

# Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 20

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No. 3

*An excerpt from*

## Germans, Poles, and Jews The Nationality Conflict in the Prussian East, 1772 - 1914

by William W. Hagen

Publ. 1980 by University of Chicago Press,  
ISBN 0-226-31242-9

(Minor changes and notations to the text have been made to make it easier to understand. In particular, references to centuries have been changed to numeric, e.g. "eighteenth century" to "1700's")

In rough terms, these are the areas referred to (in respect to 1800's borders, and relative to Posen province)

**Great Poland** = west-central Poland, essentially Posen

**Royal Prussia** = West Prussia, the Danzig corridor, north of Posen. Poland's access to the North Sea.

**Netze district** = the watershed of the Netze | Notec river, which flows westward through the top of Posen

**Vistula district** = the watershed of the Weichsel | Vistula river, which flows northward through eastern West Prussia

**Silesia** = south of Posen

"Thus, in contrast to Great Poland, a sizable proportion of the medieval German colonists' descendents preserved their German ethnic character in Royal Prussia through the long period of Polish sovereignty. In both Great Poland and West Prussia, however, it was not the medieval wave of German and Jewish migrations alone which determined the character of the eighteenth

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century nationality frontier. From the late 1500's to the time of the partitions (late 1700's), a second wave of settlers from Germany swept over western and northern Poland.

The pioneers of this movement were not Germans but rather large numbers of Dutch Mennonites who, menaced in their religion at home, accepted the offers of the Protestant West Prussian nobility to settle as free peasants in the Vistula delta. (The Vistula | Weichsel river bends northward at Bromberg and flows through the eastern side of what was West Prussia in the late 1800's to Danzig.) In return, the immigrants built dykes to control the river channels and paid money rents to the noble lords owning the once-swampy wastes which they had converted into rich farmland. This was the beginning of a movement, running parallel to the rise of the serf-estate export economy on the already cultivated soil of Poland, in which the szlachta (Polish nobility) encouraged peasant immigration from the west in order to bring the

**Germans, Poles, and Jews.....continued on page 15**

**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>>

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The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is included with membership. Dues are \$20 per year, or \$50 for three years.

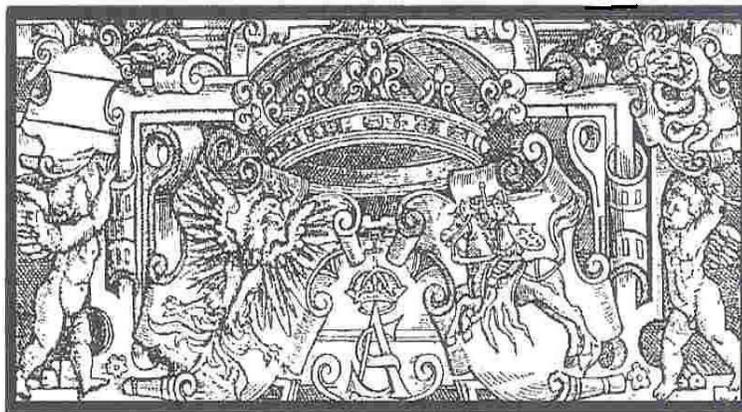
**Please use application form on insert page.**

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, 557 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**

I have gone to the Mother Land, and it was very good! My children and I covered almost 2000 miles in Poland this summer in July and August. We did the big cities by bus tour and the little ancestral towns with the aid of a private guide. We took 1,500 pictures and loved every minute of it. After 30 years of research, I finally got to stand in the churches where my ancestors worshiped, visit the homes they lived in, and walk in the fields they cultivated. I know that age, work, money concerns, etc. keep many people from making the journey. But...I want you to know:

Poland is safe. I never felt threatened anywhere we went. It is affordable. Excellent accommodations, food, and drink are available at very reasonable prices, especially considering the rest of Europe. It is easy to communicate. You do not need a decree in Polish to get by. Mastery of the language certainly helps in complex genealogical discussions, but to get served in a restaurant or hotel you rarely even need the phrase book. Young Poles have been learning English in school for the past two decades. Now many of them work in the hospitality field. Finally, you feel right at home! The food, the people, and the scenery are oddly familiar. Except for the southern mountains, most of Poland looks like some part of Minnesota down to the smiling faces of 'babcia' at the bus stop.

Plan this winter for a trip next spring or fall. Do it before your knees give out or something else comes up as there always seems to be something else coming up. Make it a priority in the coming year.

Jerome V. Biedny  
President



## *The Bulletin Board*

### **Correspondence ... Komunikacja**

#### **"Tip of the Day"**

I enjoy receiving the "Genealogy Tip of the Day" e-mail because it either reminds me or informs me about some aspect of doing genealogical research.

You may already be enjoying it but if not, take a look at <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com/> & you can sign up there.

Enjoy.

Dorothy <dpngen@comcast.net>

#### **Polish Panorama Renovation**

Friends, we've launched our 'Polish Panorama Renovation' fundraiser tonight [August 23, 2012] at <[www.indiegogo.com/panorama](http://www.indiegogo.com/panorama)>.

Please join us in this opportunity to preserve and present Polish heritage in the 21st century.

The Polish Panorama has educated and entertained audiences, both young and old, for over thirty years. It dramatizes the history of Poland from the earliest legends to the rise of Pope John Paul II. The 106 characters are drawn from the struggles of writers, peasants, saints, statesman, soldiers, and artists to remain faithful to the ideals of Christianity and the Polish nation.

The Panorama was created under the direction of Msgr. Zdzisław Peszkowski and designed and executed by architect Zbigniew Baran. Mr. Baran has returned to campus to guide us in the renovation and upgrade of the Polish Panorama. Working with the head conservator at the Henry Ford Museum, the figures are being evaluated, cleaned, and repaired (as needed).

We need your help to complete the project. It's the centerpiece of PARI-our Polish genealogy institute. Why not make a contribution in the name of an ancestor? Take a moment to check it out and also share it with your friends. All the tools are there.

Get perks, make a contribution, or simply follow updates. If enough of us get behind it, we can make 'Polish Panorama Renovation' happen. And, please add the Panorama to your bucket list-come to Orchard Lake, MI to see the only North American Polish Panorama.

Ceil <cjensen@mipolonia.net>

PARI

The Polish Mission  
At the Orchard Lake Schools  
3535 Indian Trail  
Orchard Lake, Michigan

### **Extra Contributions...**

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

**Linda Hodges**  
**John J. Felcyn**  
**Marijo McBride**  
**Irene Smith**

**Dziękuję**  
[Thank you!]

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

### **Recently at PGS-MN Meetings**

#### **"How to Write and Publish Family History in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," September 8, 2012.**

Cynthia Spurgat Jacobson gave an excellent and informative presentation on publishing your family history.

Cynthia said one question she gets asked frequently is, "how do you know when it is time to stop researching and start writing?" Her first advice was plain and simple, "you will know because you'll feel it." You have to give yourself permission to stop researching. As most genealogy enthusiasts can attest to the research could go on and on and on so you must allow yourself to stop. Another piece of advice was to research while you write. Start the

writing process - it helps you discover where you need more research done. Finally, while researching, take time to read other family histories, copy pages you like from them for style and ideas.

“How to Actually Write the Text” also known as “Conquering the Power of the White” sheet of paper, that is. Cynthia advises to write slices of life: write what you know about first, work on the hard parts after more research, and definitely write in bits and pieces, not necessarily in chronological order. You can put the pieces together later with transitions.

People in attendance were especially interested in Cynthia’s use of the Polish Encyclopaedia of 1923 in researching and writing her family history books.

The citation for that publication is:

*Polish Encyclopaedia of 1923 (Geneva, Switzerland: Atar Limited, 1922-1926.*

Also, see Cynthia’s presentation outline on page 7.

### ***Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events....***

#### **PGS-MN Member Meetings**

**November 3, 2012 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Joint meeting with Pommern Group (see below)

**December 2012** – No member meeting

**January 19, 2013** – Annual Membership Meeting

**March 2, 2013** – topic: Adoption

**April 6, 2013** – topic: Poland travels

**May 4, 2013** – topic: TBD

**September 7, 2013** - topic: TBD

**October 5, 2013** - topic: TBD

#### **Joint meeting with Pommern group.**

**November 3, 2012.** MGS Library Building, 4<sup>th</sup> floor Board Room. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

As has been our tradition these past several years, the Polish and Pommern groups will be holding a

cross-pollinated, combined meeting on Saturday, 3 November 2012 in the Auditorium of the MGS Library building in South St. Paul. Here is the agenda for that informative and social event:

#### **Polish Diaspora (Polonia) in Northeast Minneapolis (10 am start)**

The talk will center on the “Polonia” arriving in Northeast and North Minneapolis around 1900. The terms “Polish Diaspora” or “Polonia” are used to refer to people of Polish origins living outside Poland. Topics to be covered include: Short introduction about Poles in Minnesota; The original St. Anthony & Nicollet Island area including a short history and now its contemporary appearance; Polish Northeast and North Minneapolis including a short history and now its contemporary appearance; The multitude of churches in Northeast; and the Polish ancestral origins of the Northeast Minneapolis “Polonia” from the Carpathian Mountains of southwestern Poland (Galicia).

Speaker John Rys has prepared a well illustrated presentation about this Minneapolis area where his grandparents settled in the 1910s and where he spent many of his formative years.

#### **Abundant Buffet Lunch (Noon)**

The Pommern group pays for half of the cost from membership fees, members pay \$5.00 for meal. The Polish group charges \$10; reservation and prepayment (for Poles) are preferred to: Jerome Biedny, 6909 West 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, Bloomington, MN 55438. Checks to ‘PGS mn’ please. After 26 October, Polish group members should call: [651.266.2257](tel:651.266.2257) to preregister with \$12 due at the door.

#### **Pomerania and Poland:**

##### **A Relationship Closer Than You Think (1pm)**

A brief look at the history of Pomerania, history of Poland and how they evolved into today's Poland. A brief look on how the Pomerania/Poland history relationship may affect your genealogy research.

Speaker Jim Neuenfeldt's years of research in Pomerania and western Poland informs his work and presentation style.

### Notes on the Speakers

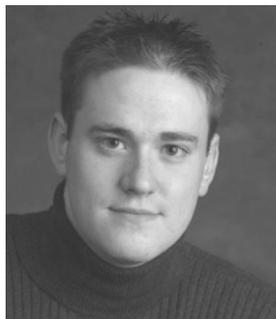
John Rys is a long time member and Board member of the Polish Genealogical Society of MN and head its research group. He has personally extracted thousands of parish records from the churches of Twin Cities Polonia and organized them in searchable data bases. For this effort, he has been awarded recognition by the Polish Genealogical Society of America. He lectures widely not only on Minnesota's Poles, but also on the geography of Poland itself and the life of its people - especially his ancestors in the Gorale region of the southern mountains.

Jim Neuenfeldt is the current chairperson for the Pommern Regional Group of Minnesota (PRG). He is a member at large, PRG liaison to the German Genealogy Group, member of the Polish Genealogy Society (PGS) and a member of the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM). He is a volunteer instructor for WIESCO and has instructed at their English Language Camp in Torun Poland for the past four years. This year Jim, along with 3 other instructors received the Distinguished Silver Medal, *Unitas Durat Palatinatus Cuiaviano-Pomeraniensis*, an award from the Marshall of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship in Poland.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual North Star 2012 – Family History Conference and Awards Banquet, October 5-6, 2012. Colonial Church, Edina, MN.

The conference featured-speaker is D. Joshua Taylor, an expert on early American genealogy and technology tools for family history research.

Taylor is a contributor to the hit TV series, "*Who Do You Think You Are?*" and a business development manager for *brightsolid*, an online database firm that offers such highly regarded genealogy subscription services as *ScotlandsPeople* and [findmypast.com](http://findmypast.com).



Taylor will offer three Plenary Sessions:

- **Online Sources for Colonial America**
- **New Tools and Ideas in Research**
- **Bridging the Gap: 1780-1830**

He will also lead a pre-conference workshop titled "**Enhancing Your Research Toolkit.**"

Other session topics include maps for genealogy, identifying and managing photos, wills and probate records, Ojibwe research, DNA genealogy, free genealogy-related software, finding maiden names, helps with research, and others.

The **Awards Banquet** is at the close of the first day of the North Star Genealogy Conference at Colonial Church in Edina. A 6:00 p.m. social-hour reception precedes the 7:00 p.m. dinner. Pioneer Press reporter, Mary Jo Webster, will speak about her view of the family history world from the newsroom. Join your genealogy friends at the 5th Annual MGS Awards Banquet and help honor your genealogy colleagues. MGS will honor six Minnesota genealogy leaders:

#### 2012 Award Winners

Sheila Northrup	Pat and Dorothy Chandler Award for exceptional prolonged volunteer service to MGS.
Valerie Morrison	MGS Unsung Hero Award for behind-the-scenes work contributing to the efficient management and operation of MGS.
Terry Kita	MGS Founder's Award for visionary organizational leadership that sustains MGS as an organization & advances its mission.
Debra Richardson	Pioneer Explorer Award for contributions to the development of Minnesota resources for genealogy and family history research.
J. H. Fonkert	The Minnesota Genealogy North Star Award for Outstanding research, writing, or education.
Paula Stuart-Warren	Minnesota Genealogy Ambassador Award for representing Minnesota on the national genealogy scene and bringing honor to Minnesota genealogy.

MGS's ethnic and nationality Branches and Affiliates will also present awards at the banquet.

The North Star Conference will continue on Saturday, October 6. Program and registration information for both the banquet and conference is available on the [MGS website](#). For detailed information on sessions, speakers' bio's, and brochure, please visit the [MGS website](#). Online registration is available through September 30. On-site registration will be available on day of conference.

With our new registration system, you can sign-up on-line and then choose whether to pay using PayPal or mail in a payment to MGS.

For more information and to register, go to <http://mngs.org/>. **PGS-MN**

## 2012 Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award Winners

*Congratulations!*

### Jeanette Bias

Member of PGS-MN since 1998

Board member 2002-2011

Library chair, 2002-2011

Jan has been in charge of the Library Committee for 10 years. Her primary support function features her tireless work on the Library. She has been the "responsible" person for scheduling volunteers for the Minnesota Genealogy Library and the other multitude of tasks associated with the Polish materials collection. She does a lot of library volunteer work herself. Jan has done extensive research in her Polish family history and has shared that research in presentations at PGS-MN meetings and in several articles in our newsletter.

### Mary Ellen Bruski

Member of PGS-MN since 1994

Board member or officer, 1997-2008

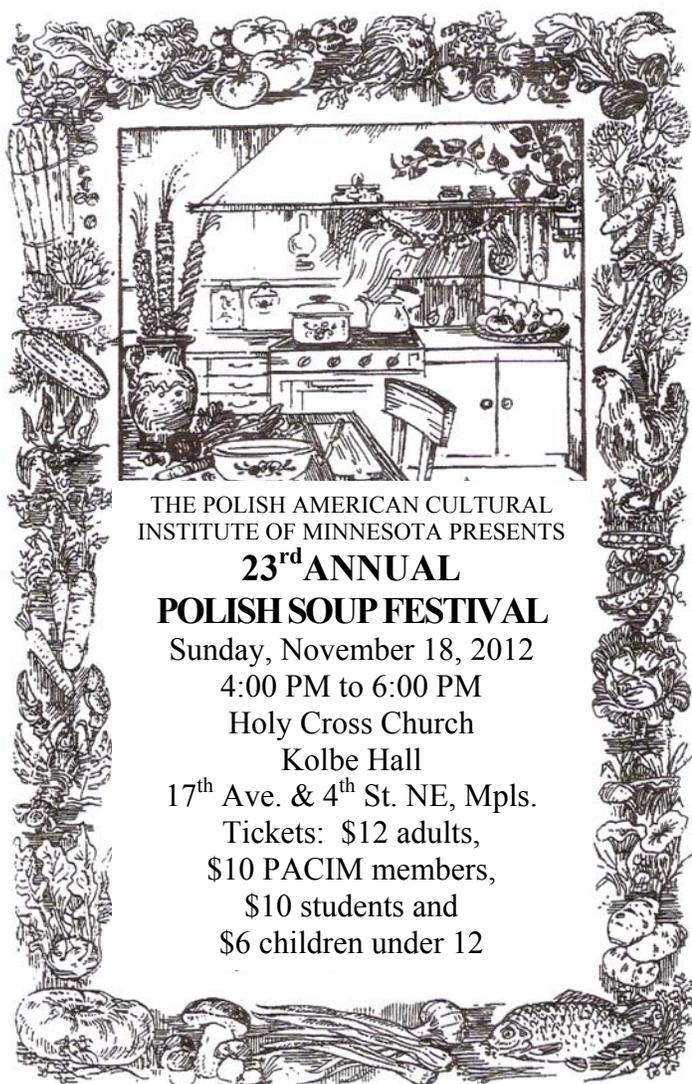
Membership chair, 1997-1998

Secretary, 1999- 2005

Website chair, 1998-2008

Mary Ellen, along with Kathleen Matelski built the PGS-MN website in 1997--the first U. S. Polish Genealogical Society website. Mary Ellen maintained that site until 2008--over a 12 year period. The present website content is still basically the result of her work. Mary Ellen contributed a number of articles to the *PGS-MN Newsletter*, many listing and describing useful genealogical websites and she conducted a workshop on "Polish Genealogy Sources on the Internet" for PGS-MN on March 21, 1998. She also served as PGS-MN Secretary for six years and Membership chair for two years. **PGS-MN**

*Congratulations!*



THE POLISH AMERICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA PRESENTS

### 23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL POLISH SOUP FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 18, 2012  
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Holy Cross Church  
Kolbe Hall  
17<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 4<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Mpls.  
Tickets: \$12 adults,  
\$10 PACIM members,  
\$10 students and  
\$6 children under 12

### Writing and Publishing Your Family History in the 21st Century

- **Make this effort your best work.**
- **Cite all your sources of information.**
- **Thoroughly research a wide variety of genealogical and non-genealogical sources. For example:**
  - **Historical documents**
  - **Social history**
  - **Local history**
  - **Oral history**
  - **Women's history**
  - **Ethnic history**
  - **Family legends**
- **Use creative or dramatic non-fiction: state the truth as the author knows it.**
- **Tell a story about your ancestors' lives.**
- **Organize your presentation and content.**
- **Document all factual information.**
- **Include original records.**
- **Report information accurately and make it clear when the author is speculating.**
- **Include details about**
  - **Family artifacts**
  - **Papers,**
  - **Diaries**
  - **Photographs including illustrations, photographs, maps, and charts**
- **Include a genealogy summary that uses one of the standard numbering systems**
- **Include a name, place, and subject index**
- **Include editing and proofreading**

#### References

- *Create Your Family History Book with Family TreeMaker: The Official Guide* by Marthe Arends
- *Producing a Quality Family History* by Patricia Law Hatcher
- *You Can Write Family History* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack
- *Evidence: Citation Analysis for the Family Historian* by Elizabeth Shown Mills
- *Evidence Explained* by Mills
- *Indexing Family Histories: Simple Steps for a Quality* by the National Genealogical Society

It is also very important to read other family history books to determine your own style and layout. The book should be reader-friendly, one that would make the reader keep reading, like a novel. It should be written so that the reader can pick it up in any chapter and it would make sense. Not everyone will read it from cover to cover. Most people will look for their family first and then search for the connections. Although I chose to write my family's history as a hard-cover book, the same principles apply to family histories published online or on a cd/dvd.

Cynthia Spurgat Jacobson [cynjacob@centurytel.net](mailto:cynjacob@centurytel.net)

## A Call for Board Members

We have some people retiring from active Board membership in the coming year and we would love



some new blood in our leadership. Please contact me directly if you have an interest for running for a seat during our upcoming Annual Meeting in January 2013. You need not attend to participate as a candidate. We want people to plan and execute program meetings, work with

computers, etc. Ours is a working Board where everyone gets a little job to do, but you can usually self-select that job.

Whether you have been a member for years, or are rather new to our organization, please consider getting just a bit more involved. The current Board meets quarterly for about an hour. The other work is transacted via email and on your own. It is pretty low key. You will be helping everyone with your involvement.

Think it over then call Jay at 651.266.2257 for more details. **PGS-MN**

### Missing Branches *(cont'd from page 20)*

**UPDATES**--*The following members have sent us updated information:*

**Amy Jowers**, 215 10th Ave S, #720, Mpls. MN 55414 <jowersa24@yahoo.com> is researching the WOLAK surname in "believe it's Galicia" in Poland and in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota.

## Queries ... *Pytania*

Send queries to: Paul Kulas, Associate Editor, *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316-2145 or to e-mail: <kkulas@ties2.net>

### *Surname endings*

I have been looking up marriage, baptismal and death records on the Poznan project and have come up with names I am familiar with, but with different endings. I have been wondering if they are different names or if the endings have a connotation as *ski* for masculine & *ska* for feminine.

I have looked up **Kulas** and **Mastek** and have found:

**Kulaszewski** with masculine name usage  
**Kulaszewska** with feminine name usage  
**Kulasowa** with feminine name usage  
**Kulasowna** with feminine name usage  
**Mastowa** with feminine name usage

The references seem to fit in with information I have except for the ***bold italicized*** endings. Do you know if these bold italicized areas have a specific gender or other connotations or meaning or know of anyone who might know?

**Dennis D. Kulas** <dkulasd@yahoo.com>

*Dennis,*

*A classic work dealing Polish surnames is Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings (now out-of-print, but we have two copies in our Polish collection at the MGS Library) by William F. Hoffman. I will try to answer your questions by referencing this resource.*

*You are correct in assuming that the surname endings have gender connotations (Kulaszewska is the feminine form of the masculine Kulaszewski). A sister and brother then would have slightly different versions of the same surname--one ending in a and the other in i.*

*I think that you are also correct in assuming that the surnames in question are variations of the same surname--Kulas and Mastek.*

*The suffix -ski (or the feminine -ska) simply means "from" or "related to." The suffix -ewski means "of, from, connected with, related to."*

*The surname Kulas means "cripple".*

*Therefore the Kulaszewski surname simply means someone "of, connected with, related to" someone with the surname Kulas, OR someone "of, connected with, related to" a cripple. I think the "z" inserted in the surname is simply a Polish grammatical consideration.*

*The suffix -owa means "wife of" and -owna means "daughter of." Therefore a woman with the surname Kulasowa is married to someone named Kulas, while a woman with the surname Kulasowna is the daughter of someone named Kulas.*

*Likewise, I think the Mastowa surname relates to women who are married to someone whose surname is a variation of the root Mast- e.g. Mastek, Mastaj, Mastas, or Mastej.*

*I am Cc:ing this reply to Fred Hoffman to see if he has any comments or corrections.*

*--PTK*

#### ***Dennis replies--***

*In this one case Mastowa was married to a Krzysko. Supposition - could it mean it might have been a 2nd marriage and that she may have been married to a Mastek before? The time frame is about correct for these being my great, great, grandparents. It would be nice to get something concrete on them.*

*Copy of entry from the Poznan project:  
Catholic parish in [Boruszyn](#), entry # 10 in 1835  
score: Groom: 100%  
Joseph **Krzyśko** (25)  
Agnes Maskowa (24)*

*Rreferencing: [Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings](#) by William F. Hoffman. Does the MGS Library do inter-library loans?*

*Comment on - the surname Kulas means "cripple - referring to the Polish meaning of the name. What I have run across was "originally meant - "he who walks with a lame leg, referring to a soldier return-ing from the war/wars who is wounded/ cripple" and later becoming a "generic name for any cripple".*

**Dennis D. Kulas <dkulasd@yahoo.com>**

*Dennis,*

*First of all, I'm not an authority on Polish surnames. Again I am referencing Hoffman's book.*

*We are now dealing with two different surnames: Mastowa and Maskowa!*

*Maskowa could be referring to surnames beginning with Mask- or Masz- (though Mastowa could also be referring to a surname beginning with Masz-). I'm not sure if Maskowa could be referring to the surname Mastek.*

*At any rate, the -owa ending should indicate "wife of."*

*The Poznan Project entry that you cite does not indicate the status of Agnes Maskowa. The original marriage record would indicate if she is a widow or not.*

*I would order films of the Boruszyn parish records through your nearest LDS Family History Center. Marriage records for 1835 are found on Film # 1194662, items 3-6.*

*Also, I would e-mail the R.Welka whose e-mail address appears on the record in the Poznan Project to see what she knows about this couple (The surname has a feminine ending so I'm assuming it's a she). You just might be contacting a relative!*

*The MGS Library does not do Inter-library loans. I would order a copy of Hoffman's book through the inter-library loan service of your local public library. Be sure to order the 2nd edition or the 2nd edition, revised, and not the 1st edition (The 2nd edition is much more detailed).*

*Regarding the original meaning of the Kulas surname: What is your source that it originally meant - "he who walks with a lame leg, referring to a soldier returning from the war/wars who is wounded/cripple"? An old English/Polish Dictionary handed down to me in my family indicates that the word means "limper" so I accept the first part of your definition. But I am skeptical of the second part without confirmation by some authoritative source. There are many ways the first person with the Kulas surname might have become lame-- an accident or illness or simply being born with a deformed leg. That second part of your definition sounds to me like something someone might make up to indicate something heroic in one's ancestry. I once suggested the "wounded warrior" scenario to a colleague and he dismissed it by replying: "Yeah, but you don't know if he was running toward or away from the battle when he was wounded."*

*Are you familiar with the PTG Pomorskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne (Pomeranian Genealogist Association) website at: <http://www.ptg.gda.pl/index.php/certificate/action/main/>? If not, you should check it out. It is somewhat like the Poznan Project website only it deals mainly with the Kashubian area of northern Poland. After logging in, drag down on "PolGenBase" to "Search PolGenBase." It indexes birth, marriage, and death records for that area.*

--PTK

### **Poznan Project: Query and response**

Dear Mr Bielecki,  
I just discovered your Poznan Marriage Indexing Project. I understand you have other similar projects also. Do you have any that include the towns/villages of Bak, Wiele or surrounding area? Thank you for any information you may be able to give me.  
Dennis Kulas - [dkulasd@yahoo.com](mailto:dkulasd@yahoo.com)

From: Lukasz Bielecki [bielecki@rose.man.poznan.pl](mailto:bielecki@rose.man.poznan.pl)  
Please try the "Pomorze" or "Geneteka" links from my main Project description: <http://poznan-project.psnc.pl/project.php>  
Best regards,  
Lukasz

### **Surname endings: Fred Hoffman responds--**

The expert I rely on most, the late Kazimierz Rymut, listed KULASZEWSKI among names deriving from the noun *\_kulas\_*. Variation of the plain S sound and the "sh" sound Poles spell SZ is quite common, and does not necessarily have any real significance. This is common in many languages not just Polish; you can even go back to the Biblical story of the password "shibboleth" to see that some people tend to pronounce S as "ess" while others tend to turn it into "sh."

Dennis, none of the sources I checked mentioned the name meaning originally "he who walks with a lame leg, referring to a soldier returning from the war/wars who is wounded/cripple." Of course, that doesn't mean it's wrong; it just means I haven't seen that particular source. If you don't mind, I'd be interested in knowing where you found that info.

The basic root *\_kul-\_* appears in a number of different Polish words, especially meaning "spherical; bent over." The word *\_kula\_* can mean "sphere" or "bullet" or "crutch." The scholars I consulted derive *\_kulas\_* from the verb *\_kuleć\_*, "to hobble, limp." Interestingly, Rymut gives "leg" as the first meaning of *\_kulas\_*, and the Kosciuszko Foundation Polish-English dictionary agrees, saying the term is used jokingly. It gives the second meaning, as an offensive term, as equal to *\_kulawiec\_*, which comes from *\_kulawy\_*, "lame, halting."

As I would interpret this, the word *\_kulas\_* could have referred to a leg that was in some way out of the ordinary; and from that, it could easily be extended to a cripple. It may well be the original meaning was for one wounded in battle, and it later became a generic term for any cripple. KULASZEWSKI presumably started out meaning "of the kin of the cripple," or perhaps "one from the place of the cripple." In that latter usage, it could come from a specific place name along the lines of Kulasze or Kulaszewo. The *\_Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego\_* gazetteer does not mention any places by those names -- although it does have a brief note on a place called Kulas, a peasant settlement in Unewel gmina,

**Queries ... Pytania.....(continued on page 14)**



## Twin City Polish Festival Aug 11 & 12, 2012

Beautiful weather, great food, and wonderful PGS-MN members to share the day with, what more could you ask for at this year's Twin City Polish Festival?

This year it was decided that along with selling our books and displaying John Rys' Polish Church Marriage, Baptism, and Death records, we would feature the ten volume surname books, *Słownik nazwisk wspolczesnie w Polsce uzywanych*. These



books are an index of Polish surnames from the 1990's in present day Poland. The index lists the total number of persons with that surname in all of Poland and then breaks the numbers down to regions.

We also furnished our visitors with a map of Poland (see

page 13) that was broken down by the regions during the time the book was published. This was a huge success and young and old came to see if they could find a family surname. We included the PGS-MN website at the bottom of the maps and the online URL of the Surname website, <http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/> where you can enter your surname and see where people with that

surname live presently (or at least in the 1990s when the books were published).

Not long after the tent was up, the PGS-MN banner was hung, everything was set on the tables, and the tent was alive with curious people asking all sorts of questions. As of Aug 5<sup>th</sup> we had seven new members from the festival. I am hoping that more memberships will follow.

I want to thank the volunteers who made this day possible.

Paul and Kathy Kulas whose expertise and history wisdom is invaluable.

John and Judy Rys who bring their experience and knowledge and personality with them (not to mention those wonderful Church records).

Terri DiCarlo who even though she was in a cast for her fractured wrist, dressed up in her Polish regional costume and came to volunteer and of course to see her cousin John Rys.



A special thanks to Tom Boelz and Emile Trushenski for volunteering unexpectedly and staying the whole day.

Bob Kraska who brought the Polish Surname books from the MGS Library

and then stayed and shared his knowledge.

Janet Mitchell who, even though isn't Polish, gave her time and shared her knowledge the entire two days.

Tom Skorczeski who helped set up Saturday morning and stayed the whole morning.

Lovely Bernice & Harry Mullen, the sweetest couple at the festival. Harry said that Bernice was having such a great time that she hated to leave.

Greg Kishel surprised us and came to volunteer both Saturday and Sunday.

Connie Waldherr was a tremendous help on Sunday and said she had a great time.



Jay and Jeremy Biedny really were the biggest surprise when they showed up on Sunday even though they had just gotten back from their trip to Poland the day before!!

Without all of your help this year's festival would not have been the success that it was.



Thanks Again,  
Dori Marszalek





Polish Surname



There are approximately \_\_\_\_\_ people with this same/similar last name located in the area(s) marked on the map above. Please note that the locations noted are approximate and based on pre-1999 boundaries.

To view the distribution of your surname according to current boundaries go to website:

<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/>

Compliments of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

Visit us at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>



**Germans, Poles, and Jews** *cont'd from page 1*

vast stretches of Poland's still virgin forest and swampland under the plow. Unwilling to commit their own serf labor to this task, they offered attractive terms and religious toleration, at first to the Mennonites but thereafter mainly to German Protestants who fled, in the 1600's, religious persecution in Germany and, in the 1700's, military conscription and regions of land hunger to try their luck in Poland. They and their descendents constituted a privileged class of peasants among the masses of Polish serfs. They would not undertake their arduous new lives without guarantees of full personal freedom, ample fields in the wastes they had cleared, and a hereditary contractual claim to their lands in exchange for money rents. These terms of tenure were almost precisely what most Polish and Polonized serfs lacked but hungered to have. Yet, just as it was in the szlachta's interest to subject the native peasantry to serfdom and thus to create a supply of "free" labor producing for the export (grain and timber) market, so too, if foreign colonists could make a profit from previously unused land, by settling them on their estates the nobility could skim the top from these profits and fatten their wallets.

This form of peasant colonization spread down the Vistula Valley, into the Netze | Notec' region, and beyond to Great Poland proper, where in the 1600's and 1700's it was vigorously pursued not only along the western fringes of the province adjacent to Silesia and Brandenburg, but in the heart of the land as well. After the partitions, the Polish nobility in Russian Poland began settling German farmers on their land, so that this second wave of German colonization, following upon the medieval movement, lasted into the early 1900's. In Royal Prussia and Great Poland such German colonists came to be called 'Haula'nder', a corruption of the word Hollander, recalling the Mennonite pioneers; the Poles accepted the term in the form of 'oledrzy'.

There was an urban counterpart, beginning in the second half of the 1600's and lasting through the 1700's, to the second wave of German peasant settlement in western and northern Poland. The devastation wrought in these regions by the

Swedish invasion (1655-60) and particularly by the second Northern War (1700-21), whose impact on Great Poland can be compared with that of the Thirty Years War on Germany, depopulated the towns as well as the villages. Since the nobility had succeeded in imposing their seigneurial authority on many of the towns, urban economic collapse meant a loss of aristocratic revenue. Thus in the 1600's and 1700's the Catholic gentry opened many town gates to Protestant German refugees, especially from Silesia, and to German Catholic immigrants as well. In 1700's' Great Poland, immigrant burghers rebuilt fifteen devastated towns and founded ten wholly new cities. In these and other towns throughout Great Poland, the Netze district, and Royal Prussia, a flourishing woolen and linen textile industry arose in the 1700's. This was the work primarily of German artisan workshops. It was organized commercially by the Jews and profitably taxed by the nobility.

Unlike their medieval forerunners, most of the settlers in the second wave of migration to Poland retained their German language and cultural character. The guarantees of religious liberty the German Protestants received from the Polish nobility, though sometimes violated, ensured the maintenance of a German-speaking clergy, German Protestant village schools, and a few secondary-level German academies. As in the past, German Catholics were more exposed to Polonization, but they were a minority among the immigrants. They maintained their ethnic identity best in the towns of a predominantly German Protestant character along the Silesian- Brandenburg border, where the Polish Catholic church's influence was limited. One may speculate, in the light of later historical experience, that, outside those towns where church practice neglected German-language services and thus wittingly or unwittingly promoted Polonization, German Catholics assimilated into Polish culture chiefly by means of intermarriage, which was common both before and after the partitions.

In the wake of the two long waves of German eastward settlement and medieval Jewish migration to Poland, reinforced by Jewish refugees from Germany during the Reformation, the 1700's nationality frontier cut deep into the Polish

Commonwealth. On the Silesian-Brandenburg border of Great Poland, second-wave Germans had reinforced first-wave survivors in Germanizing a broad frontier strip. Settlements of Haula"nder were scattered about the Poznanian villages, while Germans and Jews were numerous in all western and northern Polish towns. The Polonization of Royal Prussia after the fifteenth century had been balanced by second-wave German peasant colonization in the Vistula delta and the rise of the German-dominated textile industry in Royal Prussia, the Netze district, and Great Poland.

But the nationality frontier also crossed the political borders of Brandenburg-Prussia. In Upper Silesia, conquered together with the rest of that province by Frederick the Great, a large population of Polish-speaking peasant-serfs tilled the lands of German or Germanized Slavic noblemen and magnates. Polish was spoken among the common people in the towns as well. In central Silesia to the east of the Oder, Polish villagers and urban workers also survived in a largely Germanized setting, but most of Silesia had been lost to the Poles in the first wave of German eastward expansion. In 1348, Casimir the Great had recognized Bohemia's suzerainty over the Silesian duchies and, despite Polish strategies to regain the province in subsequent centuries, it was progressively integrated into the German political and cultural sphere as it passed from Bohemian to Habsburg to Hohenzollern rule. The Polish population in Silesia stood on an economically and culturally depressed level, speaking only a Polish dialect, out of contact with formal Polish culture and dominated by a Catholic clergy which, while it communicated to its parishioners in their own tongue, bowed to the German Bishopric of Breslau." PGS-MN

### Ancestry in final talks with three buyout firms on sale – sources

NEW YORK, Sept. 10 (Reuters) – Three private equity firms, including Hellman & Friedman LLC, are still pursuing a potential buyout of Ancestry.com Inc, though a deal remains elusive as the company seeks an offer that tops \$1.5 billion, three people familiar with the matter said.

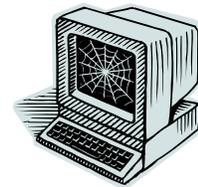
Permira Advisers LLP and TPG Capital LP are also involved in the auction for Ancestry, which has dragged on as none of the potential buyers have met the company's valuation expectations, the people said. The company is seeking an offer above \$35 per share, two of them added.

Ancestry is putting pressure on the buyout firms to sweeten their offers after receiving second-round bids that came in last month. One of the people familiar with the matter said there was an expectation the company would make a decision by the end of September, even though it has never officially communicated a deadline.

Provo, Utah-based Ancestry, whose website helps users trace their family roots by scouring online records, declined to comment. Permira declined to comment, while Hellman & Friedman and PG did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Ancestry boasts about 2 million paying subscribers looking to find out more about their family roots.

PGS-MN

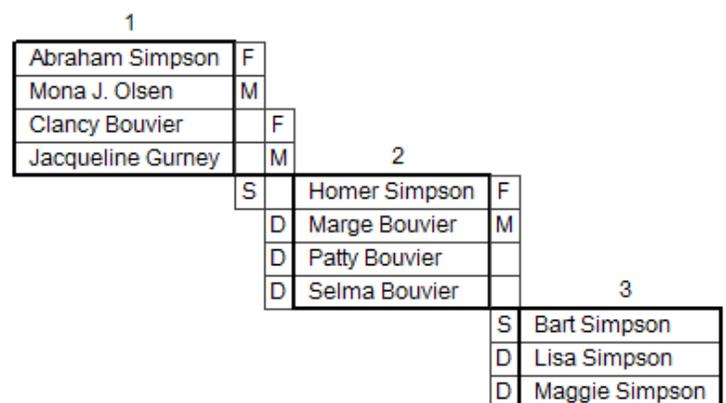
*http://*



The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

Richard

### Progeny Software Introduces Trellis Charts - the Chart with Everyone on It



Progeny Software is a well-known name in the genealogy charting business (you see my past

articles about Progeny Software if you start at <http://goo.gl/rZ5Mk>). The new chart is called a **Trellis Chart** and is a great method of showing everyone in the family tree in one chart. This is not a free-standing product. Instead, it is a new option being added to Progeny Software's already-popular Charting Companion programs for Windows.

Unlike traditional box charts, the Trellis can show all the people in your tree, even those who are not in the direct bloodline. Your ancestors and descendants are listed by rows within their generation. Members of a family are grouped by columns.

However, as they say on those late-night infomercials, "But wait! There's more." I cannot describe the full Trellis chart in words so I will invite you to look at the examples and read the text at <http://progenygenealogy.com/products/family-tree-charts/trellis.aspx>.

Gee! Those names look familiar!



The Trellis chart is available now in the Charting Companion programs for customers who use Family Tree Maker, Personal Ancestral File, Legacy, and Ancestral Quest. Trellis for MyHeritage, Geni, Family Search are promised to be available soon. For everyone else, Family Publisher reads GEDCOM files.

The Trellis is based on GeneaQuilts, as described in an earlier article in this newsletter at

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2010/11/geneaquilts-a-system-for-exploring-large-genealogies.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/11/geneaquilts-a-system-for-exploring-large-genealogies.html).

The prices of the Charting Companion programs vary, depending upon which genealogy program you use in your computer. Details may be found at <http://progenygenealogy.com/products/family-tree-charts/buy-now.aspx>. **PGS-MN**

## 2012 Membership Renewal Reminder!!!!

We value you as a member of PGS-MN, and want to make sure that you don't forget to renew your PGS-MN membership before December 31, 2012.

### Membership benefits include:

- Four issues of our great newsletter per year. No cost entrance to the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library, and its collection, as well as Ancestry and other computer programs (non-member \$10 per visit)
- A variety of speaker programs held throughout the year.
- Research specialists available to help.
- PGS-MN website

Plus, knowing your continued support helps to keep PGS-MN in business!

If you have any questions, contact me at [doripgs@comcast.net](mailto:doripgs@comcast.net)

Thank you,

Dori Marszalek  
PGS-MN Membership Director

Send your dues payment to:

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7222 Oak Pointe Curve  
Bloomington, MN 55438



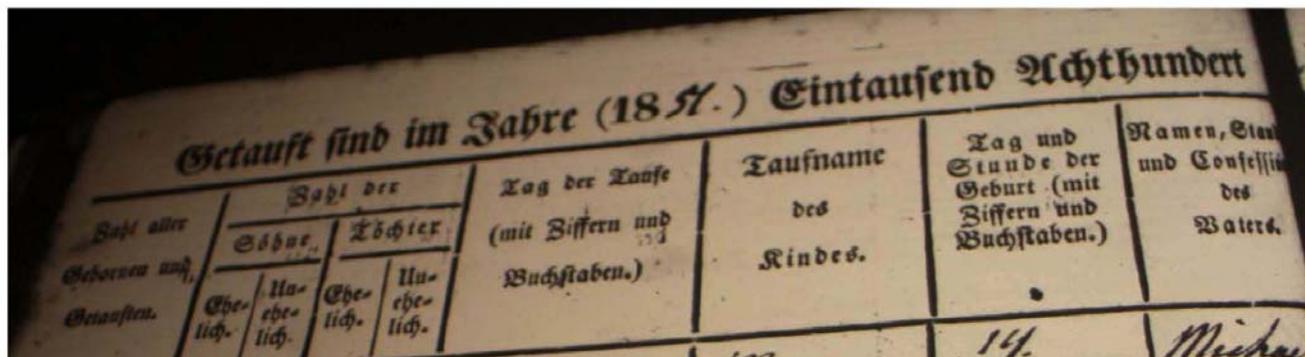
### Learning Polish answers (from page 14)



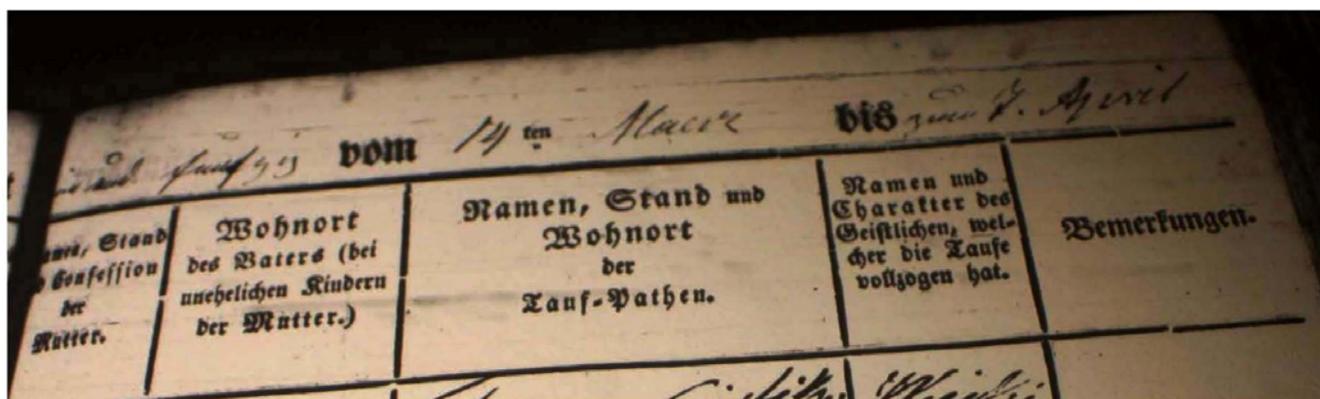
English word --- Polish translation

- a. glass = lampka
- b. beets = buraki
- c. juice = sok
- d. key = klucz
- e. airport = lotnisko
- f. right = prawo

Wabcz, West Prussia (now Kujawsko-Pomorskie) Baptismal Record Heading Translation

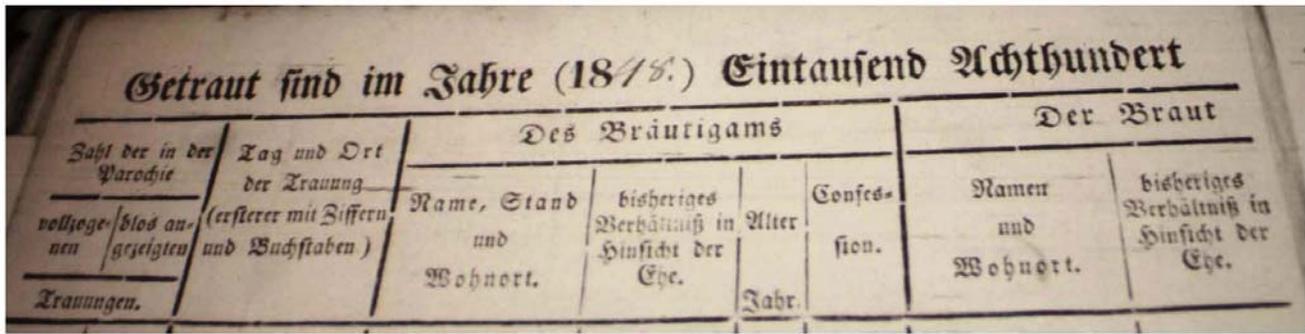


BAPTIZED IN THE YEAR (1851) ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED								
Number of Natives and Baptism	Number of				Day of Baptism (with Numbers and Letters)	Christian Name of the Child	Day and Hour of Birth (with Numbers and Letters)	Name, Status and Confession of the Father
	Son		Daughter					
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate				



BAPTIZED IN THE YEAR (1851) ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED					
Name, Status and Confession of the Mother	Residence of the Father (in Illegitimate Child, the Mother)	Name, Status and Residence of the God Parents		Name and character of the Clergy, who has undergone the Baptism	Comments

Wabcz, West Prussia (now Kujawsko-Pomorskie) Marriage Record Heading Translation



ARE MARRIED IN (1848) ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED								
In the Number of Parish		Date and Place of Marriage (The Former with Numbers and Letters)	The Bridegroom				The Bride	
Completed	Only Displayed		Name, Status and Residence	Previous relationship in regards to marriage	Age	Confession	Name And Residence	Previous relationship in regards to marriage
Weddings								



FROM _____ To _____							
Date and Place of Marriage (The Former with Numbers and Letters)		Approval Explanations of the Parents, Guardian or from a Superior Court Authorities		Time and Place of Marriage Banns		Name of the Pastor, who has performed the marriage ceremony	Comments
Age	Confession	The Bridegroom	The Bride	The Bridegroom	The Bride		

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### ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

**Please contact me with your temporary or permanent ADDRESS CHANGES.**

#### Change Service Requested

Due to the restrictions for our PGS-MN mailing permit the post office **does not** forward our newsletters and we are charged for all non deliveries.

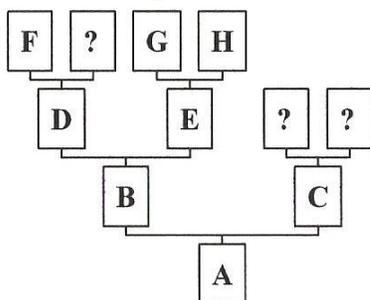
Did you know that our database allows for winter and summer change of addresses?

If you can furnish dates we can enter them into our database and it will automatically change your address so that you do not lose out on any of the newsletters and PGS-MN will not be charged for non delivery.

You can contact me by email [doripgs@comcast.net](mailto:doripgs@comcast.net) or phone 763-535-2296

Thank You,  
 Dori Marszalek  
 Membership Director

### *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

**Len Biernat**, 1154 Rose Lane, New Brighton MN 55112 [<lbiernat@hamline.edu>](mailto:lbiernat@hamline.edu) is researching: BIERNAT, RUTYNA in Tarnobrzeg in Poland and in Minneapolis; WASIK in Poland and in Minneapolis; MAKUCK in Zywiec in Poland and in Weyerhauser, Wisc.

**Sally Harder**, 2232 90th Ave., Baldwin WI 54002 [<Smekofske\\_pryblereunion@yahoo.com>](mailto:Smekofske_pryblereunion@yahoo.com) is researching PRZYBYLA/PRYBLE in Poland and in St. Paul and North Branch MN and SMIEKOWSKI/SMIEJKOWSKI in Poland and in North Branch.

**Linda Hodges**, 7324 Logan Ave. N., Brooklyn Park MN 55444 [<jlh4759@msn.com>](mailto:jlh4759@msn.com) is researching SKAWSKA/SKAWSKI in N.E. Mpls.

**Susan Jakusz**, 3620 22nd Ave. S. Minneapolis MN 55407 [<susan.jakusz@gmail.com>](mailto:susan.jakusz@gmail.com) is researching the JAKUSZ surname.

**Mary Kampmeier**, PO Box 608, Graceville MN 56240 is a new member.

**Debbie Nelson**, 6316 Wyoming Ave. No. Brooklyn Park MN 55428 [<cdnelcon@com.com>](mailto:cdnelcon@com.com) is researching: SLOPEK, in Mpls. MN; MISKOWIEC in Mpls. MN and Chicago IL; SLAVKOWSKI in New Jersey; and all in Poland.

**Carole Smuda**, 2612 - 31st Ave NE, St. Anthony MN 55418 is researching: WOJCIAK, GACEK in Rabka; ZMUDA in Ponice, ZAJAC in Olsowaka; ISKIERKA, GRABSKI in Biesko Biala; all in Poland.

**Missing Branches.....Continued on page 8**