

Our Polish ANCESTORS

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
OCTOBER/DECEMBER 1995 - VOL. 3, No. 4 906 COLLEGE AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO

Dear Friends -

By the time you read this, three-fourth's of 1995 will have passed. As is the case every year, time just seems to fly! I know this personally, that I wish I would utilize my time better to accomplish more work. One suggestion I can offer is to sit down and look at what your average week's schedule looks like. Then, pick out a 1-3 hour stretch where you really don't do much. Designate that time period for your weekly "date with time" (for genealogical work). Then write the day of the week and time slot on an index card and put it somewhere (refrigerator, calendar, etc.) that it will be a reminder to you to use that specific time for genealogical work.

The genealogical work you can do on your "date" can be varied. Some suggestions are: inquiries of government agencies for information. Call or visit older relatives to pay your respects while they are still around. After they're gone, the visit doesn't do much good. It seems like older folks can't remember yesterday, but they can remember something that happened 60-70 years ago. Their details may sometimes be off a little, such as exact years, but the basic information is usually right.

Another thing you can do on your "date" is to go through old family photos and ask those who are still around who the people are that you don't know in the photos. Oftentimes family members moved out of town and contact was lost. You'd be surprised how many unknown relatives you have still living somewhere!

Since the PGSGC's main pur-

pose is the study of family "trees", I would like to propose a new column for our quarterly publication. It'll be called "Branch News" and will list major happenings in our member's families. Examples of these "branch" happenings are births and deaths of close family members. Also, weddings and major birthdays and anniversaries, etc. You can send photographs (please place them between cardboard for their protection). Your photos will be returned to you unharmed. I feel this column will give all club members a chance to share their families with their fellow members.

I would personally like some member feedback. Oftentimes while presiding at our meetings I think that a lot of the members aren't getting enough genealogical benefit from the club. Maybe some of you are content with the camaraderie of your fellow members and the exposure to Polish culture. If that's the case, that is fine. But if it isn't the case, please let me know, plus offer some suggestions and I'll try to make the changes or improvements.

Coming up at the October meeting, the nomination committee for the election of officers will be named. Candidates for office will be made known, along with nominations from the floor, at the November meeting. Election of officers will then take place at our brief December meeting which is then followed by our annual Christmas Party. Need I remind everyone to make plans to attend the Christmas Party? Hope to see you then!

Your President,

John F. Szuch



Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the basement cafeteria of St. John Cantius Church, 906 College Avenue, Cleveland, OH.

October 3rd:

TOPIC: To be announced. This is Polish American Heritage Month - Pulaski Day parades will be held in various U.S. cities this month.

November 7th:

Fellow member Ed Chojnicki will share his travels in Poland with us via home movies/video-tapes.

December 5th:

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY (*Members ONLY, please*) Join us for festive Polish foods and holiday traditions.

Cost: \$6.00/person. (Send to Richarda Jambrozy, Treasurer, 1492 Lewis Dr., Lakewood, OH 44107)

Be sure to bring your favorite dessert to share!

"OUR POLISH ANCESTORS"
is published by
**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF GREATER CLEVELAND**



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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: December 5th

Contributors for this issue: *Laura Brandt, Sarah Evanko, Ben Kman, John Szuch, Sophie Talkowski, Betty Wyrick.*

BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE EDITOR FOR \$5.00 EACH, WHICH INCLUDES POSTAGE. (Dues are \$20/year, which includes 4 newsletter bulletins.)

✿ **IN MEMORY** ✿

Fellow member Emil Kowalczyk's wife Marvella passed away from lung cancer on June 11, 1995. Emil and his wife lived in Alaska and obviously weren't able to attend our meetings. Our entire membership wishes to extend our sympathy and sincere condolences to Emil and his family.

A warm *Welcome!* to our new members. They are:

Chet Chwalik – Fostoria, OH
Milwaukee, WI Public Library

Retirement

(From a Child's View)

by Elaine Quasha

After a Christmas break, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holidays. One small boy wrote the following:

"We always used to spend Christmas with Grandpa and Grandma. They used to live here in a big brick home, but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida. Now they live in a place with a lot of other retarded people. They all live in little tin boxes. They ride on big three-wheeled tricycles and they all wear name tags because they don't know who they are. They go to a big building called a wrecked hall, but if it was wrecked, they got it fixed because it's alright now. They play games and do exercises there, but they don't do them very good.

There is a swimming pool there. They go into it and just stand there with their hats on. I guess they don't know how to swim.

As you go into their park, there is a doll house with a little man sitting in it. He watches all day so they can't get out without him seeing them. When they sneak out they go to the beach and pick up shells.

My Grandma used to bake cookies and stuff, but I guess she forgot how. Nobody cooks, they just eat out. They eat the same thing every night, early birds. Some of the people are so retarded that they don't know how to cook at all, so my Grandpa and Grandma bring food into the wrecked hall and they call it "pot luck".

My Grandma says Grandpa worked all his life and earned his retardment. I wish they would move back up here, but I guess the little man in the doll house won't let them out."



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor: I'm enclosing a letter I have just received in response to a query I sent to Poland a few weeks ago. It is in Polish, so I haven't any clue as to what it says! With my handy-dandy Polish-English dictionary, I gather that the gist of it says "we've never heard of your family, but if you send us cash we'll look". I thought you might be interested in publishing it in your newsletter. Maybe someone else can read it (and even find the information useful.)

Sincerely, Betty Wyrick

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USA

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| Wasze pismo z dnia 11.05.1995 r. | Znak: - | Nasz znak: 845-57/95 | Data: 08.06.1995r. |
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Archiwum Państwowe w Bydgoszczy uprzejmie informuje, że nie posiada akt, na podstawie których można by ustalić osoby o nazwisku Bosiacki, zamieszkałe obecnie w Bydgoszczy i spokrewnione z Pani rodziną.

Pismo Pani przesłaliśmy do Urzędu Miejskiego w Bydgoszczy, w którym jest przechowywana aktualna ewidencja mieszkańców miasta.

W naszym zasobie posiadamy natomiast akta metrykalne z Bydgoszczy z XIX wieku. W aktach sprzed 1883 roku możliwe jest przeprowadzenie odpłatnych poszukiwań genealogicznych dotyczących Pani przodków.

Koszt przeprowadzenia poszukiwań wynosi:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|
| - opłata wstępna | - | 30 dolarów USA |
| - za każdą godzinę poszukiwań | - | 15 dolarów USA |
| - za jeden odpis | - | 10 dolarów USA |

Poszukiwania w aktach rozpoczyna się po opłaceniu opłaty wstępnej na konto Naczelnej Dyrekcji Archiwów Państwowych:

Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych
ul. Długa 6, 00-950 Warszawa

w: PBK III O/Warszawa, Nr 370015-807885

Do wiadomości:

Naczelna Dyrekcja
Archiwów Państwowych
ul. Długa 6
00-950 Warszawa

Załącz.: 1

DYREKTOR
Archiwum Państwowe

On The Trail Of My Polish Grandmother

by Laura Brandt

Several years ago when I was in Rogowo, Poland, my cousin Irene's son Jan took me to the church in Daniszewo. My father attended mass there as a boy. I had just begun to be interested in genealogy and the priest there generously gave me the names and dates of birth for my father and his brothers and sister. He also gave me the names of my grandparents, Franciszek Pokorski and Magdalene Jozwiak, in addition to the date that Franciszek died.

When we got to Irene's house, she told me that our grandmother's name was not Jozwiak, but Plebanska! At that time I did not think to have the priest write out the records for me since they were in Russian, and at any rate, he did not have any kind of copy machine.

As I worked on my genealogy and checked all the films I could obtain from Salt Lake City, I kept on the look-out for the records of my father's birth and of my grandfather's marriage.

Finally this year, in May 1995, I decided to visit my cousin Irene in Poland again and see if I could do any research there. She lives in Rogowo, in the parish of Daniszewo and the diocese is Plock. The records of the church in Daniszewo had been sent to the Seminarium Swieto Duchowny (Seminary of the Holy Souls) to be microfilmed. At the Seminary we found out that the records were now in the "Archiwum Panswe Ludowe" in Plock, where records from the last 1,000 years are kept.

We got to the Archives on Friday at about 1:00 pm and found out that the Archives were open from 9-11 am Tuesday through Friday. By this time, it was the last week of my visit so we returned the following Tuesday at 9:00 am. Once

there, we talked to a very nice woman director on duty there. She told me that the initial fee for start looking for ancestors was \$30.00 U.S. money, \$15.00 for each hour of search and if you wanted copies of what was found it was \$10.00 a copy. None of this was refundable and it was all to be paid beforehand. Before she took my money she went over with me exactly the kind of information I wanted such as names, dates and parishes. When she was satisfied that she had all the information she wanted, I paid her the initial fee for two hours of research and for three copies of the material I wanted: my father's (John Pokorski) record of birth, his father's (Franciszek Pokorski) marriage record and my maternal grandfather's (Piotr Jozwiak) record of birth. She told us to come back on Friday and if anything could be found she would have it then. When we got there on Friday, she had my father's birth record and also a copy of it translated from Russian to Polish; my maternal grandfather's birth record, and best of all, my paternal grandfather's "Franciszek Pokorski"'s marriage record. At last the question of the grandmothers was solved!

Magdalena Jozwiak was orphaned at any early age and when her brother got married, he sent her to work in the parish priest's home! The name "Plebanska, Plebanski or Plebanik" has arisen in Poland as a surname, but in this case, Magdalena's surname was Jozwiak.

Written into the marriage record was the fact that the parents of Franciszek Pokorski agreed to the marriage before the priest would marry them. I wondered about that, because he was 27 years old. My cousin told me that in those days, if his parents would not give their permission, he could lose his inheri-

tance and his father's farm which was quite a nice little bit of property! By the way, Grandpa did have a second marriage. When Grandpa was about the age of 80 years, he decided that he had been a widower long enough. He got into his wagon and went to town and got himself an 80-year old wife! I don't think there were any children from that marriage. This story was told to me by my cousin Irene who remembered some of it. The next time I go to Poland, I am going to the church in Daniszewo! That record should be there.

Before I close this article, I must say that although the people of Poland themselves do not realize it, things are getting a little better. In Plock where I stayed, the family down the street opened a corner grocery store in their front room. It was a miniature supermarket, carrying one of everything. The supermarkets might have more of an item but that little market carried everything in it that the big one did! However, unless you can start up a little business of your own, work is hard to find. It is especially hard for women in their forties. My cousin's widowed daughter-in-law would go to Germany to work as a maid, housekeeper, even go on the flea-market circuit. This was where people sold all kinds of items on blankets in different countries. Anyone who has been to Poland has seen something like it. While I was there this time, she had just come back from Italy, selling German-made binoculars, cameras and photographic equipment of all kinds in a little town. When she came back, she would register in the unemployment offices for work, hoping to get something. If not, when she would go out of the country to make money to pay her expenses in Poland so that she could keep her property. She also pays into her old



On the Trail of my Polish Grandmother

(Continued from page 4)

age pension plan and for her hospitalization insurance.

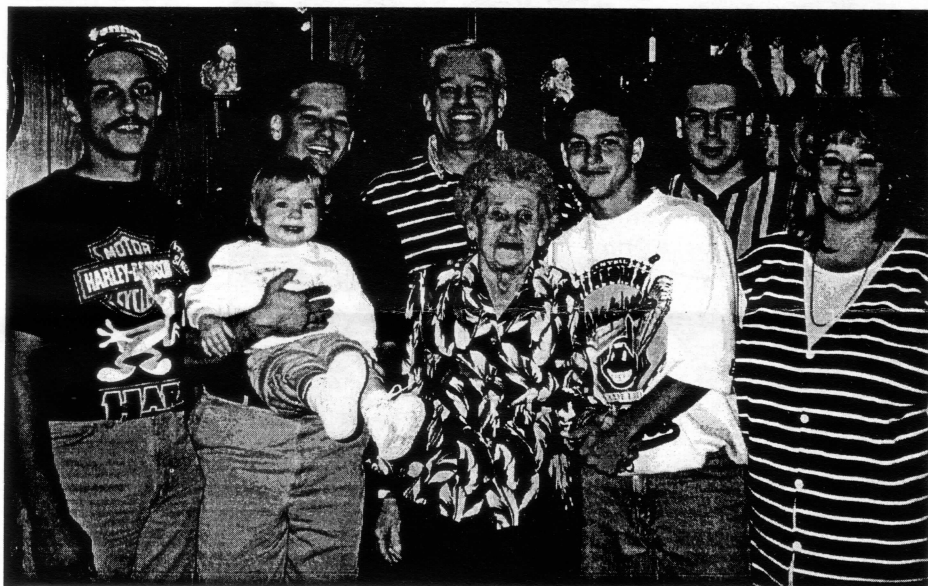
One more thing – every once in a while, the PNA (Polish National Alliance) organization will have a drive for donations of money to send medical supplies to the hospitals in Poland. If you can possibly

contribute, do so – even if it is only a dollar. The hospitals need it desperately. We had a young relative that was hospitalized. To make ends meet, the hospital rationed out food and used needles over and over again until they were blunt. When a person goes into the hospital, he brings his own cutlery, eating utensils, soap, towels, and toilet paper. Everybody brings food for anybody they have in the hospital as a patient. Every day we would

bring enough food for lunch and in the evening we brought her supper and rolls for breakfast. This was a situation in the public hospitals. I was assured that things were a little better in the private hospitals.

All in all, this trip was very rewarding. I find that each time I go there, I remember the language a little better and find my way around a little more easily.

"Branch" News



Do you have some news from your "tree" to share with us? If so, please mail to the Editor, Sarah Evanko at 1422 Wyandotte Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107



Great-granddaughter Ashley Szuch.

Matriarch's 80th Birthday Party – September 10, 1995

Sophie (Malicka Szuch) Simalevitz with her son John F. Szuch (center of back row), her five grandchildren and great-grandchild (great-granddaughter Ashley was not present).

ADVERTISING:

Rates for camera-ready ads are as follows:

Full Page (9.5" x 7" Wide): \$100.00/issue

1/2 Page (4.75" x 7" Wide): \$60.00/issue

1/3 Page (4.75" x 4.5" Wide): \$40.00/issue

1/6 Page (4.75" x 2.25" Wide): \$25.00/issue

Deadlines: March 1st, June 1st, September 1st and December 1st.

10% discount for placement in 4 consecutive issues (1 year), payable in advance. Checks should be made payable to: The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland.

Send To: Sarah Evanko, Editor, 1422 Wyandotte Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107

SURNAME RESEARCH LISTINGS - PGSGC MEMBERS

Look this list over carefully - you just might have a cousin that you didn't know about! If you can be of help to ANY of these members, please contact them.

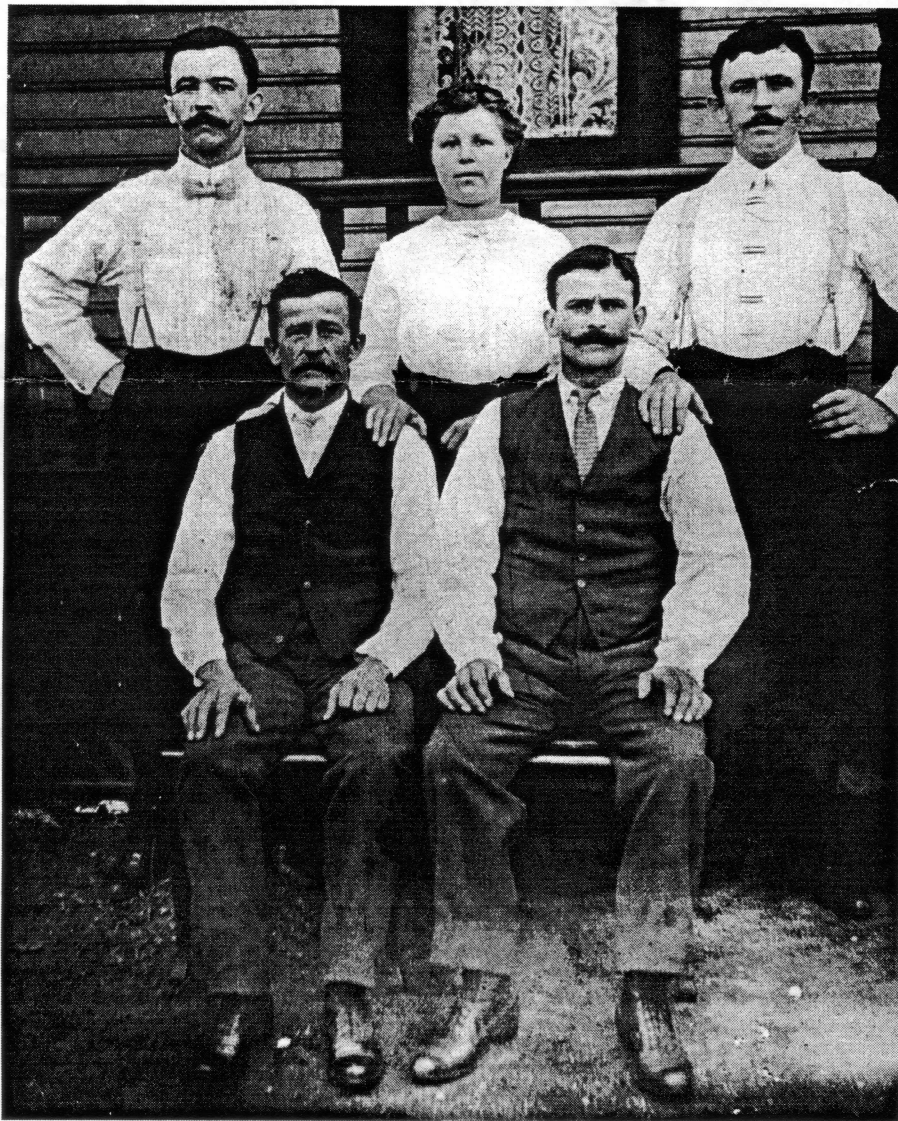
RESEARCHER'S NAME & ADDRESS:

Mary & Norman Hartig
158 S. Walter Avenue
Newbury Park, CA 91320-4339

SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED:

Banas, Banaszkiwicz, Ciesla, Ciesielak,
Golembiewski, Kopydlowski, Lesniowski,
Mazgan, Napierata, Rozgowski, Skrzydlewski,
Swiateck, Swiatek, Szczerbiak, Sobkowiak,
Zaborowski

- Our Family Pictures -



WOLANCZYK BROTHERS, Circa 1916-19
Taken at: 1002 E. 66th Pl., Cleveland, Ohio

Standing, L to R: Leon, Antonia (dau. of Franek), John Wolanczyk.
Seated, L to R: Franek and Leopold Wolanczyk.
(Relatives of fellow member, Sophia Talkowski)

Korczynna & My Great-Grandfather, Jan Kmon

by Ben Kman

My great-grandfather was Jan Kmon. In June of 1888, he was born in Korczynna, pow. Krosno, Galicia, Poland; son of Francizek Kmon and Julia Czarnota. He had one brother of whom I know, Andrew Kmon. At 15 years old, in 1903, he decided to immigrate to America. Like many others, he came through Ellis Island. He settled in Manchester, New Hampshire, probably because his brother

Andrew was already living there. In addition, various distant relatives lived in the surrounding area. My understanding is that he took a job in the woolen mills and there met his wife, Stefania Nachman. Four years after coming to America, Jan Kmon married and then moved to Cleveland, Ohio to start and raise his family. For an unknown reason, he changed his

name to Jan Kman. In the Tremont area of Cleveland, he and Stefania had 4 children; Klementyna, Helena, Boleslaw, and Mieczyslawa. John worked a variety of jobs before deciding to become a mason and independent contractor. John helped to build many of Cleveland's churches and took special pride in his work for Saint John Cantius Church. John continued in construc-

tion until his health gave out, and in 1967, he died.

Although this account is quite stark with few stories and embellishments, it is a good example of what genealogy is like without the benefit of stories passed down from parents to children. Genealogical accounts of female relatives are often vivid and full of stories about Uncle Bolek and Grandfather Wojtek. Not only does genealogy

the answers are almost always, "He never talked about himself or his family".

I know of people living in the New England (New Hampshire and Massachusetts) area who have the same surname. However, attempts to contact them have either been fruitless or answered with "If my husband were still alive, I am sure he could answer your questions". But I am still trying, and would

appreciate any help locating Kmon's who might be a source of information.

Through diligent research I determined that my great-grandfather came from the village of Korczynna. I went to the Słownik Geograficzny and looked up the name. There were two Korczynna's. Which one was the one my great-grandfather had come from? Two years later, I found a Jan Kmon on the Haller's Army register.

Anxiously I sent for the information. Three weeks

later the response came. Jan Kmon volunteered for Haller's Army, however, this was not *my* Jan Kmon. He had different parents, and the birth date did not match. This Jan was from Korczynna though, and the records specified that it was in the powiat of Krosno. Finally a match! This was the final village I needed to locate in order to know the birth

(continued next page)



BACK ROW: Louis Nawracaj (Klementyna's husband) and Jan Kmon

FRONT ROW: Boleslaw Kman, Klementyna Kman Nawracaj, Helena Kman, Stefania Nachman Kman and Mieczyslawa Kman.

become a mission to discover facts, but also a quest to delve into the personality of that relative. Unfortunately, our male ancestors were tight lipped about their past and their birth families around their children – and we are suffering for it. I know remarkably little about my great-grandfather, and questioning his sole surviving daughter has become an obsession even though

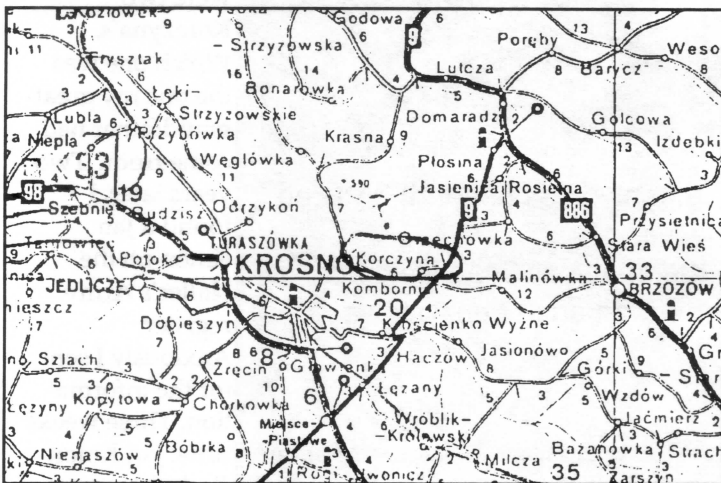


KORCZYNA (Continued from page 7)

places of all my Polish great-grandparents. I quickly excerpted the correct description of Korczyna in the powiat of Krosno from the Słownik Geograficzny. The following is a rough translation from the Słownik Geograficzny. Any words I was unable to locate in my dictionary remain in Polish and are italicized.

KORCZYNA

A small town, powiat of Krosno, irregularly built, almost chiefly identical, one storied homes lying in a valley 279 m. above sea level. From the south an extensive plain spreads out. The small town is built at the mouth of the Smierdziaczka River, flowing from the right bank to the Slaczka River, secondary of the Wisla, at 39° 20' longitude from Ferro and 49° 43' north latitude. The northern part has further scattered dwellings and a higher site (289 m.) and is called Podzamczem, because it lies at the foot of a mountain, on which protrudes the ruins of the lower Kamieniec, this is the eastern part of the castle estate known at present as



Korczynian or Odrzykonian. Sporne lies on the northwest side from the town, above the stream Marcinka, flowing to the Wisla. Other parts have the names: Zwierzyn, Zaleze, Rzyki, Niebylec, Doliny, Korczenica, Dzial, Mroccki, Burkart,

Olszyny, Lazy, Zawisle, Korczyna Dolna, and Gorna. According to the list of residents from 1880, Korczyna accounted for 4671 and Sporne 266, together 4937 inhabitants, from which according to the diocese *sze-matyzmu* of Przemyśl, there are 4728 Roman Catholics and 217 Jews. Korczyna has a Roman Catholic

parish, a post office, a 4-grade public school, a poor fund and home founded by Bishop Firlej of Krakow in 1794 for supplying 16 impoverished inhabitants with institutional property, valued at 21,840 in

Austrian zloty currency. The residents occupied themselves from old times in weaving and in spite of the decline of this handicraft due to increased competition from foreign business, one still finds in this city 408 workshops and 816 looms.

Apart from this, in the nearby region there are 204 workshops and 408 looms. At one time Korczyna alone produced 1,000 pieces of cloth weekly, 60 ell in length, and the region 500 pieces, which was

delivered to the commission in Jaroslaw for linen for the army; now Korczyna produces 300 pieces weekly and there are 200 pieces for bags, and only 100 pieces for thin material and denim. According to the memorial announcement by the department of the state in 1880,

Korczyna at present could produce in a time of demand 80,000 pieces of canvas annually. Currently, as 100 years before, the Korczynians dispose their woven goods largely to Hungary, but they are importing fiber from a larger area from Szlask and Czech mills, and they are only preparing a small part themselves,



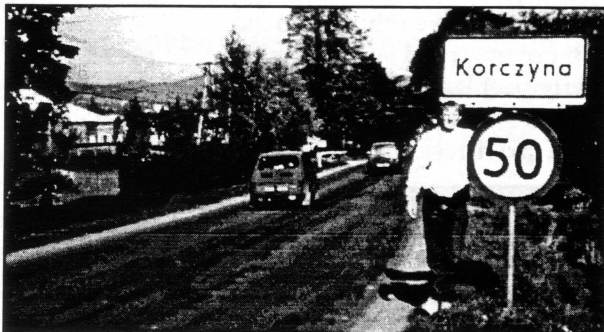
because the cultivation of flax in the surrounding area almost completely collapsed. As the reason for the relinquishment of flax growing they pose the depletion of the soil, which already cannot offer abundant crops. Korczynian cloth is characterized by durability and fine finish, there are fewer *gumowane* than foreign-made goods and for this reason one can more easily recognize the unknown, whether and how much additive the cotton has in it. Because of retained goods in Debowiec, the Korczynian material does not differ in any way from the more famous in Galicia. A long time ago in western Galicia, Korczynian tablecloths and doilys were sought after, characterized by beautiful designs. Now Korczynian workbenches for the most part process yarn supplied by Jewish profiteers, who pay by the piece; for *wory* 5 to 6, for fine woven white linen 6 to 10, for thick *niebielone* 5 to 8, for tablecloths by the piece 24 to 30, for doilys 15 to 20, for towels 7 to 10, and for diapers 12 to 15 austrian zloty. For the elevation of the cloth trade and the liberation of the handicrafts from

KORCZYNA (Continued from page 8)

exploitation by the speculators, a partnership was struck up in 1882, of which a good beginning promised profitable results; at first only a communal loan cash desk was as helpful, controlling 6,556 austrian zloty in capital. In the town 4 annual fairs were held; April 3rd, June 15th, August 30th and December 1st. At the end of the 18th century, Korczyna was the property of Jablonowski nobility.

Kuropatnicki calls her second village, settled; now the greater estate belongs to Mr. Fredrow and Zofia Szeptycki, the area comprised of 363 morggen of forest; the lesser estate has 102 morggen of meadows and gardens, 18 morggen of pastures, and 274 morggen of forest; the lesser estate has 2,196 morggen of ploughland, 338 morggen of meadows and garden, 267 morggen of pasture, and 103 morggen of pine forest. Czarnorzeki with bare rocks of strange shapes on the north, Krosno on the east, and Kombornia on the west surround Korczyna. When Korczyna was founded is unknown, however, it seems that it was in the 15th century as a German colony. In an act of the church around 1506 it existed under the name of Kotczyny, which could be corrupted Kothschoen, ie. nice mud, because of the boggy site. Cellarius (the Amsterdam edition from the year 1659 on page 183) referring to Braun Teatr Urb pars VI and Kromer Ks. 20 fol. 451, in the description of a new town Korczyna at the confluence of the Niba and Wisla, says that some writers cite a new timber town with a stone castle on the Wisla, between swamps, which could only be our Korczyna. At the end of the 15th century, there was a town, property of the Firlejs, master in lower Kamieniec, who probably founded it and who built the church, but as *przeszli* in

Protestantism, they controlled the church in the 16th century and ravaged the parish records. Through the 30 years, there was no church in Korczyna. In 1637 Piotr Firlej, castellan *lubelski* founded at the Korczynian church *prebende* of the guardian angels and granted her



chaplains in lower Kamieniec. Presently the stone church was built in 1810. Partly from the ruins of lower Kamieniec according to government plans with a tower not quite as tall, and without outstanding style. The parish belongs to the diocese of Przemysl, of the Roman Catholic rite, and the deconate of Krosno. Korczyna has annexed neighboring villages of Czarnorzeki and Weglowka and numbers 5,105 Roman Catholics and 670 Jews.

With that description, I had some background history of Korczyna and surrounding areas. I now could also find the general location in Poland by referring to a general map of Poland. At Cleveland Public Library, I used the Atlas Polski Samochodowny. Looking up

Korczyna, I found the one near Krosno. I xeroxed this for my records. I then started looking at the detailed, military maps on microfilm which show each house in each village. I found the film for the region where Korczyna was located and started scanning the film until I found it. More copies were made. I now had the town location on a map and the town layout showing the church, synagogue, cemeteries, house and roadways in and around Korczyna.

I had this same type of information for all the villages of the 6 great-grandparents who immigrated from Poland. I was also in contact with brothers and half-brothers of two of my great-grandmothers. Armed with this information and two weeks of vacation (that I had to use before the end of the year), I started planning a trip to see my ancestral villages and to meet the

elderly brothers. I will focus here solely on my adventures in Korczyna. In future editions of the newsletter, I plan to write about the other villages and family lines as well as the research I have accomplished with each.

14 Oct 1994

Starting out from a small farming village near Gorlice, we proceeded along a highway to Krosno. My traveling companions were a cousin from Amherst, OH, Marianne Socha; and a great-grand uncle related by marriage from

Poland, Edward Faracik. Upon reaching Krosno, we turned off the main road and

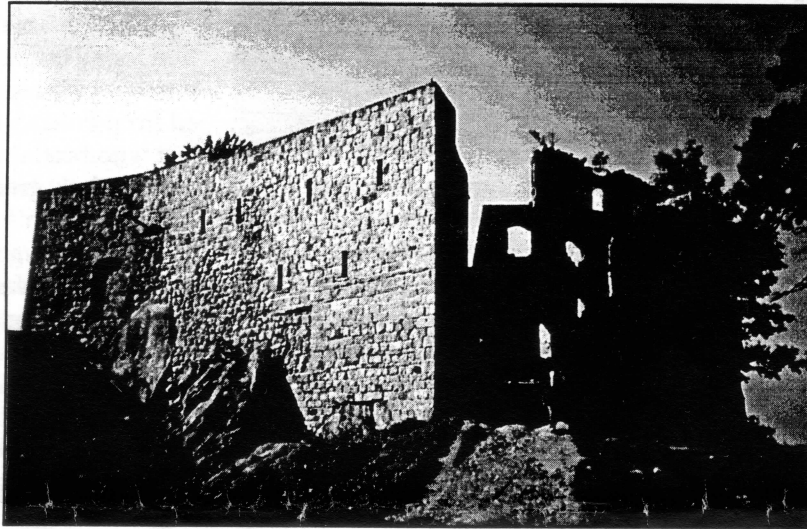


KORCZYNA (Continued from page 9)

started heading toward Korczyna based on the atlas I had purchased. After a few navigational errors, we quickly saw Korczyna in the distance against the countryside. As we approached the city, we came across the sign for the city limits, so of course we had to stop for pictures. We continued on to the town's center, where the church was located. The church was an enormous brick structure. Stopping here, we walked around the church to see if it was possibly open. Unfortunately, it was closed for the day. Some residents of Korczyna said that the priest was probably at his home and proceeded to give us directions. We piled back in the small, used Pugeot and sped along to the priest's home.

Again, after inquiring, we learned that the priest was away managing the construction of a new shrine. If we continued up the road, we would be sure to see it on the right-hand side. Off we went again. We easily found the shrine and the priest. Pulling off the road into the construction area, we stopped and went to greet the priest. My great-granduncle explained who we were and what we were looking for. The priest responded that he was very busy and that he could not stop now to help. After this revelation, he began recounting how there was a resemblance to other Kmon's of the area; tall, blond hair, blue eyes, and skinny. We proceeded to question him about where some Kmon's lived. Two of the construction workers gave us a name and some rudimentary directions. Off we went follow-

ing the directions as best we could. We arrived at a house with a man working on some repairs. The man bore a resemblance to the Kmon family. We asked if he was a Kmon, and he responded "Yes", rather gruffly. We continued asking questions to no avail. This man had no recollection or concern about the Kmon family. We returned to the center of town and started asking elderly people if they knew any Kmon's. We also stopped to talk with a taxi driver. Each offered a



Walking the ruins of the castle.

new name. We visited each, driving over hills and through valleys. Some were in neighboring cities. Some were on isolated farms. One man took us to his mother's house to ask for information. But all to no avail. Nobody recognized the name of my great-grandfather. One of the people we talked to said that a Kmon was the mayor of Krosno at one time. We visited the local history library in Krosno to get some information. With the help of the librarian, we found a short article on the life of this past mayor. The librarian told us that the author of the article was still alive and lived nearby. Off we went to visit him. He knew nothing more that what he wrote in his article. Disappointed at the day's events, we asked to use the couple's phone book to look up names. We found two living in Jaslo about 30 minutes away. We called

quickly and they said that they would be home. We visited them, but no luck. We decided to call it a night. Dinner and drinks that evening for three people was about \$8.00. Two unheated rooms (the temperature at night was about 32° F) at a local hotel were about \$23.00 for both.

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We decided to return to the priest's home to see if he would be available to help us today. He was home and explained that the records were at the church. However, it would take time to locate any records and there would probably be a cost of \$20. Pressed for time, we moved on, returning to the town center. We visited with a store owner and the local coffin maker. Each said that there was a Kmon family living on a farm at the foot of a hill with the ruins of a castle on top of it. Off we went again from one dirt road to

another. Then off in the distance, the ruins of the castle could be seen on top of a hill. After arriving at the hill, we parked the car and followed a dirt path for 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile to a small farm house. Here lived yet another Kmon, and here again was disappointment. As we hiked back to the road, our tour guide fell behind as he stopped to "pee" in the woods. My cousin and I raced to the top of the hill and explored the castle ruins. Finally we decided to continue on to the next village on our itinerary. Due to limited time, I could not visit the cemetery in Korczyna to walk around and look for headstones with the family name.

Near the end of my trip, I spent some time in Warsaw. One day I decided to visit the central post office there. They have the phone books for all the wojwodships in

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THE HAMBURG PASSENGER LISTS

Who Should Use the Lists

(from "*The Hamburg Passenger Lists*" by The Genealogical Dept. of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Salt Lake City, UT 1976)

The Hamburg passenger lists are excellent genealogical tools, but like all tools they are not right for every job.

Before Searching the Hamburg Passenger Lists

You may not need to look at the Hamburg passenger lists if the European birthplace of your ancestor is already known. Before you begin searching any European records, find the available information about your ancestor in his new home. Such records might tell you where he was born. Relatives, family Bibles, church records, tombstones, old letters and photographs, family histories, vital records, naturalization records, obituaries, census records, town histories, libraries, and military, probate, land and court records should be checked first for information about the place of origin of your ancestor. If such records fail to give the exact place of origin, look at the Hamburg passenger lists.

How the Lists Can Help

If you need to know the European town where your ancestor was born and if you believe that your ancestor emigrated via Hamburg between 1850 and 1934, then you should search the Hamburg passenger lists. Most European emigrants went to the United States, but some moved to Australia, Brazil, Canada, South Africa, and other places. The Hamburg passenger lists will help you find a European place of origin

It is important to remember that German emigrants did not always use Hamburg. Some southern German, Swiss, and Austrians embarked from Le Havre, Antwerp, or Bremen rather than Hamburg because those ports were often easier to reach. In addition, the place of origin recorded on the Hamburg passenger lists is not always the actual birthplace of the ancestor. Nevertheless, even a hometown that is not the birthplace would be helpful to genealogical research.

If the Hamburg Passenger Lists Do Not Record Your Ancestor

If your ancestor is not recorded on the Hamburg passenger lists, several alternative sources might help you locate his place of origin. Many states and kingdoms kept emigration records. For example, good records were kept in Hessen, Wurttemberg, Braunschweig, and Austria. The French government kept records of foreigners emigrating via France. Many German, Swiss, and other emigrants who embarked from a French port to come to America can be found on the Genealogical Department's Alsace Emigration Index or in the dossier records of the French government. The Le Havre passenger lists, available in France, may help you. Finally, the reference consultants of the Genealogical Department library can give excellent advice and assistance in finding your ancestor's place of origin.