

## Poland 1999 Summary

My 1999 Poland vacation was 17 - 30 April, between business trips in Munich and in Singapore. I filled up a notebook and took 3 rolls of film. I visited 2nd and 3rd cousins and their children and grandchildren, well over 100 total people. I spent several hours studying the parish records at Wadowice Gorne and at Niewodna (Wisniowa). I learned plenty new names and facts for the Gwozdz Family Tree.

I did not visit North Poland (Iwanowicz & Pisiewski) this year. I concentrated this trip on South Poland (Gwozdz and Banas). I had hotel reservations, but I did not use them. I spent 3 days in Krakow at Janina Kaluza's apartment, the same apartment that Dad and Mom stayed at 25 years ago. Janina is an aunt of Peter Kaluza, my brother-in-law. I spent 6 days in Mielec at Janina Janczykowska's apartment, only 20 minutes from the Gwozdz ancestral cottage in Wadowice Dolne. This Janina is my 2nd cousin on the Gwozdz branch. I spent 3 days in Wisniowa at the Grela farm, which is the ancestral Banas homestead. I spent 1 day in Gorlice at the home of Pawel Kwiatek, son of Wiktoria (Banas) Kwiatek, who is a Banas 2nd cousin. I got many invitations to come back and visit other homes. I got many requests for more family visitors. I suppose some of those requests are just polite talk. Some requested visitors even though they have inadequate room. However, some have spacious homes. Many relatives are sincerely pleased to have visitors from the US. I have about 50 addresses and half that many phone numbers. Three email addresses. Sorry, I met no relatives with command of the English language, so Polish is necessary for communication. If anyone is interested in visiting Poland, you really should pay a visit to our distant relatives. It's a really special way to enjoy the country. Be sure to phone or email me; I can tell you whose moonshine is good and whose husband isn't.

For genealogy research, I concentrated on finding a trace of Jan & Wojciech, brothers of my grandfather Piotr Gwozdz. I know they were born in 1877 and 1880, but the late 1800's death records are missing, so I do not know if they died as infants. None of the relatives in Poland ever heard of them. Wojciech's birth record has a note that someone requested his birth certificate in 1936. I did not find any record of them or their family in the Wadowice Gorne record books, which are incomplete. I found lots of other Gwozdz Family Tree names and dates during my search. I did not have time to search for records of Jan & Wojciech in adjacent towns.

I found Helena Durasowa and proved that she is not a 2nd cousin (not a descendant of Jan or Wojciech or any other of my grandfather's siblings). I have not yet completed my proof that she is my 3rd cousin. I visited the Gwozdz family in Podborze that my parents visited in 1975. I established for sure that they are my 3rd cousins. They are 2nd cousins to the Cheshire Gwozdz family.

Reminder: I and my 2nd Gwozdz cousins are the great grandchildren of Maciej Gwozdz. The Cheshire & Podborze Gwozdz, great grandchildren of Andrzej Gwozdz, are 2nd cousins to each other. Maciej and Andrzej (Matthew and Andrew) are two of the sons of Wojciech (Adalbert) Gwozdz who lived 1810 - 1870. We great great grandchildren of this Wojciech are 3rd cousins. We have no 4th cousins named Gwozdz because Wojciech has no brother. Wojciech has 6 sons, so we no doubt have many other Gwozdz 3rd cousins yet to be found. Wojciech also has a daughter, Anna, one of whose great granddaughters, Wanda Ryba, another 3rd cousin, lives in Mielec. I had an excellent Polish meal at the Ryba home.

## Helena Durasowa

Joseph Armata, in 1995, translated 1940's letters from Helena Durasowa and from her brother, Franciszek Gwozdz. Helena's letters were from Koscielniki, Post Office Ruszcza. I almost got fooled by another Koscielniki very close to Wadowice Dolne, but that Koscielniki does not have a Ruszcza next to it. Fortunately, I figured it out and made map copies before leaving the library in Santa Clara California, a good place to do Poland research. Joe also translated letters from England, from Franciszka Gwozdz, sister of Franciszek and Helena. Also older letters from Vilnius, Lithuania from this family.

The right Koscielniki is only a 20 minute Sunday afternoon drive from Wladyslawa Kaluza's apartment in Krakow. Magda knew I was interested in visiting Koscielniki on Monday. Magda sensed that her husband Alex and I were getting a little bored with the after dinner conversation. Alex and I were the only males. The Kaluza clan is all females, 3 generations of them; all 10 of them were together that afternoon. Magda suggested that she and Alex join me for a drive to Koscielniki. It's really amazing that I expected to find relatives in that village, with only a 1942 address for a lead.

The weather was overcast with occasional sprinkles. Just the same, it was a pleasant Sunday drive, because traffic was very light; unusual for Krakow. Koscielniki is a gorgeous little farming village. It was chilly, but they had a very warm week in April, so flowers and blossoms were everywhere. I asked the first old lady standing at a bus stop where Helena Durasowa lives. She pointed to Helena's house. As I walked away, Magda overheard her say to her friends: "My, what an elegant man." She made my day.

Jan Duras, Helena's son, answered my knock. (I'll switch to English names: John Duras is the son of Helen Duras. Durasowa is the feminine form.) He verified that Helen Duras, his mother, was born Gwozdz. John is a typical muscular Polish farmer. His home, yard, and barnyard are very tidy; that is not typical in Poland. It was a wonderful thrill to watch the smile creep across John's face as I explained that we might be cousins. I told how in 1942 Francis Gwozdz wrote a letter to my grandfather, same name as me, Peter Gwozdz, and the letter said please write a letter to my sister Helen Duras to inform her that our mother has died. I explained that Francis Gwozdz was a soldier, wounded in Italy. John's smile had broadened. He invited me into the kitchen while he called his mother from the other room.

Helen Duras, almost 80 years old, is intelligent and spry. She does not remember any letter from Piotr. She has lots of old family letters and pictures, but nothing from a Piotr in America to jog her memory of any connection. Nevertheless, she accepted my knowledge of the facts of her family to immediately accept me as a relative. Here is her story:

Helen's father Casimer was a soldier in the Pilsudski campaign. (That is the 1920 "Miracle on the Wisla" when the Poles beat back the Russians from Warsaw. Jozef Pilsudski, who was born near Vilnius, Lithuania, later became the dictator of Poland. During the 1920 war, Pilsudski took land from Russia for Poland. He took land in Lithuania, Belorussia, and the Ukraine.) Casimer and other soldiers were granted land in Lithuania, where the family lived as farmers. When the Russians invaded in 1939, men in special uniforms arrived at the Gwozdz home with a list of names. Casimer was on that list. Casimer was taken away and never seen again. No doubt he was killed with all the other Polish soldiers that the Russians killed. The family was sent to Siberia. Sounds like today's Kosovo, doesn't it?

Only Helen escaped, to her grandparents in Koscielniki, where she lives to this day.

Helen's mother, Maria, like most of the Siberian deportees, lived for a while with typhus fever. She had to walk 16 kilometers regularly to get food. One day, she died along the road. Graves were very shallow in that frozen earth, and it is said that animals quickly emptied them.

Helen's three siblings survived. Her brother Francis, her sister Frances, and Frances's husband John all joined a Polish regiment and returned to fight the Nazis in World War II. They and Henrika all ended up in England. They maintain contact with Helen. Helen gave me the names of their spouses for my list. They have children. She gave me Francis' address and phone number.

Helen does not remember the name of her Gwozdz grandfather. She confirms my information from Armata that he lived near Jaroslaw. At the local church I found the 1918 wedding record for her father. Casimer Gwozdz, a soldier, is recorded as marrying Maria Tereszczyk on 22 June, 1918. His parents are recorded as Blazej Gwozdz and Agnieszka Szumienska. It is written that Casimer was 35, born in Kidalowice (in 1883). I have no Blase & Agnes Gwozdz in my records. That's OK. I'll write a letter to the church at Jaroslaw and get the names of Casimer's grandparents from his birth record. If that does not work, the old Wadowice Dolne records microfilms are quite good; I might find Blaze's birth or the Blase & Agnes marriage, where Blaze's parents will be recorded. As I explained in Report #1, our ancestor Wojciech Gwozdz has 6 sons. It's a good bet that Blaze is a grandson of Wojciech, and that I'll connect Helen Duras as my 3rd cousin. This is not a proof. It just makes sense that they are related because they maintained contact with our family until the 1940's.

The local pastor, Father Jozef Hojnowski, is quite a character. Barb claims his photo looks just like me, when I had my beard. I had explained to John Duras that I planned to visit the rectory on Monday, to find his great grandfather's name. John suggested he join me (and Magda and Alex) right then. John knew that the priest shuttles on Sundays between the old church, the new church, and the chapel. John knew that he had mass at 7 PM in the new church. We all drove there in my car. We chatted with the locals outside the new church for 15 minutes. The new church is very nice. It was not raining, but the overcast, combined with the bright sunset, cast a reddish glow over the green fields alternating with freshly plowed black fields. That part of town is very flat and open. You can see for miles.

Father Hojnowski drove up 5 minutes late and jumped out of his compact car. In demeanor he looked like a Polish mountain man, hair all a mess. Except for the cassock and collar. John explained that Peter Gwozdz was here looking for names of Gwozdz relatives, and could we please join him later at the rectory to examine the church records. Father Joe's answer: "Christ has 3 nails!" (Gwozdz means nail in Polish.) Off he stomped to the church. No indication on his face if he was joking or what. I asked John if he was in a bad mood or something. John explained that he is always poetic like that. We should just show up at the rectory at 8 PM.

The old church is on a hill. The road going up the hill is in a cut in the hill about 8 feet deep. I see that often in Poland. I figure hundreds of years of rain washing dirt down the road digs out these channels for the roads. So you approach the church as from a tunnel. It is an impressive hill, with old trees and old buildings in a cluster. John suggested we visit the cemetery while we wait. He said he could show me the plaque with names of those lost in the war, including Maria Gwozdz, wife of Casimer.

Cemeteries are a big deal in Poland. Most graves have huge polished granite monuments over the body, in addition to a large head stone. Many stones have ceramic photos of the departed. Flowers at every grave. Last year, I figured Polish cemetery staff must make sure each grave has flowers, but no, people assure me that all families decorate the graves of their own relatives. (Later, in Mielec, I was asked during an afternoon party to drive a car full of people to the local cemetery for a visit, then return to the party.)

Koscielniki was on the front line during World War I, so there is a separate graveyard, also well kept, for the hundreds of Austrian boys who never went home. Maybe it was the additional Austrian graveyard that impressed me. Maybe it was the overcast twilight. Maybe it was the rustic setting of the hill. Maybe it was Magda complaining that Polish people are too obsessed with graves; that they live in the past. Maybe it was all those things together that put me into a somber mood.

The plaque on the chapel wall in the graveyard does not have a Gwozdz name. The name of John's grandmother is recorded as Maria Tereszcyk. John, surprised at his incorrect memory, explained that Tereszcyk is her maiden name; she was born and lived here in Koscielniki by that name before she married and moved away and never came back. At this point, I was very doubtful. I had never seen a married woman recorded in Poland by her maiden name alone.

A few minutes later, at the tomb of Maria Tereszcyk's parents, Andrew and Frances (Gryma) Tereszcyk, I made a mistake in calculation of ages and figured these could not be her parents. Poor John! His face was no longer beaming at all these problems I was finding! Alex immediately corrected my math. (Later, at the rectory, I read Maria and her parents' names all recorded exactly as on the plaque and gravestone. No problem.)

It turned dark by 8 PM, when Father Joe answered the door of the rectory. He ignored our awe of the huge hundred year old funeral banner in his entry. Many other priceless antiques just lying around. The priest ushered us to his desk with the early 1900's wedding records. He seemed very formal. Like he wanted to get this over with and done. He read the right pages while I read the left. We found Casimer & Maria's record in only a few minutes.

Then I put my usual 100 zloty note under the book. What a change in demeanor! "Oh! I need to show you the church!" The brusque poetic priest turned into a gracious tour guide.

It was pitch dark in the vestibule while we waited for him to turn on the church lights. Pictures of all the pastors for the past century are on display in the vestibule. Hojnowski showed us the one who married Casimer.

The old wooden church is a magnificent work of art. It was built in 1646. Father Hojnowski explained how it was repaired and rebuilt, quoting the years of construction from memory. He showed us where the floor used to be tilted, and how it was fixed. He pointed out which wall paintings are originals, from the 17th century, explaining that the names of the painters are unknown. For the other paintings, mostly 18th and 19th century, he rattled off the painters' names and the year of painting. He opened the tabernacle to show us the construction. He got a golden Eucharist display-holder out of a cabinet and explained that the date, 1703, was worn away. He brought us to the vestment cabinet, and took one out that is over 100 years old, with grim reaper skeletons embroidered onto it, and let us handle it. He gave me a pamphlet. I have it here next to the computer; I'm copying the dates, since my memory is not as good as the priest's.

It was an incredible experience. That church would be a very popular tourist spot in any city of the world. Magda, Alex and I had our own private showing on Sunday night, April 18.

## The Gwozdz Family of Podborze

Podborze is a very small village 3 miles southeast of Wadowice Dolne (5 miles on the modern roads). Podborze belongs to the Parish of Zgorsko, a mile west. The Gwozdz family of Podborze maintained contact with their relatives in the US. Joe Armata mailed me two Podborze addresses in 1993: Jan & Anna Gwozdz, and Ludwiga Gwozdz. The family tells me that Anna Kordana of the Cheshire Gwozdz mailed packages to these people. My parents stayed with these people when they visited Poland in 1975. Last year I did not attempt to contact these Gwozdz relatives.

Somehow, I got it into my head that Ludwiga is the unmarried daughter of Jan & Anna Gwozdz. Wrong. On 20 April 1999, people in Podborze were confused by my inquiry for this Ludwiga. Everyone there knows there is one Gwozdz family in Podborze. Three guys standing in the doorway of the store chatted with me. One of them remembered a Ludwiga wife of a Gwozdz, both now deceased. He pointed to the home where she used to live.

It was also confusing at that home, but the Dubiel family persisted when they heard I was a Gwozdz. They explained that Jan Gwozdz and Ludwiga (maiden Brykala) used to live in this house. The 4th and youngest of that family, also Jan Gwozdz, married Anna; Jan junior & Anna live on the other side of the village. (That's the Gwozdz family those guys at the tavern mentioned.) Jozefa, the 2nd child of Jan & Ludwiga, married Stanislaw Dubiel. Wieslawa, the 4th of the Dubiel family, married Jezyk Grobicki. The house is now the Grobicki home. Babcia Jozefa and Wieslawa were home with 2 young Grobicki children when I visited.

They both remember a real big Gwozdz guy who visited from Canada with his wife and 1 or 2 children. That was back when Ludwiga was still alive. Yes, "Canada", not US. They do not remember his name, but it could have been Stanley or Stanislaw. They looked at my photo of my family and thought maybe that big guy could have been my father. Then Wieslawa remembered that the daughter who was with them is named Frances. That is correct; my sister Frances was there. I phoned Mom. Mom claims she was lying awake at 4 AM in Adams, so I did not wake her. Mom suggested I ask them about how Dad showed up at their house in a Squeeze uniform in 1975 and they feared he was some kind of communist official until he explained that he was a Gwozdz; they do not remember that. Mom suggested I ask about packages from the states. They volunteered the name Anna Kordana without my prompting. Mom said some packages contained banana oil for a sick little girl. Jozefa remembers that her niece had been sick. That is the daughter of that Jan junior and Anna. Jan and Anna's daughter received banana oil in packages from Anna Kordana. The girl had some kind of allergy, and a doctor prescribed banana oil. The girl is now a healthy young lady. I identified these people as relatives based on banana oil shipments by Anna Kordana.

Wieslawa has a good memory; she gave me names and birth dates for her 6 children, and the children of Jozefa's other 2 siblings, who moved away. Jozefa dug up her husband's passport, which has listed his 7 children, with birth dates. Also names and dates for the family of another Anna Gwozdz, sister of Jan senior, aunt of Jozefa; Anna married Stanislaw Kilian. Data for the *Gwozdz Family Tree*. I took photos.

I drove over to Jan junior & Anna's. Only Anna was home, and she was busy. I said I'd come back. I never did, so I do not have the names of their 15 children.

Jozefa does not remember the name of her Gwozdz grandfather.

I drove to the church in Zgorsko. It had been a sunny morning, one of only 4 sunny mornings of my 2 week trip. By now clouds were forming and threatening to rain. Zgorsko is a pretty little town. Father Niemiecki (yes, the name means "German" in Polish) is a tall man, very cosmopolitan in demeanor. He has visited the US. He tried a few English words on me, but insists his English is not good enough for conversation.

I had calculated the birth year of Jan Gwozdz as 1915, based on age of death reported by Jozefa. The priest and I quickly found Jan's 1908 birth record. The birth record has his marriage date penned in, so we also examined his marriage record. Niemiecki stamped my page of notes with the official parish address stamp. My entire visit at the rectory took about 10 minutes. I intended to come back and search the books for more relatives, but I never did.

Jan's father is recorded as Kazimierz Gwozdz, son of Andrzej & Apolonia (maiden Nelec). All this checks out with my 1998 Family Tree, page 9. This confirms what I suspected: Kazimierz is brother to Jozef Gwozdz, the one who moved to the farm in Cheshire, MA. Jan and my father are second cousins, but Anna Kordana and Jan are 1st cousins. Jane (Kordana) Wesolowski is 2nd cousin to Jozefa; both are 3rd cousins to me.

Details in the 1931 marriage record of Jan to Ludwiga were confirmed by Jozefa on my 2nd visit.

There is an interesting detail in the birth record. Kazimierz's parents were first recorded as Wojciech & Katarzyna, crossed out and corrected. Those crossed out names are Kazimierz's grandparents. Kazimierz remembered the names of his grandparents in 1908, volunteering their names as the grandparents of his newborn son, then correcting to the names of his parents.

(Kazimierz was born in 1870, so he cannot be the same Kazimierz Gwozdz as the one in Report #2. That one was a 35 year old soldier when he married Maria Tereszczyk in 1918. This one's bride is Antonina Deren.)

Leszek Dubiel, Wieslawa's older brother, has a music shop in Mielec. *Dmistron* is the name of the shop. I stopped in to visit briefly a few days later. He had heard about me through his sister, and is very interested in my Gwozdz book. I promised to mail a copy. He said he would be at his sister's house on my 2nd visit, but did not show.

I thought the family would be together on my 2nd visit. I misunderstood. Again, only Jozefa and Wieslawa were there. I do not know if I miscommunicated, or if something came up, or if they expected me to come earlier or later. I did not stay long either visit.

The Podborze Gwozdz did not know about the Mielec - Wadowice Dolne Gwozdz. Nor vice versa. I told both about the others, but they did not seem to have an interest in visiting each other with me.

Jozefa told me that her cousin Emily Kolacz (daughter of that other Anna Gwozdz) lives in Mielec, by the police station. I did not get a chance to look up Emily.

## **Gwozdz - Topor Second Cousins**

Babcia Anna, 89, is the daughter of Michal Gwozdz, brother of my grandfather. Michal came to Adams MA before my grandfather, and returned to Poland. Michal raised his family in the ancestral cottage, home of my great grandfather, in Wadowice Dolne. Anna's late husband is Franciszek Topor. I met Anna and her two daughters last year. She is the one who cried when she realized I was the grandson of that Piotr Gwozdz who sent packages during World War II. (Actually, Babcia Bronislawa sent the packages.)

Anna's daughters threw a party for me on my last Saturday evening, at Anna's cottage. We had hoped for a picnic, because the cottage has a nice yard and garden. Drizzles warned of rain, however, so Janina cooked most of the food in her apartment that afternoon. The drizzles never got serious, so a grill for kielbasa was set up under the eaves of Babcia's shed outside.

Thoughtfully, Stanislaw Bielaszka followed me to Janina's apartment at 5 PM, and drove me to the party and back, so I could join in the vodka drinking. That meant Stanislaw could not drink all night. The Polish are very strict about not driving and drinking.

The cottage has 4 large rooms, but no bathroom. Somehow, relatives managed to spend the night after I left.

Late Sunday morning, I insisted on driving Janina back to the cottage. I knew she and her daughter were going back to clean up. She insisted they would take the bus in the afternoon, that I was a guest and should not have to go back. I insisted we go now. When we walked in, the gas was on. Babcia had forgotten to light a match under her tea water. She was slowly gassing herself while watching Sunday Mass on TV. Janina claims I saved her life by insisting we go over. Now Janina has another story to tell. I had heard the previous story 5 times, about how Babcia seemed dead in her bed one morning while Janina banged on her doors and windows for 20 minutes trying to get her to wake up and unlock the door.

This year, I again visited the two daughters of Anna, my 2nd cousins:

### **Janina Janczykowska**

Janina Janczykowska was my hostess. She insisted I cancel my Hotel reservation and stay in her apartment. The apartment is on the 2nd floor of a 4 story block of apartments, one of a dozen blocks in the neighborhood. It is a typical communist-style apartment complex, just like the ones you see in the photos of eastern European countries. Each building is a different shade of a soft neutral color, but I personally needed to watch for the graffiti on the wall to remember which building was mine. Janina's mother, Anna, stays with her during the winter. Anna had moved back to her unheated cottage a week before I arrived. At first I thought I was staying in Babcia Anna's room, but it turns out it was young Anna's room. They shuffled the arrangements to accommodate me; I never understood why. The apartment is not large, but it is tidy and comfortable. It has phone, TV, and other modern conveniences.

Janina and her husband Ryszard Janczykowski are separated, but remain good friends. He visits often. He came by 3 times while I was there.

Their two daughters are Anna and Ewa. Anna, 22, is a bit shy, Ewa, 16, is very social. It took me a long time to get used to young people talking in Polish. All my life, it was only the old people who talked Polish in Adams. Other than language, both Janczykowski girls seem like typical American or western European young women. But then again, Janina is not at all the typical Polish housewife; she too is quite cosmopolitan.

They all smoke. A lot. So I joined in. I'm not sure they believe me that I do not smoke at all in California (except when Peter Kaluza visits).

I told them I could not photograph them, because I did not want Barb to realize that I stayed in an apartment with three beautiful women. They knew I was joking, of course. Just the same, I'm surprised none of the relatives made any comment about where I was staying. Most Polish people are very concerned about appearances, particularly Janina's sister. I'm not sure if the lack of comments was because they agreed everything was proper, or because they were saving the gossip for after I left.

Janina, Ryszard, and young Anna have all been working for the big aircraft factory in Mielec. Janina is a laboratory technician. Mielec, once famous for its soccer team, is a one company town. City, actually, with about 70,000 people. Since the collapse of the soviet economy, Mielec aircraft are not selling well. There have been layoffs. Unemployment in Mielec is double digit. The week I was there, everyone was talking about the next layoff. 2,400 people to be cut. The letters came on Thursday. Both Janina and Anna got the ax. Their last day was Friday. Janina had 28.5 years with the company. She needed 30 years for partial retirement. All gone.

Janina and her sister were born in the Gwozdz ancestral cottage in Wadowice Dolne.

### **Stanislawa Golonka**

Stanislawa is Janina's older sister. Her husband, Mieczyslaw Golonka, is retired from that airplane factory. They live with their daughter Bozena and son in law Slodzimierz Skora. I think, not sure, that Slodzimierz also lost his job Friday in the layoff.

I had visited the Golonka house last year. This year, I visited twice, briefly. I played basketball with young Michal. I picked a radish in the garden. They are building a second house next door to their nice home in a residential part of town.

Stanislawa is rather quiet and reserved. Quite a contrast to her sister, whom I have heard talk non stop for 20 minutes after downing a few vodkas.



## Skowyra

Jozef and Kazimiera Skowyra are the first Gwozdz relatives that I found last year. They live in Odment, about an hour drive west of Mielec. When I announced that I would like to go visit the Skowyra home again in a couple days, Janina said she would come along, since she had not been there in years. At dinner that evening, at the Golonka house, Stanislawka smiled and asked if she could please come along, too. Next day, I stopped by Babcia Anna's cottage. She does not have a phone. Anna slowly shook her head up and down and said she would come along if she felt well tomorrow. Her daughters told me she loves to ride and for sure she would feel well. She did. All 4 of us drove to Odment. On the drive over, the mother and two daughters argued about how many years it has been since any of them had visited the Skowyra home.

We phoned ahead to Kazimiera who was very pleased to have this family get together for Obiat, the traditional big afternoon Polish meal.

Funny. Janina cut work to go visiting. That evening, by coincidence, her layoff notice was waiting for her in the mail.

I wrote about the Skowyra couple last year. I'll repeat what I said last year: they are two of the nicest people you can meet.

Kazimiera's grandmother Anna (Gwozdz) Kolano, and my grandfather Piotr Gwozdz, and Janina & Stanislawka's grandfather Michal Gwozdz, are siblings. So we are all 2nd cousins.

Kazimiera is a typical Polish cook. The meal was excellent. The beet barsz that we drank for the first course came from their own beets. This year, she bought chicken instead of using her own duck meat to feed me like last year.

On the way home, we visited a Topor family. Not my relative, their's, on Anna's late husband's side. Big farm. We ate again, home made kielbasa, excellent. He complained that no one wants to buy his pigs. It is tough being a traditional Polish farmer these days.

## Edward Gwozdz

Edward Gwozdz, 68, has lived all his life in the Gwozdz ancestral cottage, the one in which my grandfather was born. His wife Michalina lives with him. Edward is 1st cousin to my father. I visited briefly last year. This year, I visited briefly 3 times.

Ed has a penchant to interrupt conversation with a Polish proverb. The proverb is not always relevant to the conversation, but it is always delivered with his trademark toothy smile.

Edward explains that he cannot smoke or drink anymore; his doctor says that if he does, he will go to heaven. I asked if cigarettes and vodka are available in heaven. He thinks not. Then he got the gist of my inquiry and wondered aloud if he wanted to go there. Sounds like the beginnings of a new Polish proverb.

Edward and his wife speak in the traditional Galicia (southern Poland) accent. It is more than just an accent. It is a style of speech. The others in the family occasionally slip into these speech patterns, particularly in animated conversations over vodka. Last year, I did not catch the difference. This year, the patterns at first confused me. In a few days, I learned to like them, and picked them up, particularly over vodka. Interesting: they never use these speech patterns in public or in formal situations. Only in relaxed family situations.

Example: All Polish grammar books tell you that the Polish rarely use the pronoun. The word for "I" is "ja", rarely used. "ide" means "I go" or "I am going". The grammar books claim that Polish rarely say "ja ide". Wrong in Galicia. I hear "ja" about once per minute in dinner conversation. Actually, not "ja", but "jo", a pronunciation not found in the books. Another example: The most common conversational word by far is "no". This word is not in the dictionary. "No" is pronounced with the "o" like the "ou" in "bought". I think I remember our family using this word occasionally when I was small. Believe it or not, it means "yes"! It also means "so ..." or "well ..." or "so there", or even "I told you so". When I announce that I am leaving the dinner table, I say "no, jo ide".

Edward came alone to the party on my last day in Mielec. I do not know who drove him to his sister Anna's cottage. He delivered a few proverbs. He kept his smile the entire time, obviously pleased at the congregation of his family on the occasion of a visit from the States.

## Gwozdz Second Cousins

Edward Gwozdz (previous report) has 4 children. These are my 2nd cousins:

**Zofia Lis** lives in the newer home next door to Edward. I mentioned her last year in my reports. This year, I missed her. She has gone to Italy for a few months, to work. To bring home some extra money for the family. That is very common in Poland. Husband Jan works in town. The grandparents help with the 5 kids. The kids were popping in and out of the cottage to see me. I took a fascinating photograph of the youngest, Dariusz, not quite 5, snuggling on the lap of his oldest sister Malgorzata, 20.

**Jozef Gwozdz** lives in Mielec with his wife Maria and two sons Grzegorz & Martin. I missed them last year. He wrote to me twice reminding me to visit on my next trip. This year, I stopped first at his house as soon as I arrived in Mielec. He and his family attended the party on my final day.

Joe works at the airplane factory, in the central heating plant. He did not get laid off in the April work force reduction.

This is a very friendly, animated family. I really enjoyed them.

**Maria Midura** lives with her husband Kazimierz and 5 daughters in Brooklyn, NY. We have never met, but she phoned me last year after reading letters from Poland about this relative from California who visits.

**Wladyslawa Bielaszka** lives with her husband Stanislaw and 4 children in Jastrzebie-Zdroj. She also heard about me through letters. Jastrzebie is east of Krakow, a 4 hour drive from Mielec; I did not intend to visit her. So the family drove in their Mercedes to Mielec. They came to that Saturday evening party at the cottage of her Aunt Anna, on my last day in Mielec. I guess their coming is what prompted 4 other families to attend.

Stanislaw is the proprietor of a delivery company, with a fleet of 17 trucks. He showed me photos of the two buildings that he owns; it looks like a mini strip mall; I think he leases offices to other business, too. He gave me a couple wall clocks with the "Bielaszka" business name and phone numbers, and a picture of a truck on the clock face. One is hanging here above the computer. We have a rich relative in Poland.

Mariusz Bielaszka, 16, is the only person I met in Poland who has heard of AMD. He asked me to name the company that I used to work for. He nodded his head, saying AMD is a competitor of Intel, making "K5" equivalents to the "Pentium". Mariusz was very interested in the window chip that I carry to explain what I do. He knows it is called an EPROM, and that the window is needed to erase the memory with light. He helped explain to the others. His email address is romarius@friko6.onet.pl. His English is not good enough for conversation, but I bet he could figure out the meaning of a brief message from a relative.

## The Ryba Family

I had heard about the Ryba family last year. Janczykowska had phoned to help me place them in my descendancy list. They are descendants of another Anna Gwozdz. Hey, I'm sorry about all the Annas. It is very confusing. This Anna is a sister of my great grandfather Maciej. They are both siblings of Andrzej, ancestor of the Cheshire Gwozdz. So Anna's great grandchildren are my 3rd cousins. The relationship is the same as the Cheshire Gwozdz, but this is a third branch. There are 7 in that family, so I have 4 more Gwozdz 3rd cousin branches to find some day. Anyway, Anna married Bigda; their daughter Karolina married Stanislaw Kagan. This year, I visited Karolina's daughter Wanda in Mielec:

Wanda Kagan is married to Zbigniew Ryba. During my visit, I assumed they are in their early 60's. Wanda cooked the big 4 course meal for 15 people. She had help, but she did most of the cooking and serving. When I arrived, Zbigniew was dressed in army fatigues, doing yard work. Today, reading my birth date notes, I subtract and realize that they are in their early 70's. I remember him and others telling me he is the Director of some kind of Zoological institute. I suppose I missed the word "retired".

Their home is lovely and spacious. It is set in an upper middle class neighborhood. Coming from Massachusetts and California, I would not call it a hill; Mielec has no hills. This neighborhood is one of the few higher elevation spots in the region, so there is sort of a view of Mielec. The lot is about a half acre, tastefully landscaped with flowers and trees. The weeds are starting to gain on Zbigniew, but the grounds would still be the envy of most neighbors if it were set in an American suburb.

The Rybas are collectors. Their home is like a museum. Antiques are arranged on many shelves. Pewter and porcelain in and on cabinets. Many paintings. Zbigniew delights in answering questions about the pieces, quoting dates and origin, freely admitting which are reproductions and which are originals. Zbigniew is a hunter; the display of trophies is fascinating, although not politically correct to an American eye. The large enclosed sun porch is lined with animal skulls. The day I visited, a collector from Wampierzow was in Zbigniew's study, examining his stamp collection. I got to look at a few of the 20 some books of stamps, each with original issue Polish stamps arranged by date and subject matter: politicians vs military officers vs musicians vs flowers vs animals etc.

Zbigniew is an excellent conversationalist. He speaks slowly, enunciating each word very carefully. He has a knack for choosing words that I am likely to know, sensing when I do not understand a word and quickly defining the word with other, simpler words. The result was my first truly gentlemanly Polish conversation, ranging through politics, science, history, and philosophy. He was able to guess my meaning when I used many simple Polish words to express complex thoughts that can be expressed in one English word, providing for me the one Polish word translation.

Wanda is 2nd cousin to my father. Her 2 children are my 3rd cousins. Wanda's parents lived as young adults in the US; her two older siblings were born in the US. Ten years ago, Wanda visited her relatives in Chicopee Falls MA. I got names, addresses, and phone numbers for my 3rd cousins, Kagan grandchildren in the US. I am pretty sure these are the Kagans that my aunt Virginia Maguire visited when she was young. I need to phone. Let me know if you want this information.

Krystyna, daughter of Wanda, and her husband Jozef Deren, joined me. They walked to Janina's flat. The 4 of us walked to the Ryba home. Janina, who had never visited the Ryba

home, figured it was only 1 or 2 kilometers away, from her mental image of Mielec. She suggested we walk rather than ride in my car, so I could drink. The Deren couple did not object. It turns out the walk was more like 6 or 7 kilometers. About 4 miles. Close to an hour. We had to walk all the way around a low elevation region with ponds. I joked we should swim to the Ryba home. Look up "Ryba" in the dictionary to get the pun. The walk over was a nice chance to get to know Krystyna and Jozef. The walk back was a chance to hear Janina's tirade about the foolish politicians who manage the Mielec economy and the idiot managers of the airplane factory. She was positive those idiots were planning to lay her off. (Sure enough, the lay off notice arrived in the mail the next day.)

I invited the Rybas to visit me in California. They sadly shook their head from side to side. Such is the response I received at all my invitations in Poland. In this case, money is not the problem, but age and the awful red tape for travel by Poles is. Just the same, I have no doubt that one or a few of my many invitations will some day result in visits. I really hope the Rybas do visit me.

For most of my Polish visits, I leave money. Sometimes it is refused. Sometimes, when I figure it will be refused, I leave money in an envelope when no one is looking. In the Ryba case, I figured money would be an insult. I had brought a large bag of California pecan nuts for such an occasion. I graciously thanked my host and hostess for their hospitality.

By now, you have probably figured out the routine. I express an interest in visiting a relative. I ask for the address. Instead, people make phone calls. Next thing I know, I am attending a family reunion, called for my benefit. Part of the reason no doubt is my genealogy information, which piques people's interest. But the larger reason: these people truly enjoy visitors from the States. If you visit Poland, you really should make contact with the Ryba family. Museums and castles are nice to visit, but nothing beats the thrill of seeing first hand how the locals live, by visiting a distant relative. I never thought, when I started my genealogy hobby, that it would turn into a wonderful tourist technique.

## Gwozdz Second Cousins

One of my long term genealogy goals: a complete list of my 2nd cousins. All the descendants of my 8 great grandparents. I know 100% accuracy is impossible. After all, with so many families, there are bound to be secret illegitimate births and other untraceable connections. I mean “complete” in the genealogical sense, based on reliable reports and written records: I want complete documentation for all my parents’ uncles and aunts, and complete documentation for their children and grandchildren.

On the Gwozdz branch, I have the complete list of my father’s uncles and aunts. From the Wadowice Gorne birth records, last year. These are listed in my 1998 *Gwozdz Family Tree*. I mailed out copies Christmas 1998. Of the 7 Gwozdz uncles and aunts, I had incomplete information in 1998 for descendants of 5 of them:

**Jozef of Cahoes NY.** I phoned my relatives in January 1999. Dolly Kemprowski and Gert Sally are very interested. They gave me the full list of descendants of their grandfather Jozef Gwozdz. Done.

**Aniela.** I was puzzled last year. I found her marriage record, to Jozef Padykula. No one in the family ever heard the Padykula name. I guessed. I placed the Topor and Kagan families, known from family records, under Aniela, guessing they were married daughters. Now I know this is half correct. Topor is correct. The Kagans are 3rd, not 2nd cousins. See the previous report; Kagans are close relatives of the Ryba family.

Our Mielec and Wadowice Dolne Gwozdz relatives remember the name Aniela. No way they can remember her as a person. She moved to America before anyone now living in Poland was born. Last year, I neglected to ask her married name. This year, they told me: Topor. They even remember, as children, “Aniela Topor’s lot”. They showed me the lot in Wadowice Dolne, now owned by others, that the Topor family abandoned when they moved to America. All I could figure: Jozef Padykula was 18 years older than his wife. Maybe he died. Maybe Aniela married again, to a Topor. Maybe the name is well remembered because Janina is double connected; her parents are Anna Gwozdz and Franciszek Topor.

Sure enough. I found the 2nd marriage record. I was looking for Jan and Wojciech when I spotted it. Aniela, maiden name Gwozdz, widow of Jozef Padykula, married Jozef Topor on 24 Jan 1891. All I have to do now is phone my Topor relatives in MA and get the complete list of Aniela’s grandchildren.

**Stanislaw.** Last year, I figured him as a bachelor, also of Chicopee. This year, I got more verification. A Gwozdz man visited Wadowice Dolne about 50 years ago. This relative, from the US, was about 75 years old at the time. Subtracting, that means he was born about 1875. Stanislaw’s birth record is 1883, close enough. Wanda Ryba, when she visited the US 10 years ago, was shown the house where this single relative had lived. I can now phone Wanda’s cousin, verify Stanislaw’s address, and check the Chicopee records to close this branch; no descendants.

**Jan & Wojciech.** These two are a problem. I found their 1877 and 1880 birth records last year. This year, I focused on trying to find a record of what happened to them. No luck. While looking for them, I found the Koscielniki Gwozdz (Report #2), the Podborze Gwozdz with a different Jan Gwozdz (Report #3), the Aniela Gwozdz 2nd marriage (above) and lots of other family details.

The late 1800's death records are missing. It is tempting to assume these two died as infants. But Wojciech's birth record has a note, dated 1936; someone got his birth certificate that year. It is also tempting to speculate that he died in 1936. Or maybe he applied for citizenship in 1936, in the US or in another country. Or maybe I need to find some World War II archives; maybe someone checked up on Wojciech in 1936 for military or political reasons.

This year, I spent 3 full mornings studying the church record books at the rectory in Wadowice Gorne. Father Kazimierz Swiech left the books on the table for me for 4 days.

The marriage records are very good. They seem to be complete. I carefully checked them all, 1876 to 1944. I found no record of our Jan or Wojciech, but I found many marriage records of other family members for my book.

Last year and the first day this year, the priest told me the death records are all missing. On the second day this year, he admitted he has some "loose scraps" of incomplete death records. On the third day, he found those "scraps" and brought me a record book whose binding is broken. Inside the covers are 3 inches of pages of record books. They were a scrambled mess. Births, deaths, marriages. One year of death records for Wampierzow. Originals and some copies. Some packets of up to 20 pages, some loose pages all by themselves. I took the time, a few hours, to sort everything out, rearrange the sequence of pages, and make an index for myself. I made a 2nd index and left it in the book for the next person.

That messy book has the death records, 1920 to 1942. Only 1937 is missing. 1936 is there. No Jan or Wojciech Gwozdz, but I found death records for other family members. I do not understand why this book has death records for both Wadowice Gorne and Dolne; Dolne has had its own church and records since 1925.

I may some day check the books and gravestones for a few towns near Wadowice Dolne. If I do not find a record of Jan or Wojciech, it will not be conclusive, because there will always be one more town just a little farther away. Also, the Ellis Island microfilms surely have several names Jan Gwozdz and Wojciech Gwozdz, so those need to be checked for age and birthplace. Too much work. Right now, my goal for a complete list of Gwozdz 2nd cousins is a hope, not a plan. I would rather phone my NY Pisiewski relatives to finish the Pisiewski 2nd cousin list. I would rather search for possible children of Jan Iwanowicz, who I know visited my mother's house about 1920. By the way, the 4th branch, Banas, was finished in 1998; the 157 great grandchildren of Franciszek Banas & Katarzyna Zagorska, including me, my siblings, my Gwozdz 1st cousins, and my Banas 2nd cousins, are all listed in my 1998 *Descendancy* print out, starting on page 18.

**Juicy Tidbits:** Maciej Gwozdz, the father of Piotr and these 7 siblings, married a second time. On 10 Feb 1914. He is recorded as 62 years old, the widower of Maria Kmiec. Maciej's parents' names are correctly recorded. I have his birth record. Maciej actually turned 77 on the day before his wedding! The old coot lied to his young bride, Katarzyna Piechota, 60, widow of Jan Dzialo. On the day of the wedding, Maciej had many grandchildren, 3 of them in Adams MA: my aunts Mary, Felicia and Kassie. My father Stanley was born 11 months later.

His brother Andrzej is the father of Jozef Gwozdz of Cheshire MA. Last year I made a note for Andrzej's 2nd marriage, no details, without realizing who he was; I noticed it later when studying my notes at home. This year, I found his 2nd marriage again while looking for Jan and Wojciech. I also found his 3rd marriage! Andrzej's 2nd marriage, 1889, correct age 50, was to the widow Anna Piksa, 45. The birth records for 1889 + are incomplete, so I do not know if Anna had children by Andrzej. Andrzej's 3rd marriage, 1895, age 56, was to the widow Katarzyna Kapinos, 52.

This finishes my Gwozdz side reports. Next reports will be on the Banas side, further south, Wisniowa and environs.

## First Communion Party

The drive from Mielec to Wisniowa went incredibly fast. It was late Sunday morning, so there were no trucks or horse wagons on the road. Very few cars. I made the trip in an hour.

I arrived in Wisniowa at noon. It was a dreary day, threatening rain but never delivering much water. The farmers did not need rain. The farmers needed a few sunny days to dry out the muddy fields so potatoes could be planted. The warm weather in early April had started a lovely spring. Everything was lush green when I arrived. Blossoms and flowers were in full bloom.

No one seemed to be home at the Grela house, which is the ancestral Banas homestead. I know Babcia Czeslawa Banas is hard of hearing, so I rang the door bell and knocked several times. She finally came. She could not recognize me. "American?", she asked, in Polish. "Yes" I responded. She opened the door and let me in. Czeslawa showed me a note from my 2nd cousin, Elzbieta (Banas) Grela, with a phone number. I phoned. She said they are at a First Communion Party. I spent an hour or so unpacking and compiling my notes. Then Augustyn and Elzbieta Grela came home and visited an hour or so with me. Then the 3 of us drove back to the First Communion Party.

First Communion is a real big deal in Poland. This is a new custom, less than a generation old. The parties are not as large as weddings, but larger than typical funerals. The parents of the communicant line their home with tables. They cook mountains of food to feed dozens of invited relatives and friends. People visit all day.

Since alcohol is forbidden, these are not typical Polish parties. People actually take turns speaking. Very little shouting. Minimum gesticulation. I'm kidding, but believe me, parties with vodka are different. They tell me the priests go around in advance getting promises that alcohol will not be served.

Can you imagine the logistics? Each church probably has 20 or 30 communicants. They stagger the schedules through May and June, so adjacent village churches do not use the same Sunday. The local priest stops in to visit at each party. (Probably in part to check for vodka!)

This party was in Szufnarowa, just a few miles north. I had driven through earlier and did not notice all the cars parked in the yard. Father Bronislaw Domino stopped by for 10 minutes while I was there. Domino is the one who let me borrow his 1784 record books last year.

The communicant was Piotr Ras, 9. Piotr is the 4th line on page 19 of my Xmas 1998 print out. He is a 4th cousin of my grandson Aaron. His grandfather Stanislaw Miskiewicz lives in New York. Stan's children travel back and forth between Poland and New York. Stan's grandfather, Jan Banas, is brother to my grandmother Bronislawa (Banas) Gwozdz. Stan is 2nd cousin to me, 1st cousin to Elzbieta Grela.

I did not get a chance to visit with Piotr's mother, Malgorzata Ras. She was too busy cooking and serving. I did not bother her or Piotr for a photograph. I did not visit this house last year, but I did visit the Skwierz home, across the road and creek.

The set up at the Ras home was ideal for me. Two rooms were set with 3 or 4 long tables each. Each table could seat 4 to 5 on a side. Most people walked through the corner of the first room into the 2nd room. When I arrived, the first room was empty and the 2nd was full. I did not go into that 2nd room. I did not want to crash the party, which after all was not held for me to meet my relatives. I sat on the far side of the 1st room. Most, not all, of my relatives stopped by to say hello. Very few friends / neighbors took notice of my little reunion and my writing who's who notes on a few print out pages of my genealogy book. I took photographs of most relatives who were there. Today, my records are adequate to identify all but a few faces in the prints.



The weather was good enough for the kids to get their feet muddy playing in the yard. The relatives occasionally moved outside to chat; as did I. It felt like California, not Poland; only a few individuals dared to hunker at the edge of a crowd to smoke outside.

One guy smiled and smiled at me. He asked "You do not recognize me, right?" I agreed, although his face is familiar. I did not recognize his name, either. Then he asked "Don't you remember -- the fat horse?" Then I remembered. Do you, the reader, remember the story about the fat horse in Report # 13 last year?

I spent a total of 3 days in the Wisniowa area. I slept on the same pull-out sofa in Grela's living room as last year. I visited a few of the same homes as last year. I also visited a few different homes, taking more pictures of relatives. Several hours studying the Wisniowa record books at the rectory in Niewodna. I got more names and dates for my *Descendancy* listing, but no dramatic new findings, since the Banas listing was pretty well fleshed out last year.

The Banas-Grela farm is still my favorite spot in Poland.

## Kwiatek

Pawel Kwiatek is the son of Wiktoria (Banas) Kwiatek, who is sister to Elzbieta (Banas) Grela of Wisniowa (last Report). Pawel had been asking me, by email, to please visit them in Gorlice. So I swung south on my westward drive back to the Krakow airport. I spent one night at Pawel's home. I met him first at the apartment of his parents, who joined us for driving around and for 2 dinners at Pawel's. Pawel and his sister Paulina had taken the day off from work in anticipation of my visit, so I feel bad about arriving at 3 PM. Pawel took the next day off, so I stayed late that second day. His wife Anna also took the 2nd day off, but she shopped and cooked dinner all day while the 4 of us, Pawel, his parents, and I drove around.

Pawel has a new red van, so he enjoyed driving me to the mountains. It was nice to let someone else drive, and park my rented dark blue Citroen for a day. The Mountains are just to the south, so we went twice.

The first evening, before dinner, we drove to Krynica, a famous resort town. Being off season and drizzly, the place was almost deserted. We visited one large indoor water tasting room. That's right, Krynica is famous for it's mineral water. A couple dozen spigots are lined along the far wall, each with a different type of water to try. The front wall, about 200 feet, is all glass. The huge room with lounging chairs is an indoor arboretum. And there are 3 or 4 of these type buildings in Krynica. Most of the hotels were closed for the season. All the hot tubs, massage rooms and shops were closed, since it was 6 PM. On the way to Krynica, we stopped briefly at Kamiana, a village famous for honey. The local priest runs a famous sanitarium, where he heals sick people with his special honey drink. Everything was closed, but we visited the outdoor beehive museum. I forgot my camera, but Pawel later mailed me copies of the photos he took. Before driving back home, we drove to the foot of the largest mountain. I forget the name. The border with Slovakia is only about 5 miles away. Bartek, Anna's young adult son by a previous marriage, joined us for the drive to Krynica.

The second day we drove to Wysowa, another resort famous for mineral water. East of Wysowa, even closer to Slovakia. I took my camera.

Pawel is an armed guard for the post office money pick up truck.

His house is very nice. Spacious and modern. His in-laws live on the first floor, his family of 3 on the 2nd. Pawel and his wife Anna insist I come back for a longer visit. They asked me to relay the invitation to my relatives in the US. The invitation is sincere. They seem hungry for visiting relatives. Bartek speaks English fairly well, so communication easily gets over those missing Polish words. Pawel knows enough English to use a dictionary to translate a simple English email. Pawel means Paul.

By the way, a different Pawel sent me an email in perfect English on 18 May, by coincidence. This is Pawel Napiorkowski, 16. His father is the engineer relative that I visited last year, in Pultusk, Report 11, Piszewski.

I guess "friko" must be a popular Polish email server. All my Polish email contacts go through friko: re: Nov 1998 print out page:

Pawel Kwiatek	kwiate3@friko2.onet.pl	19
Pawel Napiorkowski	joker@friko2.onet.pl	65
Mariusz Bielaszka	romarius@friko6.onet.pl	11
Rafal Grela	colaz@friko4onet.pl	19

Did you notice? They are all young males. On my first trip to Poland, November 1997, I asked several places for an email contact. I was willing to pay someone to answer my genealogy questions by email. Maybe translations and other favors for a fee. Everyone in Poland said it would be a long time before there would be many people in Poland with email other than in government and universities. Now all of a sudden I have 4 relatives with email in Poland. I must admit when email first started I never dreamed it would become the best method for communication with Poland in my lifetime. At this rate of growth, email will be used more than paper mail to Poland in a year or so. Are you ready?

10-Oct-99

addition; first gal:

Ewa Janczykowska

mouse123@polbox.com

## Hard Copies & Files & Photo Scans

Well, I guess that's it for my Poland reports. Bye.

Let me know if you want a copy of my print out set. Let me know if you have a relative that wants a hard copy mailed.

I can attach the one combined file to an email, if you request it. Only 100 K. Word generic format, unless you request Word 6 or WordPerfect or Text or another format.

I am not planning a photo album like last year. This year's photos are more of the same. I understand Mom still has the copy of my album from 1998.

Last year's Poland Report File is also sitting conveniently on my computer for request.

Inspired by my brother Matt and by my cousin Bill, I finally learned how to scan photographs. I have emailed pictures to them. I shall not distribute photos by email, because at half a Meg, they each take awhile to download by phone. Only a second by cable. I'll send some out in June. I'll add you to the distribution list only if you email a request. If you do request, add comments like the following:

- Send only one sample. Email request for more might follow.
- Send only the best 3.
- Send all family photos that are scanned.
- Send Report 13, unpublished, list of all Poland photos & captions.
- Send one of the 6 Meg high resolution formats, to see what it looks like.

## Photographs

### **First Roll. 3373** stamped on back

- 25A     Magda, Alexa, and Alex Fischer. 17 or 18 April. We drove over to the house that she is going to inherit. They are furnishing an apartment in the basement. There are a couple apartments rented in the house; they cannot evict or raise rents until the new laws take effect. Ceil, my sister, had asked me to check out this place. Magda had lived with Ceil for several years.
- 23A     Same, with me. 2 did not come out. Flash problems.
- 21A     Same, another room.
- 20A     From left: Janina Kaluza, Wladyslawa Kaluza, Alexa, Helena Kaluza, Magda, Alex. Obiat, afternoon dinner. 18 April, Sunday. Apartment of Magda's mother, Wladyslawa, which she shares with her sister, Ciocia Hela. I stayed at Ciocia Jasia's (Janina) apartment, which is the apartment that Magda's grandfather lived in; Jasia's sister, who shared the apartment, died last year. Mom & Dad stayed at Jasia's in 1975.
- 19A     Same, with me. I forget who that 2nd from left lady is. Next door? Milka's mother?
- 18A     Same. Magda's cousin Milka showed up, with her 3 daughters. Milka is the one with the big blonde hair & yellow sweater.
- 17A     Same with me.
- 16A     Helena Durasowa, me, Jan Duras her son, Krystyna, his wife. Same day, 18 April.
- 15A     The books at the rectory, Wadowice Gorne. 20 Apr.
- 14A     Close up attempt. 1861. Birth of Petrus, youngest son of Wojciech Gwozdz
- 13A     Jozefa (Gwozdz) Dubiel and her daughter, Wieslawa Grobicki. Jozefa is the daughter of Jan & Ludwiga Gwozdz. Jan is the son of Andrzej, who is the 2nd son of Wojciech, whose first son is Maciej, my ancestor. Jozefa is my 3rd cousin. This is the Podborze Gwozdz family. Anna Kordana maintained contact; my parents visited them in 1975 at this place. 21 Apr.
- 12A     Same, with me.
- 10A     Dinner at the Ryba home. 21 Apr AM. From left Jozef Deren, his wife Krystyna (Ryba), Janina Janczykowska. I stayed at Janina's flat. No pictures at her flat, because I took some last year. These 3 people and I walked about 10 km from Janina's flat to the Ryba home.
- 9A     Same. Our host & hostess Zbygniew & Wanda Ryba. Wanda is my 3rd cousin, granddaughter of Anna Bigda, daughter of Wojciech Gwozdz.
- 8A     Same with me, show off of cabinet.
- 5A     Gwozdz ancestral home. Two of the grandchildren from the newer house next door with me. Must be Malgorzata & Dariusz Lis, not positive. This is 22 Apr, my 2nd visit here. More pictures last year.
- 4A     Babcia Anna (Gwozdz) Topor's cottage. Her face far left, then standing Bozena Skora her granddaughter, seated Maria wife of Jozef Gwozdz, Stanislaw daughter of Anna, Mieczyslaw Golonka next seated husband of Stanislaw, next seated Edward Gwozdz brother of Babcia Anna, standing in back 4 grandchildren of Edward: Sylvia & Mariusz Bielaszka, Grzegorz Gwozdz, Monika Bielaszka, next seated Jozef son of Edward, Ryszard ex-husband of Janina, Janina's face barely caught on the right edge. This is a huge family picnic-dinner on 24 April afternoon & evening. The party was because I'm in town. The Bielaszka's drove halfway across Poland in their Mercedes to see me.
- 3A Same, left side.
- 2A Same, right side. From right Stanislaw Bielaszka, Janina daughter of Anna, Wladyslawa Bielaszka daughter of Edward Gwozdz.
- 1A Same, with me.

0A Same, a few minutes later, 2 young guys showed up in red, not certain who - see next photo.

**Second Roll. 3375** stamped on back

- 24A Same. Standing in back: Slodzimierz Skora husband of Bozena, me, Bozena, another guy, and Katarzyna Skora. Those 3 guys I can't tell apart have to be the three 9 to 11 year olds on my list: Michal & Wojtek Skora and Marcin Gwozdz.
- 23A Banas side. From left: Barbara Ksiazek daughter of the late Maria Tokarska sister of the late Henryk Banas, me, Karolina daughter of the next person, Malgorzata wife of Pawel Ksiazek son of this Barbara on the left. 25 Apr. Big first communion party in Szufnarowa; this and the next few photos. Through that door behind Malgorzata is a room filled with tables - about 30 people in there. I sat & ate in this room here, tables for about 30 in here, but only about 10 actual. I did not bother the hostess for a photo of her family, so no photo of the first communicant, Piotr Ras. I remember meeting Piotr and his mother Malgorzata; do not remember meeting his father Marian Ras. Malgorzata is daughter of Stanislaw Miskiewicz, who I understand lives in New York.
- 22A Here is Pawel Ksiazek on the left, with his 3 children in front of me and his wife again. I cannot identify those 2 kids on the right.
- 21A Me with 2 daughters of Stanislaw Miskiewicz ( 2 sisters of the hostess). Next to me is Marta Miskiewicz, not married. Sofia, married in the US to Alvares Nelson, is holding her son David.
- 20A Same room, 180 degrees around. Back, Augustyn Grela & Wladyslaw Szymanski; in front of Wladyslaw is wife Maria sister of Elzbieta Grela both are daughters of the late Henryk Banas; my beer is sitting just right of Maria; 2 white shirts with back to us not identified; young Karolina a 3rd time looking at me; Elzbieta Grela far right.  
(Flash failed on one shot a minute after 20A.)
- 18A Unidentified
- 17A Jadwiga & daughter Ilona. Jadwiga is wife of Janusz Dziadek grandson of Stanislaw Miskiewicz. End of first communion party pictures.
- 16A 1834 Marriage. Top item: Joannes Banas & Rosalia Balicka. Notice the 7 lines of script, which I understand is the permission for the 19 year old bride.
- 15A Same. Back off a bit.
- 14A Wladyslaw Dziok & daughter in law Agnieszka, an English teacher. 26 Apr. First of 5 pictures at this home. That envelope on the table is my Xmas 1998 mailing to the Skwierz home; sister Emilia Dziok borrowed it from Jozefa Skwierz. Also on the table is my current mark up copy, now here next to the computer.
- 13A Emilia & 2 grandsons. Krzystow Jurek & Piotr Dziok. Krzystow is older.
- 12A Same. Better flash
- 11A With me
- 10A Last at this place, outside by my car. Agnieszka's oldest son Jakob with his father Pawel Dziok.  
(2 flash failures, home of Andrzej Maslanka, 27 April.)
- Insert. Labeled on back. Andrzej Maslanka gave me this. He's shirtless. With daughters Beata & Barbara, and Beata's husband Mariusz Stanisz.
- 7A Apartment of Piotr Kwiatek, left. Daughter Paulina. Son Pawel.
- 6A With me
- 5A With Wiktoria, wife of Piotr, sister of Elzbieta Grela, daughter of the late Henryk Banas.
- 4A Back home with my granddaughter Emily
- 3,2,1,0,00A More Latta family at my house in Cupertino; using up the film.

**Outside Camera. 3374** stamped on back

- 25A Grela home (Banas Homestead). 27 April. Reshoot of Joe Armata's 1980 views. I: "Jozef's Cottage" site; the cottage is now gone. This one is closest to Joe's 1980 spot. I am standing a bit closer (larger image) and a bit to the right of where Joe stood.
- 24A I. Same. Notice that white barn, in back, has an annex, lower roof, since Joe's photo. Kazimierz verified that it was added about 10 years ago. That white barn behind the trees was built about 15 years ago, per Kazimierz, who verified that his grandfather Jozef lived in a cottage at this site. The tree @ center of Joe's photo is still there. Tree to the left is gone. A similar pruned tree, left edge of Joe's photo, is still there.
- 23A I. View from the right of the newer home to the left. Kazimierz says his father Stanislaw built this.
- 22A I. View from Grela's yard
- 21A Ditto. Left of the shed.
- 20A Farther left
- 19A Way out in the field. Still I. Jozef's cottage stood in the center, near where that white barn now stands.
- 18A One more, from the fence. I'm standing on Grela's side. Trying to make sure I have the same magnification as Joe. This one is too far back. Exactly Joe's angle, however.
- 17,16A Too many of view I.
- 15A II. Angle shot of Franciszek's cottage, looking uphill. Chimney is gone; Elzbieta verified chimney. All those I shots are to the right.
- 14A III. 180 degrees around Franciszek's cottage. Those I shots are about 90 degrees to my left.
- 13,12,11A I tried to get Joe's spot exactly. Augustyn Grela assured me that the shed in Joe's left foreground is gone; he showed me the foundation stones in the road. Joe must have been standing at the site of the newer shed with a tractor in it; I got very close to Joe's spot in the last one, 11A, inside the shed. The front half of Franciszek's cottage has been razed. Photos 25A, 15A, and 11A moved from the photo stack to the Banas file, with Joe's photos. Copies mailed to Joe in May 1999.
- (Two bad ones, home of Andrzej Maslanka, 27 April, it was too dark outside.)
- 8A Sipping mineral water at Wysowa with Piotr & Wiktoria Kwiatek 29 Apr.
- 7A Same, with our driver Pawel Kwiatek.
- 6,5A Same
- 4A Parking lot at Wysowa
- 3A On the road home from Wysowa
- 2A Back home at Pawel's house, still 29 Apr
- 1A Same. Pawel's in-laws live on the middle story. The bottom story is a basement, I think. Pawel & wife & her son live on top story.
- 0A Same, from the road.
- 00A 29 April. On the road to Krakow. Lake on Highway 99, half way between Nowy Sacz & Bresko. My rented Citroen Xantia with Gdansk license plates.



**Pawel Kwiatek. 0323** stamped on back. 12 pictures. Numbered 19 - 30. See Report # 11 for the towns, which are written on the back of the photos. Malastowska is a World War I front line Austrian cemetery. Pawel in the blue jacket, his mother Wiktorina in the yellow jacket, his father in the black jacekt. Bartek, son of Pawel's wife Anna, is the young man.

23 & 24 are inside Pawel's living room. In #24, Pawel sister Paulina is to his left, his wife Anna is to his right, next to me. Anna's father is to the left of Paulina. Anna's mother is to my right.

**Rafal Grela. 038 0131** stamped on back. 10 photos that Rafal took when Barb & Dave visited with me in 1998. Inserted into package with Second Roll.

25-28 & 31-36. Grela family members can be identified from my last year's pictures.