



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5

WINTER 1997-98

NUMBER 4

PGS-MN MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Saturday, January 17, 1998, 10:00 a.m.
Minneapolis Public Library, Northeast Branch
2200 Central Avenue N.E.

OUR SPEAKER WILL BE:

Dennis Lewandowski

Dennis is a native of Foley, Minnesota, a computer engineer by profession, and a genealogist of more than 20 years' experience. A three-term past president of the Santa Clara County (California) Historical and Genealogical Society, he is preparing a community history of Benton County, Minnesota.

His presentation will cover several topics:

- * *The early years of Benton County's Polish-American community*
- * *Preserving old family photographs digitally (with a demonstration)*
- * *The merits of various genealogy software programs*

This will be a unique opportunity to share ideas about researching our common Polish heritage in Minnesota--bring your questions and comments!

COMING UP—MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

On Saturday, March 21, 1998, we will again present a three-part seminar as part of the Minnesota Genealogical Society's annual "Branching-Out" meeting at Oak Grove Intermediate School in Bloomington. This year's presentations will be:

- * *Your Polish Surnames*: a working session on meanings and geographic origins of Polish surnames.
- * *Silesian Poles in Central Minnesota* presented by Bob Prokott
- * *Polish Genealogical Sources on the Internet* by Mary Ellen Bruski

Other upcoming events:

A class sponsored by PACIM (Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota), **The History of Poland, 1795 to the present**, will begin on February 4th. The class will last 8 weeks, meeting each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. at PACIM Library, 514 22nd Ave. NE, Minneapolis. The instructor will be **John Radzilowski**. The cost is \$25.00. For more information contact: PACIM, PO Box 18403, Minneapolis, MN 55113. Phone: (612) 604-0210. e-mail: jrodzilow@aol.com

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PACIM will also sponsor an evening of **"Remembering Ethnic Northeast Minneapolis"** with presentations by **Genny Zak Kiley**, author of *Heart and Hard Work*, (see review on page 17), and **John Radzilowski**, ethnic historian and president of PACIM, on Thursday, February 5th at 7:30 p.m. at Logan Park Community Center, Broadway and Monroe Streets, NE Minneapolis. Both Genny and John are PGS-MN members. For more information call: (612) 604-0210.

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter

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The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Submission of items for publication is encouraged. Deadlines for inclusion of submitted material are Feb. 15, May 15, August 15 and Nov. 15 respectively. All articles, letters, book reviews, queries, news items, advertisements, etc. should be sent to: **Paul Kulas, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316-2145 or to e-mail: kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us**

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President's Letter

by Greg Kishel

No lengthy epistle about a single, stirring topic this time; rather, just my thoughts about the things your Society has done over the past year, and hopes to do over the coming one.

Our most noteworthy news for 1997 is the jump-starting of our home page on the World Wide Web. Early this fall Kathleen Matelski, our computer chair, took hold of the project with great energy. She quickly reformatted this new means of communication among our membership and to the cyber-world at large. We will now be posting meeting publicity on it; to my surprise and delight, at least two attendees at our October meeting found out about it and us from the Webpage. We will also include excerpts from recent issues of the *Newsletter* to broadcast the quality of our publication.

More importantly, Kathleen put several years' worth of members' surname-search entries from the *Newsletter's* "Missing Branches" column into a new segment of the Webpage. The result is that we are apparently the first Polish-American genealogical society to offer Internet publicity of surname queries to its members. To insure confidentiality and security, Kathleen has constructed the list without actually posting members' home or mail addresses or phone numbers. Responses to the posted queries of members without e-mail addresses will be channeled through the Computer Committee, which will then direct them by mail to the members. Mary Ellen Bruski, our membership chair, volunteered to take on this duty. They both have been busy.

We have already received compliments on this and the other aspects of our Webpage via e-mail, from as far afield as Australia. Whether your household has Internet access or not, then, you can still make good use of this resource, in a way that will directly aid your genealogical research. It's a wonderful reason to take and maintain membership in the PGS-MN. Tell your Polish genealogical friends to join for this reason, if none other!

Our more traditional activities went well this year also. Terry Kita, our research chair, input surname-search data from a large bag of membership applications and renewals into his computer. The result is our first booklet compilation of

queries. This booklet will be sent out early in 1998 to paid-up members. Another reason to renew for 1998. Paul Kulas and our stable of contributors enabled us to publish four very solid issues of the *Newsletter*; we continue to get praise for its mix of historical and practical information. With the help of some ideas from board and general members, I (as program chair) was able to schedule interesting and varied speakers and topics for meetings in 1997. As you can see from this issue, and will be hearing via separate announcement, I've been able to continue this for the first half of 1998. Our paid membership continues to grow; even with the degree of attrition that is common with any small and locally-based organization like ours, it should hit 250 by mid-1998.

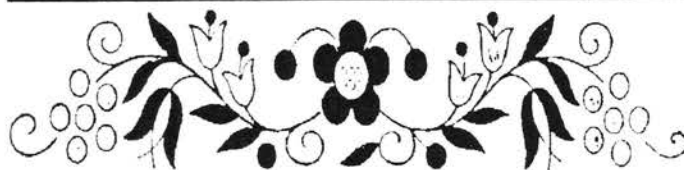
As you're all aware from my last President's Letter, we had to raise our dues to \$15.00 for 1998. As I explained, it had to come or we simply could not have continued to furnish you with a good publication, a growing library collection, and attractive meetings. The coming months will prove whether you all support the Society in spite of the increased cost. You will find your renewal form elsewhere with this issue. *Please send it in, with your 1998 dues, as soon as possible.* Having an early and accurate picture of our financial standing will enable the board to plan for the full year in a comprehensive way. Don't forget to update your surname queries and special interests--and send us your ideas for programs and library purchases.

At latest word, it looks like the Minnesota Genealogical Society's move to its new, larger library location on Highway 55 in Golden Valley will come in April, near the end of its lease at its current facility in St. Paul. Our collection, of course, will go along. In terms of convenience of access, there will be less for those of us in the East Metro, and more for those in Minneapolis and the western suburbs. Overall, however, it will benefit the PGS-MN greatly. The general public undoubtedly will visit the library more, quickly introducing us to beginning genealogists with Polish interests. More importantly, we will have free access to new and large meeting facilities.

The dust should settle from the MGS's move in the mid-spring. After that, we will schedule a special working session at the library--to promote your use of *Słownik geograficzny* (the classic Polish gazetteer that we hold on microfiche), *Słownik nazwisk* (a comprehensive directory of the current provincial frequency in Poland of virtually all Polish surnames), our new topographic maps of Poland, the new edition of Fred Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, our ever growing Church and Local History Collection,

and the other resources we've acquired recently. Watch for the announcement, and make sure that you come!

And that is all I have to report--as I said, no sermons this time, just the year in review! I look forward to serving another year as the PGS-MN's president, with the energetic members of our 1998 board, officers and at-large. I hope you all continue to share our enthusiasm for our hobby and our Polish ancestral tradition--pitch in! communicate! attend! contribute! And, just for the season, *Życzę wam szczęśliwego nowego roku!*--I wish you a prosperous and fortunate new year!



The Bulletin Board

The Spring, 1997 issue of *Polish American Studies* contains a very interesting article about Polish-American architect, Victor Cordella. The article, "**Victor Cordella and the Architecture of Polish and East-Slavic Identity in America**" by Geoffrey M. Gyrisco, discusses and pictures many of churches built by Polish and other East European ethnic groups in Minnesota. Among those designed by Cordella and discussed in the article are: **St. Mary's** Russian Orthodox Church, **St. John the Baptist** Greek Catholic Church, **St. Constantine's** Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, **St. Cyril's** Slovak Catholic Church, all in Minneapolis, **St. Casimir's** Church in St. Paul, **St. Joseph's** Church in Browerville, **St. Peter's** Church in Delano, **St. Mary of Czestochowa** Church in nearby Franklin Township, **St. Francis Xavier** Church in Buffalo, and **Our Lady of Lourdes** Church in Little Falls. Cordella also designed the 1903 commercial building for the Gluek Brewing Company in downtown Minneapolis.

The Spring, 1997 issue of *Polish American Studies* was edited by PGS-MN member, **John Radzilowski**. The entire issue was devoted to Polish-American architecture. Other articles include "Comparative Ethnic Church Architecture" by Richard Wolniewicz, and "Polish-American Farmhouses in Portage County, Wisconsin" by Geoffrey M. Gyrisco and Elizabeth Miller. The Wolniewicz article discusses ethnic churches, both traditional and contemporary, in Minneapolis and suburbs.

Bulletin Board, continued on page 20



Letters to the Editor *Liść do Redaktora*

Where do I go from here?

I'm attempting to trace my grandparents genealogy. They were both Polish. I'm enclosing copies of the documentation that I have located. Since they are in Polish and I cannot read this language, can you direct me to where: 1) I can get them interpreted. 2) I can determine when they came into this country. 3) What steps I should take, where to look. 4) Determine who their parents were, Where they were born, If they have any remaining relatives in Poland, How many siblings they had and if these siblings have any descendants I can locate. Any help you can give me in which direction I should go would be greatly appreciated.

**Cheryl Vokaty, 615 Ramsey St. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413**

Editor's reply: Of the two documents that you enclosed, one is in Polish and the other in Latin. The document in Polish (from the parish in Żywiec in the Archdiocese of Kraków) is a birth certificate of Karolina Białek. She was born on 9 August in the village of Moszczanica and baptized on 12 August 1894 in Żywiec. Her parents were Tomasz Białek and Regina Szczotka. The Latin document is a certificate of baptism of Franciszek Maciążka from the parish at Jordanów in the Archdiocese of Kraków. Franciszek was born on 12 September in the village of Toporzysko and baptized on 16 September 1893 in Jordanów. You are fortunate that this document lists both Franciszek's parents and grandparents. His father was Stanisław Maciążka whose parents were Józef (Maciążka) and Regina Budka. His mother was Katarzyna Kowalcze whose parents were Andrzej (Kowalczyk) and Tecla Jagus. An annotation on the document notes that Franciszek's marriage was "contracted in America (U.S.A)."

First citizenship papers usually indicate an immigrant's date of arrival in the US (Check for this at the Minnesota History Center). To see if any descendants remain in Poland, I would write to the two parishes. You can use the following addresses: Parafia Rzymsko-katolicka, 34-300 Żywiec, and 34-785 Jordanów (The zip codes were obtained from a Polish Zip code directory available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library). I suggest that you write in Polish (A translator is listed in the advertising insert of this newsletter).

Was Great-Grandmother Married?

Currently I am doing historical research on my parental grandparents who came from the Opole District in Poland. The family was a very strict Catholic family. According to the records I have found my great-grandmother had three (3) illegitimate children. A daughter born 1850, a son born 1854 and another daughter 1863. I am not naive but I just cannot image somebody having three illegitimate children during this time period.

According to my grandparents' marriage record my great-grandmother's last name is recorded as FAUCZ. The witness is my great grandmothers' brother, Lorenz FAUTSCH. How could the brother and sister misspell their last name on the same document? Another thing, in the Delano history book there is a family from Lubohitz, Germany (Poland) with the last name of FAUC.

One of my genealogy teachers said not to worry that sometimes the government did not allow the couple to marry but they would live together as man & wife. If they could not get married by the government could they be married by the church? Is it possible that my great-grandmother was living with a man by the name of FAUCZ married through the Catholic church but not recognized or married by the German government? Could you please tell me if this is true?

**Fran Konietzko Saucedo, 12706 Sand Piper Drive,
San Antonio, TX 78233-2738**

Editor's reply: Thank you for your letter. It makes for interesting speculation. First of all let me say that illegitimacy was not all that uncommon during the time period you mention (even in a very strict Catholic family)—though three illegitimate children is a bit unusual.

Regarding the possibility of a church marriage rather than a civil marriage: I would say that without some documentation of a church wedding, you should not assume that there was one. If there was a church marriage it would probably have been listed in the parish marriage records. Have you identified the parish and are the parish records available? Close study of parish records concerning this family during this time period may yield some clues.

Regarding the FAUCZ and FAUTSCH surnames: These two names are identical--Faucz is a Polish spelling and Fautsch is a German spelling of the same name. The Polish "cz" sounds the same as the German "tsch". The surname FAUC is probably also the same name--the Polish ł (a c with an accent mark) sounds similar (but not identical) to cz. The accent mark (or the z) was probably dropped in America.

First on the Internet?!

I came across the PGS of Minnesota site the other day at <http://www.dsenter.com/worldgenweb/Europe/Poland/pgs-mn.html>. Am I correct in observing that it is in fact, the first PGS in America to actually publish (on the Internet), its members surname research list, as well as all queries in its publication between Fall 96 and Fall 97? Well done PGS of Minnesota! Are any of the other PGS's in America actively working towards providing a similar service to their members?

Tom Wodzinski tomwodz@pcug.org.au
Canberra, AUSTRALIA

Editor's note: This note was posted on the internet. We are getting much exposure with our website. The site was down briefly after 27 Dec 1997 while Worldgenweb was being relocated. It is no longer at the address listed in the above letter. Please note that there is a link to it from our MGS webpage at: <http://www.mtn.org/mgs/branches/polish.html> Or you can access it directly at: <http://www.worldgenweb/eurogenweb/pgs-mn.html> Check us out.

Am I at a dead end?

My grandfather, **ALEXANDER BRILOWSKI**, arrived by ship in New York from Poland/Germany in 1881 (in March according to his Petition and Record enclosed). Can you help me find the name of the ship? Can you help me find out where he was born, who his parents were, etc.? Also my great-grandparents on my grandmothers' side, **THOMAS** and **ANNA LUDWIKOWSKI**, lived in Marshall County, MN in the 1880-90s. Anna (less Thomas) is listed in the 1895 MN Census as living with her son **MICHAEL** on a farm in Wanger Township, MN (Marshall County). Can you find out where and when Thomas and Anna died? Also, where in Poland/Germany they originated? Or am I at a dead end?

John M. Franks, 80 Foster Avenue,
Malverne, NY 11565-1938

Editor's reply: No you are not at a dead end. Far from it. Deciding the best research route to take from here is not always apparent, however. Let me suggest some possible options.

*Regarding your grandfather, **Alexander Brilowski**: You know that he arrived at the Port of New York in March of 1881. The National Archives in Washington DC has passenger arrival lists. Since you know the month and year of his arrival, it would not be that difficult to search all arrival lists of that month for the Port of New York until you find his name. This then would give you the name of the ship and also the port of exit in Europe. If the port of*

exit is Hamburg, those exit lists can also be searched. The Hamburg lists often indicate the village of origin in Europe. The National Archives has a regional archives in New York City where passenger arrival lists can be searched. Its address is: National Archives--Northeast Region, 201 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014. By the way, Alexander's Petition for Citizenship records that it is his intention to "renounce forever all allegiance . . . to the Czar of Russia." This indicates that he probably came from the Russian part of Poland rather than from the German portion. Also, Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U. S Ports, 1850- edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby lists many Polish immigrants who sailed from German ports. This multi-volume work is available at most large libraries and also at most genealogical or historical society libraries.

Church and civil records where the immigrant first settled often give clues to the place of origin in Europe. Did Alexander immigrate directly to Polk County, Minnesota? Did he marry and die there? The Minnesota Historical Society has extensive 19th century civil records of many but not all Minnesota counties. These records can easily be searched. They also have microfilmed virtually all newspapers published in Minnesota. Obituaries often give the place of origin in Europe. Where and approximately when did Alexander die? Also the Diocese of Crookston has gathered many of the early records of Catholic churches in the diocese. I have found that church records are often the most likely source for clues to European origins of immigrants. Do you know where or the name of the church your grandfather belonged to?

*Regarding your great grandparents **Thomas** and **Anna Ludwigowski**: A search of church and civil records and of newspapers in Marshall County may be your best research strategy. Again, many of the same questions asked above need to be asked. Did they settle directly in Marshall County or did they stop at some other American location first? If so, records at the first place of residence need to be searched. Do you have approximate marriage or death dates? Do you think they died in Marshall County? Where and when was Michael married? Did Thomas and Anna have other children and where and when were they married? Were the children born in Poland or in Minnesota? I guess I would first determine what civil records for Marshall County are available at the Minnesota Historical Society. If they have the early death records, these can easily be searched as they are usually indexed. If death records are found I would then see if the obituaries were published in a Marshall county newspaper. Searching church records might be the most productive but usually they are not as readily accessible as the Minnesota Historical Society records.*

Kaszuby--1997

by Shirley Mask Connolly
PGS-MN member, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

1997 was the year my dream of visiting Poland came true!!! I always wanted to travel to the land of my forefathers, but I never imagined that I would feel such an affinity to that country and to its culture! Poland is rich in art and music and tradition. Its architecture is ancient--amazingly preserved and lovingly restored. The cities are unique. Cracow is beautiful with its scenic location on the Vistula, its Castle and cathedral filled with tombs of Polish kings. Gdansk has a decidedly Hanseatic flavour in keeping with its historic significance as THE Polish port. Warsaw was leveled in WWII, but rebuilt with exact replicas of the old town buildings, royal palace and monuments.



But for me, the highlight of Poland was Kaszuby, which is a lovely rolling land of fields, forests and lakes. We visited a Kashubian ethnic park where we got a glimpse of the homes, the furnishings, the possessions, tools, etc. that my ancestors left behind. The **Maszk** family can be traced back to the parish of **Lipusz**

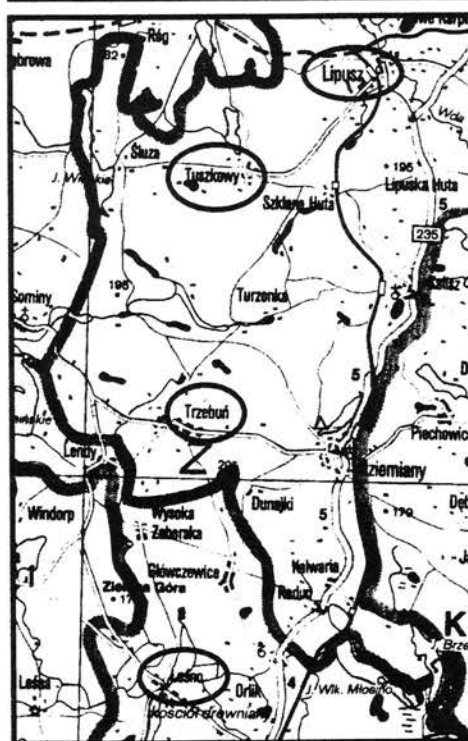
and the village of **Tuszkowy** from the earliest church records. They were first mentioned in parish documentation in the 1600's. However, in the 1860's, the Maszks moved south a few miles to **Trzebun** in the parish of **Lesno**. In this parish, my great great grandfather, Michael, married the widow **Bembenek**. She was of noble lineage, but typical of the Polish "blue bloods", she didn't have much to show for it other than a subtle hint of class!!! And you always thought I came from peasant stock!! Ha! Lesno has the most beautiful old wooden church dating back over 300 years. It was an incredibly moving experience to attend mass and to receive holy communion in that sacred place. The song: "You are standing on holy ground" kept playing in my head, as well as the voices of all my ancestors calling to me...welcoming me home! Lesno has so many connections...great grandma **Josephine Voldock** was also from this parish. Old great grandpa **Jacob Lipinski** was from Lipusz, as was great grandma, **Paulina Kulas**. The church in this parish is

solid brick, dating back to the mid 1860's.

And we found a Maszk family living on the land of our ancestors near the village of Tuszkowy. We visited with them in their simple cement farmhouse, drank crunchy Polish coffee and Dad chatted with them about the market for farm produce. Thank heavens we had Dad to translate.

We visited several Kashubian families and met with my friends, Malgozata Etmanska and her husband Christopher. They live in Gdansk and gave us the grand tour of the city. They also took us to Malgozata's parent's farmhouse to meet her family and have an absolutely delicious Polish meal. The pickled mushrooms were sensational! All that good eating made Dad pursue a rumour that you could get cheap dental work done in Poland. Dad is always after a bargain and he sure got one. Christopher arranged with his dentist for Dad to have a tooth capped and it cost only \$25.00--Dad figured that covered the expense of the trip!

What made our trip "fantastic" was the wonderful welcome we were given by our friends, the Visutskies. Jim Visutskie left Wilno, Ontario at the age of 16 and has "worked the world" ever since. He is now stationed with the Canadian Embassy in Warsaw. He and his wife, Lynne, treated us like family, picking us up at the airport, accommodating us in Warsaw, arranging hotels, trains and meetings, and lending us a Mercedes. It sure beat the back pack and bed and breakfast itinerary of our earlier European jaunts! I would love to go back!! "**Na Zdrowie**" (Polish toast - "to your health")



Portion of a map showing the location of the author's ancestral villages in Kaszuby. This area is located just southwest of Gdansk.

Source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy*, (Warszawa: GeoCenter, 1997), p. 30.

Scale: 1:200,000. PGS-MN has just purchased this newly available atlas. It will be available soon at the MGS Library.

Relatives in Browerville???

During the 1920s and 1930s, my great-grandparents, **Pawel** and **Karolina Gerlich**, and their family of Chicago, Illinois, vacationed in Browerville, Todd County, Iona township, Minnesota. They stayed with relatives "on the farm." In August of 1923, my grandfather, **Emanuel Kasper Roman Gerlich**, a recent widower with three small children, met **Mary Cecilia Krybus** who was also vacationing in Browerville. A few weeks later, on 15 August 1923, Emanuel and Mary wed in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Browerville. The witnesses were **Peter Bednarz** and **Monica Krybus**. After the wedding, they returned to Chicago, Illinois.

It is still a mystery to me who exactly these relatives were. Karolina's grandmother was **Agnes Bednarcz**, who was born on 12 January 1803 in Gross Stanisch, Silesia, German Empire. Karolina immigrated to the U.S.A. in the mid 1880s and married Pawel Gerlich. Karolina's family lived in an area of today's Poland, near Szczedryk, east of Opole, Silesia. A **John M. Bednarz** was born on 2 June 1860, baptized on 3 June, in Szczedryk, Silesia. John married **Frances Pelawa** in 1877 and they immigrated to the U.S.A. in October 1888. They settled in Browerville in 1889. I've been able to correspond with a generous gentleman, Mr. John Paul Bednarz, currently of North Dakota and New Mexico, who is one of the grandsons of John M. Bednarz. He has composed "**The Bednarz Family History**" and has been kind enough to mail me a copy. This history begins with John M. Bednarz. I've been able to locate the birth entry of John M. Bednarz in the church at Szczedryk. This church serviced both Karolina's family and John M. Bednarz back to December of 1765 when the church was founded. (Actually, in the 1820s the population increased causing an additional church to be founded). In

any case, I can trace my Agnes Bednarz to a Johan Bednarz born in approximately 1749 and John M. Bednarz to a Simon Bednarz born in approximately 1755. Both families lived within 25 miles of each other.

I would greatly appreciate any information that would confirm my suspicion that these two families are related. Many Minnesota newspapers have wonderfully documented christenings, weddings and funerals. Any of these might mention a link between these Bednarzs.

Thanks for your help.

**Dr. Gregory J. Gazda, 280 Forest Trail Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60523
Phone: 630-279-7156**

STANISH CAPELLA - GROSS STANISZKO

JOHAN BEDNARZ 5 FEB. 1775
1749 IN STANISH CAPELLA
9 FEB. 1809

MARIANNA KACZMARAK 1754-
18 JAN. 1814

BLASIUS BEDNARZ 21 FEB. 1802
3 FEB. 1779-26 MAR. 1837
IN GROSS STANISH

AGNES CZOK 19 APR. 1779-
13 MAY 1825

JAN DREJA 12 JAN. 1823
1795- GROSS STANISH 12 JAN. 1803-

MICHAEL BARTODZIEJ 21 OCT. 1844
29 SEPT. 1816-6 OCT. 1867
KOWALOWSKA

JOHANNA DREJA 6 FEB. 1824-
29 JUN. 1891

PAWEŁ GERLICH 5 NOV. 1888
7 JAN. 1881-17 JUNE 1938
IN CHICAGO, IL, U.S.A.

KAROLINA BARTODZIEJ 26 FEB. 1882-
8 JUNE 1938

EMANUEL KASPER ROMAN GERLICH 31 JAN. 1912
1 JAN. 1871-27 JULY 1971
IN CHICAGO, IL, U.S.A.

ROZALIA BARCZYNSKA 19 APR. 1890-
29 AUG. 1922

STANLEY JOHN GAZDA 29 MAY 1943
27 JULY 1915-28 OCT. 1985
IN CHICAGO, IL, U.S.A.

FLORENCE AMELIA GERLICH 16 APR. 1920-
19 MAY 1997

GREGORY JOHN GAZDA 27 JAN. 1947 -

SZCZEDRYK

SIMON BEDNARZ 25 FEB. 1781
1755- IN SZCZEDRYK

AGNES KORKOK

PAUL BEDNARZ 9 FEB. 1813
4 JAN. 1780- IN SZCZEDRYK

MARIA DZIEWIOR

FRANZ BEDNARZ 1 AUG. 1840
8 OCT. 1814- IN SZCZEDRYK

MARIA WISNIALAK

JOHANN H. BEDNARZ 1887
2 JUN. 1860- IN OPOLE, GERM. EMPIRE
6 JAN. 1937

FRANCES PELAWA

JOHN BEDNARZ 13 JAN. 1915
20 JAN. 1871-8 FEB. 1942
MINNESOTA

PAULINE SCHVOFA

JOHN PAUL BEDNARZ 6 AUGUST 1923 -
AUTHOR OF THE
"BEDNARZ FAMILY HISTORY"

Descendants of Johan and Simon Bednarz in Gross Stanish and in Szczedryk



Making wool quilts in Browerville. From left to right: Pawel Gerlich, Frank Solga, Mary Gerlich, Emanuel Gerlich, Virginia Gerlich, Frank Bednarz, Rose Pelawa, Rose Plotnik, Florence Gerlich, Mrs. Pelawa.

Origins of the KULAS Surname

by Paul Kulas

*In the Autumn 1997 newsletter we printed an article about the origins of the **KITA** surname by Terry Kita. In the article Terry includes two letters from two Polish authorities that he had written to. I decided to also write to them regarding the origins of the **KULAS** surname. Below is a portion of the letter that I wrote to one of them and the replies of both.*

Dear Dr. Klimek,

Terry Kita showed me a letter he received from you regarding the origins of his surname. Would you please do the same for me for the surname KULAS. I am interested in the meaning and origin of the surname, when and where it was first used, the locales where it was commonly used historically and its frequency and location in present-day Poland.

My grandfather, Jan Kulas, emigrated from Ligota, Kreis Krotoschien--now in the province of Kalisz. I have traced the family to Jankow Zalesny to about 1700.

Dear Mr. Kulas,

I answer your letter of August 22, 1997 in which you asked me to explain the meaning and origin of the surname **Kulas**.

This surname came from a nickname Kulas and this, in turn, from a household Polish word *kulas* 'a cripple'. The surname Kulas was not known in the documents published before the year 1500. The documents coming from that period of time were published in a publication *Słownik staropolskich nazw osobowych do roku 1500* (A Dictionary of Old Polish Personal Names till the year 1500), Vol. 1-7, Kraków 1965-1987. This publication was prepared in our Institute by the collective of onomatologists, from which I was one of them. Alas, in our Institute there is no documental material coming from the 16-19 centuries. In the Central Register of Contemporary Polish Surnames, which was published by professor Kazimierz Rymut, under the title: *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych* (A Dictionary of Surnames Used at Present in Poland) there are as many as 4238 people who bear Kulas as their surname. Most of them live in the **Gdansk** province of Poland. Less of them (308 people) reside at present in the **Tarnow** province. 229 people live in the **Katowice** province. In the **Kalisz** province, from which your grandfather came to the U.S.A. live till nowadays 237 bearers of the Kulas surname. The rest of the bearers of this surname are spread all over Poland. Enclosed is

a copy of the **Kulas** entry, taken from the above mentioned publication, a sketchy map of Polish provinces and a list of abbreviations used within each entry.

As far as the place-name **Ligota** is concerned, there are in Poland 47 localities bearing this name. In the Kalisz province there are 5 of them. You write that your grandfather Jan Kulas resided in Ligota, Kreis (county) **Krotoschienow**. I did not find any locality that bore such a name, although I checked many monographs and first of all Gazetteers concerning this region. I suppose that the proper name of the county should have been **Krotoszyn** in the **Kalisz** province but its name was deformed by an office-holder of German origin. In time when your grandfather lived there, this region of Poland was occupied by Russians. The town Kalisz was a frontier town between the Prussian (German) and Russian Empires.

If the village **Ligota** lay, in the past, within the **Krotoszyn** county, it lies, according to the present administrative division of Poland, in the northern part of the **Raszkow** county, **Kalisz** province.

I must congratulate you the great achievement. From among dozens of my correspondents there were only a few of them who succeeded in tracing their families way back to the year 1700.

I hope that the information, I am imparting to you, will be useful for you. If you have some additional questions, please write to me again.

Sincerely, Dr. Zygmunt Klimek

Two corrections to this letter should be noted. 1) Dr. Klimek mistakes a dash for a hyphen in my letter to him. I am not referring to Kreis Krotoschienow but to Kreis Krotoschien. He is correct in stating that the Polish spelling for this locality should be Krotoszyn. 2) Dr. Klimek states that during the time of the partitions this area was occupied by Russians. While he is correct in that Kalisz was a border town and was in the Russian partition, the western part of the present Kalisz province including Krotoszyn and the villages of Ligota and Jankow Zalesny were under German occupation at that time.

Dear Mr. Kulas,

In answer to your letter of August 22, 1997 this is to inform you that "**Kulas**" is a popular Polish surname common in several areas of Poland. We send you enclosed the data on the number of appearances of "Kulas" surname in Polish voivodships. We send you also some information about the origins of the "Kulas" surname from the book "**Nazwiska Polaków**" by Kazimierz Rymut (Wroclaw 1991):

Kulas--for the first time was mentioned in 1460. It

originated from Polish word "kulas" which means "something skewed, not straight or a lame leg." The other forms are: **Kulasa** --for the first time mentioned in 1743. **Kulasek** --which means "a little Kulas."

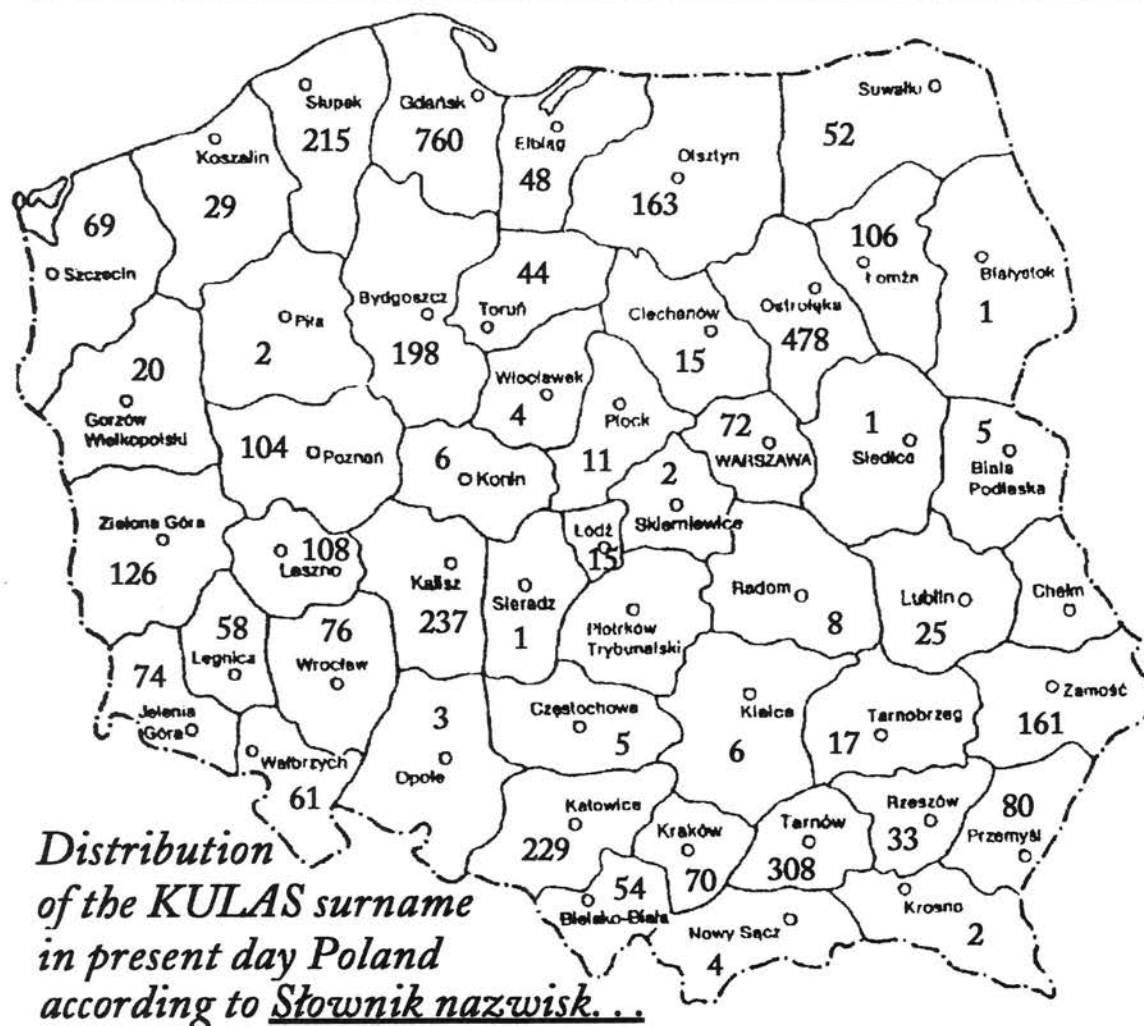
Kulaszek and **Kulasik** --which means the same.

Kulasowic --for the first time mentioned in 1411. It means "the son, or the heir of Kulas." **Kulaszewicz** and **Kulasiewicz** --which means the same and **Kulasiński**, **Kulaszewski**, **Kulaszyński**, **Kulaszka**, **Kulaś**.

The first peasant surnames, or rather nicknames in Poland appeared in the XV century, but they were isolated cases. Official surnames became common in

the XIX century under the foreign rule in Poland. Peasant surnames originated from: --names of villages, countries, rivers etc. --names of occupations --names or colloquial forms of names --nicknames describing appearance or character, and --the degree of relationship. According to this qualification (based on the book "**Proces kształtowania się polskiego nazwiska mieszczańskiego i chłopskiego**" by Józef Bubak, Krakow 1986) the surname "Kulas" belongs to the type of names originating from nicknames.

Yours sincerely, Dr. Mirosława Zygmunt



The Kulas surname appears a total of 4,238 times in a government agency's records in 1990 according to *Słownik nazwisk współczesnie w polsce używanych* (Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland). It is a fairly common surname in Poland and widely distributed throughout Poland. It is most common in Gdansk Province with 760 occurrences. In Kalisz Province, the region where my grandfather Jan Kulas lived, it appeared 237 times in 1990 records. If your ancestral name is not a real common surname, *Słownik nazwisk* might be helpful in determining the likely province of origin of your Polish ancestors.

PGS-MN has obtained a copy of the ten-volume *Słownik nazwisk*... It was a fairly expensive acquisition (\$261.00 including shipping and money transfer costs). To help us pay for this item we will help you determine the meaning and distribution of your ancestral Polish surnames. We propose the following: For \$10.00 for each Polish surname submitted (be sure to include the likely original spelling and any variant spellings), we will determine for you the meaning and derivation of the surname (as reported in Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*) and the current distribution of that surname in Poland (as reported in *Słownik nazwisk*...). Send to: Paul Kulas, editor, PGS Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316-2145. Make check payable to PGS-MN.

From *Słownik geograficzny*: SELECTED VILLAGES IN RAJGRÓD PARISH, SZCZUCZYŃ DISTRICT

By Greg Kishel

For some time now, we in the PGS-MN have touted the fact that our library collection holds a copy of the microfiche edition of *Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich*, the classic Polish gazetteer. Assembled over a decade-long period at the end of the 19th century, *Słownik geograficzny* is a wonderful snapshot of the geography, demographics, and economy of our ancestors' homeland, right at the time when many of them were emigrating to America. It is one of the most important background resources for Polish genealogy.

In my own research, I made my first European genealogical connection by locating the 1857 birth record from my great-grandfather, Joseph Kishel (born **Józef Kisielewski**). I found it in the records maintained for the Roman Catholic parish in Rajgród, a town located in the northeastern corner of present-day Poland, where the Family History Library of the LDS Church microfilmed in the early 1970s. Working back and forward in time from that discovery, I uncovered records for direct ancestors and collateral relatives on several family lines and over several generations, using the records for **Rajgród** and **Bargłów Koscielny**, the adjacent parish. Throughout, I consulted *Słownik geograficzny* to find entries for each village in which a direct ancestor had been born, had children, or had died. I then translated them.

The results follow, for most of the villages in Rajgród parish relevant to my ancestry in the **Kisielewski**, **Wroczyński**, **Jamiński**, and **Kuczyński** families of that area:

Barszcze, village, on Drestwo lake, Szczuczyn district, Pruska township, Rajgród parish.

Bełda, village, Szczuczyn district, township Przestrzele or Bełda, Rajgród parish, between forests and swamps, beside the highway [lit.: beaten track] from Szczuczyn to Rajgród, about 7 *werst* [4.7 mi. / 7.5 km.] from Rajgród, it has the township clerk and school, distant from Szczuczyn about 23 *werst* [15.3 mi. / 24.5 km.]. Bełda district has 7214 inhabitants, is of a size of 17535 *mórg* [12,633 acres], and belongs to the municipal court of district III and the post office, in the settlement of Rajgród. The township is composed of: Bełda, Ciszewo, Czarna-Wieś, Danowostare, Kolaki-czarny-las, Kosiły, Kosówka, Kuligi, Lazarze, Miecze, Pęczykowo, Pęczykówko, Przestrzele, Rajgród, Rupczyzna, Rydzewo, Skrockie, Turczyn,

Wojdy-Radzewo and Wólka-Pietrowska; 3 of the above-mentioned villages are made up of people of the gentry, 8 are of mixed population, the remainder are of peasantry. *Br. Ch.*

Czarna wieś, village on Rajgród Lake, Szczuczyn district, Belda township, Rajgród parish. In 1827 there were 13 houses and 80 inhabitants here.

Miecze and M. myza, village and manorial farm, Szczuczyn district, Przestrzele township, Rydzewo parish, it lies 23 *werst* [15 mi. / 24.5 km.] distant from Łomża, and 9 *werst* [6 mi. / 9.6 km.] distant from Grajewo[.] [It has a] railway station. In 1827[., in] Rajgród parish, 24 houses, 147 inhabitants. The manorial farm of Miecze is attached to the forests of Kuligi. [Miecze] is of a size of 2289 *mórg* [1649 acres]: cultivated lands and gardens 365 *mórg* [263 acres], meadow 414 *mórg* [298 acres], pasture 593 *mórg* [427 acres], forests 548 *mórg* [395 acres], wastelands and open areas 43 *mórg* [31 acres], contested areas [?] 326 *mórg* [235 acres], [it has] 3 brick buildings, 18 of wood. The estates here were detached from the estates of Rydzewo-Czarny las in 1876.

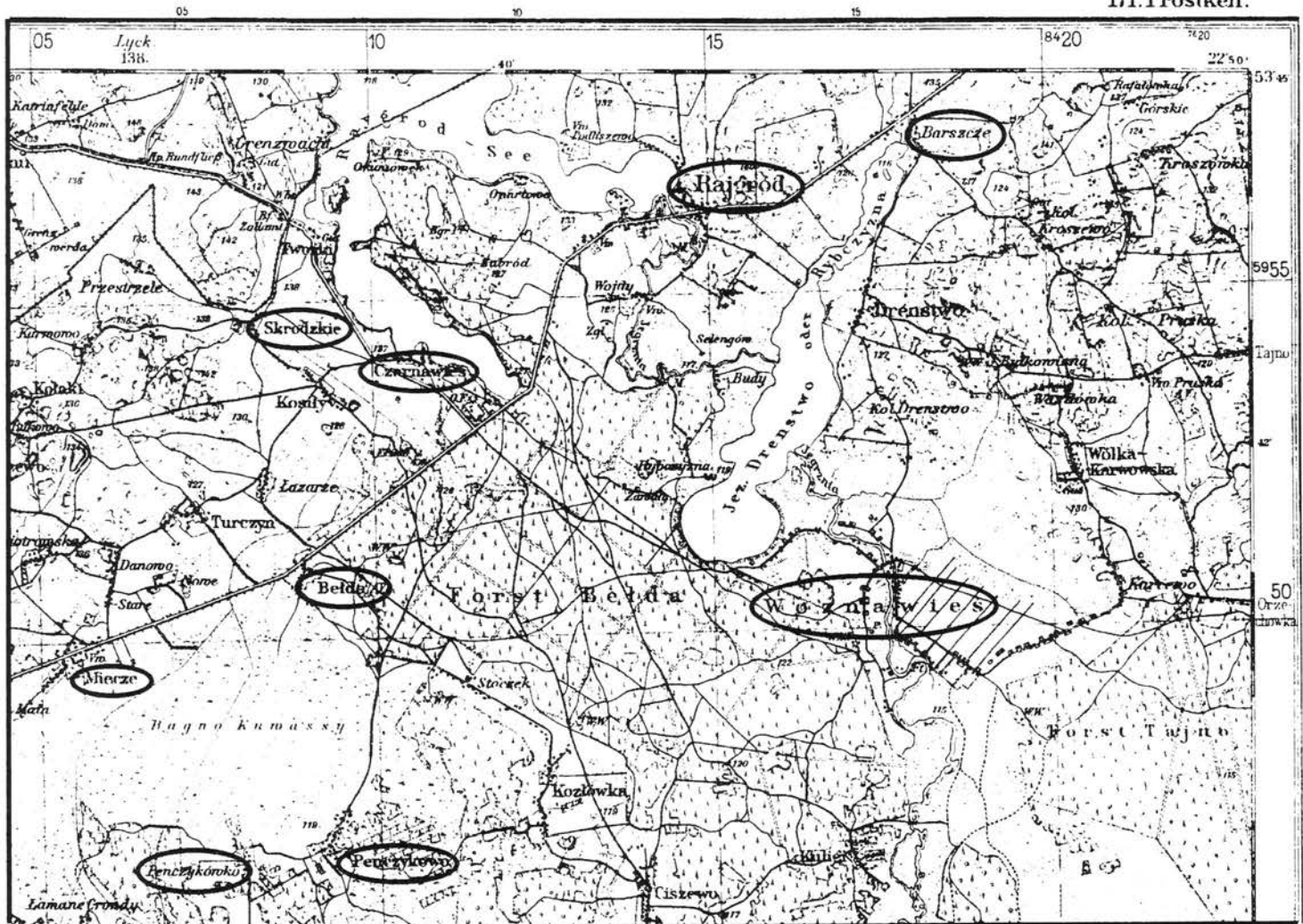
Pieńczykowo and Pieńczykówko, two villages lying close together, Szczuczyn district, Przestrzele township, Rajgród parish. They lie in the center of forests and swamps, difficult to get to. Ancient settlements are here, recorded in documents from the year 1527. (Gloger, *The Territory of Bielsko*).

Skrodkie, village of nobles and peasants, Szczuczyn district, Bełda township, Rajgród parish. In 1827 there were 25 houses, 160 inhabitants.

Woźna Wieś, village on the river Jęgrznia, Szczuczyn district, Pruska township, Bargłów parish, it lies among forests and bogs, about 1 1/2 *werst* [1 mi. / 1.6 km.] from the eastern shore of Lake Drestwo, it has 57 houses, 744 inhabitants, [and is of a size of] 2448 *mórg*. Elementary school. In 1827, [it was a] governmental village, it had 58 houses, 372 inhabitants, Rajgród parish.

A number of things are worth mentioning about my results, either from the experience of translating or from the content of the entries.

The first is the relative ease with which I was able to parse out the meaning of the entries. As Paul Kulas has pointed out in his articles in the summer issues of our *Newsletter* from 1994 and 1997, the gazetteer uses abbreviations for the most significant and common words and phrases. The microfilm edition has a lengthy glossary of these abbreviations, and Paul's 1997 article includes a condensed list of them. With these aids, it is fairly simple to make sense out of the truncated sentences that make up the entries for



Detail of the Rajgród area obtained from a map in the Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota. Ancestral villages of the Kisielewski clan referred to in this article are circled.

smaller towns and villages. After using them, I was able to locate almost all of the unabbreviated words by referring to the commonly-available *Langenscheidt Pocket Polish Dictionary* (which we also have in our library) or to the American edition of the longer *Wiedza Powszechna* dictionary. In all these entries, in fact, I recall only one word that required reference to the *Polsko-angielski* half of my four-volume *Wielki Słownik*--that being *btot*, yet another word for "swamp" or "bog." (More on wetlands later.) The complications of Polish grammar don't present a large problem in translating from *Słownik geograficzny*, as the abbreviations usually take care of variant meanings arising from the declension of nouns. In general, then, most of us should be able to make productive use of the gazetteer, despite its origin long ago, far away, and in an alien tongue.

As one can see from even my small collection, *Słownik geograficzny*'s entries vary greatly in length and detail for villages that seem otherwise to have been

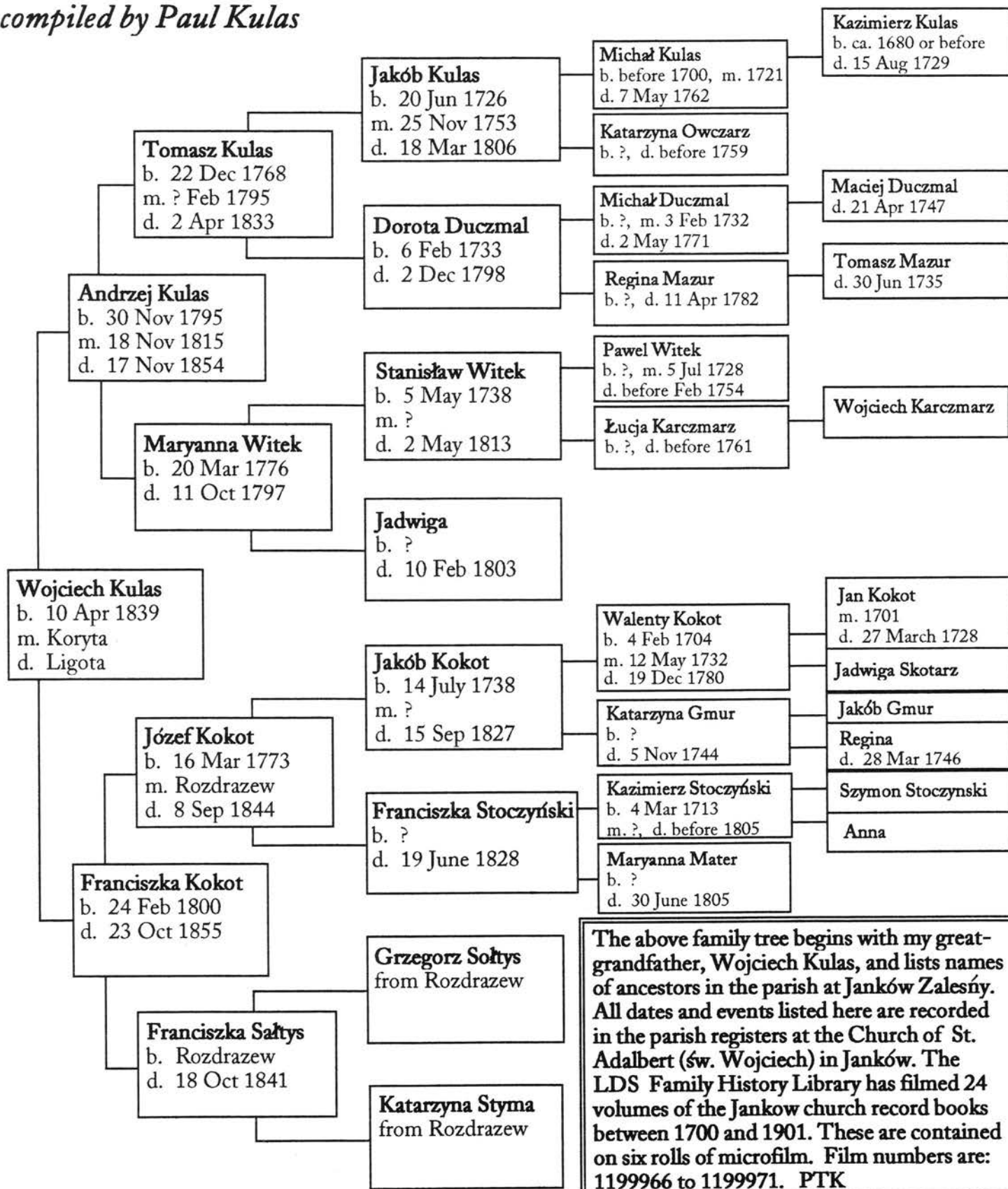
much alike. This is explained by the fact that the gazetteer was a compilation of individual efforts by Sulimierski, its general editor, and his many associates. Clearly, their individual styles of research and writing differed. I found it unfortunate it contained nothing more than a terse location for Barszcze, the village northeast of Rajgród where I've found the birth entries for the earliest likely ancestors in my Kisielewski line. It's equally unfortunate, and just plain odd, that the entry for Beldza covers mainly the township level of government and organization, and omits the key data for the core village.

On the other hand, the entry for Woźna Wieś was a pivotal point in my genealogical research. When I started out, I gleaned Woźna Wieś and Bargłów Koscielny as the village and parish of my grandfather's birth in 1885 from the birth certificate he had obtained in 1938. Because the FHL's microfilms for the parish stopped at 1870, I was unable to conduct a personal

"From Słownik geograficzny," continued on page 15

The Kulas family in Janków Zalesny:

compiled by Paul Kulas



Meanings of Polish Surnames

by Paul Kulas

The ancestral chart on the left records my ancestors in the Roman Catholic parish at Janków Zalesny (translation: "John's place in the forest"). I include this chart for several reasons: 1) It shows that genealogical research in Polish records can be quite successful and can go back in time for quite a few years. My earliest identified Kulas ancestor, my sixth great-grandfather Kazimierz Kulas, was born before 1680. Putting this in a historical perspective: This was before Jan Sobieski and his armies defeated the Turks at the Battle of Vienna in 1683. Poland was still a major European power and would not undergo its partitioning for more than a century. In the the New World, the American Revolution was still 100 years in the future. So Polish genealogical research is definitely possible and I encourage all members to actively pursue the hobby. 2) It also shows that one of the best places to do your Polish research is right here in America. The data on the chart came from the records of one Catholic parish in Poland--Janków Zalesny. The LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City has reportedly filmed records from 80% of Polish Catholic parishes. So the chances of finding records of the parish of your Polish ancestor in the FHL is very good. If you are not yet familiar with LDS Family History Centers located throughout the United States, I encourage you to explore their resources. 3) I want to use the chart to illustrate how you can enrich your research by using a basic reference source--William F. Hoffman's *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*.

Certainly a pedigree chart such as the one on the left should not be the end result of your research. You will want to discover facts about your ancestors that will, in a sense, "bring them back to life." You want to discover information that will make you feel like you know these people personally. Church records alone can add much vital information--the number of children, life span, occupation, social status, cause of death, etc. Discovering information about the places where your ancestors lived adds another dimension to your family history narrative. Greg Kishel demonstrates this with his article on translations from *Słownik Geograficzny*, beginning on page 10 in this newsletter. The use of historical maps--like those found in a large map collection such as the Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota--gives a visual picture of the countryside where your ancestors lived. Greg's article also illustrates this method. But the technique I want to explore in this article concerns

determining the meaning of your ancestral surnames and speculating about their origins. By doing this, you can obtain insights into the lives and personalities of your ancestors.

Hoffman's second edition of *Polish Surnames* gives meanings and derivations of more than 30,000 surnames commonly found in Poland. What can you learn about your ancestors from this book? Will your ancestral surnames be listed? How common are your ancestral surnames? To illustrate, I want to discuss the surnames listed on the chart on the preceding page. I will discuss the names in order of their listing from top to bottom of the page.

According to Hoffman, the name **Kulas** derives from the Polish word "kulas" which means "cripple." How did this term come to be applied to my earliest Kulas ancestor? Was he born with a deformed leg? Was he injured in some sort of an accident? Was he wounded in one of the many wars that made Poland so often a battleground? It is interesting to speculate. But it is probable that the first of my ancestors to bare this name had a lame leg or limb. When first used as a nickname for my ancestor it was probably not a very kind appellation. The surname is a fairly common one in Poland, appearing 4,238 times in 1990 in a governmental agency's records.

The name **Owczarz** means "shepherd." Apparently this was the occupation of the earliest of my ancestors who bore this name. It is less common than Kulas as only 1,391 Poles had this name in 1990, but a related surname, **Owczarek**--which means "little shepherd" is very common (recorded 15,899 times in 1990).

The surname **Duczmal** (1,023 times in 1990) is listed by Hoffman in a section headed "Common Surnames of Unclear Derivation." He does not have sufficient information to give a meaning of the name.

Mazur is very common name (59,069). It means "native of Mazovia region of Poland." How did someone who lived in southern Wielkopolska acquire this name? This is a long way from Mazovia. Was he originally from the Mazovia region of Poland? Parish records list the family as living in "Pustkowie Mazur." The word "pustkowie" means "desert" or "deserted place." It usually refers to some out-of-the-way place or farm where free peasant farmers tried to make a living. It is possible that my Mazur ancestors took their name from the name of the farm where they lived (or the farm took its name from them).

Parish records record my **Witek** (13,222) ancestors as living in "Pustkowie Witki" (some more of my peasant ancestors who lived "out in the woods"). Witek is derived from "the names Wit or Witold or Witoslaw." Witek means "little Wit" or "son of Wit."

The family probably derived its surname from an ancestor whose first name was Wit (or Witold or Witoslaw).

The name **Karczmarz** means "innkeeper." It is a rather uncommon (997) but its related surname **Kaczmarek** ("little innkeeper" or "son of the innkeeper," 59,403) is very common. Innkeeping was almost certainly the occupation of the earliest of my ancestors with this surname. Perhaps he lived by a well traveled road and rented out a spare room to travelers for an overnight stay.

The **Kokot** (5,429) surname means "rooster." What characteristics did this ancestor exhibit that caused him to acquire this surname? Did he strut around cockily like a rooster? Did he like to brag or crow a lot? Or did he merely raise a few chickens? Or did he acquire his surname from the farm on which he lived? Parish records indicate the family lived in Pustkowie Kokot.

Skotarz means "cattle herder." Hoffman gives no indication as to the number of people with this name. However, only 781 people in Poland had the related surname **Skotarek** (little cattle herder) in 1990. Perhaps this is because cattle raising is less common than say pig raising or sheep raising in Poland. At any rate the meaning gives an indication of the likely occupation of the first of my ancestors to bear this surname.

The name **Gmur** (878) is derived from the Polish word "gbur" which means "peasant, yokel." The likely status in Polish society of my ancestor who was first tagged with this surname is obvious.

The uncommon surname, **Stoczyński** (199), is derived from the Polish noun "stok" which means "hillside, slant, flank, slope" and its related verb "stoczyć" which means "to tumble, roll (downhill)." Was this ancestor prone to falling down? Did he perhaps imbibe a little too much? Or did he have a lame leg like his Kulas relative which caused him to stumble. Or did he merely live or farm on a hillside?

Mater is Latin for "mother." In the parish record where I found it, it looks like this was Maryanna's maiden name, but perhaps it just was describing the relationship with her daughter, Franciszka.

The surname **Soltys** (7,735) means "village administrator." Parish records in Rozdrazew indicate, however, that Grzegorz was a peasant farmer. Maybe the ancestor who first bore this surname actually was a village administrator or else perhaps he just acted like he was one and his neighbors snidely stuck him with the tag.

The name **Styma** (38) means "esteem, respect." Perhaps my ancestor that first bore this surname did

command the esteem and respect of his neighbors. Or was he like the "soltys" above and perhaps given the name derisively?

It is certainly enjoyable to go through a list of ancestral names, to look them up in *Polish Surnames*, and to speculate as to why that name was applied to these early ancestors. But can we really learn anything by doing this? Well, I would think that with a collection of ancestors called "cripple, shepherd, innkeeper, rooster, cattle herder, yokel, and stumbler" it would probably be safe to assume that they did not come from the noble class of old Polish society. They were all probably from the peasant class. Should we be embarrassed about this? Certainly not! It was the peasant class who--through its labor, produce, rents and taxes paid--provided the foundation of old Polish society and enabled the upper classes to live luxuriously. It was the peasant class that maintained and preserved Polish language and traditions through the long years of partition and foreign occupation and enabled Poland to again emerge as an independent state following World War I. And it was our peasant immigrant forebears that brought with them their values of faith and hard work that enabled us, their descendants, to survive and even prosper in a new land. We owe much to them. We should be proud!

Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings

SECOND EDITION



WILLIAM F. HOFFMAN

Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. It can also be ordered through this newsletter (See advertising insert). See also our offer to look up your Polish surnames on page 9.

"From Słownik geograficzny," continued from page 11

review of original parish sources to make an unequivocal link to the area through my grandfather's birth, hence, I set out to do so one generation further back. However, I spent several months poring back and forth over Bargłów's records for the late 1850s, looking in vain for an entry for the birth of my great-grandfather.

Despairing at coming so close without success, I looked at *Słownik geograficzny* for the first time. In the entry for Woźna Wieś, I noticed a critical point: the parish boundaries had changed between 1827 and the 1890s. After the appropriate Rajgród film came in at the Family History Center, I had the epiphany of finding Great-Grandpa Józef's birth entry right on the date indicated by his Minnesota death record. As a beginner, I hadn't realized that reevaluating the possible location of the records I sought was the indicated research tactic. I may well have given up for a time, had *Słownik geograficzny* not alerted me to the possibility I was just off a bit geographically.

When I arrayed my translations together, several aspects of their content led me to some interesting conclusions about the little world of my ancestors.

The first was *Słownik geograficzny*'s many clues to the geographic characteristics of the area. I did not even have to scrutinize a map to realize that there was a lot of water, a lot of trees, and a lot of trees growing partly in water. A friend (and distant cousin) who visited Rajgród says that in many respects the terrain and ecology is like that of northeastern Minnesota, right down to the large and voracious mosquitoes. "Between forests and swamps" well-describes the city of Virginia, in Minnesota's St. Louis County, where I grew up. It was no wonder that my Kisielewski great-grandparents, their children, and some Jamiński cousins stayed to make their home there, however they may have been drawn initially by the abundance of jobs for unskilled immigrants in the iron mining industry. It just looked and felt too much like the old country--a comfort to unlettered people who had enough to adjust to in the forms of a foreign language, society, and government. (I also surmise that the homeland terrain explains why my grandfather, when looking for a cabin in 1931, ended up buying a forty of land north of Virginia that had 28+ acres of spruce and tamarack swamp as well as a nice corner of higher ground and lakeshore. After all, he was no stranger to peat and water: Woźna Wieś is just north of Czerwone Bagno, the largest marshland in Poland!)

The second thing of note was the size of all of these villages: relatively small, one and all, some of them not larger than a couple of dozen families. This

circumstance helps to dispel a common nagging doubt in Polish genealogical research: when you've found a birth record for a person who matches your subject ancestor in name, and it seems to match from other indications of age, but you've noticed that the family tended to use the same first names repeatedly between and within generations, how do you know that *this* entry is for your subject--and not for some shirt-tail relative? If *Słownik geograficzny* tells you that the village in question was tiny, it's just not that likely that there'd be another one--particularly another one whose birth or death escaped the record-keepers' attention during the year you've traced back to.

Once one has gotten this far with *Słownik geograficzny*, it's important to use a complementary visual resource: a good, properly-scaled map of the area, ideally one contemporaneous with the gazetteer. We in Minnesota are very fortunate to have access to the Borchert Map Collection at the University of Minnesota's Wilson Library, which holds two excellent topographic map series of great value to Polish genealogy: one of the Polish Republic, as it was constituted from 1918 to 1939, and one of the German nation of the same time. I have been able to use both of them, because the Rajgród-Bargłów region was a borderland--between the Polish-defined regions of Mazuria and Podlasie, between the pre-World War I empires of Russia and Germany, and between the post-1918 states of Poland and Germany. The clipping that I've used to illustrate this article is from a map in the German series. I chose it over its Polish counterpart because it showed all of my ancestral villages on one sheet, right across the border from the German region that was the technical subject of the map, and thus did not require the cutting-and-pasting from several sheets that use of the Polish series would have required. As one can see, it shows the many forests, swamps, lakes, and rivers that the *Słownik geograficzny* entries describe, surrounding all of those small and interrelated villages from which my father's father's family sprang.

The use of these geographic resources, then, can make much raw genealogical data come to life with surprising vividness. During 1998, the PGS-MN will be hosting several working meetings to acquaint you with them and to get you started working in them. Please come! And, to follow the lead of the newsletters and journals of our sister Polish-American genealogical societies, in future issues I will present my translations of more short *Słownik geograficzny* entries from both Rajgród and Bargłów. When you get to the point of doing some of yours, we invite you to share them with all of us in the same way.

LIBRARY CORNER

APROPOS POLSKIE B & B, INNS, COUNTRY MANORS; A Commentary.

By Walter Kornel Kondy

On my recent month (Jul-Aug) of travel throughout Poland I used two travel guides: the above and *Poland, The Rough Guide*. In advance, I purchased a 15 day POLRAIL PASS, 1st class, which allows one to travel on any train in Poland, including the speedy, efficient Intercity Trains (IC). If a seat reservation is required, it is without charge. The pass means no waiting in lines to purchase tickets, except for the seat reservation, and one can just board the train. Part of my trip included traveling by car with Polish friends, as well as a week on the seashore outside Gdansk.

Although I consulted the *B & B* frequently, it really was of little use. My main objection was that there were no street maps included to indicate just where the accommodations were located. Since I was traveling by rail, it was of prime importance to know how far the lodgings were located from the central station. Could I walk, take which bus or trolley or should I take a taxi? Under Toruń, for instance, the *Rough Guide* states: "Toruń Główny, the main train station is south of the river: leave the station by subway (underground passage) on the north (left) of the entrance, emerging a short way from the bus stop for the centre; buses #12 and #22 run over the bridge to pl. Rapackiego, on the west side of the Old Town..."

When it came to hotel prices, the *Rough Guide* has an accommodation code, e.g. #4: 58-75 zł. (£15-20/\$23-30). Albeit the latter was published in 1996, the prices were pretty accurate. Some places are being renovated/updated so usually they might be around \$5 more. What's more, the *Rough Guide* includes useful comments; "the best hotel in town; a decent quality place with a good restaurant; the cheap basic," etc.

Moreover the *Rough Guide* has other practical information: history, sights to see, eating, drinking, entertainment with comments like: "fast food; decent if predictable; noisier but reasonable; restaurant is probably best avoided, as drunken brawls are a regular sight; a lively bar-cafe with live music," etc.

I must admit that I traveled mainly to larger cities or towns, yet had occasion to visit remote country villages--places not listed in either guide books. I knew their locations beforehand and the rector of the parish church was apprised of my arrival. In such cases, I would find lodging in the nearest town; calculate the distance; find out which buses or trains went there with times of departure; and then spend the whole day

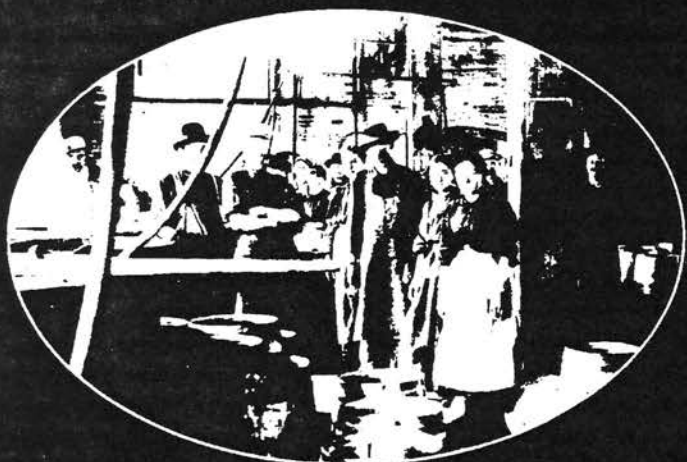
there examining the church record books. Most smaller communities are only accessible via bus.

Because the *Rough Guide* was more comprehensive, I found it more useful. This is not to say that the *B & B* isn't, as if one is traveling by car, it has its merits, especially when it comes to small rural communities. The *B & B* would do well, however, to include language of communication and street/regional maps when it revises the guide. In larger locations this is usually not a problem as most hotel staff knows some passable English, German or French. It would also do well to include places to eat, especially in remote areas. Nonetheless this initial attempt at providing the traveler with a lodging for the night is a good one. Things in Poland are fast changing for the better and such a guide with revision can prove more useful.

*Editor's comment: Thank you for your observations regarding the two guides. We appreciate your "in the field" experiences. We also appreciate your suggestions for the improvement to B & B. We shall pass them along to the publisher. You are certainly correct in observing that other guides have more complete information concerning places commonly visited by tourists. However, B & B is not intended to be a travel guide like other guides. B & B has at least three definite advantages that other guides do not: 1) It lists places not likely to be visited by the ordinary tourist but rather lists inexpensive facilities in places all over Poland, often in rural areas not covered in general guides, that genealogists and others are likely to stay when seeking their Polish roots. For example it lists a place to stay in the tiny village of Ligota in Kalisz Province--the last residence in Poland of my grandfather, Jan Kulas. Other guides do not mention Ligota--much less list a place to stay while visiting. 2) It lists bilingual guides and translators in rural provinces that English speaking family historians are likely to need as they explore their villages of origin. 3) Each guide has a card listing publisher Ray Kulvicki's address, tel/fax number and e-mail address. He is constantly updating inexpensive places to stay throughout Poland. He encourages each purchaser to contact him and receive updates to the areas in Poland one is planning on visiting. It seems to me that family historians visiting Poland need to consult at least two guides. The first: one of the general guides to Poland that are commonly sold in a good bookstore like, say, Barnes and Noble. The *Rough Guide* listed above is very good (My personal favorite is the *Lonely Planet* guide). The second: *Polskie B & B* to enable the traveler to find a place to stay in or near his ancestral home and to secure a local guide while there. *Polskie B & B* is available for purchase through this newsletter (See advertising insert in this issue).*

BOOK REVIEWS

Heart and Hard Work



MEMORIES OF "NORDEAST" MINNEAPOLIS
BY Genny Zak Kieley

Genny Zak Kieley, *Heart And Hard Work: Memories of "Northeast" Minneapolis*. (Minneapolis: Nodin Press, 1997), 431pp. illustrated.

Reviewed by Terry Kita

This book is a tour through that part of Minneapolis which is across the river and east of downtown--called "Northeast" by those who live there. Its subtitle, *Memories of "Northeast" Minneapolis*, describes its main theme. Northeast is that part of Minneapolis bounded by the Mississippi on the west and south, Columbia Heights on the north, and approximately Central Avenue on the east. Genny's book moves from her early upbringing in Northeast, through its early history as the Village of St. Anthony and competitor to Minneapolis, to a description of the area landmarks, and ends with a series of interviews by Northeast residents. Descriptions of buildings and places are accompanied by photos, which give the impression of a kind of travelogue.

As a resident of south Minneapolis, I have on many occasions traveled to and through the area Genny writes of. I have seen many of the buildings she describes, but was aware of the history or significance of but a few until I read the book. It would be nearly impossible to travel through Northeast without passing a church. One chapter is devoted to the churches of the area--the historical role they played in the development of this area, and the social and religious role they continue to play.

Since Northeast was an early commercial and industrial area, its early population was made up of immigrants who lived and worked in the area. She describes the different immigrant groups--from early French, Scandinavian, German, and Irish, to later arriving Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, and Lebanese--where they settled, the churches they built (and moved), businesses they opened, the schools they attended, and the marks they left on the area. Twenty to thirty distinct communities are identified.

Another chapter is devoted to area buildings/businesses, including the Grain Belt Brewery, Edison High School, Kramarczuk East European Deli, Hollywood Theater, and many others, some of which are no longer in existence. Many of the products we associate with Minnesota were originally made and sold in Northeast, including Gedney pickles, Northrup King seeds, and Wilcox motor cars. Each is briefly described, from origin to the present day.

For those more aware of the social or sports scene, Nye's Polonaise, Mayslack's Polka Lounge, and early sports heroes are given center stage. One of the social centers of Northeast was and is Logan Park. There is a wonderful series of short stories about the park, as recounted by those who worked or played there.

The last chapter is a series of 14 interviews with residents of this area, a compendium of the nationalities who lived and worked there. Of particular interest to me was the interview "Life On the Soo Line." It brought out the importance of the Twin Cities as the railroad hub for the upper midwest, and the affect of the railroad on those who worked in the industry.

For those who grew up in the Twin Cities, for residents past and present of Northeast, for those who periodically travel through the area, for those interested in the history of early Minneapolis, or for those interested in their ancestral roots, I heartily recommend this book.

Genny Kieley is a member and a director of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. She has donated a copy of this book to our collection at the MGS Library. We thank Genny for her donation and congratulate her on the publication of this fine work. It can be ordered from her at: Ginny Kieley, 11116 Zane Ave. North, Champlin, MN 55316. It sells for \$19.05 including tax. For mail orders add \$3.00.

Missing Branches:

QUERIES: Each issue of this newsletter contains a research information exchange section. Members are invited to place inquiries pertaining to the exchange of family information, requests for help or offers to aid others researching the same family lines. Send to: **Paul Kulas, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316-2145.**

The list of surnames on p. 13; v.5:3. Autumn 1997 of the PGS-MN Newsletter needs some minor corrections: 1. Delete BANAS etc. Should be: **PANAS--Ustrobnia, Krosno--New Jersey.** 2. **JAINICEKI--** correct spelling is **JANICKI.** Thanks, **W. K. Kondy**

Rosemary Kobus, PO Box 798, Driggs ID 83422-0798 writes: I am researching **John Kobus** and his wife **Johanna Zblewski** who lived in Duluth from about 1886 until John died in 1931. Census indicates that they were from Germany but spoke Polish. They may have had relatives in Winona, MN. Cemetery does not help at all. St. Josepat's Church in Duluth was of no help. I enjoy your Newsletters.

Louis C. Hoffman, 2398 Schadt Dr. Maplewood, MN 55119 wrote this "**Brief History of Thomas Plucinak and Family.**" Thomaz was born 8 Sept 1885 in Brzesznica/Brzezinka in German occupied Poland. His father was **Jacob Plocienniczak** (born ca. 1860). His mother was **Bilranne Przylylak** (b. ca. 1860). On 2 Oct 1911, Thomaz married **Mary E. Sojka** (b. 25 Dec 1893). Her father was **Stanislaus (Stanley) Sojka** (b. ca. 1860). Her mother was **Victoria Strasnf** (b. ca. 1860). A daughter, **Clara**, was born in Poland on 30 July 1912. Early in 1914, Thomaz, Mary and Clara left the Port of Bremen on the frigate, Chemnitz. Their last residence was Brank, Germany (Poland). Mary was seven months pregnant. They arrived at the Port of Baltimore on 20 Feb 1914. Three days later on 23 Feb 1914, a son **John** was born in Duluth, MN. Their residence was at 2612 West 13th St. Later they lived at 1911 Piedmont Ave. In the years following they added to their family: **Agnes** (b. 13 Dec 1915, **Helen** (b. 2 Mar 1917), **Frank** (b. 16 Sep 1918), **Walter** (b. 25 Apr 1920), **Irene** (b. 5 Dec 1923), **Cecilia** (b. 31 Jan 1925), **Lucy** (b. 17 Oct 1926, and **Joseph** (b. 10 Mar 1929). A Petition for Naturalization was filed on 12 Apr 1917. Alien registration cards were issued for Thomaz Pluciniczak on 21 Feb 1918 and for Mary Pluciniczak on 8 July 1918. On 7 Apr 1922 a Certificate of Naturalization was issued. Research is being made as to the place and type of employment Thomaz had in Duluth and on the changing of the name to Pluciniak. On 25 Jul 1942 Thomaz was killed in an industrial accident. Mary died of heart failure on 27 May 1952.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following:

Art Bialka, 2019 High Drive, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 is researching in Poland and in Chicago.

Sue and Mike Brost, 5110 Curve St., Greenwood, MN 55331 are researching **DIACZENKO, PIOTROWSKA** in Wilno and in Detroit, Michigan.

John M. Ceryes, 190 E. Wayzata Blvd., #5, Wayzata, MN 55391 is researching the **CERYES** surname.

Virginia F. Draeger, 108 Argyle St., St. Paul, MN 55103-1204 is researching **KOCH, MELCHERT, MALCHOW** names in Alt Rudnitz now Tsara Rudnica in Poland and in Hubbard Twp., Dodge County, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Audra Etzel, 3487 Darrow Avenue SE, Buffalo, MN 55313 is researching **TOMASZEWSKI, PIOTROWSKI/PETROWSKI, HANDKE** surnames in New Posen, now Edison Twp., Swift Co., MN and **JELENSKI/ZELENSKI, KUBIAK, SADESKI** surnames in Swan River/Little Falls, MN and also the **NAVECK, OTTO** surnames.

Dr. Gregory J. Gazda, 280 Forest Trail Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60523 is researching **BEDNARCZ, GERLICH** surnames in Bydgoszcz, Szcaedryk, Biec in Poland and in Chicago, IL and Browerville, MN.

Frank A. Goike, 1420 Maryland Av. No., Golden Valley, MN 55427-4138 is researching the **GOIKE** surname.

Nancy Hawkinson, 603 County Rd E, Hudson, WI 54016, e-mail: nhawk@spacestal.net is researching **FREUND/FREUNDT, LUX, HAUER, KARRAS** surnames in Neu Atmansdorf, Kreis Munsterberg, Schlesia--now Starczowek, Wroclaw, Poland.

Linda J. Huss, 409 Fairfax, Kalamazoo, MI 49001 is researching **KUNZA/KUNZE/KUNTZE/KUNZIE** surname in Cerkwica, West Prussia and **PAULUBICKI, BELKA, BUCHOLZ** in Kasubia and all in Ottertail County in Minnesota.

Jill Johnson, 157 - 76th Wayne, Fridley, MN 55432 is researching **KUKUSKA/KUKUCZKA, PAULUS/PAWLUS** surnames in Rajcza, Poland and in Cherm and River Falls, Wisconsin.

Dick Niemiec, 4239 Harriet Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN is researching the **NIEMIEC** surname in Chicago.

Dean M. O'Borsky, 3550 Tuxedo Road, Minnetrista, MN 55364 is researching OBORSKY, KINTOP, CHARBOT names. His gggrandparents, **Frank Oborsky** and **Antonina Kintop**, came from Poland in the 1870's possibly from the towns of Kostkowo or Bonkowo.

Jennifer Peterson, 6731 Morro Street, Salt Lake City, UT, e-mail: chell@aros.net is researching Kazmier, Andrew and Jacob GLOMBOSKI/GLEMBOSKI and Josephine and John KOTERSKE/KORTERSKI/KOKERSKI (and any variant spelling of the surnames) in McLeod County, MN and in Poznan, Poland.

Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota, POB 18403, Mpls., MN 55418, Phone: 612.378.9291 is a new member.

Richard & Nora Schroeder, 12500 Marian Lane, Apt 4105, Minnetonka, MN 55305 are researching NADOLSKI, SCHROEDER/SCHRADER surnames in Wilno, MN and DRIETZ/DRITZ, CZAPSKI/CHOPSKI surnames in Wilno and in Pennsylvania and Nebraska. All are from Prussia.

Renata Stachowicz, 1754 Nevada Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106 is a new member. She is from Poland and is fluent in Polish, English and Russian.

Don R. Trudeau, 55 Mt. Muir Ct., San Rafael, CA 94903 is researching the KUJAWA surname in Poland and the KRAEMER name in Germany and both in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Cheryl Vokaty, 615 Ramsey St NE, Mpls., MN 55413 is researching MACIAZKA, BIALEK surnames.

RENEWED MEMBERS: The following are renewed members who indicated their e-mail address or more complete areas of research on their renewal forms.

Mary Ellen Bruski, 3412 Parkview Blvd., Robbinsdale, MN 55422, e-mail: bruski@pclink.com is researching the KRUSZEWSKI surname in Poznan?, Canada, and St. Paul, MN, WRYCZA, BRUSKI in Kashubia and Owatonna, MN and GRABOWSKI in St. Paul, MN.

Alfred J. Fritz, 728 W. Main St., Washington, IA 52353-1630, e-mail: afritz@se-iowa.net is researching JAGIELSKI, KURKA surnames in Brighton, Iowa.

Bernadine Zak Kargul, 26209 Elsinore, Redford, MI 48239, e-mail: BKARGUL@AOL.COM is researching the ZAK surname in Pommerania and in Morrison and Benton counties in Minnesota, POKORNOWSKI, BEILEJEWSKI in Poznan and McCleod Co., MN and MROZIK in Poznan or Silesia and in Morrison Co., MN.

Dr. Roger F. Krentz, 201 St. Paul's Ave., Suite 17-T, Jersey City, NJ 07306 is researching BUKOWSKI in Tabor Wielki, Liblinecki, CZAJKOWSKI in Czeszewo, Bydgoszcz, CZARAPATTA in Wyrzysk, Bydgoszcz, DUSZYNSKI, POLUS and POLCYN in Ludomy, Obornik, KRENTZ in Dziembowa, Bydgoszcz and MARCHEL in Poznan. All of the above were from Poznan Province and in Green Lake Co. or Marquette Co. Wisconsin.

Kay Koffski Lane, 3116 90 Ave, Princeton, MN 55371, e-mail: kklane@sherbtel.net is researching the KOFFSKI/ERZY-KOFFSKI surname in Montreal (1855), Petrolia, ON (1880's), Milten, ND (1890's) and Lanigan, SK (1900's).

Daniel Nedoroski, 2470 Beverly Rd, St. Paul, MN 55104-4904, e-mail: DNEDORSKI@AOL.COM is researching Josef NIEDEROWSKI and Eleanora BARANOWSKI (his grandparents) in Lobowa-Nowy Sacz and in Glenwood City, WI.

John T. Pawlak, Box 473, North Branch, MN 55056 is researching the PAWLAK surname in Gola, Jaraczew, Posen Province (on the Obra River) and SHORUPSKA/SHOROPKA/SHORUPSKI, OKSELOWKI name in Trzebieszow (north of Lukow), Lublin Province in the Russian area and all in Minneapolis, MN.

Rose Spangenberg, 520 E. Roselawn Ave., Maplewood, MN 55117-2120 is researching BERCZYK, CEBULA, WIESHALLA, BENNING, MORZINZIK, GUZINDA, KLAMA surnames in Long Prairie and Browerville, Minnesota.

Edward Wiolek, 4008 Manor Woods Dr., NW, Rochester, MN 55901-8426, e-mail: EWIOREK@PRODIGY.NET is researching NIEMCZYK, WOLSKI, POLAK, SLIWICKI surnames in Berent (Koscierczyna) area, JAZDZEWSKI, GAWIN, SKIBA, WYSOCKI names in Lipusz, Lesno, Brusy, WIOREK, LEWICZ, ZWADZICH names in Wissek, Pila, Morzewo, PLACZEK, OKONSKI, CHRZAN names in Lobsens, Sadki, Osiek and all in Milwaukee, WI.

Bulletin Board, continued from page 3

An article about **Holy Trinity Church in Royalton** and its parish centennial appeared on page 11 in the October 9, 1997 issue of the *Saint Cloud Visitor*. Holy Trinity was founded primarily by Polish immigrants. Early founders of the parish included the **Kroll, Krystosek, Zimny** and **Fussy** families.

Our newsletter was reviewed favorably in the *Morrison County Historical Society Fall Newsletter*. It noted: "... The PGS of MN gathers information on Polish Genealogy. Each issue of the newsletter is filled with a variety of information valuable to those of Polish descent. It lists Web-site information, upcoming events, letters to the editor, Polish Catholic Church information, a library corner and book reviews. . . ."

Tentative future programs of PGS-MN include:

In Spring: Tour of newly located MGS Library and working session with PGS-MN materials.

Sometime in the near future: We are trying to arrange a meeting at Borchert Map Library at the U of M. We will be sending out flyers alerting you of these and other future meetings of interest. Watch for them.

Terry Kita, our Research committee chair, has compiled a booklet listing the surnames each of our members are researching, their place of origin in Poland, and where each immigrant family settled in the United States. It also includes an alphabetical surname index. This booklet will be mailed this Spring to all members who are paid up through 1998. Be sure to get your 1998 renewals in soon so you will not miss this mailing (See renewal form on the advertising insert in this newsletter).

We have been receiving rave reviews about our new website. **Kathleen Matelski** and **Mary Ellen Bruski** have been putting in long hours servicing this site. We can be found through a link from our webpage at: <http://www.mtn.org/mgs/branches/polish.html> or directly at: <http://www.worldgenweb.org/eurogenweb/pgs-mn.html> Please note that it takes a goodly amount of time to input all of our research data unto this site. If your research names are not yet listed, please be patient. They will all be listed soon. Please note also that only paid up member's research names will be listed (Another good reason to renew now). We are planning a more complete article about our website and how to search it and its links in our next newsletter.



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From the invitation to the "Annual Christmas Appreciation Gala" of the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers. Wycinankiby: **Judith Stepaniak Nerison**, 444 Germain, Saint Paul, MN 55106