

THE HISTORY OF THE KASPEROWICZ FAMILY AND RELATIVES

Introduction

At times we are asked about our heritage. Are we Polish, Belarusian or Russian? Where did our ancestors come from? Our heritage/ancestors were Polish and their progeny are also Polish. The history of the region where they lived, explains the confusion. Since many of our European relatives speak other languages or dialects, some may consider them Russian, or Belarusian. Some now live in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and their children speak those native languages and they may be considered nationals or possibly citizens of those countries. Our ancestors lived in an area that throughout recorded history very often had its national boundaries changed and they consequently would come under the rule of different nations. For many centuries, but most of the time, it had been part of the Polish Kingdom. Even today, our relatives still speak the Polish language, consider themselves to be Polish and practice Polish Catholic traditions that date back for many centuries. When Poland was partitioned, it did not exist for over 100 years. So emigrants from those areas of Poland were German, Russian or Austrian citizens. In 1918 emigrants from the same areas again became Polish citizens as was the case before the end of the eighteenth century.

As you scroll down, many questions may be answered. Some of the text may make grim reading.

It's hard to imagine what kind of lives our progenitors will live. You can be sure that was also true for our ancestors. Looking back, history tells us so much of what was important to them. The values they possessed and the role these values played for sheer survival should be important to us. We should know who our ancestors were, how they lived, what they did, how they survived and what they believed. What lessons can we learn that should be important? What, in their culture, were the principles that guided them and can we benefit from these principles today? We all care about our family's well-being and look forward to provide a better life for our progeny. So did they.

Some chose the path of immigration; others remained in their native land which underwent colossal wars and geopolitical changes.

An important reality is that their religion provided hope and strength to endure incredible hardships and at times even help them flourish.

Their village life even today just as it has for centuries, is centered on daily farming activities, religious devotions and related social activities in the town of Dolhinovo at the parish church of St. Stanislaus founded in 1553 and rebuilt in 1853.



parish church

Dolhinovo



town entrance

So lets look at



a brief History of the land of our ancestors and the constant turmoil in their homeland

Archeologists believe that the first signs of settlements in our ancestral land date back nearly 50,000 years. In fact, artifacts from the Bronze Age and Iron Age have been found in settlements across the country of Belarus (previously the northeast border area of Poland our ancestral land).

9th CENTURY (AD 840 - 966) POLAND (POLSKA)

The name Poland comes from an ancient Slavic people known as the *Polanie* (forest clearing dwellers or field dwellers) who in the early Middle Ages settled between the rivers Odra (Oder) on the present western border of Poland and Wisla (river Vistula).

The Polanie tribes united about AD 840 under chief Piast and laid the foundation of POLSKA - the Polish nation. Kasperowicz ancestors star area below





MIESZKO (960 - 992)



BOLESLAW (992 - 1025)

Between the 6th and 8th centuries pagan Slavic peoples migrated throughout Eastern Europe, with some settling in present-day Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

A few centuries later, Polotsk (or northern Belarus) emerged as the dominant center of power on Belarusian territory, with a lesser role played by the southern reaches of the territory.

The king Boleslaw Chrobry conquered local slavonic tribes with an aim to create a large state able to oppose German expansion towards the east.

For five hundred years till the 15th century the Kingdom of Poland grew larger and it was a state inhabited purely by Poles. This included our ancestral land.

14th CENTURY UNION OF THE KINGDOM OF POLAND WITH GRAND DUCHY OF LITVA

In 1386 the marriage of Queen Jadwiga of Poland to Jogaila, pagan Grand-Duke of Litva, baptized as Wladyslaw Jagiello, initiated the union of Poland with Litva inspired by the common purpose of resisting the aggressive Prussian Teutonic Order.

In 1410 at the Battle of Grunwald, combined armies crushed the Teutonic Order. The army was made up of Catholic Polish knights and the Lithuanian pagans and some Lithuanian Muslim Tartars. There were also Ruthenian orthodox Christians and "heretical" Bohemian Hussites.

This victory helped strengthen the bond between the Poles and Lithuanians and led to the creation of one state by the Treaty of Union at Horodlo in 1413.



Grand Duke In 1385, Lithuania's Grand Duke accepted Poland's offer to become its king. He consequently converted Lithuania to Christianity and established a personal union between the two lands.

The turn of the 15th and 16th century

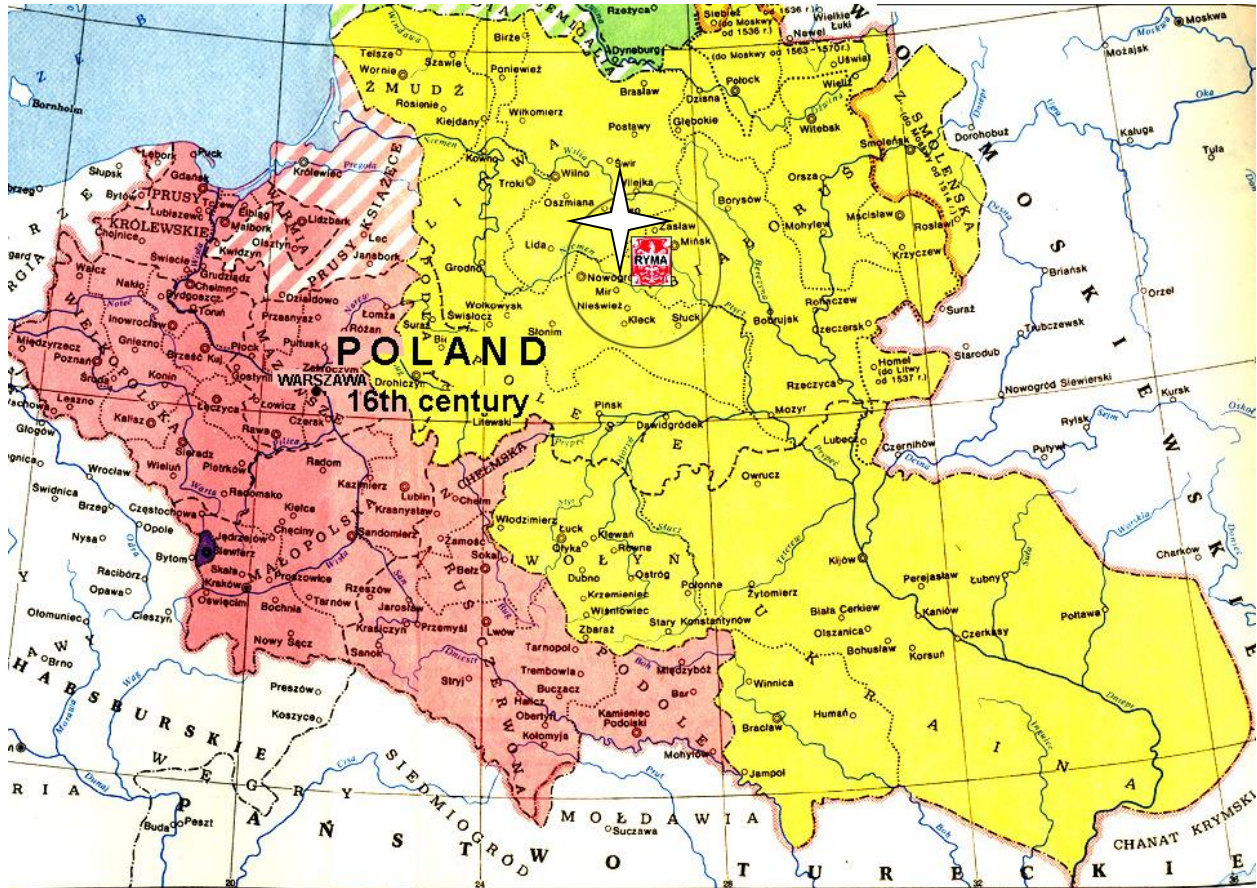


The Tatars, believers in Islam, ravaged the area in 1503, burning and looting and taking thousands of "infidels" as captives. Three years later in 1506, during the


subsequent Tatar incursion, the joint armies of the Crown and the Duchy were ready and crushed the Tatar hordes in battles near KOPYL and KLECK. Epidemic disease devastated the sparse population in the area.

Zygmunt I the Old was the King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. His only son Zygmunt II August (1520-1572) succeeded him in 1548.

Our ancestors lived on land that was then the Polish eastern frontier



16CENTURY POLAND

Kasperowicz ancestors 

In 1569, the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth was created making it an influential player in European politics and the largest multinational state in Europe. While Ukraine and Poland became subject to the Polish Crown, the present-day Belarus territory was still regarded as part of Lithuania.

14th - 18th CENTURY POLISH COMMONWEALTH (RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA)



Crown of Polish Kings

Union with Grand Duchy of Litva created one state under Polish Crown, which with time expanded eastwards and northwards, and dominated east-central Europe until the 18th century.

Under the Jagiellonian dynasty, during the 15th and 16th centuries, Poland grew into a huge state in the centre of Europe. In the 16th and 17th centuries Poland was a European superpower, stretching the borders of its Commonwealth from "the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea".



In this period Poland attained great heights of power, prosperity and cultural magnificence.

For example, in 1543, a Polish astronomer Mikolaj Kopernik (Nicolaus Copernicus) publishes "On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres", proposing that the earth revolves around the sun, making Poland famous in the whole of Europe.

Polish Republic was a constitutional monarchy. "Szlachta", the landed gentry or nobility, acquired extensive privileges, and the Kingdom was often described as "Nobles' Republic".

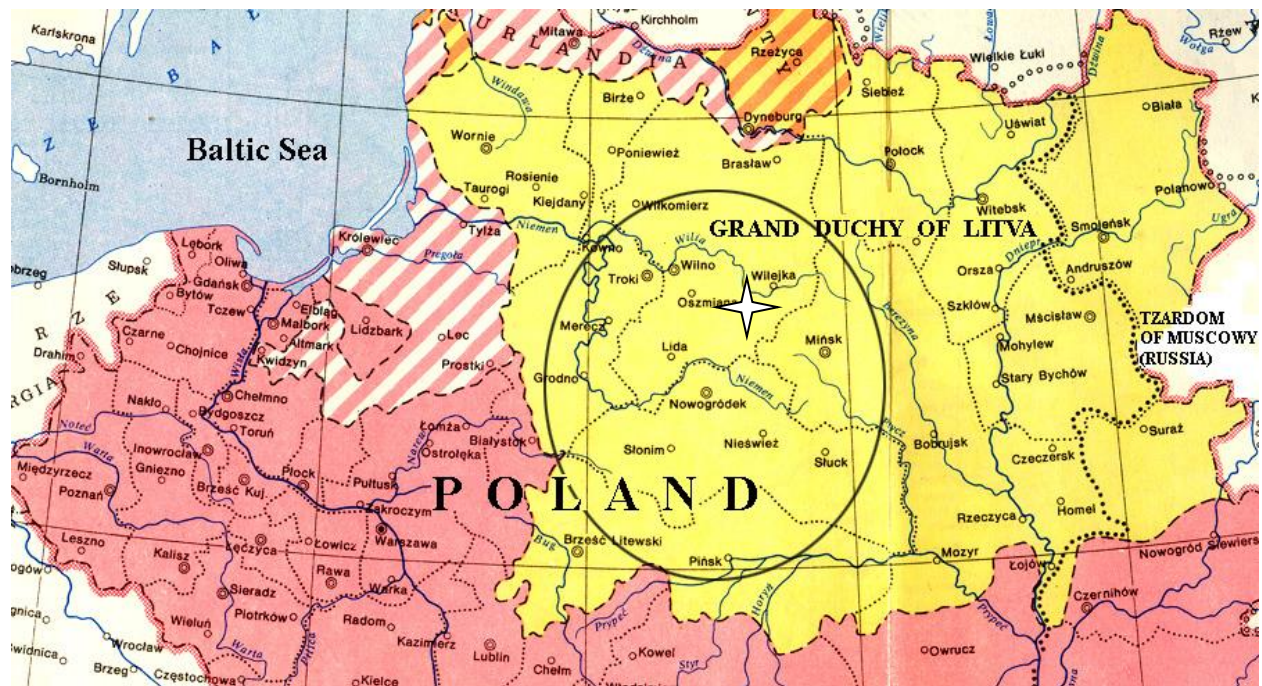


The Kingdom of Poland in the 17th century
A large part of Eastern Europe belonged to Poland.

The Kasperowicz families lived in the north-east of the Polish Commonwealth or Polish Republic (which was a constitutional monarchy) since the 16th century. This area was an administrative region named after the former Grand Duchy of Litva. The Polish inhabitants of the Grand

Duchy were mostly the landowners throughout this area and had traditional Polish influence over Duchy. The landed gentry, called nobility or "Szlachta" had extensive privileges.

In some regions of the Duchy **Poles** were in the majority, especially around **Wilno** and **Grodno**. Other inhabitants belonged to several ethnic and religious groups. The **Baltic** peoples speaking **Latvian** and **Lithuanian** lived in the northern regions. A large proportion of the population were **Ruthenian tribes** (later Belorussians, then Belarus) They lived in the east and were farmers. **Jews**, who in the 13th century took refuge in Poland from persecution in Western Europe, were **well represented** especially in townships where they were engaged in **commerce and trade**. There were also **Gypsies** and Muslim **Tatars**, descendants of former Tatar incursions from the East.



North-eastern provinces of the Commonwealth of Poland in the 17th century showing the native areas of the Kasperowicz families

As the Commonwealth continued to prosper, so did Belarus, but that economic growth came to an end in mid-17th century when a series of debilitating wars against Sweden, Russia, and others devastated the territory.

The **Polish–Swedish Wars** were a series of wars between the [Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth](#) and [Sweden](#). Broadly construed, the term refers to a series of **wars between 1563 and 1721**. More narrowly, it refers to particular wars between 1600 and 1629. These are the wars included under the broader use of the term:

- the 16th century conflict sometimes referred to as the [Livonian War](#) (1558–83)
- the [War against Sigismund](#), in 1598
- the [war of 1600–29](#) (sometimes considered a part of the larger trans-European [Thirty Years' War](#)) which was twice interrupted by periods of [truce](#) and can be divided into:
 - the [war of 1600–11](#)
 - the [war of 1617–18](#)
 - the [war of 1621–25](#)
 - the [war of 1626–29](#)
- the conflicts in the second half of the 17th century known as [The Deluge](#) (part of [Northern Wars](#) 1655–61)
- the [Great Northern War](#) (1700–21).
- the [War of the Fourth Coalition](#) (1806–07), in which Poland, by then [partitioned](#), was represented by the [Polish Legions in Napoleonic service](#)
- the last Polish–Swedish War was the [War of the Sixth Coalition](#), because the [Duchy of Warsaw](#) was a Napoleonic ally, whereas the [Kingdom of Sweden](#) was a member of the anti-Napoleonic coalition.



*The Polish–Swedish War of 1625–1629 was the fourth stage (after 1600–1611, 1617–1618, and 1620–1625) in a series of conflicts between Sweden and Poland fought in the 17th century. In 1621, the Swedes besiege and conquered **Riga**, The Swedish army was worn and the Poles could regain the initiative at Dorpat. Truce was signed. Gustav II Adolf planned a new campaign against Poland, During the autumn of 1625 two Polish armies appeared against the Swedish forces and Gustav II Adolf decided to get into a clash before the Polish forces managed to unite.*

By the end of the century most of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was in ruins. It is estimated that the Commonwealth lost a third of its population, with some regions of Belarus losing as much as 50%.

Now weak, and mostly unable to defend itself, the Commonwealth was vulnerable and additional wars in the area (Great Northern War) and the (War of Polish succession) further devastated the peasant population of Belarus.

By the end of the 18th century, Poland, Lithuania's partner in the Commonwealth was partitioned by its bordering neighbors, and Belarus, partially occupied by Russia at the time, would be completely occupied by the early 19th century.

While under Russian control, Jews in the Russian Empire were now all required to settle in Belarus in a region called the "Pale of Settlement" where life was hard and poverty-stricken.

17th - 18th CENTURY

TWO CENTURIES OF WARS AND DECLINE OF POLAND



Polish winged hussar

With the extinction of the Jagiellonian dynasty in 1572, Poland entered a two century long period of the political, economic, and military deterioration. Successive and generally disastrous wars with Sweden, Russia, the Ukrainian Cossacks, German Brandenburg, and the Ottoman Turks led to the loss of important Polish territories and the devastation of much of Poland. This period became known as the "DELUGE".

During the reign of king Jan III Sobieski, who was an excellent military commander, Polish forces had many victories over the Turks. In 1683 a Polish army under the king's command soundly defeated a vast Turkish force - an army of Islam, in the battle for the relief of Vienna. This halted a serious threat to Christendom in central Europe. But this victory could not halt Poland's decline.

Picture : King Jan III Sobieski after the battle over the Turks near Vienna



Early in the 18th century the Russian Empire opened a systematic offensive against declining Poland, supplementing military force with bribery and intrigue.

The weakening of the Polish Commonwealth was to a certain extent due to the free veto (**liberum veto**) in which any noble, a member of "**szlachta**" had it within his power to prevent the passage of legislation or to dissolve the proceedings of the Polish parliament. Poland had created a unique political **republic** headed by **elected kings** who were directly responsible to the **Parliament of Nobles**.

This system made Poland almost ungovernable. The central powers were unable to control the independence of the landowners (szlachta) and foreign neighbors found it easy to intervene in the struggles between the king and the nobility. By the time the system of liberum veto had been amended, it was too late for Poland and history ran its foreordained destiny.

End of 18th CENTURY THE THREE PARTITIONS OF POLAND 1772 - 1793 - 1795



By the end of 18th century, three combined, successive efforts took place by the neighboring empires: Prussia, Austria and Russia to weaken Poland by dividing its territories amongst themselves. In 1772 large parts of the country were divided among Frederick II of Prussia, Catherine II of Russia, and Maria Theresa of Austria.

(Kasperowicz families/relatives)

The first partition brought about some reforms in Poland. The Polish Parliament (Sejm) passed a constitution called the Constitution of the Third of May. It was the first most

democratic document written in Europe and second in the world after the USA Constitution, that outlined the responsibilities of Government.

When it had become apparent that the remaining portion of independent Poland was showing signs of regeneration, Russia and Prussia invaded the country and took more land in 1793.

Only the central section remained independent, and the three powers took that two years later in 1795. Poland became "officially" non-existent for the next 123 years. Russia received much larger share of the central and eastern provinces of Poland, occupying in the second and third partitions the native lands of the Kasperowicz families.

19th CENTURY

POLAND UNDER THE RULE OF FOREIGN POWERS

Several armed attempts to regain independence were made by Poles, but all the uprisings (1794, 1815, 1831, 1846, 1848, 1863 and 1905) against Russia and Prussia were bloodily suppressed.

Many Poles involved in these various uprisings were either killed or driven into exile. But they kept the national spirit alive. Many people emigrated to France and North America.

Tadeusz Kosciuszko was the famous Polish young general who fought for the American independence. After his return home to Poland he led the first insurrection for Polish independence in 1794, but it was not strong enough to defeat the Russians.



A Polish geologist, Strzelecki, surveyor and explorer in Australia at that time, named the highest peak in the Snowy Mountains after Kosciuszko.

When Napoleon, with Polish troops serving in his armies, conquered Central Europe, he restored for a short period Poland as a "Duchy of Warsaw" dependent on himself, which existed from 1806 to 1815.

In the early 1800s Napoleons army fought and marched through our ancestral lands. After Napoleon's defeat in Russia (retreat from Moscow in 1812) and the Congress of Vienna in 1815, the victorious Russia absorbed the Duchy of Warsaw in the Russian Empire, calling it "Kingdom of Poland" with the Tsar becoming also the "King of Poland".

After insurrection against Russia in 1831, the Poles in the "Kingdom" were deprived of all civil liberties.

Poland disappeared from the map and remained under the yoke of foreign masters for 123 years, from 1795 to 1918 (till the end of World War One).

The former eastern parts of Poland, where our relatives lived, were already incorporated into the Russian Empire.

They experienced some period of freedom after Napoleons troops which included Polish legions, marched on to Moscow.

Many of our relatives lived there until Poland regained its independence after WW1 in 1918. Some emigrated to the United States well before WW1.

In 1870s Russia attempted to eradicate Polish culture, making Russian the official language of the Russian partition. Prussia did the same in their portion of Poland, attempting to Germanize Poles. Our relatives learned Polish history, etc. in secret schools. The Catholic Church was also persecuted. The Byzantine Catholic rite was abolished in 1839 and the Belarus populace was forced to convert to Russian Orthodox. Only under the Austrian partition Poles were allowed to retain some autonomy.

In the 1890's Poland experienced mass emigration due to persecutions and poverty. Prior to First World War approximately 4 million out of 22 million Poles from all regions emigrated - mostly to the United States.

20th CENTURY THE FIRST WORLD WAR : 1914 - 1918



War fronts in Europe during World War One

of
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National groups within Europe under control of the Central Powers of Germany and Austria are shown in black. Mutinies and revolts are shown as square shading.

World War I was a major war centered in Europe. It began in the summer of 1914 and lasted until November 1918. As it raged across Europe, Belarus came under German control, which continued throughout the entire conflict.

In 1917, during the war, the Bolsheviks overthrew the Russian Provisional Government during the Russian Revolution and Russia withdrew from the war.

At the end of the war, millions were dead and some large European powers (including Germany and Russia) lost vast tracts of land, and were militarily and politically defeated by the allies.

The remaining German forces finally withdrew from Belarus, and on **January 2, 1919, the Soviet Socialist Republic of Byelorussia was declared.** Regardless, Poland and Russia were now preparing to reclaim (once again) what they saw as their territory, and they soon did.

When the **Red Army entered Minsk (approximately 75 mi. SE from dolginovo and even closer to the neighboring villages where the Kasperowicz families and relatives lived) on January 5, 1919,** the local government went into exile. **By 1921, the Belarusian territories were divided between Poland and Soviet Russia.**

The Polish part of Belarus (in the west) was subject to the imposition of elements of Polish culture, while Soviet Belarus (in the east) became one of the original republics BSSR or Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, which formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or USSR.

By 1914 two strong alliance systems were in place in Europe. The Entente Powers of Britain, France and Tsarist Russia faced the Central Powers of Germany and Austria.

The war was triggered off by the assassination of the heir to the throne of the Austrian Empire. The Austrian government blamed Serbia and declared war on Serbia on 28 July 1914.

At this point the various alliance agreements kicked in. Germany came into the war in support of Austria, and Tsarist Russia came to the assistance of Serbia.

Within a week, Britain and France were also at war with the Central Powers. The war had been long expected and peoples were ready for it.

Conscripted into the armies of the three Empires that partitioned Poland, that is Russia and the Central Powers, Poles had to fight in opposing armies in World War One.



Lands of Our Ancestors Impacted By The First World War

During the First World War, Russia was engaged in the war with Germany. After two years, since late 1915, the Eastern Front was where the Kasperowicz families lived. It became an arena of close combat between Germans and Russians. Living conditions drastically worsened for the population. The shifting frontiers left in their wake considerable damage and famine.

As the world war, the Russian revolution, and the civil war in Russia raged, the eastern frontier was in turmoil. Hundreds of thousands of inhabitants became refugees.

In March **1917** the Emperor of Russia, Tsar Nicholas II was overthrown, and later, in October, during **the Bolshevik Revolution**, was murdered by the communists together with all his family.

Then the **Bolshevik Russia**, a former member of **Entente** alliance, **pulled out of the war with Germany** and signed a separate armistice in December **1917**. By the Treaty of Brest Litovsk in **March 1918**, they ceded Eastern Poland to **Germany**.

Some personal family notes:

Our grandparents as well as all the relatives, experienced hardships in their homeland during this period of war. They were blessed when they were able to leave after the war. Uncle Nikodem Kasperowicz immigrated and brought grandfather Kazimierz and grandmother Grasylda to the United States. After mother and father came to the United States, our grandparents lived with us in a cold water flat (which we upgraded with a coal then gas water heater). Grandpa was also a master tailor and he helped my dad in his business.



It was 1937 or 1938 and grandma Grasylda Kasperowicz as she often did, took me to Pulaski Park in Passaic NJ about one mile from our Garfield, NJ home. It was a four room, one bathroom, “cold water flat” above my father’s tailor store, where we all lived. The household included grandma, grandpa, my mom, dad, three older brothers and

me. Each day we had two gallons of milk delivered to our door. In the park grandma took my hand and placed it on her head and in Polish told me the lump on her head was from a soldier's rifle butt. I don't know which army provided her with this memoir. I heard similar stories from a number of our relatives who had survived but suffered physically during the Bolshevik clashes and from combatants of both world wars.

The country was under German military and political occupation. By the **end of 1918** however, Germany and Austria (the Central Powers), collapsed.

The Poles then proclaimed an independent Polish republic. From November 1918, they began to disarm the Germans and form Polish local councils.

The eastern frontiers of Poland then became a theater of war against Bolshevik "Red" Army by anti-Bolshevik "White" Russian armies and others.

In **1919** the Bolshevik Red Army, having crushed all counterrevolutionary forces inside Russia, now aimed to spread the international communism to Germany and Europe, but Poland stood in a way because Polish workers and peasants were too patriotic and religious to be interested in the communist revolution. So the Red Army **attacked Poland.**



[POLISH – BOLSHEVIK WAR 1919 – 1920](#)

After the downfall of the Russian Empire, in March 1917, the provisional government of Russia (not Bolshevik) recognized Poland's right to self-determination.

After the Polish- Bolshevik war ended and even after a Peace treaty with the Soviets in 1921 and **new boundaries which then placed our families in the eastern frontiers of an independent Poland**, the Bolsheviks continued their **aim** to spread international communism promulgating their **Marxist** ideology among our families.

Back to Geopolitics

A provisional Polish government was subsequently formed in Paris. In 1917 the Germans, then in complete control of the country, created a regency council as the supreme government authority of the so-called Polish Kingdom.

After four years of war, people were fed up with the loss of life and the hardships. There were mutinies by troops of the Central Powers and left-wing revolutionary activity exported from Bolshevik Russia, demanding an immediate end to the war.

National groups (see map) saw their opportunity for independence and refused to play their part in the war effort of the Central Powers. Eventually, the Central Powers disintegrated from June to October 1918.

On the collapse of the Central Powers in the autumn of 1918, the Poles moved swiftly towards statehood. The Republic of Poland was proclaimed in November 1918, and an independent government was installed in January 1919.

1918 - 1939

21 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

During this time period Teofilia Kasperowicz married Mikolaj (Michael) Babaryko who was a Polish army cavalry officer and died at the outbreak of the 2nd World



1926 Photo of Mikolaj Babaryko husband of Teofilia Kasperowicz



**SOVEREIGN AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
POLAND**

from 1918 to 1939

This was the POLISH LAND of our relatives



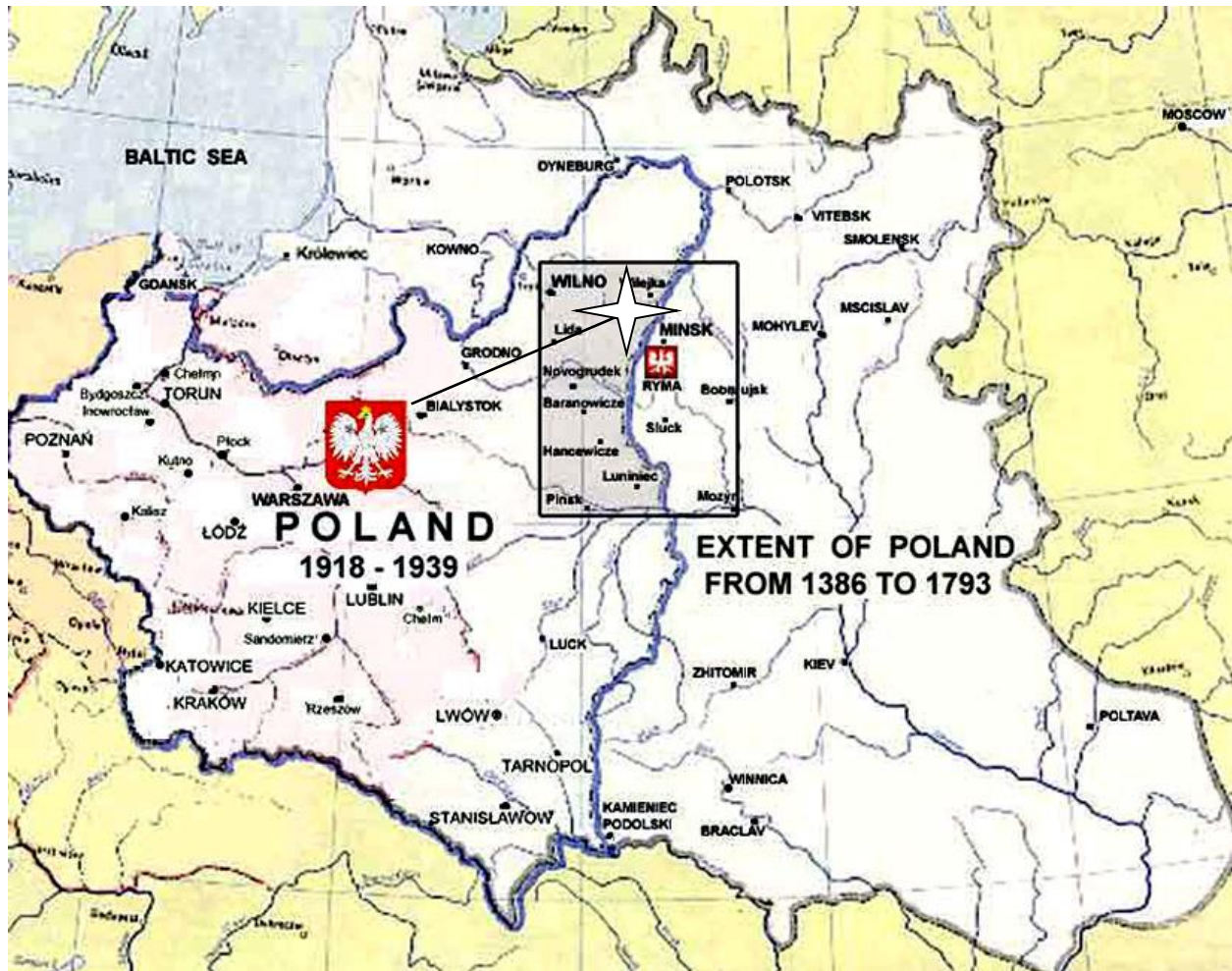


1918-1939 **INDEPENDENT POLAND** MARSHAL Józef Piłsudski PRESIDENT Ignacy Mościcki



MAP OF NORTH-EAST POLAND (1918 - 1939), WHERE THE KASPEROWICZ FAMILIES LIVED IN INDEPENDENT POLAND. IT WAS WESTERN PART OF FORMER EASTERN BORDERLANDS (KRESY WSCHODNIE), THE HOMETLAND OF KASPEROWICZ ANCESTOR .

In the north one can find **Wilno** (now **Vilnius** in Lithuania) which remains in Lithuania. All other places are now in Belarus



The upper gray area on the left side of the blue frontier line next to Minsk, shows where the Kasperowicz families and their relatives lived in independent Poland.

Relatives left in Bolshevik Russia behind the new 1918 Polish border, e.g. in SLUCK, KOPYL, MINSK, etc., were not allowed by Soviets to move to Poland or emigrate to the United States as they could do before the Revolution during the times of the Tsar's Russia. Some relatives managed to escape to Poland during the early years. Others became subject to Stalin's terror and gradual extermination.

These are only some examples of the fate of our relatives who, after the end of First World War, were living outside the borders of the resurrected independent Poland and were left in Communist run Soviet Union becoming Soviet citizens.



Above is the 1939 map of restored Poland. On the maps' northeastern side, the yellow area shows where the Kasperowicz families and relatives lived in a free and independent Poland.

Between the First and Second World Wars, it was a free and democratic country - the Polish Republic (Rzeczpospolita Polska).

SECOND WORLD WAR : 1939 -1945



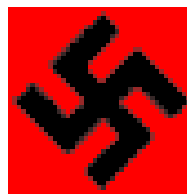


Red Army marches into Polish border village on 17 September 1939



**September 1939
The outbreak of World War 2**

Red Army crosses the Polish border on the 17th September 1939, after destroying the border marker. Soon afterwards all boundary markers were removed.



On September 1, 1939, the

Germans invaded Poland

Poland collapsed and the Red Soviet army took Belarussian territories under its protection and so they became BSSR

On September 17, 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland, and consequently seized western Belarus. Some twenty months later, Germany invaded the Soviet Union (including Belarus) on June 22, 1941 and within the month had captured Minsk.



← Wilno bottom shaded area
KASPEROWICZ ancestral land

Belarus suffered greatly during the subsequent fighting and occupation, and by the end of August, 1941, the present-day Belarus territory was totally occupied by the German army. Over 2million people were lost during the occupation.

In 1939, the Soviet Union rejected an offer from the Allies (Great Britain, France and Poland) to form an alliance against Hitler's continuing aggression in Europe. Instead, the Soviet Union signed a Friendship Treaty with Germany which included a secret collusion to divide Poland and Eastern Europe between Germany and the Soviet Union. Accordingly, in September 1939, in support of Hitler's invasion of Poland from the west, the Red Army attacked Poland from the East.

All Police officers were targeted and arrested. In fact anybody who wore some kind of a uniform was arrested, even some boy scouts got caught. All these prisoners were regarded as "prisoners of war" - POWs (including army chaplains) and were taken to various POW camps in Russia. Even clergy were arrested.

During the 21 months of occupation of Eastern Poland (until June 1941 when Hitler attacked the Soviet Union) the Russians systematically continued to arrest civilians, usually in the middle of the night. They were government public servants as well as local administration, high school lecturers as well as primary school teachers, lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, landowners as well as "kulaks" (well-off peasants), social and political activists, etc. These were locked up in prisons for interrogations of false accusations, fake trials, and sentencing. Due to lack of prison space in Pinsk, also former Polish military barracks in the town were turned into prison.



On 17 September 1939, eastern Poland, where the Kasperowicz families lived, was invaded by the Red Army. The area was renamed Soviet Western Byelorussia as part of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic During the Soviet occupation lasting 21 months (from Soviet attack on Poland to Hitler's betrayal of his Soviet ally, and his invasion of the USSR itself on 22 June 1941),

hundreds of thousands of Polish citizens were arrested in eastern Poland and imprisoned by Soviet Secret Police. Their homes and land properties were confiscated.

A column of arrested Polish police officers, civilian public servants and other "enemies of the people", being escorted by the Red Army in "liberated" Eastern Poland in September 1939. From

the the Soviet Cinema Newsreel.

“COMPULSORY” SOVIET CITIZENSHIP TO ALL

The Soviets imposed the Soviet citizenship on the whole population in occupied Eastern Poland and issued compulsory "internal" passports to all, thus breaking the international law which gives rights to a person to define his own nationality.



Joseph Stalin history's greatest mass murdering dictator isolated his subjugated countries from the rest of the world with his “Iron Curtain”

The ignored and forgotten holocaust perpetrated by the Soviet Union

The **initial** figure of **civilian deportees only** in these major mass removals was 1 million 80 thousands (8 percent of the population of this area). To this figure **need to be added smaller removals and thousands** of Polish **army units** retreating east from the German war front who were captured and imprisoned by the Soviets as well as group arrests of border guards, policemen, public servants, priests, boy scouts, etc, and **individually arrested** civilians imprisoned awaiting fake “trials”. Many were executed. The total was **almost two million people**. This figure was only for the period of 1939-1941 in Eastern Poland. Similar extermination was also happening in other Eastern European states occupied by the Soviet Union.

These were the type of cattle wagons in which the Poles were deported to forced-labor camps throughout the USSR



After the collapse of the Soviet Union, a Polish woman Joanna Januszcak, survivor of the Soviet massacre in Cherven (just southwest of Minsk), published a book in Poland around **1995** titled "**Path of Death: Minsk - Cherven. June 24-27, 1941**".

Joanna Januszcak writes in her book that immediately after the Nazis launched an offensive against the USSR, some **5,000** people from prisons **in Minsk**, also from **Vileika** and **Kowno**, were crowded together by the Soviets and began being driven to the east. **These are our ancestral regions**

In 1944, because of the efforts of the Americans, British and other allied forces, it became clear that Nazi Germany would not win their war in Europe, or for that matter in Russia, and in the end it was soundly defeated.

That fact meant little to Belarus, as it had lost 25% of its pre-war population, over 9,000 villages were destroyed and the towns of Minsk and Vitsebsk were in ruins.

As the German forces were in retreat across Europe, the Red Army drove the remaining Germans out of Belarus, and the long rebuilding and recovery process began. Not much changed in the villages. There was not much to be destroyed

Area was ceded to Belarus and as BSSR was under Soviet domination and adopted Stalin's soviet policies such as Stalin's Five-Year Plans, adopted by the party in 1928, called for rapid industrialization of the economy, with an emphasis on heavy industry. It usually set goals that were unrealistic resulting in total control of every aspect of life. All industry and services were nationalized, managers were given predetermined output quotas by central planners, and trade unions were converted into mechanisms for

increasing worker productivity. No one knew what the cost of producing anything nor the cost for services was from point a to b to c. All prices were fixed with specific number of products to be produced. Pricing of all goods and services were fixed by the government. There were major shortages of everything. The government owned and controlled everything from the raw material, factories, transportation, distribution centers and housing. There was no private ownership of anything allowed. The soviet bloc suffered economic disasters with their master planners in the Kremlin. They exercised and dictated centralized control over everything and everybody. There was no competition and little or no incentives. Propaganda, tobacco and alcohol with Godlessness were the opiate of the masses. Spending for the military was the top priority. In time that even became a disaster.



“Kolhoz (collective farm) Pravda (truth). A collective farm where our relatives worked”

Collectivization

The communists (Bolsheviks) would influence and convince the farmers, including our relatives, of the benefits of collectivization. It was a Soviet utopian dream which would morph into labor subjugation. It was simply government control and an idea, sold on a concept based on equal redistribution of wealth.



Villagers listen to commissar's propaganda



The First Tractor

The Local Commissar

Incentives to join collective farms gave access to mechanized equipment



Any benefits, actual or perceived, would **only benefit the governing regime** and not the farmers.

The Negative consequences of Collectivisation

Collectivization took many forms: wanton slaughter of livestock, women's riots (*bab'ly bunty*), theft and destruction of collective farm property, and, perhaps most widely spread, an intentionally slow pace in carrying out directives of the local kolkhoz administration. The tremendous loss of livestock through slaughter, inadequate fodder, and simple neglect made it virtually impossible for kolkhozes to fulfill their procurement quotas for meat and dairy products. Failure of collective farms to meet procurement quotas had dire consequences for their members. It meant that no matter how many labor days (the unit of accounting according to which collective farmers were paid) kolkhozniks worked; there was nothing to pay them. Shortages were blamed on kulak (former land owner whose land was taken by the government) sabotage. The controlling National government authorities distributed the collected food supplies. Little or nothing was left for the farmer. Virtually all of the food had been distributed to urban areas and the army. To escape from starvation, large numbers of peasants abandoned collective farms for the cities.

Ecological Consequences

One of the major consequences was noted by **Julia Kasper in 1966** when she returned in 1966 to visit the village where she lived. She was in shock as she saw the destroyed beauty of the surrounding land. The deforestation of the area with little or no ecological consideration was incredible.

When many of the Kaspers in the United States were young, their parents and grandparents would describe their homeland and the life they lived. They would tell them that they had a very hard working life, faced a lot of turmoil and hardships but lived a fulfilling life which was sustained by their Catholic religion.

“We had forest and Pripet marshes all around us. In the summer time when we had any spare time after helping with hay-making and harvesting the fields, we would walk to the close by river which wound itself through the marshes, then go alongside the well wooded areas that were full of deer, boar and other animals and were full of birds and insects . We would go there and listen to the songs of birds in the woods and marshes.”

“We left that tranquil peaceful existence and came to America for a better life.”



The empty fields (as seen below) used to be forests and streams before land was deforested/cleared for the soviet collective farms with very few or no ecological considerations



Above is what most of the land looks like now. Fortunately, **the photo above right**, shows it's not all completely deforested. A small section remains as it was. You can see European bison in a primeval forest as well as many birds and animals. Some of this area has been preserved. It's just a few kilometers east of our ancestral homeland. It's a woodland preserve similar to the Southern New Jersey pinelands and it is named **the Brezinzki biosphere**. You can google it.



Some of us have been able to visit our relatives a few times. We got to visit homes of mom and dad and other relatives. Mom's central heating and cooking (and sleeping quarters above the stove unit during severe winters) was fueled using wood. It's being tended by brother Kaziuk's wife. We saw the village of Kamien and saw its namesake, the stone of Kamien (which means stone), shown above. The locals dug down a hundred meters and stopped, since there was no end in sight. It is believed to be a meteorite that for centuries always was there.

The homestead consisted of an extended single story family house, a lot of outbuildings such as stables, barns with hay lofts and stork nests on roofs, cowsheds, piggeries, poultry houses, etc.

And a separate stand-alone big cellar, like a dugout, part of which was filled with ice in the winter and used as a cold store.



Ice blocks were cut out in the winter on the nearby river and transported to the cellar by horse drawn cart. (The sack hanging on the left of the horse contains common oats for the horse)

The rest of cold cellar was used for storing potatoes, beetroots, turnips, carrots, as well as barrels of soured cabbage, pickled cucumbers, dried mushrooms, bilberries, cherries, cranberries and so on.

The Kasperowicz original house in Onoski has been demolished because of a new road, right of way demolition, construction project. It had been the residence of Arkadziej Lagutka and his wife Theofilia (Kasperowicz). The picture of Theofilea's parents Grasylda and Nikodem, original owners and builders prominently was hung in the living area. At the back entrance was a large room with a dirt floor where some of the prized livestock was brought indoors during severe winter freeze periods.



There was also a smoke-house where they used to dry and cure hams, sausages and other meats. Then there was a log cabin where they were making butter and cottage cheeses, some of which were dried.

Behind the farmhouse were a vegetable garden and a orchard with some beehives on one side.

On the other side of the farmhouse were fields where wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, millet, buckwheat and peas were grown.

Beyond that there was a row of oak trees growing.

There were thick forest of ash, oaks, pines and some maple trees, where they used to go to pick blueberries and mushrooms.

Village photos below Kaziuk Adamowicz's beehives and Bronislawa (Kasperowicz) Faryno who was a local faith healer.

When a village neighbor was ill, she would be summoned to practice the gift she possessed. She would stand facing the interior wall on the east side of the dwelling. She then would line up her belly button with a knot hole of the frame dwelling and recite prayerful incantations requesting God's healing intervention through Jesus Christ. These prayers were recorded but lost. She joined her family in the United States in and lived over 100 years.



After the Second World War, especially contact was reestablished with many relatives. Letters and photos were exchanged. Money, food parcels and clothing was sent via existing commercial companies. Most often oppressive duties equal to the cost of the package continent were imposed and at times additional costs levied even at the point of delivery (disregarding prepayment duty and shipping costs) were imposed to discourage sending aid to our relatives. Multiple visits to Poland and the Byelorussian Socialist Soviet Republic , keeping contact and some successful attempts to aid very poor relatives especially in the BSSR villages gave us an understanding of the insane utopian economic systems e.g. five year plans imposed on the countries under soviet domination. They were so regressive and practically in all instances, drove them into a third world type of existence. Any chance of improving ones lot in life depended totally on communist party membership & espousing their Marxist/Socialistic lunatic theories.

This was all possible by Mind Control. People were brainwashed and fed propaganda through all existing media. There were very strict controls and severe punishment for those who would attempt to stray from the official party line. This was living behind the Soviet Iron Curtain. Travel or contact with the West was limited and strictly controlled. Phone calls were limited by poor infrastructure or when made, were monitored. Visitors traveling and visiting from the West were restricted to specific areas and closely monitored by Central Soviet, regional Soviet and local Soviet “security guides.” Any deviation from the visiting rules, required special documentation and permission but still required some monitoring.

People were indoctrinated with Marxist ideology. It ridiculed religious belief as the opiate of the people. They suffered miserably during the war. With relief and aid from the United States their lot improved. The new Marxist government promised them a utopia. People living in countries controlled by

the Soviets were insulated from the rest of the world. Most followed the leaders like members of a cult. Those who didn't were severely punished.

During the post war period the United States economy pretty much flourished.

An example of the above indoctrination was evident in a letter received by my mother from her sister living in Belarus. In it, she questioned why we have so much poverty and criminality. She could not understand why the entire country persecuted black people.

They were only exposed to selected clips from our media outlets, showing the worst of the United States. This was presented as the norm. They were cut off from the rest of the world and propagandized. A decade or so later when my Aunt visits mother, she cries when attending mass at our local church. The priest notices and believes they were cries of joy for the ability to practice her faith freely in America. She was exposed to decades of communist religious suppression. But that was not why she cried. Mother told me later that her sister cried because she could not understand why God made her endure so much, was lied to and was deprived of a life like her sister outside communist Belarus.



behind

Stalin's "Iron Curtain"

In the 1980's, I experienced similar propagandized mindsets in discussions with relatives in Poland who were University graduates. They so firmly believed in their socialistic progressive Marxist ideology and were blind to the reality of the world beyond their borders.

Thank God and his instrument, Pope St. John Paul XXIII for bringing them back into the fold.

1945 AFTER THE END OF WAR POLAND WAS MADE A STALINIST PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

The Soviet Union, in an effort to help spark the Belarus economy, established new industries and it wasn't long before Belarus became a serious center of manufacturing; new jobs were the result and some levels of prosperity returned.

And then on April 26, 1986, an explosion and fire at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Ukraine released large quantities of radioactive contamination into the atmosphere, which spread over much of western Russia and Europe.

Nearly 60% of the radioactive fallout landed in Belarus. Large areas were contaminated, forcing the evacuation and resettlement of 200,000 people.

To contain the contamination and to avert a greater catastrophe, the Soviets spent a billion rubles which all but crippled its economy. Regardless, some contamination effects still linger and Belarus struggles with environmental conditions in the southeast, and the overall health of its people.

POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC A COLONY OF THE SOVIET EMPIRE

It lasted 44 years : 1945 - 1989

After this horrible period was over and World War Two had ended in 1945, and Germany, one of the two occupants of Poland, was defeated, new boundaries were established for Central Europe by Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill at Yalta.

Poland lost a third of its pre-war area, which was taken over by the Soviets. The eastern Poland where our ancestors lived was incorporated into the Soviet Union.

As "compensation", the Allied powers handed over to Poland a part of defeated Germany up to the Oder and Neisse rivers. These lands belonged historically to very early Poland

during the reign of the Piast dynasty, rule between the 10th and 14th centuries, so they were named the "Regained Territories".

The Regained Territories were settled by Polish refugees who either escaped from the eastern Poland to avoid Soviet rule or were later expelled. Also many Polish repatriates from Siberia in the USSR itself were brought here.

Polish territory suffered a net loss of about 76,000 sq. km, as the land ceded to the USSR in the east was nearly double that acquired from Germany in the west.

1980 - 1989

THE BIRTH OF A FREE, DEMOCRATIC POLAND

August 1980

Workers at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk went on strike led by an electrician Lech Walesa. Inter-factory Strike Committee was formed representing strikes spreading across Poland. Communist Party negotiators begun talks and an agreement was signed, giving workers the right to form free unions independent from previous communist government control.

A nationwide independent trade union, Solidarity, was established growing to 10 million members and becoming a political force. Poland's total population was 38 million. Assuming each member had a family of 3 - that's almost the whole Poland joined the Solidarity union.

December 1981

This situation presented danger to Soviet Union and Moscow-supported communist government in Poland. So the government declared martial law called "a state of war", suspended Solidarity, stripping away all vestiges of newborn freedom and using force, imprisoned all its leaders. This resulted in violence and loss of life. USA and other Western countries responded to martial law by imposing economic sanctions against Polish regime and the Soviet Union.

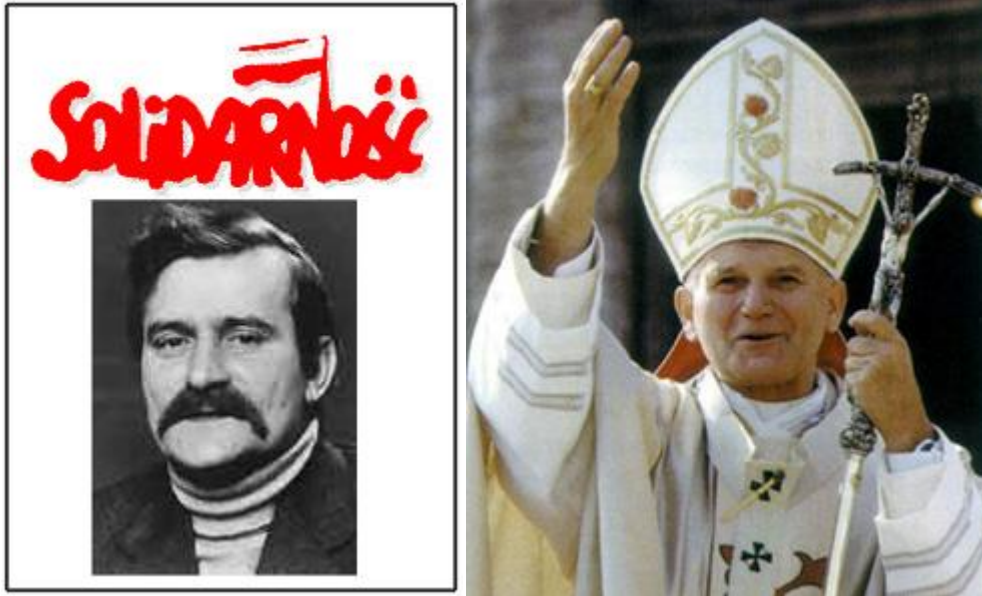
Then through staunch clandestine efforts in the West, led by Pope St. John Paul XXIII and President Ronald Reagan everything changed.

Martial law was ended three years later. And Solidarity prisoners including Lech Walesa were released five years later, in 1986.

However unrest in Poland continued and Solidarity existed underground.

Early in 1989

The government's inability to forestall Poland's continuing and severe economic decline and industrial unrest forced negotiations between the Communist authorities and the outlawed Solidarity movement. Agreements were reached to legalize the Solidarity trade union again, which demanded, and was permitted, to join in limited free general elections.



June 1989

The elections were overwhelmingly won by the representatives of Solidarity who obtained ALL SEATS BUT ONE - of 261 seats it was allowed to contest for with the communists. Thus Solidarity formed the first non-communist democratic government in Poland operating under the rule of law since the World War II.

In 1989 Poland was the first country from the Soviet Bloc in Central and Eastern Europe to break out of Communist rule. Thanks to the Polish Solidarity Movement unquestionably influenced by Pope St. John Paul XXIII, this bold move was soon followed by other nations enslaved by Russia throughout the region.

September 1989 - 1990

Lech Walesa was elected President of Poland

In the late 1980's, Soviet President Gorbachev introduced policies in Russia to help reduce the corruption at the top of the Communist Party. That move called 'Glasnost' sparked a passionate desire for freedom across The Soviet Union, and in the end freedom from Communism caused the total collapse of the country in 1991.



With that

Belarus which with population of about 10 million, was part of the former Soviet Union, became an independent country in 1991. In 1994 they elected Alexander Lukashenko as their first president.

Belarus has retained closer political and economic ties to Russia than any of the other former Soviet republics. In fact, Belarus and Russia signed a treaty in 1999 that envisions greater economic and political and integration.

+++++

Now let's look back to 1820 when the homeland of our ancestors had been taken over by Russia twenty five years earlier and would not be restored as Poland until 1918.

In the early 1800s Napoleons army fought and marched through our ancestral lands which includes the village of Onoszki.

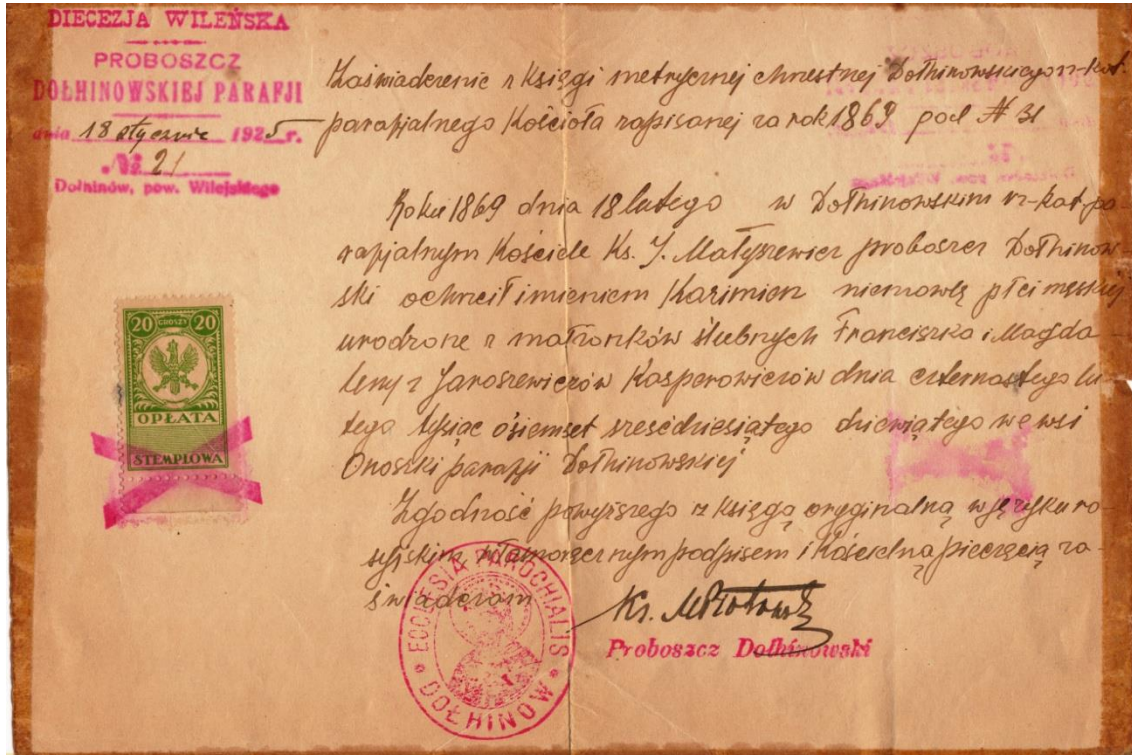
Roots of the Polish Kasperowicz family and extended members

According to the recorded information obtained from St. Stanislaus Church in Dolginovo, in the record book from the years 1850-60, in the village of Anoszki, lived Barbara Kasperowicz (widow) and with her were her children....**Antoni, Franciszek, Marek, Praxida** and Anna.

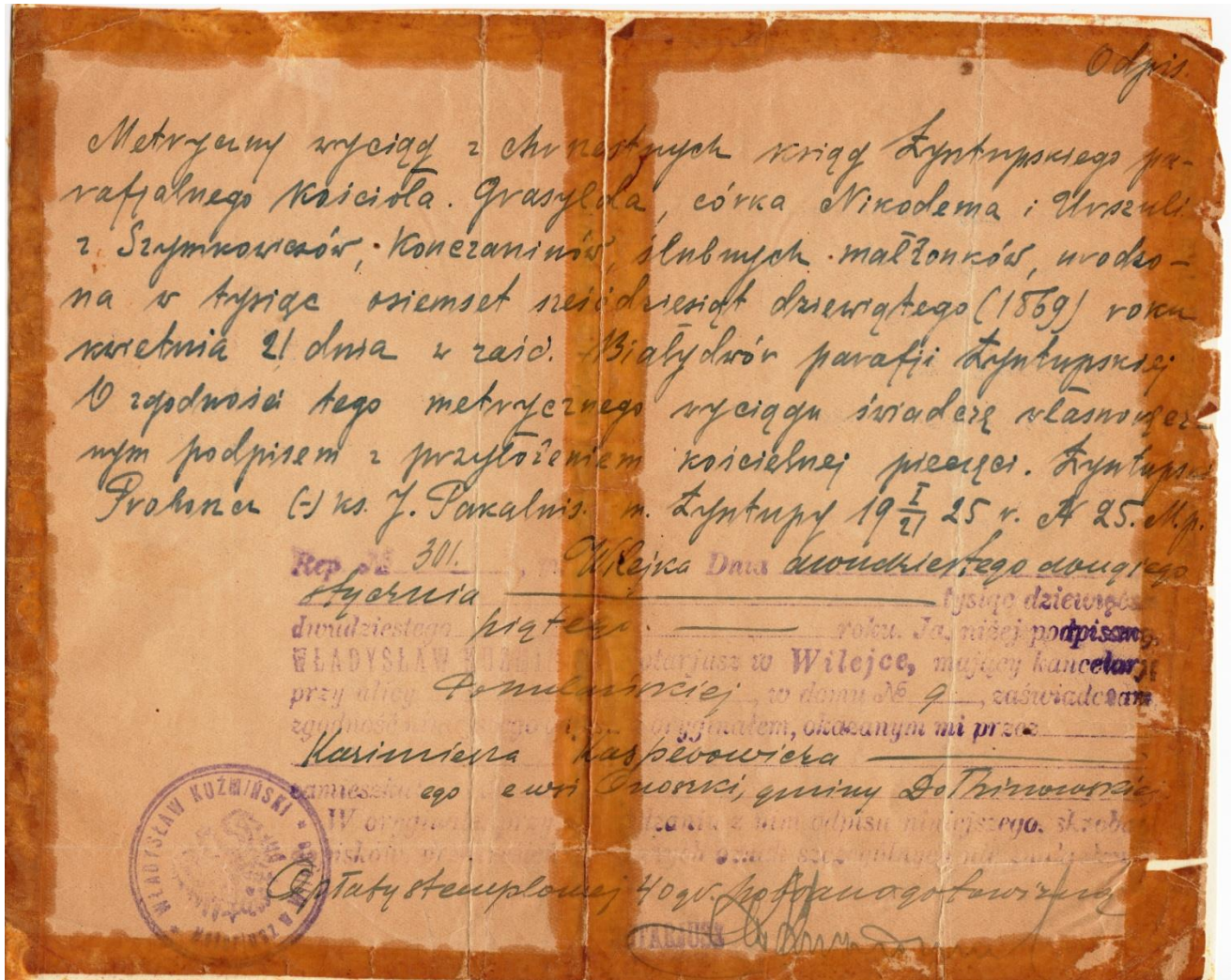
Children of Antoni are: Piotr (Peter) and Joseph with his wife Anna from the family of Zyzniewski. This is now our related Sturycz branch

The only known child of Franciszek is Kazimierz. At age 20,Grasilda from the family of Kanczanin became his wife.

Birth certificate Kazimierz 18, February 1869



Certificate of Grasylda Kanczanin's Baptism and birth on April 21, 1869



St. Stanislaus founded in 1553 and rebuilt in 1853

town entrance

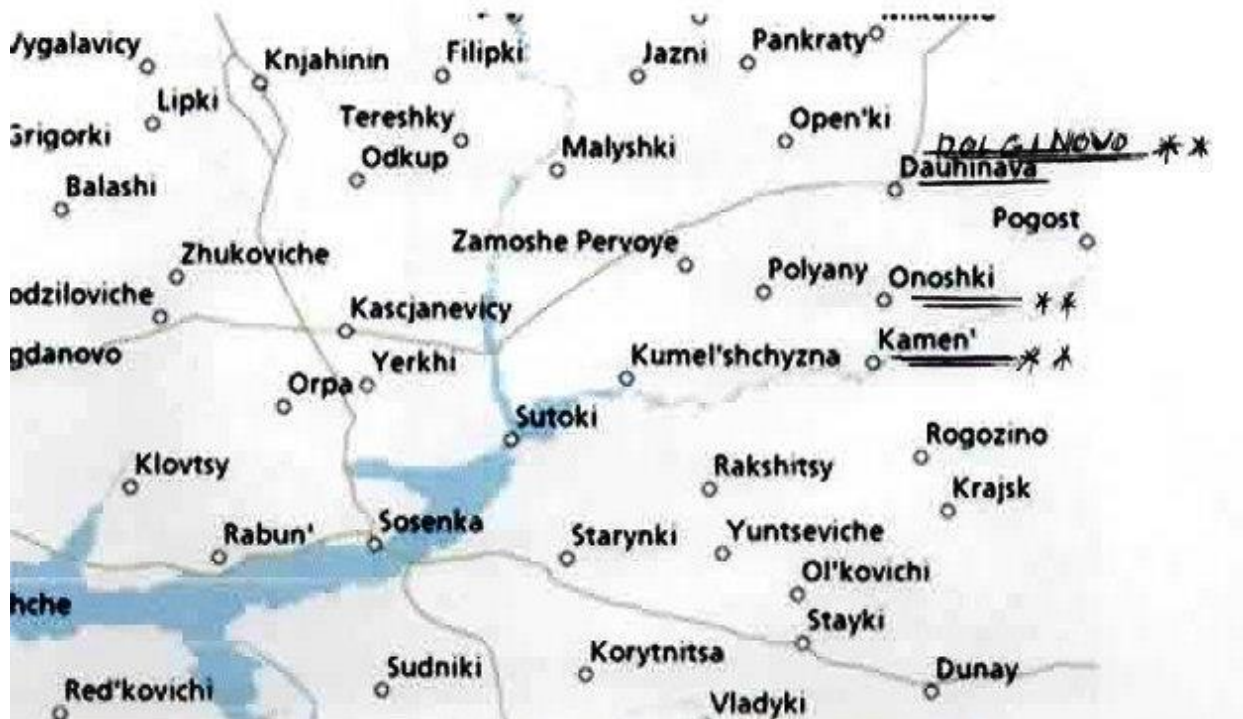


parish church

Dolhinovo



They were married June 26th 1888



Onoshki 51mi. n. of Minsk. Dolginovo 8 mi. n. of Onoshki upper r. side of map

Their progeny



Kasperowicz Home at Onoshki



Picture still hanging at home



Grasylda Kanczanin Kazimierz Kasperowicz



Nikodem
1891-1945



Bronislawa
1893 -



Magdalena
1895-1942

Teofila
1898-1967





Stanislaw
1907-1983



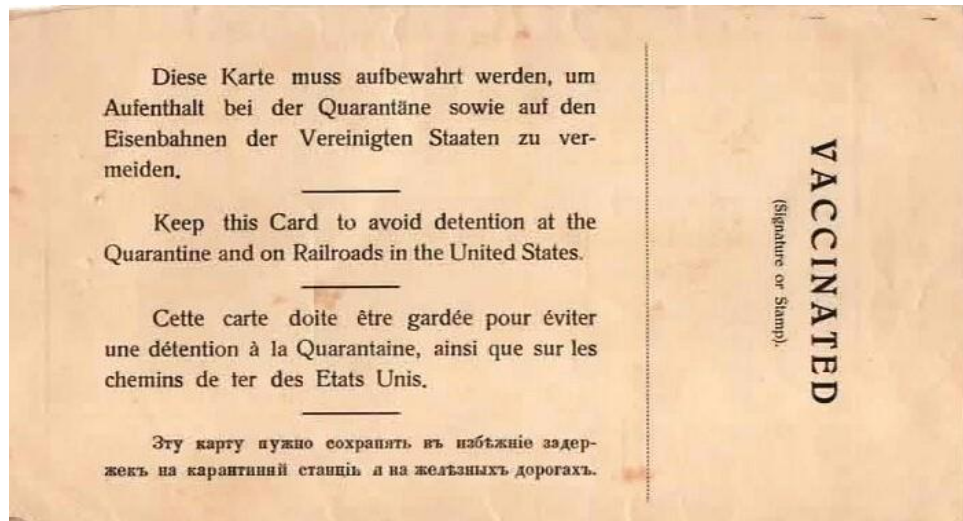
Kazimierz and Grasylda immigrated to the United States in 1925. They followed their son Nikodem who immigrated eleven years earlier in 1914. Then Stanley followed in 1926. He arranged for his new wife Julia to immigrate before he left December 11, 1926. She arrived the following year. Stanley also arranged for two of his sister Bronislawa's children Nikodem and Stanley Faryno to immigrate, accompanied by their wife and family members. Later, Bronislawa also immigrated leaving some family behind living in Poland. The two remaining daughters of Kazimierz and Grasylda remained in Belarus.

Let's begin Kazimierz and Grasylda's journey from Poland.

Passage on the SS(steam ship) Estonia 1925

The East-Asiatic Company, Limited. BAL TIC AMERICA LINE.		INSPECTION CARD																			
(Immigrants and Steerage Passengers).																					
Port of departure, DANZIG.		U. S. Estonia																			
Name of ship,		Kazimierz, Grasylda																			
Name of Immigrant,		2 U. NOV 1925																			
Date of departure,		Poland																			
Last residence,																					
Inspected and passed at DANZIG.				Passed at quarantine, port of _____, U. S.				Passed by Immigration Bureau port of _____													
				(Date).				(Date).													
				(The following to be filled in by ship's surgeon or agent prior to or after embarkation).																	
Ship's list or manifest 3						No. on ship's list or manifest 54															
Berth No.	Steer-ship in-pection	1st day.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
																					

No. 37c. 5000. S. 24.




Back of card

INSPECTION CARD
(Immigrants and Steerage Passengers).

The East-Asiatic Company, Limited.
BAL TIC AMERICA LINE.

Port of departure, DANZIG. *S.S. Estonia*
 Name of ship, *Kasprowica, Brasylka*
 Name of Immigrant, *20. Nov. 1925*
 Date of departure, *Poland*
 Last residence, *Poland*

Inspected and passed at DANZIG.  Seal Stamp of Consular or Medical Officer	Passed at quarantine, port of _____, U. S. (Date).	Passed by Immigration Bureau port of _____ (Date).
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(The following to be filled in by ship's surgeon or agent prior to or after embarkation).

Ship's list or manifest *3* No. on ship's list or manifest *25*

Berth No.	Steam-ship inspection	list day.	+ 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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No. 37c. 5000. 5. 24.

On the map below, follow the straight line above Bialystock Poland. It begins North West of Minsk and traces their journey west from Onoszki **Poland** to Danzig(Gdansk) Poland, in 1925. There they began their ocean journey to England.



After a transatlantic crossing from England, their journey ends in the United States in 1925.



No. 28666
H-13750

Form 2299-L
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

TRIPLICATE
(To be given to the person making
the Declaration)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

State of New Jersey | In the Common Pleas Court
Passaic County | ss: of Passaic County

I, Kazimirz Kasperowicz, aged 58 years,
occupation Laborew, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white, complexion Fair, height 5 feet 6 inches,
weight 151 pounds, color of hair Blonde, color of eyes Blue
other visible distinctive marks None.

I was born in Wies, Onaszki, Poland.
on the 16th day of February, anno Domini 1869; I now reside
at 93 Clinton St., Paterson, N. J.

(Give number, street, city or town, and State)
I emigrated to the United States of America from Danzig (Free Port)
on the vessel Estonia; my last
(If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given)
foreign residence was Onaszki, Poland.; I am --- married; the name
of my {wife} is Grasylia; {she} was born at Bialydwor, Poland.
and now resides atx with me.

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to The Republic of Poland.

of whom I am now a citizen subject I arrived at the port of New York
in the State of New York, on or about the 4th day
of December, anno Domini 1925; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
Signed and sworn to before me at New York, N. Y., on the 10th day of December, 1925.



Kazimirz Kasperowicz
(Original signature of declarant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of
said Court this 10th day of December, anno Domini 1925

John W. Cutcherson
Clerk of the Common Pleas Court.

By _____ Clerk.

They lived in the United States with their son Stanley who emigrated shortly after them in 1926. Kazimierz is remembered by all who knew him as a wonderful person. He was a tailor and worked in the tailoring businesses his son had established. Grasylda was a much loved and appreciated grandmother who would help Julia with all her children. All were born in the United States of America. There never was discord between parents and grandparents, to which all the grandchildren could attest. Grasylda died March 30th, 1944. Kazimierz worked until his death three months later, from a heart attack on June 30th, 1944. They are interred in Paterson, NJ, Cedar Lawn Cemetery, Section 14 lot 313 and 314.

With cherished memories, all the grandchildren wish them eternal joy with our omniscient God and may they rest in peace, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit Amen.

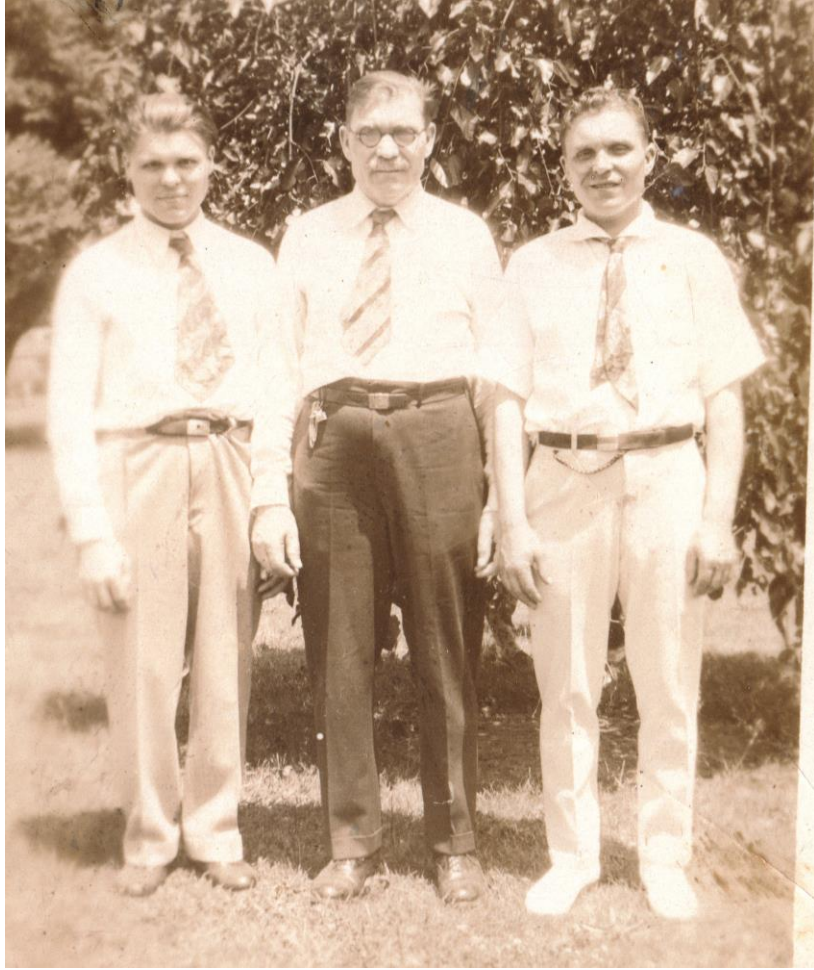
Map of the area in the 21st century blue star ancestral land



Memories of our parents, grandparents, great grandparents and great great grandparents



Kazimierz, Grasylda and son Nikodem 1920's



Stanley, Kazimierz and Nikodem 1928

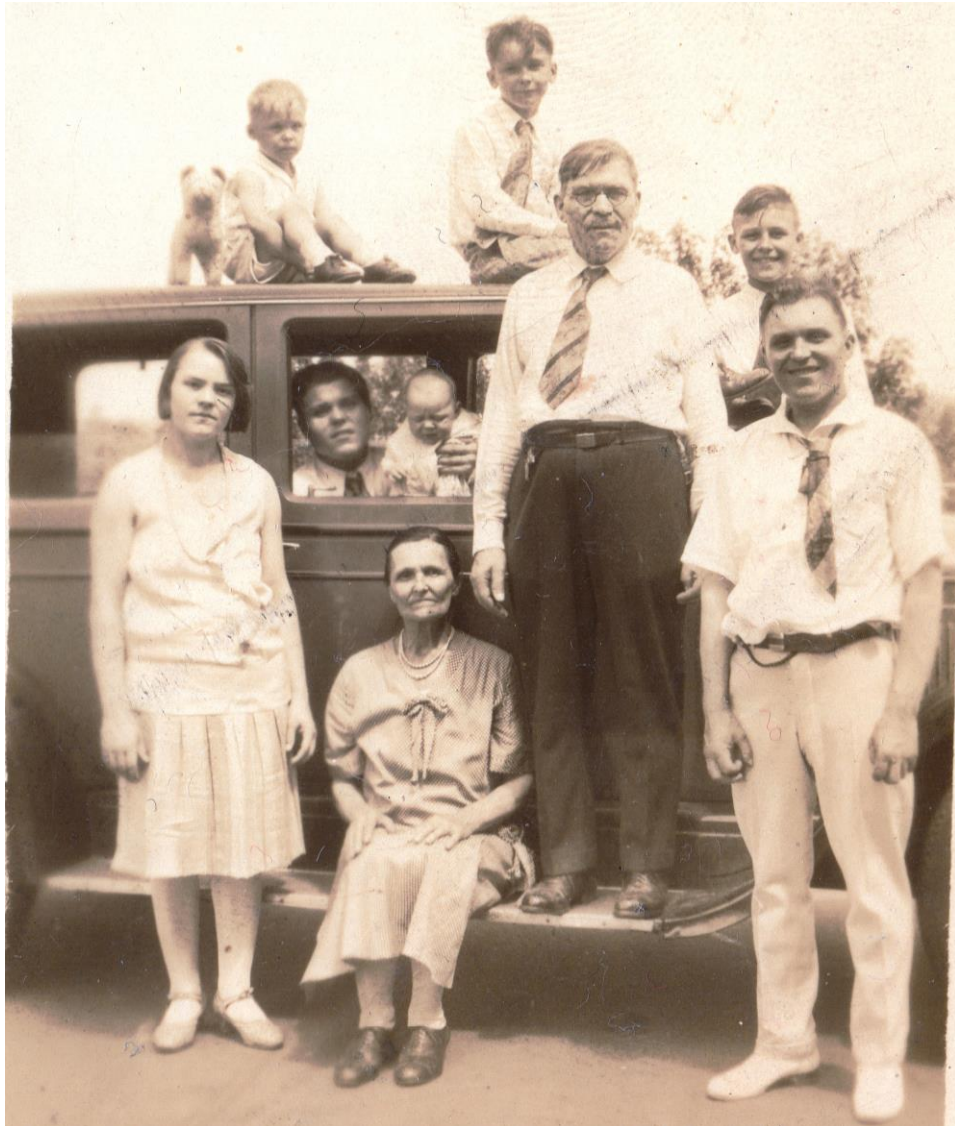


Tailor shop where Kazimierz worked with son Stanley



Stanley, Nikodem, Eddie, Julia (holding Stanley Jr.), Kazimierz, Grasylda

Henry and Nikodem Jr. 1930

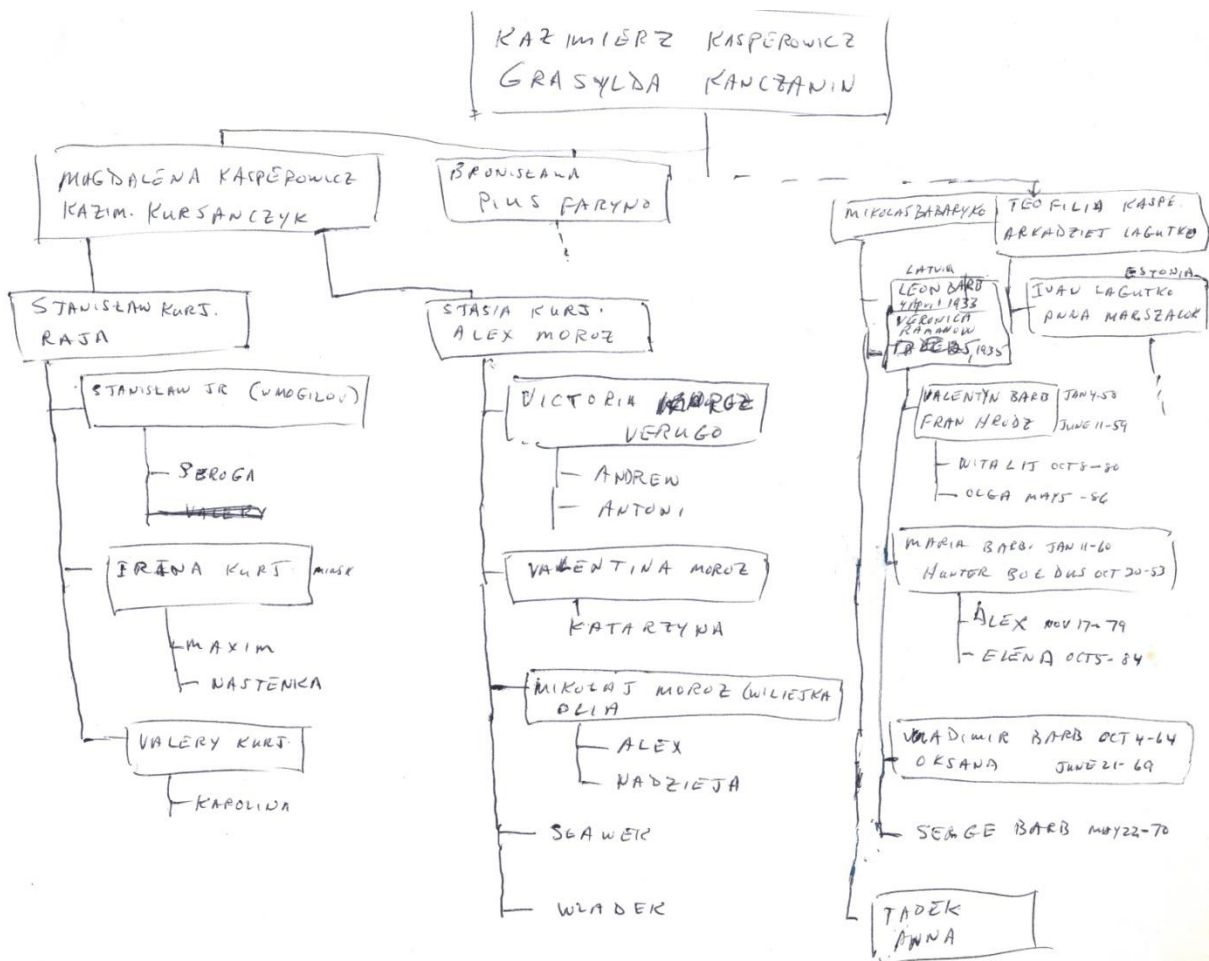


Eddie, Henry, Stanley holding Stanley Jr. in car, Julia,
Grasylda, Kazimierz, Nikodem Jr. and Nikodem Sr. 1930

Addendum:

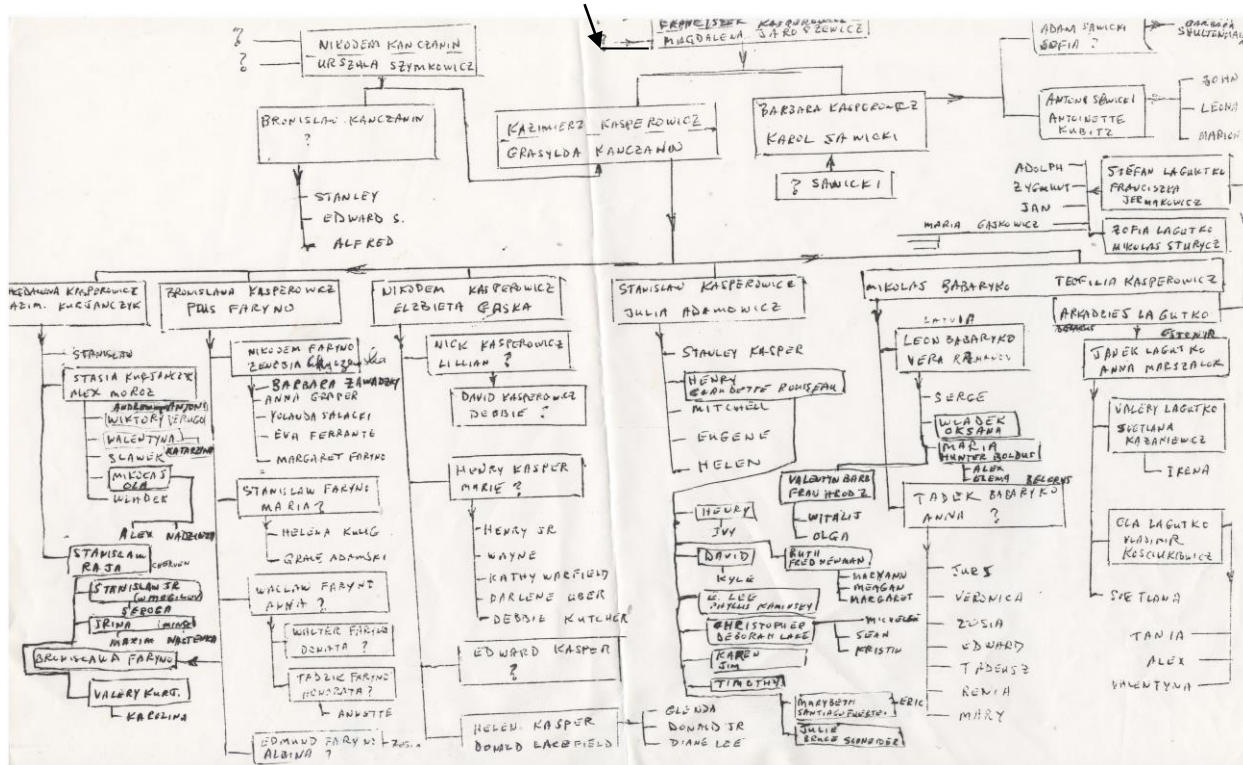
Charts showing the family tree and relatives

Modified short version



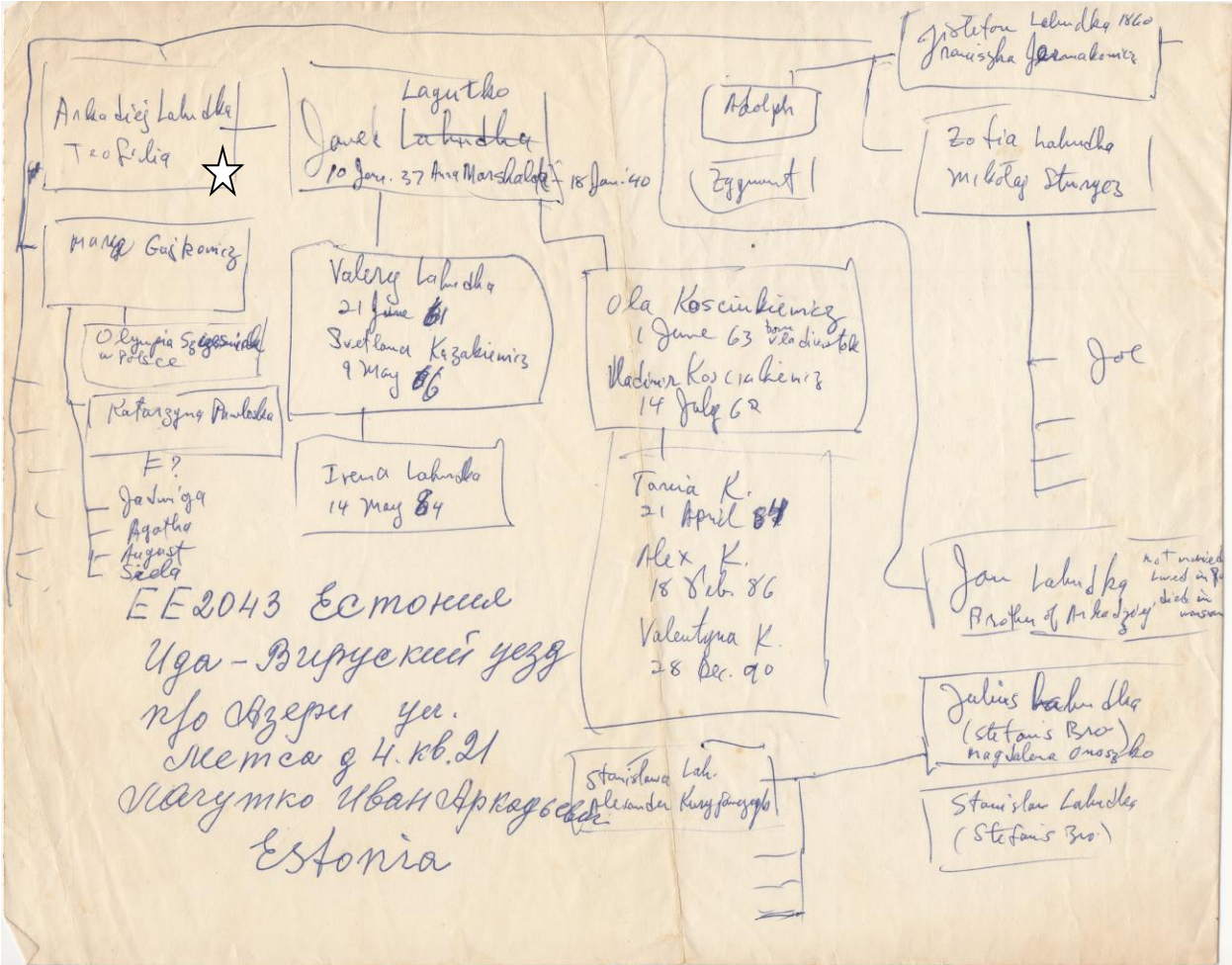
Barbara Kasperowicz, widow

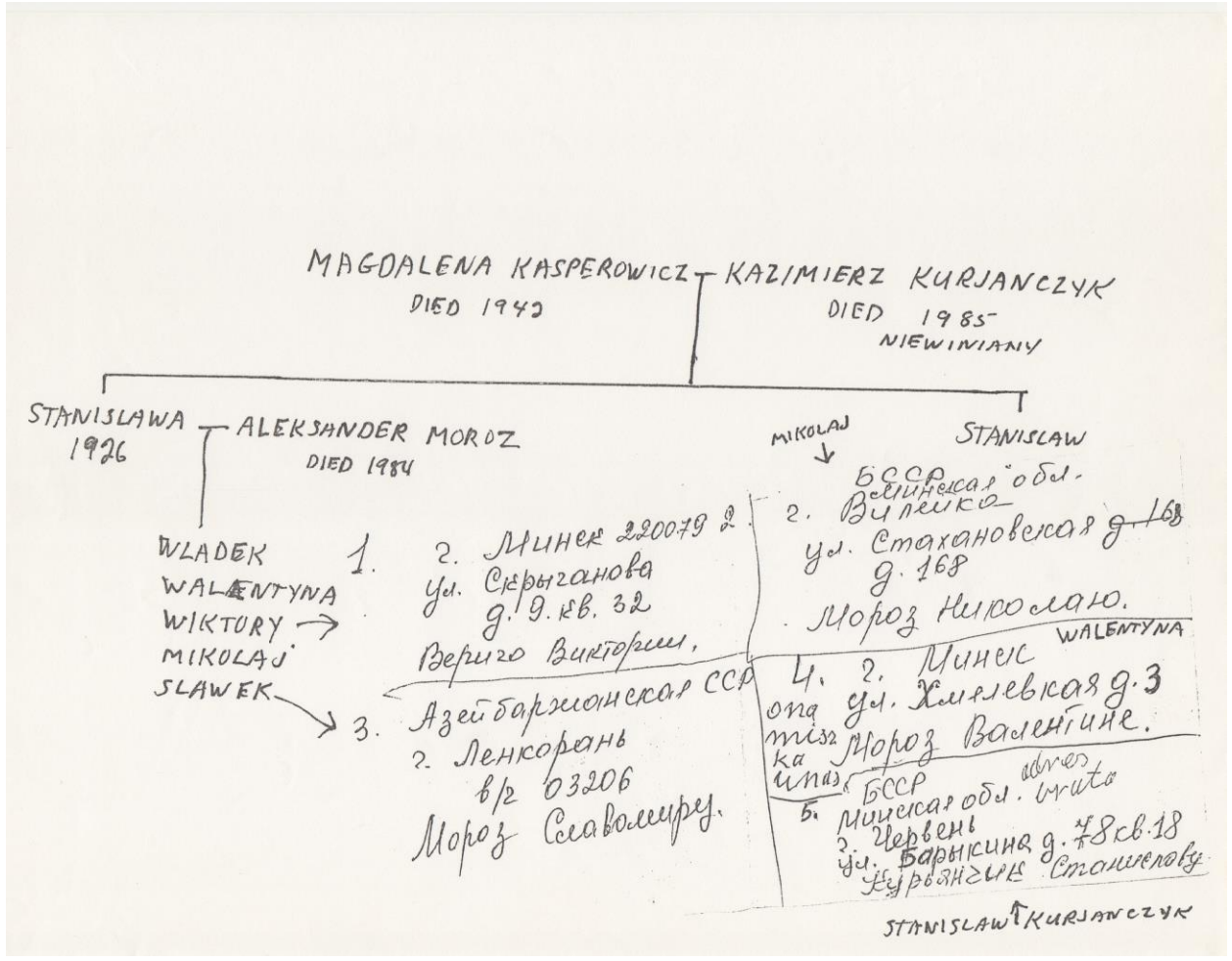




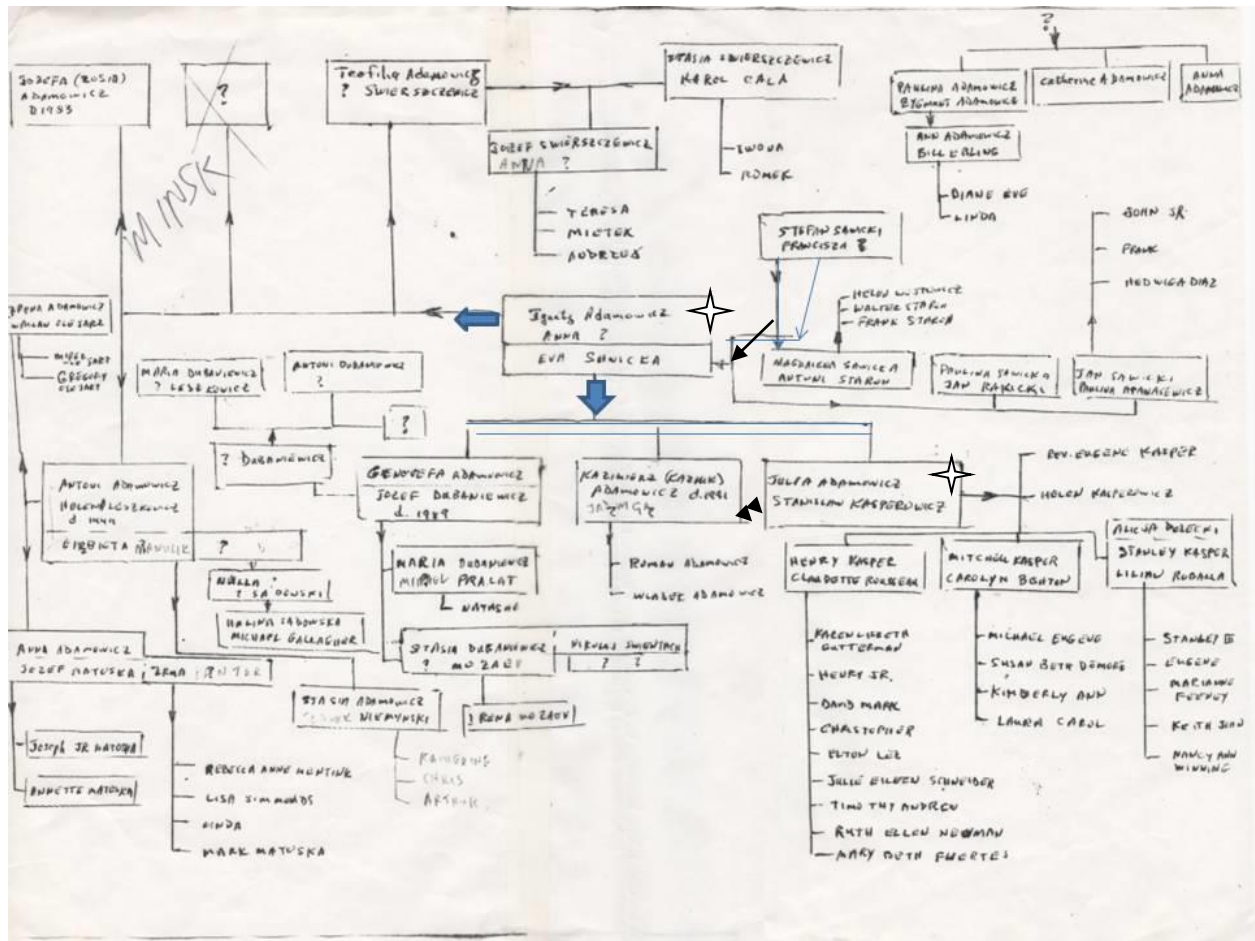
Teofilia (Kasperowicz) Lagutka

note: sometimes gs are replaced by h depending on Russian or Belarus language





Julia (Adamowicz) Kasperowicz



One last look back at a photographic multigenerational collage of family members:





Kanczanin Butcher Shop Paterson NJ
1920's Bronislaw, Julia Kasperowicz's
uncle (Grasylda's brother) with sons
Edward & Alfred



Agatha (Kasperowicz) Sturycz, Sister Barbara Kasperowicz,
Stanley Sturycz 07-24-1974



1966 Yellow Cab Service - Village of Zalazowie
Joseph Dubaniewicz, daughters Marisia & Stasia,
inlaw Stanley & Julia Kasperowicz

Grasylda Kazimierz
Stanley Henry 1933



Zenobia Nikodem Faryno



Anna Faryno
1958



Nikodem WWII POW 1944



Stanley and Nick
Kasperowicz 1930



Nikodem and fellow soldiers
WWII Polish army



Anna Furcio
05-120 Legionowo
Lajski Olszankowa 17.
woj. Warszawskie.

БЕЕР не пропустившая души и ни
одного человека 22.4.44
личная ода
Вилейский р-н.
п/о Волчанов, д. Медвигань
Мороз Станислава

2 92 МАРТА
dład W Zimnoch
11-512 Poznań
ul. Fabryczna 42m.18
Polska

Zimnoch

Stanislawa Moroz



Bronislaw Kanczanin and Family



1926 Mikolaj Babarynko Polish Ulan (cavalry) officer

Thank You for the Visit to the past!

Yesterday is past and the past is history

Tomorrow is the future and the future is a mystery

Today is the present so enjoy your present
