Polish Genealogical Society
of Minnesota
NEWSLETTER

FINDING THE GUZMANNS

By Greg Kishel <gfk1@cornell.edu>

Most Polish-American genealogists face one big problem early in their research: finding the specific village in Poland where their ancestors originated. The reasons are many; they usually center around the century's lapse in time since our ancestors immigrated, the loss of clear family memory that occurred when those immigrants passed on, and the frequent lack of precise information about their birthplaces in church and civil records kept in America. I was lucky in this regard on one of my ancestral lines; thanks to the preservation of a 1937-vintage certified copy of my paternal grandfather's Polish birth record, I was able to trace my KISIELEWSKI ancestors to a couple of small towns in the backwoods of what is now northeastern Poland.[1]

I didn't have that fortuity for my other Polish-American line, that of my paternal grandmother, born Anna Julia FRIDAY in 1886 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. When we were young, Grandma told us that her parents had been born in "the German part of Poland," coming to Stevens Point first after their immigration and then moving north to be among the pioneers of the iron mining town of Bessemer in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She didn't say more than that. There was very little contact between my immediate family and the U.P. collaterals while I was growing up, so there was no other source for better information.

Oral family tradition had it that their name had been something like *Poontyak* or *Pyontek* when they came to America, and that it had been changed to "Friday" at some point. After I studied the Polish language in the 1990s, I realized that the

[1]*See* the several articles I've published in our *PGS-MN Newsletter* over the years: "*Z Leśnictgwa Rajgrodzkiego:* A Chain Migration from Poland's North Country to Minnesota's Mesabi Iron Range," in v. 9, no. 2 (Summer, 2001), p.8, and my translations of entries in *Słownik geograficzny* for nearly all of the villages in the parishes of Rajgród and Bargłów Kościelny, in v. 5, no. 4 (Winter, 1997-1998), p. 10; v. 6, no. 2 (Summer, 1998), p. 20; v. 7, no. 1 (Spring, 1999), p. 9; and v. 9, no. 2 (Summer, 2001), p.15.

In this issue . . .

President's Letter   *by Terry Kita*

Our annual meeting was held at the *Gasthof Zur Gemuetlichkeit,* in northeast Minneapolis. Over fifty members and guests attended. It was such a success we will consider it for future annual meetings. The business meeting and elections preceded the luncheon. The existing board members were elected for a one year term. New board members will be needed for the anticipated board vacancies next year. We have approximately 280 paid members, and mail over 325 quarterly newsletters. A review of 2004 was followed by a look at 2005:

• PGS-MN program meetings will be at the MGS Library, 10:00 am until noon. The meeting dates are: February 12, April 9, September 10, October 8, November 12.

• MGS Branching Out is March 19, at Woodbury High School. The program topic is "Travel." PGS-MN will present two travel-research related programs.

• FEEFHS Convention is August 19-21 at the Sheraton Inn Midway, in St. Paul. The convention will feature over eighty talks, and off-site visits. It will include genealogical, historical and cultural topics related to Central & Eastern European countries including presentations by PGS-MN.

We will try to organize an out-state program meeting in 2005.

We asked for, and received volunteers for the Newsletter Surname Indexing project started by Audra Etzel and completed through Volume 6. Mary Kowles, Kay Freund and Dori Marszalek will start on Volumes 7, 8 & 9.

We help staff the MGS Library on the 4th Saturday of each month, from noon until 3:00 pm. It is an excellent way to learn your way around the library. Contact Jan Bias if you are interested in volunteering for this duty.

We hope to see more members at our 2005 meetings, and as always, ask you to suggest program topics.

Last, but not least, the sticker on this newsletter next to your name, gives the expiration year for your membership -- dues are owed if it shows "2004." Dues are $15 per year, or as we optimistically say, "$40 for three years if you feel lucky."

The Bulletin Board

Extra contributions:

George Franckowiak   Gerald Keeville
Bobbi Hoyt   Charles M. Ponagai

we also received a memorial from

Kay Elias Helgeson,
Jack J. Elias and
Ginny Elias Goor

in memory of their mother
Marcella Gussman Elias

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

Program reports:

Telling Our Story:
Writing about Polish Americans in Minnesota

About 30 people gathered for the final PGS-MN session of 2004 at the MGS library. John Radzilowski gave an interesting talk and slide show on Polish Americans in Minnesota. Dr. Radzilowski provided some insights into what the pictures, taken from many areas of the state, tell us about the early Polish settlers of Minnesota. Many of the pictures shown will be in John's forth coming book, *Polish Americans in Minnesota* which is scheduled for release in the spring of 2005.

--John Kowles

Terry Kita opposite, reports on our January annual meeting. After the meeting and luncheon, members recalled their favorite Polish food. Blanche Krbechek sent us a list of her favorite Polish cookbooks.

They are: Anna Zaremba, My Homemade Polish Recipes; *Robert & Maria Strybel,* Polish Heritage Cookery; *Rysia,* Old Warsaw Cook Book; *Maria Lemnis and Henryk Vitry,* Old Polish Traditions in the Kitchen and at the Table; *Maria Dembinska,*Food and Drink in Medieval Poland.

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Stanislaw Frymark was our guest speaker at our February 12 membership meeting. He has been used and is highly reccommed by several of our members.

PGS-MN member, Bob Prokott, reccommends:

mgr Kinga Pietrzykowska-Mróz
45-532 Opole 17, ul. L.Rudia 1
tel. 077 454 12 43

Bob says that her husband also does guide work.

Added website. . .

Mary Ellen Bruski adds this website to her article that appeared in the Autumn issue (pp. 20-21).

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness.
<http://www.raogk.org/index.html>

This group has volunteers to do lookups for you all over the U.S. as well as many foreign countries. Unfortunately I did not see any for Poland or Germany. But that may change as time goes by and this seems to be a great idea. There is a note not to ask anyone to do in-depth research for you. The volunteers will do cemetery lookups, find death certificates, take photos of tombstones, etc. What a great idea if we have ancestors with gravestones in a city we are unable to travel to! You need to request only the information the volunteers state they can help with (i.e., records for a specific cemetery). I noted that a number of the volunteers in foreign countries will look up public records.

"The 4544 volunteers of this movement have agreed at least once per month to do a research task in their local area as an act of kindness. The cost to you would be reimbursing the volunteer for his expenses in fulfilling your request (video tape, copy fees, etc.). This is not a FREE service. Successful genealogical research is based upon people helping people. Our volunteers unselfishly provide information available in their area to those who live far away."

Letters to the Editor
Listy do Redaktora

A letter from Auschwitz

Recently, I received a fascinating email from a New York state genealogist, requesting information on the STODOLKA family name. She found my name on the internet associated with Polish genealogy and the Stodolka name. I am listed within both the <ancestry.com> and <familysearch.com> web sites as an Opole region contact person.

The New York genealogist was approached by Maxine Workman, a New York art dealer, who had requested help in finding someone connected to the Stodolka name. Maxine, and her husband Ron, had just purchased a framed letter, handwritten in German in 1944, by Wladislaus Stodolka. They purchased the letter at a flea market art sale, in downtown Manhattan. The letter intrigued them to the point of acquiring it.

You see, the letter was written by Wladislaus Stodolka, a 21 year old from Rybnik, Poland. The letter was written on German concentration camp stationary from within Auschwitz (Oswiecim) prison. The letter is written to an Albin Stodolka whose address was in Rybnik, Poland. The letter is genuine. The official seal of Hitler is stamped on the upper right-hand side of the letter. German rules are displayed limiting the freedom of the prisoners' journalism. The original stamp is still on the outside of the envelope.

The translation of the letter stimulates the curiosity of the reader. Wladislaus wrote in a very upbeat style. He wrote nothing that suggests grief or hardship. He asked for more written letters from his mother and honey.

We contacted the staff of the Holocaust museum and they helped explain to us why he may have been so upbeat. They informed us that the Red Cross was invited to visit a few concentration camps during the War. The Red Cross was allowed to select a few prisoners to write home under the "supervision" of the camp officials. They were only allowed to write certain things. The Red Cross also mentions that many letters guilefully transmitted messages back home. Prisoners used "code words" that were

strategically inserted within the context of their script. One sentence in this letter suggests this. Wladislaus wrote "I am as happy as a fish." We believe the real meaning here probably meant he actually hated fish.

I have done quite a bit of research on the Stodolka name. My records go back to around 1700. The Stodolka name, as far as I know, originates in the Opole region of Lower Silesia. St. Stanislaus Church in Falkowice, Poland has many Stodolka birth, marriage and death records.

I have found no records of Wladislaus or Albin Stodolka. I do know that a Joseph Stodolka moved to upstate New York in 1937. This may be a link to how the letter was traveled to New York. I have written to a couple of Stodolkas listed in upstate New York. I have not heard back from them yet. If anyone has any information about Wladislaus or Albin Stodolka, or how this letter may have showed up in Manhattan, New York, please contact me. My email address is <mstodolka@comcast.net> or my phone number is 651-450-1299.

Mike Stodolka

Thanks, Mike, for your interesting letter.
Readers: *If anyone can help Mike please contact him and us as well. We like to know when researchers make a connection through an item that appeared in our newsletter.*

Mike, the New York genealogist may have also found you through our website located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnpolgs/pgs-mn.html>. Many of our members have made contacts through this website (See the following two letters).

Our website: A success story

I have four of my ancestors listed on the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota website along with my email address. They are listed in the "Surnames Members are Researching" link. In the last 1½ years, three people have contacted me on one of the surnames. I was surprised to learn that they all found me by searching the Internet using the surname (I used surname plus Poland as the search parameter). The PGS-MN Surnames Index and website came up with my name. Once you are in the PGS-MN website and find a surname, you can click on the person listed and a blank email message comes up to send. I was contacted recently this month (January 2005) and was found through a search on the surname through Rootsweb.

I was happy to provide additional information to all who contacted me. I was also able to get some Family History from them that I did not have.

It is important to keep your email address up to date. A contact may have information you don't have.

I'm considering adding additional surnames from Silesia to the PGS-MN Website. This may be one way for someone to find the surname they are researching because I have information on many families from Silesia.

J. M. Bias <jbstpaul@earthlink.net>

Readers: Check out our website to see if your email address and the surnames that you are researching are up-to-date. If not, contact our website chair, Mary Ellen Bruski at <Poland-MN@tcq.net>.

E-mail from Australia

I got your name and e-mail from the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota website. I am writing because it may be possible that you can help me.

My name is Stefan KARCZMARZ and I live in NSW Australia. I have been searching now for some years of a long lost cousin of my father's who I believe settled in Baltimore Maryland some time after the war immigrating there from Poland. My parents Adam Karczmarz (born 23/10/1913 at Zbydniow, county Jarnobrezeg) and Olga Karczmarz (nee BILOWIS) settled in South Windor in NSW Australia after the war in 1951. They came here on the ship *SS Skaugum* from Poland.

The last contact we had in 1972 was from a lady called Mary who wrote a letter to my sister, Irene, and told her that her cousin, Theresa, has a daughter who wanted to correspond with us. The daughter's name was Susan Edmunds, 120 Kingbrook Road, Linthicum, Maryland.

Is it possible that you could have or know someone who has any knowledge of this line of the Karczmarz family in America. I would certainly appreciate it if you could write back with any information that you might have.

Steve Karczmarz <k.marz@bigpond.com>

I replied as follows:

I'm sorry but I don't think that I can help you regarding your Karczmarz line.

My Karczmarz ancestors are very distant (Lucia Karczmarz is my a sixth great grandmother [great, great, great, great, great, great grandmother]). Therefore any relatives with the Karczmarz surname would be only distantly related and are unknown to me.

Moreover, my Karczmarz ancestors were located in Jankow Zalesny parish (see map on page 6) near Kalisz in western Poland which is quite a distance from Zbydniwo near Tarnobrzeg, so the chances that we are related are quite remote.

I will publish your query in the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Newsletter *which I edit. Maybe one of our readers will be able to help you. If you send me your mailing address I will send you a copy of the newsletter when it is published.*

Research in eastern Poland

Last June I researched my grandfather's family (late 1800s) in eastern Poland. These records, in the Siedice Civil Archives, are too new to be at the Family History Center and are also in Russian which complicates any quick search. I was aided by Iwona Dakiniewicz, who I can recommend. She works from Lodz and primarily likes to work in the Russian partition or Galicia. She speaks excellent English and has a good knowledge of Russian. This saved me a great deal of time. She can be contacted at <genealogy@pro.onet. pl>

While at Siedlice, and with Iwona's help, I was able to obtain a late-1800s copy of a map of the Siedlice Gubernica. It contains all the place names in Russian which might be of some help to researchers of this area. The map (370,000:1 scale) roughly covers the area bounded by the Bug River on the east and north to the Wisla River on the west except for the immediate Warsaw area which was in another gubernica. The map will be added to our library collection.

John Kowles <johnkow@att.net>

Saturday afternoon!

There is an error in the last few issues of the newsletter. The reference to Polish reseachers staffing the library should say "SATURDAY AFTERNOON at the Library" and not SATURDAY MORNING.

J. M. Bias <jbstpaul@earthlink.net>

Diskette storage life

On page 23, in the Autumn 2004 issue under DVD-R; I assume that the phrase "most campaticle" is suppose to be "most compatible." And I was shocked, you mentioned that diskettes have a life expectancy of only 2-5 years. Is this with usage during this time, or will they deteriorate even if you don't use them? I ask because I have been putting all my family history on discs, one disc for each family branch etc.

I really enjoyed this issue, one of the best yet. The issue mentioned different spellings, transliteration etc. I will also mention that another item to beware of is unfamiliar stylistic penmanship. While going through microfilms, I thought I came across another spelling for our name KULAS. It was "Keulas." Unfortunately I had sent this out to some relatives before I found out it was a FANCY K with a curlicue on the end of it. While looking up several other names of the same time period beginning with K, I also found that they had the same stylish K, hence I concluded I goofed on my interpretation of the new spelling.

Dennis Kulas <dkulasd@yahoo.com>

Regarding diskette storage life; The 2-5 years quoted in the article is the most pessimistic number quoted by a number of sources. I researched this a little further and the consensus on life expectancy generally ranged from 5-30 years. The wide range results because of the storage and handling afforded them. Almost all say controlled temperature, humidity, cleanliness, etc. will extend their life to the upper extreme. It is also true how many times they are accessed will have a bearing. I quoted temperatures of 64-72 degrees F and 35-45% RH because they were a good consensus of a numerous sources. One further recommendation is that you have a backup disk for your important storage. If you go to CD storage the life will increase by about an order of magnitude.
--John Kowles <johnkow@att.net>

Surname corrections

Thanks so much for publishing my name as a new member in the latest issue of the *PGS-MN Newsletter*. I realize I may have a few more surnames than most members; however, there are two misprints. They are: PORTASIAK (listed as PARTASIAK) and MIL-CZAREK (listed as MICZAREK). I just checked and none of my surnames are listed yet at the website. I just wanted to make it easier once this error is pointed out so the misspelling would be noted, okay? I realize

there was just one vowel switched and one letter omitted, which isn't much considering all those Polish names!

I am impressed you have all those Polish letter markings in the newsletter. Your article on Polish names and the front page article by John Rys was very interesting and informative.

By the way, I think I remember reading that you researched your KULAS line in the Janków Zalezny near Raszków and Ostrów Wlkp., correct? I think I may need to check those films out. My wife and I have a common line that has records in nearby Drogoslaw and Baszyny that I've researched in films for Raszków and Pogrzebów; it's quite possible there may be records for this area in the parish of Janków Zalezny. Do you recall what area villages are included in the Janków Zalezny records?

I found out about PGS-MN through the FHC where I've worked at for a number of years here in Duluth. June Lynch pointed the current and back issues out to me. Thanks again for having them available as a resource there for those of us interested in Polish genealogical research! It made me realize I should join such an informative and helpful organization.

Mark Dobosenski <mdobo@charter.net>

Mark, I've just checked our website and your surnames are listed correctly. I'm sorry for the error in the newsletter.

Yes, Janków Zaleśny is the ancestral village of my Kulas forbears. Villages included in the parish are: Baszyny, Daniszyn, Łakociny, Orpiszew, Roszki, Sulisław and Świnków (See map below).
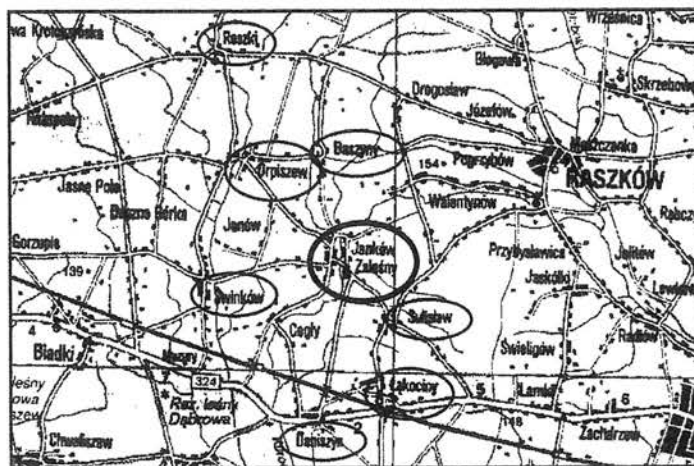
Map source: *Polska: Atlas Drogowy* [Poland: Road Atlas], (Warszawa:GeoCenter, 1998), 132.
A copy of this 1:200,000 scale atlas is available in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library.

Silent history

I received the newsletters I ordered yesterday. Thank you very much. Once I started reading them I couldn't put them down. I just wish I knew about this Society sooner. We have reached a dead end in our research and can't wait to use the services that are available. Until I started my research a couple of years ago, I had no idea about my heritage. I knew how wonderful my grandparents were but it was truly an eye opener to realize the hardships the Polish people encountered. It's amazing how no one (meaning my own relatives and also the general public) is aware of the silent history of our ancestors. Thank you for having this Society to help make us more aware.

Lois Muellner
<Lois_Muellner@bluecrossmn.com>

Dead end?

I have a question. I am very new with genealogy research. I attended a seminar in September by the Minnesota Genealogical Society on how to surf the web and so forth. I learned a lot. The seminar was geared towards the Mormons data base of names. Our name, however, was not in their database. That was very disappointing. I have come up with many dead ends. My goal is to find our ancestors, my great grandparents who came over on ships and what port they came through. My understanding is that if you can find the ships manifest, you can get a lot of information about the passengers (Depending upon the time).

All I really have is a copy of my great grandfather's naturalization paper. I managed to find a few names, but not many. Are there any databases in Poland? Can I find some of this at MGS Library? Or by attending a meeting? Do you have suggestions as to my next step?

Laura Jackson, Cottage Grove, MN

I recommend that you come to one of our membership meetings or come to one of our "Polish nights at the Library" with your questions and the information that you have. Our membership meetings for 2005 are listed in the advertising insert. We have "Polish night at the Library" on the second Thursday of each month (See also advertising insert of this newsletter).

It is only by looking at the information that you have that we are able to offer specific research recommendations. Your great grandfather's naturalization paper is a good start. Is it the "final paper"

or the "Declaration of Intention"? The Declaration of Intention usually has more information than the final paper.

The Mormon LDS Family History Centers are great places to pursue your Polish genealogical research. They have filmed the baptism, marriage and burial records of many churches in Poland. One needs to know the parish of origin in Poland to use them, however. Identifying that place of origin will be the key to your success. Let me assure you that this is very doable though it may take a bit of research effort and maybe a little bit of luck.

No "ski" in Silesian surnames

Can you explain why there are usually no *"ski"* in surname endings among Silesian immigrants?
J. M. Bias <jbstpaul@earthlink.net>

I don't know for sure but I suspect that it has something to do with the fact that until 1945 Silesia had not been formally part of the Polish state for almost 600 years. Surnames in Poland arose with the nobility and merchant class during the Middle Ages and did not completely spread to the lower classes until after the partitions of Poland at the end of the 18th century. At the time surnaming practices were developing in Poland, Silesia was not part of Poland. During this time Silesia was first under Czech, then Austrian and then Prussian control. Therefore the surnaming practices among the Polish speakers of Silesia, developed differently than in Poland. They probably had more in common with Austrian and German surnaming practice than with Polish surname development. The "ski" appendage to surnames did not exist or was not common in German and Austrian practice.

Also, the "ski" ending to Polish surnames arose first with the Polish nobility. It's use did not extend to the lower classes until fairly recently. After the partitions when the partitioning powers demanded that everyone use surnames, some of the lower classes adopted surnames ending with "ski" because they thought this sounded more prestigious than the more common surnames. At this time, the Polish speakers in Silesia--because they were already under Prussian rule prior to the partitions--had already been using surnames for quite sometime. So the adoption of the "ski" ending did not occur there among the lower classes as it did in Poland proper.

"Za chlebem" challenge

Eight people responded (all with correct answers) to the "trivia" challenge that appeared in the last newsletter on page 11. This is up from two who responded to the initial challenge in the previous issue. So the quiz is catching on! Some responses and a few of my replies follow:

To: kkulas@ties2.net

From: **Mark Dobosenski** <mdobo@charter.net>
Subject: Za chlebem challenge
Date: Wed, 27 Oct 2004 13:49:23 -0500

I just got my PGS of MN newsletter. In answer to your challenge: Henryk Sienkiewicz is the novelist. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1905.

Congratulations, Mark. You were the first to respond correctly--by 52 minutes and 24 seconds. You will receive a one-year membership extension.

Mark's response to his winning notice:

I was surprised (and excited) to read your e-mail that I won the contest for the "Za chlebem" challenge. Thank you!

Date: Wed, 27 Oct 2004 14:35:47 -0500
To: kkulas@ties2.net
From: **Michael Jarmuz** <mjarmuz@pressenter.com>
Subject: Za chlebem

I believe these are the answers to your questions about the Polish novel described in the Autumn PGS-MN Newsletter:

Author: Henryk Sienkiewicz
Award: The Nobel Prize for Literature, 1905

Thanks for the knowledge gained doing this research!

Michael's response to the notice that he came in second by less than an hour:

Thanks for the research experience. Having known nothing about Henryk Sienkiewicz before, I have learned quite a lot. He was a remarkable author. Perhaps his most well known book is "Quo Vadis." It was translated into 40 different languages. This internet site has an excellent biography of him both in Polish and English: <http://monika.univ.gda.pl/~literat/autors/sienk.htm>

On a personal note, in looking at the beginning of "Za chlebem," there is a sentence about a German ship, "Blucher" that traveled from Hamburg to New York. That is exactly how my grandfather came to America--traveling on the Blucher from Hamburg to New York in 1904 *(See photo on page 21).* Here is the internet site: <http://monika.univ.gda.pl/~literat/

hsnowel/01.htm>

Thanks again for the helping us explore our Polish heritage.

A third correct response came the next day (October 28) from **John Kulas**, *Collegeville. Upon learning that he came in third, he replied:*

The question was nicely "hidden." It took me a half-hour on the internet to find the information. I understand that two correct solutions arrived within an hour of each other. I suppose that the winning entry was from someone who recognized the Polish title immediately and knew the author right away. Maybe the date required some research. In my case I was ignorant on all counts, but the internet eventually provides all answers.

Keep this contest going. It's a fun thing.

The Newsletter was magnificent again.

Thanks. It's nice to receive a compliment from an elder sibling. We intend to keep the contest going. There is another challenge in this issue. And again, the first member who contacts me with the correct answer will receive a one-year membership extension.

Joe DeMuth *sent a fourth correct response. It came on October 29:*

I "googled" the contest question and came up with the answer. I had a heck of a time finding a site in English. Here is one I finally was able to read: <http://monika.univ.gda.pl/~literat/autors/sienk.htm>

I replied: Good job, Joe, but you're three days late. I'm glad you're reading the newsletter.

He responded:

Wait a minute. I just got it in the mail yesterday. No fair. I want my free year.

Joe's response was factious. He is my computer advisor and is routinely sent a complimentary copy. He does, however, point out a problem that we need to acknowledge. Non-profit bulk-rate mail has a low handling priority by the U.S. postal service. I sometimes receive my newsletter within a day or two of its mailing. Other times it may take a week or more to be delivered. Some members may, therefore, receive their newsletters later than others thus placing them at a disadvantage to win. We recognize that. But hey, we are not giving away $1,000,000 here. These contests are intended to be fun--to make the newsletter a bit more exciting and hopefully members will learn a bit more of their Polish heritage. At any rate, all members submitting correct answers will be

acknowledged in the next newsletter.

Correct answers to the contest question were also received from **Kathy Zawislak** *on November 4th and from* **Dennis Kulas** *(no relation) on November 11th. Dennis's reply included the following comment:*

I thought I would do this the easy way by using "google," but there are some 39,000 entries for this item. Unfortunately most were in Polish. I was lucky enough to narrow it down via certain selections.

On November 13, **John Rys,** *a member of the PGS-MN Board of Directors, sent in his response with this comment:*

I know I cannot receive the contest prize, but this answer is submitted to prove that some readers do look over the whole issue. It took a little reading to find the contest. It was challenging to find the author. Thanks, Paul, for the challenging contest.

Prior to publishing the first contest in the Summer 2004 issue, I obtained approval from the PGS-MN board. Since they knew the question in advance they were made ineligible to win the prize of the one-year membership extension. I continued this exclusion for the contest in the Autumn issue. However, except for that first challenge, most board members do not have advance knowledge of the question. Therefore, I am now excluding only those members who have access to the newsletter prior to its bulk mailing. So John, unless for some reason you get to know the question in advance, you are now eligible to win the extension.

Lastly, on 12 December, **Mike Eckman** *sent in the correct responses with the notation:*

I am finally reading the Autumn issue and. . . .

Hey Mike, you need to read your newsletter in a more timely manner if you want to win the contest!

Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1916)

Sienkiewicz was born in Wola Okrzejska, near Łuków, Poland on May 4, 1846. He is the best known and most widely translated of all Polish writers. He began his career as a journalist, literary critic and short story writer. He journeyed to the United States (1876-78) where he lived for a time in a Polish colony in California founded by the noted Polish-American actress Helena Modjeska. His *Listy z podróży do Ameryki* (Letters from America) were written for and serialized in a Warsaw newspaper. They were translated into English, in part early on and later completely, and published as *Portrait of America* in 1959.

Sienkiewicz is most famous, world-wide, for his *Quo Vadis?* (1896) which has been translated into every major language and was made into a highly successful motion picture. In Poland, however, he is remembered primarily for his patriotic trilogy-- *Ogniem i mieczem* (1884, translated into English as *With Fire and Sword* [1890]), *Potop* (1886, *The Deluge* [1891]), *Pan Wołodyjowski* (1888, *Pan Michael* [1893])--dealing with Poland's struggle for freedom in the 17th century. The trilogy's appearance, after almost one hundred years of partition, reminded Poles that Poland was once a great nation and could become one once again. The trilogy's purpose, as Sienkiewicz indicates in the dedication page of *Ogniem i mieczem,* was ". . . to uplift the hearts" of his Polish countrymen and women.

Sienkiewicz received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1905. During the early years of World War I, he worked untiringly for the cause of Polish independence and for the International Red Cross. He died in Vevay, Switzerland on November 14, 1916.

All of Sienkiewicz's novels and most of his short stories have been translated into English. Many of his works have had several different translators. His "authorized" translator was Jeremiah Curtin (1835-1906). Curtin's translations often do not read very well in English since they are usually word-for-word literal translations. They "show too much respect for the words rather than the thoughts of the author."[1] If you are thinking of reading something written by Sienkiewicz, it may be better to choose more recent translations such as W. S. Kuniczak's translation of the trilogy published in 1991 and 1992 by the Copernicus Society of America and Hippocrene Books. Of course, it would be still better if you could read his works in their original Polish.

O. K. folks, are you ready for the new challenge? Three other Nobel Prize winners for literature also wrote in Polish. Who were they? What year did each receive the prize? What literary genre are they most noted for? (Sienkiewicz was a master of many genres: short stories, travel reportage, psychological novels, historical novels, legends and dramas.) And to make this a little more related to genealogy--What were their dates and places of birth? The first member to contact me with correct answers to all parts of the challenge will win a one-year extension to their PGS-MN membership.

--PTK with help from: *Encyclopedia Americana,* 1986 ed., s.v. "Sienkiewicz, Henryk."

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[1] Jerzy J. Maciuszko, *The Polish Short Story in English* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1968), 458.

LIBRARY CORNER ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

WHAT'S IN A SURNAME?

REVIEW OF NEW CD-ROM EDITION OF
*DICTIONARY OF SURNAMES IN CURRENT USE
IN POLAND
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY*

**By John L. Rys, PGS-MN Board member
(E-mail: john@john.rys.name)**

Before reviewing the new CD-ROM, *Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland,* 2002, let's look at two other major Polish surname reference tools. These two titles as well as the new CD-ROM are available at the Minnesota Genealogical Society Library in Golden Valley, MN.

POLSKA AKADEMIA NAUK · INSTYTUT JĘZYKA POLSKIEGO

SŁOWNIK NAZWISK WSPÓŁCZEŚNIE W POLSCE UŻYWANYCH

wydał
KAZIMIERZ RYMUT

TOM I
A – B

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1) *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych* [Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland]. Kazimierz Rymut, ed. 10 volumes. Kraków: Polska Akademia Nauk - Instytut Języka Polskiego, 1992.

What is it? As the title indicates, this is an alphabetical dictionary of the majority of Polish surnames used in Poland. It is based on information in Polish databanks at the end of 1990. The population of Poland in 1990 was little over 34 million and the surnames of about 30 million people made it into the dictionary. It is arranged in Polish alphabetical order meaning letters with diacritical marks are treated as separate letters of the alphabet. This seemingly double alphabetical arrangement occurs for the nine extra Polish alphabetic letters--q, $ć$, $ę$, $ł$, $ń$, $ó$, $ś$, $ź$, $ż$. Be aware of this as you look through this dictionary. In the case of "z," there is a separate section for z, $ź$, and $ż$. Also within the listing, these Polish letters are sorted after the regular letters. For example, my surname Ryś alphabetically follows "Ryszytyło" because the s in Ryś has the diacritical pronunciation mark above the s (see illustration below). Also be aware that the Polish alphabet does not use the three letters q, v and x.

How is this set of books used? For a genealogist, this ten (10) volume set may be used to find out how many people bear a particular surname in Poland and how these people are concentrated in the different provinces. For example, the surname Ryś was used by 5,587 people in 1990. This directory breaks the numbers out by administrative unit. At that time there were 49 Polish provinces (województwa). Looking at individual provinces will give a genealogist an idea of where in Poland the largest concentration of that particular surname would live. If you don't know the area of Poland from where your ancestors emigrated, this may be a clue as to which geographic area to research. In my example, the largest provincial concentration for the people bearing the surname Ryś was 795 people in the Krakow province (see below). My Ryś relatives actually did come from just southwest of Krakow.

Ryszyński 6. By:1. To:1. Wr:4
Ryszytyło 10. JG:3. Ko:1. Op:4. Wr:2
Ryś 5587. Wa:100. BP:7. Bs:35. BB:219. By:74. Ch:23. Ci:7. Cz:202. El:127. Gd:122. Go:72. JG:206. Kl:32. (Ka:775) Ki:217. Kn:55. Ko:65. (Kr:795.) Ks:22. Lg:139. Ls:31. Lu:103. Ło:4. Łd:88. NS:339. Ol:67. Op:67. Os:8. Pl:37. Pt:62. Pł:22. Po:60. Pr:79. Ra:32. Rz:114. Sd:31. Sr:112. Sk:6. Sł:13. Su:1. Sz:108. Tb:113. Ta:379. To:15. Wb:98. Wł:12. Wr:97. Za:30. ZG:156
Ryś vel Ryszkowski 4. Wb:4

Source: Rymut, *Słownik nazwisk*, vol. 8, page 225.
Kraków(Kr) and neighboring Katowice (Ka) provinces have by far the largest number of people with the Ryś surname.

• BOOK REVIEWS

Paul Kulas, editor of the *PGS-MN Newsletter* has in past newsletter issues made diagram analyses of the distribution of surnames in an attempt to help those who hit a "brick wall" in trying to locate the area in Poland from where ancestors have emigrated (See, for example, PGS-MN Newsletters from Autumn 2001, vol. 9, # 3 and Spring 2002 vol. 10, # 1.) Paul used this 10 volume directory and a map of Poland to make each analysis.

Purchase Considerations? You would consider the purchase of this 10 volume set if you are involved with the extensive analysis of Polish surnames. A genealogist would primarily be interested in the entries relating to their own ancestors, so purchase of a reference work of this size for a personal book collection would seem impractical. See below, because this situation has changed with the publication of the new 2002 edition in a convenient CD-ROM format.

Polish Surnames:

Origins and Meanings

SECOND EDITION, REVISED
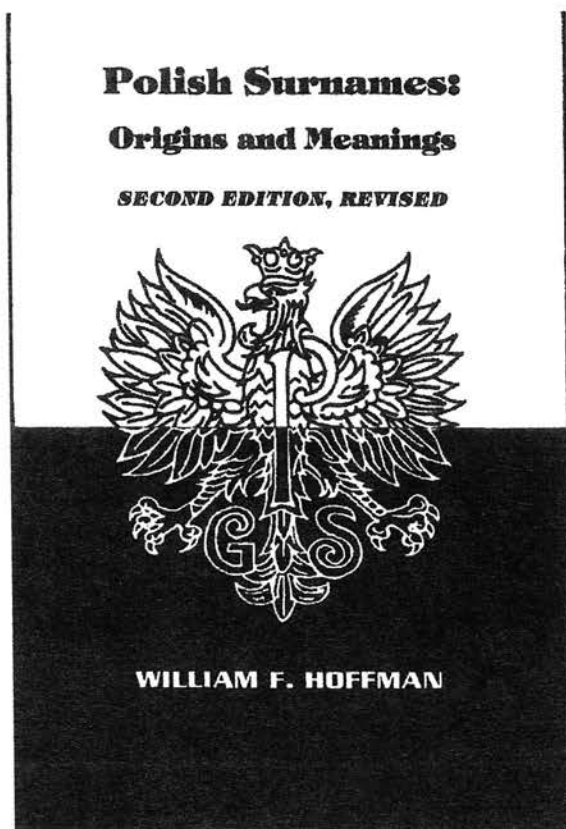
WILLIAM F. HOFFMAN

2) *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings.*
William F. (Fred) Hoffman. 2nd edition., revised. Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1998.

What is it? This is an important reference book based on the ten volume *Słownik Nazwisk* described above. Hoffman's book distills the number of entries into a very readable form. This Polish Surname book and directory is easy to use because it combines the letters and the Polish letters with diacritical marks into one alphabetical order. The beauty of this book is that he adds the origin and meanings for many root stems of Polish surnames. This is an information packed book.

How is this book used? This book has at least four obvious uses. **First,** the beginning section is an extensive and interesting discussion of Polish surname origins. **Second,** this book gives the overall statistic of surname usage in Poland based on figures in the 1992 edition of *Słownik Nazwisk.* It does not break out the statistics by province. **Third,** this book identifies the root surname origin and meaning. For example the surname Ryś means "lynx." The discussion in the first section of the book would classify this surname as being based on an animal's name, maybe because a Ryś ancestor walked softly like a lynx, had lynx-like pointed ears or just lived in the vicinity of an area of lynxes. **Fourth,** in the directory section, this book arranges together the numerous derivations of a particular root surname. For example the derivations of root surname Ryś include Rysak, Rysiewicz, Rysiewski, Rysinski, etc.

Another use I found for this book is the verification of surnames when entering Polish records into computer databases. If I question the spelling of a surname, I look in this convenient volume to see if I can find it. Finding it in Hoffman's book gives me the confidence that I probably have the correct spelling. It also helps me make out the correct spelling when the handwriting is bad.

Purchase Considerations? If you want to add one surname book to your personal collection, this is the book because it contains so much background information on Polish surnames. This PGSA published book is available locally through Paul Kulas at our PGS-MN meetings or by e-mailing Paul (See the advertising insert in this newsletter). Price is $25.

3) *Dictionary of Surnames in Current Use in Poland at the Beginning of the 21st Century*
Kazimierz Rymut, compiler. CD-ROM edition. Kraków-Chicago: Polish Academy of Sciences - Polish Language Institute and the Polish Genealogical Society of America, 2002.

LIBRARY CORNER ●

What is it? This is basically a new and greatly expanded version of the 1992 *Słownik Nazwisk* directory reviewed above. The population base for this dictionary is 38 plus million people. Similar to the 1992 dictionary, it is arranged in the Polish alphabetical order meaning the letters with diacritical marks are treated as separate letters of the alphabet.

In 1998 changes in the administrative divisions in Poland resulted in reducing the number of provinces from 49 to 16. According to the dictionary's introduction, these 16 provinces are subdivided into a second tier of 315 counties and 65 cities with county status. Then there is a further subdivision into a third tier of districts. The new dictionary breaks out the statistics at the second tier county level.

The dictionary's introduction has helpful notes on the arrangement. The dictionary is arranged by surname in bold type, then the total number of people who bear that surname. Then there is the statistical breakout listing by the province and county. For each province-county unit the dictionary gives the number of men and then the number of women who bear that surname.

The alphabetical arrangement by "province-county" administrative units is tricky at best if you don't know the capital city of the province. I will try to explain the arrangement, but once you read the dictionary's introduction, you will understand the arrangement. **It is absolutely necessary to use the table and county listing in the introduction to find your way through the body of the listing, so print those pages.**

Alphabetically the first province is **Dolnośląskie** whose capital is **Wrocław.** The choice was made to assign the abbreviation **"Wr"** to those province records based on the capital rather than the province name. So the main body of the entry starts out with statistics for **"Wr"** followed by those from **"To"** for the province of **Kujawsko-Pomorskie** because the capital is **Toruń** hence these are coded **"To"**. Following this is the province of **Lubelkie,** whose capital is **Lublin,** hence these are coded **"Lu"** . Then comes **Lubuskie** coded **"ZG"** for the capital **Zielona Góra.** An abbreviated entry for the surname Ryś would look something like the following:
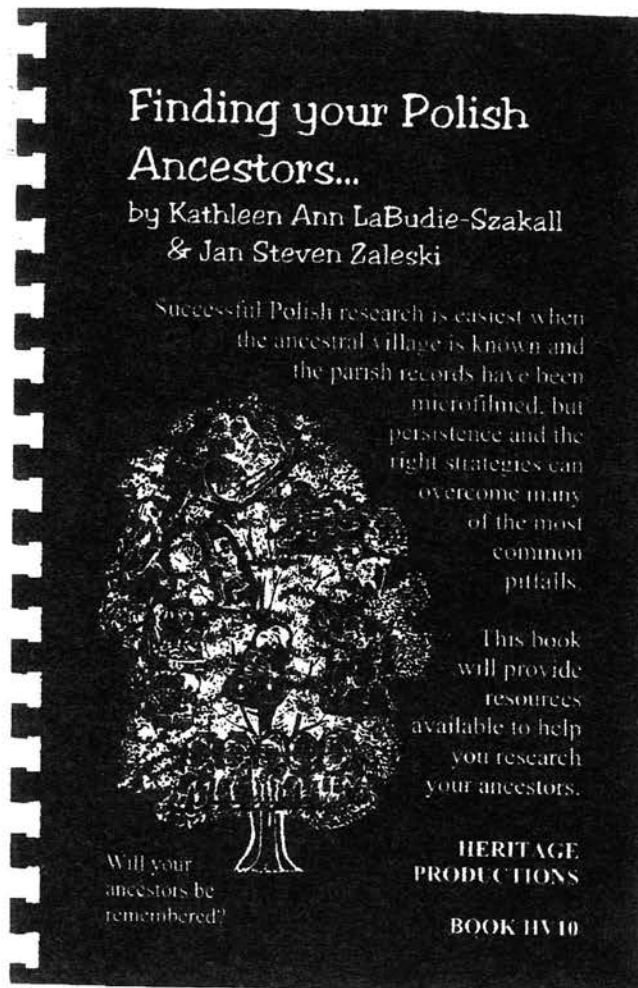
This entry says there are 7,126 people in Poland who bear the surname Ryś. In Dolnośląskie province--Bolesławiecki county (WrBo) there are 74 men and 70 women bearing this surname. Then in Dolno-śląskie province--Dzierżoniowski county (WrDz) there are 13 men and 14 women bearing the name Ryś. Then in Kujawsko-Pomorskie province -- Toruński county, (ToTu) there are 8 men and 9 women bearing this surname. I won't go any further, but you can see the absolute need for the table and listing of abbreviations to interpret the province-county names. There are 277 separate province-county entries for the surname Ryś, so this surname has spread throughout Poland and this illustrates that the dictionary entry for a surname can become very lengthy. The detail in this dictionary may be somewhat overwhelming initially, but keep at it.

How is this CD-ROM used? You need a computer with a CD-ROM drive. It replaces the older version of ten (10) hard copy volumes with a single CD-ROM. This CD-ROM contains over 80 Mb of information stored in the *.pdf format*. Now, what is .pdf format? .pdf format is the format used by ADOBE's Acrobat Reader for reading CD-ROMs and some information on internet websites. It is similar to the idea of the *.doc* format used by Microsoft WORD. What this means, is that your computer has to have a copy of Acrobat Reader installed for you to read this CD-ROM. If you do not already have it, then Acrobat Reader can be obtained as a free download from the ADOBE website <www.adobe.com"> or other internet websites.

Purchase Considerations? Since this new edition is published on a CD-ROM disk, it is priced very well for individual purchase for those interested in surname research. This CD-ROM is available currently from the Polish Genealogical Society of America for $35 for members. Check the website at <http://www.pgsa.org> for ordering information. This PGSA website contains an extensive review of this CD-ROM by William F. (Fred) Hoffman which will serve very well as a user's manual. **If you plan to use this CD-ROM, then print out this 12 page review/user manual.**

Ryś 7126,   <u>WrBo</u>: M.74, F. 70, <u>WrDz</u>: M. 13, F. 14, <u>ToTu</u>: M. 8, F. 9, <u>ToZn</u>: M. 7, F. 4, <u>LuOp</u>: M. 12, F. 11, <u>LuPa</u>: M. 4, F. 3, <u>ZGMi</u>: M. 8. F. 12, <u>ZGSl</u>: M. 3, F. 1,   etc.

● *BOOK REVIEWS*

Finding your Polish Ancestors...
by Kathleen Ann LaBudie-Szakall
& Jan Steven Zaleski

Successful Polish research is easiest when the ancestral village is known and the parish records have been microfilmed, but persistence and the right strategies can overcome many of the most common pitfalls.

This book will provide resources available to help you research your ancestors.

Will your ancestors be remembered?

HERITAGE PRODUCTIONS

BOOK HV10

LaBudie-Szakall, Kathleen Ann and Jan Steven Zaleski. *Finding Your Polish Ancestors.* Toronto: Heritage Publications, Updated Edition 2003.
(Available for purchase through PGS-MN; a copy is in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library in Golden Valley.)

Reviewed by John Kowles

This book was written by experienced Canadian and U.S. researchers. The INTRODUCTION provides historical background including Polish demographics, maps, and web sites. Of particular interest to me was a fairly thorough treatment of the "Eastern Provinces" since half my ancestors came from these border areas. The PUBLIC RECORD SOURCES section offers a quite complete list of Canadian and U.S. resources such as the archives which hold alien, military, naturalization and census records (treated in some detail). The section on EMIGRATION/

IMMIGRATION contains many of the well-known sources. Many U.S. Poles came through Canada (including some of my relatives). The book points out such research can be complicated for U.S. researchers since pertinent information may only be available through the Canadian archives. I found the section on POLES TO CANADA also of interest since it provides discussion of Kashubians (some of the earliest émigrés arriving in 1858). Many later settled in Minnesota and Wisconsin. I perused the cemetery records web sites. The Ontario site has two million names but others are somewhat limited or only provide a home page where more information may be obtained.

For those who have trouble finding how their ancestors got to the U.S. the section on BORDER CROSSING RECORDS might be of help. The Canadian crossing records are not available in the U.S.; however, the U.S. entry records are quite well-documented in the 1895-1954 time-frame. They do include the Minnesota crossings (Rainy River to Thunder Bay) but only for a limited number of years. There is a section on POLISH PARISHES IN CANADA which also includes information on Polish newspapers, organizations, etc. A few pages are devoted to Russian and German alphabets. Three later sections are devoted to parish, civil, military records in Poland The Polish archives section is extensive, encompassing about 40 pages. It includes samples of the formats used so you can recognize and glean the important information from them. Other books are available which provide more detail. In this section there is also a "How-to" step by step approach when you only know the province your ancestors came from --a common problem. Finally there is a listing of GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES AND RESOURCES at the end. The PGS-MN information is correct.

Over the years I have compiled a list of resources but the book offers many new ones to pursue. One complaint with the book might be that it jumps around a little although it is well-indexed except for a few one page errors in the later sections. Still it is a good compilation of sources, with heavy emphasis on Canadian research, but touching on virtually all aspects of research and providing lots of bibliographical references.

The 343-page book comes in a handy ring-bound 6x8 inch size. PGS-MN has the book available for sale at our periodic meetings and through the mail (See the advertising insert in this newsletter).

the Guzmanns, continued from page 1

original form of the name was likely *PIĄTEK,* which is indeed the word for the day Friday in the tongue. GUSMAN was the other family surname mentioned from this lineage. My grandmother had a cousin or two of that name still living in my home town of Virginia, Minnesota when I was a child.

But not much more than that remained in the family memory by the late 1960s. During a conversation with me in 1971, Grandma recalled her mother using a word sounding like *Villenshoffen* when she referred to the old country. Alas, by that time she couldn't remember anything more specific about the family's place of origin, if indeed she ever knew it.

When I started my own genealogical research in 1993, I set out all of the leads I had for both sides of my family. I spent much of my energy for the next four years following my paternal grandfather's birth certificate into my first solid European connection, and then through a century's worth of LDS-filmed Polish records for the area of his birth.

I didn't ignore the other branches of my family, but I was certainly hampered by the lack of direct evidence on their European origins. With everything I could muster from my growing Polish expertise I tried to use indirect evidence to winkle out the origins of the FRIDAYs and the GUSSMANs.

Because my great-grandparents Joseph and Mary FRIDAY had stayed in Gogebic County, Michigan for the rest of their lives, the relevant American-generated records were nicely concentrated but none too close to my own home. However, I was able to do my U.P.-related vital-records search at that distance, thanks to LDS-filmed sources[2] or via the mail. A couple of on-site visits to Bessemer-Ironwood produced obituaries and death records for Joseph and Mary, and for Mary, their oldest and only Polish-born child, who had married Matthew GRENDZIAK in Bessemer, Michigan. Those gave broad, vague, and potentially-contradictory clues as to their origins: "Germany," "Poland," "Posen," and "Prussia," among others. The birth records for Joseph and Mary's American-born children had the same unhelpful entries.

It began to appear that the original spelling of

Mary's birth surname was probably GUZMAN, but that didn't get me any further. Joseph's naturalization records were on an exceptionally sparse pre-1906 form issued by Gogebic County; okay, he'd renounced allegiance to the Emperor of Germany, but so what? I found the same dead end when I discovered a Declaration of Intention issued in Gogebic County for a Simon GUZMAN--who appeared from vital-statistics records to be my great-grandfather, the father of the elder Mary FRIDAY--and a Peter GUZMAN, who didn't appear on any official record from Gogebic County after his Declaration of Intention.

Needing to stretch things a bit more, I tried to follow that thin clue from the oral tradition that my grandmother had given me. Could *Villenshoffen* be *Wilhelmshafen,* "William's Harbor" in German? A search through several gazetteers of the German Empire brought a couple of possibilities in Poznania and Prussia, under *Wilhelmshafen* and *Wilhelmshagen.* After getting the current Polish names of these villages I ordered FHL films of sacramental records from the parishes in which they were located, but to no avail.

I then backed off and decided to pursue a broader track, the onomastic triangulation that our editor Paul Kulas has offered to PGS-MN members for several years. I consulted *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie w Polsce używanych,* the multi-volume work that places surnames onto the map of present-day Poland according to their frequency in government records in 1990,[3] to see where persons of the two surnames fell on the map of current Poland.

I found that PIĄTEK was far too common and far too geographically dispersed to be of help. However, that other name, in the forms GUZMAN and GUZMANN, was much more localized; there were 203 registered GUZMANs, concentrated in the pre-1999 *województwa* of Bydgoszcz, Elbląg, Gdańsk, and Toruń in far north-central Poland, and 84 registered GUZMANNs, concentrated in the same *wo-*

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[2]In the 1980s the Family History Library microfilmed civil vital-statistics and naturalization records for almost all of the counties in Michigan, up through the early 1920s.

[3]Compiled by Kazimierz Rymut, and first published in Kraków in the early 1990s, this ten-volume compilation is in the PGS-MN's library collection. Its database is now available on-line at <www.herby.com.pl/herby>. (Yes, it's in Polish, but the search function is pretty transparent and *don't* use a slash, rather than a dot, between "com" and "pl" in the URL. That mistake will take you to a U.S.-based soft-porn site!) An updated version has been issued on CD-ROM which John Rys reviews in this issue, pp. 10-12.
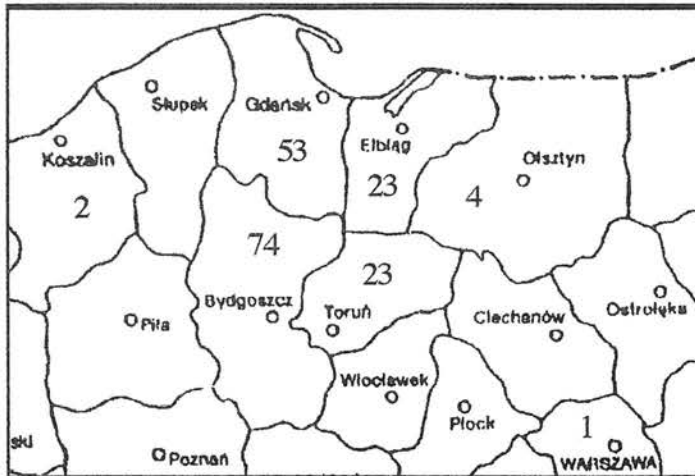
Distribution of the Guzman surname (203 total).
The name also occurs in the following pre-1999
provinces: Szczecin (2), Gorzów Wielkopolski (3),
Jelenia Góra (1), Wrocław (4), Łódź (3), Krosna (2),
Zamość (1) and Suwałki (9).
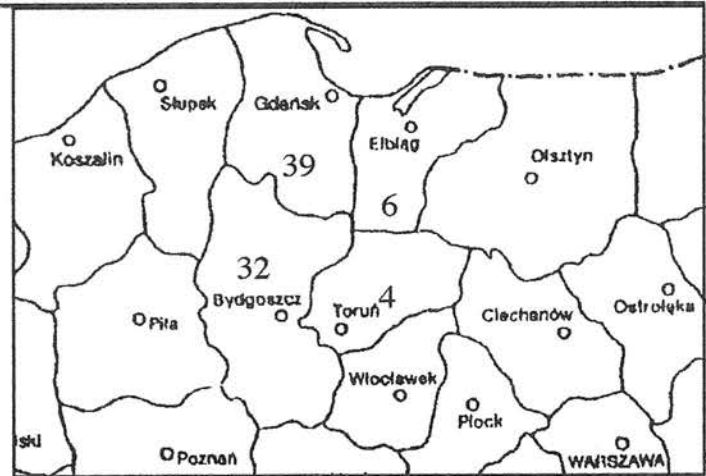
Distribution of the Guzmann surname (84 total).
The name also occurs in the following pre-1999
provinces: Wrocław (2) and Bielsko-Biała (1).

jewództwa[4]. This territory would have been within
Westpreussen, West Prussia, in the time of the
German Empire. That suggested that the American
sources identifying "Prussia" were correct as a gener-
al matter. However, as many genealogists have noted,
the geographic placement of surnames in 1990 Poland
is no sure-fire indicator of the home ground of a cen-
tury earlier.[5] In addition, *Słownik nazwisk* does not
get down to a locale any smaller than one or several
pre-1999 Polish provinces--and this can be a large bit
of ground. Nonetheless, this concentration was a good
bit of circumstantial evidence to remember.

Finally, it hit on me to use an obvious, free, and
easy avenue I'd neglected--a query in our newsletter's
"Missing Branches" column. The publication of that
in the Summer, 2002 issue brought me a couple of
contacts. The most specific lead came from long-time
PGS-MN member Adeline SOPA/COPA. Adeline
had been researching the origins and makeup of

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[4]Kazimierz Rymut, ed., *Słownik nazwisk współcześnie
w Polsce używanych,* tom III, p. 603 (Kraków: Polska
Akademia Nauk, Instytut Języka Polskiego, 1993). See
map on page 15.

[5]One hundred years of relocations caused by industriali-
zation, communist social planning, and war cast doubt on
any presumptions from then to now. In particular, many
surnames were cast far and wide by the vast relocation of
ethnic Poles after World War II, from areas transferred to
Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine over to the "Recovered
Territories" of Prussia, western Poznania, and Silesia.

Stevens Point's Polish community for some time. She
gave me what she'd found on a Martin GUZMAN,
including a possible birthplace for him in *Lippink* or
Lipinki, in Płochocin parish. My map and gazetteer
research in the PGS-MN collection showed a *Lipinki*
near Grudziądz; the entry for it in *Słownik geogra-
ficzny królestwa polskiego* indicated that the village
belonged to the Roman Catholic parish in Płochocin.
The Family History Library Catalog on <www.family
search.org> showed that the LDS had filmed 1880s-
vintage records for Płochocin.

When the films came in at my local FHC, however,
my excitement was deflated. In the marriage and birth
records for the early 1880s I found entries for a num-
ber of GUSMANs or GUZMANNs, male and female,
and even a PIONTEK or two. I found an 1852 birth
record for a Martin GUSMAN who was probably our
fellow from Stevens Point. None, however, were my
Joseph, Mary, or Mary. Maybe these people from
Płochocin were cousins, if so probably distant ones,
but Płochocin obviously was not the place.

However, then the connection came--and, as often
happens in genealogical research, it came through
an unexpected source. In November, 2002, I began
researching the earliest Polish settlers of Virginia,
Minnesota, most of whom had come there from the
U.P.'s Gogebic Iron Range.[6] Among other sources, I
consulted a jubilee book for Virginia's Polish-ethnic

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[6]*See* "From the *Virginia Pioneers Scrapbook:* Early
Polish Settlers on the Mesabi Iron Range," *PGS-MN
Newsletter,* v. 12, no. 1 (Spring, 2004), p. 1.

parish.[7] In its lengthy list of deceased parishioners, I found an entry for a Peter GUSSMAN, date of death April 3, 1943. Was this the same person whose Declaration of Intention was on file in Gogebic County, Michigan? It seemed likely, so I followed up. A search of the Minnesota Historical Society's on-line death certificate index[8] under the spelling GUSSMAN showed entries for Grandma's cousin Joe, his wife Katherine, and a Mrs. Augustine GUSSMAN, date of death January 26, 1917, but no Peter.

At the Minnesota History Center, I pulled the microfilm of the Virginia *Daily Enterprise* for April, 1943. I didn't expect to find much, if anything; due to wartime paper conservation, obituaries and marriage announcements during those years usually were tiny or missing entirely.

As I reviewed the *Enterprise*'s issue of April 5, 1943, however, I am afraid I offended the adjacent researchers with an involuntary "Holy [expletive]!" There was a fairly long obituary for Peter GUSSMAN. It recited his residence in Bessemer before he moved to Virginia; his parentage in Mr. and Mrs. Simon GUSSMAN; and his sibling relationship to my great-grandmother Mary FRIDAY. More amazingly, it identified him as a "native of Scheidwinkle, Germany"--a recitation of European birthplace that was a real rarity for members of Virginia's Polish-American community.[9] Here, it seemed, was a lead to place of origin for this family that was likely to be pretty specific, and that was in recognizably German phonetics.

That evening I sat down at the home PC and made use of some 21st-century resources: on-line gazetteers. I recalled from numerous posts on the Poland-BorderSurnames listserv that there were at least two such that could be used to link the old German form of place names to the modern Polish ones. I went to <www.kartenmeister.com> first. I plugged "Scheidwinkel"[10] into its search function, but to no avail; there was no entry under that spelling, or under "Schiedwinkel" either.

So I went to the on-line posting of Stephen Barthel's gazetteer for East and West Prussia.[11] This page does not have a search function, but it posts the full text in a columnar, alphabetized format that is ideal for browsing. I found nothing under either of

[10]I knew from my smattering of high-school German that the original ending could not have ended in "le."

[11]Since my original search in December, 2002, this item has been relocated to <www.progenealogists.com/germany/ewpruss/index.html> Our society has a hard-bound printed format of the gazetteer in our library collection at the Minnesota Genealogy Center in Golden Valley.

[7]*Golden Jubilee 1905-1955 Financial Report of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Virginia, Minnesota* (1955). A photocopy of this is in the PGS-MN's Church and Local History Collection.

[8]Found at <www.mnhs.org>.

[9]I've reviewed over a hundred obituaries for Virginian Polonians. Only four or five of them recited anything more specific than "Poland," "Germany," or "Austria Poland," and of those only Peter GUSSMAN's and one other gave a local birthplace name specific enough to make a direct connection of genealogical value. I've wondered just how this came to be for Peter. In the end, it's most likely that his stepson Joe GUSSMAN gave all that nice personal data to the *Enterprise*'s obituary scribe. I'm sure that his service as the chief of the police department of Virginia, Minnesota in the early 1940s gave him a good eye for detail! We've reproduced the relevant text of Peter's obituary on this page, opposite.

OBITUARY

Peter Gussman, 77, Claimed by Death

Peter Gussman, 77, a former resident of Virginia, died Saturday at the Buhl hospital following a prolonged illness. A native of Scheidwinkle, Germany, born January 18, 1866, he left Germany for this country at the age of 22 years, coming to Bessemer, Mich., with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Gussman. During his residence in Virginia he was employed as a carpenter at the Commodore and Lincoln mines. For the past 30 years he had made his home at Gheen. His wife, Augusta, preceded him in death 26 years ago.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Mary Friday and Mrs. Frances Lappan, both of Bessemer, Mich; three stepchildren, Mrs. Arnold McKenzie, Mrs. William Johnson, and Joseph Gussman, all of Virginia; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services have been arranged for Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock at St. John the Baptist Polish Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. C. A. Cieslewicz officiating.

Record of the birth and baptism of Maria GUZMANN, the author's great-grandmother.
The data reading from left to right--Place of birth: Schadewinkel, Name of father: Simon Guzmann,
Name of mother: Helena Kresmer, Date of Birth: 12 September (1863), Baptismal name of child: Maria.
Source: *Liber Baptizorum, Ecclesiae parochialis in Johannisdorf (Janowo) ab a 1833 usque a. 1884.*
p. 119, entry 41 for 1863 [FHL film no. 587548, item 1].

the two spellings that I'd tried on kartenmeister.com. However, a skim up and down the entries beginning with "Sch" produced one place under "Schade-winkel," in Marienwerder *kreis* [district] in West Prussia. Barthel gave the Catholic parish affiliation for Schadewinkel as *Johannisdorf.*

Going back to kartenmeister.com, I used "Schade-winkel" in its search function. This generated one entry giving the modern Polish name as "Szadowko," in modern-day Elbląg *województwo*. It gave another one for a place now in Śląsk/Silesia.

The latter place was inconsistent with my other data, so I set it aside. My copy of *Polska Atlas Drogowy*, a modern fine-detail Polish road atlas, showed a *Szadówko* right by the Wisła River. It was some distance from Elbląg but not too far away--and the nearest parish church appeared to be about 5 km. away, in *Janowo*. That Polish name had basically the same meaning as the German *Johannisdorf*--literally, "John's town." It was in the right vicinity, so I thought I might have my place.

A return to the on-line Family History Library Catalog showed that the LDS had filmed Roman Catholic parish registers for births, marriages, and deaths in Janowo/Johannisdorf for 1833 to 1944. They were all on one roll, FHL film no. 587548. Clearly, this had not been a large place.

Right after the 2002-2003 holidays, I ordered that film at the Oakdale Family History Center.

On January 25, 2003, I took a first look at it. The first item was the baptismal records. I went to early 1866--using the January 18, 1866 birthdate given in Peter GUSSMAN's obituary--and found nothing. Remembering that obituaries were not always accurate for vital-statistics information, I cast back to the same date a year earlier--with no results--and then forward.

There, under the date of January 18, 1867, I found the entry for "Petris GUZMANN," born in Schade-winkel to Simon GUZMANN and Helena KRES-MER. The names of both parents matched to the re-citations I'd found in Gogebic County death records for several members of my great-grandmother's generation. I had my man--or newborn boy, at least.

Going back to 1850 and moving forward, I noted other GUZMANNs and KRESMERs, including Peter's older brother Franz/Frank and a hitherto-undiscovered sister Julia. Then, through an entry with a birthdate of September 12, 1863, I was able to say hello to my great-grandmother, Maria GUZMANN.[12]

After nine years of intermittent casting about, I had another foot on European soil, in a different part of the Polish lands. It was a heady discovery.

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[12]The stated month matched the recitation in Mary's American obituary, but again the actual year of birth was one later than noted in the obit. (The obit did not give a day of birth by number.) *See* Ironwood [Mich.] *Daily Globe,* Wednesday, August 20, 1947.

After that, I combed the records for Johannisdorf/ Janowo, rounding out the generation of Maria/Mary and ranging back from there. It appeared that Simon and Helena GUZMANN had suffered the deaths of at least two infant children before they emigrated to the U.S. This gave me most of the answer to a mystery I'd found in the 1900 federal census for Gogebic County.[13] I've started to review the sacramental records for Mewe/Gniew, the parish in which Schadewinkel lay before Johannisdorf/Janowo was given parochial status in 1867.[14] From that, I've gleaned that my great-great-great grandfather was born as Martin Simon GUZMANN, on October 29, 1828, to Paul GUZMANN and Katherina KATZ.[15] Simon GUZMANN and Helena KRESMER were married in 1850 at nearby Pestlin/Postolin, which appears to have been her parish of origin.[16] Since the LDS-filmed records go back a nice long way for both Mewe/Gniew and Pestlin/Postolin, I may well have a lot to occupy me on those lines.

But, of course, this first stab has left some mysteries unsolved, and has revealed new ones. There was no record for the marriage of Joseph FRIDAY and Maria GUZMANN in the Janowo books, nor an entry for the birth of the younger Mary FRIDAY. For that matter, there were a few persons surnamed PIĄTEK or PIONTEK here and there in the Janowo

records, but there was no solid indication of a well-established local family. Joseph FRIDAY's obituary and passenger arrival data indicate that they were married in the Old World.[17] Clearly, Josef PIĄTEK/ PIONTEK came in from another parish to take his bride--but from where? Why weren't they married per custom, in her family's parish? And where did they live in Poland afterwards, at the time of the younger Mary's birth but before their emigration?[18]

And there's that bigger question: what ethnic identification would these people have given themselves? GUZMANN and KRESMER clearly have Germanic roots, linguistically, and KATZ suggests a Jewish origin. Yet, all these people were Roman Catholics, when many of the German colonists in the lower Wisła River valley were *Ewangelicki*/Lutheran or Mennonite. And my father always insisted that his Bessemer grandmother spoke Polish. The answer probably is that they were of German extraction--and maybe Jewish, in that KATZ line--but that over some number of generations the people became Polonized there, in the great low-lying expanse of the Wisła River valley.

So what's to learn from my story? Simple things, really, that we all know already: Don't put final stock in oral family tradition, though it may contain a distorted reflection of a small corner of the truth. *Always investigate sources of information on collateral relatives, no matter how distant.* If you find surnames common to those that you know are in your lines, in geographic proximity to known ancestors, check them out. Their world a century ago was a much smaller and less-populated one than ours, and it's more likely they were connected in some way.

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[13]The mystery was that the number of children stated as born to Helen was several more than the number stated as still living in 1900. See entry for Simon and Helen "GOOSEMAN," *1900 U.S. Census, Gogebic Cty., Mich.,* S.D. 127, E.D. 62, sheet 23.

[14]*See* my translation of the *Słownik geograficzny* entries for Janowo and environs, later in this issue at pp. 19-21.

[15]This matches closely enough to the entry for Simon GUSSMAN's death in the Gogebic County records, *Record of Deaths, Gogebic County, Michigan,* v. 2, p. 158, entry no. 5603 (filed April 11, 1910). The American death record gives his parents as Jacob GUSSMAN and Katherina KATZ; from it, his birth date can be calculated as October 31, 1828. The discrepancy in his father's given name is probably explained by the fact that Martin Simon GUZMANN's godfather was "Jacub HUGO." *Taufregister 1780-1832, Katolische Pfarrei Mewe (Gniew),* p. 528 [FHL film no. 558198, item 1].

[16]*Mewe, Kr. Dirschau, Trauungen, 1842-1860,* entry 36 for 1850 (n.p.) [FHL film no. 558199, item 2]. This is a parallel entry; the notation "z Ceglezowskiego, par. Pestlin" apparently identifies the officiating priest and the place of the ceremony. I have not yet delved into the Pestlin/Postolin records.

[17]Joseph's obituary was published in the Bessemer *Herald* for Saturday, June 29, 1912. It recites that he "was married in Germany to Miss Mary GUSSMAN and shortly afterwards emigrated to the United States." Mary's obituary, *supra* n. 13, recites how she "was married here to Joseph Friday, who was one of the pioneer farmers of this region." This must be an error, as their oldest child was indeed born in the Old World; I found entries for the separate arrival of Joseph and then the two Marys in *Germans to America,* v. 46, p. 22 (for Joseph, arrival date 21 April 1883) and v. 47, p. 80 (for the two "Marie"s, arrival date 22 November 1883), all of the stated ages matching pretty well to my people.

[18]There's a lead or two in the Janowo records, giving other parishes of origin for a couple of men surnamed PIĄTEK or PIONTEK who married Janowo girls. I've not followed these yet

And never stop plugging away at it. Now that I know where my other Polish ancestral ground lies, I certainly won't.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS: This phase of my genealogical research had one nice consequence: I made contact with distant cousins on my GUSSMAN line, Mrs. Clarice Ryan and Kay Helgeson. Both of them gave me access to interesting materials on the American descendants of my subjects, particularly Joseph GUSSMAN. Our long-time PGS-MN colleague, Adeline Sopa/Copa, was great to come forward with her help; though her lead wasn't square-on, it was pretty darn close, and some day I just might close the loop between those two branches of the GUZMANNs. And Kathy Koivisto, the parish secretary at St. Sebastian's church in Bessemer, led me to sacramental-record entries that corroborated the ties between Peter GUZMAN/GUSSMAN and his parents Simon and Helena. *Dzienki, koleżanki!*

From *Słownik geograficzny:*

## JANOWO, IN KWIDZYN DISTRICT, AND VICINITY

By Greg Kishel

After confirming that I did have roots on the banks of the lower Wisła, I consulted the principal gazetteer of 19th-century Poland to see just what was there around the time that the Guzmanns left for America. Here is what I found in *Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego,* on Janowo and all of the little villages named in the sacramental records of its parish church.

* * * * * * * * * *

Janowo, ... 6.) ... also known as *Janowa góra* (per Kętrzyński), in German *Johannisdorf,* a parochial [parish church] village in Kwidzyn *powiat*/district, in the lowlands of the right bank of the Wisła River; situated very nearly opposite Gniew, it is protected by a dike on the bank of the Wisła. It is 1446 *mórg* [912.5 acres] in area; it has 31 houses; it has 157 Catholic inhabitants and 126 Lutheran inhabitants. In this place is a Catholic parish church, newly and neatly built in brick between 1867 and 1871, through donations and most of all through the efforts of Jerzy Jeschke, the sufragan of Chełmno. This new parish numbers 1123 souls. Before that there was no church at all here; and the Catholics, scattered among the heretics in the Wisła valleys, had to attend Mass in Gniew on the opposite bank of the Wisła, which was fraught with considerable danger. The school is conducted in part in Nowe Lignowy, and in part in Wielkie Pastwo; the post office is in Kurzybrak (Kurzebrak?), and formerly was in Gniew. ... *Kś. F. [Father Fankidejski]* [SGKP v. III, p. 435]

Gniewskie pole, in German *Mewischfelde,* a peasant village, in Kwidzyn *powiat*/district, on the right bank of the Wisła River opposite Tymawa, it is sheltered from the flooding of the Wisła by a strong dam located 3/4 *mila* [3.45 American miles] from Kwidzyn. Together with the settlements of Fuchswinkel (Lisi kąt?) and Katscher Kämpe (Kacza kępa?), it comprises lands of 2803 *mórg* [1768.7 acres] in area; it has 62 buildings, 20 residential houses, 144 Catholic inhabitants and 161 Lutheran inhabitants. It is in the [Roman Catholic] parish of Janowo; a school is in the town; the post office and a station of the new Wisła train line are in Kwidzyn. [*SGKP* v. II, p. 628]
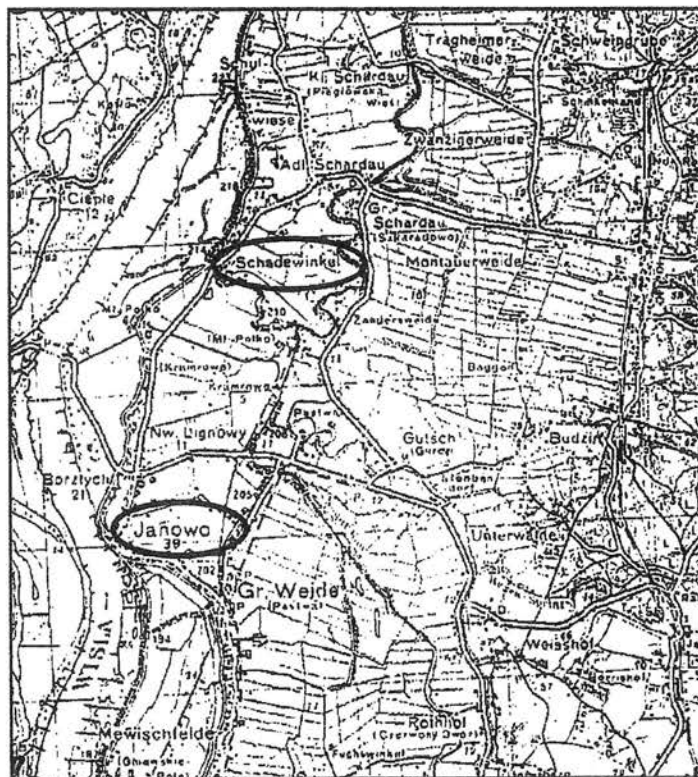
Janowo and vicinity.
Circled are Greg Kishel's ancestral parish (Janowo) and village of origin (Schadewinkel).
Map source: Wojskowy Instytut Geograficzny map series of the Republic of Poland, PAS 33, SŁUP 28, SZTUM (Warszawa 1931, repr. 1942, Scotland).

Gurcz, in German *Gutsch,* a peasant village, in Kwidzyn *powiat*/district; it is in the midst of the lowlands on the right bank of the Wisła, on the Stara Nogata River, opposite Gniew; it is a half *mila* [2.3 American miles] from Gniew, and 1 *mila* [4.6 American miles] from Kwidzyn. The grounds are 1023 *mórg* [759 acres] in area; there are 22 buildings, 7 residential houses, 51 Catholic inhabitants and 11 Lutheran inhabitants. It is in the [Roman Catholic] parish of Janowo; the school is in Nowe Lignowy; the post office is in Rehhof [Ryjewo]. *Kś. F. [Father Fankidejski]* [*SGKP* v. II, p. 912]

Kramry dwór, in German *Kraemershof,* a village, in Kwidzyn *powiat*/district; it is in the midst of the lowlands on the right bank of the Wisła, opposite Gniew, on the Stara Nogata River; it is 481 mórg [303.5 acres] in area, and has 9 buildings, 3 houses, 40 Catholic inhabitants, and 3 Lutheran inhabitants. The parish and post office are at Gniew. *Kś. F. [Father Fankidejski]* [*SGKP* v. IV, p. 608]

Lignowy, ... *Nowe,* in German *Neu Liebenau,* a peasant village, in the midst of the valleys on the right bank of the Wisła, on the new Kwidzyn-Lignowy highway, across the river from Gniew, on the Stara Nogata River. The area comprises 427 mórg [269.5 acres]; there are 16 buildings, 7 houses, 55 Catholics, 17 Lutherans. It is in the parish of Gniew, a school is in the town, the post office is in Gniew. [*SGKP* v. V, p.224]

Kuligana, *Kaligana* (per Zarański), in German *Aussenteich,* a village, in Kwidzyn *powiat*/district, its post office is at Rehhof [Ryjewo] (according to the "Ortsch.-Verzeichniss"). [*SGKP* v. IV, p. 862]

Małepole, in German *Kleinfelde,* a village, in Kwidzyn *powiat*/district, its post office is in Ryjewo (Rehhof); it is in the Catholic and Lutheran parishes of Gniew, the school is in Schadewinkel. In total area it is 1703.48 *magd. mórg* [1075 acres]; in 1868 it had 21 buildings, among which were 7 houses; it had 92 inhabitants, 56 Catholic and 36 Lutheran. *Kś. F. [Father Fankidejski]* [*SGKP* v. VI, p. 32]

Pastwa, in German *Gross Weide,* a village in Pomezania, on the Stary Nogat River, in Kwidzyn *powiat*/district, the post office is in Ryjewo. It is in the Catholic parish of Tychnowy, and in the Lutheran parish of Tromnowo, and it is 759.29 [?--if *mórg,* 479 acres] in area. In 1868 it had 21 buildings, 5 houses, 63 inhabitants. [*SGKP* v.VII, p. 889]

Schadewinkel, (in German), a village on the right bank of the Wisła River, in Kwidzyn *powiat*/district, in the Catholic parish of Janowo and formerly in that of Gniew (about ½ *mila* [2.3 American miles] away, 278 hectares [686.4 acres] in area (211 of fields). In 1885 it had 11 houses, 24 hearths, and 152 inhabitants, of whom 122 were Catholic and 30 were Lutheran. It has a Lutheran school (56 children). [*SGKP* v. X, p. 366]

Schulwiese, a village in Pomezania, in Kwidzyn *powiat*/district, the post office is in Ryjewo, it is in the Catholic parish of Janowo; 174 hectares [430 acres] in area. In 1885 it had 29 houses, 36 hearths, 187 inhabitants, 59 Catholics, 75 Lutheran, 53 dissenters. *Kś. F. [Father Fankidejski]* [*SGKP* v. X, p. 395]

Szkaradowo 1.) a/k/a *Szadrowo,* in German *Gross Schardau,* a village in Pomezania, on the Stary Nogat River, not far from the Wisła River, Sztum *powiat*/district, the post office is in Ryjewo, it is in the Catholic parish of Podstolin; it is comprised of 231 hectares [573 acres] (157 hectares [387.6 acres] of plowed fields, 61 hectares [150.6 acres] of meadow, 2 hectares [4.9 acres] of forest); in 1885 it had 5 houses, 5 hearths, 48 inhabitants, 21 Catholic, 9 Lutheran, 18 dissenters. In 1786 a flood caused damage here to the extent of 3334 talers. (See Schmitt, *Gesch. d. Stuhmer Kr.,* [*The History of Stuhm District*] p. 216). ... *Kś. F. [Father Fankidejski]* [*SGKP* v. XI, pp. 916-917]

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From these entries, I learned the traditional name of this little region of Poland--*Pomezania,* an exotic-sounding cognomen to be sure. The separate *SGKP* entry on Pomezania was rather long, a bit much to chew on this time, though I will take a crack at it eventually.

These entries illustrate one fundamental character-istic of *Słownik geograficzny:* the way in which the quality of the content varies according to the part of partitioned Poland in which the subject lay. The fifteen volumes of the dictionary were assembled primarily by scholars who lived in the Russian Partition, which was the heartland of Polish ethnicity when the Poles lacked their own nation-state. How-ever, they reached beyond the boundaries of the post-Napoleonic "Kingdom." One can find entries for most locales, large and small, in the German Partition, in-cluding West Prussia where Janowo was located. It's clear, though, that the geographers and ethnographers

who compiled the data for *Słownik geograficzny* were limited by the sources available to them. Those who worked up the area of the Russian Partition obviously had access to some sort of comprehensive economically-oriented local survey, judging by the detailed breakdown of land usages one often finds in their entries.[1] The entries for locales in the German Partition do not evidence the use of a resource of comparable detail; either the sovereign had not done such a survey, or the results were not available to scholars of Polish ethnicity. There also does not seem to be as much historical detail for many entries for larger villages in the German Partition, as there has been in many of those from the Russian and Austrian Partitions that I've translated. Thus, for Janowo parish we have population statistics and usually the overall geographic area of the village, but we can't tell much about what the local peasants were doing on the land.

One can glean some details to evoke the local surroundings, however. A few of the Janowo entries give the number of hearths in the individual villages. Probably, these were obtained from a tax roll. (Setting taxes or feudal duties by the number of such improvements in a peasant house was not uncommon in Europe; more sophisticated houses were an indication of greater wealth, and hence greater ability to pay.) The ubiquity of alternate German place names in these entries, and the significant presence of Lutherans and Calvinist "dissenters" in several of the villages, show that this was an area of German colonization, subject to Bismarck's *Kulturkampf* and undoubtedly experiencing ethnic tension in the late 19th century. (The sour reference to the "heretics" whose presence dispersed the Catholic Poles of the river margins certainly suggests that.) The several references to sheltering dikes and destructive floods

underline the fact that these people lived next to Poland's Mississippi, with the seasonal risks that that portended. And, notwithstanding the undercurrent of resentment toward the Germans, we see mentions of the physical development that the *Niemcy* were providing--highways, and that new train line along the river.

More to the point of what we're about in the PGS-MN, the entry for Janowo shows how *Słownik geograficzny* contains good leads for genealogical research sources, clues that may be difficult to find elsewhere. The entries for Janowo and Schadewinkel both mentioned the recent foundation of the parish in Janowo. This explained why the LDS-filmed parish books for Janowo were assembled in the 1870s. More importantly, it told me that I had to look in the records for Gniew/Mewe to trace my local family lines back from the beginning of the Janowo books. The LDS filmed a lot of parish records for Gniew; so far I've had some initial success finding Guzmanns in their birth entries back to the 1820s. But most luckily, the revelation saved me the bother of checking neighboring parishes to the east, south, or north. It would have been natural to assume that earlier parish lines would not have crossed a wide river-- and I probably would have gone off in the wrong directions for months of unsuccessful searching for those earlier Guzmanns.

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[1] Sometimes one can get a fairly vivid picture of just how rich or poor the local farmers were, by comparing the area-based breakdowns for agricultural and pastoral uses, forest, and wasteland that are given for many villages, against the size of local populations.
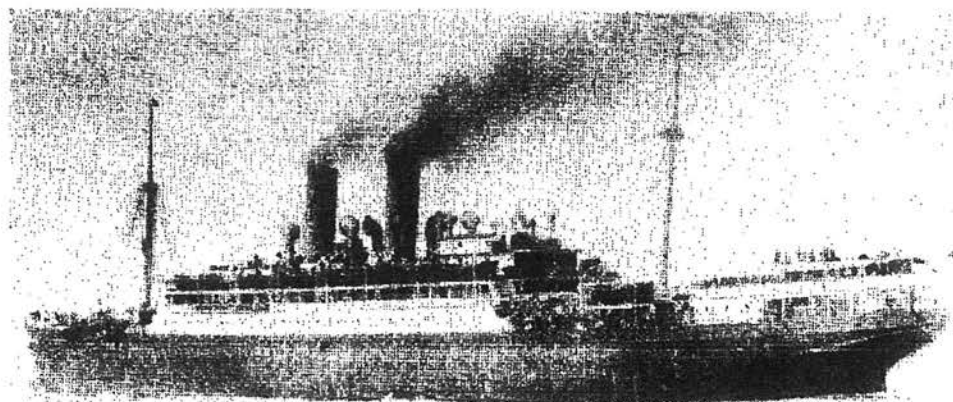

S.S. BLUCHER, 1901 Hamburg-American Line
Courtesy The Peabody Museum of Salem

The grandfather of Michael Jarmuz immigrated to America aboard the *Blucher* in 1904 (see page 10).

Source: Michael J.Anuta, *Ships of Our Ancestors* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, Inc., 1999; reprint, Menominee, Michigan: Ships of Our Ancestors Inc., 1983), 28 (page reference is to the reprint edition).

A copy is available in the MGS Library.

AGGRANDISEMENT OF PRUSSIA (TEMPORARY GAINS IGNORED)
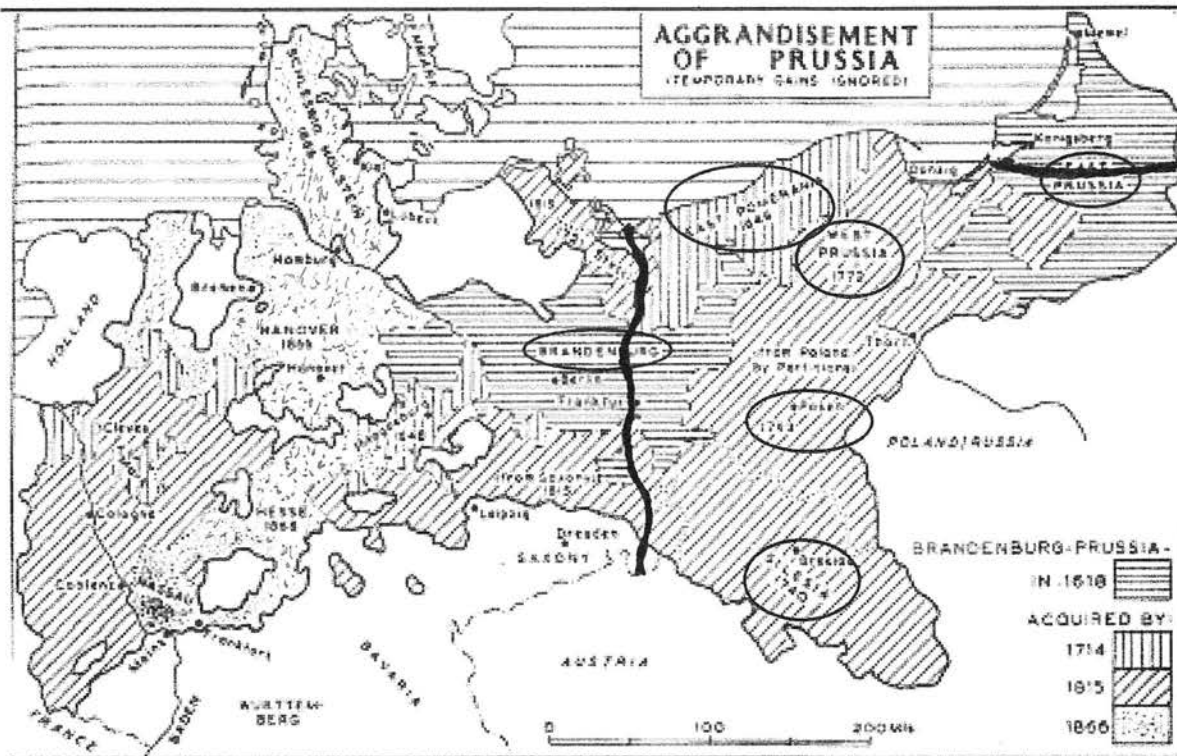
Map source: Mary Bellingham and others, eds., *Reasearch Guide to German-American Genealogy* (St. Paul: German Interest Group, 1991), p. 186.

The heavy black lines mark the approximate contemporary western and northern borders of Poland.

--PTK

Where is Prussia?   by Paul Kulas

That question was asked by PGS-MN member Kathy Warzecha (see page 23 opposite), The answer depends on what time period one is talking about.

The map above shows Prussia's various territorial gains to 1866. The state was first formed from lands on the shores of the Baltic Sea held by the Teutonic Knights when that order was secularized in 1525. At that time the Duke of Prussia pledged allegiance to the the King of Poland. Prussia however continued to gain territory and power and by the end of the eighteenth century (1772-1795) was one of three powers that participated in the partitioning of Poland. Thus, in a period of two hundred and fifty years, the status of Prussia *vis-à-vis* Poland went from that of vassal to that of overlord.

By 1871, Prussia was at the height of its power and in that year forced the unification of German states (Austria was pointedly excluded from this union) to form the German Empire. The Prussian king became the Emperor of Germany and the commander-in-chief of German armed forces and most government positions were put in Prussian hands. Between 1871 until Germany's defeat in 1918, the terms "Prussia" and "Germany" were virtually synonymous.

Most of our Polish ancestors immigrated during this period of Prussian dominance. And much of the Polish migration to Minnesota, perhaps a majority, came from Prussia's Polish provinces.

Kathy Warzecha's Polish ancestors came from the province of Silesia (acquired by Prussia in 1740) as did most Polish settlers in Central Minnesota (northeast Stearns, southern Morrison, into Todd and Benton counties). Most Polish settlers around Delano in Wright County and Wells in southern Minnesota also came from this province.

Prussia acquired the area that would become Posen Province in 1793 at the second partitioning of Poland. My Polish ancestors who settled near St. Anna in Stearns County, most of the settlers around Gilman in Benton County, those around Wilno in Lincoln County as well as most early Polish settlers in the Duluth area came from Provinz Posen.

The Kushubian settlers in Winona came from West Prussia (acquired by Prussia in 1772 in Poland's first partitioning). The Kushubian area of Poland also extends a bit into Eastern Pomerania.

And Polish-speaking Lutherans from East Prussia settled in Popple Creek and Sauk Rapids in Benton County. East Prussia is the area that was controlled by the Teutonic Knights prior to the formation of the Duchy of Prussia.

Since the end of World War II in 1945, almost all of Silesia, the eastern portion of Brandenburg, all of East Pomerania, Posen and West Prussia and the southern one-half of East Prussia lie within the current borders of Poland.

Kathy, I hope this begins to answer your question!

RENEWED MEMBERS: *The following are renewed members who indicated updated information on their renewal forms:*

Adeline Copa/Sopa, 2711 Danbar Dr. Green Bay WI 54313-7022 <amessearch@aol.com> is researching COPA aka FELSKI in Borzyszkowy parish in Poland and in Little Falls, MN. She suggests that we put "Renewal date on address label."

*Good idea! We've done it. **Readers:** See the address label on this issue for your renewal date and please renew promptly if your dues are due.*

Veronica Freihammer, 13011 22nd Ave NE, Rice MN 56367-9747 <verfrei@juno.com> is researching WARSECHA in the Opole/Holdingford area in Minnesota, KUKLOK in Opole, SCHLICHTING in the Rice/Royalton area and all in Silesia and SCHNEIDER in Flensburg, MN. She would like "suggestions and/or examples of family tree and family information to start to put in a book form. Suggestions of excellent resources on the above would be appreciated also."

PGS-MN offered a presentation on just this topic at a recent membership meeting. Jan Bias, Terri DiCarlo and John Kowles described various formats for family histories at that meeting (See report in the Winter 2003-04 issue of this newsletter on page 14). Still your comment is a good one. Publishing your findings in book form should be the goal of all family history researchers. Perhaps we should consider repeating the topic at a future meeting.

The MGS Library has a room devoted exclusively to family histories that they have collected including several submitted by Polish researchers. Reviewing a few of those might give you a good idea on how to proceed with your task. Also, I entered "Writing and publishing a Family History" on the Google website and got a multitude of hits.

Bobbi Hoyt, 22 E. Skyline. Duluth MN 55805 <bobbihoyt@aol.com> is researching BRONIKOW-SKI, SOPEZAK/SOBCZAK, WALKOWIAK in Posnan, Poland and in Duluth, MN and GALENSKI/GALESKI, ADAMSKI in Leipzig, Germany and in Split Rock Twp., MN.

Bobbi has been honered twice during the past year for her outstanding volunteer work for the Bethany Crisis Nursery in Duluth which provides short-term emergency child care for families in crisis. Her work

was the subject of an article that appeared in The Woman Today *(Aug/Sept 2004, pp. 24-25), a magazine serving the Duluth-Superior area.*

Gerald Keeville, 10773 181st Circle NW, Elk River MN 55330 is researching LESSNAU/LESNAU in Puck/Danzig and in Michigan, Illinois and Gilman, MN and WREZA in West Prussia/Kashubia and in Illinois and Gilman.

Dona Paris, 420 Lake Aires Rd., Fairmont MN 56031 <jdparis@charter.net> is researching PIETROWIAK in Turostowo, Poland and in Martin County, MN; MADAJ in Turzyn and in Martin Co.; SZUKALSKI in Poland and in Martin Co.; LUBINSKI in Trembacow in Poland and in Roseau, MN; SZYMANSKI in Pinsk and Szubin, Poland; WIERZBICKI in Poland.

Eugene Stanefski, 6240 Boxman Path, Inver Grove Hts. MN <shargene@usfamily.net> is researching STANISZEWSKI in Hebdow in Poland and in St. Paul MN, DRAPACZ in Przewody, KLEG in Drabnowiza, WTOREK and SIKORA.

Kathy Warzecha, 2407 Serenity Drive, St. Cloud MN 56301 is researching KUKLOK, WARZECHA in Domaradz in upper Selesia (both from Falkowitz parish) and in the Opole/Holdingford MN area. She writes: "I was wondering where I could get a book on the history of Poland (I am primarily interested in the history of the late 19th century). Also, could you explain where exactly Prussia is? I find this a lot in my family research. Also, is there still an area called Prussia today? Thanks for your help. I really enjoy the newsletter--I always find helpful information in each issue."

There are many books available on the history of Poland and we have several in the Polish Collection at the MGS Library. My favorite is Norman Davies' two volume work, God's Playground; A History of Poland *(New York: Columbia University Press, 1984). Volume II covers from the year 1795 forward and has separate chapters on each of the three partitions including that of Prussia. Visit your local public library for this and other titles.*

See my article and the map on the opposite page for a brief explanation of Prussia's location. No, Prussia no longer exists. Its government and all its agencies were abolished by the victorious Allied powers in 1947 after the end of World War II--an action eerily reminiscent of abolition of the Kingdom of Poland one hundred and fifty years earlier. Then it was Prussia that was one of the vanquishing powers.

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.2.net*

NEW MEMBERS: *We welcome the following:*

Terri DiCarlo, 6266 East River Road, Fridley MN 55432 <terri.dicarlo@juno.com> is researching ZMUDA, MORAWA, RYS in N.E. Mpls. and in Weyerhauser WI.

George Franckowiak, 3920 W Pioneer Rd., Duluth MN 55803 is a new member. He writes: "I just recently heard of your organization. I'm looking for any information you have on: KOSLAKOWICZ--Mike, Martin, Francis, Mary, etc.; FRANCKOWIAK--Wojciech, George, John, Frank, etc.; TABOLA--Ann, Elizabeth, Frank, etc. or any other of their relatives." *Readers: If anyone has information concerning these people, please contact George and also let us know.*

Kay Freund, 134 265th Ave NE, Isanti MN 55040 <kfreund@localnet.com> is researching JANISZEW-SKI, WAURZYNIAK in Posen, KORCAL in Posnan, KABOCSYMLIR/KABACZYNSKI/shortened to KABOT in Eastern Poland and TYKWINSKI, all in Lincoln Co., MN and CYLKA in Chicago IL.

Laura Jackson, 7161 S. Joliet Ave., Cottage Grove MN 55016 <lauraj3@msn.com> is researching the NALIPINSKI surname.

Martin Koshiol, 457-18th Avenue North, South St. Paul MN 55075-1843 <mpjkoshiol@visi.com> is researching KOŚCIOŁ in Opole in Poland and in Luxemborg MN.

Irene Malicki Smith, 716 4th Street NE, Mpls. MN 55413 is researching MALICKI, GAPINSKI, MEŁKOWSKI and KUBKOWSKI.

Carol Wolff, 4565 Medley Lane NE, St. Michael MN 55376 <carolbloomer@yahoo.com> is researching WALSKY/WALSKE/WALSKI, GALEWSKI in Prussia, KOLODZIEJ in Prufsia, Poland, EICHMAN in Papiermulle, Lipusz and all in Trempealeau Co. WI. She adds: "The Kolodziejs all changed to COLLINS in this country."

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota
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Official seal of the Roman Catholic parish of Johannisdorf/Janowo, used on its sacramental books in the 19th Century (note figure of St. John the Baptist, "clad in the skin of a wild beast"). See articles by Greg Kishel on pages 1, 14-21.