

Good-bye.

This is the cover page for my Reports, and my last email for now. Reports 19-21 are for my reference; these will not be emailed.

All the reports are in one computer document. If you would like a copy of the file with everything in it, let me know. I can attach it to an email to you. It is in Word for Windows format. It is about 200K bytes, so it will take a few minutes to download on a phone line.

I will be mailing out printed copies to some relatives who do not have email. Let me know if you want a copy.

Contents

Report	Title	Comment
0	Contents	
1	Summary	One page of main news items from the trip
2	Piotr Gwozdz Siblings	List of all 7 brothers & sisters of my grandfather Piotr
3	Documentation for Report 2	Description of the church record book
4	The Gwozdz Quest	Story of how I found our Gwozdz relatives
5	Gwozdz Proof	Formal proof that I found the correct family
6	Iwanowicz Archives	Church record books that have our Iwanowicz family
7	Iwanowicz Relative	Visit to Zofia Gorska
8	The Quest for the Iwanowicz Orphan Prince	Still looking for proof of the story
9	Banas Relatives	There are many in the Wisniowa area
10	Banas Archives	Church record books have our 4-great grandparents
11	Piszewski	One page of news
12	Cheshire Gwozdz	Birth record of Jozef
13	The Fat Horse	A funny story
14	Weather and Landscape	
15	Poland Travel Tips	
16	No Old Grave Stones	No grave of ancestors were found
17	Archives	Comments on how to find record books
18	Miscellaneous	
19	Time Line	List of dates and places, and notebook page (for my reference)
20	Photographs	List of photos
21	Data Listings	For study of my notebooks

21 June 1998

Pete Gwozdz

Poland Genealogy Vacation Report 1

Summary

My 1998 Poland vacation was 23 days in April, between business trips in Geneva and in Singapore. I concentrated on genealogy research, but did some tourist things, too. Barb and Dave joined me for a week. I have 110 photographs and three notebooks full of notes.

These reports were written as email messages. They were sent to Paul's family email list during May and June 1998. Some minor changes have been made to the reports since then.

Reports 2-5&12 are Gwozdz; 6-8 are Iwanowicz; 9-10&13 are Banas; 11 is Pisiewski. Reports 14-18 are miscellaneous notes.

My genealogy book needs to be updated. I plan to do that for my annual Christmas mailing.

Gwozdz. I found the cottage where my grandfather Piotr Gwozdz was born. It is right there on the main road in Wadowice Dolne. Edward Gwozdz, son of Piotr's brother Michael, still lives there. Michael died during World War II. Edward's daughter (my second cousin) and her family live in a newer house next door. Edward's older sister Anna, who lives in Mielec, cried with joy when she realized that I am the grandson of the Piotr who mailed packages to them during the war. I also located and visited the Kolano family, other Gwozdz second cousins. The local church has good records; I now have the complete list of Piotr's siblings. I found the birth record for Jozef (Cheshire) Gwozdz, Piotr's cousin. At the Tarnow diocese, I studied older Wadowice Gorne records, which go back to 1777.

Iwanowicz. I located some Iwanowicz second cousins and visited one. I found good Iwanowicz records for the early 1900's but was not allowed to study them; someday we should be able to read them and locate the rest of our Iwanowicz second cousins. I did read the marriage record of my grandparents, and the birth record for Felixia. I did not find the old Iwanowicz records for 1790 to 1830; I checked most of the obvious places, but not all; I identified other places that should be checked. 1790 - 1830 is the time frame for the purported orphan prince. I visited the sites of the two largest "Folwark" manors in the Iwanowicz area, and made some good progress on understanding who the local gentry were at that time.

Banas. I spent lots of time visiting and resting at the Banas homestead (now Grela) in Wisniowa. I visited several Banas relatives. I added more than 100 names to my list of Banas descendants. It looks like I now have a complete list of my Banas second cousins (great grandchildren of Franciszek Banas) and a huge list of Holly's Banas third cousins. At the church in Wisniowa and at the church in Szufnarowa I studied the record books back to 1784, completing the list of all eight of my Banas branch great-great-grandparents. I dug out the names of some 4-great grandparents, but did not take the time to find all 16 of them.

Piszewski. I located more relatives and visited a few. Barb and Dave and I attended Easter Mass at the Szelkow Parish that Babcia Rozalia attended as a young girl. Dave and I visited Olszewnica, the village where she was born. The Szelkow church has turn of the century records, which I studied for a few more facts to add to the descendency list. The Piszewski second cousin list needs a few phone calls to be complete.

Piotr Gwozdz Siblings

This is a list of the children born to Maciej Gwozdz and his wife Maryanna (Kmiec). All births were at house number 52, Wadowice Dolne, Poland, and were recorded at baptism at the Wadowice Gorne parish. It is pretty certain this list is complete. For proof, see Report 3.

1. Aniela (Angel). 11 May 1867. This oldest daughter's marriage is recorded, to Jozef Padykula, on 13 Nov 1889. No one in our family ever mentioned this person to me. Her niece Anna, the 88 year old daughter of Michael, told me that she remembers that she has an aunt Aniela in America, but Anna did not remember nor verify the married name Padykula. Anna's memory, of course would not be from knowing Aniela, but from family conversations and letters. Anna thinks Aniela had children in America. I wonder now if Maria, married name Topor, is a daughter of Aniela. I did not think of asking Anna that. My genealogy has Maria as a family member; I got this name from Joe Armata, who got it from aunt Winkie, I think. Since Aniela was born 18 years before Piotr, we can expect her to have children close to Piotr in age.

2. Jozef (Joseph). 24 Dec 1869. This must be the Cahoes Jozef. I need to check that he was in fact that much older than Piotr.

3. Michal (Michael). 29 Aug 1872. This is the brother listed on Piotr's immigration papers as coming to Adams first. He returned to Poland, to live in house 52. I visited his descendants. I'll save this story and proof for at least 2 future reports.

4. Anna. 14 Feb 1875. Anna married Kazimierz Kolano. They lived in Poland. I visited their descendants. Details in a future report.

5. Jan (John). 15 Sep 1877. In Joe Armata's 9 Sep 1993 letter to me, he mentions that Babcia saved a letter from Jan and Anna Gwozdz, Zgorsko, near Tarnow. Unfortunately, I did not remember this name in Joe's letter. I checked Joe's letter for another reason today. No one in Poland remembers a Jan. We probably have 2nd cousins near Tarnow.

6. Wojciech (Adelbert). 12 Mar 1880. No one remembers him. In 1936, a note was added to his birth record, indicating that an abstract was prepared. (I saw other notes like this. Also death notes. The priest explained them to me. Someone requested what we would call a birth certificate for this guy in 1936.)

7. Stanislaw (Stanley). 23 Mar 1883. My aunt Virginia told me that she vaguely remembers hearing of an uncle in Chicopee named Stanley, with no children. Anna independently told me that she had a bachelor uncle named Stanislaw who moved to America.

8. Piotr (Peter). 6 Apr 1885. Our grandfather.

Documentation for Report 2

This is not a very interesting report to read. You may skip it.

Father Kazimierz Swiech, pastor of the Wadowice Gorne parish and keeper of the records, has a baptismal record book for the years 1858 - 1884. I studied this book and concluded that all seven brothers and sisters of my grandfather Piotr Gwozdz are recorded there. The book is in the standard "Austrian" tabular style, with both birth dates and baptism dates. Names of parents and all 4 grandparents are recorded. Godparents and midwife. A few years ago, I studied the microfilm of the 1810 - 1860 baptisms, so I am familiar with this type of record book. Piotr's birth certificate has this same information. My Aunt Virginia gave me a copy of Piotr's birth certificate. In this 1858 - 1884 book, all seven of Piotr's siblings' records have the parents and 4 grandparents names exactly the same as on Piotr's certificate, except for a silly reversal error of the names Sypek and Kmiec in the 1883 Stanislaw record. All seven records have the same house number, 52, village of Wadowice Dolne. By the way, I found Kmiec people living with them in house number 52; I did not yet trace back to see if the Gwozdz or the Kmiec family lived there first.

Piotr Gwozdz was born in 1885. The next book is labeled 1885 - 1942. I looked there first. I did not see him. I found another Piotr Gwozdz, wrong month, wrong parents. Boy, was I concerned about that. Later, I convinced myself that the 1885 - 1942 records are incomplete. The older book records the village; the newer book does not. I listed the number of births per year: older book 127 to 200 per year; newer book 30 to 58, clearly something is missing. The newer book has a clump of missing years. I started to check house numbers older vs newer book to see if the newer one has only one village, but it was taking too long, so I quit. I also convinced Father Swiech that the newer book is incomplete. I guess the births from the various villages were separated in the 1885 + records, and the Wadowice Dolne book was lost. The new parish at Wadowice Dolne does not have any old books.

So I did not verify Piotr's birth. That's OK. It is reasonable to conclude that his birth certificate data was copied from a book that has subsequently been lost. The death records for this time frame are all lost. Many of the marriage records are lost.

Is the list complete? Piotr's mother Maryanna, whose birth record I already have, was going on 39 years old when Piotr was born; his father Maciej was 48. Is there a younger sibling? I doubt it. Piotr's children have always told me that he was definitely the youngest. If that is correct, we do not need the 1885 + records. Was there an older sibling? I do not have the marriage record for Maciej and Maryanna. Maryanna was not quite 21 in 1867 when the oldest, Aniela, was born. I checked twice for births in the family 1864 to 1866 - none. Is there another sibling missing from the book? The record book is in good shape and it looks like no dates are missing in the 1864 - 1883 time frame, when our 7 Piotr Gwozdz siblings are pretty equally spaced, 25 to 36 months apart. You can imagine another kid in the middle of the 36 months, not recorded for some reason, but that is not reasonable.

Conclusion: It is not 100% certain, but it is reasonable to conclude that my list of eight children born to Maciej Gwozdz and Maryanna Kmiec is complete. See Report 2 for the list.

Father Swiech helped with much of this research, scanning the left page while I scanned the right and took notes on what we both found.

The Gwozdz Quest

This is the story of how I found the Gwozdz home cottage in Poland. This is not the proof that I have the correct family; that proof will be in the next report. This is just a neat story.

Actually, I did not expect to find the cottage where my grandfather Piotr was born. I did not think it still exists. I had no reason to think we still have Gwozdz relatives in Piotr's home town of Wadowice Dolne. I was looking for my second cousins, the grandchildren of Michal, Piotr's brother.

I knew Michal's name from Piotr's New York immigration records, where it was recorded that Piotr was going to Adams where his brother Michal lived. Joe Armata provided the immigration data to me a few years ago. Joe also translated a 1925 letter that Aunt Winkie found in a box on Summer Street in Adams. The letter was from Kazimierz Kolano, who identified himself in the letter as Piotr's brother-in-law, and as husband of Piotr's sister Anna. The letter mentioned that Michal was doing poorly. So last month, April, I was in Poland looking for records of people named Gwozdz and Kolano, descendants of Michal and Anna Gwozdz. I guess I really did not expect to find them. I neglected to bring copies of Joe's list of names and addresses from that box of letters.

I figured it was hopeless just going up to people named Gwozdz, because there are lots of them, some surely have a grandfather named Michal. It is very unlikely they would know if their grandfather had a brother named Piotr in America. And even if they did, it could still be the wrong Gwozdz family with brothers named Peter and Michael, common names in Poland. What are the chances of finding a Kolano with a grandmother named Anna Gwozdz?

So I first checked the church records. I quickly found birth records for Michal and Anna. See Report 2. I figured I could use that to find their marriage and death records, and the names of their children. But I learned that those marriage and death records for Wadowice Dolne are lost.

On my second trip to Wadowice, Barb and Dave and I read every single gravestone in the two cemeteries, at Wadowice Gorne and Wadowice Dolne. Lots of Gwozdz. We found two old Michal Gwozdz stones, but both were born in 1893 - too young to be our Michal. We found no Kolano stones.

Late in April, on my third trip through Wadowice Gorne, I was checking for the second time at the county recorder's office ("Urząd Gminy"). The lady showed me an unusual book. This book is a register of people whose records are lost, but someone came into the office and testified or produced documents as to when they were born, married, and/or died. The book did not have very many names in it. I checked, and found Stefan Kolano, son of Kazimierz and Anna. This was the key that made everything fall into place. Someone in the Kolano family came into that office many years ago and provided this information, so it could be recorded, and so I could find it in 1998 and reestablish contact between our families!

Interesting: Stefan Kolano died in 1975, just a few months before my parents passed through the area. Stefan and my dad were first cousins who apparently never knew of each other's existence. Stefan died in Medrzechow, about an hour drive to the West. I wrote this all down, but doubted it was likely to pay off. I went and spent the day at the church next door, where I figured studying the record books would more likely provide useful information.

That was April 22. About 3 PM, the books at the church were yielding less and less information. So I said to myself what the hell, I'll drive to Medrzechow. I asked the priest to leave the books in a stack on his table, so I could come back tomorrow. I never did. I found family to visit instead; here is the story:

At the church in Medrzechow, the priest assures me there is only one Kolano family in town, about 2.5 km down the road. I go there. Jerzy Kolano and his wife are chatting with a neighbor on the porch. We quickly determine that we are not relatives. We chat awhile in their yard anyway. They are impressed that I'm searching for my cousins. They know the names of their American cousins, who do not answer letters.

Back to the church. Pouring though 6 books. No Kolano. Then, the priest remembers that the lady across the street from the church has a maiden name Kolano. I forget her married name. Her little mutt dog bites me and draws blood, but I give her husband a pack of American cigarettes anyway. Again, wrong Kolano. But this lady says that Kazia Skowyra is a friend of hers, a wonderful woman. Kazia's maiden name is Kolano, but she is not related to this lady, who remembers that Kazia's father Stefan died many years ago. Bingo. Kazia lives in Odment, a small village a few kilometers away. They help me find Odment in my Poland Road Atlas book.

Drive to Odment. About 20 houses strung along a narrow paved road. Raining. Asking people where Jozef & Kazimiera Skowyra live. Up the road a ways. No, back that way. Back up the road again. Stop the car and walk. Holler "where does Jozef Skowyra live" to a man way out in his field. His wife, behind a tree, says "right here, why?" "I think we are cousins." "Come on into the house."

I'm not very hungry, but as in all Poland, I have to eat. Kazia warms up one of their ducks (from the refrigerator) and opens a jar of their beet preserves while I write down the names and cities of all the Anna (Gwozdz) Kolano descendants. Her father's cousin, Anna, and her daughter Stanislawa Golonka, live in Mielec. That second Anna uses her maiden name, Gwozdz. I am staying at a hotel in Mielec. That lady with the dog is right; Kassie and Joe are wonderful people. I like them.

They are concerned. There is a flood today. It has been raining hard for days. All the rivers have flooded to their levies. While driving, I saw a few houses sitting in a foot of water where one river overflowed its levy. The Skowyra house is right next to the levy, or dike, of the Wisla, which is the main river in Poland. The water, only a yard from the top of the levy, is about two yards higher than the ground we are standing on. Jozef says they lost their wooden house several years ago, when the river overflowed the levy. He's worried about his new brick house. (The next day, the rain stopped and the flood passed.)

That night, back in Mielec, I buy a city map and find the Golonka house on 14 Gasprzaka Street. It is 9:30 PM and the gate is locked and the lights are out. I come back the next morning at 7:30 AM to make sure I catch someone at home. The gate is open. The door to the house is open. I ask "Golonka?" Yes. It takes me less than 30 seconds to convince them we are cousins. These people are very suspicious at first, but by now I can recite from memory the names of their parents and some of their aunts and uncles.

Mieczyslaw & Stanislawa Golonka are retired. Their daughter Bozena, her husband, and her 3 children live with them. The husband, Wlodzimierz Skura, is at work. They are building a new house next door; it is half done. I tell them I have a free breakfast waiting at the hotel, but I must eat *sniadanie* anyway while they watch and chat; they just ate earlier.

Stanislawa is the daughter of Anna. Anna is the daughter of Michal Gwozdz. I explain why I am pretty sure we are relatives, how I found out, and how I got here. It is a very satisfying conversation for all. As always, I give out coins to the kids.

Babcia Anna Gwozdz, 88 years old, is locked alone in her other daughter's apartment, so we cannot visit her until that daughter comes home at 3 PM.

By this time, I am aware that the Gwozdz homestead exists in Wadowice Dolne. I wish to go back there and visit. Mieczyslaw will come with me, to point out the house. We stop at the Yubilat Hotel for me to pack up and check out. We stop in town for me to buy flowers and *kielbasa*, two each, for gifts, because I am all out of California nuts.

The two of us arrive at Wadowice Dolne at 10 AM. We are greeted by the wife, daughter, and grandson of Edward Gwozdz. Michalina explains that her husband Edward went the bazaar in Mielec. The bazaar is less than a mile from Golonka's home; if we only knew we would have picked him up. Edward returns home by bus about 11 AM.

Edward, 67 years old, lives with Michalina in the old cottage. Zofia lives in the newer house next door with her husband Jan Lis and 5 children. All the kids are in school except Dariusz. Jan is home sick on the living room sofa. I take lots of pictures.

The Gwozdz home cottage sits right there on the left side of the Wadowice Gorne - Dolne road, 1.9 kilometers west of the big brick church in Wadowice Gorne. It is just past the Wadowice Dolne sign. I drove by here a half dozen times this month. My dad and Joe Armata and others in the family surely came by this way, too. If we had stopped and talked, we could not have been sure this is the family home, because Edward does not remember the names of his uncles. I have dug up enough information to convince everyone we are relatives.

Edward is positive his father Michal was born in this cottage. Yes, his father went to America for a few years when he was a young, unmarried man. Michal shows me where the traditional rosette and date are on the main beam of the building. The date is illegible because of the many layers of paint. Edward figures the building is about 150 years old. I do not doubt my grandfather was born right here in this cottage.

We do most of our visiting in the newer house. Michal died crouching in the field out there when the Russian front came through at the end of World War II. Apparently, he was killed in the cross fire. He was about 75 at the time. Edward buried him on the spot, later moving his remains to the Wadowice Gorne cemetery, but there was no money for a stone at the time. That's why Barb and Dave and I did not find a stone for him. No one else was home on that day in 1945. The cottage suffered very little damage during the war.

Michal does not remember his grandfather's name, nor the names of his uncles and aunts. His sister Anna is older; maybe she will remember.

M. Golonka and I return to his home. At 3 PM, I drive him and his wife across Mielec to visit Anna.

This is the second Anna. Anna Gwozdz Kolano is long gone. This second Anna is the niece of the first one. This Anna, 88, uses her maiden name, Gwozdz. She prefers to live in her own cottage, but during the winter she must move here to her daughter's apartment. In response to my questions, Anna names her father, Michal, and her grandfather, Maciej Gwozdz without hesitation. She cannot remember Maciej's wife's name. I ask if it was Katarzyna. (I goofed; Katarzyna is the Banas wife.) Anna immediately corrects me, saying it was Maria. That's correct. (Polish people years ago actually used Maryanna, because the name Maria was considered like the name Jesus, not to be used.) In addition to her aunt Anna Kolano here in Poland, Anna remembers 2 names of her American aunts and uncles. She names Aniela, who she says moved to America, was married, and perhaps has children there. Anna remembers Stanislaw, who moved to America and never married. She knows there were others in the family who went to America. She does not understand who I am, but she really appreciates the flowers that I brought.

Anna does not name Piotr or Jozef. Maybe I should have waited, but I ask if she remembers a Piotr Gwozdz. Yes, she remembers that he sent packages after the war, when they had nothing. They really appreciated the clothing, etc. I explain that I am also Piotr Gwozdz, his grandson. Now she understands, and bursts into tears. Smiling and crying at the same time, she grabs my hands and will not let go for five minutes while the conversation with the others continues.

The daughter's name is Janina; her husband, Ryszard Janczykowski is not home. Her daughters, Anna and Ewa, are home. Anna (the third), 21, gives me her business card; she works in marketing.

All these people gave me lots more information. I shall add the complete list of relatives to my genealogy book, and mail out copies for Christmas. They gave me addresses of several of my second cousins, but I did not have time to visit them all; I hope I find time someday to write. No one knew anything about Wojciech Gwozdz or Jan Gwozdz. Unfortunately, I did not have Joe's address list to try to jog their memories. They told me about another Piotr Gwozdz, brother of Anna and Edward, who

emigrated to France many years ago; they lost contact; children of this Piotr would also be my second cousins, to add to my list. Now there's a challenge. Now there's an end to this story.

Gwozdz Proof

This is the formal proof that I found the right Gwozdz family in Wadowice Dolne. This report is not very exciting, but it is important, because the proof is indirect. The proof is not a standard genealogical list of birth records. I did not dig up the records for these people. My family does not remember this family, and this family does not remember my family.

The main part of my proof is the brother - sister pair: Michal and Anna Gwozdz. I found the records for my grandfather's siblings. See Report 2 and Report 3 for the details. My grandfather had a brother Michal and a sister Anna. The family that I found and visited told me the names of their parents and grandparents, the brother sister pair Michal and Anna Gwozdz. The descendants of Michal and Anna tell me their two families have maintained continuous contact over the years. I judged this oral report to be good enough; I did not take the time to look up their birth records; it may be nice to do that some day.

There are two objections to this proof. First, I may have goofed on the siblings list. I'll discuss that last. Second, there might be two different Gwozdz families with a Michal and Anna.

Anna married Kazimierz Kolano. I knew in advance about the letter from Kazimierz and Anna Kolano to my grandfather; see Report 4 for details. The family in Poland is sure that their grandmother Anna Gwozdz married Kazimierz Kolano. That coincidence of names convinced us that we are relatives. To help the proof, here are more name coincidences:

1. Kazimiera (Kolano) Skowyra named her uncle Jozef, oldest child of Kazimierz and Anna. She also named Jozef's 3 daughters and youngest son, Boleslaw. In that 1925 letter (see Report 4) Kazimierz complains about a big fight with his son Jozek (diminutive for Jozef, like Joe for Joseph). There is another letter, 1950 date; Joe Armata also sent me a translation. The 1950 letter, addressed to auntie and uncle, is from Jozef Kolano, who asks for a sweater for Bolus (diminutive of Boleslaw, like Bill for William).

2. Kazimiera Skowyra's father was Stefan Kolano. Joe Armata sent me a list of names from Babcia's box of stuff; the name Stefan Kolano is on that list. (I did not have Joe's list with me when I found Stefan Kolano's birth record in Wadowice Gorne.)

3. Joe Armata's list has a Szczucin address for Kaz and Anna. The list has an Odment, Medzechow address for Jozef. I found the Skowyra family in Odment village, near the town of Medzechow, which is near the city Szczucin.

4. Michal is mentioned on Piotr's New York ship manifest immigration record. It says Piotr was going to Adams to visit his brother Michal. Michal is mentioned as "doing poorly" in that 1925 letter, although the letter does not say Michal is a brother. Both Edward and Anna Gwozdz told me that their father Michal lived in the US for a while as a young bachelor.

5. The birth record for Piotr's brother Michal has him born in 1872. Edward told me his father Michal died at the end of World War II, 1945, at about 75 years old; that puts his birth about 1870, which is a very good match for an oral report.

6. Anna, the sister of Edward and daughter of Michal, let's call her Anna II, named her grandparents, Maciej and Maria, to me orally. Anna II named her aunts Aniela and Anna and her uncle Stanislaw. Anna II remembered the name of her uncle Piotr when I prompted her. All these names are in the 1800's record book. My aunt Virginia once mentioned a vague memory of a bachelor uncle Stanislaw in Chicopee, MA. Anna II said without being asked that her uncle Stanislaw went to America and never married.

All these name coincidences nail down the Gwozdz family in Poland as our relatives. I still need to discuss the reliability of my sibling list from Report 2:

My sibling list from Report 2 is very detailed. The Wadowice Gorne church record is pretty clear that this is a list of the children of Maciej and Maryanna Gwozdz. The only problem: Piotr's record is not there. I provided a good explanation in Report 3: Piotr's record goes in the next book, which is missing. I am relying on Piotr's birth certificate for the names of his parents and grandparents; those 6 names are exactly the same as the names recorded in the Wadowice Gorne siblings records. Even the house number, 52, is the same on the birth certificate as in the record book for each sibling. I provide more description and discussion on the birth certificate in my genealogy book. Piotr apparently ordered the certificate in 1908, from Adams. Many of the record books are missing. Not only in Wadowice Gorne but in other towns in Poland, I was told, by priests and by county record officials, that many record books were lost during World War II. It is reasonable to conclude that the record book was available in 1908 and that the parish priest (or a government official) in 1908 copied the information to produce Piotr's birth certificate. (I suppose it is possible to say the book was missing and the priest got the information by asking Piotr's relatives.) I end this paragraph with the reasonable conclusion that Piotr's birth certificate and siblings list are authentic and accurate.

There are a few loose ends, but I do not judge them to invalidate the proof: No one in my family remembers Aniela. The purported sister Maria Topor may be a daughter of Aniela, but I do not know. The Poland Gwozdz people never mentioned Jozef Gwozdz of Cahoes. No one remembers Wojciech nor Jan Gwozdz, two other brothers of Piotr.

I have not reported all the names in my notes, but I have found no mis-matched names in these notes. I have found no contradictions to the conclusion that these are my relatives. I just mentioned the biggest uncertainties.

Edward lives in Wadowice Dolne, Poland, house number 18. Edward remembers the house number used to be 21. This is no help to my proof. I did not figure out if that house used to be house number 52 before 1900. My grandfather and his siblings were all born in house number 52, Wadowice Dolne, parish of Wadowice Gorne. Edward and I are convinced that old house 52 is now number 18, his cottage, but we do not really need to know that for this proof.

As you can see, the proof is not 100% solid, but I judge it unreasonable to hold that I found a different Gwozdz family with all those matching names.

21 June 1998

Pete Gwozdz

Poland Genealogy Vacation Report 6

Iwanowicz Archives

The lady at the Sypniewo county recorder's office ("Urząd Gminy") asked for my passport. She explained that she could only give out information on parents, not grandparents. I showed her my genealogy. She offered coffee. I offered a cigarette. Finally, after 10 minutes of chatting, she reluctantly went to the cabinet. There they are - Gasewo church records. The record for the Stanislaw Iwanowicz - Rozalia Piszewski marriage is a full page, large script, very legible. I took notes. The lady also reluctantly looked up the birth record for Felixia, their first born; half page. Both records are in Russian, Cyrillic. I stopped reading over her shoulder when it was obvious that it made her very uncomfortable. I asked for a Felixia birth certificate. That made the lady very suspicious. I explained that my cousin Karen Wesolowski would like one. She said Karen should request one formally through her local Polish consulate in the US.

I asked to photograph the pages. No way. I explained again that I have been photographing and reading records just like these at church archives and at other government offices. She was surprised. When it became obvious this one lady was not going to be sweet talked into breaking the government rules, I left. I never asked if those books are originals or transcriptions. I forgot to ask if she has 1880's books. (The 1880's Gasewo books at the Plock archive are badly burned, and the one with the birth record for Stanislaw Iwanowicz is missing.) Oh well, I guess I need to go back in a year or so, and hope there is a new person working there who is more lenient toward genealogical researchers.

Both dates are exactly the dates given to me 5 years ago by my mother, from memory: 10 Feb 1904 marriage and 1 Nov 1904 birth of Felixia. The record says that Stanislaw is from Sypniewo and Rozalia is from Olszewnica; I am fairly sure that means they were born there (as I already knew), but I forgot to ask if Rozalia Piszewska was actually still living in Olszewnica before her marriage, or if her Piszewski family had already moved to Sypniewo.

The parish church at Sypniewo has records, but the oldest is 1915. The index for the 1915 death records has Franciszek Iwanowicz. That is probably my great grandfather. Unfortunately, the first 28 records are missing. It is common for the first several pages and the last several pages of a book to be missing; those pages get worn out and later the book is rebound without them. The index indicates that his record was number 1, so he must have died in January. You may recall that I found his January 1860 marriage record at the Plock Archives, where it is recorded that he was 30 at the time. That would make him 85 years old on January 1915, which jives with Uncle Chet's claim that all his grandparents lived to a very old age.

The death record for Jan Iwanowicz is in Polish. 30 Oct 1917. 49 years old. "Son of the late Franciszek Iwanowicz and the living Ewa (Ruzecka) Iwanowicz" I am sure that "Ruzecka" is a mistake made by Jan's witnesses: Ewa's maiden name was Pawlak; her mother was Rozalia Ruziecka. This must be the death record for Stanislaw's older brother, the Jan who is the father of Alexander Iwanowicz of Pittsfield MA. Uncles Chet and Poly remember a Jan Iwanowicz, very tall, who was visiting from Poland and walked from Pittsfield to visit the farm in Windsor many years ago. It is not certain, but Chet would have been only 6 years old if this is the guy who made that visit and if it was the summer of 1917 and if he then died a few months later in Poland.

Ewa died 15 April 1920. This Polish record has her parents correct: Kazimierz Pawlak and Rozalia Ruziecka. I already have Ewa's 17 Sep 1836 birth record. I hope I also have her genes for long life.

I only spent 2 hours studying the church records. 4 pages of notes. I tried to find deaths of Stanislaw's siblings, or births of nephews and nieces. I found a few Iwanowicz, Piszewski, Tatarek, Pietrowski. Except for Franciszek Piszewski, I could not tie them to our family.

Iwanowicz Relative

I only visited one Iwanowicz relative. Zofia Gorska. My second cousin, she just turned 71 years old, because she is one of the older grandchildren of Maryanna, who is my grandfather's oldest sister from that "first family" before my great grandfather Franciszek went back to the Russian army.

Zofia's uncle Adam Tatarek, and her aunt Jozefa Filimon both emigrated to upstate New York before Zofia was born. I had Zofia's address from Adam's son, Eugene Tatarek. I correspond with Jozefa's granddaughter Joyce McHugh, a genealogist in San Diego.

Zofia lives in Krasnosielc, not far from Sypniewo. There are no numbers marked on the houses, so it took some asking to find the right house. It is an old, run down, home of her stepson Richard Gorski and family. Of course I gave coins as usual to the stepgrandchildren who ran to greet me and followed us into Zofia's one room kitchen - bedroom combination. Little Piotr was fascinated by his namesake. I was not introduced to their mother, although she walked by a couple times.

Wow! I never saw such tears and smiling at the same time! So many hugs and kisses! "Jezu kohani!" She said I am the only cousin that she has ever seen! She opened the drawer of her kitchen table and pulled out old letters and photographs from the Adam Tatarek family in the US. She also had one photograph of relatives in the US that she could not identify; I recognized the couple as my grandparents Stanislaw and Rozalia Iwanowicz. The photo looks like it was taken in the early 1940's. I explained the relation to Zofia.

Zofia named her two brothers and sister, and most of their children. They live far away, so she has little contact with them. I'll update my genealogy list for a mailing next Christmas.

Zofia's only daughter Halina lives less than hour drive away, in Ciepielewo. I am surprised she did not take me up on my offer to drive over and visit. I intended to visit Halina, but never found the time. I should write.

We drove a mile to her stepdaughter's home. Roman & Elzbieta Rulka. This second house is new, very nice. We all had tea and cookies, and a nice visit. More stepgrandchildren. Zofia's husband Jozef Gorski, who died at 50, had children from a previous marriage.

I promised to come back with Barb and Dave, which I did a week later.

The Quest for the Iwanowicz Orphan Prince

You all have heard the story about the Baron great great great grandfather, who was killed by the Russians. His son was saved and raised by a peasant family named Iwanowicz, according to the tale. I have not been able to prove or disprove this family legend. Here is a reminder of what I learned a few years ago, and an update on my work in Poland:

In the 1860 wedding record for my great grandfather Franciszek Iwanowicz, it is written that he was born in Chojniki. His father, Jan, deceased, is mentioned. Jan would be the orphan prince if the legend is true. Clearly, I need to find the records for Chojniki, which I determined is in the Parish of Nowa Wies. By coincidence, we have Piszewski relatives that moved to Nowa Wies less than 30 years ago.

I did not find any old records for Nowa Wies, which used to be in the Plock diocese but now is in the Lomza diocese. I checked when I visited Plock last November. I wrote to Nowa Wies and received a letter back explaining that the church has no records older than 1921. I visited the Nowa Wies pastor, Father Jan Wieslaw Modzelwski, in April. He does not know if the old records were in the church when it burned during World War II, or if they had been transferred to the diocese archives. (I tried to determine if the Plock old church records were transferred to the diocese archives before or after WWII, but no one knows when that was done.) Maybe the records went to Lomza, or were transferred from Plock to Lomza. I wrote to Lomza and received a reply that they have no Nowa Wies records. However, Joe Armata wrote to the Tarnow Diocese Archives and received a reply that they have no Wadowice Gorne records; I drove to Tarnow and after a half hour of talking to the priest finally got him to look and dig up Wadowice Gorne records back to 1777 with Gwozdz names. I hoped to drive to Lomza and try the same, but I did not have time. Lomza needs to be visited some day.

Meanwhile, I checked the county records office, at Olszewo-Borki. The oldest records that they have for Nowa Wies are 1897. I read in an index that Rzekun had an archive with Nowa Wies records; I figured it must be that other Nowa Wies to the east, but I drove to Rzekun anyway; the library was closed, but the office next door assured me all their records are less than 100 years old. I also checked the civil archives in Pultusk to the south.

The priest at Nowa Wies has a nice history book of his parish that mentions the 1897 records. Since it does not mention any older records, our only hope is that the older records are sitting neglected on a shelf somewhere and that someday a librarian will list them in a published catalogue. Or I can go back and bug people to check their shelves again.

Maybe Franciszek's father Jan was born somewhere else? Maybe the family moved around? Two years ago, I was able to hop over the missing record book for my grandfather Stanislaw Iwanowicz, by studying the records for his parents and siblings. Maybe I can repeat the performance. There are lots of microfilms for near-by towns that I have not checked. I'll try to find time over the next few years to check as many microfilm records in the region as possible for the years 1780-1840.

That's the update on my search for the Nowa Wies records. But I have another angle: how about the history books? What do they say about a Russian slaughter of gentry one generation before 1830? There was such a time: between the 1793 Second Partition and the 1795 Third Partition of Poland, when Poland ceased to exist as a country. If Jan was born in the early 1790's, that would make him in his 30's when Franciszek was born in 1830.

I tried to find a book with a detailed history of the Polish noble families around the year 1795 near Ostroleka. I tried the Ostroleka library and the Pultusk archive. The librarians helped; at Pultusk the archive director joined in the search. I asked at every church and at every government office. (I found such a book for the Wisniowa area down south, with both English and Polish, and with nice glossy pictures.) No luck up north near Ostroleka, but of course it is possible that such a book exists, so I have not given up. A few people explained to me that the history books do not like to discuss the super wealthy Poles of 200 years ago. Especially not the books written during the years of Russian communist influence.

While I waited for the priest in Nowa Wies, his cook talked up a storm. She is fascinated by history, apparently fascinated too by historians and genealogists, maybe a bit lonely. She gave me an address of an old guy in Warsaw who knows a lot about the history of the area, and who loves to write long letters. I'll write to him. Father Modzelwski made a few phone calls for me and got some useful tidbits of information, but did not locate an appropriate book. His best contact did not answer the phone, so I jotted down that contact's phone and address for later correspondence.

In looking for an appropriate book, I have become a bit of an expert on the subject myself. Maybe I will write that book someday.

I asked everyone about "Folwark" or "Dwor" or "Mayatek" estates. I now know about a few large estates that existed back around 1795 near Ostroleka. None of them exist today. I have some family names. I think I know which microfilms to study again, to determine which villages belonged to which estate, to determine if my list is complete, and to complete my list of family names. Here is a list of the estates and names that I recently learned about:

Pultusk was the largest estate in the area. In its prime it was hundreds of square miles and included 60 villages. I slept several days in the Pultusk castle, which is now the nicest hotel in the area. I found the civil Pultusk Archives just walking distance away. I bought history books. This castle has an old history. The Catholic Church bought the place and kept it for several centuries, right up to this century. The Archbishop of Plock used Pultusk as his summer residence. In other words, there was no family that owned the Pultusk estate. But there were plenty of noble families living in the castle, and in the associated town.

Uncle Chet once told me that Uncle John Pisiewski told him that he (John) visited the estate of our ancestor, on one of his trips to Poland. John reported that there was a moat. The Pultusk castle has a moat all the way around the main square, the only moat that I could find in the area. It took me 40 minutes to jog all the way around. We have no reason to believe that Uncle John knew which estate is associated with the legend. Uncle Chet told me that Uncle John told him it was an estate in Sypniewo, but there is no estate in Sypniewo. I bet Uncle John stopped in Pultusk and was impressed by the moat.

My mother says that her father often spoke of Pultusk. Once, Mom told me of a vague memory that her father was born in Pultusk. I doubt that is true, since his siblings were born in Sypniewo.

Back in 1994, I studied the Pultusk microfilms and found my first Iwanowicz: marriage; 14 Feb 1762, Franciszek Iwanowicz to Teresa Pawlowna. This is a weird coincidence; 98 years later my great grandfather Franciszek Iwanowicz married Ewa Pawlak. I found Pawlak records in

Pultusk. Could that first Franciszek and Teresa be the peasants of the legend who adopted an orphan prince after 30 years of marriage? Not likely, but I should study those films some more.

One history book that I bought says “one might say that the insurrection began in Pultusk”. Lieutenant Mostowski was in command of the Pultusk squadron. He was one of the main conspirators against the Russians in the area, with good connections to the citizens. When the Russians arrested Mostowski and other officers, the Polish general ordered the troops to concentrate, so they started marching on 12 March 1794. “This was considered a signal to start the total uprising.” I need to find Mostowski’s name, and determine if he had a young son.

The book also reports that the Russians executed the Mayor of the town of Pultusk in 1794. I need to research this Mayor, too.

Glinki is only about 5 miles south east of Sypniewo. I wasted a lot of time researching books and asking people, but I found no mention of a Sypniewo estate. I asked the Sypniewo priest about my 1930 map, which has a “Sypniewo Folwark” south of town. The priest suggested that may have been part of Glinki. Sure enough, my next 1930 map page to the east has “Glinki Folwark”. I bet they were all one. On my last afternoon in Poland, I drove all around that area looking for any sign of old building ruins. None. No moat. Just lots of nice, big, flat farms. Now I need to start researching over again, for the history of the Glinki Folwark estate.

Mlawa had an estate. It is 30 miles west, so it is not a high priority.

Przystan is only about 3 miles from Chojniki, so I drove out and looked around. The manor house that was built in 1928 is now a school. School was not in session, so the cleaning lady said sure, I can look around. She showed me a poster display with a history of the Przystan “Mayatek” estate. I started to transcribe the history; the school teacher came over, and suggested I take the poster off the wall and move it to a classroom, and sit down and do my homework in a proper manner. She went and fetched me a handwritten book with more details of the history. She was very talkative, but she used a lot of big Polish words that I do not understand. I have some notes.

Tadeusz Antoni Mostowski was the last of the Mostowski clan to own the Przystan estate. He lived from 1766 to 1842. He emigrated out of Poland during the Russian troubles of 1830. The book specifically says he emigrated, not killed. No mention of family. I need to find out what his relation is to the Lieutenant Mostowski in Pultusk. This Teddy was quite a fella. Minister of the Police, representative to the Royal Congress, etc. He doesn’t fit with our family legend, but if Jan worked in Przystan and if the family legend is a fabrication, then Ted may be the inspiration. Tadeusz inherited the estate from his mother Anna, who inherited it from her husband, Pawel Mostowski. I do not know when or how Pawel died, but his son Tadeusz lived.

Pawel Mostowski bought the place from the Godlewski family. Konstanty Godlewski bought it in 1731 and started to build a manor house before he died. I do not have his death date, but it is surely too far back for him to be the father of our orphan prince. But heads up! Jan Iwanowicz, our orphan prince, married Maryanna Godleska! My, what a coincidence!

Both Godlewski and Godleski are common names in the Gasewo church records microfilms that I studied a couple years ago. I found records for 3 Maryanna: A Maryanna Godlewska was born in 1805, but until I find her marriage or death record, I have no way of knowing if she married our Jan. Another Maryanna Godleska, 20 years old, had an illegitimate daughter in 1836. Here is a fascinating tidbit: she was a servant at a Pawlak home, and she gave her daughter the name Petronella Pawlak! She is not our Maryanna (unless she went to Chojniki and gave birth to Franciszek when she was 15 in 1830, then came back somehow unmarried). In the third record, in 1857, a 3 month old girl died. Her mother, age not mentioned, Maryanna Godlewska, was an unmarried maid servant. No way our Maryanna would be an unmarried pregnant maid servant 3 years before her son’s wedding.

What does all this have to do with Przystan? Nothing! I just thought I should end this report with some Godlewski gratuitous gossip.

25 May 1998

Pete Gwozdz

Poland Genealogy Vacation Report 9

Banas Relatives

Most of you readers already know that Franciszek Banas built a cottage in 1889. He inscribed the date and rosette star on the central beam, as was the Polish custom of the time. My parents slept in that cottage when they visited Franciszek's grandson Henryk. I visited Franciszek's great granddaughter Elzbieta Grela last month. The cottage still stands, now used for storage. One of the logs has over a hundred countable growth rings, so the wood at the center is about 225 years old.

The Banas homestead, now the Grela homestead, is my favorite spot in Poland. I stayed a few days, later returned with Barb and Dave for a brief visit, then came back a third time. It is not just a convenient place to stay for Banas research. It is lovely. The house next to the cottage is comfortable. Situated on the slope beside a gentle stream, it is an ideal pastoral place. The paved roads are out of sight. The farm, with cows and chickens, is not large enough to support a family, so both Elzbieta and her husband, Augustyn, work in the town of Wisniowa.

Most important, these are wonderful people. Babcia Czeslawa is precious. The 3 children, 2 of them young adults, are great. Augustyn knows everyone, so he made it easy for me to get access to records at the churches and at the county recorder's office. The priest in Szufnarowa knows Augustyn well enough that he trusted me, too, telling me to go ahead and take the 6 record books to the Grela house to study overnight at my leisure. The whole family joined in; I taught them how to read the Latin words and we all found names of ancestors and their cousins. The oldest records are dated 1784, so the paper of those books is as old as that wood in the center of Franciszek's logs.

Franciszek had 12 children. They maintained close contact, so I had the complete list of his grandchildren back in 1993 when I started working on genealogy. I got a lot more names last month. It looks like I now have a complete list of Franciszek's great grandchildren (my second cousin generation) plus hundreds of names of his great great grandchildren.

I visited several of these Polish relatives, grandchildren of my grandmother Bronislawa's siblings Karolina, Jan, Jozef, and Eleonora. They all gave me more names and dates to add to my genealogy. They told me the towns for their brothers and sisters and cousins all over Poland, so we have plenty of places to stop and say hello if we travel there.

I shall add all the details to my genealogy book, *The Gwozdz Family Tree*. I plan to mail copies next Christmas. Please write or email or phone me if you are planning a trip to Poland and need details of where to visit relatives. Most Polish people, not just relatives, enjoy meeting Americans. None of my Banas relatives asked for a handout, and all of them insisted that my gifts were not necessary. Even some of the kids balked at the coins that I hand out, until I insisted they accept.

Of course I took lots of pictures.

Augustyn pointed out to me that Wisniowa does not mean "of the cherries". Augustyn says one of the families that owned the "Dwor" estate long, long ago was named Wisnic, so Wisniowa means "belonging to Wisnic". Augustyn could not find the book where he read that. Later, in Mielec, my second cousin on the Gwozdz side, Janina Janczykowska, presented me with a gift: a nice glossy book. That book has two pages of history for each Gmina, or county, of the Rzeszow province. The left page is in Polish, the right in English. The Wisniowa history names families that owned the Dwor, but does not go back before 1366, when the Wisniowa name is first mentioned by documents. There is a nice picture of the 18th century Dwor building and chapel, which Augustyn drove me to see.

Banas Archives

Our Banas ancestors went to church in Niewodna. The church has birth, marriage, and death records back to 1784. Quite a few villages belonged to the parish back then; the larger villages each had their own book for records. When the church in Szufnarowa was built in the early 1900's, the Szufnarowa books were moved there. The communists confiscated the recent birth records, and some of the older death records, and moved them to the county recorder's office (Urząd Gminy) in Wisniowa. In April, I read the older books at all 3 places.

You may remember the "Pelczar Papers". In 1995, Eugene Iwanski exchanged a series of letters with Father Michal Pelczar, the pastor of Niewodna. The priest sent names of our ancestors. I added lots of Banas names to my genealogy when Eugene mailed copies to me. Last month, I visited Pelczar. I found out that Pelczar did not do the research work for us; his young, attractive lady cook did. I thanked her. I judged it inappropriate to tip her, but I of course made a generous contribution to Pelczar's parish. Like all the priests that I met, Pelczar at first declined the offer, saying it was not necessary, but accepted when I insisted.

Father Bronislaw Domino, pastor of Szufnarowa, is a "good ole boy" type of guy. He built a house next to the church just for display of antiques. He asked his parishioners to bring in old butter churns, farm implements, pumps, etc. When Augustyn and I arrived to study the archives, he was directing a half dozen young men in the arrangement of the antiques. We spent some time examining his collection, which is marvelous.

The Szufnarowa side of our family, grandparents of Katarzyna Zagorska, were missing from my genealogy book. Katarzyna is the wife of Franciszek Banas. I found all 4 of her grandparents. I found her 1851 birth record. I found and made notes on all her brothers and sisters, all her uncles and aunts, and all the brothers and sisters of her grandparents. Birth dates for all, death dates for many, marriage dates for some. Ditto on her mother's side, the Szymanski family.

On the Banas side, I spot checked and added to the information from Pelczar at Niewodna.

Pelczar's data stops at the generation which is the left column on the back page of my genealogy book, the grandparents of Franciszek, the 4-great grandparents of my daughter Holly. The Szufnarowa data allowed me to fill this column, all 8 names for the Banas branch. The next column, off the page on my descendancy chart, would have 16 names. I am pretty sure most if not all those names can be figured out by studying the books in Niewodna and in Szufnarowa. I did not have time to find them all. I still need to study my several pages of notes to figure out what I have. Here are the highlights:

1789 Birth of Piotr Banas. Parents: Andreas Banas and his wife Magdalena

1795 Death of **Andreas Banas**, age 52. So he was born in **1743**

1821 Death of **Magdalena** Banas, age 80, wife of the late Andreas. She was born **1741**

1794 Birth of Sebastian Balicki (my left column).

Parents: Jan Balicki and Franciszka Zarkowna

1833 Death of **Jan Balicki**, 75. Born **1758**

1786 Birth of Maciej Zagurski (my left column). Parents: Jozef Zagurski and Anna Tukarska

1804 Death of **Jozef Zagurski**, 56. Born **1748**

House numbers are recorded in the tables, which assures me that I have the correct family. The Zagurski family lived in house number 117 all those generations. I wonder where that spot is.

The oldest book in Niewodna is labeled Volume II. Where is Volume I? Pelczar does not know, but he agrees with my hunch that it might be in the diocese archive at Premysl. Next job.

Piszewski

I spent a day and a night visiting our Piszewski relatives in Nowa Wies. Yes, they spell it different than our American Pisiewski relatives, but the name sounds exactly the same in Polish. Cecilia Gutowska is the granddaughter of Franciszek Piszewski, brother of my grandmother Rozalia. Cecilia and her husband Jan have a lovely home. Their 2 young adult children live with them. Cecilia's aunt Jozefa lives in Rozan, just a block off the main road; I stopped twice to say hello when I was driving by. Jozefa's daughter Hanna lives with her husband Adam Napiorkowski, an electrical engineer, in Pultusk. We had a nice visit at their lovely home.

Barb, Dave, and I returned to Gutowski's on Easter, about noon. There was a party of 8 friends and relatives already eating. And drinking. They had 3 places set for us, because I phoned ahead. We joined in. The meal continued without break at a leisurely pace until 3 PM. I had to talk as much as everyone else together, because I was the translator. Gosh, we had a merry time. Next, we walked over to the Pojawa house. The winter rains made the road impassable. Cecilia's sister Alicja Pojawa is the one who is working in Brooklyn. We visited her husband and their three young adult daughters.

We took pictures. I jotted down notes of names and dates for my descendancy list. My next update will have more than a page of descendants of Franciszek Piszewski. I just realized today that I almost have the complete list of my Piszewski second cousins, I'm only missing a few of Uncle John's grandchildren; I should be able to get those with a couple phone calls.

Barb was ill one day. Dave and I drove to Olszewnica, the Piszewski home in the last century. I had been there in November. I could not find it again. We asked at a farmhouse. When I mentioned that the Gruda family lives there, Gregorz Karozkiewicz said they are his relatives, so he joined us to show the way and visit. The Gruda's remembered me. The "village" of Olszewnica has only 2 houses; the people next door presented 2 daughters for Dave to pick from. All over Poland, everyone wants Dave to marry their daughter. So they can come visit in America. Only half joking. I know that our relatives moved from this place 100 years ago, but they had cousins who stayed until the 1940's or so. The Gruda's pointed out where that Piszewski house used to stand; I suppose Rozalia was born at that spot.

Next, Dave and I stopped to visit Stanislaw Zabek, the guy who helped me find Olszewnica last November. I had promised to locate Stan's cousin in the US, so I brought the information. Stan took Dave to the kitchen and tried to fix him up with his daughter. The confusion of the language barrier plus the embarrassment of the young woman actually made the situation entertaining, or at least so Dave says.

Barb, Dave, and I attended Easter morning Mass at Szelkow, the parish for Olszewnica where my grandmother went to church as a young girl. They had a group baptism for a dozen infants. It was interesting. The church was so crowded there was no room for both Dave's and my shoulders in our pew. I estimated that 30% of the people in that church are our 4th or 5th cousins (but we did not know which ones.) I was surprised that only 2 people in the church were taller than Dave. I thought Polaks are supposed to be tall. But lots of people had noses longer than mine.

The old church records for Szelkow are in Plock. I already studied those. I visited the Szelkow parish and studied the more recent records, for birth, marriage, and death dates of ancestors and cousins whose names we already know. The death record for my great great grandfather, Adam Jan Piszewski, is in Russian Cyrillic. I got very little information from it. I

forgot to photograph it for translation by Joe Armata. The two priests invited me to join them for supper.

Cheshire Gwozdz

I found the birth record for Jozef Gwozdz. 3 Feb 1873. This is very close to the date in my genealogy book, 26 Jan 1873, the date that I received from my relatives in Cheshire. The record is in the 1858 - 1884 Wadowice Gorne Catholic Church Baptismal Record Book. Joe was baptized 4 Feb.

His grandparents are listed as Wojciech Gwozdz and Katarzyna Gula (slash on the l), the same as the grandparents names for my grandfather Piotr's birth certificate. This confirms that Joe and Pete are first cousins. This is not news. We had already concluded that they are cousins.

The father of Jozef is Andrzej. I already had Andrzej listed in my genealogy, along with all the other children of Wojciech Gwozdz, siblings of my great grandfather Maciej. Now we know which one is the father of Jozef.

The mother of Jozef is Apolonia Nelec. Her parents are Wojciech Nelec and Katarzyna Zajac (accent under the 2nd a). Jozef's godparents are Jozef Nelec and Apolonia Morytko.

The record indicates that Jozef was born in Wadowice Dolne, the same village in which Piotr was born. The house number column was left blank in Jozef's record.

Jozef has 3 brothers and a sister. All of them were born in Wadowice Dolne. It is possible I missed others, I went quickly through the books. Stan, the oldest, was born in house 63. Casey 2nd, was born in 62. The 2 youngest, who both died young, were born in house number 122. I translate names from the Latin records, but I do not know the Polish for Lawrence or the English for Apolonia:

Stanislaw (Stanley)	24 Sep 1867
Kazimierz (Casimer)	6 Apr 1870
Jozef (Joseph)	3 Feb 1873
(Lawrence)	10 Aug 1875 - 26 Dec 1896
Apolonia	28 Jan 1880 - 5 Jul 1882

My Christmas mailing will have all these details added to the *Descendancy*.

I did not look for Jozef's marriage to Helena Nida. I do not remember if they married in Poland or in the US.

When my parents went to Poland in 1975, they visited a Gwozdz family. They got the address from Anna Kordana. I suppose that family is a first cousin of Anna, but I do not know. I intended to visit that family too, but I did not have time.

My notes from last month have lots of names of other cousins, grandchildren of Wojciech Gwozdz. The grandchildren of these other cousins are my other Gwozdz 3rd cousins. There must be a few hundred of them all over the world. No way I'll even try to find them all. It will be neat to find a few. When you meet new Gwozdz people, ask if their grandfather came from Wadowice Dolne. If yes, maybe I can tie them in to our family tree.

The Fat Horse

It was a pleasure to finally become fluent in Polish. I spoke in Polish with difficulty to my grandmothers as a child. I have had broken Polish conversations with Polish people many times over the years. Last November, on my first trip to Poland, I got by OK, but the conversations were difficult and I missed most of what was said to me. On the long airplane flights over the ocean I always brought Polish books with me. I studied and practiced Polish between naps in the confines of my small seat in the sky.

It all came together on April 3rd last month. I studied Polish all morning on the plane from Geneva to Warsaw. At the car rental counter, my Polish was better than their English, so we switched to Polish to settle our little disagreement. I drove all the way across Poland for 6 hours. I picked up hitchhikers and we chatted fine.

There were people walking on the road in Wisniowa at 8 PM, so I asked directions to the Grela home. A lady told me it is impossible to find at night. I drove to the next village of Szufnarowa; I had to ask several people where Jozef and Maria (Joseph and Mary) Skwierz lived, but no one knew such a family. (It turned out my information was wrong.) They knew of a Jozefa (Josephine) Skwierz. I had to ask at three houses across the creek up a dirt road until I got to a house where Barbara Skwierz answered the door. She said yes, her mother-in-law is Jozefa. After a brief conversation, we figured we are not relatives, so I turned to walk to my car. Jozefa, who came out to listen, was rattling on and on. Then I heard her say something about relatives Bronislawa and Aniela who went to America. I asked if they were Banas people and she said yes. They invited me in. I brought in some California nuts. They of course knew the Grela family, their 2nd cousins. I explained how we are all 2nd cousins. They phoned Grela. We gave each other updates on what our families were doing while we waited for Augustyn Grela to drive over to guide me to his place.

I had written ahead to the Grela's so they were expecting me sometime in April. We ate and chatted till midnight. It was not until the next morning that I realized I had just spent a day speaking in Polish without very much difficulty. First time. It really was a thrill.

My Polish improved daily because I was immersed in it. Everyone in Poland can say a few English words, but I met very few who attempted to practice English on me. My Polish grammar is still atrocious; the word endings are beyond me. But people understand what I am saying with my incorrect grammar. Polish people really appreciate a foreigner trying to speak their language. I bet it is because Polish was illegal for most of the 19th century, so the entire country became obsessed with saving the language. Maybe that is the reason for emphasis on "standard" Polish. I ran into all kinds of dialects, and often, when people heard me use the standard style, they would notice, and apologize for speaking incorrectly.

Don't get me wrong. I still have lots of trouble with individual words that I do not know. Usually, I can get people to repeat themselves with different words so that I understand. Sometimes the misunderstandings are funny. One time it got hilarious.

I returned to Wisniowa for my third time on April 23 for a couple days of research with the church record books. It was a pleasant convenience to use the Banas - Grela home as a base. On the 24th, I decided to take a break from the books and visit more relatives. My second cousin, Elzbieta (Banas) Grela said she would come with me. She made phone calls and lined up two families. We drove off in my car. I took my camera and genealogy book. Both visits were very nice, but quite different.

First, the Wojtowicz family, in the village of Niewodna. Zofia (Sophie) is my 2nd cousin, granddaughter of Eleanora Banas, who is in one of those old family pictures of ours from when she lived with my grandparents for awhile in the US. Zofia's husband Roman is a primary school teacher. They are very interested in genealogy. Roman had done a chart of their family trees. They had heard I was in town a couple weeks ago, so Zofia had written out for me a descendency for their side of the family. I gave them a copy of my Banas print out and promised an update for Christmas. Zofia has an old photo. She wanted to know who those people are. What a coincidence! It is a copy of the photo of my parents' wedding, the one with the whole Gwozdz family. I sketched a map of who is who. This visit was very quiet and relaxed, almost scholarly. Even the 3 children were quiet.

The second visit was back in Wisniowa, on the other side of town. The second visit turned out to be a lively, boisterous, animated riot. Wiktoria (Victoria) Maslanka is a daughter of Piotr Miskiewicz and Kazimiera Banas. That makes her a 1st cousin of Elzbieta, both granddaughters of Jan Banas. Jan is my grandmother's brother who returned to Poland after many years in the US. Wiktoria's daughter Marzera happened to be visiting. Her son Piotr showed up during the visit. Both spouses and 4 children (4 grandchildren of Wiktoria) were there.

There was a lot of joking and kidding. The children were amazed by this uncle from across the ocean who gives out Polish coins and tells funny stories of family and travels, but cannot speak correctly. A horse was mentioned. I was confused.

The following dialogue is not an exact record of the conversation, but it conveys a sense of what the kids heard:

Wiktoria: The uncle delivered the horse by ship.

Pete (me): I do not understand.

Piotr: The uncle delivered the horse by ship. You know, "horse". A "horse" is a horse. A horse goes like this: klop, klop

Pete: I know "horse". Poland have much horse. Horse go slow. On road. I must drive fast, like this, drive around horse. But I do not know what a "delivered" is. I do not know the word "by ship". My grandmother never said those words. I know only words my grandmother said.

Wiktoria: It was a wonderful horse. A gentle horse. I used to ride the horse down to the river when I went to take a bath. My father loved that horse. One time, the horse got sick. My father cried he loved that horse so much.

Pete: Your father cry when you sick?

Wiktoria: No.

Everyone: (Laughter)

Pete: I do not understand. Your father have horse?

Wiktoria: Yes.

Pete: I thought you said horse was America uncle horse.

Wiktoria: The uncle gave the horse to my father.

Pete: Why America uncle have horse in Poland? Uncle drive in Poland on horse?

Elzbieta: (Laughing) No. The horse was a farm horse.

Pete: Did uncle buy horse in Poland?

Wiktoria: No. The uncle bought the horse in America.

Pete: America? Uncle have horse in America?

Wiktoria: Yes.

Pete: Uncle ride to Poland on horse? No, no. I do not understand. Uncle bring his horse to Poland?

Piotr: Sure. The uncle delivered the horse by ship. It is like a letter. Do you know what a letter is? You know how you can mail a letter?

Pete: Yes, I know post office. I know letter. The uncle mailed the horse at the post office?

Everyone: (Laughter)

Pete: Wait, now I understand. A “ship” is a ship. I know ship. Ship drives on water like this (waves hand). “Delivered”! The uncle delivered the horse by ship. Why? Why America uncle in Poland with horse.

Wiktoria: The uncle gave the horse to my father.

Pete: Why America horse? Why buy horse in America? Poland have much horse.

Zbigniew: Poland had no horses back then. Poland had nothing after the war.

Pete: Which war? World War II?

Zbigniew: Yes. The soldiers took all the horses for the war.

Pete: I understand. The horse was a gift horse for your father. Which uncle was it?

Wiktoria: I do not remember the uncle. I remember the horse. It was a hard working horse. It was also a very nice, friendly horse. Everyone loved that horse.

Pete: Was is a Banas uncle?

Wiktoria: Yes, it was a Banas uncle from the States.

Pete: One Banas uncle had money for a horse. Wladyslaw (Walter). Wladyslaw had a hotel. He was a proprietor of a hotel. Holyoke, Massachusetts. Did uncle have hotel?

Wiktoria: I do not know.

Elzbieta: Is he the Banas uncle who died in his car?

Pete: Yes. Heart stopped. In car. Not driving. Parked. Was he fat?

Wiktoria: Yes, he was very fat.

Pete: Then it was Wladyslaw. Every people see Wladyslaw remember. Wladyslaw was a big, big, big man.

Piotr: Wait. You do not understand. You are asking if the *uncle* was fat. Wiktoria is saying that the *horse* was fat.

Wiktoria: I do not remember the uncle. I only remember the horse. The horse was very fat.

Everyone: (Laughter)

Pete: They were *both* fat! The fat uncle gave a fat horse to your father!

Everyone: (Howls of laughter; hands on sides and tears in eyes from laughing too hard)

Pete: (grabs camera) Everyone get together. Move over there. Where is Kamil? There is Kamil; sit on father’s lap. Where is the fat horse?

Everyone: (More laughter)

Pete: (clicks camera)

The photograph later came out with 10 big smiles.

Weather and Landscape

Weather. It was a rainy April. I mentioned the flood in southern Poland in Report 3. It was unusually chilly. It snowed in Pultusk the morning of April 14. In Venice, it rained both days. Barb predicted it would be sunny when she and Dave left, and sure enough, the extra day that I stayed in Venice, April 18, was mostly sunny. (I needed the Saturday overnight for a less expensive round trip Poland -Venice ticket.) As a result, we really appreciated the moments of sunshine. Today, as I type this a couple months later, I am reading about the rain in my notes but I remember mostly blue skies.

On April 2 I was skiing on a glacier in the French Alps (Chamonix). It was late winter when I landed in Warsaw April 3. I immediately drove south all afternoon, and the buds seemed to come out green on the trees as I watched. It was early spring in Wisniowa the next morning. During my week in southern Poland, spring sprung. I left green trees, driving north most of the day to Plock. Spring sprung for me a second time during the next few days in northern Poland. Barb and Dave joined me for a second trip south, and a flight to Venice, where flowers were blooming and vegetable gardens had vegetables. Early summer. On my return to Wisniowa, it was spring again. Flowers were just starting to bloom, and they continued to bloom until I left Warsaw on 29 April. That midnight, I landed in New Delhi, where the temperature was in the high 80's. Each afternoon for the next 3 days had a high temperature over 100. Summer. Singapore was also hot. On May 7, I returned to California for an unusually rainy El Nino spring.

The Countryside. Most of Poland is flat. There are mountains in the far south, but I did not go there. The only real hill country that I visited was the Wisniowa area in the south. Wisniowa looks pretty much like the Berkshires where I grew up, with wide flat valleys next to the main rivers, narrower valleys along the side streams, and creeks that flow down from rolling mountains through vales and hollows. Wisniowa is the home of my paternal grandmother, Bronislawa Banas. Wadowice Dolne is the home of her husband, Piotr Gwozdz. Wadowice Dolne is less than an hour drive north of Wisniowa. I had been told by my mother that when she and Dad went to Wadowice Dolne, they were told that the Gwozdz homestead was up a hill that was too steep to bother walking. That is not correct. Wadowice Dolne is flat, with not a hill in sight. Well technically, it is not exactly flat, because the rivers flow through. It is what is called "alluvial"; the land slopes very slightly from south of Wadowice Dolne for hundreds of miles, all the way north to the ocean. Over the millennia river erosion from the mountains has left just enough sand and clay behind to maintain a slight south to north down slope that looks flat to the eye. I did the 6 hour drive from north to south and back twice, using 3 different routes. Very rarely when driving across Poland did I see outcrops of rock, usually with a village or church or castle on top. Occasionally along rivers there may be a bluff. The region north of Warsaw is the home of my maternal grandparents Stanislaw Iwanowicz and Rozalia Piszewska. The entire region is more of the same alluvial flatlands. The farm soil is clayey, with no rocks. Sypniewo, Stan's home, reminds me of Illinois, where I went to grad school. Olszewnica, Roze's home, is in the flood plain of the Orzyc River; it is a colder version of the drained Mississippi River swamp where Barb grew up.

Poland Travel Tips

If any of you readers decide to visit Poland, be sure to check with me. I took extra copies of modern highway maps. I have lists of hotels. I have detailed information on where to find genealogical records. I can mail you all sorts of neat stuff.

Better yet, if you go in late April, let me know. I may decide to join you for a week. I'll be in Munich 12-16 April 1999. The annual Geneva convention moves to Germany starting next year.

Cousins. I have names, addresses, and phone numbers of second cousins all over Poland. I can tell you which cousins want money, and which cousins want to show you a good time.

In many cases, I took pictures of the house from the road. I can make copies for you in advance, to save time if you plan to visit.

Everyone in Poland will force you to eat. Not just cousins, everyone. Many will ask you to stay with them. I recommend saying no at least once. At least say you don't want to impose. They usually insist a second and third time, so if you really do enjoy their company, you will get the chance to judge if your staying is really appreciated. If you do not want to stay with them, check into your hotel before visiting, then they will only tell you once or twice to check out and stay with them.

Travelers Checks. Don't leave the airport with them. The Warsaw and Cracow airport each have an "Orbis" office for cashing American Express Traveler's Checks and for other exchanges. But they charge about 10%. Only once could I quickly cash a check at a hotel, that was the Forum in Cracow, a huge modern hotel where almost everyone speaks English. No shop accepted them. There are "Kantor" money changers that change dollars, but they do not take traveler's checks. Twice I cashed traveler's checks at a bank; once it took 20 minutes. The second time it took over an hour! The lady admitted she had never done it before; she spent half an hour reading directions and looking for the exact photo copy of my style of check. Everything has to be done in triplicate. When the computer refused to print after 15 minutes of trying, she had to look for a receipt book. Ridiculous. This may change in a few years, but I recommend cash. Hide some 100's in your socks. Europeans all love the American 100 Dollar note. Banks and Kantors in Poland change them quickly at a decent rate. Airport offices and most hotels will change them for a nominal charge. They charge extra commission for smaller notes, so do not take any 20's. Polish shops do not usually take US currency. In fact, most Polish small town shops will not even take Polish currency if the bill is 50 zloty or larger. 50 zloty, worth \$17, is a lot of money in the countryside of Poland. Downtown Warsaw and Cracow on the other hand are almost as expensive as the US.

No Old Grave Stones

I did not find any grave stone of an ancestor. Barb and Dave and I visited a few cemeteries. I visited a few others by myself. Maybe 20 total visited. Maybe 6 cemeteries checked 100% for family names. We found very few stones dated more than 100 years old. The number of stones older than 50 years are way too few compared to the number of names recorded in the corresponding church record books. We saw sections of old cemeteries with no stones at all. The oldest of three Niewodna cemeteries, the one that should have our distant Banas ancestors, has about 2 acres of trees; I found only 3 visible stones. Of course some stones may have settled into the earth.

All this makes sense. The Polish people of the last century were too poor to afford stones. They used wooden crosses. We saw some wooden crosses and some metal markers from late in this century. They are already badly rotten and corroded. It is interesting that most of the recent gravestones are very large and elaborate, as though the current population is making up for the past. I asked every priest that I met. I asked whomever seemed to know something about Polish burial customs. They all verified that wooden crosses were used for most burials in the 19th century and earlier. They all told me that it has been common custom in Poland to reuse cemetery land when all traces of prior burials are gone. None of them had ever seen any old cemetery paper record plans, like the plot maps for modern cemeteries. I do not know if the 19th century priests kept such plot maps. I know which cemeteries many of my ancestors were buried in, but I do not know any exact spots.

Here is an interesting tidbit about the old Wadowice Gorne cemetery, at the Gwozdz family parish. The current red brick church was built just a few years after my grandfather left town. Father Kazimierz Swiech explained to me that the old wooden church had been located south of the current church, where the county office building (Urząd Gminy) now stands. He remembers when they were digging the foundation for the office building, and they dug up parts of the old church foundation. In the 19th century, Father Swiech explained, the cemetery was right next to the old church. That means my Gwozdz ancestors lie buried beneath or near the county office building and parking lot.

Augustyn Grela showed me that old Niewodna cemetery, which is marked on one of my 1930's maps. Niewodna is the village with the parish church for Wisniowa. Next to the Niewodna church is a second cemetery, which is full; it is on that map, too. The new Niewodna cemetery is not on my 1930's map.

Archives

I visited several archives: records at the rectory at parish churches, diocese archives, county recorder's offices (Urząd Gminy Stanu Cywilnego), provincial civil archive libraries, and national archives. Almost all the useful information I found was from church records, some of which had been moved to county civil offices, some of which had been moved to archive libraries.

I have extensive notes, in 3 notebooks. I am writing summary reports that I will distribute to you readers on request. The notes and summary reports are tedious and cryptic; they are meant for research and reference. If anyone out there gets interested in doing some genealogy research on our ancestors, be sure to request my summary reports. (Joe Armata gets copies of the Gwozdz & Banas stuff.)

Everything will be summarized in the *Notes* section of my *Gwozdz Family Tree* booklet, which I plan to update in time for my annual Christmas mailing.

Next, I would like to type up some general comments on Polish Archives. Maybe some day I'll expand these comments in this Report 17 and publish them as a pamphlet:

The Roman Catholic Church in Poland has kept very good family records since the 1700's. baptism records (births), marriage records (also banns), and death records. Eastern Orthodox Catholic records are separate. Protestant records are separate. Jewish records are separate. All my ancestors back to the 1700's were Roman Catholic, so I study Roman Catholic records only, although I have glanced at others. The civil government did not keep records until the 1900's.

Poland in the 1800's technically did not exist as a country. The Polish nation was divided into 3 parts: Russian in the north and east, Austrian in the south, and German in the west. I have no ancestors from the German section, so I have only glanced at those records. My Iwanowicz side is from the Russian section; my Gwozdz side is from the Austrian section, also called the Kingdom of Galicia.

Most of the 1700's records are in Latin, a few in Polish. These old styles before 1800 are variable; some tables, some brief paragraphs, some lists. Sometimes there are annual alphabetical indexes, sometimes not. Sometimes baptisms, marriages, and deaths are kept in separate books, sometimes they are one section after another, by year.

In 1807, Napoleon conquered the north of Poland, later Russia took it. Napoleon's bureaucrats imposed the French formal central government style wherever they went. Apparently, most Europeans liked the French style; the Polish sure did. In 1807 the north Poland records switch to the Napoleonic style. I like it. Every record is in the same style, a long paragraph with certain set phrases. The name of the father, mother, child, bride, groom, deceased, etc are always in the same part of the paragraph. The same words are always used, in Polish. It is not very difficult to learn most of the words that are used for recording purposes. Records are numbered, with village name in the margin. Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths are almost always in separate books, certainly in separate sections of a book. Almost always there is an index, alphabetical by last name, at the end of each year; the number of the record is written next to the index entry, so you can quickly find the detailed record.

In 1868 the Russians passed laws banning the use of the Polish language, so all the records in northern Poland switch to Russian in the middle of 1868. Russian is difficult for most of us, because of the Cyrillic alphabet. Nevertheless, once you figure out how a certain family name is written, you can easily find it in the annual alphabetical index, then flip to the detailed record, and find the other names of interest. Unfortunately, dates are written out (“fifteenth”, not “15”) in the Napoleonic style. That is a great idea to preserve legibility, but it makes it difficult if one cannot read Russian dates.

In the early 1900’s, most northern Polish records continue in the Russian Napoleonic style, but I found a few in Polish.

In the south, the Austrians had a tabular style for keeping records, from the late 1700’s to the early 1900’s. The data is in rows, with columns for facts. The name of the person (baptism, marriage, death) is always in the same column. At baptism, columns for parents. Another for godparents. It is much easier to work with than the Napoleonic style, but it does not have as much detail. For example, Napoleonic death records have the name of the family member with whom the deceased was living; Austrian do not. Napoleonic marriage records usually have bride’s and groom’s birth villages and current address; Austrian do not. The Austrian baptism records have one very important goodie, however: the names of the grandparents; Napoleonic do not.

The Austrian records are almost always in Latin, even the given names. Family names are in Polish.

There is a Polish National Archive in Warsaw. (Archiwum Panstwowe, ul. Długa 6, Skrzyńka Pocztowa Nr 1005, 00-950 Warszawa) They are very helpful. They have librarians who are fluent in English. They only have records for the Warsaw area, but they have very helpful reference books. They helped me figure out where all the county records offices are located, for all the towns near where my ancestors lived. The books have lists of which records are kept at which county records office. The lists are not completely accurate; I found discrepancies; but they are a good start. The National Archive does not have a listing of what is available in the church records collections.

The regional civil archives at Krakow and at Pultusk were also helpful, although English was not spoken. The guy at Krakow was immediately helpful. He took 2 hours of time for me. The gal at Pultusk was reticent at first, but I won her over; the Director overheard us talking and he joined in my research for awhile.

It is not easy to get to read the record books. They are not officially available to the public. Every priest and librarian that I met was reserved and suspicious at first. I do not really understand this, but apparently they have had lots of problems. Theft, I am told, of record books and other items in the room. Maybe spies, looking for information for sinister purposes? In every case, I am able to befriend these people, but sometimes it takes up to half an hour. Later, I hear comments, that I seem good and honest, spoken perhaps as an apology for the earlier suspicion. My Polish conversation is not good enough to completely understand these fine points of human interaction.

I also speculate that perhaps most of the people who come looking for genealogy information do not know what they are doing, and waste everyone’s time with silly questions; that would add to the initial reticence. Once I broke the ice and showed these people my genealogy book that I’m writing, with the big family tree in back, many of them got interested and worked with me to find more information.

Naturally, it is forbidden for the general public to browse through modern record books. That makes sense for privacy reasons. On the other hand, it also makes sense that very old record books should be available for genealogical study. The Mormons use 90 years old as a rule of thumb for private vs public. I never found a separation of new vs old in Poland. When I was allowed to browse the records, the new ones were often right there on the same shelf as the old. It also makes sense that the general public should not be allowed to study alone with original records. You never know who will steal a book or a few pages. The larger libraries are set up with reading desks in plain view of the librarian. Again, I never ran into hard and fast rules. I guess it is the Polish style that whoever is in charge has discretion to make rules as he/she goes. It was a bit like that in the Polish-American community where I grew up. I like that method, because I can usually talk people into giving me access. It would never happen in California.

I am a bit surprised that I only ran into one person who spoke English. In Warsaw, after 15 minutes of Polish conversation, the librarian explained that it would be better to help me in English. She phoned upstairs for an English speaking librarian to come down and help me. Funny that none of the priests and librarians that I met spoke English. Sure, they used an English word now and then to be cute, or to translate a common word that I did not know. But none of them could converse in English. You cannot say it is because of Russian influence; in the old East Germany, Engineers and Technicians attended my short course, in English. This may change in a few years with all the American influence in Poland, but for now you cannot do research in Polish Archives without knowing the language.

Next come a few specific examples:

Tarnow Diocese Archives. In 1995, I studied a microfilm of Wadowice Gorne records. I rented the film from Salt Lake, through the local Mormon library in Santa Clara, California. 1811-1860. The microfilm indicated that the books were stored at the Tarnow Diocese Archives. The film indicated that the books were filmed at the Krakow Archives. It is normal to film at one place, and to have records from all over the region brought in just for filming. I hoped that there might be other records, older or younger, on the shelf next to these. I asked Joe Armata to write to the Tarnow Diocese, and ask if those 1811-1860 records are there. Tarnow replied to Joe, but did not say yes or no. The letter said that they do not do genealogical research, and that they only have fragmentary records, and that one should go to the local churches. Armata also wrote to Krakow. They replied that maybe the Wadowice Gorne 1811-1860 records are still in Tarnow.

I arrived at the Tarnow old town on 7 April. The old town streets are very narrow. Traffic is extremely dense. I got lost at first. Then I got lucky. I found a parking space right in front of the cathedral, and I walked the half block to #3 Katadralna Street. Inside, a side door had a sign "Archiwum Diecezjalne", with the hours when it is open. It should have been open, but it was locked. I rang. The young priest who answered was extremely formal. He stood in the doorway. "We do not do genealogical research, and we only have fragmentary records. You should try at the parish church." Sounds familiar. I explained that I already was at the parish church. I explained that I just wanted to see if more records are next to the 1811-1860 records that I know are here. The priest reluctantly took me to the card catalogue. We quickly found the entry for the 1811-1860 records. He explained that this is a microfilm only, and that the microfilm reader is broken because they do not have enough money to fix it. He explained that the books are not here, just the microfilm that cannot be read. I still think those 1811-1860 books are there. I doubt a priest would tell a deliberate lie. Maybe he really thought only the film is there. He surely had no interest in checking.

I took out some cash. A donation for repair of the microfilm reader. The priest turned down the offer. I insisted. All priests turn down all cash offers in Poland, once, to be polite. This is the only priest I met who turned down cash when I insisted a second time. I explained that it is appropriate to make a genealogical donation, but this priest definitely would not take my money.

We chatted. I showed him my genealogy. I explained which records I found for Wadowice Gorne. I explained how the 1811-1860 microfilm was very helpful. I showed him my information from that film. The priest explained that the Mormons had come back last year, and that they filmed everything in the library. (I'll check that, by email to my contacts in Salt Lake.)

I explained that the Mormons filmed those 1811-1860 records in 1974. I explained that the Mormons came back a few years ago and filmed some marriage records 1860-1890, but I have not yet seen the film. (I know about it from my email contacts. I am waiting for a print copy to be available.) I asked why those marriage records are not in the catalogue. The priest did not know. The priest was obviously getting very uncomfortable about how much I know about his archive.

I asked if maybe there is a different card catalogue for older books. The priest remembered yes, there is. We checked. There it was. A card indicating that there are record books right here going back to 1777! He said he would go see if they are still here.

He came back about 10 minutes later with a stack of books ten inches tall. These books were so yellowed and tattered it was obvious they were the 1777 records. They were tied with a thick old ribbon. He explained that these books are way too old for him to allow me to read them. They are too fragile. Besides, the Mormons filmed them anyway. I must have been salivating with anticipation, because he was very firm about not allowing anyone access to such old books. By now, it was about a half hour since I rang that doorbell. After flying to Poland, and driving 3 hours from Wisniowa, and coaxing this priest for a half hour, I was not giving up. I pleaded. I chatted some more.

There was one other person in the room. About my age. A bit heavier. Obviously a scholar, sitting and studying books. But obviously a worker, too, with rough hands. Later, I got his business card: mng. inz. Boguslaw Baczynski, Electryk. This guy is an electrical engineer, in charge of a group of electrical designers for buildings. Later, he told me the priest's name: Father Jozef Tokarz. But I'm getting ahead of the story.

Boguslaw suggested that he could help me. Father Tokarz said OK, but I would have to pay, and I could only study these old books if Mr. Baczynski is with me at all times. I said no problem, I'll make a very generous donation toward fixing that microfilm reader.

I really am not sure I understand all this, but Augustyn Grela in Wisniowa helped me figure it out: Augstyn says it makes sense for a chief archivist to be a lay person volunteer. It makes sense that a lay person volunteer should handle the money. It makes sense that a lay person with an engineering background who is interested in genealogy would know more about the archive than the priest in charge. On a couple occasions in the next few hours, Baczynski left me with the books and had a brief discussion with Father Tokarz on some cataloguing errors that the priest was fixing.

Anyway, Boguslaw helped me for 3 hours.

We quickly found the 1810 baptismal record for Wojciech Gwozdz, my grandfather's grandfather. Parents Michal and Jadwiga. I took a photo of the book. (I already knew he was born in 1810, just before that 1811-1860 microfilm record, because his age was recorded at his death, where it is also recorded that his parents are Michal and Jadwiga.)

I now have the names of Wojciech's brothers and sisters, children of Michal and Jadwiga. The first one recorded, Teresa, was born in 1795. Jadwiga's maiden name is recorded variously as Wilk, Gut, and Sypek. How sloppy. These old records do not have grandparents' names, although the tabular style is typically Austrian.

We did not find Michal Gwozdz's baptismal record in the 1777 - 1791 book. Obviously Michal was older than 18 years old when Teresa was born, putting his birth before 1777. He was older than 37 when Wojciech was born.

I did not have time to research Jadwiga. My notes are incomplete because there was not enough time to get organized. I hope the Mormons did film all these books.

The marriage of Michal and Jadwiga is not in the 1777-1791 book of Banns. We double checked. At the time, I did not know about Teresa's 1795 birth. My notes are not clear if the 1791-1795 Banns records exist or not. I do not have any notes for that period. Too bad. The Banns records have the marriage date, ages, and parents' names; hope I find that one some day, for another generation of Gwozdz names going back to the early 1700's.

The 1870's Banns records were in the stack. Remember, I know the Mormons filmed this one. This is a good sign that they filmed them all. I'll find out in a year or so. It takes that long for my Salt Lake contacts to wait for the development processing, and to figure out what is what.

I wrote 7 pages of Gwozdz names with dates and details. I have not yet studied them to work out the family relationships. It may not be possible. They may all be cousins of Michal, but I do not know. Remember, this is only Wadowice Gorne and Wadowice Dolne, around the year 1800. These Gwozdz people surely have thousands of Gwozdz descendants today. It would take a lifetime of research to track all of these our Gwozdz sixth cousins. It looks like it is possible, but I shall not do it. I'll do one or two if we run into Gwozdz people with Wadowice Dolne ancestors.

I made a donation of 300 zloty (\$100).

I have Boguslaw's address, in case I have any questions in the future.

End of Tarnow.

Wisniowa. The parish churches at Niewodna and at Szufnarowa were easy. Eugene Iwanski had already made mail contact with Niewodna. The priests at both Niewodna and Szufnarowa are very good personal friends of my 2nd cousin Elzbieta and her husband Augustyn Grela. Augustyn went with me for the initial visits.

Augustyn also went with me to the county records office. They know him very well there, too. The lady let us study the late 1800's death records. We sat right there, in a table next to her. Apparently, the communist authorities confiscated these death records from the churches. I wonder why they confiscated the death records, but not the birth and marriage records. A few weeks later, we came back to do some more research. This time, that same lady dug out a rule book and read us the section where it says the public may not read the record books. Augustyn pleaded with her and she allowed us to study for a "few minutes" more. She kept hassling us while she sat there with apparently nothing to do. We kept saying "just a few more minutes". We left after an hour.

Sypniewo county records. This is the one place that I failed to get access to the books. Too bad. The lady refused to let me read them even after 20 minutes of chatting and coaxing. She did read me some details from the marriage record of my grandparents and from the birth record of my aunt. I already wrote this up in Report 6.

Well, that's enough talk of archives. Wow. I never intended to write a 5 page report on Archives.

Miscellaneous

Photo Album. I took 110 photographs. I made extra copies of the best. I assembled the best 47 photos into an album. I made a duplicate album with the same 47 photos. I plan to mail the duplicate album to my brother Matthew, who offered to electronically photograph some for his web site. Check Matt's web site in July: http://members.aol.com/Moweng/gwozdz_498.html

Matt will forward the album to Mom when he is finished. To view the album, you need to visit either me or Mom.

I made extra copies of some photos, in anticipation of requests. If you plan to visit relatives in Poland, you should request copies of the house photos, to make it easier to find them.

Reports. All these reports are in one computer document. If you would like a copy of the file with everything in it, let me know. I can attach it to an email to you. It is in Word for Windows format. It is about 200K bytes, so it will take a few minutes to download on a phone line.

I will be mailing out printed copies to some relatives who do not have email. Let me know if you would like me to mail you a hard copy.

Of course Mom will get a hard copy.

Father Cisak. My sister Cecilia asked me to visit an old friend of hers. Father Jozef Cisak was a helper priest in the Springfield area some years ago. Since the US has a shortage of priests, there is a program whereby Polish Dioceses loan priests to the US on a rotation basis. It turns out Cisak knows the Kaluza family, Ceil's in-laws in Krakow. Ceil told me that Cisak, a retired priest, likes California prunes, so I packed a bag of prunes to take with me. I visited on 7 April, the same day that I drove from Wisniowa to study the records at the Tarnow Diocese Archives. It was not very difficult to find the retirement home in Bresko, about a half hour drive west of Tarnow. But Cisak was not there. The custodian knocked on the doors of 3 priests before he found one that was home; that priest looked up Cisak in a diocese directory book, and gave me directions to another retirement home for priests, right outside the west edge of Tarnow, in a village named Globice. That home was difficult to find. Father Cisak and I had a nice visit. Apparently, he gets very few visitors. He appreciated the prunes. He also appreciated the American cigarettes that I had for gifts. And some money. He promised to write me letters; I said no, write them to my mother instead.

Here is his address: Ks. Jozef Cisak, Dom Ksiezy Emeritow, ul. Pszenna 7, Tarnow, Polska. Telephone 48-14--33-15-76.

Piotr Kaluza. By an incredibly lucky coincidence, my brother-in-law was in Cracow (Krakow) in April. Piotr and Cecilia Kaluza have a travel agency business. They very rarely go along on the group tours that they arrange. For the large group in April, Piotr went along. I rearranged my travel plans to be in Cracow on 20 April. I actually returned from Venice on 19 April, but Piotr and I missed each other. I visited his mother by myself. We connected on the 20th and spent most of the day together. It was funny how Piotr was waiting in the Hotel bar on the 19th, expecting to receive a message when I arrived. Also, he had to entertain his customers, who were blaming him for the bad weather that week. I went up to his room, knocked, and left my business card in the door. He found my card at 2 AM.

Traffic tickets. I only got one ticket in Poland, for passing in a no passing zone. It was a trap. Two cops were hiding behind a big sign, around a curve going out of a village about half way from Plock to Sypniewo. I bet that guy driving very slow was a friend of theirs. I admitted my guilt; I said, yes I know better than to cross a solid line. I did not argue that the view was clear and that the guy was going way to slow. The big Polish cop said the fine was 200 zloty. I said that was too much. We chatted. We did not really argue, he just kept saying it was 200; I kept saying that was too much, and that 100 would be enough. In between, he asked how I knew Polish. I explained that my Babcia, from Sypniewo, taught me. I explained my genealogy research. He explained that the fine is usually 500 zloty, but since he likes me he decided to let me off with only 200 because it is Holy Saturday, before Easter. I resisted the temptation to accuse him of charging Americans more than he charges locals, but I doubt any local villagers could possibly afford a 200 zloty fine. Finally, I handed him a 100 bill (about \$33, which is a lot of money in a Polish village). He got into his car, and took his receipt book. Before writing out the 100 zloty receipt, he asked me if I was sure 100 was acceptable. I guess he did not want to go to the trouble of writing it out and then having me start to dicker some more, so I said 100 is fine and he wrote it up. We shook hands and parted. A few weeks later, I was visiting my 2nd cousin Hanna Napiorkowska. Hanna works at the Police station in Pultusk. I told her this story. Hanna admitted that it embarrasses her how the small town police charge more for tourists, and how they will negotiate. She asked if it is possible to negotiate with Police in the US and I admitted of course not. She said only small town police do that in Poland; big city police are more organized and consistent. So I told the story about how I negotiated a parking fine in Warsaw last November, from 100 Zloty down to 60.

Armata. It is a common name in the Wisniowa area. I saw the name Armata often in record books. I met that one second cousin, Teresa, whose husband is Jan Armata. I doubt he is a close relation to our Armata cousins. I also noticed the name Gwozdz in the Wisniowa area record books, but not nearly as often as in the Wadowice Gorne region.

Jozef's cottage. Remember, Franciszek Banas built his cottage in 1889? In my genealogy, I speculated that the other cottage next door was older. I based my speculation on a report from Joe Armata, from his visit in 1980. Joe Armata referred to that other cottage as older, and as "Jozef's cottage". That other cottage no longer stands. I asked the Grela's about it. They pointed out the old foundation. They do not know if it was older or younger than the 1889 cottage. I asked about my supposition that "Jozef" refers to Jan's brother. Franciszek's oldest sons were Jan and Jozef. Jan lived in the 1889 cottage; Elzbieta Grela is his granddaughter. Jozef lived near by. I met old man Boleslaw Banas, the youngest son of Jozef. Boleslaw lives a couple hundred feet up the hill slope from the 1889 cottage. The Grelas agreed yes, maybe Jozef lived in that other cottage, but they are not sure. I forgot to ask Boleslaw and Elzbieta's sister about all this. It would be nice to know if that other cottage was the one that Franciszek lived in before 1889, and perhaps was born there.

By the way, my photographs of the 1889 cottage are different than Joe Armata's photographs from 1980. Mine show a cottage half as long. The "barn" half has been razed. It was traditional for Polish cottages to enter through the center. The animals are to one side, the people are to the other side. The animal side of Franciszek's cottage is gone. The people side is badly weathered. It is used for storage, not habitation.

Schizophrenia. On a sad note, I learned of a Gwozdz cousin who spent her adult life in an asylum near Tarnow. It is tragic how many lives have been ruined both on the Gwozdz and Banas sides by this scourge of our family.

Banas Photographs. At the Grela home, I saw lots of old photos. Some of these are the same as the photo copies that I received from my aunt Virginia Maguire and from Joseph Armata. I guess Jan Banas brought these back from the US when he returned to Poland. By coincidence, I had brought xerox copies of the same photos with me. The Grela's did not know who is who, so I left them my xerox copies, which have the names of the people. The Grelas have more recent Banas photographs that I had not previously seen. Among these photos are photos of Sister Akwina, the Banas nun. I had not heard about her, but some of you readers surely have.

3-D viewer. The Grelas have an antique 3-D viewer. Wooden. You hold it next to your eyes. There is a wooden strip in the middle, to separate the eyes. You place double pictures on the holder, for viewing. This set has a box full of pictures, mostly with a religious theme. These things were a big fad near the turn of the century. The Grela's do not know if this was a gift from a cousin in the US, or if Jan Banas brought it back to Poland when he left the US.

Time Line

November:

4-8 Northern Poland. Warsaw, Pultusk, Plock, Sypniewo, Szelkow, Olszewnica.
Hotel Dom Polonii in Pultusk. Visited Gutowski's in Nowa Wies.

April:

3 Arrived in Warsaw. Drive north Poland to south Poland, to Wisniowa, Grela's.
3-9 Six nights at Grela's (Banas Homestead). Wisniowa, Niewodna, Szufnarowa.
6 Trip to Wadowice Gorne. Church Archives.
7 Trip to Tarnow. Diocese Archives. Also visit to father Cisak.
9 Drive south to north Poland. Plock. Hotel Starex.
10 Plock Archives only one hour. Drive to Sypniewo, County Records. Night at Gutowski's.
11 Krasnosielc, visit Gorska. Check in at Dom Polonii. Pick up Barb & Dave at Warsaw.
12 Easter Sunday Mass at Szelkow. Cemeteries. Sunday meal at Gutowski's.
13 Gorska again. Olszewnica with Dave. Hotel Dom Polonii in Pultusk 3rd night.
14 Drive north to south Poland. Visit Grela's. Hotel Budimex in Rzeszow.
15 Wadowice Gorne & Dolne. Hotel Pod Roza in Krakow.
16-17 Flight Krakow to Venice. Hotel Bernardi two nights. Venice. Barb lost her ring.
18 Barb & Dave leave for home via Paris. Pete stays in Venice for the 19th.
20-21 Venice to Krakow, Pod Roza one night, Forum Hotel 2nd night with Piotr Kaluza.
21-23 Two nights at Hotel Yubilat in Mielec. Found relatives in Wadowice Dolne.
23-25 Drive back to Wisniowa. Two more nights with Grela's. More church & county records.
25 Drive south to north Poland. Dom Polonii again, 4 nights.
26-28 Jozefa in Rozan, Szelkow records, Oszewo-Borki, Ostroleka, Nowa Wies, Sypniewo.
29 Drive to Warsaw airport. Departure for India and Singapore.

Notebook pages numbered with red pen on 31 May, 1998

A. November 1997 trip. Light Blue Notebook

Date page

4 3 Tuesday. Arrived in Warsaw. Stayed the night at Novotel Hotel
5 3 Log. AM. National Archives in Warsaw, ul. Długa 6
5 1 Data. National Archives. List of addresses for Gmina records offices in northern Poland
5 5 Log. Visit Celina Gutowska. Notes. Directions on how to get there
5 5-7 Log. Night at Dom Polonii, Pultusk
6 7 AM drive to Plock. Spent entire day. Returned to Dom Polonii for the night.
7-27 Data: notes from the Szelkow record books, Plock Diocese Archives.
7 29-39 Returned to Plock. Data: more notes from the Szelkow record books
33 Analysis of data
37 Red Book data. Plock Diocese Register. Gasewo & Szelkow list of records.
7 41-45 Log. Night drive through Makow, Gasewo, Sypniewo, Szelkow. Sketch maps of landmarks.
49 Log. Written next day, on Sypniewo etc. Hotels.
7 45-51 Olszewnica visit, including meeting Stan Zabek of Strachocin
8 Short early morning sleep at Dom Polonii. Checked out early. Drove to Airport.
8 Saturday AM flight to Munich for business
53 Log notes from memory, written at airport

B. April 1998 trip. Continuation of Light Blue Notebook

April page

- 3 55 Friday. Arrived in Warsaw about 1 PM. Drove from north Poland to south Poland.
55-56 Log. Drive. Skwierz in Szufnarowa. Night at the Grela home in Wisniowa.
- 4 56-57 Log. Day's activities with Grela. Neighbor cousins. Cemeteries in Niewodna. Pelczar visit.
58 Notes. Dioceses: Tarnow, Rzeszow, Pzemysyl. Wisnic Dwor = Wisniowa.
- 5 63 Log. Sunday morning Mass at Niewodna.
- 5 59-63 Data. Szufnarowa church record books. Births: Katarzyna, Sebastian Zagorski
63 Log. Armata family visited at night, Grela home.
- 6 70 Log. Research day. Augustyn helped AM at Winiowa Gmina. I drove PM to Wadowice Gorne.
- 6 64-67 Data. Wisniowa Gmina. Death of Katarzyna.
67-69 Data. Wadowice Gorne church records. No Piotr. Some siblings.
- 7 70-71 Log. Last night again at Grela's. Drive AM to Tarnow.
80-81 Log of Tarnow visit.
72-79 Data. Tarnow Diocese Archives. From 1777. Michal Gwozdz siblings, but not birth.
79 Boguslaw Baczynski helped me at Tarnow. Business card clipped, copied to page.
89 Log. The stop to see Father Cisak, in Zglobice.
- 7 Another night at Grela's.
- 8 89 Log. Drive to Rzeszow, to make reservations at Hotel Budimex for next week.
79 Banas homestead sketch map. page 80 Skwierz sketch map.
81 Log. 4 PM back at Szufnarowa. Priest tells me to take the books home to Grela's.
81-87 Data. Szufnarowa books. There is also data on loose pages in a file.
- 8 Wednesday night. Last night at Grela's. 6 nights total.
- 9 88 Log. Drive from south Poland to north Poland. Wisniowa to Plock. Hotel Starex for the night.
- 10 88-89 Late AM notes in Plock hotel, waiting to leave. Plock Archive log is in next book.
- 10 90 Data. Sypniewo Gmina. Iwanowicz marriage & Felixia birth. Last page of the notebook.

C. April 1998 trip. "Wales" Red Notebook

Pages torn from this book in April for use as scrap paper. No log pages torn out before 31 May.

- 10 1 Log. AM at Plock archives. Data on loose paper. Only an hour. Drove to Sypniewo
- 10 3 Log. Evening and night at Gutowski's
- 11 3 Easter Saturday. Log. AM drive to Krasnosielc, visit Zofia Gorska.
3 PM. Check into Dom Polonii. Pick up Barb & Dave @ Warsaw airport. Night at Dom Polonii.
- 12 3-5 Easter. Log. AM Mass Szelkow. Long meal at Gutowski's. Walk to Pojawa house.
- 13 10 Note. AM visit to Gorska, where the girl sprinkled us for Easter Monday.
10-11 Log. Trip to Olszewnica
- 13 7-9 Mileage log of trip to Olszewnica & visit Zabek. 3rd night at Dom Polonii in Pultusk.
- 14 11 Log. Drive from north Poland to south Poland. Night at Budimex hotel, Rzeszow
- No more log. New log notebook. All the rest of this book is data:*
- 15 11 Wadowice Gorne Recorder's Office. Stones at Wadowice Gorne cemetery.
- 15 12-13 Stones at Wadowice Dolne cemetery.
- 20 15-17 Krakow Archive
- 21 18-25 Wadowice Gorne Church
- 22 26 Note. Brief stop at Wadowice Dolne church. No data. Pastor not there.
- 22 26-27 Wadowice Gorne Recorder's Office
27-31 Wadowice Gorne Church Records Data.
32 Notes. Review of data from Recorder's office on Stefan Kolano. I found his daughter.
32-34 Family tree notes for Skowyra. Address for Golonka
34-35 Mileage log leaving (Kolano) Skowyra's house.
- 22 35-36 Wadowice Dolne Church
- 23 36 Mielec. Golonka family tree notes.
37 Wadowice Dolne. Gwozdz family tree notes.
38 Mileage log leaving Wadowice Dolne
38 Mielec. Babcia Anna visit. Memory notes.
- 39040 Gwozdz Analysis
- 23 39 Grela notes: restaurant in Krakow. Szufnarowa priest's name.
- 24 41-43 Wisniowa Gmina Recorder's Office. Data
- 24 44-52 Wisniowa Church Records. Data
- 26 53 Jozefa (Piszewski) memory notes.
54 Jozefa family tree notes

- 55-59 Szelkow Church Records
- 27 59 Olszewo-Borki & Rzekun search notes
- 27 60 Ostroleka Library
- 28 60 Pultusk Archive
- 28 61-62 Nowa Wies Parish notes & references
- 28 62-64 Pzystan visit to Manor house now a school
- 65-68 Sypniewo Church Records
- 69 Mileage log, drive through Glinki - Sypniewo Folwark area
- 28 70-71 Analysis. Pzystan, Glinki, Szlakta

D. April 1998 trip. Small Black Notebook. Log Book

- 12 4 Easter Sunday Szelkow cemetery & mass.
- 13 4-5 Easter Monday visit to Gorska. Olszewnica
- 14 5 Drive north to south across Poland. Dinner at Grela's
- 15 5-6 Drive to Wadowice Gorne & Dolne. Cemetery stone 100% check. Drive to Krakow
- 15 3&6 Evening shopping in Krakow (Cracow)
- 16 2 Central Square in Krakow
- 16 2 Night at Pod Roza Hotel in Krakow
- 16 1-2 Flight from Krakow to Venice by way of Vienna
- 17 1 8 AM coffee at Hotel Bernardi in Venice
- 17 3 Shopping and walking in Venice. Barb lost wedding ring.
- 18 3 AM. Barb & Dave leave Venice for home via Paris. Pete remains in Venice.
- 18 7-8 Saturday. Last night in Venice at Bernardi
- 19 8 Trip Venice to Krakow. Visited Piotr Kaluza's mom.
- 19 8-9 Sunday night. Back at Pod Roza, one night.
- 20 9 Visited Piotr Kaluza at the Forum hotel. Checked out of Pod Roza into the room with Piotr
- 9 PM visited Krakow Archives. Notes in other log book. Spent the rest of the day with Piotr.
- 9 Dinner with Piotr and two of his customers, priests, at Wierzynka restaurant, best in Krakow.
- 9 Night & next morning visiting with Piotr at Forum Hotel. Brief stop at Krakow Archives.
- 21 10 Drive from Krakow to Mielec. Stop at Wadowice Gorne for research; notes in other book.
- Night at Yubilat Hotel in Mielec.
- 22 10 Comments on the rain and the flood.
- 11-12 Detailed notes on the story of how I found the Kolano Skowyra cousin in Odment.
- Second night at Yubilat
- 23 13&17 AM early morning visit to Gwozdz Golonka family in Mielec
- 14 Visit to Wadowice Dolne. Weather notes. Flood gone. Nice day.
- 15-17 Edward Gwozdz family. Gwozdz cottage
- 16 Michal Gwozdz death notes. Note from memory about old Wad Gorne church location
- 18 3 PM visit to Anna Gwozdz at daughter's apartment
- 23 19 Drive to Grela's in Wisniowa for visit & for the night
- 24 20 Wisniowa Gmina County Records Office. Notes in other book. Niewodna church records.
- 21-22 Two visits with Elzbieta to 2nd cousins. The Fat Horse. Second night at Grela's
- 25 13 Saturday AM writing notes in Grela's kitchen
- 22 Back to Niewodna, Balicki data in other book.
- 23 Lunch & good-bye at Grela's. Drive from south to north. Dom Polonii Hotel
- 26 21 Sunday AM writing in this book at Dom Polonii restaurant in Pultusk
- 23 Weather notes
- 24 AM Visited Jozefa (Piszewski) along the road in Rozan. PM records in Szelkow; supper there.
- 27 24 Monday AM writing at breakfast again at Dom Polonii.
- 24-25 Most of the AM shopping; traveler's business.
- 27 Second brief visit to Jozefa in Rozan
- 26 Drive to Olszewo-Borki, Rzekun, Ostroleka. Evening, 2nd cousin Hanna Piszewski Napiorowska.
- 28 24 Tuesday AM writing at breakfast again at Dom Polonii.
- 26 AM Nowa Wies. Hitchhiker notes.
- 27 Lots of genealogy work; brief note only. Lots of notes in other book.
- 29 28 Early AM drive from Dom Polonii to Warsaw airport, for flight to New Delhi via Frankfurt.
- 28-30 India
- 1 May 28 Late PM Flight from New Delhi to Singapore via Bangkok

Photographs

A. First Roll. 352-259 number on Fujifilm cassette and on back of each photo

All the photos in this role were shot on 3-5 April. The 1-page numbered index print is available. Photos are in reverse order:

- 25 Grela family at Banas Homestead in Wisniowa. Augustyn and Elzbieta. Grandmother Czeslawa. Daughter Anna. Son Szepan. Other son Rafal is missing. Czeslawa is wife of the late Henryk Banas and mother of Elzbieta, who is my second cousin.
- 24 Same, with me instead of Augustyn. Photos are in the kitchen.
- 23 "1889" scratched into the ceiling beam of the cottage by Franciszek Banas when built.
- 22 Szepan and I inside the 1889 2-room cottage "white room" master bedroom.
- 21 Szepan and Elzbieta inside the "black room" family room.
- 20 Front view of cottage, now used for storage. The cottage used to include the livestock barn, in front, under one roof, where the gravel pile now sits; the entrance was from the right, between the two sections: turn left for livestock barn, turn right for home. The modern Grela home is in the foreground on the right.
- 19 View up the hill toward the cottage; modern home on left. My red Escort rental car.
- 18 Log close up. One of these logs has over 100 countable rings.
- 17 Ditto.
- 16 Szepan with Boleslaw, who is the youngest son of Jozef Banas. Jozef is brother of my grandmother Bronislawa. Boleslaw (William) is the only one that I met from my father's generation. His son Jozef was unfriendly, saying nothing. I visited while they were cutting firewood just a 50 yard walk up the hill slope from Grela's home.
- 15 View from way up the hillside. The new Grela house is the white one in back; the black roof of the 1889 cottage is just visible. The creek is in the valley. The road in the background is the road from Wisniowa through Szufnarowa, left to right upstream. The road goes on to Ropczyce.
- 14 The new Grela home, view up from the creek. 1889 Cottage on right. Cow barn just visible on left.
- 13 Creek, facing upstream.
- 12 Gravestone of Jan Banas, Elzbieta's grandfather, brother of my grandmother. Jan lived in Adams, MA as a young man. This grave is at the filled Niewodna cemetery up the hill from the parish church, not the new cemetery.
- 11 New cemetery, north of the filled one. I'm pretty sure this is the stone of Szepan's grandfather Henryk, but it may be Henryk's mother's. My notes say both are there.
- 10 1812 original baptismal record of my great great grandfather Jan Banas. His record is the 2nd from the bottom on the left. Look carefully at the "Patris" column to read the name of his father in Latin: "Petrus Banas". His mother is in the "Matris" column: "Marianna Patris Wilusz". This old book does not have the usually grandparents listed; the last 2 columns are for the godparents. Look carefully at the far left date column, and read the Latin months: "Julius" for the top 2 rows, then "Augustus, Septembris, Novembris" and finally "Decembris" for the last 4 rows. Jan was baptized on the 10th, in house number 19.

- 9 Me holding the book from photo 10. Father Michal Pelczar is standing in the center. The shy cook on the left is the one who actually did the research and typing for the “Pelczar Papers” that were mailed to Eugene Iwanski in 1995, with the information from this book and much more.
- 8 Rafal Grela, standing, with his parents. He was not home for photo 25. Kitchen.
- 7 Father Bronislaw Domino, pastor of the Szufnarowa Parish. Augustyn Grela, my host, on the right, is a close friend of the priest, so it was easy for me to get access to the records. Father Domino built this house right next to the church as a museum. He asked his parishioners to bring in old items, like this loom, to fill the house.
- 6 More antiques in the new house.
- 5 These young men were helping the priest arrange the antiques when I visited.
- 4 An old antique rug.
- 3 The old Szufnarowa record books. When the Szufnarowa church was built in this century, these books were moved from the original Niewodna parish. That is why the records for Franciszek Banas’ wife Katarzyna Zagorska were not included in the 1995 “Pelczar Papers”. I found this record on 5 April 1998. The numbers in the first 4 columns indicate that hers was the first baptism in 1851, she was born and baptized on the 1st of January, and she was born in house number 117. That’s the Latin form of her name: “Catharinae”. The next few columns are for sex, religion, and legitimacy. Her father’s column does not have his parents: “Sebastian Zagorski Cmelo”; Cmelo means Sebastian is a peasant farmer. Her mother’s column does have Katarzyna’s maternal grandparents listed: “Thecla Stanislawi Szymanski et Eva Kepanowska” means her mother is Tekla and the grandparents are Stanislaw & Ewa.
- 2 Ditto
- 1 Ditto. The books are stored in that cabinet behind me, in the parish rectory where father Domino lives.

B. Second Roll. 352-231 number on Fujifilm cassette and on back of each photo

The 1-page numbered index print is available. Photos are in reverse order:

- Photos 24-21 are at the Grela home, on the evening of 5 April. Other relatives came to visit me. This is the living room, where I slept for several days on that sofa in the background of photo 21.
- 24 Left, Rafal Grela with his girl friend Katarzyna Godek. Barbara is wearing a blue sweater. Babcia Czeslawa is sitting on the sofa with her two Grela grandchildren Szepan and Ewa.
 - 23 Maria, wearing the red sweater, on the left, is flanked by her sister Elzbieta and brother-in-law Augustyn Grela. Barbara, in a blue sweater on the right, is Maria’s daughter. Maria’s other daughter, Boguslawa, whom I met the next day, did not visit this evening.
 - 22 Augustyn is clowning with a souvenir headpiece from the years he spent working in Libya, to save up enough money to build this house. In the center is Maria’s husband Wladyslaw Szymanski. The couple on the left are Jan and Teresa Armata. Teresa is daughter of Stanislaw Banas, who is son of Jozef Banas, who is brother of Jan Banas and my grandmother Bronislawa. That makes Teresa, Elzbieta & Maria, and me 2nd cousins.
 - 21 Another view, with me.
 - 20 Tarnow Diocese Archives. This is the oldest record book that I have found so far; it was started in 1777. I am pointing to the 1810 birth record for Wojciech Gwozdz, the grandfather of my grandfather. I found this record on a 7 April day trip from Wisniowa to Tarnow. I already knew the name of Wojciech’s father Michal from the Mormon Microfilms. This book gives me the correct family name of his mother. Her name is barely legible in the microfilm. Her family name is Gut (feminine form Gucionka), not Wilk. Lucky for me Boguslaw Bachynski, a Tarnow genealogy expert, was there to help me translate “Gucionka”.

- 19 I visited Father Cisak. This is a close friend of my sister Ceil, from when he was a visiting helper priest in the Springfield MA area. This photo is in his one room apartment at the "Dom Ksiegu Emeritow", a home for retired priests in Zglobice, just west of Tarnow. That's my brief case on his bed. As you can see, the good priest enjoyed smoking American cigarettes with me, so I gave him a pack.
- 18 Father Cisak took a photo of me, too.
- 17 Banas - Grela homestead. You can use this picture in the future to find the place. This picture is facing east, in the opposite direction from photo 15 on the first roll. The 1889 cottage is in the center of the photo, just right of the white newer Grela home, which is lined up just right of the telephone pole. This shot is from the road, 1.05 kilometers north from the main "T" intersection, facing exactly perpendicular to the road, in other words, lined up with the cottage. Driving up a gentle hill, you can see the Grela house through the trees; I walked through the trees to take this photo. Continuing north, the road flattens out, then curves right downhill. On the far right of the photo, the driveway is just visible; this driveway is roughly parallel; you get to it by turning 45 degrees to the right at 0.5 kilometers from the Wisniowa "T".
- 16 Szufnarowa record books. Father Domino let me take all 6 of them overnight. This is 8 April, the 6th and last night of my first visit to the Banas - Grela homestead.
- 15 Plock. View from my window in the Starex Hotel. That's the Wisla River, the main river of Poland. Plock is downstream (northwest) of Warsaw. The Plock Diocese Archives are nearby. I studied church records at the Archives 6-7 Nov 1997, and again the day after this photo, 10 Apr 1998.
- 14 Left to right: Jan Gutowski, son Marek, daughter Izabella, wife Cecilia. Cecilia, or Celina, my 2nd cousin, is granddaughter of Franciszek Piszewski. I visited them Nov 1997 and again at the time of this photo 10-11 Apr, spending the night.
- 13 Ditto. With me.
- 12 Olszewnica. Evening; photo too dark. Dave on left. Gregorz Karozkiewicz, a prosperous farmer who helped us find Olszewnica, is the one on the right. 13 April.
- 11 Same. Dave and me.
- 10 Olszewnica. Dave is pointing to a spot at the far end of the field, where the Gruda family of Olszewnica say they filled the cellar hole of a house where Piszewski people lived until about 40 years ago. I figure those were cousins of my grandmother, who may have been born at that spot.
- 9 Dave with two lovely young ladies of Olszewnica. Fathers all over Poland kept encouraging Dave to consider their daughters. On the right is Kazimiera Gruda of Olszewnica.
- 8 Stanislaw Zabek on the right. He helped me find Olszewnica Nov 1997. I promised to locate his cousin in the US, so Dave and I returned Apr 1998 to present the information. They were having an Easter Monday dinner with friends and guests when we dropped in. This photo was taken after the guests left. Stan's wife is leaning on the table. I do not remember who the lady on the far left is; maybe the kids are both Stan's and hers.
- 7 Ditto.
- 6 Sypek stone. Do not know if or how related to our Sypek. Barb and Dave and I checked out lots of gravestones looking for relatives, but did not find any. I took lots of notes for future research reference.
- 5 Anna Gwozdz stone. Relation not know. Representative photo. Arbitrary choice.
- 4 Stanislaw Gwozdz. Ditto.
- 3 Ditto. Photos 5-3 all Wadowice Gorne Cemetery, 15 April. There are more cemetery photos on the 2 rolls from Barb's camera.

- 2 Gwozdz Homestead. Photos 2 & 1 jump to 23 April. This is in front of the newer house, next door. Zofia (Sofie) Lis, holding her youngest son Dariusz, is my 2nd cousin. Her mother Michalina is on the right.
- 1 Old Gwozdz cottage is on the left; same view of newer house from the road.

C. Third Roll. 0141 number on back of each photo. Kodak negatives strips, not cassette.

The photo numbers need an "A" on this roll when ordering prints from the negative.

Photos 25-20, Gwozdz Homestead, continuation from second roll:

- 25 Edward Gwozdz, father of Zofia, joined us. Back side of cottage.
- 24 Ditto. Entry door on far right.
- 23 Gwozdz 150 year old homestead, where my grandfather was born. Naturally, just about everything you see in this photo is newer roof and siding, but the old beams are visible inside. This photo is from the road. Watch for this if you visit in the future. It is on the left side of the road from Wadowice Gorne to Wadowice Dolne, heading west. This cottage is just 0.3 kilometers from the entering "Wadowice Dolne" sign. This cottage 1.9 km from the Wadowice Gorne big red brick church. This cottage is 4.9 km west of the "T" intersection with the main highway that heads southwest out of Mielec.
- 22 Another back view, with my red Escort rental car.
- 21 Ditto
- 20 Me inside the cottage with my father's cousin Edward Gwozdz and his wife Michalina. The traditional rosette engraved in that beam above my head is just visible, but the inscribed date is illegibly covered with several layers of paint. Edward assures me it is about 150 years old, and that his father Michal and siblings were born here. I suppose this cottage had an earth floor for most of the past 150 years, but it is quite comfortable and cozy now.

Photos 19-16 are also 23 April, Gwozdz relatives in Mielec:

- 19 Golonka family at their home in Mielec. Stanislaw, in the red sweater, is my 2nd cousin; she is daughter of Anna, and granddaughter of Michal Gwozdz. Her husband Mieczyslaw is in the center. They are both retired. Their daughter Bozena, on the left lives with them. Bozena's husband Wlodzimierz Skura was at work when this picture was taken; in the front are Wojtek and Katarzyna, 2 of their 3 children; the oldest, Michal, was at school.
- 18 Ditto, with me.
- 17 Anna Gwozdz, mother of Stanislaw Golonka, at the Mielec apartment of her other daughter.
- 16 Me with them all. That's the other daughter on the right, Janina Janczykowska.

Photos 15-12 are back in Wisniowa. Elzbieta Grela went visiting relatives with me 24 April.

- 15 Roman and Zofia Wojtowicz in Niewodna. Children Mrzula, Ewa, and Lukasz. Zofia is my 2nd cousin, daughter of Tadeus Zarek, who is son of Eleonora, who is the sister of my grandmother Bronislawa who lived with her in Adams for a while early in this century.
- 14 Ditto.
- 13 Home of Wiktoria (Victoria) Maslanka in Wisniowa. Wiktoria, center, the older woman in the red sweater, is my 2nd cousin. She is a 1st cousin of Elzbieta Grela, the woman in the white sweater barely visible on the right. Elzbieta and I are visiting relatives. Wiktoria and Elzbieta are grandchildren of Jan Banas, my grandmother's brother. Two of Wiktoria's children came to visit, apparently because Elzbieta phoned ahead that I was coming: Piotr Maslanka is on the far right; Marzena Ruszyn is on the far left. Piotr's wife Agnieszka is standing in the rear center; Marzena's husband is seated right of center with his son Kamil in his lap. I'm missing the name of their youngest, on Marzena's lap. Marzena's older children, David and Regina, are standing on the left. All 4 kids are grandchildren of Wiktoria. This is Babcia's house.

- 12 Ditto. With me.
- 11 Jozefa Zygmuntowicz, 2nd from right, is my mother's first cousin, daughter of Franciszek Piszewski. This is in Rozan, northern Poland, not far from Sypniewo. This is the home of her son Andzej, rear center, and his wife Kazimiera, 2nd from left. There 2 sons Krzystof, far left, and Daniel, far right, were there. I stopped to visit 26 April.
- 10 Ditto, with me.
- 9 Ditto
- 8 Przystan. I visited this old estate house on 28 April, hoping to find hints that we may have had an Iwanowicz orphan prince who was born here about 1794. The manor is now a school; I am sitting in a classroom studying a handwritten history book about the estate. The school teacher brought me the book. I took that poster off the wall in the corridor; it is a brief poster history of the estate.
- 7 The poster
- 6 The poster and the book, which is stored in that box.
- 5 The manor estate house, now a school.
- 4 Ditto, with my rental car.
- 3 Chojniki is only a few miles away from Przystan. My great grandfather Franciszek Iwanowicz was born here in 1830, according to his 1860 marriage record.
- 2 Taj Mahal. I stopped in India. These 4 pictures were taken 29 April. Entrance gate.
- 1 Main approach
- 0 The young guy with me is the cousin of the owner of the car that I rented; he's learning the tourist business, so we guided each other.
- 00 The tower is straight; the camera was tilted.

D. Barb's First Roll. 0151 number on back of each photo. Kodak negatives strips.

The photo numbers need an "A" on this roll when ordering prints from the negative.

- 0 Szelkow Church. Easter Sunday 12 April. My grandmother Rozalia belonged to this parish, but not this newer church building now undergoing reconstruction.
- 1 Leaving Szelkow
- 2 Entering Gasewo. My grandfather Stanislaw Iwanowicz belonged to this parish. Sypniewo did not have a church until after he left for the US. Church in background.
- 3 Chapel in graveyard at Gasewo.
- 4 Ditto.
- 5 Entering Sypniewo
- 6 Post office at Sypniewo, said to be the site of the Iwanowicz home back in 1900.
- 7 Ditto.
- 8 Entering Nowa Wies.
- 9 Gutowski's home. Nowa Wies. Easter meal noon to 3 PM. Left to right: Dave's 3rd cousin Izabella, me, Dave, my 2nd cousin Cecilia (Celina), her husband Jan Gutowski. The back of Jan's sister's head is in the foreground.
- 10 Izabella standing. Seated on left is Jan's mother. The other seated couple are friends.
- 11 My face left foreground. Left to right Jan's sister, Izabella, Jan's sister's husband, mother, friend.
- 12 Left to right: Dave, Celina, Izabella, Jan, sister.
- 13 Us

- 14 We walked Easter PM to the Pojawa house. Celina's sister, Alicja (Alina) is working in Brooklyn. Alina's husband is in the yellow shirt. Their youngest daughter, Ewa, is on the left, with her fiancée Piotr Sienkiewicz. Anna, the oldest is next to me; Marta is in the center, in yellow.
- 15 Ditto, with Barb.
- 16-18 Stork, along highway 61 from Ostroleka to Pultusk.
- 19 Another one.
- 20 Zofia Gorska, in her one-room apartment in the home of her stepson.
- 21 Ditto.
- 22 Stepgrandson Piotr is on my lap. His sister Katarzyna sprinkled us with cologne. It is the custom to sprinkle people on Easter Monday. Teenagers use buckets of water.
- 23 On the road from north to south Poland. That village on the hill did not come out well.
- 24 Grela home. This is the Banas homestead site in Wisniowa. I stayed here several days. Barb and Dave returned with me for dinner on 14 April. My 2nd cousin, Elzbieta Grela, in white blouse, is in the center. Left to right: son Szepan, 2nd cousin Teresa Armata, husband Augustyn, mother Czeslawa, son Rafal, Elzbieta, daughter Anna, Dave, me. Czeslawa is wife of the late Henryk Banas, son of Jan Banas. Teresa is daughter of Stanislaw Banas, who is son of Jozef Banas. Jozef, Jan, and my grandmother Bronislawa are siblings.
- 25 Ditto, with Barb.

E. Barb's Second Roll. 0150 number on back of each photo. Kodak negatives strips.

These do not need the "A".

- 0 Wadowice Gorne cemetery. Barb and Dave and I took notes on all the tombstones.
- 1 Ditto. These 6 cemetery photos were taken on 15 April.
- 2 Entering Wadowice Dolne. This was before I found the Gwozdz cottage, which is on the left side of this road, probably in sight.
- 3 Wadowice Dolne cemetery.
- 4 Ditto.
- 5 Ditto.
- 6 CraCow main square in the center of old town. 16 April.
- 7 Ditto. This is the church with the famous trumpeter.
- 8 Venice. We flew there on the 16th, stayed 2 nights (I stayed a 3rd night).
- 9 All the rest of the Venice pictures are on the 19th. Here, we are going to the main square.
- 10 The main square. Shopping.
- 11-16 Ditto.
- 17-21 From the top of that tower in photo 15.
- 22-25 Back home. Prom night.

21 June 1998

Pete Gwozdz

Poland Genealogy Vacation Report 20
Addendum to Photographs List.
Captions for Photo Album (2 copies).

Banas. Right. My grandmother Bronislawa Banas lived in this cottage when she was a young girl. That's me, Peter Gwozdz, in the black jacket, with relative Szepan Grela.

Gwozdz. Center. My grandfather Piotr Gwozdz was born in this cottage. His nephew Edward Gwozdz and Edward's wife Michalina are with me. That beam above us has the traditional rosette inscription, but the date is not legible.

Iwanowicz. Lower right. My grandfather Stanislaw Iwanowicz lived right here, where the Sypniewo Post Office now stands. My son Dave is with me.

Piszewski. Lower left. My grandmother Rozalia Piszewska was born less than 200 yards from this spot in Olszewnica. Those ladies with Dave live there, but they are not relatives.

Gwozdz Cottage. It is about 150 years old. For an inside view, see the front page. There is Michalina again, with her daughter Zofia Lis and grandson Dariusz, who live in that newer gray house next door. Both those lower two pictures are facing west. Dave and I were there a week before I found these relatives; we did not know that the Gwozdz cottage is 0.1 km down the street on the left from this sign.

Tarnow Archives. Right. This is the oldest record book that I have found so far; it was started in 1777. I am pointing to the 1810 birth record for Wojciech Gwozdz, the grandfather of my grandfather.

Gwozdz Relatives. Right; back row, left to right: Bozena Skura, her father Mieczyslaw Golonka, her mother Stanislaw in the red sweater is my second cousin. Bozena's children, front row, Wojtek and Katarzyna. They live together in this house in Mielec. Stanislaw's uncle Edward Gwozdz (front page) lives an hour away. Center photo: the 88 year old lady is Edward Gwozdz's sister. Anna's 2 daughters are with us: Stanislaw got cut off, but that's her above. Janina Janczykowska, in black, gave me a nice history book of the area. This is Janina's apartment.

Gwozdz Cemeteries. Wadowice Dolne, below, and Wadowice Gorne, lower right. Relatives are buried here. Our ancestors are buried where the old church used to be, at the county office building.

Banas Cottage. For another inside view, see the front page. My great grandfather Franciszek inscribed that “1889” on the inside central beam when he finished this building. Franciszek’s late grandson Henryk lived here with his wife Czeslawa. Czeslawa is on the next page. Elzbieta Grela, also on the next page, my second cousin, is the daughter of Henryk and Czeslawa. This cottage is no longer occupied. It is used for storage. The family lives in that newer white house on the left. The lower photo is from the main road, 1.05 kilometers north from the main “T” intersection in Wisniowa, facing east. The cottage and white house are centered, just right of the telephone pole, same angle as the center picture. That’s the long driveway on the far right of the picture. There is a creek at the bottom of that valley; see the creek picture later in this book. Boleslaw Banas (picture two pages forward) lives in that red roof house just east up the hill from the cottage.

Grela Family. Barb took the picture on the right when we visited for dinner on 14 April. That’s my second cousin Elzbieta (Banas) Grela in the white blouse. Left to right: Son Szepan, 2nd cousin Teresa Armata who also visited that day, husband Augustyn Grela in back, mother Czeslawa, son Rafal standing, Elzbieta, daughter Anna, my son David, and me, Peter Gwozdz.

The other two photos were taken on the evening of 5 April, when relatives came over mainly to visit with me. This is the living room of the Grela home. I slept on that sofa behind Teresa for 7 nights. I like this place. Center: Augustyn Grela is clowning with a souvenir headpiece from the years he spent working in Libya, to save up enough money to build this house. The couple on the left are Jan and Teresa Armata. Augustyn is sitting between Wladyslaw and Maria Szymanski. Teresa is daughter of Stanislaw Banas, who is son of Jozef Banas, who is brother of Jan Banas and my grandmother Bronislawa. Maria is a sister of Elzbieta so Maria also grew up in that cottage on the left page. Teresa, Elzbieta & Maria, and I are all 2nd cousins. Bottom: Rafal’s girlfriend, Katarzyna Godek, is sitting next to him. Barbara, in the blue sweater, is Maria’s daughter. Anna’s feet are next to Szepan and Babcia Czeslawa, just visible on the far lower right.

Banas Relatives. Left; the old man is Boleslaw Banas, nephew of my grandmother. He lives just up the hill from Szepan Grela, who is with him. Center: Roman and Zofia Wojtowicz in Niewodna. Children Mrzula, Ewa, and Lukasz. Zofia is my 2nd cousin. Lower left: Home of Wiktoria (Victoria) Maslanka in Wisniowa. Wiktoria, center, the older woman in the red sweater, is my 2nd cousin. She is a 1st cousin of Elzbieta Grela, the woman in the white sweater barely visible on the right. Elzbieta and I are visiting relatives. Two of Wiktoria's children came to visit, apparently because Elzbieta phoned ahead that I was coming: Piotr Maslanka is on the far right; Marzena Ruszyn is on the far left. Piotr's wife Agnieszka is standing in the rear center; Marzena's husband is seated right of center with his son Kamil in his lap. I'm missing the name of their youngest, on Marzena's lap. Marzena's older children, David and Regina, are standing on the left. (July note: I may have the wives crossed above: that may be Damien sitting in the lap of his mother Agnieska on the left. Album not changed with this note.)

Iwanowicz. Sypniewo is the Iwanowicz home town. Uncle John, who visited Poland during the 1960's, reported that a Post Office was built on the site of the old Iwanowicz home. I am not sure of these facts, but there in the center is a photo of the Sypniewo Post Office. Close up on front page.

Iwanowicz Relative. We only found one. My second cousin Zofia Gorska, below in the green sweater. Piotr and Katarzyna are her step grandchildren. Dave and I are the only Iwanowicz cousins Zofia has ever seen.

Plock. Lower right. View of the Wisla River from the Hotel Starex. The Wisla is the main river of Poland. There are very few high points like this in northern Poland. The Plock Diocese Archives, with all the old records for Iwanowicz and Piszewski, are just down the street from this hotel.

Banas Records. All these church record books have entries dated from 1784. Previous page, lower right: I am holding the book with the 1812 original baptismal record of my great great grandfather Piotr Banas. That's Father Michal Pelczar, pastor of the Niewodna Parish. His shy cook hiding behind him is the one who actually did the research and typing for the 1995 "Pelczar Papers", with Banas data, requested by Eugene Iwanski. This page: The Szufnarowa record books. When the Szufnarowa church was built in this century, these books were moved from the original Niewodna parish. That is why the records for Franciszek Banas' wife Katarzyna Zagorska were not included in the 1995 "Pelczar Papers". I found this record on 5 April 1998. The numbers in the first 4 columns indicate that hers was the first baptism in 1851, she was born and baptized on the 1st of January, and she was born in house number 117. That's the Latin form of her name: "Catharinae". The next few columns are for sex, religion, and legitimacy. Her father's column does not have his parents: "Sebastian Zagorski Cmelo"; Cmelo means Sebastian is a peasant farmer. Her mother's column does have Katarzyna's maternal grandparents listed: "Thecla Stanislawi Szymanski et Eva Kepanowska" means her mother is Tekla and the grandparents are Stanislaw & Ewa. The next column is godparents. The books are stored in that cabinet behind me, in the parish rectory where Father Domino lives. He let me take the

6 old books home with me to
Grela's house, lower right.

Przystan. I visited this old estate house on 28 April, hoping to find hints that we may have had an Iwanowicz orphan prince who was born here about 1794. Yes, I found hints, but no proof yet. The manor house (only about 75 years old) is now a school; I am sitting in a classroom studying a handwritten history book about the estate. The school teacher brought me the book. I took that poster off the wall in the corridor; it is a brief poster history of the estate. That's my red Escort rental car. Chojniki is only a few miles away from Przystan. My great grandfather Franciszek Iwanowicz was born in Chojniki, according to his 1860 marriage record. That row of houses is all there is to Chojniki, a typical Polish country village.

Piszewski Relatives. (spelled Pisiewski in the US)

Left: Gutowski dining room; Easter Sunday meal noon to 3 PM. Left to right: My son David, my second cousin Cecilia (Celina) Gutowski, her daughter Izabella, her husband Jan, Jan's sister. Center: Pojawa home, walking distance from Gutowski's in Nowa Wies. Alicja (Alina), my second cousin, is working in Brooklyn. Left to right: her daughter Ewa, Ewa's fiancée Piotr Sienkiewicz, Alina's husband in the yellow shirt, David, daughters Marta and Anna, my wife Barbara.

Lower left: Home of Andzej Zygmuntowicz, my 2nd cousin. Left to right: son Krzystof, wife Kazimiera, Andzej, mother Jozefa who is my mother's 1st cousin, son Daniel. Andzej, Celina, and Alina are grandchildren of Franciszek Piszewski. Lower right: Gutowski living room. Son Marek, 2nd from left, was home that day.

Szelkow Church. We attended Easter Mass here. The church is getting a face lift. A wooden church stood near here 100 years ago; it was the parish church where my grandmother Rozalia Piszewska was baptized. She actually attended weekly mass at a small chapel closer to Olszewnica.

Szufnarowa Antiques. That's Father Bronislaw Domino and Augustyn Grela. Father Domino is the one who let me borrow the Szufnarowa record books; see "Banas Records" earlier in this album. Here, Father Domino is in a house that he had built next to the church. He asked his parishioners to bring in their old junk butter churns, looms, wagon wheels, pumps, yokes, tools, etc. The priest filled all three floors of this house with these antiques. On the day I visited, he had a dozen young men helping him arrange the antiques for display.

Banas Cottage. Another east view of the Banas (Grela) cottage, same as earlier in this album. This view is facing up from the creek.

Banas Cottage. Close up of the logs. The thicker ones have over 100 countable rings. That means the wood at the center is just as old as the paper in those record books, about 225 years old.

This is the creek. See the “Banas Cottage” page for a view of the whole valley. This picture is facing north (upstream). That’s Szepan Grela, David’s 3rd cousin.

We also did some tourist things:

Cracow (Krakow). Upper left. Shopping at the main square in the center of old town. This is the square of the famous trumpeter. We stayed at the Pod Roza Hotel, on Florianska street, just around the corner from this main square.

Venice, Italy. We spent a couple days in Venice before Barb and Dave went back home. Those two pictures, above and upper right, are at San Marco square, that famous central square in Venice. Shopping again. Dave and I climbed to the top of that red brick tower. That’s the main cathedral in the background above.

Taj Mahal. Right. I stopped for a few days in Delhi, India on the way to Singapore.

19 June 1998

Dear Mom:

This album is a copy. I have another album just like it. Can I leave it with you for a year or so? That way, if anyone wants to see my Poland pictures, they can look at this album when they visit you. It is OK if someone wants to borrow this album for awhile.

I have more copies of most of these pictures. If anyone would like any copies, just let me know which ones, and I'll mail them. If anyone goes to visit relatives in Poland, copies of those house pictures and family pictures may be nice to bring along, to make it easier to find them.

I would like this album back someday, for David. But no hurry. One or two or three years is fine. If anyone finds this album lying around someplace in the year 2001, please mail it to me.

Peter Gwozdz
21865 Regnart Road
Cupertino CA 95014

408 446 2579

Data Listings

D-Gwozdz

Wad. File folder. This is the stuff from April 1998; items:

Wad Gorne Church, Wad Gorne Gmina, Wad Dolne Church, Descendancies. 22 pages stapled. Torn out of "Wales" notebook. Includes Piotr's siblings. Includes 4 pages of Gwozdz & Kolano descendancies. Includes mileage logs for Wad Dolne Cottage and for Odment.

Wad Gorne Church. 3 pages of copies from the Blue notebook. 1st visit. Piotr siblings.

Wadowice Notes & Cemeteries. 1 page. Reminder note for data still in "Wales" notebook.

Wadowice - Krakow Records Search. 1 page torn from "Wales". List of civil records.

Tar. File folder. This is the stuff from April 1998; items:

Tanow. 8 pages stapled of Tarnow copies from the Blue notebook. 1777 - ? Distant ancestors. Wojciech's sisters. Includes 3 Gwozdz uncle marriages ? - 1876 - 1885 - ?

Tarnow Archive Notes. Analysis, from Notes.Doc.

ul Sienna 16. Memory sketch of Tarnow archives room.

Piotr Gwozdz. File folder. Existing. Moved from hanger "Gwozdz & Banas" in June 1998 to **D-Gwozdz**. Contents; all copies previously described: Baptism Certificate, ship manifest, Declaration of Intention, Certificate of Naturalization.

M19. Microfilm 1980469. Just one sheet of paper in the briefcase. Wadowice Gorne & Wampierzow. "Filmed in Tarnow 1995, Marriages to 1883" per Steve Law. Waiting for the film to show up at LDS. Will become a folder, perhaps later a hanger.

D-Gwozdz-M99

A sub - hanger of D-Gwozdz.

Used to be hanger M99

Working Copy. 6 pages stapled. Copies of main ID pages.

Roll # 997493. File folder. Analysis packet from 1994.

997493 Notes. Raw data file folder.

D-Banas

D-Banas used to be "Gwozdz-Banas". Gwozdz stuff moved out.

D-Banas has lots of loose items like Maguire Descendancy, plus notes, plus copies of pictures.

Walter Banas Descendants. Folder

Aniela Banas. Folder

D-Banas - Pelczar

File Folder. Used to be called Pelczar Papers

D-Banas - Wis

Wis. Wisniowa Two stapled items; April 1998 raw data:

p 66 + Blue Book. Wisniowa death record notes from Gmina.

p 41 + from Wales Book. Several pages. Includes 2 pages of in Szuf. data.

Szuf. Szufnarowa. Like Wis, includes both church books and Gmina books.

3 stapled raw data packets. 2 page list of deaths by Grela's. Analysis notes. Pen descendancies.