



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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Nationalism, Chronology and Nomenclature

Pomeranians and Kashubians

by Edward R. Brandt
<erbggen@att.net>

When I questioned whether Pomeranians and Kashubians were the same, I thought of Piast-ruled Pomerania, which joined the Holy Roman Empire in 1181 to protect the territory of these dukes (sometimes one, often two or even more) against other Polish tribes, by then still not yet united. But this included only the area west of the Parseta (Persante) River, which begins just west of Szczecinek (Neustettin) and flows northwestward through Białogard (Belgard) to Kołobrzeg (Kolberg).

Anyone who views this as strange thinks in term of nationalism, which was non-existent prior to Napoleon's march as far east as the gates of Moscow. Because he established the Duchy of Warsaw, which became a grand duchy in 1809, there was no reason for Polish nationalism during the Napoleonic era. French nationalism produced counter-nationalism in areas Napoleon had occupied. Even after 1815, nationalistic feelings were limited to the intelligentsia, especially university students. Because of the occupation of Poland by Russia, Prussia and Austria, this was initially muted.

In the pre-nationalistic area, wars between German tribes and between Polish tribes were more common than wars between German and Polish rulers. When there was an uprising, it was due to threats or oppression, not tribalism.

The first historically known residents of Poland were Gothic tribes from southern Sweden,

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although Norman Davies¹ lists Celts before that and Scythians even earlier, also mentioning Lusatian Balts. He sums up all national origins (v.1, p. 47): "all our ancestors were alien mongrel immigrants." But because the European melting pot occurred much earlier than in the New World (especially the U.S.), we often forget that.

But most of these Goths had long since moved on and become assimilated into the local population, whether as East Slavs (Kievan Rus), Italians, Germans, French, Spanish or North African Arabs. The only Gothic settlement in Poland which survived into the modern era was the mining community of Mount Zobten in the south. Any other remnants left after the Great Migration of Peoples became assimilated Poles. Visigothic rule lasted longer in Spain than anywhere else, but that had also disappeared in the Middle Ages.

Pomeranians / Kashubians ...continued on page 9

¹ Davies, Norman. *God's Playground: A History of Poland, Vol. 1: Origins to 1795*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1982. Print.

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

1185 No. Concord St.

So. St. Paul MN 55075-1150

<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>>**Officers/Board of Directors:**

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<jaybiedny@juno.com>
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<rftheissen@comcast.net>
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<dhalberg@yahoo.com>
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<waldo20@aol.com>
 Director.....Janet Mitchell (651-454-8211)
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 Director.....Dori Marszalek (763-535-2296)
<doripgs@comcast.net>

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**Polish Genealogical Society
of Minnesota Newsletter**

Editorial Contact.....EditorPGSMN@gmail.com
 Associate Editors.....Paul Kulas, Greg Kishel
 Mailing Labels.....Dori Marszalek
 Surname indexing.....Kay Freund, Mary Kowles

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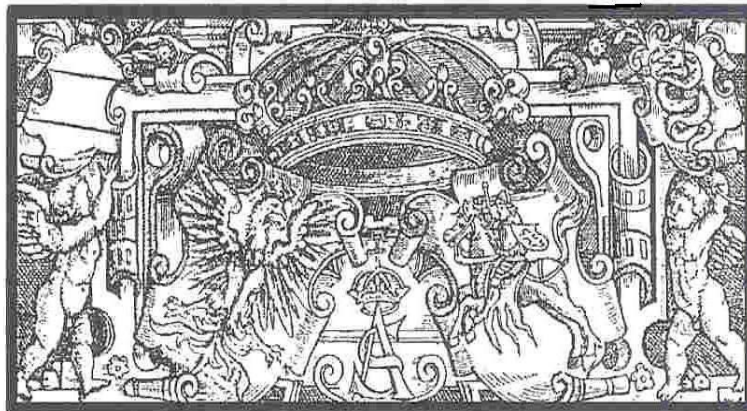
Please use application form on insert page.

Items submitted for publication are welcomed and encouraged. We require feature-length articles be submitted exclusively to PGS-MN. Articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries, etc. should be mailed to: Peggy Larson, 577 98th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 or e-mailed to <EditorPGSMN@gmail.com>

Address/e-mail changes or membership questions?

Contact: Dori Marszalek, Membership Chair
 3901 - 61st Ave. N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429-2403
 or e-mail: <doripgs@comcast.net>

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**President's Letter**

Thank you for generously responding to our recent request for additional funds. A small but thoughtful group of members contributed several hundred dollars to our general treasury account. Some of these funds were used to defray one-time costs for the Polish Festival. Others will be used for upcoming expenses as needed. Once again, thank you to all who contributed and strengthened our organization.

The Polish Festival was a great success again this year: fabulous weather, tasty Polish food, and plenty of smiling faces. We gained at least a dozen members and many new friends from our presence. Once again Dori Marszalek and her crew did a wonderful job planning and executing the Society's participation. See a longer article in this issue for details and pictures of the event.

We are back into full swing having had an informational meeting in September and outstate meeting in Moorhead in October. The MGS also had a great weekend of seminars covering all the branches in early October. So, as the air cools the genealogy research heats up. I hope the Society can be of some help to you in this research season. Visit the library; come to the November Meeting, or the annual meeting in January. We would love to see you.

Finally, this is Polish Heritage Month. Make it a point to tell your children or other relatives a few stories about the Old Country or about your personal preservation of customs here in America. If we don't tell our story, who will?

Jerome Biedny
 President



The Bulletin Board

Correspondence....

Maybe the answer to last month's GPS alert?

I believe the reason PGS-MN doesn't show up on GPS is our ZIP code according to the PO is 55075-1150 which is inside the building. The building is 55075-1175. This should work but I haven't checked it out.

You and your contributors are doing a great job on the newsletter. (*Editor: Thanks John!*)

John Kowles

*Would You Like to See Your Name in Print?
Become an author!*

It is my understanding the PGS-MN Newsletter usually begins with a featured article on the front-page which then continues through several pages of the newsletter. And this article is usually an original work, or a translation of a Polish or historical Polish work.

If you have an article you'd like to see published, now is the time!!

Articles may include pictures, and/or digital scans of documents. The newsletter is generally more interesting when it include articles written by members; your help is needed.

We all love to read stories of members' genealogy journeys, families, and history! We like to learn from others' experiences too! (Or we wouldn't be interested in this hobby, would we?)

Membership article contributions are highly valued and appreciated because they enrich and strengthen the significance of our genealogy society chapter. So please, send your articles, with or without photos, online to editorpgsmn@gmail.com. Or mail to 557 98th Lane NW, Minneapolis, MN 55433.

Peggy Larson
Newsletter Editor

Extra Contributions...

We thank the following for their extra monetary contributions to PGS-MN – to the Library Fund, to Family Ties or to the 2011 Capital Campaign Fund:

- Janet Arth
- Sandra Batalden
- Michael Eckman
- Amy Jowers
- Gerald Keeville
- Kathy Kortus
- John W. Kowles
- Millicent Kriske
- Harry McOuat
- Harry & Bernice Mullen
- David & Diane Rapacz
- John & Judy Rys
- Judie Steenberg
- Richard Theissen
- Larry Wajda
- Karen Westhall
- Kathleen Zawislak

Dziękuję

[Thank you!]

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

We also thank **Janet Mitchell** for her continued donation of profits from the sale of her greeting cards and **John Rys** for his donation of any contributions resulting from his customized "Family Ties" reports.

Recently at PGS-MN Meetings

Searching for Ryś in Southern Poland, September 10, 2011. Presented by John Ryś. John presented information on the history of the geographical partitions of southern Poland. Folks in attendance asked for copies of the slides he showed so they are included in this newsletter on pages ___ and ___. (*Editor: Because of the map detail on the slides I published them in full handout format. They were too small to be of use otherwise.*) John showed a DVD of his and his wife Judy's trip to Poland in search of the Ryś homestead. They actually located the places and the current resident sold him the antique key (which he had with him) to

one of the buildings! The DVD showed the research process and the small churches and offices where the items were located. The final portion of the DVD was a “tour” of the Carpathian Mountains. *(This newsletter editor got dizzy watching that portion even though it was beautiful!)*

The genealogy researcher John contracted with in Poland is Iwona Dakiniewicz, in Lodz, Poland. Her contact e-mail is genealogy@pro.net.pl.

“Tying Up Loose Ends” Heritage Education Commission, October 1, 2011. Jay Biedny gave a presentation entitled **“Polish Genealogical Research: Records in America and Poland”** at this 36th annual conference held at the State University at Moorhead. The conference was very well attended. Workshops were offered by a dozen presenters in as many fields. Jay did an excellent job with his presentation and there was a great deal of interest from the people who attended the presentation. Rick Theisen also attended with his wife and staffed a table to gather new members and sell books.

It was very nice to get out of the Twin Cities and be involved in a major genealogical gathering for the North Dakota/ western Minnesota area. The event was very well organized and run. We would be happy to participate at this event in the future.

Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events.....

PGS-MN Meetings

Joint meeting with Pommern group.

November 5, 2011. MGS Library Building, 4th floor Board Room. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The first speaker is **Jason Franzen** who will begin at 10 a.m. with a presentation on the History of Silesia. Jason plans to present a quick overview on early Polish history and the early princes and kings with their inter relation between Silesia and Wielkopolska. After this, the relationship between the German kings and Poland vis a vis Silesia. As times progresses the period where Silesia gets separated away from Poland over the centuries because of the conflict with the Czechs, Austrians,

and Germans. He will talk some about Fredrick the Great and the rise of Prussia, and how important this was to Silesia. Lastly he will discuss recent history with the partitions of Silesia between the Czech Republic, the German Reich, and a re-born Poland. Its history in WWII will be included also.

Bob Prokott will follow at 11 a.m. with a presentation on the immigration of the Silesians to America. Bob plans to cover the immigration of the Silesians to America from the time they first came to this country in 1854, where they came from, and reasons for their emigration. Plus the problems they faced and how they solved them as well as the areas where they lived in America. The problems faced in tracing genealogy of Silesian ancestors with solutions to such problems will be dealt with and the second half of the hour will be used to answer questions from the audience.

Lunch will be available from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Starting about 1:00 p.m., the Pommern Group speaker, **Dr. LaVern Rippley** of St. Olaf College, will give a presentation about Teutonic Knights. He has been to the places that he tells about and he teaches classes about the knights. He is a very interesting speaker.

Workshop – Analyzing Genealogical Records-a Case Study. October 15, 2011. 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Are you gleaning all the possible information and clues from the genealogical records you find? When information conflicts, can you decide which source is more reliable? Workshop presented by David Suddarth and J.H. Fonkert. Cost \$28 for MGS/MHS members; \$30 for non-members. See www.mnhs.org for registration information.

Family History Fair. October 22, 2011.

Hennepin County Library – Minneapolis Central, 300 Nicollet Mall. Register at www.hclib.org or call 612-543-8000. Visit ethnic and genealogy interest tables staffed by local and national organizations and take a tour of the library’s genealogy resources. Free talks by genealogy experts are scheduled 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- “Adventures in Family History,” (keynote presentation by Jay Fonkert, past president of Minnesota Genealogical Society)

- “Discovering Family History in Your Attic and Around the Dinner Table” (David Suddarth, vice president of Minnesota Genealogical Society)
- “Finding Your Ancestors in Other Countries” (Dr. Lois Mackin, chair of the Minnesota Genealogical Society’s Education Committee)
- “Useful Resources for Finding Ancestors on the Internet” (Mary Wickersham, co-president of Midwest Ancestor Research)
- “Exploring School Resources for Family History” (Trudi Campbell, librarian and genealogy instructor)
- “Gathering Family Stories” (Linda Coffin, HistoryCrafters publisher and genealogy instructor)
- “Getting the Right Software for Organizing Your Family History” (Sheila Northrop, co-president of Midwest Ancestor Research).

Research at the Minnesota History Center. November 12, 2011. The Minnesota History Center's website is rich in information but complex. Learn your way around the library and its catalog and make sure you're getting the most out of your research visits. Join Tom Rice, CG on November 12

from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. for Genealogical Research – Online and In Person at Minnesota History Center. Cost: \$28 for MGS/MHS members; \$30 for non-members. See www.mnhs.org for registration information.

Genealogy 101. A five-session series – Sundays 1:00 – 4:00 pm. - at the Minnesota History Center.

Oct. 16 – Step 1: Write Down and Organize What You Know

Oct. 23 – Step 2: Decide What You Want to Learn

Oct. 30 – Step 3: Locate a Useful Source

Nov. 13 – Step 4: Learn from the Source

Nov. 20 – Step 5: Use What You Learned

Instructors: Lois Mackin, John Schade, David Suddarth. Sign up for individual sessions or the whole series. Each session \$16 for MGS/MHS members/\$20 for non-members; or the entire series \$70 for MGS/ MHS members/\$90 for non-members. See www.mnhs.org for registration information.

♥♥♥

Twin City Polish Festival 2011

By Dori Marszalek

Wow, what beautiful weather we had for the festival. The purchasing of our own tents was a wonderful idea and made setting up and tearing down go so quickly.

First I would like to thank the following PGS-MN members who took time out of their weekend to volunteer at the Tent. Peggy Larson, Paul Kulas, Terry Kita, Janet Mitchell, Terri DiCarlo – granddaughter Emma, Kathy Zawislak, Nancy Gagner, Janet Magnuson, John and Judy Rys. A special thanks to my son Brian Hayden for helping set up and tear down the tents. The event couldn't have been a success without all of you.

I liked the way the Festival set up all the vendor tents this year, it felt like we were all closer together but not crowded.

We were very busy Saturday and Sunday early morning and afternoon. Even Sunday the event seemed to still have lots of people coming to the tents.

[illegible]

Once again John Rys's books containing the Local Catholic church Marriages, Baptisms, and the new Death index books received the most attention in the tent. Terri Kita's Poland Map is always a big hit and our books were also a great attraction.

It was good to see Albert Kowalczyk connect with some of his cousins that had never attended the Polish Festival and of course Terri DiCarlo met up with some cousins.

We signed up 7 members at the Festival and since then 2 more new members have joined. I frequently heard from people visiting the booth that they did not know about our society. After handing out over 100 membership forms and all of us talking to the visitors, I think we did a great job of getting the word out there about PGS-MN.

I hope you enjoy the pictures that I submitted for the Newsletter and for those of you who were unable to attend the Twin City Polish Festival this year we hope to see you next year.

Dori Marszalek
PGS-MN Membership Director

There's lots of
fun at the



THERE'S A VERY NICE BOOTH

and

AN

EXTRAORDINARY

COORDINATOR!!

◀◀◀◀ Dori Marszalek



Lots of entertainment!!



And shopping too!!



There's family....and



Albert Kowalczyk and cousins!



Teri DeCarlo and cousins!

Friends,.....and



Kathy Zawislak & John Ryś

Fun-loving folks,



**Plus
Authentic
Costuming!**



**and making New
Friends too!**



Terri DiCarlo at the Twin Cities Polish Festival!

My granddaughters from Virginia, Emmaline and Anna Claire, joined me at the PGS-MN tent this year. Dressing up in our Kroje folk dress was the highlight of their MN visit! A memory with their grandmother they will never forget!



Emmaline really enjoyed helping out at the booth with me. She answered questions from visitors to the booth on how her Kroje reflected that her ancestors came from the Krakow / Torposzyko area! A new genealogist in the making! What a kid!!!

Terri DiCarlo

There's knowledgeable people who are willing to share, to help you find your roots



**Because they
really care!!!**

(Ok, so maybe they just think it's really fun and want to share their hobby with you but they are very caring people too!)



Pomeranians / Kashubians ...continued from page 1

Because Russia was the most autocratic and harshest occupier, the first Polish revolt was against Russia in 1830-1831. There were two different groups of German-speakers in Russian Poland at the time. One consisted of pioneering peasants who came from neighboring areas of Prussia, but the largest number came from areas which still had a large Kashubian population, i.e., the eastern part of the Prussian province of Pomerania and the western part of the province of West Prussia. In terms of class, they were similar to the Polish peasants.

The German settlers in Pomerania and Polish Royal Prussia (which became West Prussia on September 13, 1772) consisted mostly of Saxons, but also Flemings, Franks and, to a lesser extent, Frisians (a mostly sea-faring folk prior to the Reformation) and south German tribes. Among these there were also many Swedes and Scots, with a smaller number of English, who assimilated either into the German or the Polish population, depending upon which group was dominant in the areas where peddlers, soldiers and even pirates (common in the late Middle Ages) eventually settled.

The area in question approximated the original boundaries of Gdańsk-Pomerania.

I realize that from a Polish perspective, the entire area between the Odra (Oder), Vistula and Noteć (Netze) rivers was inhabited by Pomeranians, later known as Kashubians. But a failure to differentiate between a geographic tribal identity and a political identity causes confusion. If all the residents in this region are referred to as Pomeranians, what term does one use for the residents of the legal-political entity of Pomerania?

The same problem occurs with respect to the native population of Prussia, i.e., the area east of where the Pomeranian tribes settled (with the Vistula river approximating the boundary between the two), and the predominantly southern German knights who conquered them.

Historians of Polish (or partly Polish) origin refer to the grand duchy/province of Posen as Poznań to differentiate it from the city, with the same terms used in both Polish and German for the city and the larger entity of which it was a part (Poznań in Polish; Posen in German).

German-language historians sometimes use Pomerani and Pruzzen or Prussen to describe the native tribes. Borussians is a term sometimes used in English for the native inhabitants of Prussia. (Borussian is Latin meaning "close to Russia," which isn't quite accurate because there were Lithuanian and Belarussian [White Ruthenian] tribes between the natives of Prussia and those of Russia.) But how do we differentiate between the Pomeranian tribe and the residents of what eventually became the Prussian province of Pomerania? Davies uses Prusy for the natives of Prussia west of the Vistula when the Teutonic Knights arrived.

Davies uses Pomorzanie in the index to refer to the West Slavic tribes in Pomerania and Pomerelia. This is as good an approach to differentiating between tribes and residents of a polity as any. However, he complicates matters somewhat by referring to Pomerania as Pomorze. It isn't always clear when he refers to the area inhabited by the native Pomeranians or when to the increasingly Germanized residents of the polity of Pomerania (although a careful reading may make this clear in specific cases). Davies questions the accuracy of "duke" to describe its Piast rulers (and indeed applying contemporary terms to the twelfth century leaves much to be desired). This polity never belonged to Poland between 1181 and 1945. The last Piast duke of Prussian Pomerania died in March 1637.

Unless we can find an agreed upon term for differentiating between a tribe and the residents of a political entity, confusion will continue. The problem is complicated by the area between Pomerania and the Vistula, literally Pomerelia, which means Little Pomerania, but with many dictionaries showing the English equivalent as Pomerania. The only suggestion I have is to use "native Pomeranians" vs. "residents of the Pomeranian polity." This sounds awkward, but who has a better idea?

According to the late Ewald Wuschke² of Vancouver, Germans and Slavs intermarried

² Ewald Wuschke was editor and publisher of *Wandering Volhynians Newsletter* which was a genealogy newsletter for and about Germans from Volhynia. Ewald Wuschke did decades of personal and general research in both Poland and Volhynia.

extensively prior to the Reformation. This was the group I had in mind when I indicated that Pomeranians and Kashubians were not identical. Wuschke's thesis was that when the Reformation came, those who converted to Lutheranism developed a German identity while those who remained in the Catholic Church developed a Kashubian identity. (No one will ever be able to prove, or disprove, his thesis, even with DNA testing.) By 1885 the Catholics of what by then was the Prussian province of Pomerania were found exclusively in Lębork (Lauenburg) and Bytów (Bütow) counties and the city of Słupsk (Stolp).

The other group of German-speakers in Congress Poland (later Russian Poland) came from the southwestern German areas in and around Württemberg, historically known as Swabia. These people had a higher level of educational-cultural development, but any experience with pioneering (in the sense of clearing forests or draining lands to make areas suitable for farming) had ended many centuries earlier. Each group called the other derogatory names like "Kashubs" or "Schwobs." But from the perspective of Polish peasants, the northeast Germans were seen as belonging to the same class as the Poles, while people from the southwest were seen as haughty, with Polish servants who were not regarded as their equals.

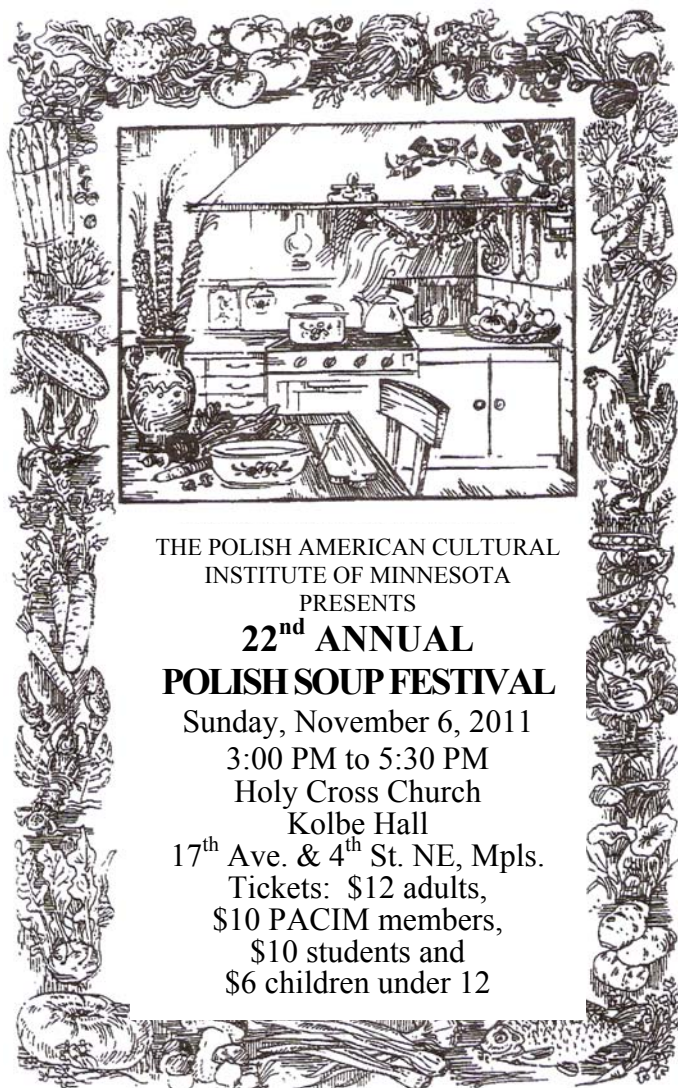
There was no anti-German sentiment among the Poles at that time, but there definitely was a class-based anti-Swabian sentiment which led many southwest Germans to migrate onward to Bessarabia.

Things changed after the 1848 revolt against Prussia, by then also viewed as an occupying power. This marked the end of the special status of Poznań as a grand duchy. Henceforth it was simply treated as a Prussian province. There were still some Germans who sided with the Poles but the vast majority of the intellectuals involved in the 1848 revolt for freedom and democracy eventually chose nationalism over their sympathy with the Poles. In any event, these revolts were crushed and the authorities were much less sympathetic than the freedom fighters who had to flee.

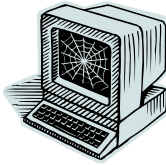
There was a lesser uprising against Austria in the 1840s. But since the polyglot Austrian Empire had rulers keenly aware of the fact that the empire could not survive as a German Empire, local

administrative positions in Galicia (the Austrian portion of the partition of Poland) were almost exclusively in the hands of ethnic Poles, even in predominantly [Red] Ruthenian eastern Galicia, with no exception for the German villages. These settlers, too, came from the southwest, but with the largest number from the Palatinate (ruled by Bavaria as of 1816), rather than Württemberg.

By the time of the second revolt against Russia, there emphatically was extensive Polish anti-German sentiment. Since this approximated the abolition of serfdom in Czarist Russia, there was a large wave of migration from Russian Poland to Volhynia (today northwest Ukraine), especially in 1863-1875, with some following later. After all, the landlords (many of them Poles) needed settlers to till their land, considering that the freed serfs were not deemed adequate in this regard. **PGS MN**



THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL
INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA
PRESENTS
**22nd ANNUAL
POLISH SOUP FESTIVAL**
Sunday, November 6, 2011
3:00 PM to 5:30 PM
Holy Cross Church
Kolbe Hall
17th Ave. & 4th St. NE, Mpls.
Tickets: \$12 adults,
\$10 PACIM members,
\$10 students and
\$6 children under 12

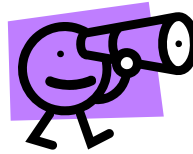
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Top Sites Genealogy Magazines and E-zines

Ordered by popularity
(as ranked on 10.1.2011)

1. Eastman's Online Genealogy News. Newsletter with family history news, tips, and reviews from genealogist Dick Eastman. <http://blog.eogn.com>
2. GenealogyInTime Magazine. A popular online genealogy magazine with free search engines, articles, tools, and listings of the latest genealogy records on the internet. <http://genealogyintime.com>
3. Family Tree Magazine. Covers all the areas of potential interest to family-history enthusiasts, reaching beyond genealogy research to also encompass ethnic heritage, family reunions, scrapbooking, and historic travel. <http://familytreemagazine.com>
4. Family Research. Collection of links to resources and news stories. <http://lineages.co.uk>
5. The Ancestry Insider. Covers Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org from a generally (but not always) favorable perspective. <http://ancestryinsider.blogspot.com>
6. Genealogy Magazine. Information pertaining to books, databases, and articles for tracing your family tree. Also includes access to The Teapot Genies – the first internet genealogy television show. <http://genealogymagazine.com>
7. Indiana Genealogical Society. Provides information for Indiana genealogists, including cemeteries, census data, ancestor files, newsletter, and other resources. <http://indgensoc.org>
8. The Global Gazette. Online magazine with helpful tips on researching family history. Includes "how-to" articles and genealogy news as well as general genealogy information. <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/index.htm>
9. Family Chronicle Magazine. Provides a downloadable issue of their print magazine and an archive of some past articles. <http://familychronicle.com>
10. Topix – (Genealogy). Headline links from media sources worldwide. <http://topix.com/hobbies/genealogy>
11. Genealogy Roots Blog. Weblog with short descriptions and links to vital records, obituaries, and similar resources with emphasis on the U.S. <http://genrootsblog.blogspot.com>
12. Journal of Genetic Genealogy. Contains highly technical articles on the use of DNA testing for genealogy. <http://jobb.info>
13. Genealogy Today News Center. Articles and news releases from various resources both at Genealogy Today and around the Web. RSS news feed available. <http://news.genealogytoday.com>
14. RootsWeb Review. This weekly e-zine provides news about RootsWeb.com, its new databases, mailing lists, home pages, and websites. It also includes stories and research tips from around the globe. <http://rwr.rootsweb.ancestry.com>
15. Georgia Genealogical Society. Nonprofit organization dedicated to promotion the collection and preservation of Georgia's colonial and state records and to encourage genealogical research through programs, workshops, and publications. <http://gagensociety.org>
16. Ancestry.com. Subscription based resource of worldwide census, marriage, newspaper, and various other records. Includes some free searchable databases, columns, and articles, gedcoms, and forums. <http://ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx>
17. Annals of Genealogical Research. A free online journal for publishing family history and genealogical research. <http://genlit.org/agr/>
18. Genealogy Newsletter. Resources and research tips. <http://genealogynewsletter.com> PGS MN

Congratulations!



Polish Publications

MGS Awards Presented at Minnesota Genealogical Society's Annual Banquet Held October 7

John Ryś received PGS-MN's service award. John was elected by his peers to receive the PGS MN award for exemplary service to our organization.

Thank you, John, for your service as a member of the Board, your countless hours of research on the parish indexes, and your unfailing assistance at the Polish Festival and monthly meetings - as a presenter or hospitality master. Your commitment to share over the past ten years is recognized and so very much appreciated.

PGSA - Polish Genealogy Society of America chooses The 2011 Wigilia Award Recipient

The Wigilia Award is given each year in recognition of a person or organization that has made significant contributions to the field of Polish Genealogy. This year's award recognized the efforts of John Ryś who has distinguished himself in the preservation of the heritage of Polish immigrants to the state of Minnesota. John is an inspiration to the many researchers who work to preserve the history and heritage of their local communities with no thought of personally profiting from the effort. John's is a labor of love and we salute him and wish him continued success in his journey.

Fun Trivia!

- What is Poland's capital city?
- The capital city is located on what river?
- What river forms part of Poland's western border?
- What mountains form Poland's southern border?

(Answers on page 17)

Ten Years After 9/11

by Ewa Hancock in *The Warsaw Voice*

The American ambassador to Poland, Lee Feinstein, and Americans living in Warsaw were joined by Poles during the 10th anniversary commemoration of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks which killed almost 3,000 people, including six Poles. The ceremony took place on Sunday, Sept. 11, by the memorial to the Polish victims of the 9/11 attacks, located in Skaryszewski Park in Warsaw.

Feinstein, Deputy Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak, Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski and Warsaw Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz gave speeches at the memorial and Gen. Stanisław Koziej, head of the National Security Office, read out a letter from Polish President Bronisław Komorowski. Officials representing the Polish authorities, the American community in Warsaw, and emergency services laid flowers in honor of the victims.

After the ceremony, the attendees saw an exhibition of photographs by Czesław Czapliński entitled 9/11, Ten Years Later.

In the evening, the National Philharmonic hosted a special concert during which the Sinfonia Iuventus Polish Orchestra, conducted by Tadeusz Wojciechowski, played September Symphony by Wojciech Kilar and Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber. The concert was held under the auspices of the U.S. ambassador.

On Friday, Sept. 9, the U.S. embassy held a private ceremony during Feinstein and the embassy staff shared their memories of 9/11. In his closing speech, Feinstein said, "And in our moment of tragedy, no country responded more quickly or decisively than Poland. You as Poles are no strangers to adversity. Nor are you strangers to overcoming adversity, as your history and heroism so aptly demonstrate. In the days and weeks after Sept. 11, Poles stood by a grateful American ally. You showed solidarity not just with candles and flowers and art as you see here, but also by supporting international efforts to confront

and combat terrorism and by working with us and other members of the international community to promote universal values, stability and economic opportunity around the world.” **PGS MN**

Police Uncover Huge Art Works Collection at 92 Year-Old's Flat (as reported on Polski Radio)

Police in Szczecin, northern Poland have taken charge of some 300 works of art from a specially-built bunker belonging to a 92-year-old retired bricklayer, which could be worth “millions of euros.”

The hoard, which includes Renaissance and Baroque paintings, has been removed to the department of the National Museum in the city, where experts are now studying the works. Several of the objects bear fading museum tags, and according to experts, the collection could be worth “millions of euros.”

However, it remains a mystery how the 92-year-old, named as Antoni M. by the police came into the hoard.

Antoni M., although described as a bricklayer in the media, led a building company for many years, and according to his daughter, was involved in several civic projects in Szczecin. The collection came to light when a 56-year-old woman informed the police of attempts to steal property from her aging husband, who owing to ill health can now barely speak. However, when the police studied a CD that she provided of the man's collection, it quickly became apparent the works were world class items.

On investigating the property police found a specially-built shed with doors half a metre thick. One painting has already been identified as a lost work by noted artist Jozef Czajkowski. The oil painting had gone missing from the National Museum branch in Katowice, southern Poland, during the last phase of WWII. It was a time of widespread looting, as the Nazi-occupying regime cherry-picked collections. Investigation into the matter is ongoing. **PGS MN**

Polish Election 2011 made simple

A simple guide to Election 2011. Poland voting Oct. 9.
(as reported on Polski Radio)

Political Parties

Civic Platform (PO)

Leader: Prime Minister Donald Tusk

Party slogan: The next step – together!

Profile: Civic Platform is a centre-right party in the mould of many Christian-Democrat parties in Europe and has been the senior coalition partner in government since the 2007 elections. The party is for a small state, in both the economic and social spheres, but styles itself as pro-EU and “pro-businesses.” Their party manifesto promises “smart economic growth”: “We must move from the stage of raising efficiency and capital accumulation to building wealth based on innovation and creating competitive advantages such as knowledge and creativity,” says the party manifesto. The party fashions itself as being *for* consensual politics and *against* the more abrasive approach of its main rival, Law and Justice, to be the largest party in the lower house (Sejm) and upper house (Senat) after the elections.

Support in the polls ranging from 31 to 48 percent.

Law and Justice (PIS)

Leader: Former Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski

Party slogan: Modernity, Solidarity, Security

Profile: Like Civic Platform, Law and Justice members mainly stem from the 1980s Solidarity movement. Regularly described as being to the ‘right’ of Civic Platform they are, in fact, more statist in their policies. The party's election program declares that “For four years the Polish people have been ruled by a simplified version of liberalism which does not appreciate the importance of the State as a common good.” The Civic Platform-led coalition has been marked by policies resulting in a “predatory privatization” and a “rise in unemployment to 13% of the workforce.” Law and Justice promises a policy in which “the fruits of economic development also benefit less affluent citizens and the economically weaker regions; and a country where the family and the education of children meet with due recognition and support from the state.”

Support in the polls ranging from 18 to 20 percent.

Polish Election 2011 ...continued on page 15

In Memoriam

Luanne Kulas Coy

8 June 1932 - 30 August 2011

Long-time PGS-MN member, Luanne Kulas Coy, died unexpectedly from head injuries sustained in a fall at her home. She was watering her flowers on her front steps at the time of her fall.

Luanne is the sister of PGS-MN members Fr. John Kulas O.S.B. and Paul Kulas. She is a cousin of PGS-MN members Larry Kulis and Phyllis Warzecha. Luanne is the daughter of Joseph and Mathilda Kulas. She is a granddaughter of Polish immigrants Jan (John) Kulas (born in Ligota, Koryta parish) and Józefa (Josephine) Junik (Yunik) (born in Henryków, Rozdrażew parish).

She is preceded in death by her grandparents, parents and by four brothers: Everett, Richard, Joseph, and Jerome.

In Memoriam

Teresa Kulas Warzecha

30 November 1907 - 4 September 2011

Teresa (Theresa) Kulas Warzecha died recently at the age of 103. Teresa is the mother of long-time PGS-MN member Phyllis Warzecha. She is an aunt of PGS-MN members John Kulas, Luanne Kulas Coy, Paul Kulas, and Larry Kulis.

Teresa is the eleventh and the last surviving child of fourteen children born to Polish immigrant parents, Jan (John) Kulas and Józefa (Josephine) Junik. She is preceded in death by her husband Michael, her parents, and siblings: Józef (Joseph), Katarzyna (Katherine, died in infancy), Marya (Mary), Katarzyna (Katherine), Zofia (Sophie), Franciszka (Frances), Stanisław (Stanis), Jan (John), Helena (Helen), Klara (Clara), Weronika (Veronica), Wojciech (Albert) and Magdalena (Madeline).

We at PGS-MN extend our condolences to family, relatives, and friends. The following poem was on Luanne's funeral card. It is an appropriate meditation for all of us when remembering those who have gone before us.

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer

In the rising of the sun and in its going down,
we remember them.
 In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,
we remember them.
 In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,
we remember them.
 In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer,
we remember them.
 In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,
we remember them.
 In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
we remember them.
 When we are weary and in need of strength,
we remember them.
 When we are lost and sick at heart,
we remember them.
 When we have joys we yearn to share,
we remember them.
 So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us,
as we remember them.

From *Gates of Prayer*, published by Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Polish Election 2011 ...continued from page 13Democratic Left Alliance (SLD)**Leader:** Grzegorz Napieralski**Party slogan:** We know what to change

Profile: Poland's third largest party in parliament, SLD is a social democratic group which has its roots in the former communist Polish United Workers Party (PZPR). "After six years of right-wing (Law and Justice then Civic Platform) governments, Poles expect new vision, ideas, and energy. With SLD this is guaranteed. We know what needs to change to make life better," write leader Grzegorz Napieralski in the party election manifesto. The manifesto advocates hiking of tax levels for higher earners, as well as increasing benefits for families and raising the minimum wage. SLD is for the creation of the "Kaliningrad Triangle," an alliance of Poland, Germany, and Russia, based on the already existing Welmar Triangle between Poland, France, and Germany. The party wants the abolition of religious symbols from public institutions and signing of the EU's Fundamental Charter of Human Rights, which Poland has so far opted out of, alongside the UK, and Czech Republic.

Support in the polls ranging from 7 to 15 percent.Polish Peasants' Party (PSL)**Leader:** Deputy Prime Minister / Economy Minister Waldemar Pawlak**Party slogan:** People are the most important

Profile: PSL, formerly a left-of-centre, now centrist party, has a mainly rural and small town electoral base, with roots dating back to the inter-war period and, under the guise of the United People's Party (ZSL) was officially recognized during communism. For the last four years, PSL has been the junior coalition partner in the Civic Platform-led government. PSL's manifesto advocates "stable and sustainable growth," underlining that "the largest capital for the Polish economy is the individual." Leader Waldemar Pawlak, a former prime minister during 1990s coalition governments (once for just 33 days in 1992 and then from 1993 to 95) is often seen clutching an iPad during press conference, and is known for his advocacy of technical innovation in industry. The party wants a far-reaching debate and a referendum on whether to go ahead with Poland's nuclear power programme, however. Their mani-

festos emphasizes five main themes: "social security, food, economy, environmental safety, and state."

Support in the polls ranging from 4 to 9 percent.Election and government-formation procedure:

Voters elect 460 deputies and 100 senators on Oct. 9.

- Within 14 days of the first meeting of the lower house of parliament, the Sejm, the president designates a prime minister – typically a politician chosen earlier either by a party with an independent majority in the Sejm, or by a coalition of parties, and tasks him or her with forming a government.
- The prime minister-designate has 14 days to propose the lineup of the new government to the president. The president appoints the prime minister and other ministers and accepts their oaths.
- Within the next 14 days the prime minister makes a policy speech in the Sejm and asks the house for a vote of confidence in the Cabinet. The Sejm must pass such a vote by an absolute majority in the presence of at least half the statutory number of deputies.
- If the new government fails to be formed in such a way, or if it fails to secure a vote of confidence from parliament, within the next 14 days deputies elect the prime minister – as well as other government ministers proposed by the prime minister – themselves by an absolute majority of votes in the presence of at least half the statutory number of deputies. The president appoints the government chosen in this way and swears it into office.
- If the Sejm fails to produce a government, the matter returns to the president, who, within 14 days, appoints a prime minister and other government members at the prime minister's request, and receives their oaths.
- Within 14 days of the appointment of the government by the president, the prime minister delivers a policy speech in the Sejm and asks for a vote of confidence. The Sejm must pass a vote of confidence by a simple majority of votes in the presence of at least half the statutory number of deputies.
- If the government fails to secure a vote of confidence, the president announces new elections. **PGS MN**

*** PROJECT FOR POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES ***

by Debbie Greenlee

(Editor's note: These two items were in the Gen Dobry! newsletters August & Sept. 2011. Where you see "Editor," it is referring to the Gen Dobry! editor. I included these in our newsletter for interest & to spread the word about this project.)

Editor—Debbie Greenlee posted this note on several mailing lists devoted to Polish genealogy, and it provoked a lot of discussion. I want to pass it along, in hopes of provoking more discussion and maybe even, just maybe, some action!

I just read about a project involving the Czech State archive in which the Jewish "Special Interest Groups" (SIG's) are considering donating approximately \$25,000.00 to the Czech State Archive in order to assist the archive in completing projects of interest to Jewish genealogists such as a Prague conscription database.

This got me to thinking. Why couldn't Polish Genealogical Societies (as a group) take up collections in order to help and encourage some of the Polish Civil archives in making a database for records which Polish _diocesan_ archives have not allowed LDS to film? This presumes that the civil archives have copies of church records to which researchers are not allowed access at the diocesan level.

Maybe members of the various Polish Genealogical Societies should "petition" their societies to work on something like this.

Maybe a Polish diocesan archive would even be interested in a large donation if their archivist allowed SOMEONE to digitally copy their baptism, marriage and death records. Przemyśl Archdiocesan Archive comes to mind as one which would not allow LDS to film and also does not allow researchers access to the records. Just a thought.

Debbie

*** PROJECT FOR POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES, II ***

Editor—In the August issue, we printed a note Debbie Greenlee posted to some Polish genealogy mailing lists, suggesting genealogical societies could try to convince churches in Poland to make digital records of their records. Debbie posted another note this month with an interesting follow-up from the highly regarded researcher Jerry Frank about a project undertaken by the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe.

Jerry Frank read my suggestion about non-church affiliated people organizing and convincing various churches in Poland to allow "us" to digitally photograph their records not only for preservation but to allow the public easier access to them.

Jerry told me that The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) has a very similar on-going project:

<http://www.sggee.org/research/parishes/lublin_records/lublinsearchinstruct.html>

Jerry wrote:

Click on the first link under "General Information" to see the story behind it. Not every parish will respond in the same way as each pastor / priest has his own ideas about what is permissible, desirable, etc. In our case the Mormons went in to do their first ever digital imaging of church books. Of course, they take forever to make their data available to the public but they left a copy with the local church. We jumped to assist them and you can read the rest of the story yourself.

All this is to say that it does work in some cases. Keep in mind too that this not only requires acceptance of the practice in Poland but also enough people within the Society to focus on the project, give it impetus and keep it going. We have at least three more parishes to target and have the resources to do it, but we need locals interested enough to spearhead the work.

Jerry

The SGGEE project proves that if a group of people work together, great things can happen. I would

like to see several PGS's join together and start a similar project to SGGEE. Of course, this means egos need to take a back seat and the focus to be on archiving the records and making them accessible to Polish researchers. All members of the PGS's need to contact their board members and urge them to join with the other societies to preserve the Polish church records.

I started and continue my own digitizing project in the parishes of Bukowsko and Nowotaniec. But I have to say, it's slow going since I'm the only one taking the photographs or paying for a professional to photograph records. You can see the fruits here:

<<http://semanchuk.com/gen/>>

A bit of history about this project can be found in the introductions to each "book" of translated records. (See an) example (at):

<<http://semanchuk.com/gen/data/debbieg/BukowskoMarriages1787-1889/book1.html>>

Debbie

Editor—I'm not surprised to see SGGEE involved in this project. SGGEE is a quality organization, and Jerry Frank knows his stuff! He tells me the SGGEE member who really got the ball rolling was Karl Krueger. I'm also pleased to see Debbie doing her bit to advance the cause, and I wanted to help spread the word of these efforts. Talk is cheap—these folks are actually trying to **DO something!** **PGS MN**

Written by Debbie Greenlee. Previously published by *Gen Dobry!*, Vol. XII, No. 8, August 2011 and No. 9, September 2011, PolishRoots®: <http://www.PolishRoots.org/>.

Ten-year Members

The following is a listing of members who first joined PGS-MN in membership year 2002 and who remain members in membership year 2011:

James Franczyk, St. Paul
 Steve Holupchinski, North St. Paul
 Kevin & Mary Ann Johnson, Andover
 Norbert Kowalczyk, Bloomington
 Dennis D. Kulas, Grand Forks ND
 Jim & Lim Kulas, Springfield VA
 Gary Litchy, East Gull Lake
 Kay Martin, Minnetonka
 Adam Mikrot, St. Paul
 Dori Marszalek, Brooklyn Center
 Dorothy Pretare, Renton WA
 Dan Schyma, Coon Rapids

Fifteen-year Members

The following is a listing of members who first joined PGS-MN in membership year 1997 and who remain members in membership year 2011:

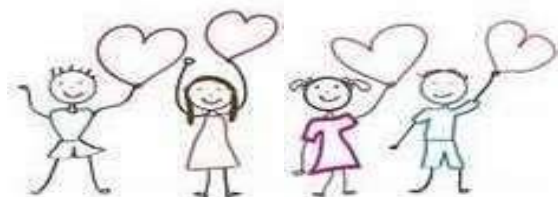
Pat Bumgarner, Minneapolis
 Bernadine Grell, Little Falls
 Jane Edel Habeck, Winona
 Duane Kaczmarek, Rosemont
 John W. Kowles, Minneapolis
 Donald McCavic, Wakefield MA
 Sandra Nuss, Fairmont
 Helen M. Richard, Burtrum
 Phyllis Warzecha, St. Paul

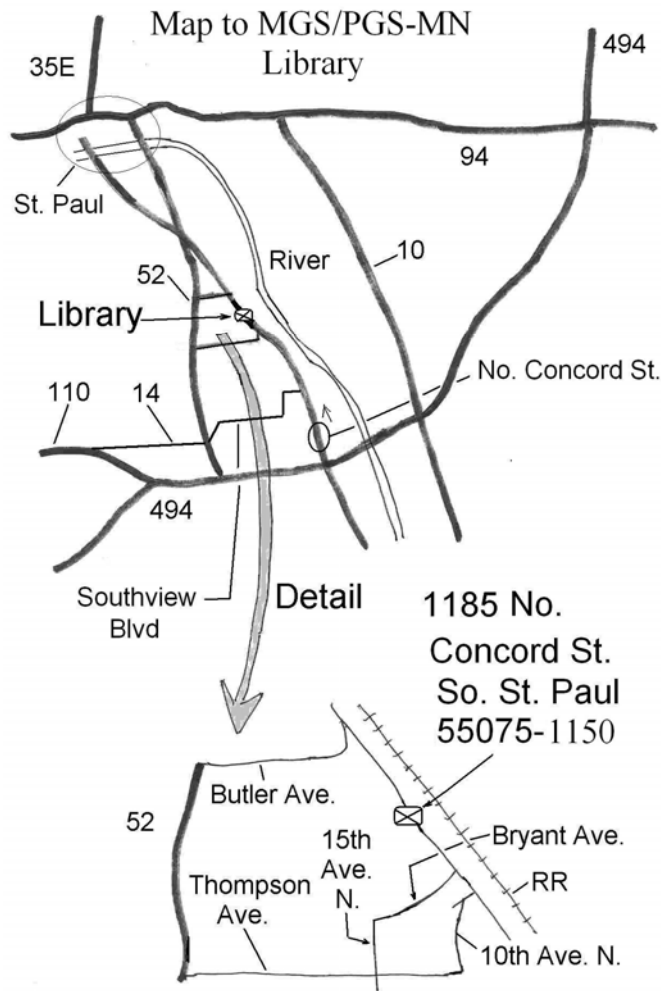
We thank you all for your loyalty and continued membership to PGS-MN.

Fun Trivia Answers: (from page 12)

- Warsaw.
- Vistula (Visla). Warsaw was almost destroyed in WWII. It has since been rebuilt.
- Oder. The Oder, or Odra, rises in the Czech Republic and runs north to the Baltic Sea.
- Carpathians. The Urals are in Russia and form part of the boundary between Europe and Asia. The Jura are on the French Swiss border.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Fun Trivia. <http://www.funtrivia.com/en/>)





DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From west or east on 94, go south on 52 over Lafayette Bridge to Concord, then south to the address.

From west or east on 494, go north on Concord through South St. Paul to the address.

ALERT! Members have reported the library's address does not show up on their GPS unit resulting in difficulty locating library. Use map.

Parking is directly across the street or in adjacent lot on weekends. Street parking is also permitted.



Library building - Looking south on Concord St. – Library is located in Suite 218 on second floor.

PGS-MN member meetings are held in the 4th floor Board Room or in the 1st floor Auditorium. Signs are posted on day of meeting. The library has elevators.

LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

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Ph: 651-455-9057 Website: <http://www.mnpgs.org>

Library closed: Jul 2, Sep 3, Nov 24-26, Dec 13-31

LIBRARY FEES

MGS, Branch, Affiliate Members: FREE

Non-Members: \$10

Internet and WiFi are available in the library.

POLISH NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

“Polish Night at the Library” is the **second Thursday of the month** from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. One of our experienced genealogists is available to assist you with your Polish research problems.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

One of our members is available at the library on the **first Saturday of the month** from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to help you with your Polish research.

Publications for sale by PGS-MN:

- Fitzpatrick and Yeiser, *DNA and Genealogy* \$22.50
 Golembiewski, *The Study of Obituaries as a Source for Polish Genealogical Research* \$10.00
 Hoffman and Helon, *First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins and Meanings* \$20.00
 Jensen, *Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy* \$25.00
 Litak, *The Latin Church in the Polish Commonwealth in 1772* \$17.00
 Müllerowa, *Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish Peoples Republic in 1984* \$15.00
 Ortell, *Polish Parish Records of the Roman Catholic Church* \$12.00
 Radzilowski, *A Traveller's History of Poland* \$14.95
 Shea, *Going Home: A Guide to Polish American Family History Research* \$35.00
 Shea and Hoffman, *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Guide To Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents*, Vol. I: Polish, \$35.00 - Vol. II: Russian, \$35.00

Make check payable to **PGS-MN and order from:**

Paul Kulas Attn: PGS Books
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Minnesota residents add 7.275% sales tax. Please add 10% to the book costs for shipping & handling. Some of our most popular titles are available for sale at the library.



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

1185 No. Concord St.
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If your address label is highlighted in yellow your membership expires with this issue. Renewals are \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years. A membership is also a unique gift.

Please consider a three-year renewal as this will reduce the possibility of missed issues. Detach and mail the renewal form below. Throughout the year, we endeavor to provide quarterly newsletters and six interesting programs. Thank you for your support.

If you move...Please let the Membership Chairperson know at <doripgs@comcast.net>. The newsletter is bulk-mailed and is not forwarded. We must pay to receive notification of non-delivery. We do endeavor to mail out a copy first-class to your new address. Thanks

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List Surnames from Poland
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List locality in Poland where
each surname originated:

List locality in North America
where immigrant settled:

I consent to publishing this information in the Society's newsletter

Yes _____ No _____

I consent to publishing this information in the Society's website

Yes _____ No _____

*Please make checks payable to Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota and mail to:
 Michael Eckman, PGS mn Treasurer; 7222 Oak Pointe Curve; Bloomington MN 55438-3405.*

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See insert for details!

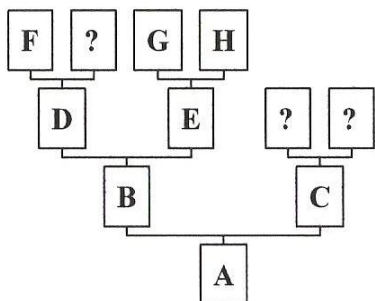
(Hint: gift giving season approaches!)

and in Mpls. MN.

MOVED? Permanently? Temporarily?!!

Please send temporary or permanent address changes to membership director at doripgs@comcast.net

Missing Branches



Send queries and branch updates to: **Paul Kulas**, Associate Editor, *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316-2145 (e-mail: [<kkulas@ties2.net>](mailto:kkulas@ties2.net)) or with new or renewal membership forms.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Amy Cory, 5670 Hadley Ave N, Apt 319, Oakdale MN 55128 [<amycory40@yahoo.com>](mailto:amycory40@yahoo.com) is researching John PAULASKI and Anna PINSKA.

Kim Culp, 10686 182nd Ave NW, Elk River MN 55330 [<ninagclock@msn.com>](mailto:ninagclock@msn.com) is researching Peter JABLONSKI and Theodora NARTOWICZ in Warsaw, Poland and in Scotia NY.

Marilyn J. Nelson, 9360 Xenia Street, Loretto MN 55357 [<mjdjnelson@msn.com>](mailto:mjdjnelson@msn.com) is researching SMALKOSKI (SMIALKOWSKI, SMILKOWSKI) and MRUGALA in Galicia, Poland (Nowy Targ)

Dean & Cynthia Peterson, 3201 - 83rd Ave. N. Brooklyn Park MN 55443 [<papadeano@prodigy.net>](mailto:papadeano@prodigy.net) is researching FELENIAK, STANECEWSKI, KORYTOWSKA surnames in Gralewó in Poland and in Mpls. and Wis.

Carol Pietrick, 19205 Lake Ave., Deephaven MN 55391 [<cpietrick@gmail.com>](mailto:cpietrick@gmail.com) is researching BAK, SKORA in Galica and in Chicago IL and Thorp WI and PIETEREK, KULIG in Silesia and in Independence WI.

Richard M. Schultz, 13055 Boutwell Rd. N. Stillwater MN 55082 [<rschultz@ties2.net>](mailto:rschultz@ties2.net) is researching SCHULTZ, WATEMBACH in the Brusy area in Poland and also the GROCHOWSKI, LESZCZYNSKI surnames.

David Serreyn, 12090 48th Av. N., Plymouth MN 55442-2138 [<gofishds@juno.com>](mailto:gofishds@juno.com) is researching KAROLCZAK in Poland/Germany/Lithuania and in Wilno MN.

Larry Wajda, 1417 - 27th Av. N.E., Mpls. MN 55418 [<larrywajda@aol.com>](mailto:larrywajda@aol.com) is researching WAJDA, WOJTOWICZ, PAWLIK in Poland and in Mpls. MN.