ohio" has been revealed by Jan SKIBA (a farmer) from New Brighton, Minnesota, who has just now brought it to light. His discovery is being proven by his own very abundant harvest of potatoes. Thus he is announcing this to the general public, that he knows a way to improve potatoes, their qualities and fertility, how to prevent deterioration, diseases, rot, pests, and scab. Through his new development he has impressed many researchers and experts in the culture of potatoes, who have been involved for many years in the improvement of potatoes, and who have been trying to attain his goal through various means, that is through the aid of chemical elements, or then again in a natural way but in his first and second trials they did not gain much of an advantage. It was necessary to take it to the proper elements, which they could not achieve in any manner, and thus their results remained the same. Finally the Pole set to work, and this one, through persistence, patience and boldness, carried out the work that others had not been able to do.

Thus through labor and invention he is rightly able to boast, that it is through his work that the result has been attained. Being a farm proprietor himself, he studied thoroughly with interest the nature and cropping of the "Ohio" early potato. Everybody already knows that potatoes are not equal and that not all have good qualities. Some of them, if they are not completely mature, destroy themselves and spoil their natural properties and flavor, for whomever does not know how to treat these things and prevent that in advance. The knowledge and methods of the improvement of potatoes may easily be learned from Jan SKIBA he will explain everything to whomever goes to him for advice. This development not only interests the proprietors (the farmers) but also the experts and scholars who, hearing about this, themselves doubt how it would be possible for a simple farmer to have been able to discover something like this, which they themselves had not been able to achieve. Therefore the new discovery is a secret and is precious, and whoever obtains it will be lucky.

In the first place he made the discovery together with his own relatives, and later began to work himself with his own hands but in all that work he never ceased. In the beginning it seemed him to be an impossibility and a puzzle, but after further research everything came to a completed result.

Thus he himself discovered the method, how to propagate potatoes, how to improve them and how to prevent the deterioration, which he had experienced in his own potatoes. All of those who have purchased seed from him also confirm that the improved early potato "Ohio" acquired from him differs greatly from others, through it they are better and more tasty and that they do not have either diseases and scab, and at the same time they yield an abundant crop. Then he can show to everyone that from the ten thousand bushels that he took in last year, among them not a one had to be discarded as foul, that they are of white color, and cooked or mashed they do not blacken like others. He wishes to spread the discovery of his own method of the propagation and improvement of the early "Ohio" among farmers around the whole United States he contends that without exception they are able to bear abundantly in every state and that they will produce a rich crop, if the farmers are willing to keep his method accurately. He wishes all farmers in this country to listen to what is possible henceforth through these improved potatoes and his method, and to yield to them the blessings and abundance of harvest.

He has been engaged in the culture of potatoes a full 15 years and has never taken in less than 250 bushels per acre, and at the same time he has not been adding any more unusual cultivation. Besides the improvement of characteristics noted above, his new early "Ohio" potatoes have this trait, that they ripen comparably with green vines, that is to say, with their stalks. Because there are many potatoes of which the stalks shrivel before the potatoes mature and this once again is harmful to the potatoes, because they do not yet have the strength in order to be able to properly mature. But his potatoes mature one by two, and in that lies the secret.

In 1905 from his own field he took ten thousand bushels of the improved Ohio early potato, and he wants to spread it among proprietors for the performance of trials. Thus all can purchase seed for themselves from him without hesitation and do tests and by that they will receive the necessary instruction.

Whoever would not wish to profit from this, that the early and improved Ohio bring him an abundant yield? Hurry to inquire of this person, because the time of planting and tillage is coming.

Address: JOHN V. SKIBA
New Brighton, Minn.

From the issue of September 17, 1907:

FROM NEW BRIGHTON, Minn.

On August 18 at 4:00 in the afternoon the blessing of the cornerstone of the new Polish church of St. John the Baptist was celebrated. The very reverend prelate Father D. MAJER performed the blessing of the cornerstone. The reverend Father KOBLYŃSKI delivered the sermon. The following priests took part in the consecration: Father H. JAŹDŹEWSKI, Father J. ZDECHLIK and the local pastor Father A. SZCZUKOWSKI. In his beautiful oration the preacher exhorted all of the parishioners to harmony and unity and to work together with their parish priest, because only in such a manner would they be able to attain the goal for which they were aiming. Indeed, this day has become a great remembrance for the parishioners, because they had been waiting for a long time for this thing that they had desired. To all the Reverend Fathers who deigned to take part in this day, we whole-heartedly send a thousand thanks

Polish-style.

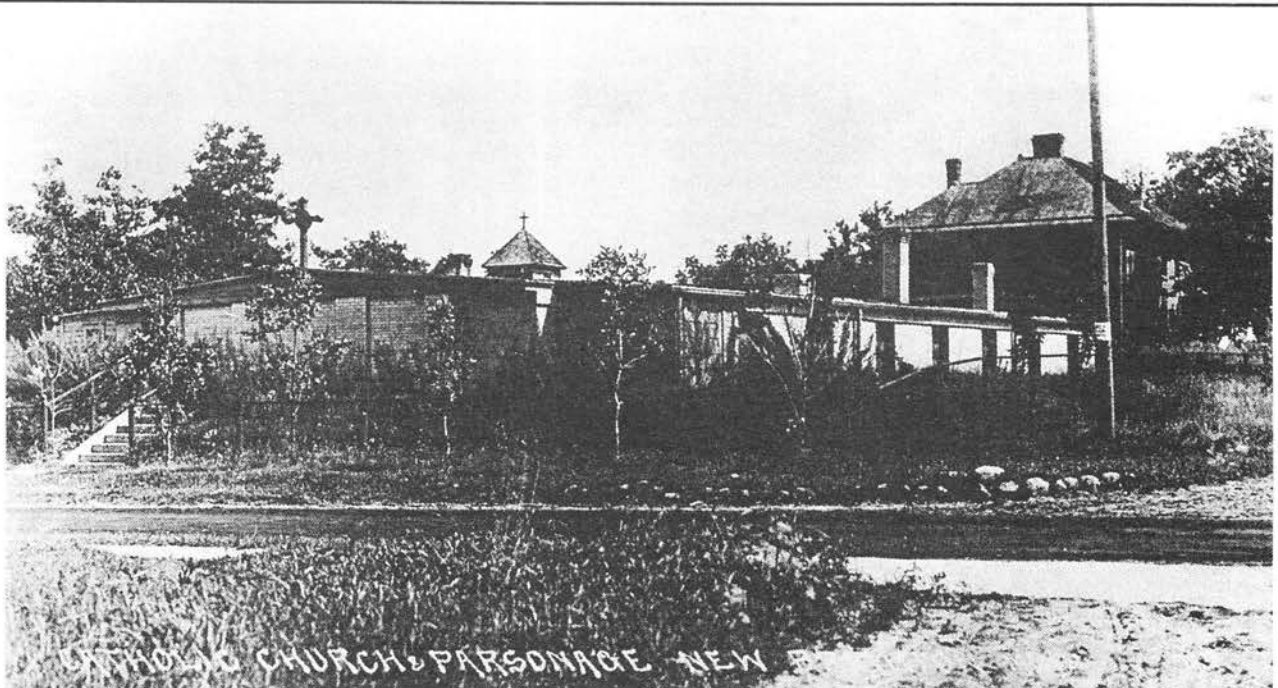
ONE OF THE PARISHIONERS.

From the issue of May 14, 1914:

NEW BRIGHTON, Minn.

Esteemed Madame Editor of *Wiarus!*

For their information, I hereby report to our brothers in other parishes, that in our Polish church under the patronage of St. John the Baptist, where the pastor is the Reverend Father F.J. MATZ, the exceptionally beautiful solemnity of a forty-hour devotion was celebrated, on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd days of last month. The following Reverend Fathers (some of whom had already arrived the day before) came to the assistance of our priest, in order to hear confessions: Father D. RYSZKA from Winona, Father Józ. CIEMIŃSKI and Father S. ICIEK from Duluth, Father A. JAŹDŹEWSKI from Superior, Father W. S. MAJER from Minto, N. Dak., Father H. JAŹDŹEWSKI from St. Paul, Father W. JANY, Father RAKOWSKI and Father A. KRYJEWSKI from Minneapolis. The 40-hour devotions commenced on Tuesday morning and ended on Thursday evening with a procession and benediction of the Most Holy Sacrament.



Above: Original Basement Church, St. John the Baptist parish, New Brighton (1907)

Photo source: New Brighton Area Historical Society [all rights reserved by source].

Nearly all the parish went to Communion. Over all three days the faithful came together to the house of worship in order to pray and to hear the beautiful teachings delivered by our Polish Preachers who had come to us, some of them even coming from their distant parishes. They did not begrudge the time and the burdensome journey, for which we pay homage to them in the pages of *Wiarus* with our most whole-hearted thanks and we will be praying for them, that the Lord deign to keep them in good health, so that for long years they may work for the general good and the salvation of souls.

Whereas in particular we thank our Reverend Pastors for presenting us such beautiful services we will strive to behave according to the teachings proclaimed during the penitential rites, which will long remain in our memory.

I must add, that the farmers are now employed in the fields, in tilling and sowing or in the preparation of vegetable gardens despite this, time was found for the beautiful decoration of the church for that splendid ceremony and everyone found enough time to hear the Word of God.

I have been somewhat late in writing, but a guy shakes everyday from the toil of his hands thus, please forgive me. I note, that we all read *Wiarus* with pleasure here, and I wish you still more subscribers in this area.

An old veteran.

The New Brighton area was another one of the places in Minnesota where Polish immigrants settled earliest. Neighboring Mounds View Township was first opened to settlement shortly after the end of the Civil War, and the prolific Polish Kaszubian SKIBA family was among its pioneers when patriarch Joseph took land there in 1870.⁴ The Irish-born FARRELL family, mentioned by name in one of our *Wiarus* reports, was another such, a bit further west in New Brighton proper.⁵ But, it seems that Polish-born *rodacy*⁶ of the SKIBAs came in such numbers and so quickly that the two townships' Roman Catholic community took on a predominantly Polish character. Thus it was that when the community outgrew the little mission chapel in Mounds View, the new St. John the Baptist parish was unequivocally recognized as one of Polish ethnicity.⁷

What I've presented here is all of the Mounds

View- and New Brighton-dated pieces in *Wiarus* that John Radziłowski or I have found so far. Unfortunately, there's nothing like the longer narratives of early history or closely-sequenced contemporaneous reports of pioneer days that I've found for some other Polish-American communities in Minnesota.⁸ And my first reaction on finishing the rough stage of translation was that these scattered pieces, coming annually or less often during the formative years of St. John the Baptist Church, said far less than more about what really was going on.

⁴Gene F. Skiba, *A Centennial History of New Brighton, Minnesota* (New Brighton, Minn.: New Brighton Area Historical Society, 1987), p. 55. This history indicates that Joseph SKIBA came to Minnesota after a sojourn in Ontario. This raises the possibility that he was a part of the chain migration from Kaszubia through the Renfrew/Wilno/Barry's Bay area of Ontario to the Kaszubian settlements in Minnesota. (Shirley Mask Connolly has published several articles about this phenomenon in our newsletter, starting with "Your Canadian Kashub Cousins and Their Trek from Wilno to Winona," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 3, no. 2 (Summer, 1995), pp. 5-7.)

⁵Skiba, *Centennial History*, pp. 51-53.

⁶This is the word frequently seen in the original text of *Drobne Echa's* subject matter, which I always translate as "countrymen."

⁷Almost all of the priests at St. John's, starting with the Father SZCZUKOWSKI mentioned herein, all the way through Father KOSCIELNAK in the mid-20th century, were Polish-born or Polish-descended. Rosina Schmalzbauer Boryczka and Janet Boryczka Johnson, *St. John the Baptist Catholic Church: A Pictorial History* (New Brighton, Minn.: publ. by the authors, 1983) ["1983 *St. John's History*"], pp. 2-3 *St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish: Building on a Century of Faith, 1902-2002* (New Brighton, Minn.: St. John the Baptist Parish, 2004) ["2004 *St. John's History*"], p. 1; 1949 *Questionnaire on Parish History* for Diocese of St. Paul (Father Max Matz, informant) [on microfilm M260, roll 13, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul]. Early on, we covered St. John the Baptist parish in this newsletter: Paul Theodore Kulas, "Polish Catholic Churches in Minnesota, Part I: Polish Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 2, no. 1 (Spring, 1994), pp. 6-7.

⁸The installments of this series for Silver Lake (in our Winter, 2003-2004 issue), Virginia (Spring, 2004 issue) and Sturgeon Lake (Winter, 2005-2006 issue) are the best examples of this sort of material so far, the type that I most enjoy developing and presenting. Our next installment will feature the founding of St. Josephat's Polish National Catholic parish in Duluth, as illustrated in reports from several sources during the years surrounding that tumultuous event.

But one doesn't have to read too much between the lines to infer more about the flow of events and a little background research puts more of the story into perspective. It's fair to say that the New Brighton/Moundsview Poles were afflicted to some degree with the "spirit of opposition and stubbornness, this original sin of American Poles,"⁹ as was seen in so many other Polish-American communities; our correspondents admit as much a couple of times.¹⁰ This seems to have delayed the making of firm plans for a church by some period of time. Too, there was the Bishop's not-unreasonable demand for a Catholic community large enough to financially support a resident priest. These are the apparent reasons why it took a half-decade to really get St. John's functioning.

Nonetheless, one wonders if the New Brighton Poles did not succeed in achieving their goal ahead of a more standard diocesan schedule, anyway. Going through these items, I was struck by the lack of something. In Polish-pioneer reportage I find one reference so often that it is almost a cliché: the mention of the early construction of a *piękny kościół*, a "beautiful church," which in its first incarnation was almost always *drewniany*, "made of wood," in isolated rural regions. Yet in the July 9, 1903 report here, we have

a strong statement of pride in the locals' ability to build a very fine rectory for the long-awaited *stały proboszcz*, the permanent parish priest. And this house was erected in 1903, before work was even started on a church in New Brighton.¹¹

The two published histories of St. John's parish contain a revelation that may explain the second point, and may do so for the first I surmised: the church structure that the parishioners of St. John's started with in 1907 was a basement church, i.e. the foundation was laid in and roofed over, with the enclosed space serving for sanctuary and all other parish functions. An above-ground church with steeple, of

⁹The quotation is from Father Waclaw Kruszka, the earliest historian of Polonia in the U.S. *A History of the Poles in America to 1908, Part IV*, p. 10.

¹⁰We have the locals' persisting disagreement as to where the church was to be built. And, our correspondent in the May 21, 1903 report refers to correspondents from Minneapolis and St. Paul who were critical of the New Brightonians' push for an independent parish, as well. I have not yet tried to find this material, hence its absence from this installment.

¹¹1983 *St. John's History*, pp. 6-7.

At right:

**First full structure,
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
(erected 1922).**

Photo source:

St. John the Baptist
parish archives

[all rights reserved by source]



the customary early-20th century Catholic church appearance, was not erected until 1922.¹²

One of course wonders about the “why” behind this. Whenever Polish immigrants settled in large enough concentrations, they almost always focused their collective resources on organizing their own parish and constructing a distinctive church building as early as they could. Given that, the institutional part of the New Brighton story makes all sense. But the architectural part leaves one wondering. It’s a virtual certainty that these rural residents did not have huge financial means. The obvious inference is that they concluded that having a very modern, comfortable, and spacious rectory for residential and administrative purposes would better enable them to retain a priest for the duration, than would putting all of their limited fisc into a full brick church structure. Unfortunately, our *Wiarus* correspondents do not even acknowledge their community’s variant strategy for their church, and the extant local histories do not shed any light on the thought-process behind it.¹³

Socioeconomically, the New Brighton area presents one of the more interesting places of Polish settlement in Minnesota. The platted area of New Brighton was established in 1887-1888 as a base for a railyard and associated stockyard and slaughterhouse/meatpacking operation two large packing houses were erected early.¹⁴ The village of New Brighton was incorporated in 1891.¹⁵ Other industries soon followed, including a large commercial icehouse that harvested off Long Lake and the iron works and steel rolling mill at nearby Irondale.¹⁶

The area’s attractions for its first Polish settlers, though, lay in the outlying regions of the townships, where they could purchase land for farms.¹⁷ Several of the early local Polish families came there with connections to the SKIBAs, or formed them there via marriage.¹⁸ Patriarch Joseph’s son John, the subject of our lengthy 1906 “infomercial” about his potato innovations, may have picked up his forward-looking approach to agriculture while employed as the caretaker at the William H. Eustis showhorse farm in Mounds View township.

Many of the early Polish settlers in this area took industrial jobs in town on a seasonal basis, working their own farms or those of family members in the warm months. Members of the second and later, American-born generations migrated into Northeast Minneapolis and as far as South St. Paul, to engage in the retail shop trade or to work in mills or factories

there. But these people retained strong personal and family ties to New Brighton-Mounds View, returning there for big family events and to pitch in at harvest time.¹⁹

A century later, St. John the Baptist is a large and thriving suburban Catholic parish, now serving around 3,000 families and having recently expanded its physical facilities once again.²⁰ Still, however much things may look and feel on-site now in a new century, so different from whence the parish emerged, there is no doubt that this institution and its community owe much to the strong Catholic faith of its Polish founders. As sparse as they may seem at first reading, these *Wiarus* reports to speak to that, in the participants’ own words—and thus they were worthy of dissemination to our readers.

¹²1983 *St. John’s History*, pp. 7-8 2004 *St. John’s History*, pp. 10-11. Both parish histories have photos of this first structure, which the mother-and-daughter authors say was “not uncommon at the time.” 1983 *St. John’s History*, p. 7 2004 *St. John’s History*, p. 11. There’s also a photo of the 1922-vintage building superstructure. That was demolished in 1959, after it was replaced by first a temporary “school-church,” and later a larger structure that matched the mid-20th century official Roman Catholic architectural esthetic. 1983 *St. John’s History*, p. 24; 2004 *St. John’s History*, pp. 20-21.

¹³The authors of the central text of both histories of St. John’s say that their founders’ way of starting was “not uncommon at the time,” see n. 12 *supra*. This statement was a surprise to me, as I’d not seen mention of a basement church for any of the several dozen Polish-American parishes that we in the PGS-MN have been researching for the last fifteen years. If anybody out there can speak to this interesting issue, or knows where else the practice was used, let us know!

¹⁴Skiba, *Centennial History*, pp. 16-19. The packing plants were closed after 1900, having been outcompeted by the huge stockyards in South St. Paul that had been founded at about the same time. *Id.*, pp. 72-74.

¹⁵Skiba, *Centennial History*, pp. 21-22.

¹⁶Skiba, *Centennial History*, pp. 25 and 27-28.

¹⁷Skiba, “Joseph Skiba’s Big Family—on New Brighton’s Doorstep,” in *Centennial History*, at pp. 55 and 60. This chapter in the New Brighton centennial volume is a great little work of family history, with much detail about the SKIBAs’ actual life experiences over three generations.

¹⁸Skiba, *Centennial History*, pp. 55-58.

¹⁹Skiba, *Centennial History*, pp. 57-58.

²⁰The last third of the 2004 parish history proudly attests to this ongoing success

Articles about Polish Immigration and Settlement in Northeastern Minnesota

(Duluth, Gnesen, Rice Lake, Virginia, Buyck,
Split Rock, Sturgeon Lake)
published in the

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter

- ✓ Vol. 6, No. 4 (Winter 1998-99): (Buyck)
Kishel, Greg. "Patterns of Polish Settlement in Minnesota, 1910: Buyck Township, St. Louis County." pp. 10-13.
_____. "A Transcription of the 'Polish Side' of the Forest Home Cemetery, Buyck, St. Louis County." pp. 14-17.
- ✓ Vol. 7, No. 2 (Summer 1999): (Sturgeon Lake, Buyck)
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PGS-MN NEWSLETTER

Surname Indexing Project--Volume 8

We are continuing to index the surnames included in the past issues of the PGS-MN Newsletter. The following listing includes all surnames that appeared in Volume Eight, Nos. 1-4: Spring 2000, Summer 2000, Autumn 2000, and Winter 2000-01. The code used in this listing is as follows: the first number is the volume number, the second number is the issue number, and the third numbers are page numbers (volume:issue:page). We are indebted to Kay Freund for the indexing of this volume. Back issues of Volume 8 may be ordered from the editor of this newsletter for \$4.00 per issue.

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Missing Branches, continued from page 30

RENEWALS: *The following members indicated updated information on their renewal forms:*

Sandra L. Batalden, 1118 E. Laguna Dr., Tempe AZ 85282 <sandrabatalden@yahoo.com> is researching BUDZISZ, ORZEL, PARCHEM, PARTYKA, WESOŁOWSKI, ZIOLKOWSKKI in Kaszubia--Gdańsk, Hel peninsula, Ostrowo, Strzelno and in Duluth, Perham and in Ottertail County in Minnesota. She writes: "Thank you for all your work on behalf of PGS-MN. I hope I can return to live in Minnesota again some day. I would certainly become an active member of the group at that time."

Shirley Mask Connolly, 21 Granville Ave., Ottawa ON K1Y0M5 Canada is researching pre-1900 Polish Canadian immigrants--surnames A to Z, from mostly Kashubia, some Kociewie, some from Galicia (parishes Straszecin and Brzyska) who settled in Wilno, ON, Canada and surrounding area including Renfrew and Otter Lake (Prov. of Quebec).

Adeline Copa/Sopa, 2711 Dunbar Drive, Green Bay WI <amessearch@aol.com> is researching COPA, FELSKI in Borzyszkowy parish in Poland and in Amherst, WI and Winona and Little Falls, MN TRZEBIATOWSKI in Borzyszkowy and Konarzny and in Amherst BIELAWA in Lesno and Borzyszkowy and in Amherst, WI and Winona KONKOL, GOSTOMSKI in Stezyca parish and in Amherst STOLZ in Sierakowice parish and in Polonia, WI BUSZMAN in Stezyca parish and in Polonia, WI. She comments: "Good programs. Distance does not allow me to attend."

Kay Freund, 134 265th Ave NE, Isanti MN <kfreund@localnet.com> is researching JANISZESKI/JANISZEWSKI in Posen and in McLeod and Lincoln counties in MN, WAURZYNIAK/WAWRZYNIAK, KORCAL, KURKOWSKI in

Posen and in Lincoln Co., TYKWINSKI in Warsaw and in Lincoln Co., CYLKA in Lincoln Co., KABAT/KABOCSYMLIR in Eastern Poland or Ukraine and in Newton, WI and in Lincoln Co. MN, LACKOWSKI in Newton, WI and in Lincoln Co. MN.

Bernadine Kargul, 26209 Elsinore, Redford MI 48239 <bkargul@aol.com> is researching FABIAN in Bachowitz, Opole and in North Prairie, MN, SCHUBERT in Gross Deutchen, Silesia and in North Prairie, NITKA in Klonowo, Bydgoszcz and in McLeod Co. and in Chicago.

Barbara O'Dette, 8219 S Kilbourn Ave., Chicago IL 60652-3063 is researching CZUBERNAT, BAKIEWICZ, CHODOROWICZ in Nowy Targ, CZOP, GRANICZNA in Radłów and all in Chicago.

Dona Paris, 420 Lake Aires Rd., Fairmont MN <jdparis@charter.net> is researching MADAJ/MADAY in Szubin Weis in Poland, PIETROWIAK/PIOTROWIAK/PETROWIAK in Turostowo in Poland, SZUKALSKI/SUKALSKI in Prussia/Germany and all of the above in Martin Co., MN, LUBINSKI in Trembacow in Poland and in Martin Co. and in Roseau, MN.

Shirley Schaikoski, P.O. Box 89322, Sioux Falls SD 57109 <shirleynray@aol.com> is researching SOPCZAK, PYTLEWICZ, NOY in Ivanhoe, MN.

Eugene Stanefski, 6240 Boxman Path, Inver Grove Hts. MN, 55076-5502 <shargene1@comcast.net> is researching STANISZEWSKI in Hebdow in Poland, WTOREK, SIKORA in Krakow, DRAPACZ in Przewodny, KLEG in Drobranowice and all in St. Paul.

Mike Stodolka, 1407 Farmdale Rd., Mendota Heights MN 55118 <mstodolka@comcast.net> is researching STODOLKA, KARASH in Wojewodztwo, Opole and in North Prairie, WILCZEK in North Prairie.

Missing Branches, continued from page 32

Thomas L. Skorczeski, 2107 Juno Ave., St. Paul MN 55116 <TomSkor@usfamily.net> is researching SKORCZEWSKI in Royal Twnshp, MN and ADAMCZEWSKI in Lincoln Cty, MN.

Phyllis R. Sulkowski, 301 N 14th Ave E., Duluth MN 55805-2349 <psneedles@charter.net> is researching Adam SULKOWSKI in Betow, Germany (now in Poland), Hedewus (Hattie) JENDRASZAK in Czerniejewo Posenusio, Poland. Adam arrived in New York in May 1906, in Minneapolis in 1907 and in Duluth in 1909. He died in 1913. Hattie arrived in New York in 1904, in Minneapolis in 1905 and in Duluth in 1909. She died in 1977. She writes: "Hattie's information was found at Ss. Peter and Paul's Church in Duluth. She was getting married again to Adalbertus Wojciech CZAPINSKI. I did find Czarnikow near Posen and wonder if that could have been her birth place and she may have spelled it wrong. She did tell me she was born near Posen but wouldn't tell me anything else."

Editor's comment: Phyllis's note indicates two important sources that often give the place of origin of Polish ancestors: 1) Declaration of Intention (especially those filed 1906 or later, and 2) church marriage records.

Adam Sulkowski's Declaration of Intention (see a copy on page 31, opposite) gives his place of birth as "Betow, Germany" -- the correct German spelling is "Buetow" or "Bütow." The current Polish spelling is "Bytów."

I believe that "Czerniejewo" as it appears on Hattie Jendraszak's marriage record at Ss. Peter and Paul's Church in Duluth is indeed spelled correctly. Czerniejewo is located directly east of Poznań (see map below). The LDS Family History Library has filmed the records (1759-1946) of the parish located there (See <familysearch.org> or check at your local LDS Family History Center).

Ray Tandeski, 991 Patton Road, New Brighton is researching TANDESKI, EBERTOWSKI in Kashubian Poland and in Warsaw ND, Perham, Little Falls and Winona, MN and New York--immigration 1870s.

Rolland G. Turcotte, 5614 Lavaque Road, Duluth MN 55803-9425 <rollandrgt@aol.com> is researching LACZYNSKI, SNURA/SZNURA surnames.

Deb Vevea, 3535 Abbott Ave. N., Robbinsdale MN 55422 is a new member.

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Above: Map showing the location of Czerniejewo directly east of Poznań.

Map source: *Samochodowy Atlas Polski* [Road Atlas of Poland], (Warszawa: Państwowe Przedsiębiorstwo Wydawnictw Kartograficznych, n.d), Map 15.

The LDS Family History Library has filmed the records (1759 to 1946) of the Catholic parish in Czerniejewo. See films: 1959071 items 6-7, 1959901, 1959902, 1960604, 1960605 item 1, 2103163 items 5-9, 2103164 items 1-5 (Film numbers obtained from LDS Family History Library website <familysearch.org>).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of Minnesota } In the _____ District Court
County of St. Louis } ss: of St. Louis County, Minnesota.

I, Adam Sulkowski, aged 37 years, occupation Laborer, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color White, complexion Dark, height 5 feet 6 inches, weight 175 pounds, color of hair Brown, color of eyes Blue, other visible distinctive marks None

I was born in Betow Germany on the 15 day of December anno Domini 1885; I now reside at Duluth Minn 341 1/2 Restormel Street

I emigrated to the United States of America from Antwerp Belgium on the vessel Finnland; my last foreign residence was Betow Germany

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to William II German Emperor, of whom I am now a subject; I arrived at the port of New York

State of New York, on or about the 25 day of May, anno Domini 1906; 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:

SO HELP ME GOD.

Adam Sulkowski
(Original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26 day of February, anno Domini 1913

[SEAL]

[Signature]

Above: The Declaration of Intention (to become a citizen) of Adam Sulkowski sent in by Phyllis Sulkowski. Notice that this document records the place of birth of the applicant (Betow [Buetow/Bütow], Germany). It also gives much additional information about him: His age (37), occupation (Laborer), a physical description: color (White), complexion (Dark), height (5 feet, 6 inches), weight (175 pounds), color of hair (Brown), color of eyes (Blue), date of birth (15 December 1885), his current address (341 1/2 Restormel Street, Duluth), Port of exit (Antwerp, Belgium), Name of ship (Finnland), last foreign residence (Betow, Germany). Port of entry (New York), date of entry (25 May 1906) and date of application (26 February 1913).

Missing Branches:

QUERIES, Send to: *Paul Kulas, editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316-2145 or to e-mail: kkulas@ties2.net*

NEW MEMBERS: *We welcome the following:*

Marjorie W. Adams, 36 E. Faribault St., Duluth MN 55803-1837 <alarchitect@aol.com> is researching John R. and Susan ARNDT (came to America in 1868), Christian ZEBOT and his wife, Anna BRAUN (came in 1872), Michael and Eliz. STEBNER in Krist Marinbode, Hohenwalde, Germany and in Posen and in the Duluth area and in Honesdale, PA.

Renata G. Coates, 424 Flat Top Circle, Spearfish SD 57783 <ronicoates@msn.com> is researching REKOWSKI in Pelplin in Poland and in St. Louis MO.

Dana Halberg, 3700 Jackson St. NE, Columbia Heights MN 55421 <dhalberg@yahoo.com> is researching WASIELEWSKI in Warsaw powiat and in Michigan, SAWASKI in Posnan powiat and in

WI/MI/IL/OH, ZAWADZKI in Posnan powiat and in Milwaukee, WI.

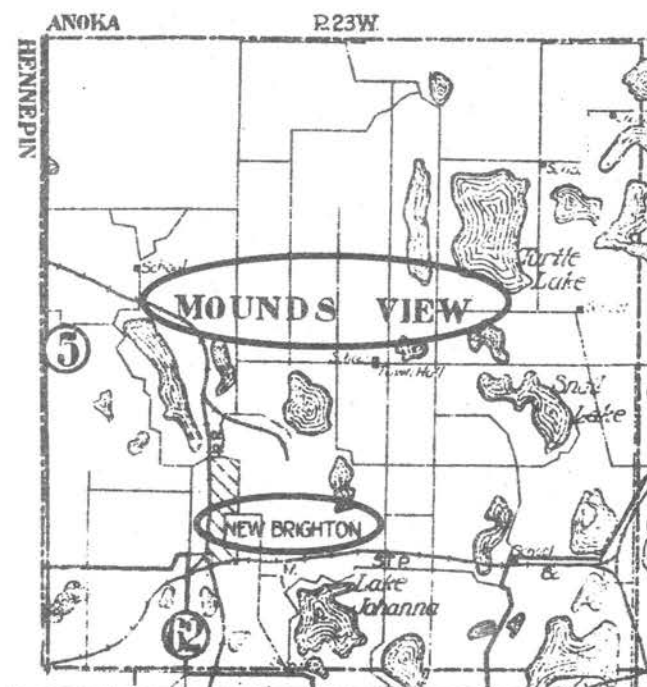
Phyllis Husted, 8017 Halifax Ave N., Brooklyn Park MN 55433 <pahusted@aol.com> is researching in the Zakopane area in southern Poland--KOZIEL possibly from the town of Waksmund and RZADKOS from the village Staszkwka. Also BEDRA (spelling was changed) and CZARNECKA in the Warsaw area.

James W. Price, 505 University Ave SE, Apt. 105, Minneapolis MN 55414-1732 <james.price2@unisy.com> is researching PRICE (PRAJS) in Willow River, MN and SOJKA in Split Rock Twp., MN.

Gene & Janet Retka, 6524 - 90 St. Swanville MN 56382-3613 <retka@upstel.net> are researching RETKA, SWEJDA, BARON/BARUN, BRYNIARSKI in Lexington and Swan River/Sobieski, MN.

Michael Rasinski, 2516 West 70 1/2 St., Richfield MN 55423-2811 <rasi0006@metnet.edu> is researching RASINSKI, CICHON, PATYK, SLEZAK in Galicia and in Morrison County, MN.

Missing Branches, continued on page 30



Polish settlement in New Brighton and Mounds View is featured on pp. 1, 12-18 in this issue.

Map source: *Plat Book of Minnesota*, (Rockford, Illinois: W.W. Hixson & Co., [1916]), portion of Ramsey County.

Minnesota Genealogical Society
**Polish Genealogical Society
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