



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9

SUMMER 2001

NUMBER 2

Upcoming events:

PGS-MN will be involved in a variety of upcoming events. The following is the information that we have as this issue of the newsletter goes to print. Watch for separate mailings for further information about these events.

September 29, 2001--Genealogy Open House at the LDS Family History Center, 4700 Edinbrook Terrace No., Brooklyn Park. Greg Kishel will present "Beginning Polish Genealogy" at 9:45 am. There will be a follow-up "question and answer" session at 11:00. The open house begins at 8:30. The topic of the first session is "Genealogy on the Internet."

October 13, 2001--PGS-MN meeting at the MGS Library, 5768 Olson Memorial Hwy., Golden Valley. 10:00 am: "A Genealogical Travelogue of Pomerania," by Fr. Eugene Hackert. Recently retired from the Diocese of New Ulm, Fr. Hackert has made several trips to Pomerania to research his German and Polish roots. He will discuss his experiences locating ancestral villages and getting access to parish records at their sources.

October 27, 2001--An informal information exchange about "Travel to Poland" at the MGS Library, 5768 Olson Memorial Hwy., Golden Valley. 10:00 am. See the "Bulletin Board" on page 3 for further information about this event.

November 3, 2001--MGS Education Day at Woodbury High School. This is an all day event with classes to be held at four different times throughout the day. PGS-MN has committed to two presentations but the time slots have not yet been determined at press time. Greg Kishel will present "Beginning Polish Genealogy" and Paul Kulas will follow with "Locating Your Village/Parish of Origin in Poland."

November 10, 2001--PGS-MN meeting at the MGS Library, 5768 Olson Memorial Hwy., Golden Valley. 10:00 am: "An Introduction to the PGS-MN Map Collection." Over the last several years we have acquired three different sets of detailed maps of the lands of current and historic Poland, as well as several atlases and gazetteers. After a review of these exciting new materials, they will be available for guided research with the assistance of experienced members.

September 28 to October 11--Tour Poland, the Baltic area and Wilno. For information call Kornel Kondy at 612.378.1739.



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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

5768 Olson Memorial Hwy.
Golden Valley MN 55422

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

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

Items submitted for publication are welcomed 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, editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 12008 West River Road, Champlin MN 55316-2145 or to e-mail: kkulas@ties.k12.mn.us

Mailing or e-mail address change?

Send new e-mail address to: Mary Ellen Bruski
<bruski@voyager.net>

Send mailing address change to: Lisa Trembley,
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President's Letter

by Terry Kita

The search for ancestors often involves long hours spent viewing faded, handwritten records, written in a foreign tongue, looking for places/dates of birth, death, marriage, and parents. When you begin this search, the goal is a *bona fide* record, which allows you to progress back in time. You soon learn that you are required to learn the history and geography of the times, the language of the records, the likely emigration ports and patterns, oral history from relatives, how and where to obtain records, the organization of the many records and clues discovered, how to present the finished product to the world, and many other diversions.

All my great-grandparents but two emigrated from Europe in the 1800s. Although they originated from four separate peoples, fortunately most came in pairs. I have been able to trace 2-1/2 pairs to their countries of origin, and begin the progress back in time. When I started this, I had no definite end point in mind.

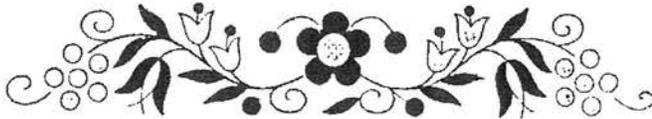
I have realized that the greatest fulfillment came from the first significant record discovery, the greatest benefit is the knowledge gained along the way, the great unknown is why some came and some stayed, and the greatest satisfaction is meeting and talking to cousins from abroad. I have had the good fortune to be able to meet several of them. Their oral history helps me realize what it might have been like to live there, and why some left.

My wife, daughter, and I recently returned from a trip to Poland and the Czech Republic, to attend the wedding of our former Czech exchange student, Petra. My wife does not share an interest in genealogy, mine or hers, and feels strongly that a genealogical field trip is best conducted without her. I was able to meet briefly with Kita cousins in Poland, and to meet the Brzecki family in Wrocław. Ania Brzecka was a house-guest of friends in Minneapolis and agreed to show us her city. Her father recounted his expulsion from Lvov and his relocation to Wrocław, as well as other things.

Before our trip, I learned from a distant relative that a German, Albert Multerer, had purchased land in Wisconsin near one of my great-grandparents--my great great-grandmother

was Catherine Multerer. I invited us to meet Albert and his wife, Rosa, in Bohemia, where our ancestors had lived. His story of the land he used to own, the country in which he used to reside, and changes since 1990 made this one of the highlights of our trip. Our discussions are a nice contrast to record searches, and more satisfying. His interest in our ancestors will make my research easier.

I still have other great-grandparents to discover. It would have been easier if I had started when my grandparents were alive. Fortunately there are many cousins to be discovered, in this country and abroad, and stories to be heard from them. I will continue to search backward in time for deceased relatives, but will concentrate on my living, undiscovered relatives.



The Bulletin Board

PGS-MN Program: Travel To Poland

Saturday, October 27, 2001 -- 10:00am to 12:00 noon at MGS Library Meeting Room.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota will conduct an informal information exchange about travel to Poland. Many of our members have expressed an interest in this topic through the survey or conversation with other members. Many members have traveled or are considering travel there, either for genealogical research or general interest. This meeting will present primarily general tourist information.

We will have written information available for your perusal, including a smattering of guide books, Polish Tourist Office information, internet addresses for general and specific information, hopefully a list of contacts for research help or guide services, tour information, english language camp information, as well as discussions with those who have traveled on their own. It will be conducted as a question and answer session but will include several short presentations.

If you have specific questions or topics to be addressed, contact me at: <terry.kita@federalcartridge.com> or at: 763-323-2435.

--Terry Kita

Extra contributions

We acknowledge and thank the following for their monetary contributions to PGS-MN (either through Sponsor membership or an additional contribution to the Library Fund):

Vern Broll
Col. James Ebertowski
Susan James-Morrow
Barb Kaminski

Robert Kraska
Jeanette Peterman
Lisa Trembley
Richard J. Wett

FHL films/fiche on permanent loan

In our Winter 2000-01 issue we asked readers to let us know of Polish films kept on long-term permanent loan at various LDS Family History Centers (Films ordered and then renewed twice are generally kept on indefinite loan at most FHCs. **Marianne Springer** responded with a list of films available at the Bloomington LDS FHC. That listing appeared in the Spring 2001 issue on page 3. While we were going to print with the Spring issue, **Lisa Trembley** also sent us a listing of the films available at Bloomington.

We continue to invite people to send us listings of films relating to Polish research that are available on a long-term basis at the Centers that they use. The following is a listing of films/fiche available at the LDS FHC in Brooklyn Park:

<u>FILM/FICHE#</u>	<u>PLACE/DESCRIPTION</u>
1334594, (Item 2)	Jakobsdorf (Kr. Saatzig) now Błotno (Stargard Szczeciński), Szczecin--B,M,D: 1860-1873 (P)
1273258, (Item 2)	Kossin (Kr. Pyritz) now Kosin (Pyrzyce), Szczecin--B,M,D: 1814-1873 (P)
0743086	Krotoschin (KrSt. Krotoschin) now Krotoszyn (Krotoszyn) Poznań--Baptisms 1790-1817, 1823-1837 (P)
0743087	Krotoschin--Baptisms: 1837-1865
0743088	Krotoschin--Marriages: 1790-1844
0743089	Krotoschin--Marriages: 1845-1865, Deaths: 1790-1845
0743090	Krotoschin--B,M,D: 1846-1865
1273127, (Item 2)	Kunow (Kr. Saatzig) now Kunowo (Stargard Szczeciński), Szczecin--B,M,D: 1824-1874 (P)
6311460	Mohrungen (KrSt. Mohrungen) now Morag (Morąg) Olsztyn--Baptisms: 1815-1817 (P)
6311461	Mohrungen--Baptisms: 1817-1819
6311462	Mohrungen--Baptisms: 1819-1820, Deaths: 1801-1802

- 1193880, (Item 1) Persanzig (Kr. Neustettin) now Parsecko (Szczecinek), Koszalin--B,M,D: 1838-1874 (P)
- 1193880, (Item 2,3) Ratzebuhr (Kr. Neustettin) now Okonek (Szczecinek), Koszalin--B,M,D: 1808-1836 (P)
- 1273127, (Item 1) Repplin (Kr. Pyritz) now Rzeplino (Pyrzyce), Szczecin--B,M,D: 1824-1874 (P)
- 1273258, (Item 1) Wobbermin (Kr. Pyritz) now Obromino (Pyrzyce) Szczecin--B,M,D: 1862-1873 (P)
- 1273258, (Item 3) Woltersdorf (Kr. Saatzig) now Starzyn (Stargard Szczeciński), Szczecin--B,M,D: 1824-1874 (P)
- 1273258, (Item 4) Wudarge (Kr. Saatzig) now Odargowo (Stargard Szczeciński), Szczecin--B,M,D: 1860-1874 (P)
- 1334594, (Item 1) Wudarge--B,M,D: 1819-1859
- 1981506 Żerków (Jarocin), Poznań,--Baptisms 1831-1895, Marriages: 1796-1834 (C)
- 1981507 Żerków--Marriages: 1835-1896, Deaths: 1795-1896 (C)

Note: The records from Żerków are Catholic church records (C) while the others in the above listing are Protestant (evangelisch) church records (P). The above items are on permanent loan at Brooklyn Park FHC. Researchers should also check the "Patron ordered film/fiche" notebook for Polish items that are available on temporary loan.

In addition, the following microfiche relating to Polish research are available on permanent loan at the Brooklyn Park FHC. There is good probability that these fiche are also found at most LDS Family History Centers.

FICHE #	TITLE
6000369-	<i>Spis miejscowości polskiej Rzeczypospolitej</i>
6000383	<i>ludowej [Gazetteer of the Polish People's Republic Localities].</i>

This is a Polish gazetteer published after World War II but before the redrawing of provincial boundaries in 1975.¹

6000001-	<i>Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs [Meyer's Gazetteer and Directory of the German Empire].</i>
6000029	

This is the basic German language gazetteer of the German Empire.²

- 6053521 *Gazetteer of Parish and Civil Jurisdiction in East Prussia* (based on *Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen*, 1905).
- 6053523 *Gazetteer of Parish and Civil Jurisdiction in West Prussia* (based on *Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen*, 1905).

The *Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen [Gazetteer for the Kingdom of Prussia]* is a very useful German language gazetteer for areas of the former Prussian Empire that are now in Poland. It is particularly useful in that it gives the location of both Catholic and Protestant churches for all villages.³ Besides the areas of former West and East Prussia, *Gemeindelexikon* also covers areas of former Brandenburg (Lubusz--film # 806,635 item 1), Pomerania (Pomorze--film # 806,634 item 4), Posen (Poznań--film # 806,635 item 3) and Silesia (Śląsk--film # 806,633 item 4) which were all once part of Prussia (These films are not on permanent loan at the Brooklyn Park FHC--They would have to be ordered).

Other items available at the Brooklyn Park FHC are:

- 6085788 Kucera, Zdenka. *Family Origins in Poland.*
- 6068529 LDS Family History Library. *Polish: Genealogical Word List*
- 6053531 Lattermann, Alfred. *Einführung in die deutsche Sippenforschung in Polen und dem preußischen Osten [Introduction to German genealogy in Poland and the Prussian East].*
- 6001596 Reschke, Horst A. *German Military Records*
- 6053530 Randt, Erich. *Die ältern Personenstandsregister Schlesien [Inventory of Church and Civil Records for Silesia].*
- 6000843 Schlyter, Daniel M. *A Gazetteer of Polish Adjectival Place Names.*

Also available on microfiche at the Brooklyn Park FHC are both the Direct and Indirect Indexes to the Hamburg Passenger Lists (Fiche #s 0473070-0473151 and 1049068-1049093). These fiche cover the time period: April 1855 to July 1914. The Hamburg Passenger Lists are especially valuable because they usually give the name of the home village of each immigrant (See example of a portion of a Hamburg list on p. 7).

--PTK

¹For an example of information found in this resource see: Paul Theodore Kulas, "Sources for Reconstructing a Polish Ancestral Village: Janków Zaleśny," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 7, no. 1 (Spring 1999): 16.

²Ibid.

³Ibid., 17.

Pommern Meeting Summary

PGS-MN members were invited to attend the monthly meeting of the PRG (Pommern Regional Group) held at the MGS Library on May 24. Their program included a talk by Anetta Korowaj, who is living in the USA for a month. Anetta is an elementary school teacher near Szczecin (Stettin), and a native of Pommern/Pomorze. She spoke about the history of Poland, especially recent changes, and its political, educational, health, demographic, religious, and economic systems. She fielded questions about her country, including the school systems, health care, break-up of large farm combines, industrialization, and travel to the area near Szczecin. She is a potential source for genealogical research for the Pomeranian area of Poland. The archives in Szczecin contain church and civil records from the area. I will obtain more information about her willingness to do or participate in genealogical research in this area. She expressed a willingness to do so for some at the meeting. She will be able to do so only during her summer vacation. Anetta speaks English very well, and I must confess, probably knows more about her country than we know about ours.

The Pommern Group is a branch of the Germanic Genealogical Society. It deals primarily with, but is not limited to, Germanic peoples. Pommern is the German name for an area, in Poland, bounded by the Vistula (Wisla) River on the east, the Oder (Odra) River on the west, the Baltic Sea on the north, and extending approximately 100 miles to the south from the Baltic. Pommern also extends into Germany approximately 100 miles along the Baltic. Pommern has been anglicized to Pomerania; the Polish name is Pomorze, or "by the sea." This area has been peopled by Celts, Germanic peoples, Pommerns, Kashubians, Teutonic Knights, Prussians, Poles, and others. Its boundaries have changed with ownership. PRG meet monthly at the MGS Library. You can contact them via the Germanic Society website: <<http://www.mtn.org/mgs/german/>> or at: PO Box 16312, St. Paul MN 55116.

The Pommern Group may be of interest to those researching this area of Poland. For more information about this group, contact them. They are in the midst of a very ambitious project, to list all of the cities, towns, and villages in Polish and German Pommern, referenced to map coordinates. In addition, all churches/synagogues, with their area of coverage, are to be included. They have a set of maps for each Kreis (county) in Pommern. They have asked if we could assist them with the identification of the Polish counterpart to each German location listing. If anyone is interested in this work, contact Fred Sauer, at: <kd0co@pro.ns.net>

--Terry Kita

Polish American Studies

John Radzilowski, PGS-MN Executive Board member, continues to have his work published in the national print media. His article, "American Polonia in World War II: Toward a Social History," recently appeared in *Polish American Studies* (Spring 2001, pp. 63-80). Other articles written by John that have appeared in *PAS* include: "East European Memories from the Northern Great Plains: A Review" (Autumn 1999, pp. 69-75), "Polish-American Architecture in Comparative Perspective" (Spring 1997, pp. 5-8), "The Other Side of Chicago: The Poles of Arizona" (Autumn 1995, pp. 5-20), and "Family Labor and Immigrant Success in Polish American Rural Community, 1883-1905" (Autumn 1994, pp. 49-66). This last item is an extensive study centered on the rural Polish settlement of Wilno in Lincoln County in southwestern Minnesota.

Polish American Studies: A Journal of Polish American History and Culture is published twice each year by the Polish American Historical Association. PAHA was founded in 1942 to "collect, compile and publish information about Polish Americans" and reorganized in 1944 to "promote study and research in the history and social background of Americans of Polish descent." We have added issues of *Polish American Studies* to our "Polish Collection" at the MGS Library. We have the following issues: Spring 1975 and Spring 1992 to the present. We welcome the contribution of missing issues.

Polish American Journal

Articles by John also appear regularly in *Polish American Journal*. His most recent article is "Polonia's Roots Can be Found on America's Farms" (May 2001, p. 4). This article discusses Polish settlement in rural America, particularly in the upper Midwest and in Minnesota. It is the first article in a series on the history of Polish immigrants and their descendants in America to be published by *PAJ* to celebrate 150 years of Polonia. The first Polish community in America was established in Panna Maria, Texas in 1854.

Established in 1911 and published originally in Polish, it has been known as the *Polish American Journal* and published in English since 1948. *PAJ* is published monthly and is "Dedicated to the Promotion and Continuance of Polish American Culture." It is probably the most widely read English language Polish American newspaper published in the U.S. We have added issues of *Polish American Journal* (June 1989 to present) to our "Polish Collection" at the MGS Library.

Bulletin Board, continued on page 24



Letters to the Editor Listy do Redaktora

Polish Cemetery Listings

Is it possible to receive a copy of the newsletter with the names from the Lancaster Cemetery in Kittson County? The list of burial names from the Leo cemetery in Roseau County is in our cemetery collection. Would you like a copy of this cemetery?

Charleen Haugen,
Roseau County Historical Society and Museum

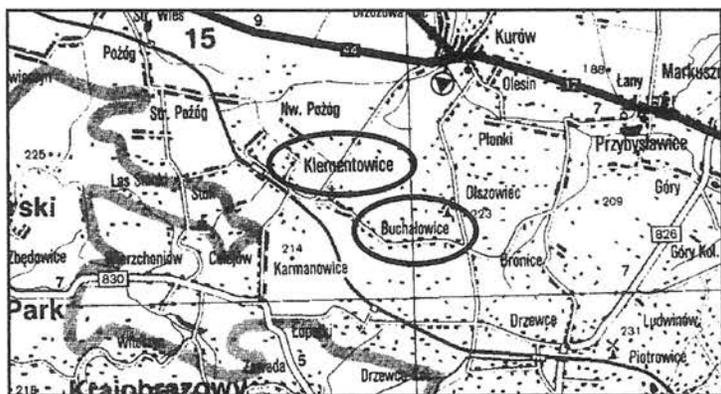
Editor's note: We sent Ms. Haugen the issue (Summer 2000) which included the listing of burials at Holy Rosary Cemetery in Lancaster, Kittson County, MN. She in turn sent us the listing of the burials at the cemeteries in Leo (St. Aloysius Church) and in Greenbush (Blessed Sacrament Church). The burials in Leo were almost entirely Polish while those in Greenbush were predominantly so. These cemetery listings will be part of future articles about these communities.

Backalavzee? Buchałowice?

Where is Backalavzee?--I'm sure that is not the correct Polish spelling. It was in the Russian partition.

R. J. Prokott, Columbia Heights MN

Editor's reply: How about--Buchałowice (See map below.)? It looks like the nearest church is in Klementowice. Klementowice parish records have been filmed (1810-1878) on 5 films (813967-69, 1496994-95).



Buchałowice is located about 25km. northwest of Lublin. Map source: *Polska Atlas Drogowy [Poland: Road Atlas]*, p. 160. A copy of this 1:200,000 scale atlas is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

Minnesota Death Certificates

You can search for Minnesota death certificates (1908-1946) on line at: <<http://people.mnhs.org/dci>>
Audra Etzel, Buffalo MN

Editor's note: This online index to Minnesota death certificates was launched by the Minnesota Historical Society. It is possible to search the index by surname alone. There is also a "Soundex" option if you are unsure of the spelling of the name. The index does not provide the actual death certificate. An order form is available online. The cost is \$8.00 per certificate. A less expensive alternative is to make copies of the record at the Historical Society for 25 cents a page. Information found on a certificate may include the cause of death, date and place of birth, occupation, marital status, spouse's name and other family history.

Late Newsletter

Just a brief note to inform you that the last issue of the *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter* that I received was the Winter 2000-2001 issue, Volume 8-Number 4. I always look forward to receiving this publication, and would appreciate you sending me the most recent edition/editions to bring me up to date with what has been published this year.

Vincent Zotkiewicz, Plano TX

Editor's note: This letter was typical of a few received concerning the Spring issue of the newsletter that was late in coming. We are sorry for the tardiness. When we starting publishing this newsletter in 1993 it was 8 pages in length and it came out at the beginning of each season. As the newsletter grew (most recent issues are 28 pages long), it began to come out later and later in the season. We will be trying very hard to get issues out earlier in the future.

Hamburg Passenger List

I have a problem with which I am hoping you or someone can help me with. I am enclosing a copy of a passenger list from a ship that left Hamburg in 1881. There are a couple of words which need explanation. I have them hi-lighted (they are circled on the copy of a portion of the list at the top of page 7). One is a place name and one is an occupation. The people (surname Czaikowski) are supposed to be from Poland as I understand. So I don't know if the place name is in German or Polish. I am thinking that the place name might be changed by now since the passenger list was in 1881. I will appreciate any help you can give me.

Shirley Schaikoski, Sioux Falls SD

558	d	Eduard	1	9	d	d	d	d	d
1	d	Joh. Czaikowski	1	29	Erpel	d	Arbeiter	d	d
2	d	Rosalie	1	26	d	d	Frau	d	d
3	d	d	1	20	d	d	Ledig	d	d
4	Wagner	Math.	1	27	Rahldorf	d	Arbeiter	d	d
5	Lubken	Johann	1	21	d	d	d	d	d
6	Weiler	Johann	0	20	Esrau	d	Ledig	d	d

Editor's reply: The village in question is "Erpel." This was the German name for the town. It's Polish name is "Kaczory." Kaczory is located about 10 km. southeast of Pita (Schneidemühl) (Compare maps below). The first person of the group in question is Joh. (Johann, Jan, John) Czaikowski. He is 29 years of age and a laborer (Arbeiter). The second person listed is his wife (Frau), Rosalie Czaikowski. She is 26 years old. The third person in this group is also named Rosalie Czaikowski. She is 20 years old. Her occupation/relationship listing is not clear. Could it be "Ledig" -- single, unmarried (Compare the similar entry three down from this one)? Arguing against Ledig is the fact that the word seems to have six letters and not five. This second Rosalie is probably John's sister.

Die Pommernschen Leute

I am the publicity chairman for the "Pommern Special Interest Group-IGS," which publishes *Die Pommernschen Leute* quarterly newsletter. Myron Gruenwald founded this newsletter in 1982 and after his passing in 1998, the need to continue its publication became evident. Two years ago, our group accepted that job and wish to let those with Pommern ancestry know about its continued publication. We would greatly appreciate it if you could place the following information about DPL in your next newsletter.

Thank you so very much.
 Sylvia Keller <skgen@worldnet.att.net>

Pomeranian Ancestry--*Die Pommernschen Leute*--DPL
 A quarterly newsletter containing articles and pictures about culture, historical information, hints for research and family information pages--"Die Vorfahren." Surname index to Die Vorfahren is on the FEEFHS website: <<http://feefhs.org/dpl/dvl.pommern.html>> Subscriptions: US\$12 for USA, US\$15 for International. Send to: IGS-Die Pommernschen Leute, P.O. Box 7369, Burbank, Ca. 91510-7369.

FEEFHS Convention

The 8th International Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 5-7, 2001, at the Ramada Inn South-Airport, 6401 South 13th Street. It will cover East and Central European historical and family history research. Please plan to attend. Convention details including speakers and a registration form are available at: <<http://feefhs.org>> or write to FEEFHS, P.O. Box 510898, SLC, UT 84151-0898. Contact local convention chair Marsha Gustad at (262) 786-3312 or email: <mgust@aol.com> for questions concerning local convention arrangements.

Marsha Gustad <mgust@aol.com>
 2001 FEEFHS Milwaukee Convention Co-chair



At left: Maps are from two different map series (both sets are 1:200,000) in our Map Collection at the MGS Library. The top map is from a 19th century Austrian map set. The bottom map is from a modern Polish map set. These map sets will be examined at the PGS-MN meeting on Nov. 10 (See p. 1).

Z LEŚNICTWA RAJGRÓDZKIEGO:
A CHAIN MIGRATION
FROM POLAND'S NORTH COUNTRY
TO MINNESOTA'S MESABI IRON RANGE

By Greg Kishel

East and south [of Lake Rajgródzkie] stretch the vast and mostly wet woods of the Rajgród forest district, through which runs the highway leading from Łomża to Rajgród to Suwałki.

"Rajgródzkie, Lake," entry in
*Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego*¹

This entry from the principal 19th-century gazetteer of Poland describes the area in northwestern Podlasia in which my great-grandparents, Józef and Marjanna (Wroczyńska) Kisielewski, were born. "The vast and mostly wet woods" is also an accurate description of much of northern St. Louis County, Minnesota. Józef and Marjanna settled there shortly before 1900, in the recently-founded town of Virginia on the Mesabi Iron Range. I've described the similarities between the place of their birth and their adopted American home in several prior articles in this Newsletter.²

When I started on my own genealogical quest in 1993, I hadn't known that my great-grandparents were among the first in a two-decade chain migration of Poles from the Rajgród area to the central Mesabi. As with many discoveries in family history, the means that led me to this realization were serendipitous.

In the spring and summer of 1998, I made a systematic review of the naturalization papers filed in the Virginia division of the St. Louis County District

¹Found at v. IX, pp. 496-497; authored by Bronisław Chlebowski, principal editor of *Słownik geograficzny*. I am indebted to William F. Hoffman for his translation of the entries for Rajgród and Lake Rajgródzkie, published in *Polish Genealogical Society of America Bulletin*, v. VI, pp. 9-11 (Winter 1998). I have taken the Polish-language emblem of my title from the original *SGKP* entry. *Leśnictwo rajgródzkie*, pronounced "lesh-nyeets-tvoh ryegroadz-kyeh," could be translated as "Rajgród forest district," as Fred did, or as "Rajgród forest country," in a more colloquial fashion. During my own genealogical research, I discovered that the local inhabitants used this name for their region: in a record from the parish of Bargłów Kościelny the father of a distant collateral-relative-by-marriage was identified as *Strażnik Lasów Narodowych w Leśnictwie Rajgródzkim*—"the guardian of the national forests in the Rajgród forest country." Birth entry for Franciszek Skowroński, *Akta Urodzenia na Rok 1820, par. Bargłów*, entry 213, pp. 67-68 [FHL film #957210, item 8].

²"From *Słownik geograficzny*: Selected Villages in Rajgród Parish, Szczuczyn District," in v. 5, no. 4 (Winter 1997-98), p. 10; "From *Słownik geograficzny*: More Villages in Rajgród Parish," in v. 6, no. 2 (Summer 1998), p. 20; and "From *Słownik geograficzny*: Bargłów Kościelny and Vicinity," in v. 7, no. 1 (Spring 1999), p. 9.

Court. These records are available on microfilm at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul.³ My original aim was to assemble an index of naturalizations for the Polish-American community of the Iron Range, for publication in the *PGS-MN Newsletter* or elsewhere.

The Virginia division started filing and processing naturalization petitions in its own records in 1909.⁴ This meant that all of its naturalization records would be in the more detailed form first mandated by federal statute in 1906; they would give the applicants' specific place of birth outside the United States, and later ones would give the last residence outside the U.S. as well. I wasn't sure what I would find; I had not yet worked with post-1906 citizenship records, I had never done a start-to-finish review of one jurisdiction's files before, and I was unsure whether I would be able to do an accurate and comprehensive recap of Polish-born applicants anyway.⁵

I found that the Minnesota Historical Society had filmed the index cards for the naturalization records. I was very pleased to see that there was a line for the applicant's birthplace on the cards.⁶ So, I started

³The microfilm of the records is assigned catalogue number SAM 16, and their index cards bear SAM 16-I. Over its fifty-plus years of operation the Virginia division had one of the most active naturalization dockets in the Minnesota state court system, there are three rolls of filmed tiny cards to review.

⁴The establishment of separate geographic divisions for the St. Louis County District Court was made necessary by the sheer expanse of the county—larger in area than Rhode Island, Delaware, or Connecticut—and the limits of transportation in the early years of settlement in the northern half. The deputy clerks in the Range divisions were empowered initially to handle naturalization petitions, but the authority apparently was pulled back to the main clerk's office at Duluth at some point. *The Virginian*, Fri., May 31, 1907, p. 2. By mid-1909, however, a full naturalization process was in operation at the Range divisions. "Making New Citizens," *The Virginian*, Fri., July 6, 1909, p. 1. The Duluth division's files contain the records for all earlier St. Louis County naturalizations—including the "final papers" for great-grandpa Józef.

⁵Since the first decade of these records predated the reestablishment of the Polish state, I feared that many applicants would have identified their nation of origin by the sovereign of their native Partition; this frequently happened on census schedules before 1910. I also did not know whether I would be able to recognize village or town names as Polish—given the high likelihood of inaccurate spelling, and my limited knowledge of Polish local geography.

⁶One can not count on either of these things for citizenship papers filed in the Minnesota state courts. A printed handout issued by the MHS in 2000 shows that 31 of the 92 film sets for naturalization records do not have filmed indexes, and 11 do not have printed indexes either. In addition, not all indexes include an entry for place of birth; I found that those for the Hibbing division of the St. Louis County District Court lack one. This will mean that I will have to review the records themselves, one by one, when I search out the western Mesabi's Poles.

skimming the cards, one by one, looking for the notation of "Poland" in the birthplace blanks, or at least recognizably Polish surnames or place names.⁷

I started hitting paydirt for my original goal in the As, with even pre-1918 records naming "Poland, Germany" and "Poland, Russia" for many applicants. Others had birthplace notations for locales obviously in Poland—"Lomza," "Warsau," and the like. Finally, I recognized a number, of surnames as Polish just from having grown up in the community.⁸ Even discounting the fractured transliteration of Polish origins into the phonetics of American English, I began to think that I was getting somewhere: this effort looked like it might be useful in the general documentation of the mid-Mesabi's earliest Polish settlers.

Then, into the Cs, I did a double-take: the index card for a man identified as "Joseph CARNESKI" noted his birthplace as "Rajgvod, Russia," and that for Jozef CEBELINSKI gave "Rygrad, Russia." I concluded that the minor differences in spelling were most likely due to errors in phonetics or in the transcription from the handwritten original documents to the typewritten index cards. Could these men have been born in the same area as my great-grandparents? I consulted a road atlas and found that there are only two *Rajgróds* in modern Poland, the other being a much smaller place. I also remembered that *Słownik geograficzny* has only one entry under the name. The chances of a common origin seemed high--particularly when I recalled that members of the JAMINSKI side of my paternal grandfather's family had also come from near Rajgród to Virginia.⁹

⁷As I discovered, the Virginia index cards contain two different series—one for declarations of intention, the so-called "first papers," alone, and the second for all applicants who actually gained citizenship. The latter usually included a copy of the declaration of intention. I found that there was not always a complete match between the two; some applicants apparently never tried to complete the process, at least at Virginia, and others had started it elsewhere. For the sake of comprehensiveness, it was worth the effort to plod through both series.

⁸Oddly enough, I never came across a notation for "Poland, Austria." I found early on that "Austria" alone did not indicate my quarry; the great bulk of people identified with that origin had Slovenian and Croatian surnames, being members of the south Slavic nationalities that vastly outnumbered the Poles on the Range. Thus, it's a near-certainty that I missed some natives of the Austrian Partition, whose entries did not bear either sort of name in a recognizably Polish form. If I can compile a more comprehensive list of Virginia's Polish pioneers from census or church records, I will have to re-review the naturalization records.

⁹My discovery of the connection had come in 1992, when I met Richard Jaminski in the community-ed Polish language class I was then taking. Early on, we realized that we'd both grown up in Virginia, though a couple of decades apart. Richard told me that his mother had always said that "the Kishels and the Jaminskis are connected in some way." He also mentioned that his father

With a more focused energy, I lit back into the index cards. Further into the alphabet, I started to find corroboration--entries like "Bargloff" and "Borglof," that sure seemed to be references to Bargłów Kościelny, the next parish east of Rajgród.¹⁰ After a half-dozen sessions and much shoulder- and eyestrain later, I had my reward: clear evidence that there had been a steady migration of individuals and families, between twenty and thirty in all, most of them probably unrelated by blood, from my paternal grandfather's birthplace to mine, over the better part of two decades at the beginning of the twentieth century. These pioneers had come from an area of pine and birch forests, swamps, lakes, and snowy winters. They went to a very similar terrain and climate on the northern frontier of Minnesota. Most of them took up residence in Virginia, but there was a small group in the nearby town of Gilbert. Some, like my great-grand- parents, had arrived on the Range early enough to be among the founders in 1905 of St. John the Baptist, the Polish-ethnic Roman Catholic parish in Virginia. The rest had come soon after, strengthening a congregation that would survive as an independent institution until the early 1970s. I found surnames from my own family tree, BUKOSKI/ BUKOWSKI and KUCIENSKI/ KUCZYŃSKI. The Virginia bearer of the latter had even been born in Miecze, where my own KUZYŃSKI ancestors had lived; he was probably a distant relative of mine.

Sensing that there was more to the story than what I'd found in this one documentary source, I did not rush into print with my findings right away. As I published my *Słownik geograficzny* translations, I brought out others among the PGS-MN's membership who had the same dual roots. Bob Zapolski and Lianne Anderson told me about their grandfather, Benjamin ZAPOLSKI, who had been born in Tajno, or possibly Bargłów, and had lived in both Two Harbors and Finland in Lake County. Vince Zotkiewicz's forebears Victoria ARASIM and Stephania SOBOLEWSKA had been born in Woźnawieś and had lived in Virginia

had come from Bełda, near Rajgród—the parish in which I was starting to search out my ancestors. A few months later I found the entry for great-grandpa Józef's birth in the Rajgród parish records filmed by the Family History Library. It gave Franciszka JAMINSKA as Józef's mother. Further research revealed that Franciszka was Kazimierz JAMIŃSKI's very first child by his first wife, and Richard's father Vincent/Wincenty was Kazimierz's very last child by his second wife. Richard also told me that his father's older sister Magdaline/Magdalena had immigrated with her husband Frank/Franciszek POPKO and had settled in Virginia.

¹⁰The parish affiliation of Woźnawieś, my grandfather's and great-grandfather's birthplace, shifted from Rajgród to Bargłów in the mid-19th century. See "Woźna Wieś," *SGKP*, v. XIV, p. 12, translated and discussed in "From *Słownik geograficzny*: Selected Villages in Rajgród Parish, Szczuczyń District," *PGS-MN Newsletter*, v. 5, no. 4 (Winter 1997-98), at pp. 10-11 and 15.

before moving on to Pennsylvania. Most recently, I heard from Walter Bennick of Winona, a fellow native of Virginia. Walt and I discovered that we had been pursuing the same subject matter through different sources, he having used a combination of the MHS's microfilm resources, other archives, and personal interviews to trace the backgrounds of many of Virginia's earliest Polonians. Through Walt I learned that Albert and Anastasia CZAJKA, early financial benefactors of St. John's and longtime mainstays of its community, had been born in Woźnawieś¹¹; so had Walt's own CZARNIECKI forebears and their collateral relatives. When he broadened out his research, Walt found that many of the Rajgród-area natives in his family tree moved on from the Mesabi to Muskegon, Michigan and central Pennsylvania around 1910.

Walt and I both think that there were at least a few others. Walt has concluded that the CZAJKAs were among the earliest Poles to come to the central Mesabi, probably around 1895. Albert's naturalization predated the beginning of the Virginia court division's naturalization operation, so its record appears in the Duluth division's compilation.¹² At this point, the evidence favors the CZAJKAs as the ones to have sent the first encouragement across the ocean to Rajgród, to come to the Range to settle. My great-grandparents were probably among the earliest to respond, though others, as yet unrecognized, may have come before.¹³

It's questionable whether we can develop a lot more data out from the arrivals of the CZAJKAs and the KISIELEWSKIs. Virginia Polonians' Duluth-filed naturalizations from late 1906 until mid-1909 may increase the count for the middle of the decade. The extreme terseness and sparsity of any sort of civil or church records from Virginia before 1900 may stop the rearward inquiry cold, however.¹⁴

¹¹This did not surprise me; I'd noted the high frequency of the CZAJKA and CZAJKOWSKI surnames in Bargłów and Rajgród records in my own research.

¹²So do Vincent JAMINSKI's and Frank POPKO's, as well as my great-grandfather's.

¹³In any case, Józef and Marjanna probably didn't come directly, and may not have come all at once. The family story is that Józef and oldest son Zygmunt came first, spent some time in New York City and then in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, then came to Virginia, and only then sent for Marjanna and the four other Polish-born children. Having not yet located a ship's passenger record for any of them, I can't prove or disprove the split passage. Great-grandpa's obituary does mention a stay in Ironwood, Michigan, before he settled in Virginia, though. "Joseph Kishel, 83, Succumbs to Illness," *Virginia Daily Enterprise*, Tues., Nov. 26, 1940, p. 12.

¹⁴This was only natural for a raw frontier area. It was an era that put far less premium on individual documentation than ours. It was also a place where huge resources were being focused on

What we've found so far is hauntingly suggestive but far from clear. What induced this long string of separate personal journeys? It was not as if they created a whole transplanted village; the Rajgród-Bargłów natives certainly did not predominate in the local Polish community.¹⁵ I've mused, through my *SGKP* series and elsewhere, that the first Rajgród emigrés must have found the natural surroundings so much like home in the old country that they just couldn't leave. That speculation is a little romantic, though, and it is certainly open to question if one remembers just what was happening to the natural environment on the central Mesabi right then.¹⁶

Perhaps it was just as the current school of academic immigration history would have it: the decision to emigrate was almost always economic—the continual dwindling of personal prospects under the grinding poverty of the Partitions—and the magnet in a particular region of America was also usually economic—the ready availability of paying work in rapidly-expanding regional industries. As John Radziłowski has observed, the Iron Range's Polish community was somewhat unusual in being both rural and dominated early by natives of the Russian Partition; in most other states, the "Russian Poles" tended to settle in large urban enclaves, which had large numbers of industrial jobs for unskilled recent immigrants. The opening of both lumber and mining industries in northern St. Louis County, and their intense coincidence over thirty years,

developing the largest mining operations then known to mankind. Recent immigrants were valued only for their strong backs, not for their names or their backgrounds. Unfortunately, it seems that the early sacramental records of St. John's are bare of any data on the European birthplaces of the parishioners, notwithstanding the presence of successive Polish-speaking priests. An unexpected source, though, shows that more of the Rajgród exodus may be found elsewhere in northeastern Minnesota. In its summary of the local veterans of World War I, the most extensive single history of St. Louis County gave the birthplace of Dan D. KATOSKI of Duluth as "Ragrot, Poland." Walter van Brunt, ed., *Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota: Their Story and People*, v. II, pp. 642-643 (Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, 1921).

¹⁵The naturalization records show birthplaces scattered all across the Russian and German Partitions, and into present-day Lithuania and Belarus. Though the participants in our chain migration were a discernible group, they were never more than a minority among the mid-Mesabi's Polonians.

¹⁶The area's white pine forest was being stripped to the ground to feed the lumber mills of Virginia, which was unique among Mesabi Range towns in having two heavy industries. See, in general, David A. Walker, *Iron Frontier: The Discovery and Early Development of Minnesota's Three Ranges* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1979), pp. 96-97. Between the growing sea of stumps and the accelerated stripping of overburden at the open-pit mines, the immediate surroundings must have begun looking more like a moonscape than the stable terrain of the centuries-settled Polish forest region.

certainly provided that sort of attraction—but in a village and rural environment.

We have to put a little heart into the way we read the cold evidence, though. After all, these were people of the earth, for whom a modern market-based economy was a new thing. The attraction of the land itself, and the prospect of owning a piece of it, must have been a factor. The familiar sight of the local lakes and bogs, the feel of the cool north wind, and the smell of the (remaining) trees must have been just enough to complete the pull. There's no other way to explain how our ancestors' chain migration was to involve as many people, and to span as long a period of human memory, as we have discovered.

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS: My thanks to Richard Jaminski, Bob Zapolski, Lianne Anderson, and Vince Zotkiewicz, for bringing our common Polish roots to my attention. Walt Bennick deserves a large dose of recognition, for sharing the results of his own intensive research into the early history of our birth-community; he has gone very far in reconstructing the vanished Polonia of Virginia, particularly on the north side of town. And this article is dedicated to the memory of Francis Arthur Kishel (1919 - 2000): Dad, this is the soil from which our lineage sprung.

ORIGINAL
(To be retained by clerk)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the District Court of St. Louis County of Virginia, Minnesota

The petition of FRANK BONKASKY

(1) My place of residence is Box 442, Gilbert, Minnesota. (2) My occupation is Laborer

(3) I was born in Pruska, Poland on Oct. 3, 1867. My race is Polish

(4) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on Jan. 10, 1935 in the District Court of St. Louis County at Virginia, Minnesota

(5) I am not married. The name of my wife or husband is Mary. We were married on Oct. 20, 1898 at Bargowio, Poland. She was born at Tyna, Poland on August 15, 1870 at Baltimore, Md. on Dec. 18, 1906 for permanent residence therein, and now resides at Gilbert, Minnesota. I have 5 children, and the names, date, and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows: Blanche Kotowski May 1, 1899; Stanley Nov. 20, 1900; John July 18, 1902, born at Pruska, Poland, and Anne Rompesky Oct. 6, 1911 at Sparta, Minn.; Vatsy Oct. 19, 1910 at Gilbert, Minn.; Blanche and Anne now reside at Kenosha, Wis.; John at Long Beach, Calif. and Stanley and Vatsy at Gilbert, Minnesota.

(6) My last foreign residence was Pruska, Poland. I emigrated to the United States of America from Hamburg, Germany. My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at Philadelphia, Pa. under the name of Frank Bonkasky on Oct. 19, 1901 on the vessel "Unknown" as shown by the certificate of my arrival attached hereto.

(7) I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. It is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and, to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to the Republic of Poland of whom (which) at this time I am a subject (or citizen), and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (8) I am able to speak the English language.

(9) I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since October 19, 1901 and in the County of St. Louis this State, continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since Oct. 1901 being a resident within said county of at least six months next preceding the date of this petition.

(10) I have not heretofore made petition for Naturalization: Never and such petition was denied by that Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit: None and the cause of such denial has since been cured or removed.

Attached hereto and made a part of this my petition for citizenship, are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, certificate from the Department of Labor of my said arrival, and the affidavits of the two verifying witnesses required by law.

Wherefore, I, your petitioner, pray that I may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and that my name be changed to No change.

I, your aforesaid petitioner being duly sworn, deposes and says that I have read this petition and know the contents thereof, that the same is true of my own knowledge except as to matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters I believe it to be true and that this petition is signed by me with my full, true name.

Frank Bonkasky
(Complete and true signature of petitioner)

9578

Portion of naturalization petition for Frank Bonkasky, showing home village of Pruska, in the parish of Bargowio (here given as "Bargowio"). Note the wealth of information on this petition. In addition to giving the petitioner's home village and parish, it gives his port of exit from Europe (Hamburg), his port of arrival in the U. S., (Philadelphia) and date of arrival (Oct. 19, 1901). It also asks the name of the vessel but it is listed as "unknown." This information is also listed for his wife, Mary. In addition, it gives the names, dates of birth, places of birth and present residences of all children.

APPENDIX:

RAJGRÓD-AREA NATIVES WHO SETTLED IN AND AROUND VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA:

KEY TO THIS TABLE: This is a compilation of all of the central Mesabi's Polish-Americans of documented origin in the Rajgród-Bargłów region, of whom I am aware by the release time of this article. They are arranged by the source of the verification. The first two groupings are the results of my research. I have used the source documents' spelling for the names of people and places; corrections on people's names, from my own knowledge or other sources, are noted after slashes. Where I have known that both spouses in a couple were Rajgród-area natives, I have given them their own lines and as much data as I had; maiden names of wives are given where known. Spouses from marriages that were contracted in America are noted in brackets with the prefix "m." I have not independently verified the findings of any of my PGS-MN colleagues, though Walt Bennick has given me copies of most of his source documents. Data given in italics in the St. Louis County naturalization-record grouping are from Walt; I figured that that information should be presented as enhancements to the relevant family entries I had already developed, rather than as independent entries in Walt's groupings.

ABBREVIATIONS are as follows: "DOB," date of birth, as given in naturalization record or other available source; "POB," place of birth, from same sources, with spelling per the source; "DOA," date of arrival in the United States, as recited in naturalization record or as known (or surmised) from other sources; "Residence," in Minnesota, as of date of naturalization record or other source, and as stated there; "DO-DI/N," date of declaration of intention or final naturalization paper from which information was taken; "Index #," from court records. "[w/H]" for "with husband," means that the couple was married when the husband was naturalized and hence the wife received citizenship derivative of his. [D] signifies a naturalization processed in the Duluth division; [E], for "elsewhere," signifies a naturalization processed in a jurisdiction other than St. Louis County. Question marks indicate that I do not have data for the column.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>POB</u>	<u>DOA</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>DO-DI/N</u>	<u>INDEX#</u>
AS KNOWN FROM KISHEL FAMILY GENEALOGY (all index numbers are from Duluth division court records, by volume and page)						
KISJEL/KISHEL/KISIELEWSKI, Jozef Marjanna	10-3-1857 11-10-1856	Woźnawieś Skrodzkie	1892? ?	Virginia Virginia	7-14-1898 (N) [w/H]	11/147 N/A
KESELL/KISHEL, Zigmund/ Zygmunt	3-18-1882	Woźnawieś(?)	12-12-1896 (1898?)	Virginia	7-27-1904 (N)	26/155
JAMINSKI, Vincent/Wincenty	1874	Bełda	?	Virginia	7-27-1904 (N)	26/94
POPKO, Frank Magdeline	1859 6-6-1861	? Bełda	? ?	Virginia Virginia	7-24-1900 (N) [w/H]	15/426 N/A

AS FOUND IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY NATURALIZATION RECORDS, VIRGINIA DIVISION:

BONKASKY, Frank	10-3-1867	Pruska	12-18-1906	Gilbert	9-11-1937 (N)	7612
BONKOSKY, Stanley	9-15-1898	Barglov	3-28-1907	Gilbert	12-19-1919 (N)	3498
BUKOSKI, Frank	2-2-1892	Ragrart	3-18-1909	Virginia	9-18-1920 (N)	3615
CARNESKI, Josef	3-19-1887	Rajgród	6-26-1903	Virginia	2-2-1910 (DI)	336
CEBELINSKI, Jozef	3-3-1875	Rygród	4-13-1899	Virginia	4-15-1922 (N)	3888
DELASKY/DALESKI, John	6-25-1878	Rigrod	9-7-1894	Virginia	9-15-1917 (d)	2118
GULAN, Kate	10-14-1874	Bargloff	7-30-1897	Gilbert	6-12-1937 (N)	12888
GULAN, Michael Bruno	9-3-1895	Barglov	4-15-1897	Gilbert	12-19-1919 (N)	3497

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>POB</u>	<u>DOA</u>	<u>RESIDENCE</u>	<u>DO-DI/N</u>	<u>INDEX#</u>
KEZENKOVICH/KIZENKIEWICZ, Kazmer/Kazimierz/Charles <i>m. Frances [b. KOPROWICZ]</i>	3-4-1887 10-10-1893	Rygrad <i>Rajgród</i>	3-17-1907 ?	Virginia Virginia	12-21-1918 (N) ?	3056 ?
KLEKOTKA, John	9-8-1874	Barglof	6-12-1901	Virginia	3-8-1910 (DI)	417
KMICIENSKI, Antoni	3-7-1874	Ruigrot	3-7-1909	Virginia	8-1-1911 (DI)	1595
KMIT, Jan	4-30-1881	Rajgrad	4-10-1905	Virginia	10-20-1917 (N)	2876
KUCENSKI, Walter	6-27-1884	Miecie	9-20-1900	Virginia	9-13-1941(N)	8528
LENKOSKI, William	4-15-1887	Rajrot	5-17-1903	Virginia	8-1-1910 (DI)	671
NAGOLSKI, Kazimeer	2-2-1884	Balgaw	10-18-1901	Gilbert	4-19-1924 (N)	4575
NAGOLSKI, Viktoria Kuliki	4-17-1891	Barglow	10-10-1909	Gilbert	11-21-1925 (N)	5119
POPKE/POPKO, Adam Frank	8-12-1888	Karcewo	4-26-1923	Virginia	12-20-1946 (N)	8938
SREGZINSKI, Mary <i>[b. MAKOWSKA]</i>	10-11-1895	Tajno	1906	Virginia	12-1-1960(N)	9313
WEWIOROSKI, Stanislaw	11-10-1895	Raigrod	5-9-1913	Virginia	2-2-1929 (N)	6150
YASINSKI, Peter	6-25-1876	Labentnik	4-1900	Eveleth	6-14-1941 (N)	8413

AS KNOWN FROM BENNICK FAMILY GENEALOGY AND RELATED RESEARCH:

CZAJKA, Albert/Wojciech Anastazja [b. KIZENKIEWICZ]	4-13-1857 5-4-1859	Woźnawieś Barszcze	9-27-1888 9-27-1888	Virginia Virginia	7-24-1900(N) N/A	R2/110[D] N/A
CZAJKA, Alexander	?	Woźnawieś	?	Virginia	?	?
CZAJKA, Marjanna/Mary	1893	Tajno	1904	Virginia	?	?
CZARNIECKA, Leokadja Helena <i>[m. Lawrence FALKOWSKI]</i>	3-30-1882	Woźnawieś [W/H]	1904	Virginia	6-18-1910 (N)	150
CZARNECKI, Alexander	1898	Woźnawieś(?)	?	Virginia	?	?
CZARNECKI, Jozef	7-21-1884	Woźnawieś	1909	Virginia	?	?
GRABOWSKA, Weronika <i>[m. Władysław BOGUSZ]</i>	12-10-1891	Woźnawieś	1907	Virginia	?	?
KARPINSKI, Andrzej Gracylda [b. ROWEK/ROWINSKI]	12-15-1878 5-1-1890	Woźnawieś Woźnawieś	7-25-1909 7-25-1909	Virginia Virginia	? ?	? ?
KOPROWICZ, Paweł/Paul	1-15-1894	Orzechowo	9-8-1913	Calumet	8-23-1938	7919

AS KNOWN FROM ZOTKIEWICZ FAMILY GENEALOGY:

ARASIM, Victoria <i>[m. John ZOTKIEWICZ/ RZOPKIEWICZ]</i>	?	Woźnawieś	1900	Virginia	?	?
SOBOLEWSKA, Stephania <i>[m. Alexander BRZOSTOWSKI]</i>	?	Woźnawieś	1909	Virginia	?	?

AS KNOWN FROM ZAPOLSKI FAMILY GENEALOGY:

ZAPOLSKI, Benjamin	?	Tajno/Bargłów	?	Two Harbors/Finland	?	?
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Department of Commerce and Labor
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 3750

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of Minnesota

COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS

In the District Court

of St. Louis County, Minnesota

Jozef Cebelinski
Miner

aged 39 years

do declare on oath that my personal

description is: Color *white*, complexion *light*, height *5 feet 6 1/2 inches*,

weight *175* pounds, color of hair *light brown*, color of eyes *brown*

other visible distinctive marks *2 scars across back left hand, Scar end left third finger*

I was born in *Rygrad Russia*

on the *5th* day of *March*, anno Domini *1875*; I now reside

at *930-7th St. Virginia Minnesota*

I emigrated to the United States of America from *Bremen Germany*

on the vessel *Do not remember*; my last

foreign residence was *Rygrad Russia*

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to *Nicholas II Emperor*

of all the Russia, of whom I am now a subject;

I arrived at the port of *New York*, in the

State of *New York*, on or about the *13th* day

of *April*, anno Domini *1899*; I am not an anarchist; I am not a

polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith

to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:

SO HELP ME GOD.

Jozef Cebelinski
(Original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this *13th*

day of *July*, anno Domini 1914

[SEAL.]

J.P. Johnson
Clerk of the Court

By *W.A. Koleswar* Deputy Clerk

At left:
The Declaration
of Intention
of the United States of
Jozef Cebelinski
dated 13 July 1914.

Notice the wealth of
information found on a
post-1906
Declaration of Intention.

This document gives
Jozef's--
Occupation: Miner
Age: 39
Color: White
Complexion: light
Height: 5 ft. 6 1/2 in.
Weight: 175 lbs.
Color of hair; light brown
Color of eyes: brown
Visible distinctive marks:
2 scars across back
left hand,
Scar end left third finger
Place of birth:
"Rygrad," Russia
Date of birth:
5 March 1875
Current address:
930-7th St.,
Virginia, Minnesota
Port of Embarkation:
Bremen, Germany
Name of vessel:
"Do not remember"
Last foreign residence:
"Rygrad," Russia
Renounce all allegiance
to:
Nicholas II,
Emperor of all the
Russians
Port of arrival:
New York, New York
Date of arrival:
13 April 1899

**From *Słownik geograficzny:*
THE REST OF RAJGRÓD PARISH,
AND THE BIG BIEBRZAŃSKI MARSH**

By Greg Kishel

Publishing the results of my "Rajgród Roots" project called for an accompaniment: one last collection of translated entries from *Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego*, to cover the villages in the vicinity of Rajgród that I hadn't included in my three prior efforts and a few more of the region's natural features. I collected a number of items I'd already done. I looked at a couple of maps to ensure that I'd gathered all of those tiny villages. I then realized that there was another entry that would really round out the picture of the area—the one for that great big wetland to the south of Rajgród and Bargłów, the largest in Poland. It made even more sense to include it in a companion piece, since my theme was the physiographical similarity between the two homelands of my father's father's family. So here it is, the last installment in a picture of the homeplace of my ancestors' chain migration, set down just before that exodus started, and starting with a swamp that was *big* in Central European terms:

* * * * *

Biebrzańskie marshes, the most extensive in the Kingdom of Poland, run along both sides of the Biebrza River and its tributaries. They begin around Lipsk, which is situated on the margins of the dry lands, and which constitutes to some extent a peninsula surrounded on three sides by marshy lowlands. All of the tributaries of the Biebrza arise all the same from these swampy banks of the lowlands. Until the 18th century this boggy area broadened now and again in the direction from the south to the north, as, for example, in the vicinity of Lipsk. Throughout the region only little parts of dryland area protrude like islands or intrude into the swampy expanses in the form of peninsulas. In those spots the rural settlements are usually concentrated. The village Jastrębna is settled on such an island, having Wilczy bog to the north, the marshes of the Jastrębianka River in the west and the marshy grounds of the Biebrzański to the south and east. On the second island south of Lipsk is contained the village Rohożyn, on another, tinier small one the hamlet Jałowa. On such small islands further toward the west, in the vicinity of the mouth of the Netta River, we encounter the villages: Polkowo, Dębowo, Jasionowo, Kopytkowo. Other islands of smaller area are covered with forests and are uninhabited. Only in the time of freezing or in a dry summer do those locations have continuing communication with outside regions; in other seasons of the year they are to some extent cut off from the world, and relegated to communication

by water. The greatest area of the marshes is stretched over the expanse between Augustów, Suchawoła, Goniądz and Rajgród. The marshes are 28 *werst* [18.8 mi./30 km.] wide from west to east, and 15 *werst* [10 mi./16 km.] in length from north to south. Eventually, by now not far from its own mouth to the Narew River, the Biebrza, the extensive outgrowth of the marsh, flows on 18 *werst* [12 mi. / 19 km.] in the direction of Szczuczyn, around the villages Okrasin, Mścichy, Klimaszewizna, Kownaty, and Godlewo. In various sections the Biebrzański marshes bear individual names like: Pankowskie, Kobyle, Borowizna, Przetok, Tarówka, Bobrzańskie (fittingly), Pieńczykowskie, Łekowo, Netta, Małaszewskie, etc. The Augustowski canal greatly contributed to the reclamation of these marshes through the drainage of their waters. *Br. Ch.* [Bronisław Chlebowski, principal editor of *Słownik geograficzny*] [*SGKP* v.I, pp. 204-205]

Jegrznia, a river, it flows out from Lake Rajgródzkie in *Szczuczyn powiat/district*, below Rajgród, from there in a southeasterly direction it flows into Lake Dęstwo, smoothly further below Woźna Wieś and Kuligi, and below Ciszewo it falls into the Łek at the left bank. Length of 15 *werst* [10 mi. / 16 km.]. The Solistówka river flows into it at its left bank, across Lake Dęstwo. *J. Bl.* [Józef Bliziński] [*SGKP* v. III, p. 553]

Judziki, a village, Augustów *powiat/district*, Bargłów *gmina/township*, Rajgród parish. In 1827 there were 8 houses and 50 inhabitants here; presently [1882] there are 8 houses, 79 inhabitants. [*SGKP* v. 3, p. 621]

Kroszewo, a village, *Szczuczyn powiat/district*, Pruska *gmina/township*, Rajgród parish. In 1827 there were 15 houses, 87 inhabitants. Kroszewo is situated to the east of the lake of the same name which covers about 7 *włoka* [291 acres]. The lands are hilly, for the most part of clay/loam, covered with glacial rocks; the valleys between the hills enclose broad and spacious meadows; its area amounts to around 56 *włoka* [2331 acres]. Kroszewo is connected with the Kowieński highway, about 1 ½ *werst* [1 mi./1.6 km.] away; on the meadows here is found a cemetery from pagan times named Żurawiniec, surrounded by rocks of a large size. The formerly extensive, now cleared forest under the name of Rafałówka (today 8 *włoka* [333 acres]) belongs to Kroszewo. In early times Kroszewo belonged in part to the lesser gentry; in the course of time, as the principal seat of the Karwowskis, it came into their ownership in its entirety and for over 4 ½ centuries they held power over it. The surveyed village was divided among the local peasantry for their settlement in the year 1864, and two small proprietors retained two small manor farms. *St. J. K.* [*SGKP* v. IV, p. 710]

Kroszówka, a village, Szczuczyń district, Pruska township, Rajgród parish, it was occupied by peasants (it belonged to Bargłów parish), it lies to the east of Kroszewo, its grounds stretch towards the south on a swampy lake, belonging to the village of Gorskie. It is about 3 włoka [125 acres] in area, and is surrounded by boggy meadows, such that access to the lake is difficult; in icy wintertimes, abundant in snow, the fish fill up the lake and in the following spring they are melted out as prey of predatory birds. Kroszówka has an area of around 25 włoka [1040 acres]; it formerly belonged to the Rajgród *starosta*, and as property of the government together with other folwarks belonging to the *starosta*, it was purchased at auction by Bagiński in 1820. Within a short time, together with other extensive estates, the properties of the *starostwo* of Kroszówka went into Jewish ownership, and after 1863 it was divided among the peasants for their settlement. In 1827 there were 12 houses and 92 inhabitants here. *St. J. K.* [SGKP v IV, p. 710]

Podliszewo, a manorial farm and estates on Lakes Rajgród and Dręstwo, Szczuczyń *powiat*/district, Przestrzele (Bełda) *gmina*/township, Rajgród parish, it lies 34 *werst* [22.5 mi. / 36.3 km.] from Szczuczyń, and lies on the border with Prussia. In 1827 the manorial farm had 2 houses and 14 inhabitants. The water-driven mill produces up to 5000 *rubel srebrem* of income per year; an organized fishery is on the lakes. In 1884 the estates of Podliszewo were composed of the manor farms of Podliszewo and Lepianka, the appurtenance of Biebrzański Meadows, and Lakes Dręstwo and Rajgródzkie. The manorial area of Podliszewo manor farm is 4225 *mórg* [5860 acres]: cultivated lands and gardens of 400 *mórg* [555 acres], meadows of 119 *mórg* [165 acres], pastures of 99 *mórg* [137 acres], waters of 1554 *mórg* [2155 acres], barren/unused lands of 27 *mórg* [37 acres], all together 2199 *mórg* [3050 acres], 4 brick buildings, 9 of wood; the manor farm Lepianki has cultivated lands and gardens of 114 *mórg* [158 acres], meadows of 45 *mórg* [62 acres], pastures of 9 *mórg* [12.5 acres], waters of 471 *mórg* [653 acres], barren/unused lands of 9 *mórg* [12.5 acres], all together 649 *mórg* [900 acres], 3 wooden buildings; the appurtenance of Biebrzański Meadows has meadows of 1118 *mórg* [1551 acres], pastures of 34 *mórg* [47 acres], forests of 208 *mórg* [288.5 acres], barren/unused lands of 6 *mórg* [8 acres], disputed areas of 12 *mórg* [17 acres], all together 1378 *mórg* [1911 acres], 3 wooden buildings. Into the composition of the estates formerly went: the village of Dręstwo, 42 homestead-settlements, with an area of 539 *mórg* [748 acres]; the village of Kosyły, 20 homestead-settlements, with an area of 269 *mórg* [373 acres]; the village of Czarna Wieś, 28 homestead-settlements, with an area of 373 *mórg* [517 acres]; the village of Judziki, 10 homestead-settlements, with an

area of 106 *mórg* [147 acres]; the village of Krotówka [*sic*; probably should be "Kroszówka"], 18 homestead-settlements, with an area of 595 *mórg* [825 acres]; the village of Barszcze, 18 homestead-settlements, with an area of 379 *mórg* [526 acres]; the village of Budy, 4 homestead-settlements, with an area of 28 *mórg* [38 acres]; the village of Rybczyzna, 5 homestead settlements, with an area of 50 *mórg* [69 acres]; the village of Przebród, 2 homestead-settlements, with an area of 7 *mórg* [10 acres]; the hamlet of Panczykowo, 1 homestead-settlement, with an area of 12 *mórg* [17 acres]; the hamlet of Bełda, 1 homestead-settlement, with an area of 1 *mórg* [1.4 acres] *Br. Ch.--A. Pal.* [SGKP v. VIII, p. 430]

Popowo, ... 7.) ... Augustów *powiat*/district, Bargłów *gmina*/township, Rajgród parish, it lies 20 *werst* [13.3 mi. / 21.4 km.] from Augustów, 22 houses, 188 inhabitants. In 1827 it had 12 houses, 71 inhabitants. *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v. VIII, p. 804]

Przestrzele, ... 2.) ... village of lesser gentry and peasants, Szczuczyń *powiat*/district, Bełda *gmina*/township, Rajgród parish, it lies 28 *werst* [18.6 mi./30 km.] from Szczuczyń, it lies right on the border with Prussia, it has deposits of peat and limestone. In 1827 it had 13 houses, 75 inhabitants. In 1872 the manorial farm of Przestrzele, section A, was of the area of 263 *mórg* [365 acres]: cultivated lands and gardens 155 *mórg* [215 acres], meadows 86 *mórg* [119 acres], pasture 20 *mórg* [28 acres], wastelands 2 *mórg* [2.8 acres]; 11 wooden buildings. *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v. IX, p. 179]

Reszki, ... 4.) ... village and manorial farm, on the lake of the same name, Augustów *powiat*/district, Bargłów *gmina*/township, Rajgród parish, it lies 18 *werst* [12 mi./19.2 km.] from Augustów; the manorial farm has 4 houses, 8 inhabitants; the village has 19 houses, 283 inhabitants. In 1827 there were 19 houses, 131 inhabitants. The lake is connected by a canal with Lake Kuków. [SGKP v. IX, p. 624]

Rybczyzna, a village on Lake Dręstwo, Szczuczyń *powiat*/district, Bełda *gmina*/township, Rajgród parish. [SGKP v. 10, p. 53]

Solistowka, a brook, it begins to flow southerly from the village of Rutki, in Augustów *powiat*/district, on the border with Prussia, it flows tortuously toward the south through Pomiani, Żrobki and beyond Solistówka, on the outskirts of the village of Barszcze (in Szczuczyń district), it then falls into Lake Dręstwo, from whose waters drains the Jegrznia River. Length 13 *werst* [8.6 mi./13.9 km.]. *J. Bl.* [SGKP v. XI, p. 53]

Solistowka, village and manorial farm on the river of the same name, Augustów *powiat*/district, Bargłów *gmina*/township, Rajgród parish, it lies 18 *werst* [12 mi. / 19.2 km.] from Augustów; the village [has] 30

houses, 242 inhabitants; the manor farm has 2 houses, 28 inhabitants. In 1827 there were 25 houses, 158 inhabitants. In 1866 the manorial farm was of the area of 1050 *mórg* [1457 acres]: cultivated lands and gardens 366 *mórg* [508 acres], meadow 195 *mórg* [270 acres], forests 458 *mórg* [636 acres], wastelands 31 *mórg* [43 acres]; forest not registered. The village of Solstówka has 38 settlements, 434 *mórg* [602 acres]. [SGKP v. XI, p. 53]

Solki, ... 3.) *Szczuczyn powiat*/district, *Bełda gmina*/township, *Rajgród parish*. *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v. XI, p. 58]

Toczyłowo also *Toczydłowo*, a lake by the village of the same name, in *Szczuczyn powiat*/district, about 3 *werst* [2 mi. / 3.2 km.] to the northeast of *Grajewo*, in the vicinity of the left bank of the *Łyk River*, to which drain its waters. The banks are forested and swampy, elevated only on the southeast, on which is spread out the village of *Toczyłowo*. In length it is 2 *werst* [1.3 mi. / 2.1 km.], in width 1 *werst* [0.6 mi. / 1 km.]. It has an area of 185 *mórg* [257 acres]. In depth it goes to 48 *stóp* [48 feet / 15 meters]. It lies in the *Rydzewo estates*. *Święcicki* mentions it as lying in the *Wiżki territory* (p. 109, *przekł. polskiego* [Renderings of Polish]). *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v. XII, p. 356]

Toczyłowo ... village of nobility and peasants on the lake of the same name, *Szczuczyn powiat*/district, *Bogusze gmina*/township, *Rajgród parish*. ... [SGKP v. XII, p. 356]

Turczyn, in 1827 *Turczynowo*, village of nobility and peasants, *Szczuczyn powiat*/district, *Bełda gmina*/township, *Rajgród parish*. In 1827 there were 16 houses, 97 inhabitants. *Turczyn* *Rydzewo* is recorded in 1676 in the early official records of the *ziemia* of *Bielsko*. [SGKP v. XII, p. 631]

Tworki, ... 4.) village and manorial farm, *Szczuczyn powiat*/district, *Bełda gmina*/township, *Rajgród parish*. In 1827 there were 7 houses, 49 inhabitants. In 1867 the manorial farm of *Tworki* was of an area of 197 *mórg* [273 acres]: cultivated lands and gardens 17 *mórg* [24 acres], meadow 16 *mórg* [22 acres], forests 20 *mórg* [28 acres], pastures and brushland 42 *mórg* [58 acres], wastelands 2 *mórg* [3 acres]. The village of *Tworki* has 6 homestead-settlements, and is 13 *mórg* [18 acres] in area. ... *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v. XII, p. 686]

Wilkowo, ... 5.) manorial farm, *Augustów powiat*/district, *Bargłów gmina*/township, *Rajgród parish*, it lies 20 *werst* [13.3 mi. / 21.4 km.] from *Augustów*, it has 2 houses, 14 inhabitants. In 1827 it had 1 house, 4 inhabitants. *Br. Ch.* [SGKP v. XIII, p. 482]

These entries are the rest of *Rajgród parish*, the villages that had no immediate genealogical connection

to me or other PGS-MN members with roots in the vicinity, but by no means are they remnants; there are a number of interesting things to note from the grouping.

First, the description of the *Biebrzański marshes* sure does sound like big stretches of northeastern Minnesota, does it not?¹ One would imagine that the reference to the marshes broadening out sporadically up to the 18th century is a reference to flooding, which must have been controlled to some extent by the digging of the *Augustowski Canal* around that time. Knowing that the huge presence of these wetlands was just south of the birthplace of my grandfather and great-grandfather makes their vanished world come more alive for me, in the 21st century. The entry for *Kroszówka* evokes much the same feeling—every kid who grew up near a small lake in northern Minnesota has seen (and smelled) the springtime evidence of a seasonal fishkill, after a rough winter freezes the lake early and ensuing heavy snowfall kills the weeds, causing oxygen starvation beneath the ice.

And, I was intrigued to see the mention of a megalithic pagan cemetery at *Kroszewo*, just east of *Rajgród*. This site apparently is one of the southernmost evidences of the *Jaćwingians*, the Balto-Slavic people who inhabited *Mazuria* before the incursions of the Slavic Poles; I have seen it on a modern tourist map or two and on charts in books on the ethnography of the Polish lands.

This set of translations got me acquainted with a couple of Polish-language terms I had not seen before. The first was *włoka*, a unit of measurement well-treated by William F. "Fred" Hoffman in his writings on *SGKP*; it is considerably larger than the *mórg* that I had encountered as the usual unit of land area in my earlier translations.² Another one that I had seen in entries from several parts of Poland was *attynencja*, abbreviated *attyn*. Fred confirmed my suspicion that this was a form of feudal land tenure, identifying a larger and probably more undeveloped parcel of land legally attached to a more settled manor or other

¹The entry is perhaps even more redolent of the huge peatlands around Upper and Lower Red Lakes, in *Beltrami*, *Clearwater*, and *Lake of the Woods Counties*, with their similar vastness and the physical inaccessibility of their margins.

²Fred defines it as about 30 *mórg* in total. See Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman, *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents, Volume I: Polish* (New Britain, Conn.: Language & Lineage Press, 2000), p. 84. See also William F. Hoffman, "Tips on Translating Entries from the *Słownik Geograficzny*," *Rodziny: The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, v. XXIII, no. 1 (May, 2000), p. 3, in which Fred equates a *włoka* with the area of a full-sized farm, one sufficient in those days to support a family through the plowing of a field of that size (the noun being derived from the verb *włóżyć*, "to drag, to harrow").

holding. He noted that the literal meaning of the word is "appurtenance," which in Anglo-American legalese signifies something "that belongs to or is attached to something else."³ And there was one reference to *ziemia*, a political subdivision of feudalism extant several centuries earlier in the history of Poland, corresponding to a regional administrative district.⁴

Finally, it's worth mentioning some of the terms we've seen before, for those who haven't followed my *SGKP* series throughout. *Rubel srebrny*, "silver ruble," was a unit of money in the Russian Empire.⁵ The *starosta* in nineteenth-century Poland was a regional official of the royal government, empowered to perform fiscal, law enforcement, and judicial functions. The *starostwo* was his domain.⁶ And I have continued to identify the two levels of local government in partitioned Poland by both their original names—*gmina* and *powiat*—and their rather imprecise correspondents in modern-day American terms—"township" and "district."

And that is all. I will apologize to those longer-term readers who may have tired of seeing the provincial backwater of my ancestors plowed quite so closely. I do promise that these are the last *SGKP* translations you will see from these parishes—within their boundaries, there's virtually nothing left to cover! But when all else is said and done, I challenge anyone, anywhere in the ranks of Polish-American genealogy, to show me a more comprehensive treatment from *Słownik geograficzny*!

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS: I am again indebted to Fred Hoffman, for another fast and friendly turnaround on my requests for help in translating the rare word or phrase—Fred, I owe you at least *jedno duże gorące piwo!* And for our map illustration (on p. 19) I thank the staff of the Borchardt Collection of the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota. Local members of the PGS-MN received a very nice orientation to the Borchardt at our meeting there in May, 2000. In addition to the Borchardt's excellent topographical maps of the Republic of Poland, the German Empire, and the like, the staff dug out some older, rarer, and very intriguing maps of Central Europe for us.

³Black's Law Dictionary (7th ed., St. Paul: West Group, 1999), p. 98. The adjectival form, "appurtenant," carries even more of the sense of my surmise: "[a]nnexed to a more important thing." *Id.*

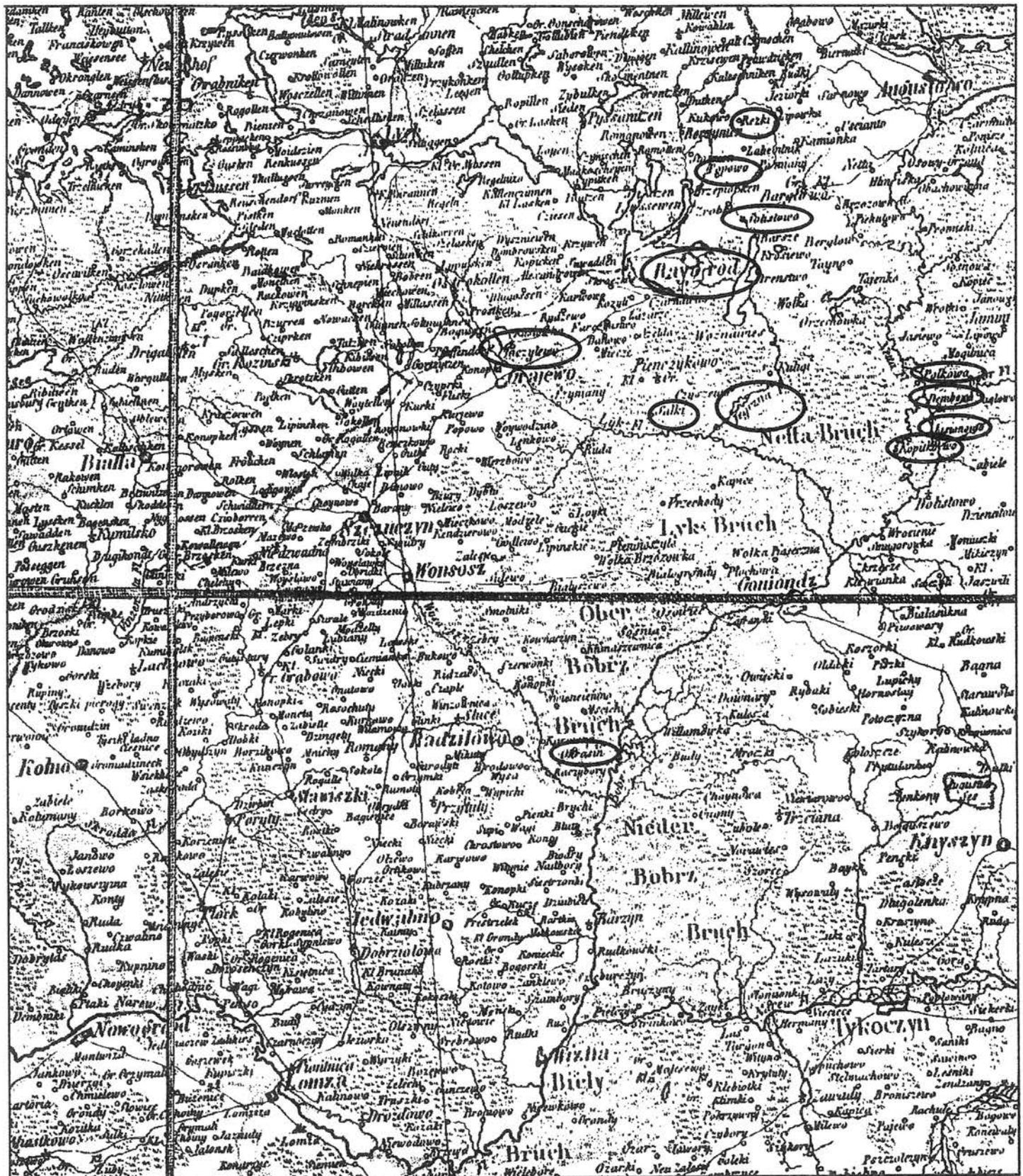
⁴William F. Hoffman, "Powiat's and Wola's and Gród's, Oh My!," *Rodziny: The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, v. XXI, no. 2 (August, 1998), at p. 22.

⁵Shea and Hoffman, *In Their Words*, p. 82.

⁶Shea and Hoffman, *In Their Words*, p. 83; and, e.g., William F. Hoffman, "Tips on Translating Entries from the *Słownik Geograficzny*," *Rodziny: The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, v. XXIII, no. 1 (May, 2000), at p. 3.



Above: Places in northern Minnesota where immigrants from the Rajgród area in northern Poland settled (See table on pp. 12 and 13). Map source: 1997-1998 Official Highway Map of Minnesota.



Above: 1820 Prussian map showing the Big Bierbrzański Marsh extending to the south from Rajgród. The circled villages of Polkowo, Dębowo, Jasionowo, Kopytkowo and Okrasin are mentioned in the translation about the Biebrzańskie marshes on p. 15. The other circled items--Jegrznia, Kroszewo, Popowo, Reszki, Solistowka, Solki, Toczyłowo--are translated subjects in preceding article.

LIBRARY CORNER

103 Articles

by **Father Al Rekowski**

1982-1986

Reviewed by **Mary Ellen Bruski**

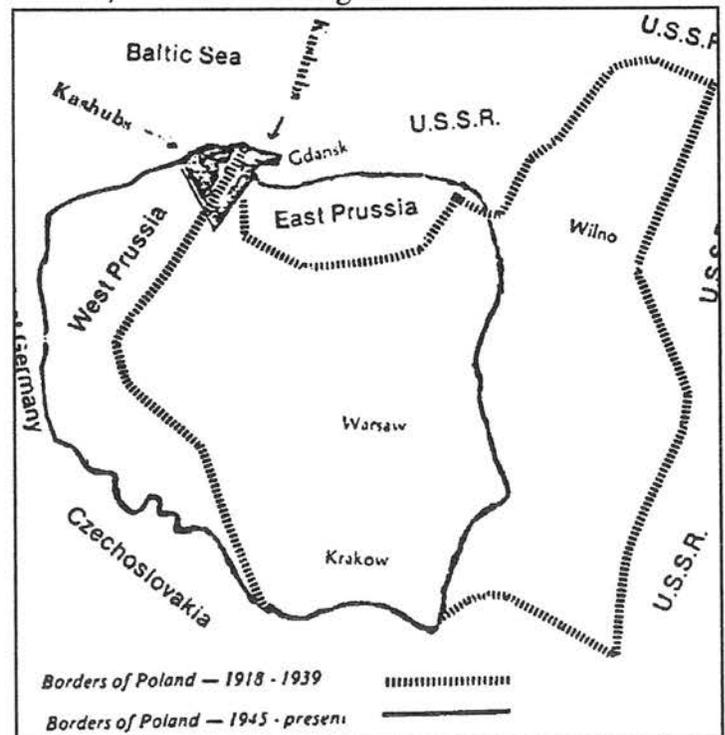
You won't have to research your Kashubian ancestors long before you will come across the name of Fr. Al Rekowski. His name is mentioned more frequently than any other as a resource for Kashub research. Over a period of four years Father Rekowski composed a weekly column (Home Ties) for an Ontario newspaper (This Week). Tom Ross, a member of PGS-MN and a third cousin of Fr. Rekowski, recently donated a book that is a collection of these articles. The pages of the book are direct copies of the 103 articles in the order they ran from 1982 to 1986.

Father Rekowski, a "native born and bred Ontario Kashub," traveled the roads his ancestors had, visited the locations of abandoned Kashubian communities, and interviewed the families of third and fourth generation farmers. The early articles include historical and geographical background of the Kashubian region of Poland, maps showing the location of villages in Poland of the early Ontario settlers, and their reasons for immigrating. His interviews with the descendants of the original settlers provided him with rich detail of the lives of the early pioneers. One article describes the usual route to Renfrew City from Poland, including the need for families to stay in crowded, filthy rooming houses in Bremen until their ship sailed and finally walking on foot the last miles to Renfrew when the railroad tracks ended. The following poignantly describes the immigrant's acceptance that the journey was a one way trip: "It was a custom for the emigrants to take with them a handful of their native soil...which would be handed on to their children to be cast into their graves when they died and were buried in a foreign country."

Father Rekowski describes the hardships pioneers endured in every season, the poor soil, how farmers earned a living in the winter months, the crops they grew, the houses they built. Naturally, religion played a tremendous role in the lives of the early Kashubian settlers and he includes information about the location of the first churches (Readers will enjoy the description of wedding customs in Polonia, Wisconsin.). Women, who are often forgotten in historical accounts, are prominent in this one. Fr. Rekowski's articles show great sympathy for their special hardships; the death of children, isolation, the food they prepared for their families.

If you are researching a Kashubian surname, you may very well find it in this book. Unfortunately there is no index to the many names mentioned, (and that would be a good project for someone another day) but nearly every article mentions several. Fr. Rekowski's travels included visiting many towns and cemeteries in Ontario, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana to find the surnames of the original Ontario settlers. Many of them had moved on—some in just a short time, others in later generations. His articles include the reasons for these migrations, which should be of great help if you have wondered what the attraction was for your grandfather to have moved from Ontario to Stevens Point or Winona. Fr. Rekowski also visited Greenbush and Perham, MN as well as North Dakota and Montana where he found and described Polish communities, parishes and cemeteries.

With no index of towns or surnames, it will be frustrating for the researcher who is only looking for specific names. Readers should not expect to find their specific family's history in these pages as that was not the purpose of Fr. Rekowski's research. However, these articles are not difficult to read and there is much information to glean as "meat" for your family's history if you have Kashubian or Poland-to-Ontario/U.S. Midwest origins.



Above: Kashubia is located west and southwest of Gdańsk in northern Poland. Map source: *103 Articles by Father Al Rekowski 1982-1986*, p. 9. This item is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

Origins of the KRAFT/ KREFT surnames

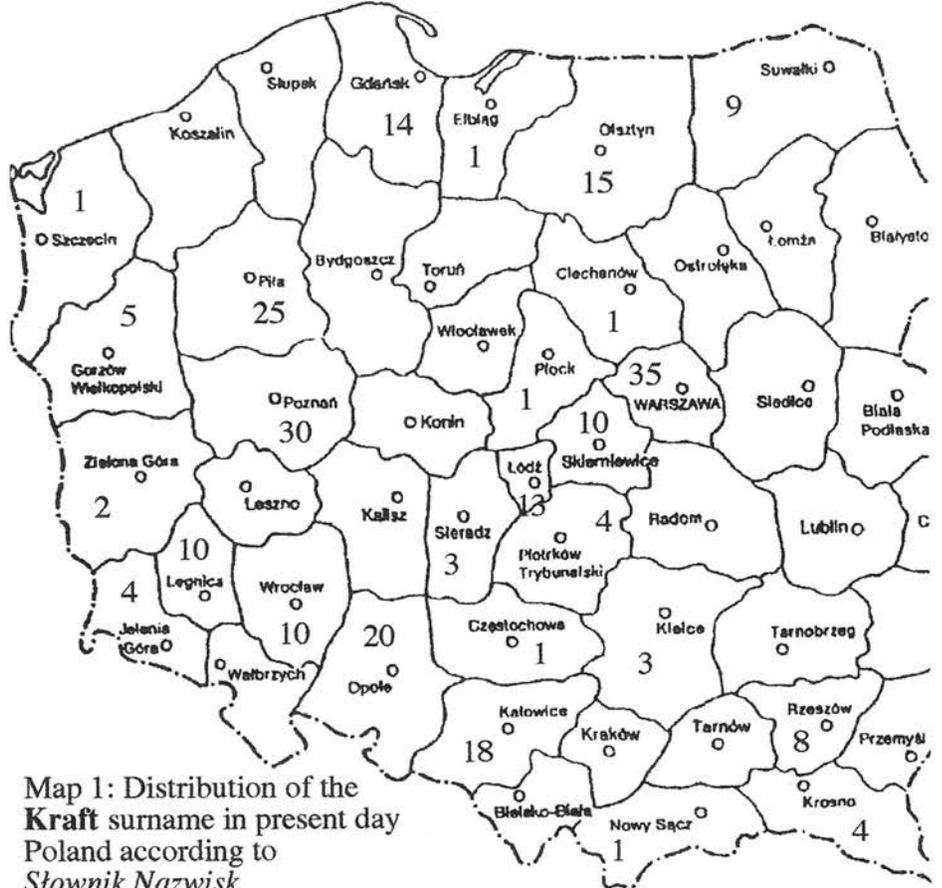
by Paul Kulas

What's in a name? This is a question the Bard of Avon posed. It is also the question we try to answer in this series of articles. A follow-up question for this article is: Can one's ethnicity be identified by one's surname? Sometimes, but not always! This is particularly true when it comes to Polish and German family names. There are many Poles who have distinctly German surnames while at the same time there are many ethnic Germans that have distinctly Polish sounding family names. How did this come about? Well, Poles and Germans have intermarried for centuries. It was often an accident of history and geography whether the descendants of these mixed marriages came to regard themselves as Polish, -- or German. Also, during the course of history, many Germans settled among Poles and were Polonized, while at the same time, many Slavs were governed by Germans and became Germanized.

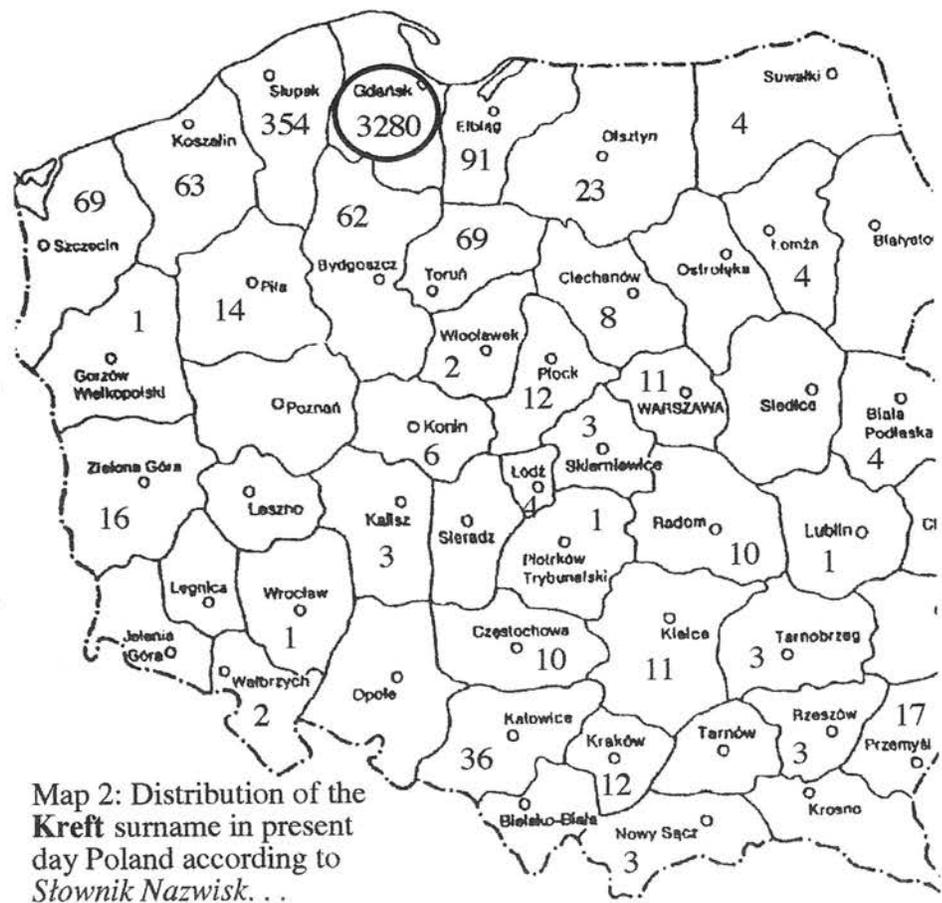
Patricia Salske (that surname itself is a mixture of Slavic and Germanic elements) of Franklin, WI asked us to research her grandfather's surname (Kraft or Krefst) in Hoffman's *Polish Surnames* and in Rymut's *Słownik nazwisk...*

Kraft is a very common German surname. According to Hoffman, it is derived from the German word *Kraft* which means "strength, power." The Krefst surname has the same derivation.

According to Rymunt, the KRAFT surname appeared only 248 times in a Polish governmental agency's records in 1990 (see Map 1, upper right). Although it is a very common German surname, the name is rather uncommon in Poland. This is probably due to the fact that most ethnic Germans living in Poland prior to 1939 either fled to Germany proper ahead of the advancing Russian armies at the end of World War II or were forcefully expelled following the war. Most people bearing the Kraft name that remained probably had Polish connections or came to consider themselves Polish.



Map 1: Distribution of the Kraft surname in present day Poland according to *Słownik Nazwisk...*



Map 2: Distribution of the Krefst surname in present day Poland according to *Słownik Nazwisk...*

An analysis of the distribution of the KREFT surname is very different, however. According to Rymut, this surname appeared 4218 times in 1990 records (See Map 2 lower, left). Though the name is German in derivation, it is a rather common Polish surname. Obviously, people with this surname didn't consider themselves to be ethnic Germans or else that large a number would not have remained in Poland following World War II. Notice the concentration of the surname in northern Poland. More than 3/4 of people with the Kreft name resided in Gdańsk province in 1990. Moreover, Gdańsk and the immediate surrounding provinces encompass more than 90 percent of the people with this surname in Poland. Are these people Kaszubi (Compare the concentration in the Gdańsk area on Map 2 with the maps on pp. 20 and 21)?

Wisconsin was the destination of many immigrants from Kaszuby (It was also the destination of many ethnic Germans). We would ask Patricia the following: Did your grandfather consider himself to be Polish or German? What was his "mother tongue" (What language did he first learn as a child)? Was he Catholic or Protestant? Did he first settle among Poles or among Germans in Wisconsin? If he was Catholic and settled among other Poles, he probably originated in the Gdańsk area of northern Poland.

We continue our offer to research your Polish surnames in
William F. Hoffman's
**Polish Surnames:
Origins and Meanings**
and in
Kazimierz Rymut's
**Słownik nazwisk współcześnie
w polsce używanych.**
Send your request to:
Paul Kulas, editor
PGS-MN Newsletter
12008 West River Road,
Champlin MN 55316.
Include \$10.00 per surname.
Make check payable to:
PGS-MN.

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**

We have been living in Australia for 50 years and we are looking for our lost family. We believe they might be living in Baltimore, Maryland. Can you help us find them? Our family name is KARCZMARZ.

Regards, **Steven <gritchie@hotmail.net.au>**

NEW MEMBERS: *We welcome the following:*

Lynn Betlock, 15 7th St., Cambridge MA 02141-1111 <lbetlock@yahoo.com> is researching WYRWICKI, URTNOWSKI, SCIESINSKI, BORUSKI in Dobrcz, Trzeciewiec and Goluszyce in Poland and in Buffalo NY, Duluth and Little Falls MN.

Donald A. Briese, 22666 Highview Oaks Cir., Detroit Lakes MN 56501 is researching BRIESE in Poznan, Prussia and in Plainview MN.

Claudette De brey, 4502 Browndale Ave., Edina MN 55424-1141 <Claudette@debreydesign.com> is researching JAKUBOSKI, WESOLEK, KUJAWA, KUSZ in Juncewo, Wagrawic, Poznan, Gniezno, Zinn in Poland and in Manitowoc WI. She writes: "The LDS Family History Center now has the films [#0741956, items 11 & 12, Poland, Bydgoszcz, Juncewo (Zinn), Catholic Church Records 1808-1861], that I requested for Juncewo. Thanks for all your assistance. We leave for Poland in September and I am in the process of planning and booking (on-line) the entire trip. I hope to find some relatives there."

Elgene Jorgenson, 11608 Wren St. NW., Coon Rapids MN 55433 <ElgeneJ@aol.com> is researching ASMUS in Mischken, Gumbinnen, East Prussia and

in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Reta Kostecky, 20 Kensington Drive, Conway AR 72032 <rkos@hotmail.com> is researching URBANI-AK in Lisewo, Szymanwice in Poland and in Carlton County, MN.

Robert Kraska, 3151 Garfield St. N.E., Mpls. MN 55418-2223 <reksneffels@prodigy.net> is researching KRASKA in Rzeszów Province, BALUT in Wulka, Galicia, NIZNIK in Skomielna Biała, KWASNIEWSKI in Rabka, Galicia and all in Mpls. MN.

Marian (Nawrocki) Sawyer, 10400 Cavell Ave. S., Bloomington MN 55438 <dds997@att.net> is researching Matewz NAWROCKI and Nicholas MAKOWSKI in Wloclawek, Polish Russia (Smilowice) and Austrian Poland and in Silver Lake and Lester Prairie, MN.

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

Joan Gordenier, 10069 Hadley Rd., Gregory MI 48137 <jgbones@juno.com> is researching MAS-LOWSKI, PIKULA, DOMBOVY, DZIABAS, STANEK, YOREK in Morrison Co., MN.

Tom & Barb Kaminski, 4002 Allendale Ave., Duluth MN 55803-1801 <kaminskib@chartermi.net> are researching KAMINSKI, BUDZYNSKI/RUDZYNSKI, KUKA, ZAK, BRISK in Silver Lake (McLeod) and Pierz, Harding (Morrison) MN. Barb writes: "Keep up the good work. I look forward to the newsletters."

Susan James-Morrow, 4011 Hubbard Av. N., Robbinsdale MN 55422 <SMorrow987@aol.com> is researching BALDY, RIPPLE/REPPLE in Brinitz, FAUTSCH in Opole and all in Delano, MN.

Missing Branches, continued on page 24

Bulletin Board, continued from page 5**Surname Indexing Project**

The *PGS-MN Newsletter* Surname Indexing Project series will not appear in this issue of the newsletter. The project began in the Winter 1999-2000 newsletter and continued in the Spring 2000, Autumn 2000, Winter 2000-01, and Spring 2001 issues. The indexing will continue in Autumn 2001 with the surname indexing of Volume 6 (1998) issues. A single alphabetical listing of all names appearing in Volumes 1-5 is now available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. We thank compiler, **Audra Etzel**, for this intergrated listing.

POL-AM Newsletter

The *POL-AM Newsletter* is published and edited by long-time Polonian activist, **Czesław Róg**. The Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) also publishes its news in this publication. Annual subscription is \$15.00--send to 2623 NE Jefferson St., Mpls., MN 55418. We have added issues of *POL-AM* (May-June 1981 to the present) to the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

Missing Branches, continued from page 23

Judy Swenson, 1498 Grant McMahon Blvd., Ely MN 55731 <jmswens@cpintgernet.com> is researching MICHOR, KUHARSKI, NICHOLS, MARSHALL, MARSZALKIEWICZ in Budzieszewko near Gniezno.

Ron Tomczik, 158 Peninsula Road, Medicine Lake MN 55441 is researching TOMCZYK, TOMCZYKOWSKI, URBANSKI, ORLOWSKI in Gross

Pole Patrol Leads Twins

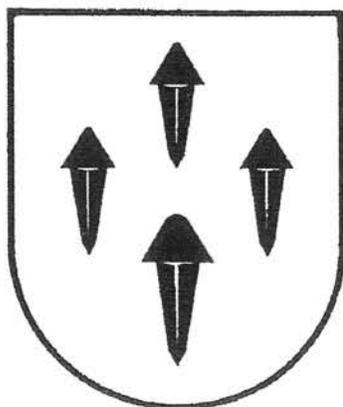
The July 2001 issue of the *Polish American Journal* (p. 7) has a nice article about the "Pole Patrol"--a trio of ball players of Polish decent--who are leading this year's dramatic resurgence of the Minnesota Twins (At least they were resurgent during the first half of the season). While the "Soul Patrol" (a trio of black players) roams the outfield, the Pole Patrol anchors the corners of the infield. They are: first baseman, Doug Mientkiewicz; third baseman, Corey Koskie; and catcher, A.J. Pierzynski. Long-time bullpen coach and Pierzynski mentor, Rick Stelmazek, is an honorary member of this group.

PGSA Annual Conference

The 2001 Polish Genealogical Society of America's Annual Conference will be held October 12, 13 and 14 at the Quality Inn - Heron Point in Lombard, Illinois. For a Schedule of Events and a Registration Form and other conference details visit the conference website at <<http://www.pgsa.org/2001Conference.htm>> or contact Conference Chairperson, Bernadine Saelens at 630.833.1355.

Bukowiec and in the St. Cloud and Little Falls area in MN and BINCZYK in Kashuby and in Winona and in the St. Cloud and Little Falls area.

Lisa Trembley, 10149 Nottingham Tr., Eden Prairie MN 55347 <ltrembley@qwest.net> is researching RAFINSKI, ZIWICKI and related lines—KAMPA, LANDOWSKI, NIEDZIELSKI in Sherburne and Benton Co., MN.

**The Official Crest of the City of Rajgród**

Source: *Herbarz Miast Polskich* by Andrzej Plewako and Józef Wanag, p. 183 (See also *PGS-MN Newsletter*, Summer 1998, p. 11). In this issue, Greg Kishel traces Chain Migration from the Rajgród area of Poland to Minnesota's Iron Range (see pp. 8-13). He also concludes translations from *Słownik geograficzny* of villages from the Rajgród area on pp. 15-19.

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