

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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NUMBER 2

Poland and the First World War

by Michael Eckman May 25, 2015

As we observe the 100th anniversary of the First World War (WWI), we remember that modern Poland was born as a result of that war. As many as two million Poles fought in WWI and, as we research our ancestors and relatives, we may be surprised when we discover on which side they fought. Because of the nature of the partition of Poland that was in effect before and during the war, Poles fought on both sides. Because of Poland's central position, there was much fighting on and destruction of Polish land.

The partition of Poland that was completed in 1795 by Prussia (German Empire), Austria, and Russia removed the Kingdom of Poland from the map of Europe. Poles, of course, continued to live in the partitioned areas and the language and culture managed to survive. By the time that movement toward a world war started, Poland had been partitioned for more than a century and Poles found themselves serving in the various imperial armies of the partitioning powers. Poles were caught between the warring blocks that included Russia, part of the Allies, on one side and Germany allied with Austria as the Central Powers on the other.

In "God's Playground: History of Poland," Norman Davies gives a comprehensive review of the various

Poland & 1st World War (Continued on page 13)



Map of Europe 1914 (pre-WWI)



Map of Europe 1918 (post-WWI)

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society 1185 No. Concord St., Suite 218 So. St. Paul, MN 55075-1150

www.pgsmn.org

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Polish Genealogical Society of MN Newsletter

The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. *Newsletter* subscription is included with membership.

Submitting items for publication is welcome and highly encouraged. We require feature-length articles to be submitted exclusively to PGS-MN. Mail articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries, etc. to: Peggy Larson, Editor *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 557 98th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 or e-mail to: *editorpgsmn@gmail.com*.

To apply for membership Please use application form on insert page Dues are \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years.

Address/e-mail changes or membership questions?

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

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President's Letter

Change Coming

When I moved to this state 30 years ago, the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) held their annual conferences a few blocks from my home. I attended those gatherings regularly to pick up skills and continue the family research I started as a Boy Scout. I remember visiting their library when it was off Highway 94 in St. Paul and thinking I was in heaven.

Then while digging at the Crystal Family History Center one day, I met Blanche Krbechek the founding president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGSmn). She encouraged me to get involved and I joined the Board. By then the library had moved to Golden Valley. When Terry Kita was Vice President he invited me to take his place as he became President. In that position I planned the programs we offered to members in the basement meeting room at the library.

When Terry took a leading role in the MGS, he encouraged me to become President of PGSmn. Over my tenure in this position the PGSmn has: moved to the South St. Paul location; weathered the change of many key officers; started and maintained a presence at the Twin City Polish Festival; revamped its website; and maintained its membership in the face of a hobby that is becoming increasingly digital and less communal. I have given several research talks here and in out state MN. I have published an edition of the newsletter before finding a permanent Editor and I have authored a genealogical column in the local Polish language newspaper on behalf of the PGSmn for several years.

In short, I've been involved with organized genealogy, and this Society, for a very long time. I need a break. Moving forward, things personal and professional just do not allow me to spend the time I need to be a good President. That is why I will ask to be replaced at the Annual Meeting in January 2016.

It has been a pleasure serving you, working with the talented and dedicated Board Members, and hopefully making a difference in the organization. Anyone interested in being President, or joining the Board to support the coming changes should contact me directly.

Jay Biedny



Correspondence ... Komunikacja

Hello: I have paid for and received documents pertaining to my Polish family from the Russian State Archives, which may have been in Polish, but were sent to me in Russian. I



was wondering if the Society knows of a Russian translator, that I could have translated. In the information I received, it stated my family records are in Polish, Latin, and Russian.

I will be visiting in St. Paul in September. I plan to attend Polish night to speak with a genealogist concerning more records that are stored in the Russian Archives, and how to obtain them. If there is someone I could contact concerning translating my records, I would appreciate the information.

Sincerely, Bonnie nee Kolupailo Atwood

Editor's note: Hi Bonnie, thanks for the inquiry. Hopefully someone reading this newsletter will be able to help you get those documents translated. Alternately, you may want to check out the Polish Genealogical Society of America's website at http://www.pgsa.org/Research/translators.php where you'll find a long list of people who translate genealogical documents. It is a fee based service. Good luck Bonnie!

Recently at PGS-MN Meetings

On <u>Saturday</u>, <u>April 11</u>, <u>2015</u>, guest speaker Mary Bakeman discussed the development of the *Poor Farm Facilities in Minnesota*. In her presentation was discussed how the facilities functioned, where they were located and the records that were created.



Help for the poor can be traced back to early centuries; the first laws were established in the 1600s. Relief for the poor was considered a Christian duty; a duty to help the downtrodden as they are victims of circumstances beyond their control. However, in 1834, a New Poor Law was established. The thinking has changed over the years such that the poor were no longer considered victims of circumstance but as responsible for their situations. The new law and new thinking was there is a duty to help the poor but only to the extent such that would help them to "make it on their own" again.

Relief for the poor started with various types of plans or ideas. Major types of relief included outdoor relief. Outdoor relief is the neighborly or church-based type of relief, such as treating them in their own homes, giving them a cow or a garden plot to use to help them survive, if not, thrive. Establishing employment contracts was another type of relief, similar to outdoor relief but based on the skills of the family or person. It was sort of the like the orphan train concept where the children were supposed to be taken care of in turn for their working in the homes or on the farms. This was not a well received option or practice.

Then there was the concept of hiring overseers for all the poor. These were oftentimes large land owners who would allow the poor to live on their land and work it for him. This concept provided cheap labor for the landowner and a place to live for the poor person. Eventually, the government got into the picture with creating the municipal

almshouse. Sometimes these almshouses were titled asylums or work houses. Many with terms today we would consider politically incorrect!

The 1860 Census in Minnesota showed there were 150 people in poor farm/institutions. The 1870 Census in Minnesota showed there were 400 people in poor farms/institutions. What caused this large increase? Two things stand out: 1) the Civil War and 2) the "War within a War" in 1862, also known as the Dakota Uprising.

Where are the records? It Depends! Depends on which institution the ancestor was in, what type of record you are seeking, the time period involved, and whether the institution is still in operation or it is closed. Lots of things factor into searching for poor farm records. And there are a lot of places to search also based on who provided the care of these people. Could have been other family members or relations, the church, local, county, state, or federal government, one of the fraternal organizations, all the way up to a for-profit or non-profit corporation!

Mary suggested a good starting point is the MN Historical Society webpage at http://mnhs.org/genealogy/family/genieguide/health .php for Health and Welfare Records. For reading, she recommends, *More than a Roof: The Development of Minnesota Poor Farms and Homes for the Aged*, by Ethel McClure, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1968. See handouts from the meeting at pages 7-9.

On <u>Saturday</u>, <u>May 2, 2015</u>, guest speakers JoEllen Haugo, and Jeanne Bouting from the Minneapolis Central Library presented, "*The Wealth of Family History at Your Public Library*." This meeting was a very informative presentation which included handouts describing many genealogy sources and special collections available at the Minneapolis library.

Minneapolis Central Library resources include books, magazines, newsletters, journals; U.S. census records (1730-1930) via *Ancestry Library* Edition; city directories and telephone books for Minneapolis and St. Paul, maps, atlases, and gazetteers, microfilmed newspapers, and online resources such as Fold3 History & Genealogy Archives Plus, Genealogy Connect, HeritageQuest, and New York Time, Historical.

The Central Library also offers genealogical research assistance several days a week. You can check out their schedule at www.hclib.org.

Save the Date!!! Sixth Family History Fair will be held Saturday, October 31 at the Minneapolis Central Library

Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events

PGS-MN Meetings Notice

In order to support the high caliber of our speaker program, the PGSmn Board has created a Program Fund. This Fund will be used to defray the customary costs incurred by presenters at our meetings each fall and spring. To fill the fund, we are instituting admission fees for our meetings. Beginning with the 19 September 2015 meeting, members of PGSmn will be asked for \$2 to attend a meeting; non-members will be asked for \$5. Additional donations specific to this Fund are encouraged and can be made at any time. Thank you for your support in helping to sustain our speaker program. It is greatly appreciated.

PGSMN Member Meetings

Saturday, August 22

9 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. MGS Library, 4th floor boardroom 1185 Concord St., South St. Paul, MN

Speaker: William Graczyk

The family history records at the Latter Day Saints Library in Salt Lake City, Utah are the best in the world. William Graczyk, a genealogist who has worked with those records on a daily basis for many years, will be presenting at a special session to be held in the Twin Cities in August.

He will present a progression of his Polish ancestry search and the resources he personally used to trace his family history. He will include a section on his recent trip with Lukasz Bielecki in Poland, including maps and places to find them. Lukasz is the founder of the project in Poland called the "Poznan Project" which currently has recorded more than one million marriage records from 1800 to 1899. William will also include a section on the wide range of resources available at the Salt Lake City facilities.

There is no attendance fee and the lecture is open to all researching their ancestry.

Saturday, September 19

10 a.m. – 12 noon MGS Library, 4th floor boardroom 1185 Concord St., South St. Paul, MN

Speaker: Susan Weinberg

In 2011 Susan Weinberg, an artist and genealogist, began the Jewish Identity and Legacy Project. A project that was to span several years. By its conclusion, Susan had completed a series of 17 interviews of elders and their families. The elders resided at Sholom Home and represented the three strands of Jewish immigration that make up the Twin Cities Jewish community; those who grew up in early immigrant communities, survivors who came over after the war, and immigrants from the former Soviet Union who came in the latter part of the 20th century. Susan distilled the stories into video, artwork and text. Together they capture a snapshot of a community composed of multiple threads united by a common root, but with distinct differences based on when they came to America. Susan will share the story of the project and the stories within it through both video and artwork.

As a genealogist, Susan focuses on Jewish heritage and makes use of some of the unique aspects within the Jewish culture to trace family roots. In the second part of the session, Susan will share a mystery story that uncovers the linkages between families using tombstones and naming patterns, linking families across Easter Europe and the United States.



Friday, Saturday, Sunday, August 7-9 2015 Twin City Polish Festival!!!

Once again **PGS-MN** will be represented at the *Twin City Polish Festival*.

I am so excited to announce that once again PGS-MN has acquired time slots on the *Cultural Stage* (times to be determined)

Our President, Jay Biedny is in the process of putting together a short informational talk about what PGS-MN is all about and what great resources we have to offer our members.

Among the feature attraction will be the *The Baptismal and Marriage Indexes* from 5 local Mpls and St Paul Polish Churches and the White Eagle Insurance book put together by PGS member John Rys.

The second biggest attraction: *The Ten volume Polish surname Index books.* These books are an index of Polish surnames from the 1990's in present day Poland. We will help people locate their surnames and give them a map to take away showing the total of people with that surname in the different areas of Poland. It is so exciting to watch people make a connection to their heritage.

WE NEED YOU! Calling all PGS-MN volunteers!

Would you like to spend 3 or 4 hours networking with genealogy-minded people? Or how about just helping people find their surnames in the indexes. Or better yet, telling them your story about researching your family.

We are looking for Volunteers on Saturday and Sunday, anytime between 10:00am and 6:00pm, that would like to help make this year's presence a success.

Contact Dori Marszalek at 763-535-2296 before July 31st if you are interested in being a part of this great weekend.

No experience needed, just a friendly face and a desire to help.

Thank You,

Dori Marszalek PGS-MN Festival Chairperson













Minnesota's Poor Farms and Other Relief Efforts

Mary Hawker Bakeman, © April 2015, Roseville, MN

The first Minnesota Poor Farm was established in Ramsey County in 1854, the last in Norman County in 1926. Though Minnesota Territorial Law required local government to provide for care of the aged, 27 counties never established such a facility. With the state and then the federal government involved in relief for the aged, by the 1960s fewer than 20 counties still offered such homes. Those that remained operated like similar for-profit and non-profit facilities.

Recommended reading: More than a Roof: The Development of Minnesota Poor Farms and Homes for the Aged, by Ethel McClure, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1968

Early Institutions Founded by Private Organizations

- 1854 St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul
- 1865 Protestant Orphan Asylum, St. Paul
- 1865 Vasa Orphans' Home, Vasa
- 1867 Home for the Friendless, St. Paul
- 1869 Home of the Good Shepherd, St. Paul
- 1872 Cottage Hospital (later St. Barnabas), Minneapolis
- 1873 St. Luke's Hospital, St. Paul
- 1873 Minnesota Woman's Christian Home, St. Paul
- 1874 Woman's Christian Association Boarding Home for Women, Minneapolis
- 1875 Bethany Home, Minneapolis
- 1875 St. Luke's Hospital, Stillwater
- 1876 St. Joseph's Catholic Orphan Asylum, St. Paul
- 1878 Minneapolis Catholic Orphan Asylum

from Minnesota's State Hospitals, report of 31 January 1985, for the Minnesota State Planning Agency.



1900

State Asylums for the insane opened at Anoka and Hastings.

1861

Institute for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb established in Faribault.

1907

State Tuberculosis Sanatorium opened at Walker.

ota Sista Institution for the Education of the Deaf & Dumb, and the Blind, Faribault ca 1870



1863

School for the Deaf established in Faribault.

1911

The Asylum for the Dangerously Insane opened on the St. Peter State Hospital Campus (50 patients). Later, the name was changed to Minnesota Security Hospital.

"First Minnesots Insane Hospital," St. Peter ca 1868

1864

School program established in Faribault as the Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind: 1902-name changed to Minnesota School for the Blind; 1940-Name changed to Braille and Sight Saving School.

1866

Minnesota Hospital for the insane established at St. Peter. Opened in December, 1867 for 50 mentally ill patients. State training school called House of Refuge established in St. Paul for boys and girls.

1879

Hospital for the Insane opened at Rochester (68 mentally ill patients transferred from St. Peter).

1911

Gillette State Hospital for Crippled Children opened in St. Paul.

1912

Willmar Hospital Farm for Inebriates opened.

1881

Legislature directed that the School for Idiots and Imbeciles be connected with the Institute for Deaf, Dumb and Blind. In 1887, the school was made a department of the Minnesota Institute for Defectives (largest state

1917

Mentally ill patients admitted to Willmar State Hospital.

Institution). Present name is Faribault Slate Hospital.

1925

Cambridge School and Hospital for Mentally Deficient and Epileptics opened

1885

State School for Dependent Children

established at Owntonna.

Forgus Falls State Hospital ca 1913



St Paul Olsmaich-Planue Praes

1890

Fergus Falls Hospital for the Insane opened. (Eighty patients transferred from St. Peter.)

1938

Moose Lake State Hospital for the insane opened.

1950	Sandstone State Hospital for the in- sane established. (It was converted into a federal prison 1959.)	1971	Rochester State Hospital designated as the surgical center for the Department of Public Welfare, and the only other remaining surgery unit in the state hospital system at Anoka closed.	
1955	Lake Owasso Annex (to Cambridge State Hospital) established for men- tally retarded children.	1972	Minnesota Residential Treatment Center for children at Anoka State Hospital closed.	
Minneesta Co.	lony for Epileptics, Cambridge on 1925			
		1973	Responsibility for Gillette Children's Hospital removed from the State Department of Public Welfare and transferred to the Gillette Hospital Authority.	
1958	Brainerd School and Hospital for mentally retarded people opened.		Right to treatment in state hospitals established by state law.	
1961	State geriatric facilities opened at Air- Gwah-Ching and Oak Terrace, former tuberculosis facilities.		Mental retardation program opened at Willmar State Hospital.	
1963	State residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children opened at Lino Lakes.	1975	Sex offender treatment program es- tablished at Minnesota Security Hospital.	St. Pater State Security Hospital ce 1940
1968	Unit for mentally retarded people established at St. Peter State Hospital.			London William
1969	Mentally retarded residents from Faribault State Hospital transferred to a newly established unit at Rochester State Hospital. Mental retardation unit opened at Moose Lake State Hospital.	1976	Lake Owasso Children's Home trans- lerred from Cambridge State Hospital to Ramsey County. Glen Lake Sanatorium no longer pro- vided services for tuberculosis.	
1970	Unit for chemically dependent people established at St. Peter State Hospital. Owatonna State School closed. Students not returned to the community were transferred to Brainerd State Hospital.	1977	The Minnesota School for the Deaf and the Braille and Sight Saving School, on the Faribault State Hospi- tal campus, transferred to the Department of Education.	Minnerate Historical Society
I	Minnesota Learning Center estab- listied at Brainerd State Hospital. Minnesota Residential Treatment Center for emotionally disturbed chil- dren was transferred to Anoka State Hospital from Lino Lakes.	1978	Hastings State Hospital closed. Legislature approved the construc- tion of a new 165-bed security hospi- tal on the St. Peter campus.	ÿ
1971	Establishment of programs for men- tally ill and chemically dependent people at Brainerd State Hospital. Tuberculosis unit at Anoka closed.	1982	Rochester State Hospital closed.	

Missing Branches (cont'd from page 20)

Wysocki, Jim, 345 Spring Ave., Troy, NY 12180-5215, Researching: WYSOCKI of Northeast Poland – maybe Nowerutki or Bargkowo, settling in Cohoes? Albany city, NY; KALINOWSKI of Northeast Poland – maybe Janówka, settling in Cohoes, Albany City, NY.

Youngstrom, Gary, 880 Lyn Way, Hastings, MN 55033-4505, gyoungstrom@comcast.net, Researching: SWENTEK of Bokanik, Poland, settling in South St. Paul, MN, SVANTEK of Srarow, SWENTIK.

Renewing Members:

email correction from Spring 2015 issue for Schultz, Jeffrey R., 4327 Upton Ave. N., Mpls., MN 55412-1009, jrschult@hotmail.com, Researching: WESOLOWSKI, JASKOWIAK, SCHULTZ, and SZULC of Poznan, settling in St Paul, MN.

Backowski, Robert and Mary Anne, 17384 Riverwood Dr., Little Falls, MN 56345-6649, Researching: BACKOWSKI, JADZEWSKI, LASHINSKI/LESZCZYNSKI, RINGWELSKI.

Conrad, Colleen, 4640 Park Dr., West Des Moines, IA 50265, conradisu@yahoo.com, Researching: MOCADLO/MOCZADLO of Kaweczyn, Debica, settling in Minneapolis, MN and Thorp, WI; SWIENTON/SWIETON of Braciejowa, settling in Minneapolis, MN and Thorp, WI.

Davy, Joan, 5225 Grandview Square, #314, Edina, MN 55436, *jcdavy@aol.com*, Researching: NOVAK settling in Chaska, Willow River, and St. Paul, MN; JANBOSKI settling in Chaska and Willow River, MN; ZYWICKI, JACZKOWSKI of Karsin, Chojnice, Bydgoskiego, Poland, settling in Winona and Willow River, MN.

Hall, Jenny, 140 Silvermere, Fayetteville, GA, 30215, kerjen@bellsouth.net, Researching: ZELAZNY of Okocim, settling in Minneapolis, MN; SHUDY settling in Pine County, MN; KACZMARCZYK and BIERNAT settling in Minneapolis, MN.

Kita, Terry, 5036 Queen Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410, terrykita@earthlink.net, Researching: KITA of Lubasz, Poznan, Poland, settling in Door County, WI; SMITH/SZMYT/SZMIT of Prusinowc, Poznan, Poland, settling in Door County, WI.

Kowalczyk, Albert A., 3704 Ladyslipper LN, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443, ajkowal009@comcast.net, Researching: KOWALCZYK of Jaslo, settling in Winona, MN; PUCHALLA, SCHWIENTEK/SCHWINTEK/ SWINTEK settling in Morrison County, MN.

Kush, Raymond D., 3404 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55408, raymonddkush@aol.com, Researching: KUŚ/KUSH, WOJCIK, PYZIK, NIZIOLEK of Ołpiny, Galicia, Poland, settling in Chicago, IL.

Muellner, Lois, 2320 Bonaire Path W., Rosemount, MN 55068, Lois.Muellner@gmail.com, Researching: LIPINSKI of West Prussia, settling in LaSalle, IL and Wilno, MN; SKORCZEWSKI of West Prussia, settling in Chicago, IL and Wilno, MN; BEDNAREK, LOZINSKI of Poznan, settling in Chicago, IL and Wilno, MN.

Rys, John and Judy, 3613 Williamsburg Ct., Woodbury, MN 55129, john@john.rys.name, Researching: GLOWCZAK, JAROSZ settling in Minneapolis, MN; ZAJAC of Jordawow, settling in Minneapolis, MN; GRUCA of Spytkowice, settling in Minneapolis, MN; JABLONSKI, RYS of Toporzysko, settling in Minneapolis, MN; MACIASZEK of Wysoka, settling in Minneapolis, MN.

Stawarz, Ray and Helen, 70 Oakview PL., Owatonna, MN 55060, rrstawarz@gmail.com, Researching: ANDREW STAWARZ of Leki Gorne, Poland, settling in Chicago, IL.

Zabel, Mark, 1804 Alta Vista Dr., Roseville, MN 55113, Researching: WOZNIAK, KOWALCZYK. PGS-MN

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Announcement from the Immigration History Research Center

Polanie Club Records to be added to the Immigration History Research Center Archives

By Ellen Engseth

Curator of Immigration History Research Center Archives and Head, Migration and Social Services Collections

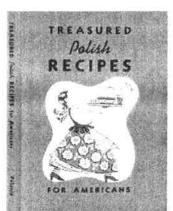
The Immigration History Research Center Archives (IHRCA) is very pleased to announce a major addition to their collections, the Records of the Polanie Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Due to the archival vision and stewardship of Club leaders Marta Swica and Deb McPherson, approximately 30 feet of Club records and books arrived this winter at their new home, the IHRCA. The *Polanie Club Records* will become a key collection at the IHRCA, contributing to the broader story of the role of immigrant clubs, women, and female-led ethnic organizations.

The Club's 87 years of historical records are comprised of administrative material, scrapbooks, books, photographs and audio-visual material; taken as a collection, they comprise a full and rich history of this local club and its role in the national landscape of Polish American organizations.

Polanie Club founded in 1927

Polanie was founded in 1927 by Polish American women living in the Twin Cities. An invitation-only club, with a strong tradition in publishing, it is



a prime example of a female club publishing venture. Polanie published numerous books through the years, including their revered *Treasured Polish Recipes for Americans* first published in 1948. Other major club

activities included hosting conventions, Wigilia celebrations, and a scholarship program.

This gift provides the IHRCA an exciting opportunity to "cross-collect" with our colleagues the Children's Literature Research Collections (CLRC); the donation included a group of Displaced Persons post-World War II children's literature. These titles were published in Poland in the 1940s and 1950s, and according to Club members, provide today and tomorrow's researchers with an excellent example of Communist-era published propaganda emanating from Poland. These books will become part of the CLRC, cross-referenced to the collection of records in the IHRCA.

Polanie Club generously provided with the records a welcome one-time gift of \$20,000, for which we are most grateful. The Polanie Club Records are currently being arranged and prepared by Archives and Special Collections' Central Processing, along with the IHRCA's staff, and the University Libraries' Metadata Unit. It will be available this summer to the public for research.

Thank you Polanie Club!

Source: http://www.continuum.umn.edu/2015/05/polanie-club-records-to-the-immigration-history-research-center-archives

Polanie Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Records

Finding Aid

IHRC Archives

Immigration History Research Center Archives, University of Minnesota

Descriptive summary

Creator:

Polanie Club of Minneapolis,

Minnesota

Dates:

1920s-2014

Abstract: Organizational records are comprised of constitution and by-laws, meeting agendas and minutes, correspondence, photographs and other materials documenting 80 years of existence of the Minneapolis Polish American women's club.

Quantity: ca. 37 linear ft.

Language: English, Polish

Collection ID:

IHRC2161

Provenance/Processing

Collection acquired from the Polanie Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota (Marta Swica) in 1998 and 2015. Collection is currently being processed. Expected to be available for research in late 2015.

Historical Sketch

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis was founded in 1927 by a group of Polish American women in Northeast Minneapolis. It organized cultural and educational events, awarded scholarships and promote Polish language and culture. In the 1940s, the Club began its publishing activities which over time grew into a successful business. The Club closed down its operations in 2014.

Access Restrictions

Collection is currently being processed. Expected to be open for research in late 2015.

Ownership & Literary Rights

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota collection is the physical property of the Immigration History Research Center Archives, University of Minnesota.

For further information regarding the copyright, please contact the IHRC Archives.

Cite As

The Polanie Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota Records, Polish American Collection, IHRC Archives, University of Minnesota

Index Terms

Polish

Women

Social life and customs

Education

Community life

Source: http://ihrc.umn.edu/research/vitrage/all/po/ ihrc2161.html PGS-MN

Greetings to the Minnesota Genealogy Group (with members from everywhere!)

It's that time again – we're beginning to plan for our annual trip to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library! We are looking forward to seeing old friends (it's like a family reunion each fall) and meeting new ones.

September is a great time to be in Utah! Here are the dates, rates, etc., for our 2015 trip:

<u>Dates</u> – This year our week is in the middle of September – our dates are

Sunday, September 13 to Sunday, September 20

Place – Salt Lake Plaza Hotel
122 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104
Telephone – 801-521-0130

Rates – single or double rooms, \$87.00; triple or quad, \$94.00. To make sure that you get the group rate when you call the hotel to register, be sure to mention that you are with the Minnesota Genealogy Group. The cut-off date for our group to register at this rate is one month before we arrive – August 13, 2015. It's a good idea to register early, though – better to cancel a room if you have to rather than try to locate a room when they've been filled.

As we get closer to our time in SLC, we'll be sending more details, including the times for Sunday evening's registration, the location of Monday night's dinner, and what type of pictures to bring to the Friday night party. (An apology – at last year's end-of-the-week party, we forgot to ask what discoveries, etc., had been made during the week. This year, we'll remember!)

As always, if you plan on joining us, an email to either Linda Huss at lip@hussmail.com or Kathy Deiss @ kathdeiss@yahoo.com would be appreciated. Feel free to forward this info to any of your friends who might want to join our group — they would be most welcome!

Utah in September is beautiful, and the weather is always great in the library! We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Linda & Kathy

Poland & 1st World War (cont'd from page 1)

forces during WWI that affected Poles and the creation of Poland. The book is available in the MGS Library and the page references I give in parentheses denote the page in volume 2 of Davies's work that provides the information. Davies's shorter history of "Poland, Heart of Europe," gives some additional information about the formation of modern Poland.

The Russian Army offered an honorable career to sons of noble families. Peasants were conscripted also, with a requirement of 25 years of service. During the time of the partition, Poles served in all of the Russian Empire's wars and even in the efforts to put down Polish uprisings. (94-95) "Although Polish Catholics fared less well in the service of Protestant Prussia and Orthodox Russia, Polish names can be found on the staff list, and the rolls of honor of all three imperial armies." (270)

During WWI, Poles fought along side the Germans in the hope that their loyalty would encourage Germany to look favorably the prospect of an independent Poland at the end of the war. Unlike Ireland and its relationship to Britain, there was no Easter Uprising in the partitioned area against the partitioning power. (137) Of course, Germany was fighting against Russia in WWI and Poles could have found themselves facing each other in the battle.

Both Russia and Germany tried to conform the areas in their partitions to their own culture. Germany made special efforts to encourage Germans to move into the partition. In 1886, Bismarck created the Prussian Colonization Commission to encourage German settlers. By the time the effort ended in 1913, the Commission had to admit defeat as both the number of Germans in the partition and the amount of land that they occupied was less than at the beginning of the effort. (129-130) The Russians hoped that service in the Russian Army by the various peoples in its

empire would encourage social integration. Also, after the 1905 revolution in Russia, there was some liberalization of the treatment of Poles.

Compared to the effort by Germany to change the racial makeup of its partition, Austria appeared to be almost benevolent as Polish culture and ideas were allowed to be kept alive it its partition. As the war progressed and the partitioning powers began to see their prospects dim, overtures were made to the Poles to gain their political support.

By 1916, the Germans were willing to bend and make their policies more like those of Austria, allowing Polish culture and language. It is said that during WWI the Poles actually became more Polish. As the war progressed, the possibility of independence rather than merely living as Poles under the rule of another country may have caused this change to a more nationalistic attitude.

The dissatisfaction with the partition and the ferment just before and during WWI led to the formation of a variety of Polish political organizations. Two leaders who stand out during this time are Roman Dmowski of the Polish National Committee and Jozef Pilsudski of the Polish National Organization. (288) The Polish National Committee was a Russian plan to offer Poles autonomy and additional land, to be won from Germany and Austria, in exchange for Polish support for Russia during the war. Dmowski tended to be passive and diplomatic. Pilsudski and the Polish National Organization tended to be active and dedicated to fight for Polish independence.

At the outbreak of the war, Pilsudski help to found the Polish Legion that would fight under Austrian command against Russia. As the fortunes of war changed and Germany became the dominate partner of the Central Powers, control of the Legion passed to the Germans.

In 1916, Germany and Austria agreed to establish the Kingdom of Poland. The purpose of the

Kingdom was to encourage Poles to fight for the Central Powers. The Kingdom, however, was to be a client state of Germany, which would expel Poles and Jews from some historic Polish areas and annex them to Germany. Some of the land of the proposed Kingdom had to be taken from Russia. The establishment of the Kingdom did not raise the expected troops and only the withdrawal of Russia from the war and the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk provided the means to establish the Kingdom.

Jozef Pilsudski joined the new Kingdom and served as the Minister of Defense for a short time. But once it was clear that the Tsar would fall and that the US, with its entry in the war, favored an independent Poland, Pilsudski resigned from the government. He was imprisoned by the Germans, which gave him standing among the Poles favoring independence. After the US entry into the war and the publication of President Wilson's Fourteen Points that supported establishing an independent Poland, other counties got on the Polish National bandwagon.

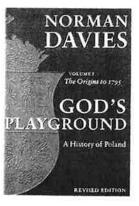
Despite the efforts and intentions of the Poles during the war, they had little say over whether a new Poland would be established. In particular, the Poles were given little opportunity to fight for their independence. (392) Almost two million Poles served in the war with about one million casualties just about equally split between death and wounded. (382) In addition, more than one-half million Polish civilians were killed during the war.

The Poles could credit the creation of the new Polish nation to the collapse of the three empires that had partitioned it, particularly the 1918 revolution in Berlin and the abdication of the Kaiser. In addition the rising tide of nationalism during and after the war and Wilson's Fourteen Points meant that the new nation received support and encouragement from other nations. With the fall of the Kaiser, Pilsudski was released by the Germans and returned to the new Poland to lead the nation.

In "The World Crisis: Aftermath," one of the volumes of Winston Churchill's history of WWI, he wrote of "the astounding triple event" that had occurred. Russia, Austria, and Germany had all suffered losses and Poland was no longer held by these powers. Churchill wrote of the end of the partition: "The hour of Destiny had struck; and the largest crime of European history, triumphantly persisted in through six generations, was now to pass away."

Norman Davies wrote, "To at least one skeptical commentator, the creation of an independent Poland in 1918 was the result of 'a fluke'. To people of a religious turn of mind, it looked like a miracle." (392)

But if Poles escaped fighting for the establishment of the new nation, they had to fight to preserve that new nation. Poland fought wars from 1918 through 1921 with intense courage and determination. Its borders were not finalized until 1922 and recognition by other countries came as late as 1923. **PGS-MN**

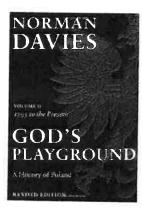


God's Playground: A History of Poland, Vol. 1: The Origins to 1795 Paperback – July 1, 2005

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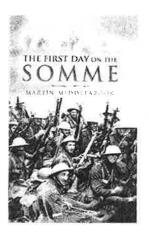
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Heart of Europe: The Past in Poland's Present Paperback – August 23, 2001

by Norman Davies,
Paperback: 520 pages,
ISBN-10: 0192801260

Suggested reading from http://www.worldwar1.com



The First Day on the Somme by Martin Middlebrook

Pages: 352

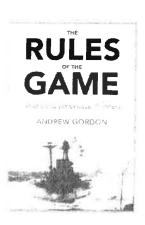
Publisher: Pen and Sword Military (May 25, 2006)



The Price of Glory: Verdun 1916 by Alistair Horne

Pages: 388

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reissue edition (Jan. 1, 1994)



The Rules of the Game:
Jutland and British Naval
Command
Andrew Gordon (Author) &
Paul Wilderson (Editor)

Pages: 722

Publisher: Naval Institute

Press; Reissue edition

(Feb. 21, 2013)

A Book to Consider....

By Peggy Larson

While reading about this summer's newsletter topic, Poland and the First World War, I came across a book entitled "In the Russian Ranks: A Soldier's Account of the Fighting in Poland." This book is a first-hand account of what it was like to serve in the Russian army during the war. It was written by John Morse, an Englishman, in 1915, and published by Grosset & Dunlap Publishers, New York. It is Mr. Morse's account of his experiences serving under the Russian command as a British citizen.

Mr. Morse was in Germany on a business trip at the outset of the war. He planned to conduct his business and then spend some days on holiday in Germany, a country he had heard great things about for its beauty and hospitality. Alas, war started. Mr. Morse was advised by a military friend to leave Germany ASAP by crossing the Russian frontier because all Englishmen in Germany were in danger of being jailed. The plan was for him to reach Kalisz (a town about 140 miles from Warsaw), then from there take a train to Riga where it was thought he would be able to get steamboat passage to England. But things change as he travels across the countryside.

I won't get to finish reading the entire book before the deadline for publication of this newsletter, but I found this book interesting and so I'm going to share portions of it with you and maybe you'll get interested in reading it also. This book is over 100 years old so it is in the public domain and you can download it from the internet for free if you'd like to have your own copy.

Some of the Story

When Morse gets to the town of Kalisz he wonders why he finds no Russian troops preparing for war. He explains,

"Kalisz is an open town, with a single line running to Warsaw, 140 miles, via Loz and Lowicz. The nearest branch lines are the Warsaw-Tchenstochow on the south, with nearest point to Kalisz about ninety English miles away; and the Warsaw-Plock line to Thorn, with nearest point to Kalisz also about ninety miles. So far as transport was concerned, the Russian were not in it at all.

For on the German side of the frontier there is a complete and very elaborate network of railways, so that the Teuton could mass 1,000,000 men on Kalisz long before the Muscovite could transport 100,000 there. This is what harassed the last-named Power – want of railways. Wherever they tried to concentrate, the Germans were before them, and in overwhelming numbers. It is her elaborate railway system that has enabled Germany to get the utmost from her armies-to get the work of two or three corps, and in some cases even more, out of one. Her railways have practically doubled her armed force—this at least.

The Germans are masters of the art of war and have been so for fifty years; the Russians are hard fighters, but they are not scientific soldiers. The Germans have consolidated and perfected everything that relates to armed science; the Russians have trusted too much to their weight of numbers......

It was its isolated situation and great distance from a base that made Kalisz the weak point on the Russian frontier, and the German Eagle saw this and swooped on it as a bird of prey on a damless lamb. "

John Morse witnesses German soldiers committing "ferocious murders" and other treacherous activities during his travels to Kalisz and these experiences increase his feelings of insecurity and uncertainty and he knew he needed to escape

immediately. The city of Kalisz is overrun with German military so he tries to reach Lodz. He is unsure of the reception he will or would get from Russian military but he figures it can't be worse than what he has received from already from the Germans.

As a student of military matters, Mr. Morse observes the machinations of the German military. When he finally encounters the Russian military the information he has gathered is of great interest to the Russian leaders and they endeavor to make John comfortable and offer to help him on his way to Riga or anywhere else he might choose. This is when John joins to fight alongside the Russians,

"The offer was made to send me on to Riga or Libau, or any port I might choose; and to facilitate my departure to my own country; but I am an Englishman, thank God, and I was not inclined to turn my back on my country's foes until I had seen the whites of their eyes and let them see mine. For by this time we were beginning to learn soething of German dirt, and German cruelty."

Interesting passages from the book

"The Russian officer is usually a splendid fellow; jovial, polite, generous and frank in a high degree. His is not so well versed in the history and theory of his profession as the German officer, and not a patch on his British comrade, who, after all is said and done, is the finest officer in the world. As to pluck and courage, there is not an appreciable difference in any of the armies. I witnessed some magnificent instances of bravery in both Germans and Russians; and truth to tell, acts of devilish cruelty in both nations—acts which I do not believe it is possible either French or British officers could commit, however great the provocation.

There are peculiarities in all peoples; and one of those of the Russians is the number of females serving in their ranks, many of them as officers. Indeed, I heard that one lady commanded a regiment of Cossacks! This seems to me on a par with a General nursing a baby! But I never was 'a lady's man,' so perhaps I had better reserve my opinions. All I say is that I am glad the lady referred to was not the Colonel of any regiment under the wings of which I fought; and I should imagine that any 'mere male' brought before a court-martial of Amazons would stand more danger of being spanked than shot.

I saw some of these female soldiers—quite a score in all. There was nothing particularly romantic in the appearance of any of them. Most of them had the appearance of big, lanky raw-boned boys; faces oval, features 'puddeny,' and complexions pale. One girl, said to be only eighteen years old, was quite six feet high, with limbs that would fit a grenadier. I noticed that all those I saw were darkhaired women. They are said to have been enlisted as men and to have remained in their regiments some time before their sex was discovered. When this event took place the woman was allowed to remaining the service. I was a little curious to know where these ladies lodged, as accommodation in always limited enough in the tented field. I found that, in the case I was so rude as to pry into, the girl slept amongst the soldiers, but was relegated to a tent occupied exclusively by married men. My admiration was great. The wisdom of the serpent combined with the harmlessness of the dove but in a tent full of married men unless, indeed, it would be in a tent full of married ladies?

The Northern nations are not prudish in the matter of housing the sexes together. Men and women sleep promiscuously in one compartment in their cottage, farms, etc."

"For a time the Russian attacks were irresistible, but the Germans invariably succeeded in stemming them. The reason lies in a nutshell. The enormous weight of millions forced the enemy back; but he always retired slowly, doggedly; and when he had collected a sufficient force made a determined counter-attack which never failed, because man for man the German is by far the better fighter. It may be unpleasant to many to hear this; but it is true; and no man is more sorry than I am that it is so. The German is, generally speaking, a ferocious brute, but he is possessed of the bestial courage of a tiger, and, like that fierce animal, has an insatiable taste for blood. To say that the German Army is an organized band of criminals, a trained body of thieves and murderers, may seem to be far-fetched and exaggerated to some persons; but if they had witnesses what I have witnessed they would not say so."

"The murder and mutilation of the wounded was invariable when the enemy had time to effect it, and we became to some degree hardened to such commonplace occurrences.

On the other hand, the Russians retaliated; and I say, what wonder that they did so? I believe in retaliation. It is a powerful weapon to fight with. It frightened the Germans and afterwards, to a very marked extent, put a check on their atrocities."

"Still I must say, with regard to the Cossacks-they are terrible fellows. I have mentioned as a peculiarity of the Russian forces the number of women found in their ranks and welcomed there. The great peculiarities of the German Army, apart from its fiendish brutality, are the prevalence of suicide and insanity in it. Some months later than the time I am writing of, a captured German officer, a Lieutenant, I believe, of a Landwehr regiment, told me that down to the end of February, 1915, at least a thousand men had destroyed themselves; and he mentioned it as a curious fact that hardly any of these miserable creatures belonged to the artillery branch of the service. The reasons for destroying themselves were rarely left behind by the victims of this terrible infatuation. Some of our prisoners destroyed themselves; and I saw one mans hoot himself on the battlefield. But in this latter instance horror at the sights around him was the probably cause of the deed."

"Insanity is even more frequent amongst German soldiers than suicide. At the battle of Darkehmen a man, quite naked, foaming and gesticulating wildly, rushed towards us. The astonishment this excited caused a lull of the firing at the spot, and he dashed along for 500 yards at a tremendous speed, leaping and springing like a stag. He made straight for our ranks, where he was knocked down by a soldier and secured. He bit very badly several of his captors before being carried to the rear. I do not know what became of him; but hundreds of our prisoners were raving when captured."

"Both sides, also, but the Germans principally, began to form entrenchments; and two new devices came into use in modern warfare—viz., hand-grenades and armour breastplates. The grenades were peculiar things, not at all resembling the weapons which gave our Grenadiers their name; of a kind of elongated pear-shape, these were iron cases divided into segments, and attached to a stick which fitted the barrel of a rifle and enabled them to be shot at an acute angle, into trenches. They were, also, thrown by hand, and were nasty viperish things, often doing a great deal of damage."

"The shields were a kind of iron breastplate, roughly made, and held in a hand by means of metal handles; so that the men had to drop them when they fired their rifles, or used their bayonets: but afterwards they were attached to the body by means of straps. Except at short range they were bullet-proof. The method of use was for the front rank in a mass of close columns to hold them up, protecting themselves and comrades until they closed with the foe, when they were thrown down that their bearers might use the bayonet. Hundreds of them were taken by the Russians; but the contrivance was too clumsy, and was soon abandoned by both sides. Before the men could drop them and unsling their rifles they were heaps of corpses. The grenades, however, held their own, and were much used in trench warfare."

"The Cossack has a strong disinclination to be taken prisoner; and I knew of several of them sacrificing their lives rather than fall into the hands of the Germans, who heartily detest these men and usually murdered such as they succeeded in catching—and murdered them after preliminary tortures, according to reports which reached us. The country people certainly showed no mercy to stragglers falling into their hands. They usually pitch-forked them to death; and this lethal weapon was a favourite with the ladies on both sides of the border, many a fine Teuton meeting his end by thrusts from this implement. For in some of the fights the peasantry, including women of all ages, took part, and showed that farm instruments are as deadly as any kind of "arme blanche," ("Arme blanche" is the term used by military scientists to include bayonets lances, and swords of all descriptions. Perhaps the nearest English equivalent is "cold steel.")"

"Sometimes the prisoners mistook me for a German; and I did not always undeceive them. Many of them were miserably ignorant creatures; and I formed the opinion that State interference with the education of either the Classes or the Masses is not such a benefit to the people of a country as many meddlesome faddists would like us to believe. Probably there are very few Germans who cannot read and write; but thee are qualifications which may be much perverted if they are not "founded upon a rock.""

"All through the 18th (September 1914) there was very heavy artillery firing, in which the Germans got much the worst of it, as their guns were light; but on the 19th they had some heavy pieces in position which did us some damage, blowing in many yards of trenches, and destroying hundreds of men. We had, however, no experience of the terrible "Jack Johnsons," nor had we, so far heard of those monstrous pieces of artillery." [Note: A 'Jack Johnson' was the British nickname used to describe the impact of a heavy, black German 15-cm artillery shell.]

"Bread was a species of "hard tack" compared with which dog biscuits are fancy food: cheese was a wretched soft mess resembling wet putty, sour and peculiarly flavoured. Meat was plentiful and good, especially German pork, and fowls, many of which were large and fleshy."

"That the railways were the means by which they obtained their victories was proved by a curious fact. When the Russians were beaten back so far that the Germans could not command their railed lines of communication, and were thus placed on an equality with the Russians, they began to lose ground, and Russians to gain it."

"There must be considerable monotony in describing such a war as this I am treating of. To a great extent land=-fighting, like naval encounters, has lost its picturesqueness, and has become little more than a disgusting slaughter. A good deal of the action is similar to the fighting of rats in a ditch. Trench warfare is horrible, with its villainous grenades and bombs, which are quire different from thee devices in former days, and are no better than tools in the hands of a butcher. It is useless to argue that a bob is a bomb, and that it cannot matter whether a man is blown to pieces by one of the ancient, or one of the modern type. It does matter a good deal—to the survivors, at any rate. The effect of modern shell-fire is hellish, its destructiveness is so great, it effects on its victims so awful, compared with anything of the kind that was formerly in vogue. Where one mean dies formerly from artillery fire, 500 go down now; and nearly all of them are mutilated most horribly."

Mr. Morse is correct. There is considerable monotony in reading this book about halfway through battle after battle. However, I found it interesting to reflect on the time period of the writing and to consider how might Mr. Morse think or feel if he saw how warfare is conducted in the 21st century compared to his day. I found this book provided some "food for thought." **PGS-MN**

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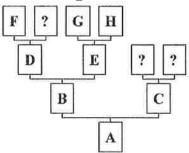
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Soyett, Maryland C., 431 Dudley, Ave., Shoreview, MN 55126-2305, *msoy8731@q.com*, Researching: **SOJAT** of Galacia, settling in Northeast Minneapolis, MN.

Missing Branches ...continued on page 10