

Poland 2006 Vacation

Poland vacation of Peter & Barbara Gwozdz and Jeffrey, Holly, Aaron & Emily Latta.

The vacation was 18 days at the end of July. Jeff returned to work after 1 week.

We visited all 4 sites where my (Pete's) grandparents were born. Also a few great grandparent sites. Holly had prepared a long list of tourist things to do, and we did some of them, like raft riding down the Dunajec river and exploring castles.

No significant genealogy findings, but Pete & Holly photographed some pages of 19th century record books that have not been microfilmed. Pete took a DNA sample of an Iwanowicz family. The DNA matched, so we are probably 3rd cousins. The Gwozdz family hosted a BBQ picnic for us with about 25 people including Jozef Gwozdz, age 85, whose grandson drove him 200 miles from Braszowice to meet us. This Jozef is a first cousin of Pete's father Stanley.

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Documentation

We have a much longer report, "Poland Vacation Report.doc", with a detailed itinerary, photo captions, stories, notes, and maps.

Pete arranged the genealogical maps into a separate document, "Poland Genealogy Maps.pdf".

We took lots of photos & video clips; they take up 4 CD's. Barbara edited & touched up some of them. She made a calendar out of her favorite 13.

Pete collected key documents and copies of the best 152 photos onto a "Poland 2006 Vacation" CD.

Archive. Holly closing a folio of 19th century parish records from Wadowice Gorne. This is the reading room at the diocese archive in Tarnow. The record books are kept in another room. This room is for reading other books, and for reading microfilms of the diocese records. The public is generally not allowed to handle the original record books. On a previous visit I convinced them to make an exception for me.



Banas

My grandmother Bronislawa Banas was born in Wisniowa. Her father Franciszek built a cottage in 1876 on the site where his ancestors lived before him. My parents slept in that cottage in 1980 when they visited my father's cousin Henryk Banas. Today my second cousin Elzbieta Grela nee Banas lives in a newer home next to that cottage, which is used for storage. Franciszek's wife Katarzyna Zagorska came from Szufnarowa, a village to the north. We drove through Szufnarowa. Today Szufnarowa has its own church. In the 19th century the people from Szufnarowa and Wisniowa belonged to the parish of Niewodna, to the east. We attended Mass on Sunday at Niewodna.



Banas Ancestral Cottage.

We are standing where half the cottage was torn down several years ago. That was the section for the animals. The entrance was at the right of us, with a left turn to the animals and a right turn to this section, which was the living section.

Left to right: Elzbieta Grela nee Banas, Peter Gwozdz, Barbara Gwozdz behind Peter, Holly Latta, Emily Latta in front of Holly, Aaron Latta, Jeffrey Latta, Augustyn Grela holding his grandson, Boguslaw Zajchowski holding his son, Anna

Zajchowski nee Grela. Augustyn is husband of Elzbieta, who is Peter's 2nd cousin. Augustyn is holding the son of his son Rafal, who took this picture. Anna, Holly's 3rd cousin, is daughter of Augustyn & Elzbieta. The Grela family fed us a wonderful early afternoon meal, "obiat" that day, even though they had to go to a wedding an hour later.

This is a photo of **Franciszek's initials** that he carved in 1876, on the central beam in the main room of his cottage. The first letter is a fancy B. The second letter is a Cyrillic (Russian style) F. Augustyn is planning to tear down the cottage, but he says he will cut out this part of the beam and ship it to me in California.



Holly with 3rd cousin, Pawel Kwiatek



Poland 2006 Vacation by Peter Gwozdz

Emily with 4th cousins, Aaron driving tractor



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10/24/2006

Gwozdz

Our family lost touch with the Poland siblings of my grandfather Piotr Gwozdz in the 1940's. My father never knew his cousins in Poland. In 1998 I located the ancestral cottage where my grandfather was born. Wadowice Dolne. Edward Gwozdz, my father's first cousin, still lives there. We visited this year, and they treated us to an obiat meal in the early afternoon. That evening, the Gwozdz extended family threw a BBQ for us at another cottage, the now empty home of Edward's late sister Anna, in Mielec. Jozef Gwozdz, age 85, brother of Edward, came 200 miles from Braszowice to join us.

Inside the Ancestral Cottage. Top picture. Far right is my 2nd cousin Stanislaw daughter of Anna and her husband Mieczyslaw Golonka far left. 2nd from left is my 2nd cousin Jozef Gwozdz and his wife Maria 2nd from right and their son Grzegorz 3rd from right. 3rd from left is my 2nd cousin Zofia daughter of Edward. Zofia lives in the modern home next door.

BBQ. Right picture. Edward Gwozdz in back center, white shirt. Jozef Gwozdz with dark glasses. Far left is Radoslaw grandson of Jozef and me next to him. Mieczyslaw & Aaron have their backs to the camera.



BBQ. Emily with Holly and Holly's 3rd cousin Bozena Skora, daughter of Stanislaw.



Ancestral Cottage. Aaron playing with 4th cousins Dariusz Lis & Marcin Gwozdz

Iwanowicz

My mother's parents came from Sypniewo, where her father Stanislaw Iwanowicz was born. I remember Uncle Chet saying that the Iwanowicz home was located at the site of the modern Post Office. We are not sure that is accurate, but we stopped for that photo of Holly at the Post Office in Sypniewo. The marriage record for Stanislaw's father Franciszek (my great grandfather) says that he was born in Chojniki, so we also have a photo of Holly at Chojniki.



In 2002 I located an Iwanowicz family in Mamino, a few miles north of Sypniewo. Suspecting they are our distant cousins, I brought along a DNA kit this year. That's a photo of Wojciech Iwanowicz taking his cheek swab sample. The test came back a perfect match to one of my Iwanowicz cousins. I figure Wojciech's father Stanislaw might be my 3rd cousin, or maybe 4th. The family picture below is at Stanislaw's farm in Mamino.



Piszewski

My mother's mother, Rozalia Piszewska, was born in Olszewnica. Today Olszewnica is just a few houses that are part of Dabrowska, but in the 19th century quite a few families lived in the hamlet of Olszewnica. Olszewnica is on a dirt road, hard to find, but we got there and took a few pictures; here are 3 of them.

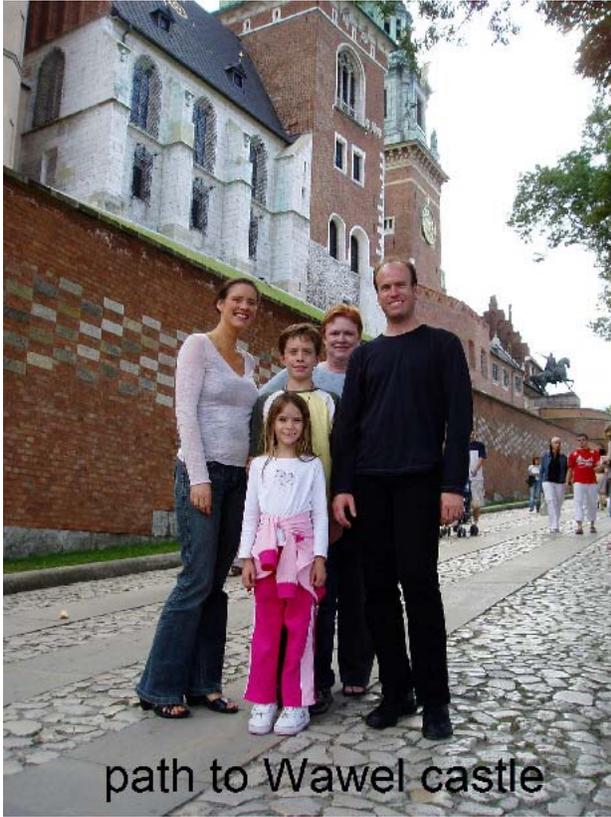
Olszewnica is in the parish of Szelkow, a town that we drove through a few times on the main highway. Rozalia's mother's family lived in Olszewnica and other villages in the Szelkow parish. Her father, Antoni Piszewski, moved to Olszewnica as an adult; he was born in Janopole, Czerwonka parish, which we drove through.



We also visited our **Piszewski cousins** in Nowa Wies. Below, Holly with 3rd cousins Marta Pojawa (center) & Ewa Sienkiewicz. Emily with 4th cousins: Alicja, 7, is daughter of Ewa; Eryk, 7, is son of Izabella, who is daughter of Cecilia Gutowska, at whose house these pictures were taken.



Old Town Krakow



Copernicus Hotel



Ojcow Castle



Ilza Castle



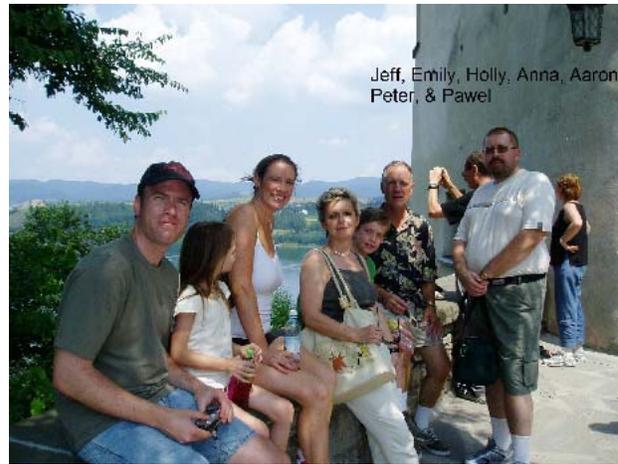
Dom Polonii Castle - Hotel



Ilza Castle



Dunajec Castle



Dunajec River

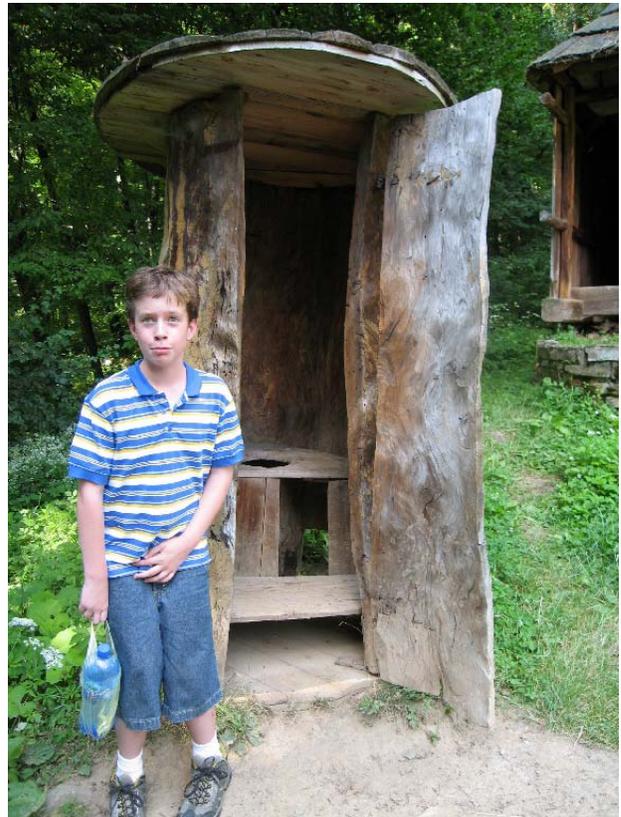


Narew River



The Skansen at Sanok

A “Skansen” is an outdoor museum. Old style buildings, equipment, etc. Some of the buildings are furnished with period pieces. Holly found this one, at Sanok, on the web and put it at the top of her priorities as a “must see” place. We spent an afternoon.



Morning Milk Delivery

Outside our Fryszak hotel, near Wisniowa



Vacations Go By Too Quickly

A Forest near Chojniki, going by quickly

