



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7

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NUMBER 4

Upcoming events:

Saturday, 25 March 2000
MGS and its Branches present the
9th Annual MGS Branching Out Meeting
at Kennedy High School in Bloomington

Featured Speaker: Joel Wurl
"Moving to a New World:
The Immigration History Research Center
and the University of Minnesota's Andersen Library"

with presentations by:

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

Introductory Polish Genealogy, presented by Greg Kishel: Getting started in Polish-American records; ways to identify the home village in Poland; using LDS resources for Europe and the United States; getting help from dictionaries, translation guides, and other research aids.

Using Gazetteers, Atlases, and Maps in Polish Genealogy, presented by Paul Kulas and Greg Kishel: Creating a picture of ancestral locales through geographic resources readily available in Minnesota: 19th-century and modern gazetteers, topographic and tourist maps, and road atlases.

An On-Site Research Session: Recent acquisitions for the PGS-MN library collection will be available for use: *Stownik nazwisk* (a series showing the geographic distribution of thousands of surnames in modern Poland), two thick new gazetteers, tourist maps, and a comprehensive Polish-English dictionary.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., the keynote address by Joel Wurl is at 9:00 a.m. and the Polish "break-out sessions" are at 11:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. Cost: \$10.00 to MGS.

PGS-MN will also have a table where a selection of books and other materials relating to Polish genealogy will be sold.

Other presentations include: Adoptive Searching, Research into Military Records, Computers and Genealogy along with presentations by other ethnic genealogical groups belonging to MGS.

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

5768 Olson Memorial Hwy.
Golden Valley MN 55422
(612) 595-9347

<http://www.mtn.org/mgs/branches/polish.html>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>

Officers:

President.....Greg Kishel <gfk1@cornell.edu>
Vice President.....Vacant
Secretary.....Mary Ellen Bruski (612-588-3801)
Treasurer.....Barbara Rockman (612-493-8465)
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Director.....Genny Zak Kieley (612-424-3747)
Director.....John Radzilowski (651-604-0210)

Committee Chairs:

Library & Newsletter.....Paul Kulas (612-427-4523)
Membership.....Harry Fleege (612-545-0750)
Program & Publicity.....Greg Kishel
Research.....Michael Eckman (612-929-4534)
Website.....Mary Ellen Bruski <bruski@pclink.com>

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter

Newsletter Staff:

Editor.....Paul Kulas (612-427-4523)
Contributing Editor.....W. Kornel Kondy
Printing.....Genny Zak Kieley
Labels.....Mary Fleege
Mailing.....Greg Kishel

The *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Subscription to the *Newsletter* is included with membership. Dues are \$15.00 per year (See application form in the advertising insert).

Items submitted for publication are welcome and encouraged. Deadlines for inclusion are: March 15, June 15, Sept. 15 and Dec. 15 respectively. Articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries, ad copy, 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

This past fall, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis published a book to celebrate its sesquicentennial. "*You shall be my people*": *A history of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis* is a handsome volume, printed in France, beautifully illustrated with photographs and art historical and recent. Its text is a broad survey of the Archdiocese's story, from the days of Father Lucien Galtier to the present. Author Sister John Christine Wolkerstorfer clearly did a lot of research. When my parish offered it for sale in November, I dutifully bought a copy.

After reading it, however, I noticed one omission, rather large to all of us: *there's essentially nothing on the Polish-American contribution to the growth of Catholicism in any part of the Archdiocese*. True, there's not a lot of coverage of ethnic congregations at all; the emphasis is on the Archdiocese's role in Americanization. This isn't untoward, given the central role of Archbishop John Ireland in the national movement to create a truly American Catholicism. However, the Germans of St. Paul come in for a fair bit of prose, and the French, Irish, and Italians get some treatment. By contrast, there's a single, one-word mention of the Poles, at the bottom of p. 21. Holy Cross in Minneapolis and St. Adalbert's in St. Paul get small (but nice) photos on the page showing "[a] sampling of the early ethnic parishes of the Archdiocese." They're not even identified by national affiliation.

I do not want my point to be mistaken. I've long regretted the truculent nationalism that pops up in the general Polish-American press, with all of its thin-skinned readiness to leap at any actual or perceived slight. I don't think there's any room for that in an organization like ours. By their very nature, genealogy and local history emphasize *ties*, not *divisions*. Our role is to *educate*, not to *alienate*. In the last instance, this is just a hobby, not advocacy or politics. So I can't say that I take any sort of offense to the omission I've noted. And, really, one must be fair to the focus of Sr. Wolkerstorfer's work: the dynamic institutional role the Archdiocese has played, as spiritual guide, agent of acculturation, and advocate of social justice. In that light, it makes every bit of sense for her to organize the book by the tenure of the Archbishops, and to cover the men and women of the clergy, hierarchy, and

religious orders in the detail she did—however much that eclipsed individual parishes or particular ethnic groups.

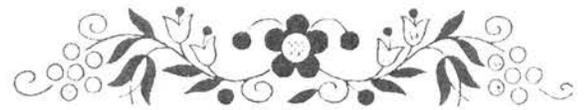
The content of the Archdiocese's jubilee book, however, underlines my point: *if we want to see the history of our Polish American communities collected, published, and preserved, we have to do it.* For whatever reason, those who do not share our heritage will not be likely to do so. This, in large part, is why the PGS-MN was formed. The mission of collecting and saving the history of Polonia in Minnesota has been one of my central pre-occupations as president of this group.

This isn't much different from what I've said at any earlier time, in any other epistle. However, I'm using the foregoing as a way to drive home a plea that's quite appropriate to this point in the year. *It's time to renew membership again.* Unless we maintain our roster of active, contributing, dues-paying members, our Society can't continue to help all of you in your genealogical research, to bring our hobby to others who share our interests, to build its library and archives, and to see that that local history is recovered and given the attention we think it deserves.

Let me share a bit of data to you; it gives a bit of an edge to my entreaty. When I became president four years ago, we had something short of 150 members current on their dues. Through a lot of hard work in organizing and hosting presentations, taking some of them to outstate locations, setting up the Website, and publishing this newsletter, we worked that number up. By year's end the last several years, our membership count approached 300. *Then*, when it came time to renew, the dropoffs occurred. For the last three years, we have lost between 30 and 60 members in the crossover, *each year.* We've then worked the number back up, *each year.* One result, though, is that there are darn few of you out there who joined before 1996.

A lot of this may be due to the fact that this is just a hobby, after all. Many people who sample it don't find it to their liking. We've hoped it's not due to dissatisfaction with what we've done and presented; in all modesty, we think that the *Newsletter* has published some really fine material, particularly in the last three years. But the half-dozen of us who've done the heavy lifting do wonder.

So, if you would, please give a vote of confidence to our mutual hobby, our Society's mission, and our efforts by renewing your membership, and doing it now. If there's something you'd like to see covered in a seminar, presentation, or newsletter article, *let us know.* As I noted last time, there may or may not be somebody interested enough to get to it immediately—but one way or another, if it touches on ancestry in Poland or Polish-American history in Minnesota, we'll write it up eventually, or help you to do so. Our group is the only one that will do this for anybody, at least with the Minnesota focus we've chosen. We can do it only if enough of you support the organization. So, in advance, *dziękujemy!*—we thank you!—for renewing your membership!



The Bulletin Board

Annual Meeting

We had planned to announce the details of the annual meeting in this issue of the *Newsletter*. However, plans were not finalized at press time. We will be having this meeting in April. A separate flyer regarding this meeting will be mailed to all members soon. Look for it. Included in this mailing will be a proposed slate of candidates for the various elected officers of PGS-MN. Also the details of the program that we will be having at that time will be announced.

PGS-MN Y2K dues are now due

If you have not yet renewed your membership to PGS-MN for the year 2000, please do so now! Our membership year runs from January to January. Lapsed members do not receive this *Newsletter* or other mailings from PGS-MN. We don't want anyone to miss receiving their *Newsletter*.

Missing issues

We have discovered some errors in our mailing list. These errors were inadvertent and we apologize for them. If you have missed receiving any of our *Newsletters* in the past, please let us know. You may contact the editor, Paul Kulas, by e-mail or regular mail (See page 2 for addresses). Again, we don't want anyone to miss receiving their *Newsletter*.

UPGS biennial conference

The United Polish Genealogical Societies announces its biennial conference UPGS 2000. The theme of the conference is **Polish Genealogy in the Next Century!** It will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on May 5-8. UPGS 2000 offers a unique opportunity to use the world's largest collection of genealogical materials and also to have access to expert Polish researchers. Conference speakers will present the latest proven techniques of interest to Polish researchers. See advertising insert for further details.



Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

Liked Grass article

It amazes me how you consistently come out with such a high quality newsletter each issue. Even when articles don't particularly apply to me, I find they are well worth reading. I particularly enjoyed the article on Günter Grass in the Autumn issue. It is not really a genealogical story at first glance, but it is very much so for those of us "peasants" who know very little about our ancestors. This story tells of their times and what they talked about, two items which I try to seek out when I do my research.

If you would be interested, I would like to write some reviews of books by Reymont, Sienkiewicz, Mickiewicz, etc., especially items which relate to the peasant experience. If you would like some help on the Newsletter or Library or anything, please let me know.

Ray Marshall <raymarsh@mninter.net>

Editor's reply: I very much agree with your observation that literature can enrich genealogical research. Discovering one's family history is much more than filling in the blanks on a pedigree chart. It involves a familiarity with the full range of Polish history and culture. We should try to find out as much as possible about how our ancestors lived. Polish literature often accurately and realistically portrays the everyday life of the common people. I would be very interested in publishing reviews of books by Reymont, Sienkiewicz, Mickiewicz, especially those relating to the peasant experience. It would be great if you would write reviews of these authors.

Missing Newsletters

How did I ever miss sending my dues? No wonder it seemed so long since my last newsletter! I am enclosing my dues for 1999 AND 2000 so that I am up-to-date. The last issue that I received was Spring 1999. If it is possible to send me the missing issues--that would be great. Even my husband reads every word, and he doesn't have a drop of Polish blood!!!

Bonnie Erickson, Madison Lake, MN

*Editor's note: We sent Bonnie her missing issues. Members please take note: **It is time to renew your membership for the year 2000.** We don't want you to miss receiving any of our newsletters.*

Warzecha surname

Mike and Theresa Warzecha are indeed my relatives. I visited them after Thanksgiving and we talked about our ancestors. It was very interesting and I enjoyed the visit very much. Uncle Mike is the only family member of that generation left on my father's side. Thank you for all the help you have given me. You have renewed my interest in genealogy tenfold. I will order the LDS films from Fałkowice. I am anxious to view these films. This will be a new experience for me. Sincerely,

Veronica S. Freihammer, Rice MN

Thank you very much for publishing my contribution, "Full Circle: Polish Catholics in Browerville MN," in the Autumn *PGS-MN Newsletter*. I could not help but notice that the surname, WARZECIA, that you researched and which proved to be a surname related to you, is also listed in footnote #6 of my article. The village of Domaradz, that you mention and my grandparent's village, Laskowice, are about 15 miles apart. Very truly yours,

Harry McOuat, Wakefield MA

Editor's comment: The more I study Minnesota's rural Polish settlements, the more convinced I am that most of these are "transplanted communities"--that neighbors in Minnesota were also neighbors in the "old country." This has implications for genealogical research. If your ancestral village in Poland is not listed in the records of any of your ancestors or their siblings or relatives--try to see if any of the neighbor's ancestral villages are mentioned (e.g. in parish records). There is a very good chance that at least some of them are from the same locality in Poland.

Enjoy Newsletter

I received the Autumn issue of your *Newsletter* yesterday along with the PGSM (Michigan) *Eaglet*. I enjoy your newsletter so much. There isn't a single issue that doesn't have information that is pertinent to my family searches. I hope that I can attend one of your meetings so that I can meet you people. I feel like I know you all. Keep up the good work.

Bernadine Zak Kargul, Redford MI

Buffalo NY indexing project

In the spring of 1999 we started indexing Buffalo, New York's "Dziennik dla Wszystkich" which ran from 1911 - 1957. Detailed information about this project is located at: <<http://www.pgsnys.org/Dziennik/>>

David Newman, President PGSNYS
<akdave@e-server.net>

Places restored to Poland after WWII

I am a PGS-MN member, and I saw your request in the autumn issue of the newsletter (p. 7) regarding places restored to Poland after WWII. I have used the book *Mullers verzeichniss der jenseits der Oder-Neisse gelegenen, unter fremder verwaltung stehenden ortschaften* by M. Kammerer (1980) to obtain the German versions of the place names for some locations that are now in Poland due to post-WWII border changes. This book is written in the German language, but can still be useful to someone like myself who neither reads or speaks German. I used a German-English dictionary to help translations. If my memory is correct, I found the book at the Rochester, MN Public Library. The locations I researched were in the district of Bytow (Butow in German). I hope this helps.
Paul Tushner <PaulT3181@aol.com>

Editor's comment: Thank you for your information. An up-dated (1988) work by Kammerer has also been published as has a Polish language source (See review by Ed Brandt on pages 16-17 in this issue). I have written to the publishers of both works to see if they are still available for purchase. Hopefully both items will soon be housed in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

Order of St. John Cantius

I am forwarding this note about the Order of St. John Cantius which I posted on a Polish-American discussion list recently.

We have heard a fair amount of talk about how ethnic traditions are dying off in our Polish American parishes. Well...

I ran into a friend and colleague of mine whom I had not seen in several years and discovered that he had joined a new religious order: the Order of St. John Cantius. This new order was founded by a Resurrectionist father in Chicago at the parish of St. John Cantius. Its mission is to restore a sense of the sacred to the church. Part of that mission is the encouragement of ethnic traditions of worship and religiosity, especially in art, architecture, and music. The order's founder, Fr. Phillips, recently received the prestigious Civic Achievement Award from the Polish American Historical Association for fostering Polish American culture and traditions at St. John Cantius. The order's website <www.cantius.org> has great stuff on it.

If you are interested in this topic, do pass it on to friends, colleagues, and to your pastor! God's blessing on you all!

John Radzilowski <John@sprehab.org>

Making church records available

Your newsletters are very informative and well organized. Thanks for your time and effort on them. My RAFINSKI ancestors settled in the Duelm area of Benton Co., and attended St. Lawrence Catholic Church. From my browsing of the shelves at the MGS Library, it appears that it does not have information from/on St. Lawrence. However, I have contacted St. Lawrence and know that they have records of baptisms and marriages at least. I am wondering what tools I would need to help either transcribe or digitally record these records for posterity/MGS/Polish Society. I am in the early stages of working out what it would take to commit to this endeavor and would appreciate your help in trying to scope it out to see how doable it is with my available time. Thanks and kind regards,

Lisa Trembley <ltrembley@uswest.net>

Our Research Chair replies:

I am responding to your e-mail on behalf of PGS-MN. Unfortunately, we cannot give you any secrets or shortcuts to transcribing records. The task is one of accessing the records and copying the information by whatever means you have available. The objective of your research or the information in the records may influence the methods you use to process the data. Once you have gathered and reviewed enough information to make an article for the newsletter, we would be happy to publish your work.

We have to warn you, however, of some difficulties you may encounter. Often, there is a problem obtaining blanket access to parish records because some of the information is considered sensitive. Usually, you will be able to get information on a specific person or event, but some of our members have had trouble getting access to all of the records.

As the articles in our newsletter indicate, there are sources other than parish vital records. There may be a parish registry that does not contain sensitive information. Transcriptions of cemeteries is interesting and there is no access problem. In fact, Greg Kishel has done cemetery transcriptions and found them to be rewarding (e.g. see pages 10-13).

We wish you luck on your project and ask you to keep in touch with us.

Michael Eckman, Research Chair

PolishRoots.com

PolishRoots.com was established to create a free online resource for researchers working on their Polish heritage. Our web address is <http://www.polishroots.com>

Don Szumowski <DSzumowski@aol.com>

Minnesota Biographies Project

I am a member of PGS-MN and the county coordinator for the Benton County MNGenWeb/USGenWeb Project. I would like to do a story for the newsletter about information available to Polish researchers. I would also like to mention the Minnesota Biographies project, where I am county coordinator for Benton and Stearns County.

In May of 1997, this project was organized by Jeff Murphy, who was also involved with the USGenWeb Project, using the established Kentucky Biographies Project as a model. Volunteers are needed to enter, edit, and archive biographies and we are looking for submissions. The URL for Benton County is <<http://members.aol.com/bentoncomn>> A link to the state page is on my home page.

Regards, **Ron Zurek** <Rzurek@aol.com>

Editor's reply: I would love to include your article in our newsletter. Your idea has great possibilities: I can envision a regular biography column in our newsletter. Our members could submit biographies to both our newsletter for publication and to the Minnesota Biographies Project website (or to any other state Biographies Project website). Readers: Note the article about this project on p. 7.

More about the Warzecha surname

I am a member of PGS-MN and saw the article by Paul Kulas on the WARZECHA surname in the Autumn issue of the *Newsletter*. In the Winter 1998-99 issue, I requested information on the Warzecha name and also on Phillipsek, (Phillips) which is my father's name. I have found some information about the Warzecha name in conversation and at the Minnesota History Center of St. Paul.

Nic(k)olaus Warzecha and Rosalia were married in about 1855 and emigrated from Poland in 1879. Their children were: John (stayed in Poland), Victoria (married Frank Czech), Eva (married to John Czech), Sebastian, Anton and Frank (Francis, my mother's father).

The children of Victoria and Frank Czech were: John and Joseph (There may have been another boy).

The children of Eva and John Czech were: Lucas, Victoria (Winkler), Alois, Theodore, Mary and Joseph.

The children of Sebastian and Sophia (Schlighting) were: Lucy, Dorothy, Victoria, Zachaus, Phillip, Frank, Edward, Stanley, Agnes, Constance, Cecelia, Michael and Vincent.

The children of Anton were: Joseph (Mary Morgel), Anna (Korneck), Mary (Mayron), Elizabeth (Ahles), Catherine (Pautch), Anton (Dobis), Bridget, John and Sebastian (Huver).

The children of Prank and Elizabeth (Cherek) were: Catherine (Kate, born 4-'92), Frank (12-'93), Joseph (11-'95), Albina (2-'97, my mother), Theresa (10-'98), Mary (3-'00), Bernard ('01), Anna ('03) and Raymond ('04).

My mother, (Albina) married Stanley Phillips (Phillipsek) on September 30, 1916 and they settled on land in McGrath, MN and farmed there. My Dad died in 1969 and my mother in 1987. There were four children in the family: Elvene (born in 1917), Albina (1919), Leonard (1921, Dr. Phillips died in 1975) and Lucy (1923).

I am Lucy (Lou) and I live in So. St. Paul, MN. I married Michael Kruchowski in 1945 and we had six children: Michael Jr. (died in 1987), Caryl, Jeanne, Rita, Sharon and Mary. I have two grandchildren-- Amy and Eric. My husband passed away in 1990.

I am sure there are errors in this information, but I am passing it on, hoping that it can be helpful to others and I welcome any corrections and/or additions.

Sincerely, **Lou Kruchowski**
<LKRUCHOWSKI@Prodigy.NET>

Editor's comment: I believe this is the type of information that Ron Zurek would like our members to post on the Minnesota Biographies Project Website (see previous letter by Ron and his article on p. 7.

Union of Polish Roman Catholics

I came across a pin with a heart, Polish eagle etc. and the letters Z P R K W A, which I guess stands for: Zwlazek Polskich Rzymo- Katolikow w Ameryce (Union of Polish Roman Catholics in America). Can you shed some light on this organization? Does it still exist in the Twin Cities?

Yours sincerely, **Kornel Kondy, Minneapolis.**

Editor's note: The Polish Roman Catholic Union is a fraternal insurance company. This is probably the organization named on the pin. How about it, folks! Do you know anything about this organization? If so, write and tell us about it.



The Minnesota GenWeb and Minnesota Biographies Projects

by Ron Zurek <rzurek@aol.com>

Editor's note: Ron is a PGS-MN member and the MNGenWeb County Coordinator for Benton County and Minnesota Biographies (County Coordinator for Benton and Stearns Counties). He has maternal ancestors in Benton County and presently lives in Etiwanda, California.

In March and April 1996, a group of genealogists organized the Kentucky Comprehensive Genealogy Database. The idea was to provide a single entry point for all counties in Kentucky where collected databases would be stored. In addition, databases would be indexed and cross-linked, so that even if an individual were found in more than one county they would be located in the index. This led to the creation of the USGenWeb of which Minnesota is a part. The URL for Benton County is <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnbenton>>. The table of contents includes: Benton County profile, biographies, map of Benton County, historical photo album, queries, resource links, surnames, and vital records information.

In May of 1997, the US Biographies Project ("Bios") was organized by Jeff Murphy, using the established Kentucky Biographies Project as a model. State coordinators were sought to set up their own project. They were offered the system design and tools created for the Kentucky project, but were free to set up their project in any way they chose. County sites generally have an index to the biographies, a list of reference sources, data entry guidelines, and a list of volunteers for that county.

The Bios Project has been around a little less than USGenWeb but started by the same gentlemen who started GenWeb. At that time there was no GenConnect or county resource pages, so the project was announced to all GenWeb lists and volunteers were

sought. However, at the time GenWeb was also new and not well staffed so it was difficult to get the Bios Project up and running.

Kentucky and Indiana started off big and a few other states joined the project. Then things slowed. The gentleman who started the project was ill and didn't have the time and energy to put into it. About a year ago, he asked for someone to take over as US Coordinator and the Indiana State Coordinator volunteered for the job. The Bios Project was started to be a sister project to GenWeb. Volunteers to the Bios project are dedicated to supporting free genealogical information available to all on the World Wide Web.

Many of the current coordinators of GenWeb were not around when the Bios Project started and are unaware of its existence. In Indiana and Kentucky there are many GenWeb coordinators that have adopted the Bios site as well. Volunteers are needed to submit their Bios to the county coordinators where they are entered, edited, and archived for all to see. If you have biographies you would like to donate for Benton or Stearns County, please contact me at <rzurek@aol.com>. The URLs for my sites are <<http://members.aol.com/bentoncomn>> and <<http://members.aol.com/stearnscomn>>, respectively.

If you would like to volunteer to coordinate and host an available Minnesota Biographies county, please contact the Minnesota State Coordinator Tina Hursh at <ribbit@clubnet.isl.net>.

Editor's comment: Ron is to be commended for taking on this project for Benton and Stearns counties. I encourage PGS-MN members to submit biographies of their ancestors to Ron if they lived in Stearns or Benton counties in Minnesota or to the county coordinator of the appropriate county in the Minnesota Biographies Project or the US Biographies Project if they lived elsewhere. And while your at it--submit a copy to this newsletter as well. It is my intention to start a regular column featuring biographies of our Polish immigrant forbears. However, this effort can only be successful if members are willing to contribute articles about their Polish immigrant ancestors. Please remember to include photographs, maps or other graphics along with the biography when sending your materials to us. --PTK

THE BEGINNING OF POLISH SETTLEMENT IN DULUTH

Compiled by Stanisław Walczak
Translated by Greg Kishel¹

The Pole, persecuted in his own country under the Prussian annexation, abandoned his native soil and went where his eyes showed the way, to a new land. As yet, steamships had not been perfected; with faith in his heart, he departed in the sailing vessels to that new nation of freedom, the United States. He did not seek refuge in the densely-populated cities, but went far off to the forested wilderness, in order to be able to live, to worship his own God, and to save his own soul there, far from the turmoil of the world.

About the year 1860, near the mouth of the St. Louis River, or rather near the western tip of Lake Superior, there existed the small settlement called Duluth. The railroad still did not go there; only the sailing boats, seeming to wander in when they arrived at port. Sometimes the boats brought immigrants, who, having more courage, were plunging into the virgin forests. And thus around the year 1860, Poles were found among the immigrants to Duluth. The Polish community was a small one, but filled with solace in God and in their own strength. At the time, the settlement in Duluth numbered about 250 families of various nationalities: French, German, Swedish, Irish, and other national groups. Among the Poles, the first who arrived were: Józef Redlak, Marcin Lepak, F. Myszka, S. Sengir, Jan Myszka, M. Hopa, Andrzej Myszka, Łukasz Nowicki, Wojciech Horka, Marcin Muzolf, Kasper Frankowski, Ignazy Gulcz, Nikodem Manikowski, Walenty Krzeszewski, Wojciech Milostan, Jan Keślakiewicz, Stanisław Keślakiewicz, Marcin Kuśnierek, Paweł Lepak, Marciniak, Maciejewski, Jan Polski, Rybak, and many others. They were Poles from the Prussian Partition and for the most part were single men.

In the year 1870, the Poles, in partnership with other Catholics, constructed a small chapel from wood, on

¹The original Polish-language text is from *Album Wydany z Okazji Srebrnego Jubileuszu Parafji ŚŚ. Piotra i Pawła, w Duluth, Minn.* (1926), pp. 14-15. The translator is indebted to Elizabeth Jamieson of Virginia, Minnesota, who gave a copy of this rare jubilee book to him. The original has been deposited with the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, and a photocopy is item no. 36 in the PGS-MN's Church and Local History Collection, housed at the MGS Library in Golden Valley. Thanks are also due to Pat Labadie, of the Marine Museum of the Corps of Engineers in Duluth, for locating the illustration in the Museum's files.

the spot where the cathedral stands today. A French priest conducted the church services; he understood the German language somewhat, from which the Poles benefitted greatly.

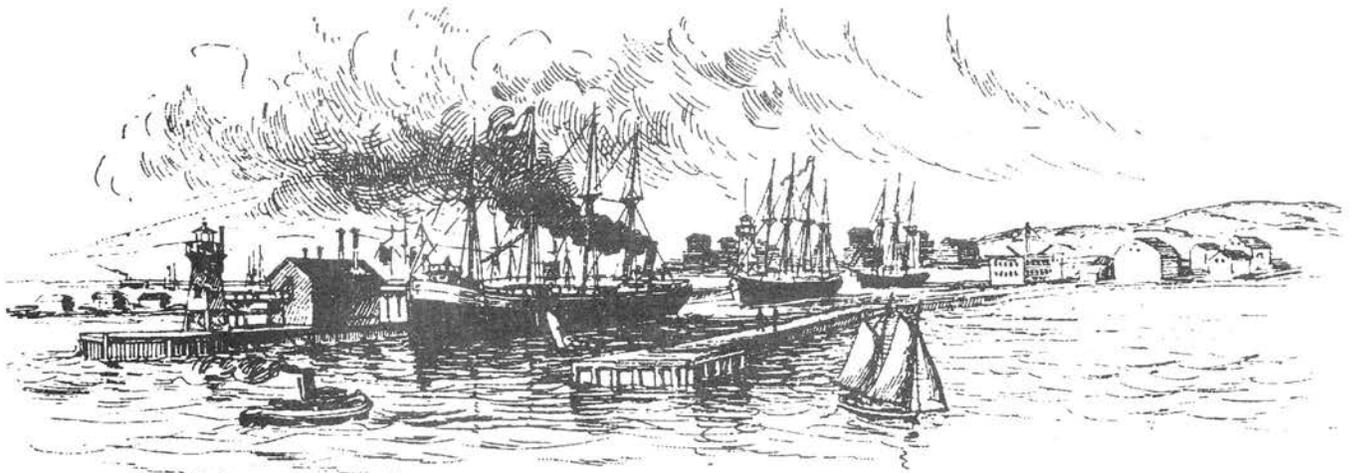
The city developed slowly; the railroad still did not go there. The closest train station was in the city of Hinckley, 75 miles away, and beyond that point whoever wished to reach Duluth had to go by horse and wagon or on foot. There was not much work; only at the times when the boats entered the harbor could a man earn anything for himself.

Life there was not pleasant for the Poles, and many among them went searching for their own farms, seeking to settle on the so-called "homesteads." Twelve miles to the north of Duluth the Poles founded their own colony and named it Gniezno. In Duluth a Polish church still had not been considered; and yet, there in Gniezno, in the year 1879, the Poles--numbering scarcely twelve families--started to build their own church so that they could worship their own God in their own language. The chapel was small, built from hand-hewn timber, but it sufficed for their needs. The times were hard then; the soil alone did not yet offer subsistence, and the men went to the city, only to toil in drudgery on the boats just so they could buy sugar, coffee, salt, and flour for their home needs.

The boats which voyaged to the inland ports of the Great Lakes were then mostly sailboats; seldom it was that a steamship entered the port of Duluth. When such a steamship sailed into the port, the people went to see it with curiosity. It came to pass, that Polish maidens arrived, their Polish dress giving them away. Right away they found themselves young men, who took them in marriage for lifelong service as wives.

Only around the year 1880 did the Poles begin to increase into larger communities, when the railroads joined the city of Duluth with other, already-developed cities to the south. The greater portion of the Poles settled on the eastern side of the city; there, in the year 1883, they constructed their own church, dedicated to St. Mary, Star of the Sea. The first Polish priests who came to Duluth were Father Szulak and Father Klemens Gruenholtz-Zieliński, who became the first parish priest of St. Mary, Star of the Sea. After him, there followed Father Jan Maczynski, Father Jakub Wójcik and Father Jan Sroka. After that priest, the construction of the western Polish church, Saints Peter and Paul was initiated.²

²Parish historian Stanisław Walczak's account continues with the early years of Ss. Peter and Paul. Though that was not directly germane to our current coverage of the community of Gnesen, a translation of the remainder of his work will appear in a future issue.



The ship channel in Duluth, c. 1895.

Source: Library Collection, Marine Museum, Corps of Engineers, Duluth

A TRANSCRIPTION OF ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY, GNESEN, ST. LOUIS COUNTY: PART 1

By Greg Kishel

A year ago I took, prepared, and published the PGS-MN's first cemetery transcription.¹ After I finished it, I felt like I'd had a hand in preserving the memory of real Minnesota pioneers--humble people who'd had a hard life in settling a raw corner of our state. The experience was so rewarding that I decided to continue it, with other rural places where Polish immigrants had had a substantial presence.

I hit on Gnesen Township, just north of Duluth in St. Louis County, as my next subject. I'd known that the townships of Rice Lake and Gnesen had been the first place of distinctively Polish settlement in northeastern Minnesota, and that St. Joseph's, the local Roman Catholic church, was still standing. However, I had never visited the township, or investigated its history--not even during the nine years that I had lived in Duluth (1977-1986). So, I got directions to the church and cemetery, and paid an early-evening visit during my monthly work-related circuit-ride to the Zenith City this past June.

St. Joseph's is about a 25-minute drive north of Duluth; one takes Rice Lake Road to the Gnesen General Store, turns right onto Emerson Road, and finds it there 1.3 miles later at the intersection of Emerson and Church Roads. The structure is neatly maintained (resided with vinyl and augmented by an entryway addi-

tion, both during the last decade). The congregation is served by St. John's in Duluth's Woodland neighborhood, as a mission church. The building and its adjoining walled cemetery, shaded by large spruce trees and smaller arbor vitae, make a classic country combination.

A quick inspection of the cemetery on that first visit on June 9 showed me I'd made a good choice; 90% of the markers or more showed surnames that were obviously Polish, and quite a few of them had inscriptions in the mother tongue. Many of the stones were interesting for their design; a few from the 1890s had an Art Nouveau motif, many obelisks had long and ornate text, and there was an assortment of concrete and iron crosses too.

I then set to work. It was a larger job than the one at Buyck; though I got the impression that the township had been founded by a like number of families--between a dozen and twenty--it had been almost twice as long ago and most of the descendants had stayed in the township. Since my time was less open-ended, I had to return on the evenings of August 11 and September 7 and 9 to finish the job. The weather during June's visit was pleasant, but the later stops tested my researcher's resolve; the mosquitoes were voracious,² and the scattered showers predicted for September 9

¹"A Transcription of the 'Polish Side' of the Forest Home Cemetery, Buyck, St. Louis County," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 6, no. 4, pp. 14-17 (Winter, 1998-99).

²Nobody can say that I haven't given blood for this organization. The pages of my notebook bear a bit of it, from my efforts to fend off the meddlesome Minnesota state insect.

scattered just enough drops on me to be constantly annoying. Still and all, I finished the task, and returned in October and November to proof my work and to take pictures.

I used the notation system I'd formulated in Buyck, counting eighteen rows of gravesites in all, with the last row separated from the others by a large expanse of grass. I numbered them east from the wall next to Church Road. I then identified groups of markers within each row, numbering them south from the church and trying to keep all adjoining markers identified to the same group if they appeared to be part of the same family.³

I have alphabetized the transcriptions by the name of the individual. The markers are signified as "HS," if a headstone; "FS," if a footstone; "Ob.," if an obelisk; and "Cr.," if a cross. Where groups have both head- and footstones, I have used the notation "FS, under HS." Brackets around a surname mean that it is not given on the footstone; in that case, I attached the surname given on the associated headstone.

Here and there I subordinated descriptive language like "Rest in Peace," and "Mother"/"Father" to the individual's name, just to make use of the sort function on my word processor. In all other respects, though, these are verbatim transcriptions of the *full* inscriptions.⁴ After I noticed striking evidence of a decades-long process of Americanization in the form of the older inscriptions, the historian in me just *had* to make the extra effort to preserve it.

And so I present to you the first half of my transcription--the Polish pioneers of Gnesen and Rice Lake Townships and their descendants who rest there next to St. Joseph's:

³I wasn't 100% successful at the grouping, probably due to the distraction of multiplesimultaneous mosquito bites. I suppose the minor inconsistencies are part of the charm of an amateur effort. As it is, row 1 begins with group 1; row 2 with group 3; row 3 with group 9; row 4 with group 15; row 5 with group 22; row 6 with group 36; row 7 with group 47; row 8 with group 57; row 9 with group 72; row 10 with group 82; row 11 with group 92; row 12 with group 103; row 13 with group 116; row 14 with group 124; row 15 with group 130; row 16 with group 140; row 17 with group 144; and row 18 consists of group 147.

⁴And, in case the Polish linguists among you may wonder: yes, that's *verbatim*, variant spellings, apparent misspellings, and possible dialectal variations included. I certainly don't know enough about late-19th century *polski*, of the European or American varieties, to account for some of the oddments in spelling. Some just might be attributable to errors by non-Polish gravestone carvers, and bereaved families who didn't want to make an issue.

ABRAHAMSON
Frances A.
Mother
1918 - 1988
*R. 17; Grp. 146; HS, with
William J. ABRAHAMSON*

William E. ABRAHAMSON
1940 - 1985
Beloved Father
R. 17; Grp. 146; HS

ABRAHAMSON
William J. Sr.
Father
1913
*R. 17; Grp. 146; HS, with
Frances A. ABRAHAMSON*

Ida Miller BANACK
Grandma
1870 † 1953
R. 5; Grp. 33; FS

BLASZAK
Alice
Mother
1909 - 1957
*R. 9; Grp. 81; HS,
with Chester BLASZAK*

Catherine M.
BLASZAK
1907 - 1995
R. 9; Grp. 81; FS

BLASZAK
Chester
Father
1903 - 1995
*R. 9; Grp. 81; HS,
with Alice BLASZAK*

BROIHER
August F.
Father
1887 - 1980
*R. 16; Grp. 140; FS,
with Marcella A. BROIHER*

BROIHER
Marcella A.
Mother
1903 - 1988
*R. 16; Grp. 140; FS,
with August F. BROIHER*

William D.
CAIN
Minnesota
Sgt
US Marine Corps
World War I
April 29, 1885
August 22, 1954
R.11; Grp.102; FS

Ann CHESNEY
1894 - 1914
R. 6; Grp. 46; HS

Baby CHESNEY
† Sept. 24, 1948 †
R. 1; Grp. 1; FS

Frank CHESNEY
Son of Jozef
July 17, 1907
May 14, 1908
R. 7; Grp. 47; FS

CHESNEY
Helen T.
July 9, 1917
Parents of
Donald J. -- Jerold J.
Sharon A. -- Warren W.
*R. 1; Grp. 1; HS,
with Walter CHESNEY*

John F. CHESNEY
Apr. 23, 1903
May 25, 1971
R. 8; Grp. 71; FS

CHESNEY
Martin J.
1904 † 1956
R. 1; Grp. 1; FS

CHESNEY
Mary Jane
†
*R. 1; Grp. 1; FS, with
Martin J. CHESNEY*

Peter CHESNEY
1905 † 1984
R. 16; Grp. 141; FS

CHESNEY
Walter
May 31, 1912
Aug. 6, 1992
Parents of
Donald J. -- Jerold J.
Sharon A. -- Warren W.
*R. 1; Grp. 1; HS, with
Helen T. CHESNEY*

COLLINS
Al F.
Father
Together Forever
1904
1987
*R. 15; Grp. 132; HS,
with Harriet COLLINS*

COLLINS
 Harriet
 Mother
 Together Forever
 1904
 1972
*R. 15; Grp. 132; HS,
 with Al F. COLLINS*

CZERNIAK
 Adeline M.
 1915 -
*R. 12; Grp. 110; HS,
 with John S. CZERNIAK*

CZERNIAK
 John S.
 1912 - 1986
*R. 12; Grp. 110; HS, with
 Adeline M. CZERNIAK*

Tu Spoczywa S.P.
 Rosalia POTULNY
 CZOLGOSZ
 D. Urodziła się
 14go Marca 1863 Ro.
 D. Umarła
 15go Maja 1924 Ro.
 R.I.P.
R. 9; Grp. 76; Ob. [S. side]

Dolores A. DALLAVIA
 Loving Wife-Mother
 Feb 1 1914 † Feb 3 1998
R. 18; Grp. 147; FS

Louis J DALLAVIA
 US Navy
 World War II
 May 14 1911 † Sep 8 1997
R. 18; Grp. 147; FS

Agniszka DATKA
 Ur. D. 20. Grudnia 1845.
 Umarła 2 Czerwca 1903.
 Prosze O. Zdrowas maraia
R. 7; Grp. 51; Cr

Cecilia DATKA
 July 26, 1906
 Feb. 12, 1912
 Baby
R.7; Grp. 53; HS

John DATKA
 Born 1881
 Died
 Aug. 16, 1927
R. 8; Grp. 64; HS

Piotr DATKA
 U Roku 1838
 Umarł 1911
R. 8; Grp. 64; Cr.

Charles [DULINSKI]
 1902 - 1911
 Son
*R. 10; Grp. 84; FS,
 under HS DULINSKI*

Isabelle DULINSKI
*R. 1; Grp. 2; FS,
 with Martin DULINSKI*

John [DULINSKI]
 1842 - 1904
 Father
*R. 10; Grp. 84; FS,
 under HS DULINSKI*

John [DULINSKI]
 1884 † 1965
 Son
R. 11; Grp. 94; FS

Joseph [DULINSKI]
 1882 † 1947
 Son
R. 11; Grp. 94; FS

Leo DULINSKI
*R. 9; Grp. 74; FS, with
 Veronica DULINSKI*

Martin DULINSKI
*R. 1; Grp. 2; FS, with
 Isabelle DULINSKI*

Pelagia [DULINSKI]
 1860 - 1950
 Mother
*R. 10; Grp. 84; FS,
 under HS DULINSKI*

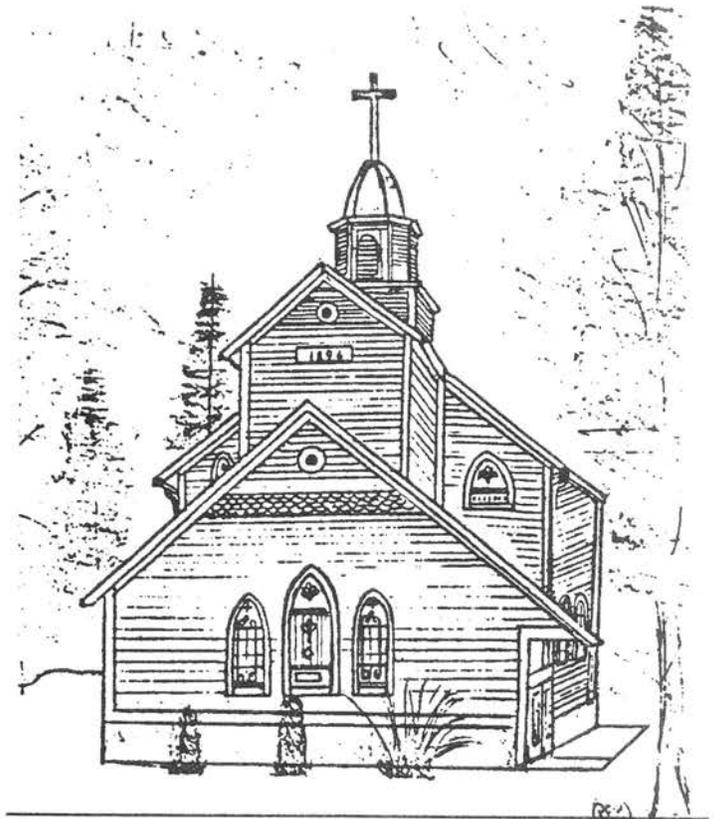
Veronica DULINSKI
*R. 9; Grp. 74; FS,
 with Leo DULINSKI*

Willie [DULINSKI]
 1874 - 1899
*R. 10; Grp. 84; HS,
 under HS DULINSKI*

EGE
 Arnold L.
 1925
*R. 13; Grp. 119; FS,
 with Caroline M. EGE*

EGE
 Caroline M.
 1926
*R. 13; Grp. 119; FS,
 with Arnold L. EGE*

Al E. FORSETH
 1907 - 1959
R. 12; Grp. 113; FS



St. Joseph's Church, Gnesen

(Source: Cover of *Faith on a Changing Frontier: St. Joseph's Church, 1896 - 1996*, by John Whitney Evans)

Emil T. FORSETH Father 1882 - 1954 <i>R. 12; Grp. 113; FS</i>	John G. FRANCKOWIAK Father 1886 - 1961 <i>R. 2; Grp. 4; HS, with Frances B. FRANCKOWIAK</i>
Mary A. FORSETH Mother 1876 - 1967 <i>R. 12; Grp. 113; FS</i>	FRANCKOWIAK Joseph W. 1915 <i>R. 12; Grp. 108; HS, with Helen C. FRANCKOWIAK</i>
Adam FRANCKOWIAK Apr. 6 1927 May 16 Baby <i>R. 10; Grp. 85; FS</i>	Jozef FRANCKOWIAK Marca 1 1885 Czerwca 23 1894 <i>R. 9; Grp. 75; HS</i>
Eugene M. FRANCKOWIAK Father 1949 - 1994 Chad - Kellie - Ryan <i>R. 2; Grp. 3; HS</i>	Samuel John FRANCKOWIAK 1916 - 1995 <i>R. 2; Grp. 3; HS, with Barbara A. LEPAK</i>
Frances B. FRANCKOWIAK Mother 1889 - 1954 <i>R. 2; Grp. 4; HS, with John G. FRANCKOWIAK</i>	Wojciech FRANCKOWIAK Marca 27, 1853 Stycznia 19, 1919 [with small FS: FATHER] <i>R. 10; Grp. 85; HS, with FS noted</i>
FRANCKOWIAK Helen C. 1917 <i>R. 12; Grp. 108; HS, with Joseph W. FRANCKOWIAK</i>	



Gnesen and Rice Lake Townships are located just north of the City of Duluth. Source: Plat Book of Minnesota, (Rockford, Illinois: W.W. Hixson & Co., undated, ca. 1915), South Part of St. Louis County.

Pamela Ann Robison FUENTES
Feb. 1, 1958 June 22, 1991
Beloved Wife and Mother
R. 12; Grp. 109; HS

Joseph V. GALESKI
Father
1891 - 1968
In Loving Memory
R. 12; Grp. 111; FS

Lucille GALESKI
Mother
1894 - 1962
In Loving Memory
R. 12; Grp. 111; FS

Kenneth W. GOODELL
Father
1914 † 1976
R. 12; Grp. 115; FS

Virginia M. GOODELL
Mother
1912 † 1960
R. 12; Grp. 115; FS

GRALEWSKI
Cecelia L.
1907 - 1982
*R. 4; Grp. 15; HS, with
Edward J. GRALEWSKI*

GRALEWSKI
Edward J.
1902 - 1985
*R. 4; Grp. 15; HS, with
Cecelia L. GRALEWSKI*

Joseph M. GRALEWSKI
Our Baby 1939 - 1940
R. 4; Grp. 16; FS

Thomas GRALEWSKI
In Loving Memory
1944 - 1989
R. 4; Grp. 15; FS

John GRAMS
Our Darling
Dec. 7, 1888
Dec. 27, 1892
R. 9; Grp. 78; HS

Bronisława
GRONKOWSKA
1857 † 1929
Matka
R. 8; Grp. 57; FS

Marceli
GRONKOWSKI
1851 † 1916
Ojciec
R. 9; Grp. 72; FS

Antonia HANTZ
Mother
1869 - 1943
R. 10; Grp. 88; HS

John S. HANTZ
Pvt US Army
World War II
May 21 1899 Mar 14 1980
R. 13; Grp. 123; FS

HANTZ
Mary M.
June 23, 1904
June 14, 1987
*R. 13; Grp. 123; HS,
with Samuel A. HANTZ*

HANTZ
Samuel A.
Oct 28 1894
Mar 8 1960
*R. 13; Grp. 123; HS,
with Mary M. HANTZ*

Samuel Anton HANTZ
Minnesota
Pvt Co K 54 Pioneer Inf
World War I
Oct 28 1894 March 8 1960
R. 12; Grp. 114; FS

Sophie D. HAUG
Died 5-12-84
R. 3; Grp. 10; FS

HOMBERG
Mother
Mary
1846 - 1930
R.10; Grp. 87; HS

Anna JAKUBEK
Mother
1892 - 1949
R. 11; Grp. 101; HS

Chester T. JAKUBEK
In Loving Memory
1925 Father 1996
R. 16; Grp. 142; FS

Friciska
JAKUBEK
Urodzila sie
6 Mar. 1858
Zmarla
10 Stic. 1899
Ziada o Ojci
Nas i Sdrawa
Malyja.
R. 10; Grp. 83; Ob.

Inga J. JAKUBEK
In Loving Memory
1921 Mother 1984
R. 16; Grp. 142; FS

John JAKUBEK
1913 - 1938
R. 14; Grp. 128; HS

John JAKUBEK
Father
Died
Jan. 8, 1930
Aged 47 Years
R. 9; Grp. 79; HS

Joseph
1916 Father 1974
JAKUBEK
*R. 15; Grp. 135; FS, with
Margaret JAKUBEK*

JAKUBEK
Lois M.
1922
*R. 14; Grp. 124; HS,
with William JAKUBEK*

Margaret
1918 Mother 1991
JAKUBEK
*R. 15; Grp. 135; FS,
with Joseph JAKUBEK*

Michael JAKUBEK
1858 - 1936
Father
R. 9; Grp. 79; HS

Teslaw
JAKUBEK
Father
1885 - 1929
R. 8; Grp. 68; HS

JAKUBEK
William
1921 - 1993
*R. 14; Grp. 124; HS,
with Lois M. JAKUBEK*

JAZDZEWSKI
Anna
1912 - 1935
*R. 4; Grp. 16; HS, with
Michael JAZDZEWSKI*

Augustena [JAZDZEWSKI]
1847 - 1924 Mother
*R. 11; Grp. 92; HS,
under HS JAZDZEWSKI*

JAZDZEWSKI
Mother
Ida C.
1882 - 1947
*R. 4; Grp. 16; HS, with
Ignace G. JAZDZEWSKI*



Rubbing of a headstone at St. Joseph's Cemetery, showing Art Nouveau design.

JAZDZEWSKI
Father
Ignace G.
1879 - 1968
*R. 4; Grp. 16; HS, with
Ida C. JAZDZEWSKI*

John [JAZDZEWSKI]
1846 - 1922
Father
*R. 11; Grp. 92; HS,
under HS JAZDZEWSKI*

John A. [JAZDZEWSKI] Jr.
Father
1893 † 1972
*R. 12; Grp. 105; FS,
under HS JAZDZEWSKI*

JAZDZEWSKI
Joseph
1894 - 1920
Father
*R. 11; Grp. 92; HS, with
Victoria JAZDZEWSKI*

Katherine S. [JAZDZEWSKI]
Mother
1900 † 1948
*R. 12; Grp. 105; FS,
under HS JAZDZEWSKI*

JAZDZEWSKI
Michael
1911 - 1939
*R. 4; Grp. 16; HS,
with Anna JAZDZEWSKI*

JAZDZEWSKI
Victoria Hubert
1894 - 1954
Mother
*R. 11; Grp. 92; HS, with
Joseph JAZDZEWSKI*

Catherine
KANESKI
Mother
1876 † 1952
*R. 6; Grp. 43; HS,
with Joseph KANESKI*

KANESKI
Dorothy
1918
*R. 5; Grp. 29; FS,
with Paul J. KANESKI*

KANESKI
Elsie M.
Mother
1900 - 1970
R. 15; Grp. 136; FS

Frank Michael KANESKI
US Navy
World War I
1898 - 1982
R.15; Grp. 137; FS

KANESKI
Joseph
Father
1870 † 1919
*R. 6; Grp. 43; HS, with
Catherine KANESKI*

KANESKI
Paul J.
1914 - 1994
*R. 5; Grp. 29; FS, with
Dorothy A. KANESKI*

Audrey Rose
KARALUS
1946 † 1947
R. 8; Grp. 65; FS

KARALUS
Ignatius
Father
1872 - 1943
*R. 9; Grp. 77; HS,
with Mary KARALUS*

S.P.
Maci. KARALUS
Urodzil sie
7 Lutego
w. Roku 1846
Zmarl 6 Kwietnia
w. Roku 1896
Prosi O
Westhnenie
Do Boga.
R. 9; Grp. 77; Ob.

KARALUS
Mary
Mother
1881 - 1945
*R. 9; Grp. 77; HS, with
Ignatius KARALUS*

Victoria KARALUS
82 Years Old
Died Nov. 18__ [illeg.]
At Rest
R. 9; Grp. 77; Ob.

Edward V. KARO
Minnesota
PFC XIV Corps
March 14 1935 Dec 1 1970
R. 15; Grp. 136; FS

Julia KMIECH
Mother
1880 - 1964
R. 13; Grp. 118; FS

KONECZNY
Willard
1918 - 1998
Married July 22, 1942
*R. 13; Grp. 116; FS, with
Josephine KONECZNY*

KONECZNY
Josephine
1918 - 1980
Married July 22, 1942
*R. 12; Grp. 116; FS, with
Willard KONECZNY*

Anna KOSLAKIEWICZ
Died Feb 16 1941.
R. 6; Grp. 40; Cr.

T.S.S.P.
Anna
KOSLAKOWICZ
Ur. D. 26 Sz.
R. 1832
Um. D. 20 St.
1907
*R. 5; Grp. 27; Ob., with
S. T. KOSLAKOWICZ*

Andrew
KOSLAKOWICZ
1865 1927
R. 2; Grp. 5; HS

J. KOSLAKOWICZ
R. 8; Grp. 61; Cr.

Kathrine KOSLAKOWICZ
Born Oct 1843
Died Nov 1935
R. 2; Grp. 5; HS

M. KOSLAKOWICZ
R. 7; Grp. 50; Cr.

M. KOSLAKOWICZ
R. 7; Grp. 50; Cr.

Martin KOSLAKOWICZ
1894 - 1963
R. 15; Grp. 139; FS

Mary KOSLAKOWICZ
Mother
1857 † 1946
R. 2; Grp. 5; FS

Tu
S. S. P.
Marya
KOSLAKOWICZ
Przezela
Okolo Polowe
Wiek.
Umarla 25
Lipca 1898.
Prosi o Ojczy
Nasz Zdrowas
R. 7; Grp. 49; Ob.

S. KOSLAKOWICZ
1840. Aug. 17, 1923.
R. S; Grp. 28; Cr.

S. T. KOSLAKOWICZ
*R. 5; Grp. 27; Ob., with
Anna KOSLAKOWICZ*

KOVAHCIIH
Bernice
Wife
1879 † 1957
*R. 12; Grp. 112; FS,
with John KOVAHCIIH*

KOVAHCIIH
John
Husband
1886 † 1954
*R. 12; Grp. 112; FS, with
Bernice KOVAHCIIH*

KRISKE
Cecilia T.
1903 - 1989
*R. 10; Grp. 91; HS, with
Michael S. KRISKE*

KRISKE
Michael S.
1903 - 1958
*R. 10; Grp. 91; HS, with
Cecilia T. KRISKE*

Richard A. KRISKE
R. 5; Grp. 31; FS

KRZESZEWSKI
Agnes F.
1882 - 1966
R. 5; Grp. 32; HS

KRZESZEWSKI
John
1872 - 1935
and also:
John [KRZESZEWSKI]
1872 † 1935
Father
*R. 5; Grp. 32; HS, and FS,
under HS KRZESZEWSKI*

John KUBICKI
1851 - 1901
Father
*R. 5; Grp. 23; HS,
with Mary KUBICKI*

Mary KUBICKI
1858 - 1907
Mother
*R. 5; Grp. 23; HS,
with John KUBICKI*

Agnes KUBISKI
1882 † 1964
R. 6; Grp. 39; FS

Milton W. KUBISKI
Minnesota
PVT 191 TANK BN
World War II
Sept 16 1921 Nov 2 1944
R. 5; Grp. 26; FS

P.F.C. Milton W. KUBISKI
1921 1944
*R. 6; Grp. 39; HS
See also R. 5, Grp. 26*

Andrew KUSNIEREK
10-27-1881. 1-10-1882.
R. 8; Grp. 62; Cr

George W. [KUSZAK]
Father
1866 † 1945
*R. 4; Grp. 19; FS,
under HS KUSZAK*

Paul J.
KUSZAK
Daddy
1897 † 1944
Till We Meet Again
R.4; Grp. 19; HS

Stanislaus A. [KUSZAK]
Mother [sic]
1872 † 1951
*R. 4; Grp. 19; FS,
under HS KUSZAK*

Martin KWASIGROCH
1874 - 1939
Father
R. 12; Grp. 103; FS

Rosalie
KWASIGROCH
1833 - 1909
Mother
R. 8; Grp. 58; HS

Victoria KWASIGROCH
1876 - 1961
Mother
R. 12; Grp. 103; FS

Stephen LABUD
1884 † 1970
R. 4; Grp. 21; FS

Augusta LABUDA
1852 - 1935
Mother
R. 6; Grp. 42; FS

Catherine R.
LABUDA
1919 † 1998
R. 5; Grp. 34; FS

Frank LABUDA
Oct. 19, 1881
Aug. 18, 1923
R. 6; Grp. 42; HS

Jacob LABUDA
1839 - 1927
Father
R. 6; Grp. 42; FS

Josephine LABUDA
1923 †
R. 5; Grp. 34; FS

Martha LABUDA
1891 Mother 1972
R. 4; Grp. 21; FS

Mikołaj LABUDA
Urodził się
6 Grudnia 1879

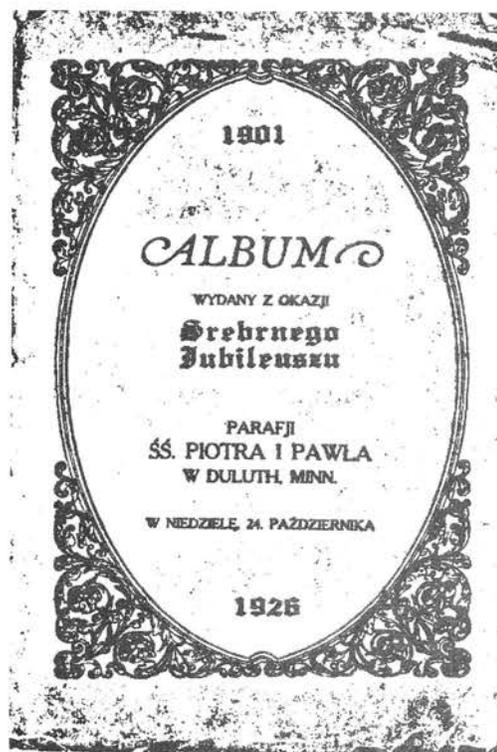
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* * * * *

This is the halfway point in my transcription; conveniently, it's just short of the entries for the LEPAK family, descendants of one of Gnesen's founders and the most numerous of Gnesen's Polish-Americans. We will conclude in our next issue with the rest of the cemetery's entries.⁵ As you peruse all of this, note how these cemetery markers are physical evidence of two different cultural processes: the ongoing Americanization of an immigrant community and its descendants, and the persistence of the old country's language and burial customs. See how many examples you can find; I'll discuss the ones I noticed among other conclusions from my research.

⁵I will accompany the remainder of the transcription with "The Patterns of Polish Settlement in Minnesota: Rice Lake and Gnesen Townships, St. Louis County, 1870-1920."



The cover of the Silver Jubilee History from Ss. Peter and Paul's Church in Duluth. Greg Kishel is translating this item for the *PGS-MN Newsletter* (See page 8).

Strzelce Opolskie:

Translations

by Kornel Kondy

Editor: I translated the following for one of my students. It occurred to me that you might like to include it in the *Newsletter* for a wider audience.

Strzelce Opolskie is located just southeast of Opole. Some immigrants from this area settled in the Opole/Little Falls area in Minnesota.

Regards, Kornel Kondy

The translation below is from PRZEWODNIK PO POLSCE, published by Sport i Turystyka, 1996., pp. 220-21.

Strzelce Opolskie:

Located in the Silesian uplands, at the base of the rising St. Ann Mountains (Góry świętej Anny). Farm machinery factory; large stone quarries. An ancient settlement (mentioned in 1271 sources) on the amber route. Granted town charter rights in 1362. Received income from taxes on transport of salt and agricultural products. In the 14th century it was the seat of the Opole Princes of the Piast Dynasty (the first Polish royal dynasty). In 13th/14th centuries a castle and the defense wall were constructed. Despite later attempts at Germanization, the town's residents remained faithful to their Polish origins. During the fierce fighting in 1945 large parts of the town underwent destruction, including the castle.

The rynek (town square) has a 19th century town hall, in place of an earlier 16th century one, of which only the tower survived. Next to it is a parish church built in 1907 replacing a baroque one of 1724. Interior has a main altar which dates from 1712. Beside the church is a turret, circa 15th century, rebuilt later as a bell tower in the 15th/16th century. West of the rynek is a cemetery with an old wooden St. Barbara's Church (Kościół świętej Barbary) built in 1505, rebuilt in 1690. Southwest of town are ruins of the Opole Princes' Castle, south of which is a lovely extensive park. Near the parish church there are remaining fragments of town dwellings and an 18th century granary. Also a baroque style house located at number 23 Krakowska St. (ulica Krakowska).

Strzelce Opolskie is located about 30 km southeast of Opole. Map source: Samochodowy Atlas Polski [Road Atlas of Poland] (Warszawa: Państwowe Przedsiębiorstwo Wydawnictw Kartograficznych), p. 27.



Strzelce Opolskie

woj. opolskie

Prawa miejskie uzyskały w roku 1362. Nazwa miasta wywodzi się od osiadłych tu strzelców (łowczych) książęcych w XIII wieku. Herb dwudzielny w słup. W polu prawym błękitnym połowa złotego orla górnośląskiego. W polu lewym złotym zielona gałązka winorośli z trzema listkami i jednym błękitnym gronem. Herb nawiązuje do tradycji uprawy winorośli.

The coat of arms above is from HERBARZ MAIAST POLSKICH by Andrzej Plewako and Jozef Wanag. A copy of this work is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. The caption is translated below.

Strzelce Opolskie

Province opolskie

The town charter was obtained in the year 1362. The name originates from a settlement here of royal rifle-men (hunters) in the 13th century. The coat of arms is divided by a vertical bar through the center; the right side depicts an Upper Silesian golden eagle on a blue field; the left has a green three-leaved grapevine branch with one blue cluster of grapes on a yellow field. The coat of arms is connected with the tradition of cultivating grapes.



LIBRARY CORNER

A Book Review, with comments about supplementary resources for Polish research.

by Ed Brandt

Fay Dearden and Douglas Dearden, *The German Researcher: How to get the most out of a LDS Family History Center*, 4th ed. Revised and enlarged, (Plymouth, MN: Family Tree Press, updated 1995). 81pp.

The Deardens have retired to the Sunbelt, so their Family Tree Press is no longer in Plymouth. To order the book, write to RHC 2, Box 180 V, Payson AZ 85541. Copies are also available for purchase at the LDS Family History Center in Crystal. Fay Dearden served as a volunteer at the Crystal Family History Center for many years, so the entire Twin Cities genealogical community owes her a debt of gratitude. This book is the result of her experience in helping others.

Declining health forced cancellation of her plans to prepare a parallel book, *The Polish Researcher*. However, nearly everything in *The German Researcher* is applicable to researching Poles from the Prussian/German partition, if any German language records are pertinent (as will always be the case if you search every possible source). At least half of it applies even if you research only records written in Polish or Latin. Which parts of the book are most valuable to you depends upon the extent of your research experience, your familiarity with Family History Centers, whether your ancestors left from Hamburg, and whether you already know some German.

The section on the Meyers gazetteer (*Meyers orts- und verkehrs- Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs* [Meyer's Gazetteer and Directory of the German Empire], E. Uetrecht, comp. -- copies of this work are available at the Germanic Genealogical Society Collection at Concordia College in St. Paul and at the Crystal LDS Family History Center in Crystal [film numbers 496,640-1]) is universally applicable, because it is virtually certain that at least some records pertaining to your ancestors will list the place names in use during the Partition period. The gazetteer is extremely informative, but nearly all genealogists find it hard to use because of the Gothic script, the many abbreviations, and the order in which information is presented. The Deardens' book is the least expensive one available which provides you with the assistance to navigate through Meyers. (See also *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Spring 1999, p. 16 for a discussion of this work).

To get the Polish name of localities which previously bore German names, check the filmed 1931 Kredel and Thierfelders gazetteer on permanent loan at the Crystal Family History Center (*Deutsch-fremdsprachiges (fremdsprachig-deutsches) Ortsnamenverzeichnis* [German-foreign language (foreign language-German) place name changes], film number 583,457). It is in an easy-to-use column format. The Dearden book will enable you to cope with the Gothic letters. (See also *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Autumn 1998, p. 8 and Spring 1999, p. 17, note 17).

For places transferred to Poland after World War II, check the gazetteer at Concordia by M. Kaemmerer (*Ortsverzeichnis der Ortschaften jenseits von Oder und Neisse* [List of Names of Localities East of the Oder and Neisse]). It has both a German to Polish and a less detailed Polish to German section. You only need to learn the abbreviations for the former Prussian provinces and the abbreviations for county (German: kr.; Polish: pow.) and locality (German: gem.; Polish: gm.)--Silesia = Schlesien; East Prussia = Ostpreussen; the names of the other provinces begin with the same first letters as used in English. (So far as I know, Kaemmerer's gazetteer published in 1988 is still available from the publisher: Verlag Rautenberg, Postfach 1909, D-26789 Leer, Germany.)

A two-volume post-WWII Polish gazetteer is Stanisław Rospond, *Skorowidz ustalonych nazw miejscowości na ziemiach odzyskanych, według uchwał Komisji Ustalania Nazw Miejscowości* [Gazetteer of Geographic Place Names in the Recovered Territories as approved by the Polish Board of Geographic Names] (Wrocław: Instytut Kartograficzny i Wydawnicay "Glob," 1948). I have no idea as to whether it is still in print or has been filmed.

The Deardens provide you with the film numbers for all of the Hamburg Passenger lists, both direct and indirect, and the indexes to them, by date, for 1855-1910. This means that you can search for the number at home and save precious time at the FHC -- this is especially important if you are coming from any distance. The lists from 1850 through 1893 (when heavy emigration from the German Empire ended), are being published in Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby, *Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at United States Ports* (Wilmington, DE : Scholarly Resources). "Germans" appears to include all residents of the German (and earlier Prussian) Empire, so this is a key resource for researching Polish ancestors from the Prussian/German Partition.

BOOK REVIEWS

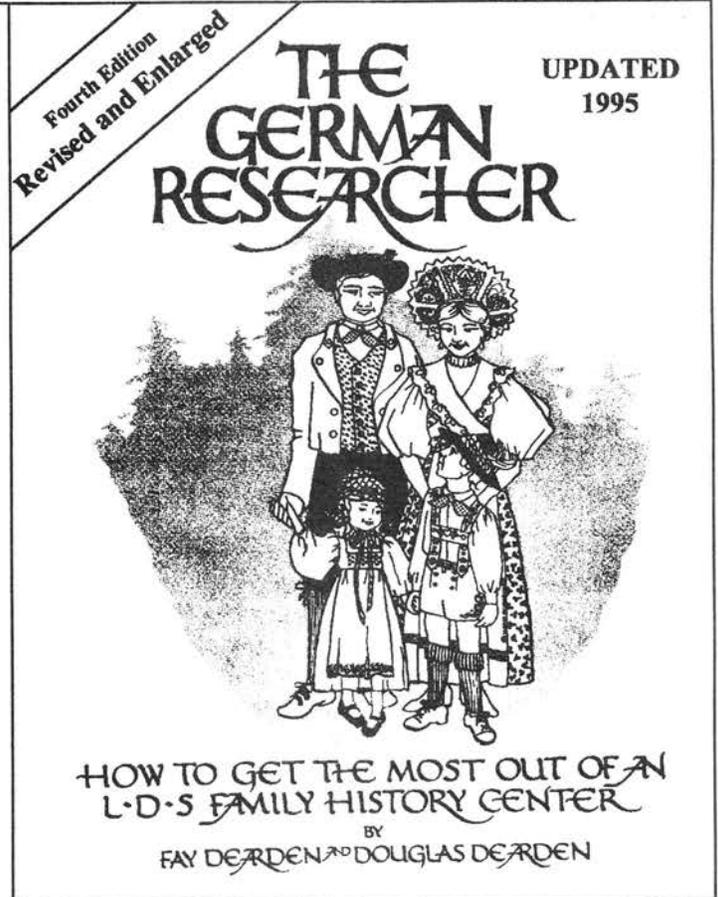
Some 60 volumes of this series, extending into 1891, have already been published and are in the GGS collection at Concordia College and at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. I recommend searching them (indexed by volume) as an easy first step. However, the data in this series is by no means perfect, since the transcribers who worked for the editors were not always successful in their deciphering efforts, especially with respect to place names. The actual passenger lists record the ancestral home town in every instance which has come to my attention, but the published series does not.

As for other parts of the Deardens' book: "Getting Started" is helpful for beginners. The page on the "International Genealogical Index" is important for those who have not used the IGI. (By the way, I recommend that you look under both Poland and Germany. This is even more important when using the "Family History Library Catalog." Initial cataloging depends on where and when the records were filmed. I would not take it for granted that there are dual country entries in all cases. Such double-checking is even more critical for ancestors who came from ethnically mixed parishes, i.e., particularly where there were many German Catholics [e.g., around Toruń or in many parts of Silesia] or if your ancestors were among the more modest numbers of Polish Protestants.)

"Other Emigration Lists" is most useful for its description of Hamburg police lists. All those who worked in Hamburg temporarily for lack of sufficient funds had to report to an office under police jurisdiction. This could have happened as a result of theft or swindling, especially in the early years before Hamburg adopted reforms to crack down on this, or for various other reasons, probably least often as a result of imprudence or miscalculation.

Appendix B, relating to computerization of certain kinds of Family History Library records, appears to be one of the few items added in the 1995 update. It remains a useful description, despite subsequent developments, such as some of the data becoming on-line in 1998.

The several sections relating to the Gothic script and German vocabulary may also be of some value for Poles from the Austrian Partition, although relatively few records were kept in German there and Lenius's gazetteer (Brian Lenius, *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*, 3rd expanded data edition, (Anola, MB, Canada: Author, 1999)--copy available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library) has eliminated any



*The 1990 edition of **The German Researcher** was reviewed by Ed Brandt in **PGS-MN Newsletter**, Summer 1993, p. 7. The 1995 updated edition is available in the Polish collection at the MGS Library.*

need to check Austrian gazetteers.

All in all, *The German Researcher* is a handy, inexpensive reference work to have on hand for those whose ancestors came from the Prussian/German Partition. Those sections which deal with the Family History Center and Hamburg records can be useful for researching ancestors from the Russian and Austrian Partitions as well.

*Editor's note: Ed Brandt, Ph.D. is a co-founder of PGS-MN and is the author of several books about Polish, German and Mennonite genealogical research. His very useful and comprehensive **Resources of Polish-American and Polish-Canadian Genealogical Research**, 2nd ed., (Minneapolis: Author, 1998) is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS library or may be purchased directly from him at: 13-27th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414-3101.*

PGS-MN NEWSLETTER

Surname Indexing Project

We have begun indexing the surnames included in the past issues of the *PGS-MN Newsletter*. The follow listing includes all surnames that appeared in Volume One, Nos. 1-4: Winter 1993, Summer 1993, Autumn 1993, and Winter 1993-94. The code used in this listing is as follows: the first number is the volume number (each name in this listing appears in Volume One, so the first number is "1"), the second number is the issue number, and the third number is the page number. We will index past volumes at the rate of one volume per issue. When we are up-to-date, we will publish a complete integrated listing of Volumes 1-10. We are indebted to PGS-MN member **Audra Etzell** for undertaking this project. Back issues of Volume One are available from the editor of this newsletter for \$3.50 per issue.



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A DREAM COME TRUE

by **Jeanette Bias**
657 Belland Ave.
Vadnais Heights MN 55127
<Jeanette.Bias@Unisys.com>

I was on a 2-week tour of Poland from October 4 through October 18, 1999 with a group of 24. We toured Warsaw, Częstochowa, Kraków, Wrocław, Poznań, Toruń, and Gdańsk with side trips to other places. It was a wonderful, fascinating and exciting trip and experience. While on the tour, I took a side trip from Wrocław to see my ancestors' birthplaces near Syców. I had taken a weekly class of Beginning Polish at Como High School in St. Paul for 6 weeks. Kornel Kondy was our instructor. The second week Kornel talked about a trip to Poland and I immediately became interested. And when I learned we would be staying in Wrocław, I immediately signed up.

Please consult the reference map (on page 21) on which I have circled the towns/villages where either my ancestors or relatives were born. The information below was taken from the journal I kept for 2 weeks.

October 10, Sunday:

The day has arrived! I made arrangements before leaving Minnesota for a driver to meet me when I arrived in Wrocław. I wrote in early July to the Silesian Genealogical Society in Wrocław and asked their help in arranging a driver and I received an answer in early September before I left. I thought our tour would be going directly to the hotel but that was not the case. We were headed for the Panorama Museum. Moreover, we would be staying at a different hotel than the one that was listed in our itinerary. Tomasz (our English-speaking tour guide) had a cell phone and I had my driver's home phone and cell phone numbers, so Tomasz called the driver to meet me at 1:30 PM at the Panorama Museum. I never would have had time to make arrangements upon arriving in Wrocław and I am so thankful for cell phones. We immediately left the tour, spent 5½ hours and drove 180 kilometers (116 miles). I was charged \$106.00 but it was worth every dollar. My driver spoke English and was very helpful. Previously, Kornel helped me learn how to pronounce all of the names of these towns.

It was about a 40-minute drive from Wrocław to visit all of my ancestors' birthplaces (The German names of the towns are in parenthesis). The first stops were the Bias hometowns—**Wojciechowo** (Gross Woitsdorf) and **Biskupice** (Bischdorf). There were no churches in either village so I will probably have to

write the parish church in Syców for records. I am probably the only Bias to see the Bias birthplaces since they immigrated in September 1889—110 years ago. We stopped in Syców (Gross Wartenberg) for soup and break. It was the second day of a wedding celebration and they were doing the "Chicken" dance. What fun!! I thought of my Dad, Frank Bias, and everyone else who enjoys this dance.

Then on to **Nowa Wieś** (Neudorf) which is the ancestral home of the Staloch and Dulas families (and others from Wells in southern Minnesota near Albert Lea). The church was locked. In the cemetery there were no old graves—just new ones. This is because if you don't pay your cemetery fee every 25 years, they take your plot away and give it to someone else. All cemeteries had flowers on every gravesite and many were also covered with vigil candles which were lit.

We then drove through **Drożki** (Droschkau) and **Remiszówka** (Remiszoroka) which had only 2 houses with farm buildings. None of my ancestors came from these two towns but people from Wells have ancestors from here.

The road to **Trębaczów** (Trembatschau) was very, very bad—lots of ruts. We should have driven back a few miles and come by a better road. Trębaczów was the home of Frank Wanzek, my maternal grandfather. My mother, Regina Wanzek Bias, would have so liked seeing the church her father attended before immigrating in 1884. Maybe the church is newer than 1884, but you know what I mean. Mass was just ending (5 PM) so we could see the inside of the church. It was a very beautiful, small church with a beautiful choir. Only about 15 people were there. I took a few pictures. I got so excited about seeing the inside of the church, I forgot to take a picture of the outside. It was getting colder with more rain.

Our last stop was **Dziadowa Kłoda** (Kunzendorf) which was the largest town. This was the home of Simon and Mary Wanzek, my maternal great-grand parents. It was getting dark. The church was big but locked and had a pretty, large cemetery.

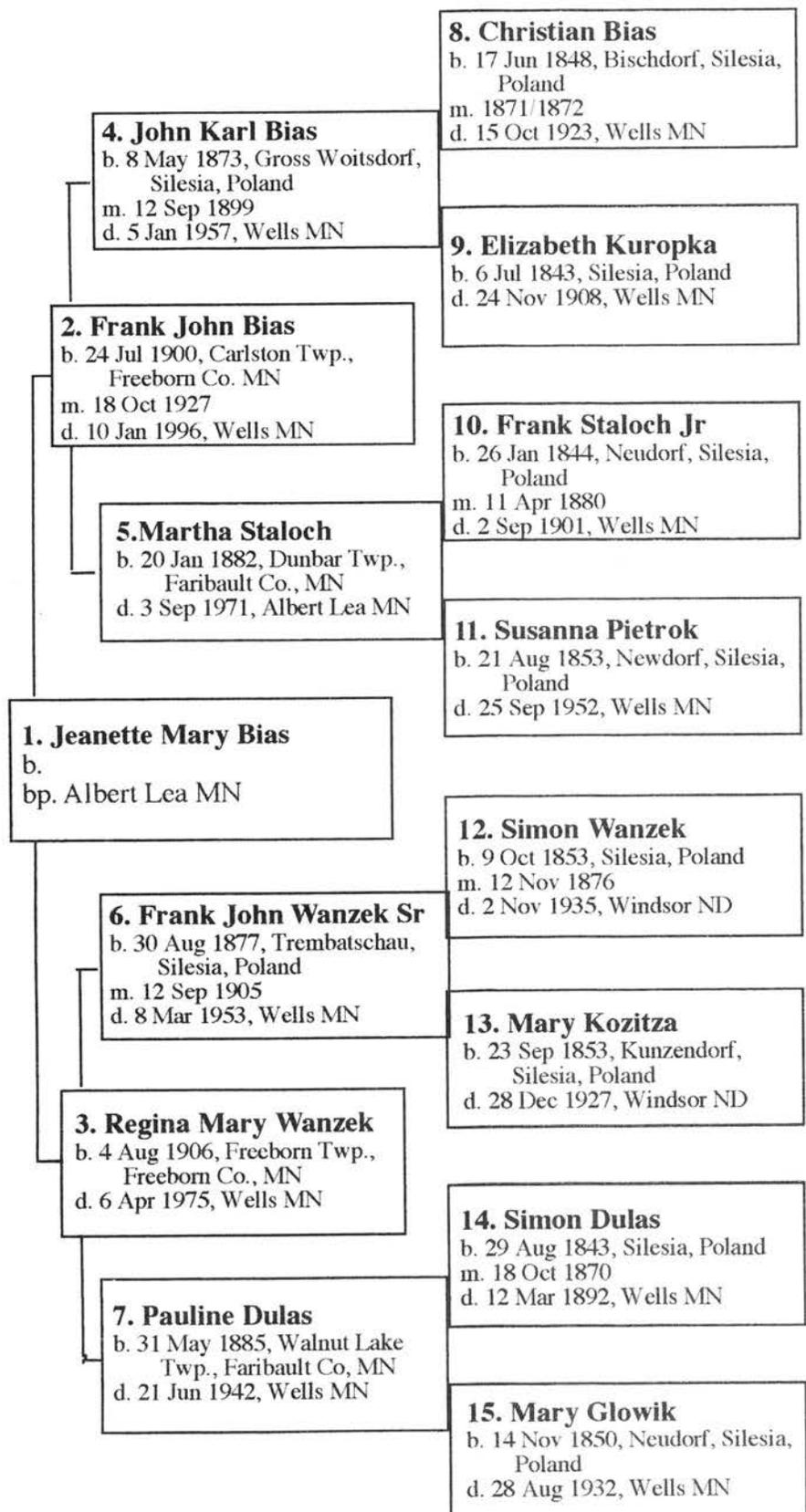
I am so fortunate and privileged that I was able to see my ancestors' birthplaces and I cannot fully describe my feelings visiting these small villages of my ancestors. It makes me feel proud to be of Polish descent. When we got back to Wrocław at 7 PM, our group was ready to go to dinner at Spiz Restaurant in the Rathskeller of the Town Hall.

Ancestor Chart

compiled by:
Jeanette Bias
 December 1999



Frank Staloch, my paternal great-grandfather (No. 10 on the chart at right). He was born in Nowa Wieś (Neudorf) and immigrated in 1873.



Missing Branches:

QUERIES, Send to: *Paul Kulas, editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin, MN 55316-2145 or to e-mail: kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us*

Benton County ancestors

My maternal great-grandfather, Edmund Mark ZAWACKI was born March 12, 1847 in Danzig (now Gdansk), Poland and died January 2, 1916 in Gilman, MN. He married Mary Frost, daughter of Joseph Frost. She was born September 12, 1851 in Danzig and died September 19, 1919 in Gilman. They had 8 children and raised them in Foley. I am interested in researching Edmund's parents in Poland. Edmund came to America through New York in April 1880. He was a farmer by trade and became a U.S. citizen on April 16, 1897.

Ron Zurek, Etiwanda CA <Rzurek@aol.com>

NEW MEMBERS; *We welcome the following:*

Margaret Arnold, 14181 Orchid St NW, Andover MN 55304 <MARGROSE@prodigy.net> is researching FLOREK, WROBLESKI/WROBEL in Poznan, Poland and in MN, MT, WI.

Joanne M. Holme, 9923 Aetna Ave. N.E., Monticello MN 55362 <Holmetwo@aol.com> is researching KAMINSKI, SZYMANSKI in Myslakowko, Poland and also DVORSKY in Stulany, Czech Republic and all in Reading, PA.

Chester A. Giza, 1501 Walnut Grove Road, Wheeling WV 26003-9632 <Brightmtwv@aol.com> is researching GIZA (Franciszek, son of Stanisław) in Cwików parish in Kraków: Dąbrowa-Tarnowska; GAWRON (Leontyna daughter of Jan & Mary PILCH) probably in southern Poland, and both Giza and Gawron in Bondsville or Ludlow MA; and JAMBORA (Karolana, daughter of Simon--mother Sophie Banaś) in Rzeszow: Przemysl-Dylagowa and in Bondsville MA.

J. B. Gracyalny, 3640 Louisiana Ave N., New Hope MN 55427 is a new member.

Mary Jelinski, 4769 White Oak Court, Eagan MN <Rmjelinski@aol.com> is researching Wilham and Katherine HOHEISEL, married in Korfantow in 1864. Daughter Mathilda was born 22 Dec 1876 in Kerbitz. She is researching in Korfantow, Kuropas, Plieschnitz and Niemodan in Poland and in Pierz MN. The arrived in the US in June 1882.

Kathy A. Warzecha, 103 10th Ave SE, St. Joseph MN 56340 is researching Nicholaus and Sebastian WARZECHA in Dommratssch in Poland and Holdingford MN and Martin Kuklok (or any other Koklok's) (not sure where they came from in Poland) in Holdingford.

Jerome Weigenant, 919 W 4th St., Red Wing MN 55066-2419 is researching his maternal grandparents Joseph and Magdalena (nec ROBINSKY) LUBANSKY. Joseph in Gosieszyn and Magdalena in Kunik, Poland and both in Chaska MN.

RENEWED MEMBERS: *The following are renewed members who indicated their e-mail address for the first time or more complete areas of research:*

Iron Range Research Center (Deb Fena), P.O. Box 392--Hwy 169 West, Chisholm MN 55719-0392 <debf@ironworld.com> is renewed.

Luanne K. Coy, Eau Claire WI is renewed. She writes: "I enjoy the excellent newsletter!"

Jim Dusek, 6373 Dusek Rd, Floodwood MN 55736 <jpgd@mail.meadows.net> is researching the SEREDINSKI, HUNIEWICH, PICHER and KAWALSKA surnames.

Rosanne Jaunich Eppel, 1462 Willow Drive No., Long Lake MN 55356 <lazywoods@aol.com> is researching JAUNICH in Brynica/Brinnitz in Opole province and in Delano, MN.

Jane Habeck, RR2 Box 156, Winona MN 55987 <jhabeck@ums.luminet.net> is researching EDEL in Oslawa, Dąbrowa, Studzienice and in Winona MN; JANKA/YAHNKE in Bytów and in Winona; KEEN/KINA in Pine Creek WI; KNOPIK in Lubnia and in Winona. Also related names: COPA, KIEDROWICZ, PLACHECKI, ZABROCKI/ZABOROWSKI, FISHER, CYSEWSKA, SZCZEPANSKA.

Bernadine Zak Kargul, 26209 Elsinore, Redford MI 48239 <bkargul@aol.com> is researching KUKA, LYSSY, LYSCHICK in Opole, Falkowice, Silesia and in Morrison Co., MN; TRUTWIN, SCHUBERT in Opole, Namyslaw, Silesia and in Morrison Co.; FABIAN in Opole, Bachwitz, Silesia and in Morrison Co.; ZAK, POKORNOWSKI in Gniezno, Modliszewko, Poznan and in McLeod and Morrison counties; BIELEJEWSKI in Gniezno, Poznan and in McLeod Co. MN.

Millicent R. Kriske, 2541 Town Rd 269, Int. Falls MN 56649 is researching MAJCHRZAK/MICHOG, KASZPSZAK in Poznan/Warsaw and in Pennsylvania and Denham, MN.

Dale G. Kujacznski, 11357 Berkshire, Clio MI 48420 <www.kujacznski@aol.com> is researching KUJACZYNSKI/KUJACZNSKI and BOEHME/BOEHME in the Chicago area.

Walter Madura, 33 Belleview Drive, Derby CT 06418-2304 <wujek.m@gateway.net> is researching MADURA, JADACH, BOMBA, SZCZECH, MARGANSKI in Kolbuszowa, Poland and in Connecticut.

Henry Mruz, 4246 Irving Ave N., Mpls. MN 55412-1665 is researching MROZ in Siedlice/Burwin in Poland and in Thorpe WI and BRZESINSKI, ROZANSKI in Gniezno and in Mpls.

Dianne Pallas, 502 7th Av N, So. St. Paul MN 55075 is researching SZAFARZ in Jasto and in St. Paul and Little Falls, MN.

R. J. Prokott, 820 -50½ Av. N.E., Columbia Heights MN <dprokott@pconline.com> is researching PROKOTT, GALLUS, OPATZ, BORASH in Upper Silesia and in Morrison County MN; EGGERT in Lubichowo, W. Prussia and in Silver Lake MN; and KACZMAREK in Poznan and in Silver Lake.

Thomas E. Ross, 5230 Fiore Terrace, K119, San Diego CA 92122 is researching ZYWICKI, KOLINSKI, ENGELER in Kashbia and in Ontario and Minnesota and NOVAK in Poznan and in MN.

Mary Rundel, 7935 W. Plainfield Ave., Greenfield WI 53220 <Rrundel@execpc.com> is researching KRAINSKI, BRZESKA, BREZA, SZMAGLIK in Brusy, WAS in Lag and all in Wisconsin.

Julia Schmolke, 506 W. Laurel, Stillwater MN 55082-4720 <jkeschmolke@hotmail.com> is researching SCHMOLKE, BEKA, MEJA, MISCHKE, LAQUA in Upper Silesia and in Morrison Co. MN.

Phyllis Warzecha, St. Paul, MN is renewed. She writes: "I thoroughly enjoy the *PGS-MN Newsletter*. I appreciate your hard dedicated work."

Gary Wolf, 4701 La Cantora Ct., Rio Rancho NM 87124 <gcwolf@compuserve.com> is researching DEMSKI in St. Paul MN and LAMCZYK in St. Paul and in Milwaukee WI.

Minnesota Genealogical Society
Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota
 5768 Olson Memorial Hwy.
 Golden Valley MN 55422

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