



POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

# SEARCHERS



NUMBER 33

PRESERVING OUR PAST SINCE 1988

WINTER 2002



**Bolesław I “The Brave”**

Crowned 1st king of Poland in 1025 at the Cathedral in Gniezno

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## Meetings:

The PGSNYS meets the second Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria College cafeteria, 240 Pine Ridge Road, Cheektowaga, New York, at 7:00 p.m.

**All meeting cancellations due to bad weather will be announced on News Radio 930, AM WBEN.**

## Membership Dues... A reminder from the Treasurer:

Dues are \$15.00 for the year. This entitles you to 3 editions of the Searchers. New members receive an information package to help get them started. Annual membership dues are to be received by your expiration date which will be listed in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label. Please refer to this date when paying dues the following year. **Please notify us of any change of address.**

## Article Submissions:

Submission deadlines for articles to the Searchers Newsletter are as follows:

**Contact:** James P. Harlos, Editor articles@pgsnys.org

**Spring Edition** - April 15th for June mailing

**Summer Edition** - June 15th for August mailing

**Winter Edition** - October 15th for December mailing

## Mail

Please note when writing us for assistance, that due to the large amount of mail received: 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  
12645 Rt. 78  
East Aurora, New York 14052**

If you wish to contact one of our committees, please write the committee name on the front of the envelope. The committees are General Correspondence, Searcher Editor, and Membership Chairman.

Please visit The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State's Web Site:

**www.pgsnys.org**

## PGSNYS Officers:

<i>President</i>	<b>David E. Newman</b> president@pgsnys.org
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>Edward W. Kornowski</b> ekornowski@aol.com
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**Some notes on Bolesław the Brave**

by Jim Harlos

**B**olesław I Chrobry, in English Boleslaus I the Brave, was the son of Mieszko I who adopted Christianity in 966 thereby putting what were to be the Polish lands under the influence and protection of the Holy Roman Empire and the Pope rather than under the influence of the Byzantine Empire. This had important consequences of Poland. Mieszko I however was not a king but just a Prince of the Polish lands.

His son, Bolesław the Brave ruled from 992 to 1025. These were the beginnings of the Pietist dynasty. Bolesław I took as his goal the unification of the Polish territories and the consulation of the state. He wished to influence neighboring Slavonic lands and chose to do this by attacking the Polabian (Western ) Slavs and intervened in Bohemia and Rus. In 1000 he met with Otto III in Grierzno and was accorded sovereignty within the Holy Roman Empire. The death of Otto III however lead to a cooling down of the friendship towards Poland and lead to the Polish-German wars. At this Grierzno meeting changes were made in the church organization. Three new bishoprics of Kraków, Wrocław and Kołobrzeg and the archbishopric of Gniezno were established.

One of the events of his reign was the sending of a mission to spread the Christian faith among the Old Prussians, a Baltic people living between the lower Vistula and the lower Niemen. The mission was sent in 997 lead by Adalbert, the bishop of Prague. Adalbert was martyred on this mission and was canonized two years later. St. Adalbert came to be regarded as the patron saint of the Griezno cathedral.

Bolesław's last significant act was his coronation in Griezno in 1025, elevating him and his descendents among the nobles and princes.



Image of Boleslaus the Brave on the obverse of a denarius.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Dear Members of the PGSNYS**

**T**he year 2002 was a wonderful year for PGSNYS. I'm pleased to announce our society has grown to 140 members strong (93 in New York State, 47 elsewhere). We have our website and member recruiters to thank for this achievement.

Since the founding of the PGSNYS in October 1988 by the late Michael Drabik, information about our ancestors continues to become easier to find thanks to our Polish research network and indexing projects.

In 2003, our society celebrates it's 15th year anniversary. As part of our celebration, I would like bring back the PGSNYS October Genealogical Workshop the society held at one time. I will be speaking with the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the year about organizing this event. If anyone has any suggestions for the workshop please let me know.

Thanks to everyone for their time, talents and contributions in 2002.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia i  
Szczesliwego Nowego Roku

**David Newman****January Meeting**

The January 9th meeting had a short formal meeting involving the re-election of our current officers with the addition of Patrica Neuland as a Board Member. This was followed by an informal discussion with suggestions as to determining birthplaces in Poland led by Ed Kornowski. There was also a discussion about new material for the *Searchers* which I hope will be reflected in the next issue.

# Grandpa

By Granddaughter Barbara Golibersuch, Buffalo, New York

**L**awrence Piontkowski was born in Poland in 1880 and immigrated to New York with his parents John and Veronica in 1886 on the Rhaetia. He served in the Spanish American War.

When I started to research Lawrence in the late 1980's there was no record of him. I called my uncle and to my surprise he said that Lawrence enlisted with the last name of Fremont (in subsequent years some of his descendents also changed their name to Fremont). I submitted a new form to the National Archives with the name of Fremont and sure enough the records were there. Story has it that my grandfather admired General Fremont and took his last name.

Lawrence married Angeline Post and after several moves settled in Perry, NY. In November of 1914, when my grandmother was expecting my mother, Lawrence passed away at home from pneumonia. He was laid to rest (in an unmarked grave) at St. Stanislaus Cemetery on Water Street in Perry.

Over the years I would visit the site. On one of the trips I stopped at the library in Perry and spotted a book that listed the names of people who are buried in Perry and participated in the Spanish American War. The name of Lawrence Fremont was not there. I contacted the author of the list and told her the story of his name change. I sent her copies of his military records, and death certificate. The signature of John Piontkowski appeared as father on the military records, verifying the names. The ever so helpful researcher quickly sent me an up-



Angeline & Lawrence Piontkowski

date on the Spanish American War list, a copy of the cemetery records and a note telling me that Lawrence was entitled to a military marker.

I contacted the Veterans Administration and the necessary forms were eagerly submitted. It took approximately 3 months for the monument to arrive in Perry. Six of his grandchildren paid a small fee for the marker foundation and he now has a respectful white marble marker at his resting-place.

There was one last thing to do, so I contacted the US Post Office, and once again after presenting the proper paperwork, I was presented with the American Flag in my grandfather's memory.

I never met my grandfather but somehow I feel that he would be satisfied and happy that he is so fondly sought and memorialized. ✕





# Potpourri



## Announcement

The St. Adalbert Golden Jubilee Book has been scanned and the images saved as a PDF file. The complete book occupies 2 CDs. These can be purchased by contacting Jim Harlos at (716) 691-7863 or by e-mail at harlos@adelphia.net. The cost will be \$20. After paying for reproduction cost the proceeds will go the PGSNYS. There are pictures of members of societies in the church, advertisements, and name lists. The volume, is in the main, in Polish. For further information contact Jim.

## A Polish Genealogist's Bookshelf

**Polish Roots**—Rosemary A. Chorzempa, ISBN 0-8063-1378-1 (The basic book)

**In Their Words : A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian**

**Documents: Volume I : Polish**—Johnathan D. Shea & William F. Hoffman, ISBN 0-9631579-3-0 (Expensive, but a book chock-full of information.)

**Volume II : Russian** by the above authors—I haven't got it yet, but I've ordered it.

**First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins & Meanings**—William F. Hoffman and George Wieslaw Helon ISBN 0-924207-06-x

**Polish Surnames: Origins & Meanings**—William F. Hoffman ISBN 0-924207-04-3 (These two books may have limited usefulness to some but are rewarding.)

**The Study of Obituaries as a Source for Polish Genealogical Research**—Thomas E. Golembiewski (The book for this type of research.)

*Każdy ma swój gust.*

Everyone to his own taste.

A good Polish Atlas is very useful. I use the *Pol-ska Atlas samochodowy* (Polish Automobile Atlas) which has a scale of 1:250,000 and has 325 pages. I got mine in Poland.

## Sources

**Books:** <http://amazon.com>

<http://pgsa.org>

Buffalo Public Library

**Maps:** <http://www.polart.com>

<http://www.genealogyunlimited.com>

## Notice

It has been suggested that we have a genealogical questions section. This is a good idea and we request that questions be sent to the editor at harlos@adelphia.net. Answers will be solicited from the Society membership for answering if needed. No question is too small, however, specific questions requiring research in your family line can only be answered by suggested lines of research.

# Witamy

Welcome to our newest members:

Jo Ann Krawczak	Schenectady, NY
Theresa M. Mason	Albany, NY
Patricia A. Nelson	Albany, NY
Esther M. Boruszewski	Columbus, OH
Joseph A. Malachowski	Lombard, IL
Henia Minium	Soldotna, AK
Sherry Sojka	Cheektowaga, NY

# In Search of Polonia in ... Dunkirk, N.Y.

by Keith A. Kaszubik

**D**avid Newman (president of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State) and I seemed to be emulating Daniel Kij and the late Michael Drabik of our society on our sporadic road trips in search of Polonia. Our latest adventure was in search of Polonia in Dunkirk located about 40 miles southwest of Buffalo along Lake Erie. Before our trip I only knew that Dunkirk harbor was good for fishing and that my granduncle, Joseph Kaszubowski, had married his first wife there at St. Hyacinth's Church in 1917.

On Sunday, September 21, 2002 out ventured the Polonia Watchdog and the Kashubian Renegade (our humorous traveling names) to investigate the matter further. A little background information about Dunkirk may help.

Dunkirk, located in Chautauqua county was first settled in circa 1805. It was named after Dunkerque in France because of the similarity of its harbor. Connected by rail in 1851, Dunkirk was chartered as a city in 1880. Today it is a city of about 10,000 people. The Poles who settled here found work in the railroad industry, fishing and farming. The area is also known for its production of grapes.

David and I first ventured down Lakeshore Road (Route 5) in Dunkirk (First Ward) where we stopped at St. Hyacinth's Church which was established as a parish in 1875 with the Rev. Karol Lanz as its first pastor. It is the second oldest Polish parish in our diocese of Buffalo (the oldest being St. Stanislaus in Buffalo established in 1873). The original church no longer stands but the new one isn't without its charms (built in 1960). Just beyond the church is a street named Warsaw.

Across the street is the parish school

(named after Rev. Casimir Zak) and just down the road is the Moniuszko Social Club (named after the famous composer) where two men were entering to enjoy some piwo. In the same area is the name of Mackowiak on a former furniture store now a vacant shop. It turns out that Mack-

owiak is also a local undertaker. One can see how at one time he would have supplied his other business with the wooden coffins.



Moniuszko Social Club

From here we moved on to St. Hyacinth's Cemetery located very close to Lake Erie itself. The oldest headstone we noted was from 1902. I also noticed a Kosciuszko stone. The older interments took place in St. Mary's Cemetery on Route 60. Before we left Dunkirk, David and I had walked through that cemetery but didn't find any stones for Poles older than the year 1898.

At St. Hyacinth's Cemetery we also ran into a woman trimming around some headstones for her Sitko family and we started a conversation. It turns out that her family was from Oswiecim (Auschwitz) in Poland and she had visited there in the 1980s. I told her that Oswiecim has a long history besides the WWII



St. Hyacinth RC Church

site of an extermination camp. She indicated that not many of the older people in Dunkirk spoke Polish anymore. I asked, and She said that it may have been possible, that Dunkirk had been a stop for Poles who intended to move further west to perhaps Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Before leaving the First Ward to head over to St. Hedwig's Church, we stopped at the Polish Falcons and David took a picture of the banner draped across the building indicating a celebration this year of its first centennial.

Traveling down Roberts Road away from the lake and located on a hill is St. Hedwig's Church (Fourth



Polish Falcons—First Ward

Ward). This church isn't the original building either. The present church was built in the 1970s. The parish was established in 1902 to serve the Poles living some distance away from St. Hyacinth's Church and this also eliminated the danger involved with a railroad crossing which the children had to pass over to get to school. Rev.. Piotr Szulc was its first pastor. Let's hope that the parish will last for another hundred years (sto lat!).



St. Hedwig's Cemetery

Just down the street from St. Hedwig's is located the Kosciuszko Club which today is pretty much just a local watering hole. Further down the street is located the Mackowiak Funeral Home. Not far from St. Hedwig's coming back through Dunkirk on the way home we passed a monument to Tadeusz Kosciuszko and the local Dom Polski (organized in 1911). Exiting Dunkirk we stopped briefly at St. Hedwig's Cemetery on

Route 60 where the oldest stones were from the year 1913.

Overall the trip was interesting and it was fun to explore a Polish community so close to home as Dunkirk. Where will our next road trip take us? Is there a hidden Polonia in your neck of the woods?



## Środa—A map comparison

by Jim Harlos

In the summer of 2002 my wife and I participated in an English teaching program sponsored by POMOST, International. This was held in Rzeszów and lasted two weeks. After this we spent a week driving ourselves around a region of Poland defined by the cities of Kraków, Poznań and Warszawa.

One of the towns of interest to me was the town of Środa, now called Środa Wielkopolska. This was the town where my great-grandfather Andrzej was baptised in and, in 1883, left to come to America. It therefore was of some interest to me. I had bought a large scale map (1:23000) of the district which was produced around 1880 and revised until around 1900. I spent much time studying this map with a magnifying glass. The part of interest is in figure 1.



Figure 1—Środa circa 1880

I knew this area in my mind. When we arrived in Poznań, I tried to buy a current map of Środa

*(Continued on page 12)*

# From Polonia to Poland Full Circle

by David E. Newman

*This is Part Three of a three-part article about my first trip of Poland which was September 9th to September 23rd, 2001. Look for Part One "From Polonia to Poland: Genealogy Take 1 in the Searchers Spring 2002 Edition Number 31 and Part Two "From Polonia to Poland Genealogy Take 2 in the Searchers 2002 Fall Edition Number 32.*

Our trip started on September 9th and was designed such that the first 4 days were spent as we saw fit. Six members ventured to Lwow Ukraine, 19 traveled to see The Pope in Italy, while the remaining 10 stayed in Poland as did I. On September 14th, the entire group rejoined in Warszawa to complete the rest of the tour in Poland. The organizer of our trip was Dan Kij, our tour guide was Jan Muranty and bus driver was known as Edward.

## **September 16th, 2001: Gdańsk, Sopot**

As we drove off in our tour bus, I took a picture of Darek and Agnieszka Pieróg waving good-bye through the window of the bus. Darek and Agnieszka were Keith Kaszubik and my translators for the past few days. We were on our way to Sopot and Gdańsk for a local sightseeing tour. The weather all day was off and on rain. When we arrived in Sopot we were given a tour of the pier by a local tour guide. After the tour ended there was a place to buy souvenirs. While purchasing some postcards I was surprised to see Darek and Agnieszka there. They didn't know we were coming to Sopot and hadn't been to Sopot for some time so decided to walk the pier.

We then drove to the old city of Gdańsk. Even though it started to rain when we arrived, many members of the tour ventured out. We did wait in the tunnel to the entrance of the city for about 15-20 minutes for the rain to let up. During our tour

of Gdańsk we saw the famous Neptune Fountain

When we arrived back at the Posjden Hotel I was too tired to attend the short organ music concert at the Cathedral of Gdańsk located in Oliwa that was scheduled. I stayed in my room and rested till dinner.

## **September 17th, 2001:**

### **Górzno - Polish Farm**

Our infamous trip planner Daniel Kij planned an interesting visit to Polish farm in Górzno about 36 miles from Toruń. Górzno is a little village located on the edge of the Górzno Forest Preserve. Most of the forests in Poland are void of dead trees and brush. The Górzno Forrest Preserve has kept some forest as is. We went for a walking tour in this forest with a local park ranger. This forest closely resembled the environment of Western New York.

In the evening we ate a traditional Polish meal of Cabbage, vegetables and gołąki and sung songs both in Polish and English at a bon fire. One of the Polish songs which I didn't know at the time but since have learned was "Pije Kuba"

## **September 18th, 2001: Toruń**

In the morning we ate breakfast at the Polish Farm and left for Toruń. After settling in our hotel we bussed a couple of miles to the old city or Toruń. There we were given a tour by a local guide who had a German accent. I could hardly understand her. She took us to the birthplace of famous astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus, the Ratusz town hall and Church of the Virgin Mary built in 1351, In addition to the Baroque altar, the church has an amazing 88 foot high ceiling. Since Toruń was noted for it's ginger bread we all took shelter from a



isolated rain shower in a local bakery.

The group was then given time to tour other part of Toruń on their own or return to the hotel. Keith Kaszubik and I checked out all the bookstores we could find. We then ate at a national food chain called the Spinx. Afterward we walked along the Wisła River back to the hotel which was about a mile walk.

During dinner at the hotel we learned our bus driver Edward was sick and was in the hospital. We were getting another driver for the remainder of the trip.

### **September 19th, 2001: Biskupin, Gniezno, Poznań**

After breakfast at 9 am, we traveled to Biskupin. We did have a new bus driver but our original bus driver Edward was well enough to complete the trip with us. We arrived in Biskupin around 10 am.

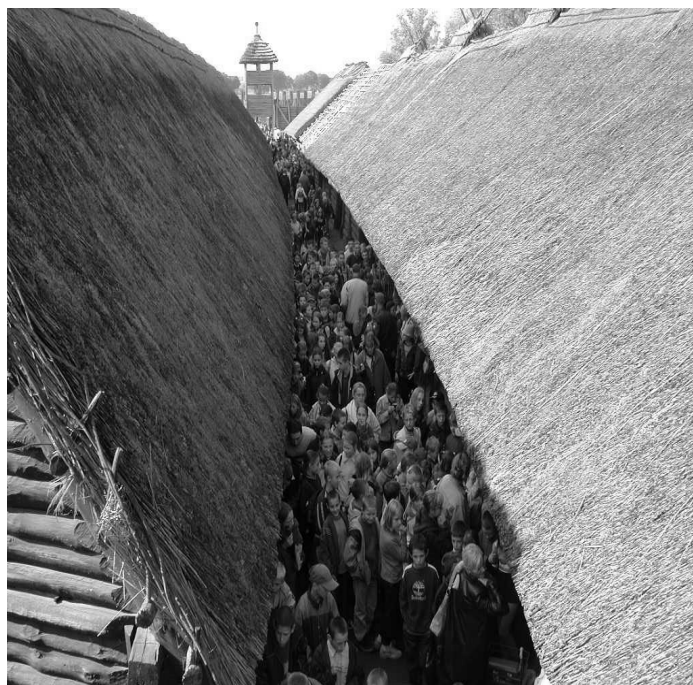
#### **ABOUT BISKUPIN**

In 1933 a local teacher, Walenty Szweczer, discovered an unusual old settlement at Biskupin. Built on an island, though it is now a peninsula, it turned out to be a fortified settlement of the Lusatian culture from the 8th century BC. The island was encircle by a palisade of 24,000 wood stakes driven into the bed of the lake at an angle. The settlement had about 1,200 inhabitants. Archaeological excavations that begun in 1934 are still continued. A large enclosure for cattle typical of livestock breeding tribes was discovered. It dates from 1800 - 1600 BC, the beginning of the Bronze Age. Part of the Biskupin settlement was reconstructed and is now an archaeological museum open to visitors.

To our astonishment, we learned that our visit to this outdoors archaeological museum was shared with what seemed to be virtually all the children of Poland. School children journey here on their first fieldtrip of the year. And today was that 1st fieldtrip. When I say "virtually all" I mean that every square inch of this 100+ acre museum was occupied with kids. There was no breathing room. Except for a handful of teachers we were the only adults.

At 2 pm, we stopped next in Gniezno. There we toured the Cathedral of the Assumption that towers over the town. I will always remember the very prominent large statues of the first rulers Mieszko I and Bolesław the Brave standing in the front of the Cathedral. I was able to take excellent photos of the Cathedral's exterior due to the clear blue sky. During my photo opportunity, the group vanished to the rear of the Cathedral to begin the tour of the inside. Dan Kij and I straggled behind observing the artwork attached to the outside of the structure. We found our group just as the tour was beginning. Just as with all other churches in Poland that we visited, there were both Polish and United States flags displayed for the remembrance of 9-11-2001. During the tour we learned that the present church structure is Gothic from the 14th century. After the fires in 1613 and 1760 it was rebuilt chiefly in the Baroque style. It was badly destroyed by fire in 1945 and was reconstructed to its Gothic form by 1961.

After our tour we waited outside as members of the group were purchasing souvenirs. As we waited, the infamous gypsy children, with their mother in sight, started begging for money. Our tour guide Jan Maranty demanded they leave us alone and they finally did. We were also embraced by some school children that were curious to know where



Biskupin—"Didn't I say "All children in Poland" 9.19/2001

*(Continued on page 10)*

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we were from. A member of our group Joe Mazurkiewicz spoke to the children evoking some Basic English dialog.

Because our sightseeing day was a little longer than expected we didn't reach our final destination of Poznań till 6PM. We stopped at the entrance of the Old City of Poznań as dusk approached. Because we arrived late we dispensed with the tour guide and was given some time to wander. Dan Kij followed me down on of the old city side streets, to the Musical Repair Shop of my Niewczyk cousins that Keith Kaszubik and I visited a few days ago. My cousins said they would make copies of some genealogical records for me and we agreed I would pick them up when I came back through Poznań. Dan and I learned that repair shop closed at 5:30 pm. When we returned to the Market Square it was agreed on that we'd meet back in 30 minutes and leave for the Hotel. Bob and Christina Gorny and I walked around the Market Square which took about 15 minutes. Bob has been taking video of our trip and he wasn't going to stop in Poznań. To end

our Poznań tour, we found a nice little restaurant and drank a couple of brewskis while waiting for the rest of the group.

### September 20, 20001: Kornik Castle

We left Poznań at 9 am in route to Kornik where we were to tour a Neo-Gothic Castle. I have made this my favorite castle. We were required to wear special boots over our shoes as to not damage anything our feet came in contact with. It was interesting to note that, I had to pay \$10 USD to be allowed to take pictures within the castle (Don't mention this US entrepreneur about this). Every room had interesting artifacts from its history of owners. I can still envision the beautiful artwork and shinny wooden furniture. The castle had a chapel and also an area where armor was stored. The armor reminded me of the days of Sir Lancelot and Nights of the Round Table. In another room was a large Harp which lead me to ask myself if my Niewczyk cousins who had several of these in their repair shop worked on restoring this one. At the end of the castle tour, we

*(Continued on page 11)*



Group picture in front of Wilanow Palace, Warszawa. 9.27/2001

(Continued from page 10)

visited the souvenir shop. I bought some informational pamphlets of several noble surnames.

After everyone boarded the bus we were entertained with a genealogical story from a member of our group, Grace Smokowski. Grace told us that our fearless leader Dan Kij and she didn't go on the tour of the castle. Instead they went to the castle's library and obtained information on a Polish artist Wincenty Smokowski. She said that Dan took the reins and helped her obtain an entire history book of Wincenty. Grace details her genealogical find in the Searchers Winter Edition 2001 Number 30 in an article entitled "Wincenty and Me".

That evening we arrived at our hotel in Wrocław. Before dinner, Keith Kaszubik and I took a walk to the old city of Wrocław which was not far from the hotel. In Wrocław we saw several horse and buggy rides. Keith tossed some of his loose change in the hat of a mime performer. The mime was painted all white and very silent and still. When Keith through his change into the hat, the mime reached out to Keith for a handshake.

We ate dinner at the Spiż restaurant in the old city of Wrocław. I remember this distinctly because I appropriated the shot glass containing the restaurant emblem that we used for toasting with. On our way to dinner, there was a crowd of people gathered around a United States flag with lit candles underneath. This type of display was found all over Poland.

**September 21, 20001:**

## Wrocław - "Muzeum Panorama Racławicka"



9/23/2001 : From Russia with Love  
Now the Palace of Culture and Science  
Known in Warszawa as Stalin's Wedding Cake

Our morning was captured by the scenes within the Panorama of the Battle of Racławice. This is the first panorama I've seen. This one depicts the victorious battle won by Kościuszko's Polish army against Russian forces in 1793, it is 370 ft long and 50 ft high and took nine months to complete. It is a truly spectacular painting and is incredibly life-like and, despite the fact that you view it from a special platform, it is easy to become totally lost in the view of the historic struggle between apposing forces.

For the remainder of the day we were on the bus finding our way back to Warszawa. We did stop

for lunch at a little roadside restaurant near the city of Łódź. I was amazed at the efficiency of the waitresses. It didn't seem as though we were there long. For about \$5 USD we ate like kings. We didn't arrive in Warszawa till late in the evening.

Keith Kaszubik asked if we could call Darek and Agnieszka Pieróg when we got back to Warszawa. He wanted to use their Polish language skills one more time. Instead of following the scheduled tour we would conduct a little genealogical research. I

(Continued on page 12)

*Każdemu się swoje podoba.*

Everyman likes his own thing best.

(Continued from page 11)  
accepted.

## September 22nd, 20001:

### Full Circle to Waszawa

In the morning Darek and Agnieszka picked up Keith and me in their car. We drove to the University of Warszawa library. It took several hours but Keith found a book that contained records that take his ancestral search as far back as the 13th century. Afterwards we ate at an outside restaurant. Keith and I again were thankful for the translation services and friendship Darek and Agnieszka provided. We were sad it had to end.

When we returned to the hotel our tour bus was waiting for us to climb aboard so we could each our last dinner in Poland. As always our meal was great. I remember we were served Bigos, one of my favorite Polish dishes. Our dinner had a touch of live music consisting of a guitar, violin and balaika. We also presented our tour guide and bus drivers with a collection from our group showing our greatest appreciation for their time and talents.

## September 23rd, 20001: Back to the USA

With some time to spare before heading to the airport we toured Wilanów Palace. The palace was a country residence of King John II Sobieski and was built 1677 and remodeled till the king's death in 1696. Today the palace has been renovated as a museum of art from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. I ran out of cash so I didn't take any pictures inside, as you were required to pay to take pictures. The palace walls mostly contained paintings. The entire group posed for a picture outside the palace.

At the airport, visions of 9-11-2001 were still lingering in the air. The Polish army was searching baggage. Some of our group was required to open their luggage. I forgot I had a pair of nail clippers in my pocket. This was confiscated at the metal detection station. While waiting for our plane, I shopped at the duty-free and purchased a six pack of Żywiec beer, a bottle of Żubrówka wódka and a bottle of Wyborowa wódka. In the following week I drank the six pack. I'm saving the wódka for a rainy day.

I didn't get home in the Town of Wales till about 1:30 am on Monday. Boy was I tired at work that day.

Because of this trip, I've found relatives and friends that I keep in constant contact. I'm grateful for my discoveries and will visit Poland again in the near future. All Polish genealogical researchers should take a trip to Poland. ✕

(Continued from page 7)

Wielkopolska only to be told that they didn't have one and, and in any event, Środa was so small you couldn't get lost. Well they don't know what I can accomplish when I put my mind to it, so as soon as we arrived in Środa I stopped at a newsstand and bought a map. In content the map was split 50-50 between advertisements and map. Nevertheless, it was my safety net. However, driving around I soon became aware that even if I didn't know the names of the streets, I knew where I was and where to go. When we got home I compared the 2002 map to the 1880. In figure 2 you can see the area given in figure 1.

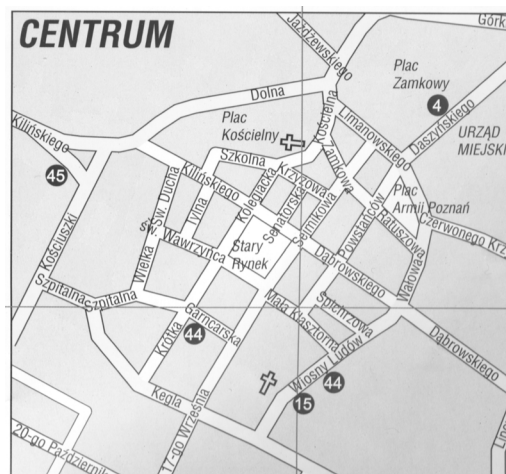


Figure 2—Środa Wielkopolska, 2002

There are very few streets that are different and/or new.

The church I was interested in, and which was the only Catholic church in Środa in the 1880's, was the church of the Assumption of

(Continued on page 16)

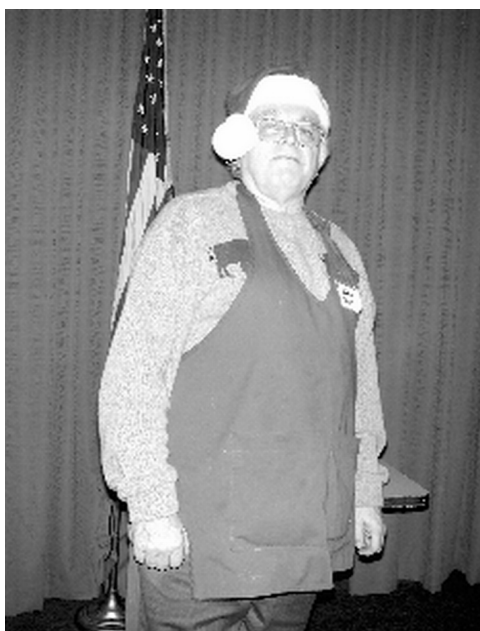
# Italian - Polish Genealogical Societies Christmas Party



The gift table



The festive table



Our Polish Santa—Dan Kij







## Polish Terms and Phases found in Obituaries and Tombstones

Brat	Brother
Corka	Daughter
Czerwiec	June
Droga Matka	Dear Mother
Droga Zona	Dear Wife
Drogi Maz	Dear Husband
Drogi Ojciec	Dear Father
Grudzień	December
I	and
Jezu nie opuszczaj nan	Jesus do not abandon us
Kochany Tata	Dearest papa
Kwiecień	April
Lipiec	July
Listopad	November
Luty	February
Maj	May
Marzec	March
Matka	Mother
Maz	Husband
Nasza Droga Mama	Our dear Mama
Nagle smiercia	Died suddenly
Nagle pozegnal	Suddenly departed
Ojciec	Father
Październik	October
R.	Year
Roku	Year
Rodzice	Parents
Rodzina	Family
Sierpień	August
S.p.	Blessed Memory
Styczeń	January
Syn	Son
Siostra	Sister
Tu Spoczejwa	Here resting
Wrzesień	September
Zawsze w naszych sercach	Always in our hearts
Zona	Wife

Based on list of Sherry Sojka and given to the Editor at the January meeting. Any additions or suggestions are requested.

## Common Polish Names and English Versions

Some names have no exact translation and are marked by \*

Agnieszka	Agnes
Alojzy	Aloysius
Anastazy	Anastasius
Andrzej	Andrew
Aniela	Angela, Angelina
Antoni	Anthony
Antonia	Antonia, Antoinette
Apolonia	* Pauline, Pearl, Pola
Artur	Arthur
Bartłomiej	Bartholomew
Bazyli	Basil
Beatrycza	Beatrice
Bolesław	* William
Bronisław	Bronislaus, * Bruno, Bernard
Bronisława	*Bernice, Blanche
Cecylia	Cecilia, Celia, Cela
Czesław	Chester
Dionizy	Dennis, David
Dorota	Dorothy
Dytryk	Dietrich
Elżbieta	Elizabeth
Filomena	Phyllis
Franciszek	Francis
Franciszka	Frances
Fryderyk	Frederick
Genowefa	Genevieve, Jennifer
Hieronim	Jerome
Jadwiga	Hedwig, Harriet, Hattie
Jakub	James
Jakubina	Jacqueline
Jan	John
Janina	Jane, Jenny
Jerzy	George

To be continued....

**PGSNYS**  
**12645 Route 78**  
**East Aurora, New York 14052**

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*(Continued from page 12)*

Our Lady, in the area labeled as Plac Kościelny, Church Square.



Sign outside of town

The last two pictures show the outside and inside of the church of Our Lady. The interior shot has some refraction problems since the church was locked and I shot through a beveled glass door window. The floor was that shiny and the interior was mostly gold and white. ✂



Assumption of Our Lady



Interior of the Assumption of Our Lady