



# SEARCHERS



DEDICATED TO POLISH AMERICAN FAMILY RESEARCH

"Preserving Our Past Since 1988

No. 21 Fall 1998

## Area Poles Recall '17 Freedom War

By Rich Scheinin  
(*Courier-Express Staff Reporter*)

**I**t was on a brisk afternoon in the fall of 1917 that a marching band sponsored by the Polish Central Rescue Committee set up shop at the corner of 24th Street and Welch Avenue in Niagara Falls. "Who here," asked a man on the band's podium, "is willing to join the Polish Army?" Joseph Ziolkowski, 17 at the time and an apprentice at a barber shop in the Polish neighborhood along East Falls Street, raised his hand and walked to the stage. Within months, he would be at the European front.

Chester Waliszewski was 17 when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed in October 1917 that all American citizens of Polish descent were excused from the U.S. draft and free to join the Polish Army then gathering in France to fight for the Allied cause and the reunification of partitioned Poland. Waliszewski, who was too young to join the U.S. Army or Marines anyway and who didn't care for the uniforms worn by members of the U.S. Navy, began noticing the signs posted near his North Tonawanda home exhorting Polish-American youths to "fight for the independence of Poland."

Chester Waliszewski told his father, a toolmaker from the old country, that he was signing up. His father laughed. Several months later, Waliszewski joined fellow 17-year-old Ziolkowski at the front.

In the fall of 1917, Zygmund Osmolski was 21 years old and working at odd jobs in New London, Conn., when he heard the call to fight for a united Poland. Three years earlier, he had left his father's farm in Russian occupied Bocki, Poland, and come to the United States. Now he traveled to the Polish

Army's recruiting office in Hartford, Conn. And in April 1918, he was sent to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., where approximately 22,000 men of Polish descent, most from the United States, went through military training before their European embarkations. In May 1918, Osmolski joined Ziolkowski and Waliszewski at the front, fighting beneath a Polish banner under the sponsorship of the French supreme command.

"I tried to join the U.S. Army two times," Osmolski remembers, sitting in the Polish Army Veterans Association Post on Fillmore Avenue, "but they wouldn't take me. Flatfooted. So the girls all start saying I'm a slacker. I tell them, 'I'm no slacker. I'm going to be in the army.' I joined the Polish Army and I fought to make Poland free."

Joseph Ziolkowski and Chester Waliszewski are now 80 years old. Zygmund Osmolski is 86; Waliszewski calls him "the old guy with the cane."

When the Great War began in 1914, they were three of thousands of young Polish-Americans who watched silently as their brothers in Europe were enjoined to fight for Russia, Austria and Germany—each or which controlled a third of Poland. The United States, would not enter the war until April 1917. And it was not until Wilson's October proclamation that Polish-Americans were allowed to accept an invitation from the French government to gather in France and establish what in effect was an independent army of Poles-in-exile.

Late in 1917, an estimated 20,000 persons jammed the Broadway Market to hear a recruitment speech by Prince Stanislaw A. Poniatowski, descended from Poland's last royal family. Close to 1,000 men from the Buffalo area, many of them parishioners at St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic

(Continued on page 7)

**Due to the large amount of mail received, please take note when writing us for assistance:**

The PGSNYS will answer ONLY correspondence that includes a self-addressed, stamped reply envelope. All correspondence should be directed to:

**The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State, 299 Barnard Street, Buffalo, New York 14206.**

If you wish to contact one of our committees, please write the committee name on the front of the envelope.

*Thank you*

**Submissions may be sent directly to the editor—either hard copy or disk (Microsoft Works or Microsoft Word)**

Dues are \$15 a year. All Members will receive all published editions of the Searchers. New members receive an information package to help them get started. Please check the mailing label on this copy of the Searchers to see on what date your dues are payable.

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### MEETING REMINDER:

The PGSNYS meets the second Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria College cafeteria, 240 Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga, at 7 p.m.



## President's Message

Thank you for your confidence in electing me your new president as well as the officers and board members, who have a lot of experience in guiding the society. Each one is dedicated to the improvement of The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State. Congratulations to all!

The PGSNYS is a great society, second to none. However, that doesn't mean that it couldn't be better. I'd like to concentrate on the following five topics this year.

### 1. Improve Communications

We need to open up better lines of communication. All meeting cancellations due to bad weather will be announced on News Radio 930 AM WBEN. We will also have regular executive board meetings as we should be having. All meeting minutes of our monthly meetings and executive board meetings will be made available at the next month's meeting. I will also send these minutes to all members who have an e-mail address.

### 2. Move a large portion of the holdings in our library to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library (downtown)

Currently, our library is viewed only once a month, at our regular meetings. Last year, we approached staff members at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library and they agreed to house our material in their Special Collections Department. The Western New York Genealogical Society has had their entire library there for several years. Last year, our membership voted for this move but this action never progressed beyond the initial stages. It was decided that most of our collection will be transferred. However, a select portion of our research material will remain in our library for our exclusive use. Lynn Mycek-Rzepecki, Mike Drabik and I have completed inventorying our library. We hope to have this move made by the end of this year.

### 3. Publish our surname database

I have created a surname database and Mike Drabik tediously entered all the surnames we have on file. Data Sheets were mailed with the Searchers for each member with a listing of current surname information presently in this database. Each member was asked to compare the information, correct it, and add or delete information as they wished. Members were also asked to note whether they wanted their names put on our web page surname file or not.

### 4. Update Our Membership Package—*Getting Started*

Every new member receives a Membership Package that contains a membership book that needs to be updated. Currently, Lynn Mycek-Rzepecki is working on this project. We also hope to have this completed by the end of the year.

### 5. Establish a Western New York Genealogical Council

Last year we spoke about forming an alliance with other Genealogical Societies in Western New York to help solve common problems that all genealogical researchers face.

These goals may seem almost impossible to reach, but they *are* attainable.

I'd like to ask the members of our society to inform me if there is something special they'd like to see develop within our organization. For instance, if you incurred a problem with a government agency or facility in obtaining information, this is the kind of thing we would like to know about. Please contact me by e-mail at [president@pgsnys.org](mailto:president@pgsnys.org) or write me at the following address:

12645 Strykersville Road  
East Aurora, New York 14052

David Newman

**Family Search**

**Susan Cerri, 7122 Sunset Court, White Lake MI 48383, e-mail: cmichfamjuno.com.**

Seeking information on: John **Duszynski**, b. December 4, 1859, in Choratki, Poznan. Arrived in the Buffalo area in 1883, d. July 9, 1912. (m. Antonia **Drachowska**, b. December 6, 1864). Children: Frank, Michael, Leonard, Mary, Cecelia, Emily, and Steven. I would like to find any of John's brothers or sisters that came to this city.

**Barbara Snyder, 26 Silverwood Ct., Orinda, CA 9456269, e-mail: BSS9876543aol.com.**

Seeking information on: Nepomucyna Anna **Ogorkiewicz**, b. 1879, came to Buffalo 1896-1900. (m. Wojciech Adalbertus **Albert Jaworski** 1900-1901). Her sister, Walentyna Helen, b. 1885, and brother, Ignatz Frank, b. 1887, came with her. Last residence in Poland was Neustadt (don't know which one). Parents: **Tanski**. **Albert Jaworski**, b. Gniezno 1879. Parents: Josef & Jadwiga **Kwasniewski**. Brother Ignatz John, b. 1876, came to Buffalo in 1893 with wife Mary. Children: Helen, Clara, Zophia, Joseph, Florence, Louis, Francis. Albert may have had a sister, Tillie **Metzler**, in Buffalo. Albert & Anna lived at 224 Loepere St. in 1905 and at 362 Monroe Ave. in 1917. Looking for information on Anna's town in Poland and for descendants of Ignatz John and Tillie.

**Geraldine Beck, 308 N. Annapolis Ave., Atlantic City, NJ 08401.**

Seeking information on: Immigration of Jan **Trzcinski** to Missouri, thence to Buffalo. Eldest child was Ann **Trzcinski**, b. 1883 in St. Joseph, Missouri (m. John **Zdrojewski** in Buffalo 1904). Children were: Carrie, Zigmund, Sophie, Casie, and Jean **Kucharski**. Siblings were Walter, Peter, and Francis **Trzcinski**, all born in Missouri. Step-siblings were: Paul **Trzcinski**, Frances **Kuczkowski**, Bernice

**Gawron**, Sophie **Schutta**, and Lillian **Rozek**, all born in Buffalo. Also seeking a Buffalo connection to Martha **Bartoszewski**, Lefty & Millie, and Mrs. Louis (Pauline) **Barczewski**, b. 1884, d. 1950, in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Bill Culliton, 17 Dairy Farm Road, Norwalk, CT 06851, e-mail: CULLITON1@aol.com.**

Seeking information on Casimir **Piotrowski**, who ran a saloon on the corner of William Street and Harlem Road in Cheektowaga. My grandmother was his aunt. Both his mother's and his wife's names were Marcianna, d. circa 1939. I have an 1895 picture of him and will send a copy, along with references to parish records on the family in Poland.

**Laurie Bialoglowicz, 1064 Reynolds Road, Corfu, NY 14036, e-mail: whitewood1@juno.com.**

Seeking information on Joseph **Bucholtz**, b. circa 1934 in Buffalo, NY. Later moved to Cleveland, Ohio, with parents, Joseph and Margaret **Bucholtz**. May have moved to New Jersey a number of years ago.

### Onion Harvest Festival

Some communities have Strawberry Festivals, Tulip Festivals, or Corn Festivals. The Black Dirt countryside of southern Orange County, New York, is celebrating its 60th Anniversary with its annual Onion Harvest Festival on August 14 and 15. The Polish name for the two-day festival is "Dozynki".

A number of our members will be joining members from other area Polish organizations to attend this festival, where they will experience the ultimate cultural celebration as the festival honors both the agriculturally rich Black Dirt region and its Polish immigrant descendants. They will witness

(Continued on page 17)



# POTPOURRI

## General Kazimierz Pulaski

Clint Eastwood, has donated \$10,000, toward the repair and restoration of the General Kazimierz Pulaski Monument in Savannah, Georgia. Five years ago, the late Colonel M. Kwiatkowski brought word of the monument's disrepair to the attention of the city fathers and to U.S. Polonia.

Philadelphian, Edward Pinkowski, has launched his own campaign to set the record straight on Pulaski's correct birth date. History tells us that Pulaski was fatally wounded at a battle near Savannah and was taken aboard a ship named the "Wasp", where he died. It was believed that he was buried at sea, but Pinkowski has set out to disprove this myth. He has sought permission for the exhumation of the body of Pulaski's great grand niece in Promna, Poland, for the purpose of collecting material for DNA comparison. Forensic scientists will issue a report on the results when they are completed.

Watch the Am Pol Eagle and the Polish American Journal for further details on the restoration of the Pulaski monument. Donations are still being accepted and may be sent to:

Pulaski National Monument Committee  
6340 North 84th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53225  
Telephone (414) 760-9353

## Pope John Paul II

The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, made his eighth pilgrimage to Poland, the country of his birth, during the month of June. His 20-city tour, which began in Gdansk and was to end in the region of Krakow and Wadowice, where the Pope was born, necessitated changes when the Pope came down with the flu. One hundred Poles, who were killed during the Nazi occupation of Poland, were beautified during this trip.

## Fredric Chopin

This year, 1999, marks the 150th anniversary of the death of the Polish pianist and composer, Fredric Chopin. Locally, the Chopin Singing Society, founded by L. Olszewski in 1899, is observing its centennial. A special concert was presented in May at Villa Maria College.

## The Church of Latter Day Saints On-line

A pilot program of genealogical services, provided by

the Church of Latter Day Saints, is now operating on the Internet. Check it out! The address is [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

## FEEFHS

The Fifth International Convention of FEEFHS (Federation of East European Family History Societies) is scheduled for September 24-26 at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys, California. For further information on the workshops, check their website, <http://feefhs.org>

## Centennial

Precious Blood Church, located at 140 Lewis Street in Buffalo, New York, is celebrating its centennial this year. A centennial book is being published and the PGSNYS has taken a quarter-page ad in it.

## April Meeting

The guest speaker at our April meeting was Dr. Robert L. Farkas, author of the *St. Stanislaus 125th Anniversary Book*. The book contains a pictorial and historical overview of the church's social and economic impact on Buffalo. Msgr John Gabalski, donated nine copies of this book to our society for the purpose of distribution to other Polish genealogical societies. These books, containing Dr. Farkas' autograph, have been sent to the following societies.

- Polish Genealogical Society of America
- Polish Genealogical Society of California
- Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland
- Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts
- Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan
- Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota
- Polish Genealogical Society of the Northeast (CT)
- Polish Genealogical Society of Texas
- Polish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin

We thank Msgr Gabalski and Dr. Farkas for their support.

## May Meeting

Julie Benzin, from Light Impressions, was the guest speaker at our May meeting. She brought samples of various methods of preserving genealogical documents and explained them to us. Light Impressions carries material for archival storage and display for the creation of an album of memories.

## PGSNYS Annual Picnic

This year our annual picnic will be held on Thursday,

(Continued from page 5)

## Potpourri

July 8, in Cheektowaga Town Park, shelter No. 3. Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. and will be catered by Kotecki's Grandview Grove in West Seneca. The cost is \$5 per person. Members who are interested in attending should contact Rita Prabucki at 716-674-7811 for reservations.

## Polish Puzzles

Two Polish Jigsaw puzzles were donated to our society by member Angie Pantera. They will be used as door prizes at our annual picnic.

## Villa Maria Lawn Fete

Florence Witul will need your help on July 16, 17, and 18 to man the booths at the annual Villa Maria Lawn Fete. Please let her know when you will be available.

## Cheektowaga Polish Festival

The Polish Festival will be held again this year in August at the Cheektowaga Town Park. Check the Am Pol Eagle for the exact date.

# I Remember Dad

By Ed Prabucki

"Moj Syn, Moj Drogi Syn", are words that are still burned in my memory from the dark days of 1944, when Dad received a telegram from the War Department informing him that my brother was killed in Europe. Often after that, I observed him with tears in his eyes and pretended not notice. This is how I remember my Dad.

Prior to that time, I have many treasured, precious memories that I reminisce about with my sister: the Sunday stroll to the opening of the Grand Central Terminal, the long walks to Becker's Airport at Genesee and Union, the Sundays spent at the Buffalo Museum of Science, the pride I observed in him as he escorted me to Transfiguration Church on the day of my First Holy Communion, the daily sorrows etched on his face during the depression years after an unsuccessful search for employment after he was laid off.

War was approaching and Dad was recalled to work. Soon after the war began, his beloved Poland was overrun by Hitler and Stalin. Periodically, at

our kitchen table, I heard my father lament, "Moj Kraj (My Poland), Nasz Ojczyzna (Our Fatherland)". He was aware that Hitler and Stalin would partition Poland. It must have hardened his heart and he never spoke a tender word toward these invaders to his dying day. Dad always said that these dictators befouled what they created and the day would come when all of us would have to cleanse what we befouled. His sons were called to service, and though his conversations were few, his dedication to his sons was infinite.

After the war ended, Dad purchased a car. I frequently rode with Dad and Mom to visit our relatives (Skrzeczowski) in Kaisertown on Sundays. He had a profound love for playing cards. Later, when I became involved in playing baseball for Mroz Lumber Co., he became an avid baseball spectator on Sundays in all the parks of Buffalo. (The results of the Buffalo Bisons games played at Offermann Stadium were of less importance to him.)

Dad's desire to see his sisters in Poland again never faltered. Upon his retirement, he sailed on the *Batory* to hear first hand how they had endured during the war. He was fully aware that their lives were tempered by many tragedies.

In his fading years, it was unthinkable for me not to spend many tranquil evenings with him reminiscing of days long gone by. My Dad was afflicted with an incurable sickness and left us by far too soon.

This was my Dad, who still lives in my memory.

## Library Acquisitions

Keith Kaszubik, who has been a frequent guest at our meetings donated The Lipusz Peplinski Book, 2nd Edition October 1995, to our library. The book features an index of over 2,479 Peplinski descendants, spanning the years 1801-1995. It also lists birth, death, and marriage dates and special events notes as well as a tree chart

(Continued on page 15)



(Continued from page 1)

## Area Poles Recall '17 Freedom War

Church on Townsend Street, joined. The vast majority of the 22,000 men who would train at Niagara-on-the-Lake were American and most would pass through Buffalo on their way to Ontario.

Then, following a second round of training in France, the legions of the Polish Army went to war. They numbered about 30,000 and were commanded by Gen. Jozef Haller, originally a Polish officer in the Austrian Army. As Ziolkowski, Osmolski and Waliszewski fought their way across Europe under Haller, the army swelled to nearly 100,000 as soldiers of Polish descent were taken as prisoners from opposing armies and made to re-enlist with Haller's forces.

With the signing of the Versailles Treaty in November 1918, the army was transported across Germany by train to the newly independent Polish state. Joseph Ziolkowski recalls the boxcar in which he and his colleagues spent three days—horses on one side, soldiers on the other, separated by a rope.

In 1920, Haller's Army would join in the Polish-Soviet war, thousands of its members participating in the defeat of the advancing Soviet forces in Warsaw—the so-called "Miracle of the Vistula". Over the next year or two, Haller's legions would choose between remaining in Poland or returning to their previous homes. Joseph Ziolkowski, Chester Waliszewski and Zygmund Osmolski would return home, Waliszewski becoming one of about 400 founders of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America Post No. 1 on Fillmore Avenue.

The three are among just five survivors of the nearly 1,000 men from the Buffalo area who joined the Polish Army. All five will be honored tonight at a banquet in the Polish Union of America, 617 Fillmore Ave., marking the post's 60th anniversary.

Joseph Ziolkowski, the son of a blacksmith, was born in 1901 near the city of Poznan in western Poland. At the age of 12, he came to Niagara Falls where he would deliver newspapers, learn to barber and, over the protestations of his parents, join the Polish Army. In the spring of 1918, he was shipped

from Niagara-on-the-Lake to a training camp in northwest France known as Sille-Le-Guillaume. There, too, he set up a barber's chair—a lucrative business in a camp full of free-spending American-born soldiers "but the guys all started saying, 'What kind of soldier are you?' Ziolkowski recalls, 'You're gonna go home and say you cut hair. You didn't fight.'"

Ziolkowski joined the Polish Army's field artillery division at the front, "fighting like a son of a gun" across France and, in 1920, leading horse-drawn canons as far as the city of Lwow in what is now the Soviet-controlled Ukraine.

Chester Waliszewski "was supposed to be a professional man." But in 1917, he argued with his father over whether he should attend a private high school or continue in the North Tonawanda school system. Waliszewski wanted to go private. His father said no. Waliszewski got mad, decided to join the military and wound up in the Polish Army.

"Besides, I had a grudge against Germany and Russia," he explains, sipping coffee in the kitchen of his Rother Avenue home. "My mother was born in German Poland. My father was born in Russian Poland. When me and my mother went back to visit in 1914, Russian troops were already in her home town. So I went back and fought."

"Chet" Waliszewski was sent from Niagara-on-the-Lake to France, then went to the front lines as an infantryman. He was 17 years old. One day, a friend was killed by a sniper. Another day, he was ambushed, caught in a hail of machine gun fire. Waliszewski was unscratched: "My mother says she was praying for me."

In 1920, as he fought with Haller's Army in the Ukraine, his luck held out. Walking alone into an empty courtyard, Waliszewski suddenly spotted a Soviet troop: "I acted fast. 'Advance to be recognized. You're surrounded,' I says to him in Russian. He didn't know I was the only one there. 'Comrade, comrade,' he says. Then two other guys come out and give up—one of 'em, it turns out, had had his rifle trained on me. Big guys, 6-foot-2, big blue hats, you know, like the Cossacks used to wear. Still see it in my sleep. I says, 'My God, I says, it must been

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

## Area Poles Recall '17 Freedom War

luck."

Waliszewski returned home in 1921, enlisted in the U.S. Army for a hitch in Texas, returned home to North Tonawanda, worked as a carpenter and factory worker and retired in 1966.

Zygmund Osmolski had been, he says, a member of the political underground in the early part of this century. Fearing punishment by the authorities, he fled to the United States picking up odd jobs as he moved from Watertown to Wilmington, Del.; Erie, Pa. and New London, Conn. Three years after his arrival in this country, he signed up in Haller's Army, went to his French training camp and then to the front. In 1920, as a member of the Polish Army's engineering corps, he fought as far east as Kiev, blowing up Soviet bridges and installations along the way. One time, following a mission 96 miles east of the Polish front, Osmolski's unit was stranded. Its commander gave the men up for dead.

Eighty six-year-old Zygmund Osmolski, who drinks two shots of liquor daily "to keep the ticker going," survived. At the conclusion of the Polish Soviet conflict, he stayed on in the Polish city of Kowel for two years as a postal worker and police officer. But disenchanted, again, with the political situation in Poland, he returned to Erie, Pa., with 20 cents in his pocket. He moved to Buffalo in 1941, took a job at Buffalo Forge and, like the thousands of other men who joined the Polish Army, never received a penny in benefits for his military service.

Chasing a shot of brandy with plain water, he says: "had nothing to lose in 1917. I was alone, single. Why not go? I'd go again today if they'd take me."

Sixty years later, Joseph Ziolkowski sits in his living room with his 81-year-old wife, Rose. A picture of Jozef Pilsudski, Polish statesman and high commander of the victorious Polish forces in 1920, hangs on the wall.

"The big shots make the war. The poor man fights. The poor man suffers," he says. Ziolkowski clenches his right fist, his eyes cloudy, then points to

the television set in front of him: "You take Vietnam now those poor guys. I watched what they went through. The feeling that I got. I remember every damn thing from Europe. You're wounded, they drag you from the foxhole. They don't care. If you die, you die. And now they show what's going to happen if they have this other war. It's going to be atomic war. There won't be nothing left and they still don't care."

"My life is not too long, so I don't worry too much," Joseph Ziolkowski says. "You live 80, 85 years, life is at the other end already, but you worry about the young ones suffering."

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## Five Million Forgotten

*By Terese Pencak Schwartz*

Growing up in a Polish community, and raised by parents who survived the Holocaust, I heard many stories about the atrocities of this World War II horror. I learned how one of my family's homes in Poland was burned to the ground by Nazis. I learned that my uncle was shot in the head by Nazi soldiers because the family was hiding a Jewish woman. Painful as it was for them to speak about it, my parents felt it was important that I knew the stories of the Holocaust.

It was only after I moved to the Los Angeles area several years ago that I realized that many people were not aware that millions of victims of the Holocaust were NOT Jewish. Outside the Polish community, I heard very little mention about the five million non-Jewish victims—usually referred to as "the others".

Whenever I would say that my parents were survivors of the Holocaust, people would look at me oddly and say, "Oh, I didn't know you were Jewish?" I realized that most people were not aware of any other Holocaust victims except Jews. This concerned me.

I am Jewish. I converted in 1978 after studying at the University of Judaism one year before marrying a Jewish man. I belong to a temple where my daughter attends religious school. I love the Jewish religion and I admire the Jewish community. In no



way do I want to diminish the enormous magnitude of the victimization and murder of the 5,860,000 Jewish people during the Holocaust. The Jews were singled out by the Nazis for total extermination—a significant fact that I do not repudiate, nor want to diminish in any way. The Jewish people have done an extraordinary job of making the younger generation around the world aware of their persecution and the immense tragedy of the Holocaust.

But what about “the others”? There were five million of them. Who were they? Whose children, whose mothers and fathers were they? How could five million human beings have been killed and forgotten? I began my research. After studying several carefully documented books, and interviewing non-Jewish survivors, I found more information about the five million forgotten than I had ever imagined.

Eleven million precious lives were lost during the Holocaust of World War II. Six million of these were Polish citizens. Half of these Polish citizens were non-Jews. On August 22, 1939, a few days before the official start of World War II, Hitler authorized his commanders, with these infamous words, to kill “without pity or mercy, all men, women, and children of Polish descent or language. Only in this way can we obtain the living space (*lebensraum*) we need”.

Heinrich Himmler echoed Hitler's decree: “All Poles will disappear from the world.... It is essential that the great German people should consider it as its major task to destroy all Poles.”

On September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland from three directions. Hitler's invincible troops attacked from the west, the north and the south. Poland never had a chance. By October 8, 1939, Polish Jews and non-Jews were stripped of all rights and were subject to special legislation. Rationing, which allowed for only bare sustenance of food and medicine was quickly set up. Young Polish men were forcibly drafted into the German army. The Polish language was forbidden. Only the German language allowed. All secondary schools and colleges were closed. The Polish press was liquidated. Libraries and bookshops were burned. Polish art and culture were destroyed. Polish churches and religious buildings were burned. Most of the priests were arrested and

sent to concentration camps. Street signs were either destroyed or changed to new German names. Polish cities and towns were renamed in German. It was Hitler's goal to obliterate all traces of Polish history and culture.

Hundreds of Polish community leaders, mayors, local officials, priests, teachers, lawyers, judges, senators, doctors were executed in public. Much of the rest of the so-called Intelligentsia, the Polish leading class, was sent to concentration camps, where they later died.

The first mass execution of World War II took place in Wawer, a town near Warsaw, Poland, on December 27, 1939, when 107 Polish non-Jewish men were taken from their homes in the middle of the night and shot. This was just the beginning of the street roundups and mass executions that continued throughout the war. The goal of these executions, deportations, and the ruthless domination of citizens was to terrorize all Poles into docile subservience.

At the same time, on the eastern border of Poland, the Soviet Union invaded and quickly conquered. Germany and the Soviet Union divided Poland in half. The western half, occupied by the Nazis, became a new German territory: “General Government”. The eastern half was incorporated within the adjoining Russian border by Soviet “elections”. This new border “realignment” conferred Soviet citizenship on its new Polish inhabitants. And all young Polish men were subject to being drafted into the Soviet army.

Just like the Nazis, the Soviets also reigned terror in Poland. The Soviets took over Polish businesses, Polish factories and destroyed churches and religious buildings. The Polish currency (zloty) was removed from circulation. All Polish banks were closed and savings accounts were blocked.

During the war, Poland lost 45% of her doctors, 57% of her attorneys, 40% of her professors, 30% of her technicians, more than 18% of her clergy, and most of her journalists. Poland's educated class was purposely targeted because the Nazis knew that this would make it easier to control the country.

Non-Jews of Polish descent suffered over

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

## Five Million Forgotten

100,000 deaths at Auschwitz. The Germans forcibly deported approximately 2,000,000 Polish Gentiles into slave labor for the Third Reich. The Russians deported almost 1,700,000 Polish non-Jews to Siberia. Men, women and children were forced from their homes with no warning. Transferred in cattle cars in freezing weather, many died on the way. Polish children who possessed Aryan-looking characteristics were wrenched from their mother's arms and placed in German homes to be raised as Germans.

The Polish people were classified by the Nazis according to their racial characteristics. The ones who appeared Aryan were deported to Lodz for further racial examination. Most of the others were sent to the Reich to work in slave labor camps. The rest were sent to Auschwitz to die. Polish Christians and Catholics were actually the first victims of the notorious German death camp. For the first 21 months after it began in 1940, Auschwitz was inhabited almost exclusively by Polish non-Jews. The first ethnic Pole died in June 1940 and the first Jew died in October 1942.

Because of the obliteration of the Polish press by the Nazis, most of the world was not aware, including many parts of Nazi-occupied Poland, of the atrocities going on. Even to this day, much documentation of the Holocaust is not available. The entire records of Auschwitz were stolen by the Soviets and not returned. It was Hitler's goal to rewrite history.

The Nazis destroyed books, monuments, historical inscriptions. They began a forceful campaign of propaganda to convince the world of their invincible superiority and power and likewise the inferiority and weakness of the Polish people.

While there is no argument that Hitler abhorred the Jews and caused almost six million to be ruthlessly killed, often non-Jewish victims are tragically forgotten from Holocaust remembrances. Eleven million precious human lives were lost during the Holocaust. Five million of these were non-Jewish.

Three million were Polish Christians and Catholics. It would be very sad to forget even one precious life extinguished so ruthlessly. It would be a tragedy to forget five million.

## Rural Poland—A Glimpse of Our Past

*By Jack C. Barnes*

Do you wish you could have seen rural America when it was dotted with small general farms where almost every crop and domestic animal imaginable could be found? Would you like to have seen how life used to be on the American farm when families were closely knit and at least the elder son knew that the farm would someday be his, a place where he could rear a family in a tension-free society?

Last summer I was fortunate enough to enjoy a glimpse of our rural past when I spent a pleasant three weeks in Poland gathering material for the Geography of Europe course I teach in the University of Maine system.

Since I have a farm in Maine and have been a commercial farmer in the past, I always make it a point to spend much of my time roaming about the countryside of any nation which I am visiting. Poland was no exception. I spent many an enjoyable hour hiking along rutted back roads, photographing as much of rural life as possible.

Ninety percent of the topography of Poland is either flat or ever so slightly elevated, and one might very easily infer that Poland is a land of monotonous landscape. To the contrary, I found rural Poland to be absolutely charming; I immediately fell in love with its verdant landscapes.

Poland is a land of small farms, covering about fifty million acres. Approximately eighty percent of the total land is under cultivation. Early post-war attempts to collectivize the land ended in almost complete failure. Between eighty and eighty-three percent of the land is privately owned. The average farm holding is about twelve acres. Prior to World War II much of the rural area of Poland was owned by wealthy landowners. Out of the ashes of the terrible war that swept over the land from 1939 to 1944, came land reform. Today the maximum



acreage that an individual may own is 125 acres.

To travel through rural Poland is to travel through the rural America of seventy-five to one hundred years ago. The complete evolution of farming can be viewed from a bus window in the area of a few square miles. A modern combine (probably government-owned) could be seen in one field, with men reaping with scythes and sickles and kerchiefed women binding sheaves in the adjoining field. Although tractors are fairly common, since Poland manufactures and exports them, the horse and wagon, usually with rubber tires, are ubiquitous. Much of the plowing is still done with the hand-plow.

Farming in Poland is a family affair, and often the operation will involve the extended family. One sees the togetherness that so characterized our own small farms prior to World War II. Young and old toil together, especially at harvest time. Fifty-two percent of the population of Poland now resides in urban areas, and more and more young people are abandoning life in the rural areas for life in the many industrial cities. Nevertheless, thousands of students return each summer to work on the farms, especially to help in the grain and hay harvest.

Today there are far more cattle and sheep than prior to World War II. The Holstein is by far the most common of the bovines. It was really refreshing to see the close relationship that exists between farm families and their animals. Almost every farm has at least one cow, but seldom more than four or five cows. There are practically no fences, and cows and sheep are tethered. It is a common sight to see an old man or woman leading a fat black and white cow from one field to another. Every farmer keeps a small flock of assorted poultry. Seldom is there a farm without a flock of geese. Early in the twentieth century when good feathers were in a much greater demand throughout the world, Poland was the world's leading exporter of both goose feathers and goose livers. Turkeys and ducks are also commonly seen, and seldom are they penned up. The Polish people are great lovers of sausage, and pigs are raised for market on all the farms that I visited in eastern and southern Poland. Polish farmers rely heavily upon organic fertilizer, which is usually shov-

eled from a horse-drawn wagon onto the fields and plowed into the soil. I gave close attention to the variety of crops grown in the areas that I visited. Rye is the most important cereal crop, but wheat, barley and oats are also commonly grown. Wheat is more prevalent in the piedmont and hills of the south where it grows well in the loess soil whereas rye and potatoes predominate in the north where the soil is less fertile and rather poorly drained. Despite the fact that grain fields were in evidence everywhere in the areas that I traveled, Poland is an importer of grain. The potato is a basic part of everyone's diet. I lived and ate in mostly student hotels, and I cannot remember having an afternoon meal without a generous helping of boiled potatoes covered with parsley or chopped dill. Unusually large fields of dill and parsley, perhaps half an acre or more in some instances, are grown for the local markets. Cauliflower, cabbage (especially the red variety), kohlrabi, beets, peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes are among the most common vegetables grown for the local markets. If it is any consolation to the American vegetable growers, Europe has retained a fair share of the world's population of European cabbage butterflies, for, on close examination, I found that many of the fields of cabbages and cauliflower were infested with cabbage worms. The fact that many farmers do not use pesticides is due more to their inability to afford them than to their dedication to organic farming.

Almost every Polish family that has a plot of land, if only a few square feet in the back yard or even the front yard of an urban home, will have a vegetable garden; and it simply would not be Poland without a variety of beautiful flowers. The Polish people are extremely fond of fruit, and there are plum, cherry, peach, and especially apple trees in the yards of both rural and urban dwellers.

In the south and southeastern parts of Poland, I saw many tobacco and hop fields. Hops grow on vines that often extend twenty-five to thirty feet into the air. Large poles, resembling telephone poles, are placed into the ground, slanted and crossed, and heavy wires are extended in rows and at graduated

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Continued from page 11)*

## Rural Poland—A Glimpse of Our Past

heights from polo to pole. The rows are very carefully cultivated so that they are kept free of weeds at all times.

The farmers rely heavily upon the local markets to sell their produce, but there are numerous cooperatives that assist them in marketing their produce and purchasing supplies and equipment. Contrary to the usual patterns throughout much of Europe where the farmers live in nucleated or clustered villages and travel to and from their fields, which are often some distance from the village, the majority of farms in the areas I visited were dispersed much as they are here in the United States.

There are very good main highways in Poland, but once one strays from the main thoroughfares into the countryside, the dirt roads become increasingly narrow. Eventually, the roads become little more than wagon trails, too narrow for two wagons to pass in opposite directions without one driver having to pull aside. Most farmers rely upon horses and wagons to transport their produce to market, and it is necessary that they start early to arrive at the open market in time to sell their produce. Many who live some distance from the nearest central market must leave home the preceding day. The deeply rutted roads in some areas indicate that many farm families are as isolated in winter and early spring as our farm families were, especially in the north, fifty to a hundred years ago.

What really lends charm to the Polish landscape are the quaint little farm houses and barns with thatched roofs. Small houses, whitewashed or in shades of blue, yellow, or occasionally green, blend in with the verdure of the meadows, the ripening grain, and fields of red clover. As one approaches the lofty Tatra Mountains, there are an increasing number of log and wooden structures. A background of polychromatic, geometrical designs is created by contour and strip farming on the rolling hills. I marveled at the workmanship which almost every wooden structure in the Tatras, especially

around the area of Zakopane, displays. The architecture of farm buildings is a vital part of rural culture in Poland as it reflects upon the creativity of the people. Every house and barn has a different design carved on the framework around the doors, gables, or even balconies, depending upon the affluence of the owner. It is obvious that the Polish people take great pride in the homes.

Hay is an important crop in the Tatras, a specific alpine mountainous area that makes up a segment of the Carpathians bordering Czechoslovakia. Everywhere in August young and old are gathering hay. Saplings, slightly larger in circumference than bean poles, are cut; and a portion of the branches, perhaps two or three feet long, are left on the trunk. These poles are stuck into the ground and used as hayracks to dry the hay in the fields. I have seen this same method used in other Alpine areas of Europe, such as in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. It is a striking scene to see a sloping field of hayracks, wood smoke curling skyward from the chimney of a log farmhouse on the periphery of a grove of stately spruce and pine, and the high Tatras looming majestically in the background. A feeling of nostalgia swept over me, for in America I once drove a proud and noble pair of horses with many a mountainous load of hay up the dirt road to the barn.

One of the high points of my travels in Poland was a visit with a Polish farm family. It was totally unplanned; it just happened. A fellow traveler and I spent much of one sunny August day hiking over the back roads outside of the lovely Gothic Renaissance city of Lublin southeast of Warsaw. We saw a man reaping rye with a scythe and his wife raking it into piles with a wooden rake. It was the kind of scene I wanted to record on film, so I left the gravel road and went jogging through the fields until I reached the modest slope where the two were toiling. With my smattering of Polish, I was able to tell them who I was and my reason for being interested in their operation. After I had taken the pictures that I wanted, my colleague and I were invited to the couple's house for lunch. Actually, we were in a hurry at this point to return to our student hotel since we were scheduled to accompany a group of visiting



Armenians from the Soviet Union on a tour of a modern textile plant. Nevertheless, an opportunity to visit with a farm family was too good to pass up.

Since there is considerable land fragmentation in parts of the country, their dwelling was at least a quarter of a mile down the road from their field. Much to our joy, we found that their cottage had a thatched roof. The woman tethered her Holstein cow in the yard, and her husband gave hay to his team of horses before we entered the one room which the couple, their little son and his grandmother shared. It was classical; its beauty and charm lay in its utter simplicity. Around the fireplace and brick oven lay trays filled with slices of apple placed there to dry. The ceiling was low, similar to our early colonial homes, and cots or beds were placed against the walls around the room. The wooden floor showed signs of years of wear and dedicated scrubbing. In one corner was a large wooden table, and it was here that we talked, ate thick slices of homemade rye bread, and drank tall glasses of cool fresh milk. We talked about life in Poland and were eagerly asked questions about America. On the wall by the table hung family portraits. Our host sadly told us about his brother who was among the several million Poles who perished in one of the many notorious Nazi prison camps. For a fleeting moment there was an atmosphere of sadness, but this somber mood was quickly replaced with warm laughter and more convivial conversation.

We had to depart all too soon, but before we did, our host proudly showed us the pigs he was raising for market. This was a simple life and a life of arduous toil to eke out a living on a few scattered acres, but these people were obviously happy—a happiness that is well deserved. We parted from a scene that I remember as a child but which few young Americans today will ever experience, or even see. It was a scene which I carried with me down the dusty road—a scene which I shall always cherish as a lovely portrait of rural Poland.

*[This article was reprinted from Farmstead Magazine, Summer 1977, Volume 4, Number 3 Pages 32 - 35. The magazine is no longer published.]*

## Polonia in Perry, New York

*By Michael Drabik*

Only too often when we think of the Polish community in Western New York, we focus on Buffalo and the settlements immediately around it. For the most part, the early immigrants flocked to industrial areas upon their arrival in the United States. Those heading for destinations west of New York most likely traveled through Buffalo, since it was the site of the western terminal of the railroad at the turn of the century. It is speculated that some Poles remained in this area because of a lack of funds to travel further. Finding employment, and then starting a family, they would remain here. As the employment situation improved and expanded, Poles began to set up colonies in towns where work was available. One such settlement was founded in Perry, New York.

In about 1903, the first Pole, Franciszek Narowski, came in search of work to this small rural town in Wyoming County, approximately 45 miles from Buffalo. Finding suitable employment, Narowski, in turn, related the favorable situation to friends, who followed his example. Jan Rozanski, one of those who came shortly after, was known to go out and recruit Poles from the Buffalo and Depew areas for the Perry Knitting Mills. By 1910, it was estimated that Perry had a population of 65 Polish families, and an additional 30 single individuals, living near the Mills along Water Street.

Some of the pioneer Poles were: Franciszek Narowski, Jan Rozanski, Piotr Wojcik, Michal Scislo, Wladyslaw Hikiert, Franciszek Pachuta, Kazimierz Kochan, Czeslaw Jedrzejewski, Franciszek Stygris, Antoni Dec, Franciszek Rychlik, Jan Gonciarczyk, Stanislaw Szarlowicz, Stanislaw Slusarczyk, Szczepan Siembida, Stanislaw Mlyniec, Wladyslaw Odymala, Jan Jablonski, Boleslaw Zawisza, Franciszek Ryczek, Jozef Marynowski, Feliks Kwiecien, Andrzej Gromadzinski, Wladyslaw Tryka, Marcin Walega, Walenty Milli, Jan Barc and Adam Kaczynski. The Poles attended St. Joseph Church in town, but no Polish-speaking priest was

*(Continued on page 14)*

*(Continued from page 13)*

## Polonia in Perry, New York

available to them. In 1907, a couple wished to be married and the pastor arranged for a Rev. Kolodziej to perform the service. After that, the Revs. Fimowicz and Antoni Majewski would administer to the community from time to time.

A delegation of Jozef Nawolski, Jan Rozanski and Jozef Pisarek was chosen in 1910 to present a petition to the bishop of Buffalo to ask permission to found a Polish parish in Perry. Later that year, the Rev. Jozef Rudzinski was sent to organize the parish, which was named, St. Stanislaus Kostka. On November 20, 1910, Father Rudzinski celebrated the first mass and baptized Stanislaw Gromadzinski, who became a prominent Doctor in the Syracuse area. A temporary church was housed in a building secured by the community until the wooden St. Stanislaus Kostka church was completed in 1913, along with an adjoining parish cemetery. A hard-working and dedicated pastor, Fr. Rudzinski died in 1916 of pneumonia and was laid to rest in the cemetery he founded.

During the tenure of Fr. Rudzinski, the community organized and founded several religious and secular organizations. In 1910, the parish organized the St. Cecylia choir under the direction of Jozef Gorka. Also connected with the church was the St. Hedwig Society. A branch of the Buffalo Polish Union of America, the Sts. Peter and Paul Society, was founded in 1910 by Jozef Nawolski and Wladyslaw Zawisza. The Chicago-based Polish National Alliance established the Prince Jozef Poniatowski Society in 1913, with Feliks Kwiecien, Wladyslaw Jakubczyk and Antoni Rozanski serving as its first officers. The Polish Falcons Sokoly were also organized into male and female units, with a marching band. Another colorful organization that was founded was the Ulani society, which, along with the Falcons in uniforms, provided escorts for funerals, weddings and other religious, national, and social events. Some time later, the parish began a Holy Name Society and a Rosary Society and the ladies in town formed a branch of the Polish

## Women's Alliance.

As the war clouds gathered over Europe, the Polish community in the ranks of the Falcons prepared for armed combat. Seven local boys joined to fight with the Polish Army in France under Gen. Jozef Haller, and an additional 25 joined the United States military after war was declared. Three never returned home alive.

To meet the needs of the growing community, a business district developed along Water Street, where both the knitting mills and the Polish church were located. The Rychliks opened a department store; Mr. Hikiert a tailoring shop; and Mr. Pachut a bakery. Mr. Palys was the barber, Mrs. Nabozny and Kugiel ran grocery stores, and Mr. Goluch supplied sausages and meats. As the community prospered, several families went into farming, the dairy business, and the raising of livestock.

Following the example of other Polish communities in western New York, Perry organized a Dom Polski Association in 1921, so that it, too, could have a central meeting place for social and patriotic functions. A temporary building was purchased near the church on Water Street and the permanent brick building opened in 1929. Associated with the Dom Polski were the PNA, the PUA, The Czytelnia (Polish Library), a Polish Saturday school, and the Echo drama circle. The facility was available for weddings, patriotic celebrations and socials. The building at 34 Water Street, almost across the street from the parish church, is still operating but on a much smaller scale than it did in its heyday.

St. Stanislaus parish never became a large parish and was unable to support a parochial school. The children attended local public schools and most of them participated in the Saturday Polska Szkolka that operated at the Dom Polski. The Felician Sisters also had a presence in the community when, in 1939, they came to assist the working women of the town by running a day care service for their children. For about 30 years the Order tended to the needs of the working mothers and provided religious education classes to the children of the parish. A decline in the Polish community was first seen following the Second World War and contin-



ued to increase. Young people moved away in search of employment or to pursue educational opportunities. As the older members of the community began to die, and younger people moved away, life in this Polonia settlement changed. Presently, the parish has been joined with another Catholic church in town, St. Joseph, and shares a pastor, who resides at St. Joseph's, and who, b coincidence, is a Polish American. The parish rectory is now occupied by a branch office of Catholic Charities. The busy business district along Water Street no longer exists and the organizations that once filled the Dom Polski are fewer and so are the functions at the building. Most of the names seen on the roster of members of the Dom Polski are non-Polish. Plans are in progress to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the Association.

## Greetings from the Other Side of the Country

*By Mary Ann (Zielinski) Roberts*

I am a new member of PGSNYS and looking forward to my membership, reading and learning from the information you all have and, possibly, finding some clues that will help in my family research.

Since a lot of miles separate us and many of you may not be familiar with Portland, Oregon, I thought you might like to know a little about this corner of the world. Portland was named after Portland, Maine. It was decided by a toss of a coin when it couldn't be decided whether to name the city, Boston (after the city in Massachusetts) or Portland (after the city in Maine). And, you can see which won the toss.

Portland has grown over the last several years, but Portland's Polish community remains small. There is one Polish Catholic Church in the state, and it is located in Portland proper. St. Stanislaus is over 90 years old. In 1907, the cornerstone was laid and dedicated to St. Stanislaus, bishop and martyr. This is one of the few Polish parishes in the entire northwest. (Croatian services are also held at the church.)

There haven't been, and still aren't, many Poles in Portland, but in December of 1996, a prominent one passed away. M. J. "Pepi" Poniatowski-d'Ermengard, the last male descendent in line from Stanislaus, King of Poland and the great-grandson of Napoleon's field marshal, Prince Joseph Poniatowski.

According to his obituary in the Portland Oregonian Newspaper, Col. Poniatowski-d'Ermengard was born in 1900 in Slonin, Poland. He was known to be a brilliant horseman and linguist and competed twice with the Polish equestrian team in the Olympic Games. When he emigrated to the United States (becoming an American citizen in 1957), before moving to Portland, he served as chief scientific translator for McGraw-Hill, specializing in manuscripts on rocketry and thermodynamics. In Portland, and a few years later, the Russian Department at Portland State University.

It was noted that he possessed a phenomenal memory and regard for the music and literature of central Europe and Russia. He was awarded the Polish Independence Medal, War Medal (1918-1920), Bronze and Silver Long Service medals, plus two British and two French decorations for World Wars I and II. The obituary stated that, in the mid-thirties, Menachem Begin, the future prime minister of Israel, served as a private in his company.

So you can see, Portland, with its small Polish population has some ties to Polish heritage. On a personal note, my mother came through Ellis Island as a young child and my paternal grandparents probably did, too (although I haven't confirmed that as yet), so I feel I do share a bond with your part of our country. That adds another reason I am looking forward to my membership in your fine organization.

*(Continued from page 6)*

### Library Acquisitions

showing the relationship of all its members. Research notes on the origin of the Peplinski surname (these may be useful to people with other Polish surnames) and treasured pictures of some of the first Canadian Peplinski families are also included. We extend our thanks to Keith Kaszubik for making this donation to our library.

## Polish Genealogy on the World Wide Web

*By David Newman*

The World Wide Web (or Web for short), a collection of electronic documents, or a web site that contains information, is probably one of the most used sources of information on the Internet. In order to view these web pages you need an Internet connection and a Web Browser program installed on your computer. The two leading web browser programs are Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer.

Starting with this article, I'll be reviewing a web site that contains information pertaining to Polish Genealogy. One of the Polish Genealogical web sites that I frequent is PolandGenWeb located at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/poland-gen.html>. This web site contains a lot of information that can aid those who are conducting Polish genealogical research. Following is a listing of what's available on this site.

- What's New on the PolandGenWeb Site - Find out what's been added to our site in the past month!
- PolandGenWeb Help Pages - This is a directory of pages to help you with your research. Some of the topics listed are:
  - An alphabetical list of all major cities, counties, and some towns in each of the current provinces of Poland; new towns are added periodically
  - The location of towns—your ancestor may have come from one of these
  - How to begin your research - General resources for information in America and other countries
  - Polish Genealogical Societies - Worldwide
  - What records are available in Poland and what information you need to find them
  - Lesser known American resources
  - Pages explaining the location and history of various regions (past and present) in Poland including links to maps of these regions
- General maps of Poland and bookstores
- Transcribed Records—Birth, marriage, and death records for several towns have been donated to PolandGenWeb. Check and see if one of these towns is where your ancestors came from!
- Translation of former German town names to the present Polish names. Many towns in present-day western Poland had German names while under Prussian rule. This is an excellent list of former German town names and their present Polish names. There are two lists: one lists the German names first and the other lists the Polish names first.
- Where did the former province of xxxx go?—Here you can find out in which new province each of the former 49 provinces is located. There is also a link to a great page detailing the province boundary changes in Poland since it became a country once again in 1918.
- RootsWeb Mailing Lists for Poland—RootsWeb's definition of a mailing list: "Mailing lists are remarkably simple beasts. You send a piece of e-mail to the list's address, and the list retransmits that message to everyone who is subscribed." Lots of help from other researchers can be found on these mailing lists! Directions for subscribing can be found near the top of the page.
- Post to the Poland Unknown Locations Queries Board—This GenConnect Queries Board is only for surnames of ancestors whose towns and provinces of origin (or whereabouts) are unknown. Any queries which name a town or province will be deleted **without notice**. Those posts belong on the appropriate province board. Please, read the guidelines before posting a query to this board to ensure your post will not be deleted. Only genealogy-related queries are accepted. **Please, no queries about where your ancestor's town is located or about living persons!**
- Post a Query to Find a Lost Family Member or Descendant - Submit the last name of the per-



son/family you are seeking and any additional information you wish to include. Many submit-  
ters use this system to seek contact with living  
descendants of their ancestors. **This is not part  
of PolandGenWeb or GenConnect.**

- Poland Genealogy Forum—Post a query for any location or subject pertaining to Poland. A search option is available for this forum board. **Note:** All information posted here becomes the property of the GenForum web site. **Never post any information on living individuals!**
- GenConnect at Rootsweb—Search for any surname posted to any GenConnect query board worldwide. Simply type in the surname and all matches will be listed. All query boards for Poland use this system.
- Surname Helper—This system will search all of the GenConnect boards in addition to other sites that have registered with this search engine. You may search using options for exact spelling, the soundex option, or other choices.
- FHC Microfilm Records Project—PolandGenWeb has an on-going project of listing the roll numbers of LDS microfilmed records for Poland.
- Links Found on the PolandGenWeb Site - This is a "no-frills" listing of the approximately 270 links found on our site. Descriptions of the pages are not given.

PolandGenWeb is a joint effort between Marie Dallas and her college friend, Donna Pointkouski. They have been co-coordinators for about ten months, when the former coordinator left the project and took all the web pages with her. They had to completely rebuild the site from scratch. **They do not do research for individuals.**

In the next issue, we'll review Polish Genealogical Society Web Sites. If you have any comments about this article, or questions about the Internet and Polish genealogy, please send them to **member-**

*(Continued from page 4)*

### **Onion Harvest Festival**

the ceremony and pageantry of the traditional Polish harvest celebration from Lublin, experience the romance of Central Poland's Kujawiak. They will travel through the ages with historical dances such as the Polonez, Mazur, and marvel at the athletic feats of the mountain Gorale.

## **Area Libraries**

**Below is a list of area libraries, where microfilm of the Dziennik and other microfilms, can be viewed as well as the hours of some of them.**

### **Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society**

**25 Nottingham Ct**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**

**Wed to Fri. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Sat. 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.**

### **Buffalo & Erie County Public Library**

**Lafayette Square**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**

**Special Collections Department**

**Mon. to Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Thurs. Open until 8:00 p.m.**

**Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Sun (May-Aug) 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

### **Butler Library**

**State University of New York College at Buffalo**

**Elmwood Ave.**

**Buffalo, New York**

**Call 878-6302 for hours**

### **Lockwood Library**

**State University of New York at Buffalo**

**Amherst Campus**

### **Canisius College Library**

**2000 Main St.**

**Buffalo, N.Y.**

**Check for hours**

It doesn't matter who wears the pants in the family as long as there's money in the pockets.

Sam Morris

# POLAND



## Former Provinces

Below is a list of the former provinces and an explanation of which new province absorbed them.

**Biała Podlaska** - Lublin (Lubelskie); a small area in the northwestern part in Małopolskie

**Białystok** - Podlaskie

**Bielsko Biala** - Śląskie; portion of east in Małopolskie

**Bydgoszcz** - Majority in Kujawsko-Pomorskie; northern-most section: Pomorskie; tiny southwestern part in Wielkopolskie

**Chełm** - Lublin (Lubelskie)

**Ciechanów** - Mazowieckie; a small portion of

the northwest in Warmia Mazury (Warmińsko-Mazurskie)

**Częstochowa** - Most in Śląskie; small portion of northwest in Opole (Opolskie); tiny part of north in Łódź (Łódzkie); tiny part of east in Świętokrzyskie

**Elbląg** - Majority in Pomorskie; northeastern section and southwestern corner in Warmia Mazury (Warmińsko-Mazurskie)

**Gdansk** - Pomorskie

**Gorzów** - Lubuskie; the north in Zachodnio-Pomorskie; southeastern area in Wielkopolskie

**Jelenia Góra** - Dolnośląskie

**Kalisz** - Wielkopolskie; a very small part of the



# POLAND



## New Provinces

southeast in Lodz (Lodzkie); very small part of southwest in Dolnoslaskie

**Katowice** - Slaskie; an eastern part in Malopolskie

**Kielce** - Mainly in Swietokrzyskie; a part of the south and west in Malopolskie

**Konin** - Most in Wielkopolskie; a very small section of the east in Lodz (Lodzkie)

**Koszalin** - Zachodniopomorskie

**Krakow** - Malopolskie

**Krosno** - Podkarpackie; a very small part in Malopolskie

**Legnica** - Dolnoslaskie

**Leszno** - More than a third in Wielkopolskie; a

small western part in Lubuskie; a larger southwestern part in Dolnoslaskie

**Lublin** - Lublin (Lubelskie)

**Lomza** - Majority in Podlaskie; the western and southern borders in Mazowieckie

**Lodz** - Lodz (Lodzkie)

**Nowy Sacz** - Malopolskie

**Olsztyn** - Warmia-Mazury (Warminsko-Mazurskie)

**Opole** - Opole (Opolskie)

**Ostroleka** - Majority in Mazowieckie; small northern section in Warmia Mazury (Warminsko-Mazurskie)

(Continued on page 20)

*(Continued from page 19)*

**Pila** - Almost entirely in Wielkopolskie; a small area of the northwest corner in Zachodnio-Pomorskie

**Piotrkow Trybunalski** - Lodz (Lodzkie)

**Plock** - Northern portion in Mazowieckie; southern part in the newly expanded Lodz (Lodzkie) province

**Poznan** - Wielkopolskie

**Przemysl** - Podkarpackie

**Radom** - Mazowieckie

**Rzeszow** - Podkarpackie

**Siedlce** - Mazowieckie; southeastern part in Lublin (Lubelskie)

**Sieradz** - Lodz (Lodzkie)

**Skierniewice** - Mostly in Lodz (Lodzkie); a northeastern section in Mazowieckie

**Slupsk** - Pomorskie

**Suwalki** - The smaller eastern part in Podlaskie; western half (roughly two-thirds of the

former province) in Warmia Mazury (Warminsko-Mazurskie)

**Szczecin** - Zachodniopomorskie

**Tarnobrzeg** - The northwestern portion in Swietokrzyskie; a small part of the north and east Lublin (Lubelskie); the central and south area in Podkarpackie

**Tarnow** - Malopolskie; a smaller eastern part in Podkarpackie

**Torun** - Mostly in Kujawsko-Pomorskie; a small section in the northeast in Warmia Mazury (Warminsko-Mazurskie)

**Walbrzych** - Dolnoslaskie

**Warsaw** - Mazowieckie

**Wloclawek** - Kujawsko-Pomorskie

**Wroclaw** - Dolnoslaskie

**Zamosc** - Lublin (Lubelskie)

**Zielona Gora** - Majority in Lubuskie; a small northeastern part in Wielkopolskie

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