

## ORIGINS OF THE KASPEROWICZ FAMILIES

### Introduction

At times we wonder about our heritage. Are we Polish, Belarusian or Russian? Where did our ancestors come from? Our ancestors were Polish. They came from areas that historically were traditionally and culturally Polish. They shared common values, a common language and religion. The geopolitical history of where they lived, explains the confusion regarding our heritage. Since many of our European relatives speak other languages or dialects, we 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 citizens of those countries. Some more recently immigrated to those countries to escape the controlling sphere of Russia. Our ancestors lived in an area with changing boundaries. Poland was partitioned and consequently our ancestral families ended up living under the rule of different countries. while still living near each other..

For centuries, our ancestors lived in the Polish Kingdom. Even today, relatives, not living in Poland, still speak the Polish language, consider themselves to be of Polish heritage and practice Polish Catholic traditions that date back many centuries. At one time in history, Poland was partitioned and did not exist for 120 years. Our relatives living in those areas became German, Russian or Austrian citizens. Immigration documents identified them as citizens of foreign partitioned areas. In 1918 when the Polish nation reemerged, family members living in these areas again became Polish citizens

Many Kasperowicz relatives shared stories of their family history including what they deemed most important. Knowing their values and at times the role these values played for their 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 may be important? What, in their culture, were guiding principles and can we benefit from these principles today? We all care about our family's well-being and look forward to providing a better life for our progeny. So did they.

This web site describes the origins of the Kasperowicz families and their progeny. Through history some chose the path of immigration, others remained in their native land undergoing geopolitical change and suffered through horrific wars.

Belarusian village life has not changed much. Younger people have moved to the cities. The parents have remained continuing daily farming activities; attend religious devotions along with church or civic social functions. Often the younger family members temporarily return to help older parents with harvesting, etc. Some of the Kasperowicz families, until recently have done the same. Their religious devotion provided hope and strength to endure incredible hardships and flourish.

In the town of Dolhinovo, the parish church of St. Stanislaus founded in 1553 and rebuilt in 1853 has served as the core of their spiritual life.



parish church



Dolhinovo

town entrance

## | So let's look at

**Chapter 1** Early History/Geo political regions

**Chapter 2** Documented origins of the Kasperowicz family appear



## Chapter 1

Land of our ancestors 9th century to 18<sup>th</sup> century (its Early History/Geo political regions)

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)

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 lived in star area which united with Poland 400 yrs, later



Poland in 1025

The period of rule by the Piast dynasty between the 10th and 14th centuries is the first major stage of the history of the Polish nation.

10th - 14th CENTURY

THE KINGDOM OF POLAND

Poland began to figure in European written history under the reign of king Mieszko who led the country into Christianity in AD 966 when the Catholic Church was firmly established in Poland.

His son Boleslaw was crowned by the Pope in 1025.



**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 Vladyslaw 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

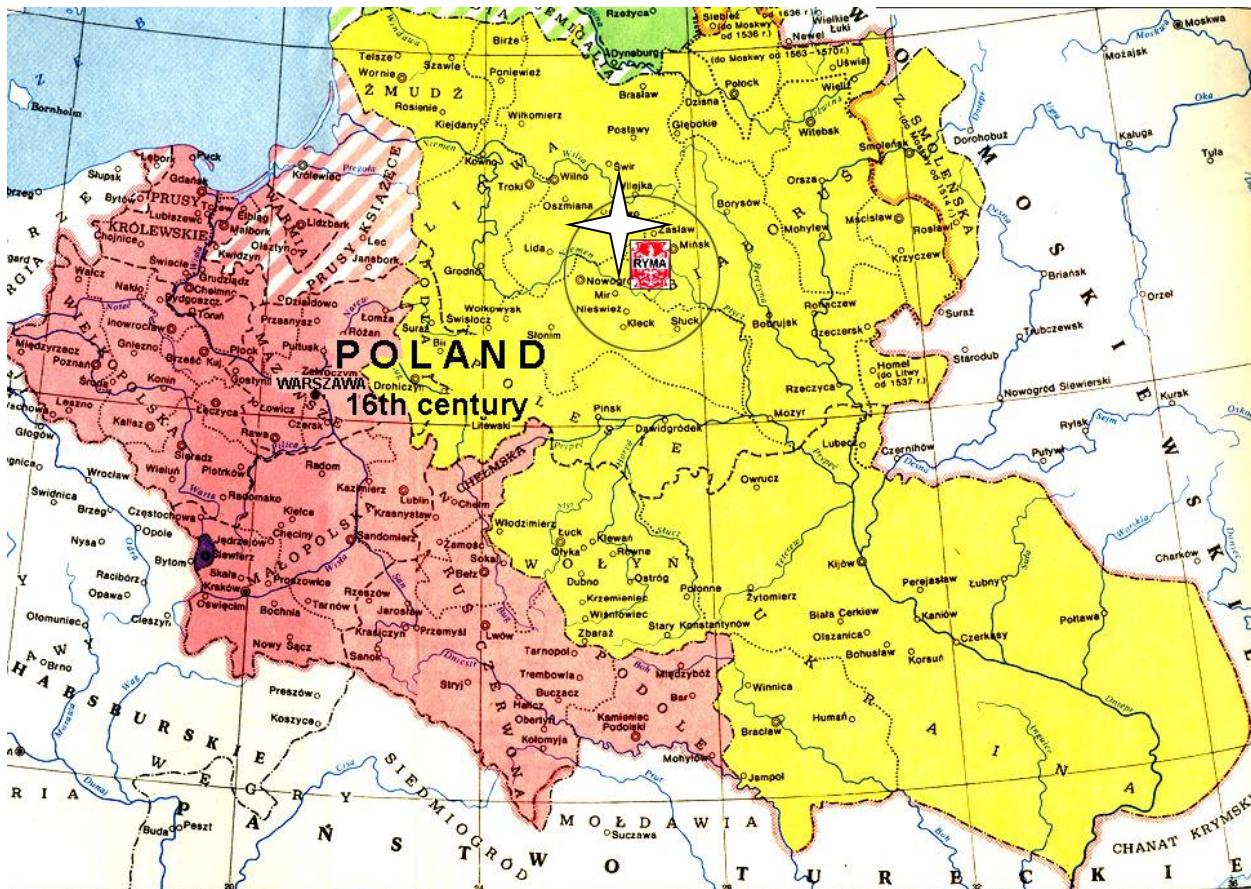
In 1385, Lithuania's Grand Duke accepted Poland's offer to become its king. He consequently converted Lithuania to Christianity and established a personal union between the two lands.

## 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.



## 16<sup>th</sup> CENTURY 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. **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".

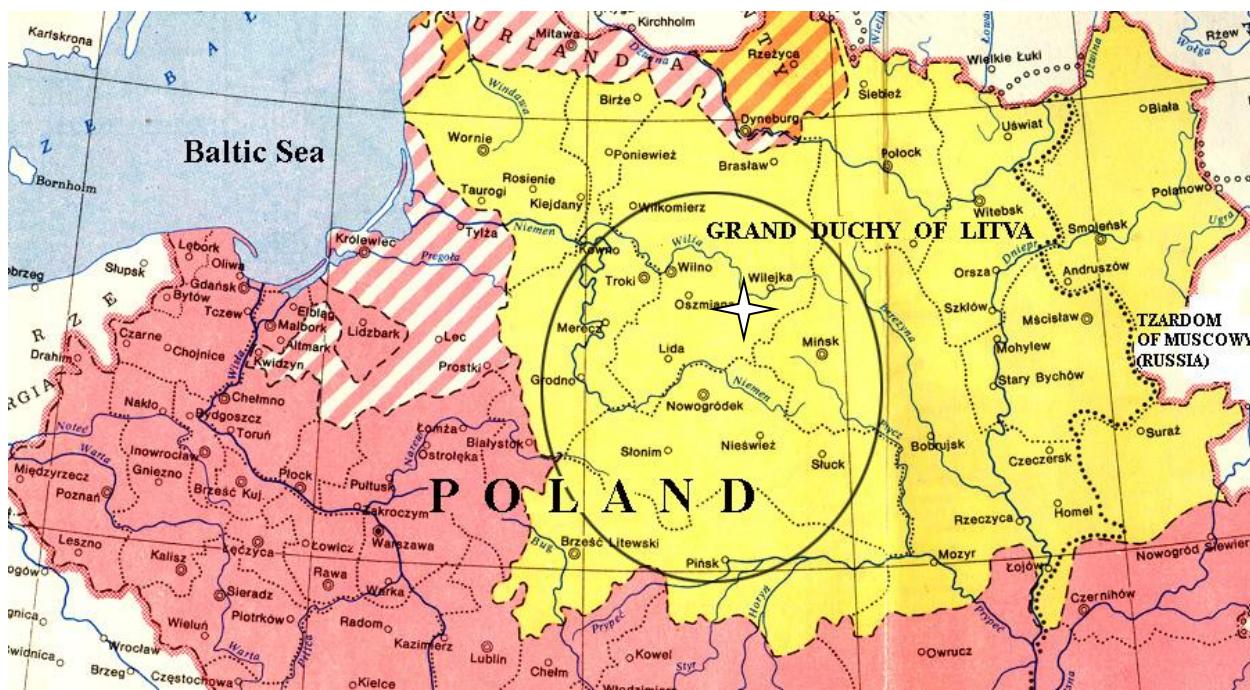


## The Kingdom of Poland in the 17th century

A large part of Eastern Europe belonged to Poland.

**The Kasperowicz families lived in the 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

The Commonwealth continued to prosper. 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.

# CHAPTER 2

## 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY DOCUMENTED ORIGINS OF THE KASPEROWICZ FAMILY APPEAR Discovering Early roots

Now let's look back to 1820 when the homeland of our ancestors was taken over (in 1795) by Russia twenty five years earlier, was wiped off the world map and would not be restored as Poland until 1918.

**In the early 1800s Napoleon's army fought and marched through our ancestral lands** which includes the village of Onoszki. That's where our ancestor Barbara Kasperowicz, a widow lived with her five children.

According to information obtained from St. Stanislaus Church in Dolginovo, a record book dated 1850-60, lists a family that lived in the village of Onoszki the Russian part of partitioned Poland. The document states "In the village of Onoszki lived Barbara Kasperowicz (widow) and with her were her children: Antoni, Franciszek, Marek, Praxida and Anna." The progeny of Marek, Praxida and Anna are unknown.

There are two sons of Barbara Kasperowicz, **Antoni and Franciszek** (who today have descendants living in the United States).

Children of Antoni are: Piotr (Peter) and **Joseph** with his wife Anna from the family of Zyzniewski. Their progeny are our **Sturycz** relatives in the United States.

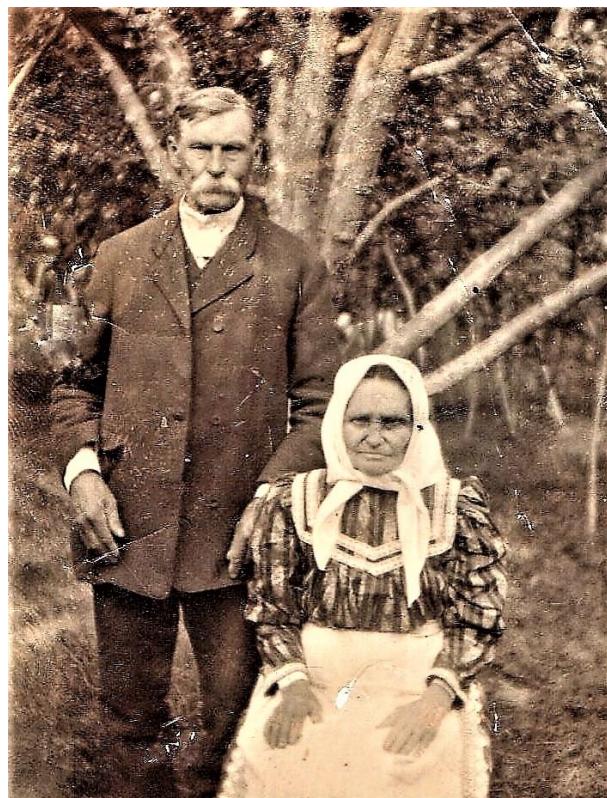
Antoni's son **Joseph** with **his wife Anna** from the family of Zyzniewski **immigrated to the United States.** (Joseph's brother Piotr (Peter) remained in Europe)

. **Joseph's daughter Agatha Kasperowicz, married Stanley Sturycz who wrote. "Kasperowicz History" which is on this web site.**

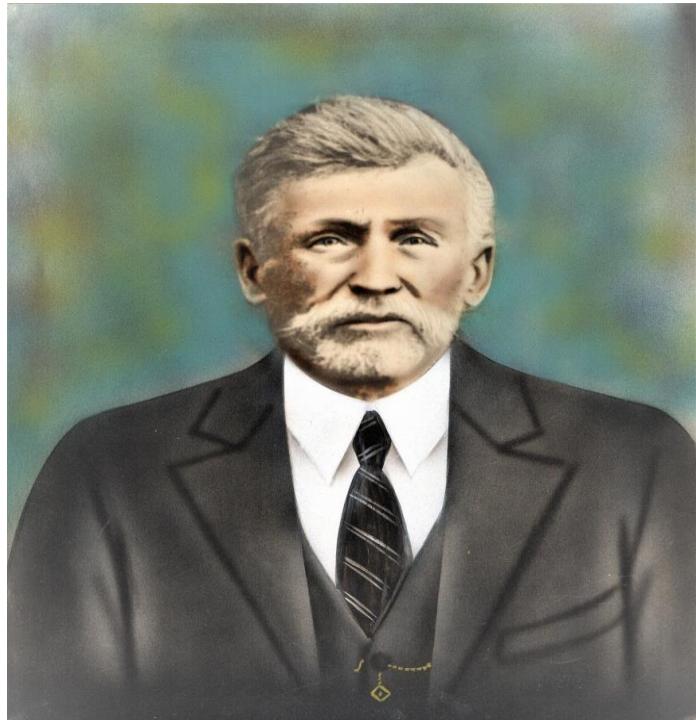
**Franciszek and** wife Magdalena 's son **Kazimierz** immigrated to the United states with Nikodem, Stanley and Bronislawa, ;leaving Teophilia and Magdalena in the homeland.

**Francziszek and wife Magdelena (Jaroszewicz) Kasperowicz**

**In the village of Onoszki**

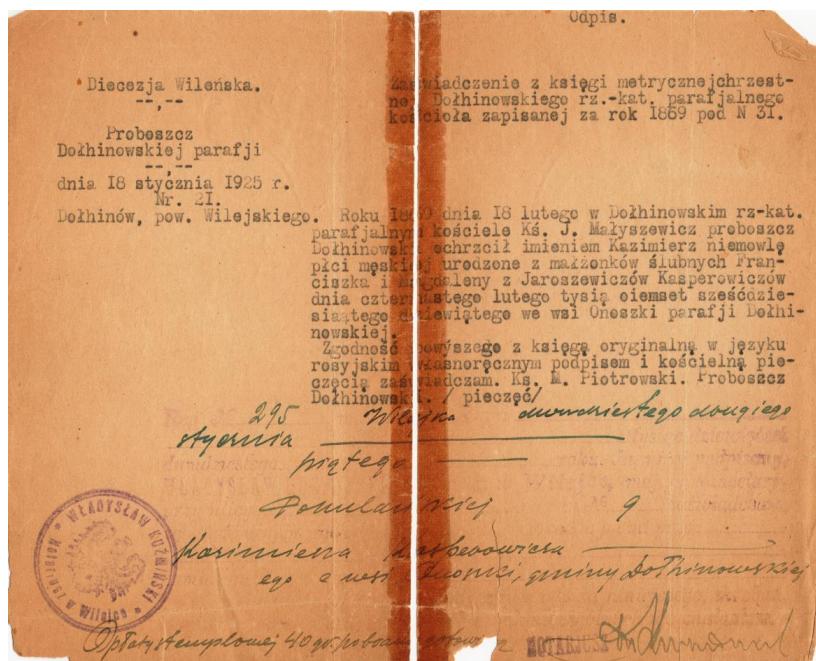


**FRANCZISZEK COLORIZED PHOTO**



**The only known child of Franciszek is Kazimierz.**

## Certified baptismal certificate Kazimierz 18, February 1869



At age 20, Grasilda from the family of Kanczanin became his wife.

Church certification Marriage At age 20, Grasilda from the family of Kanczanin became his wife.



Franciszek's, only son Kazimierz at age 20 married Grasiyda from the family of Kanczanin and immigrated to the United States.



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



St. Stanislaus founded in 1553 and rebuilt in 1853

town entrance



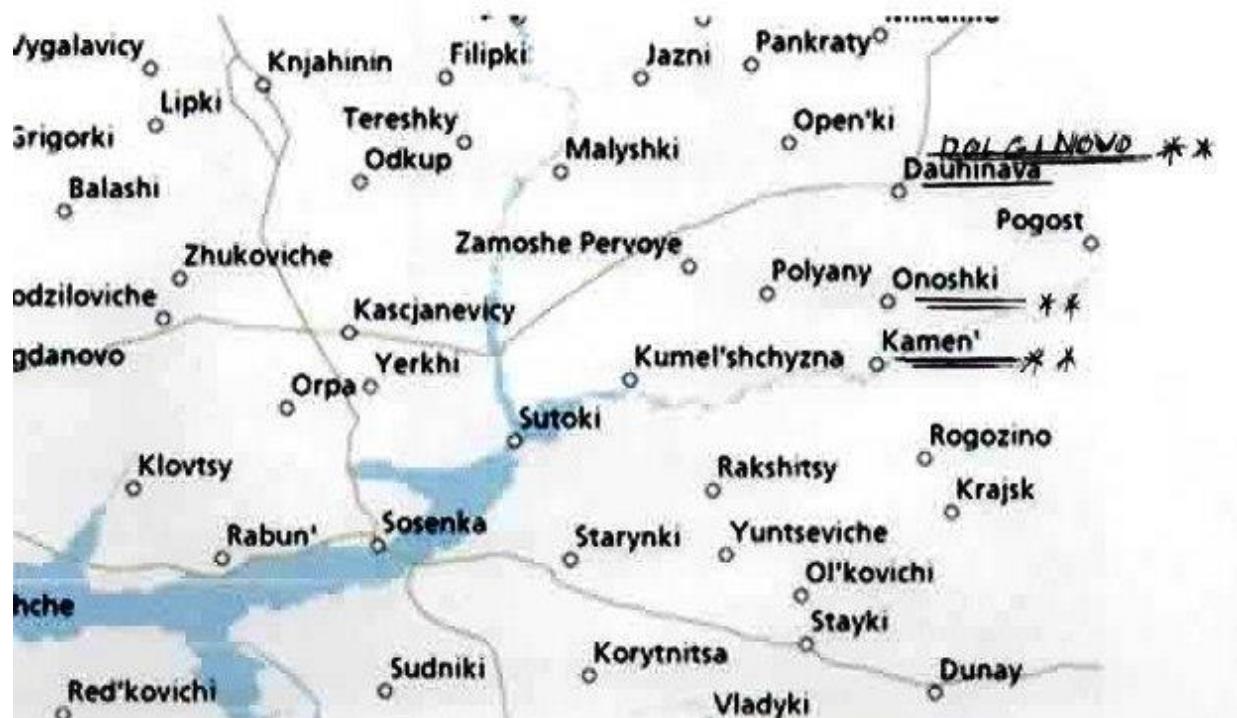
parish church



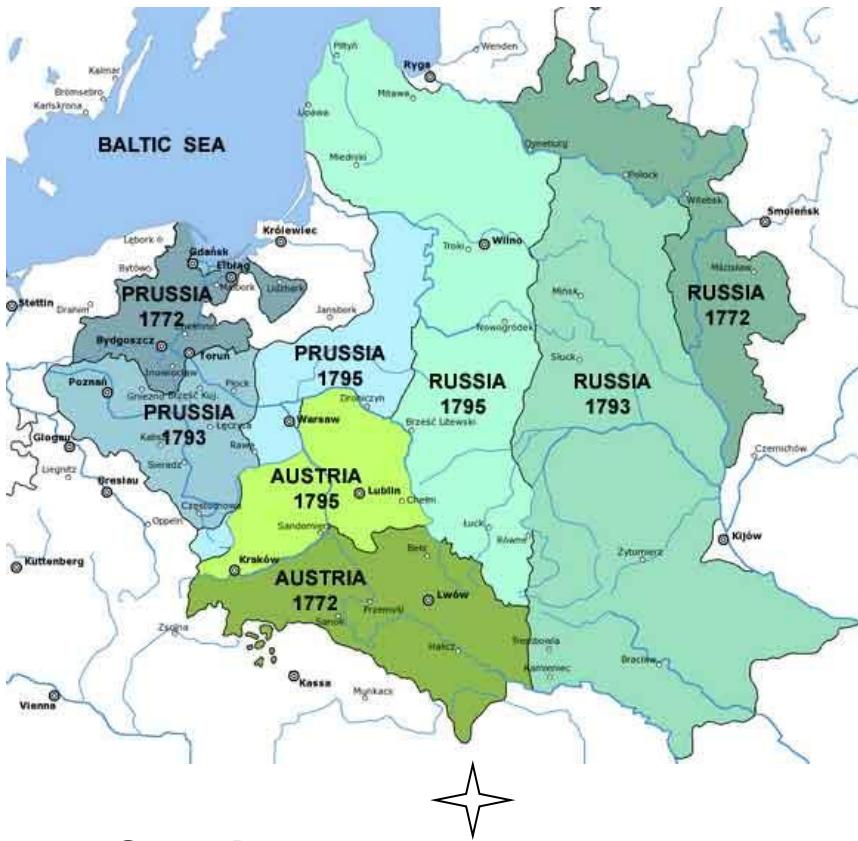
## Dolhinovo



**They were married June 26<sup>th</sup> 1888**



Onoszki 51mi. n. of Minsk. Dolginovo 8 mi. n. of Onoszki upper r. side of map  
Their Homestead and Pr



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

Barbara Kasperowicz and her five children lived through a period of Poland's partitioning

**To Continue, scroll down to Family Notes**

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.

The first partition brought about some reforms in Poland. The Polish Parliament (Seym) 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

## 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 Poland for a short period 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.

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## Family Notes:

**Stanley**, (a fourth generation Kasperowicz, son of **Kazimierz**) and his wife **Julia** (nee Adamowicz) immigrated to the United States in the mid1920's. They were in contact with their European relatives and gave them monetary and spiritual support. After WWII most of the relatives lived behind the Soviet Union's "Iron Curtain". **Stanley's brother, Nikodem and his parents** Kazimierz and Grasylda had already immigrated to the United States. Those living under the Socialist/Communist rule suffered. This was a tragic episode in European history. Maintaining family contact became important during this time. Nikodem's passport listed him as Russian. Immigrating years later, Kazimierz's, Grasylda's, Stanley's and Julia's passport listed them as Polish. When they immigrated, Poland had been restored. It did not exist as a country for a hundred twenty years.

Stanley and Julia arranged a trip to their place of birth. It was no longer Poland. It was Belarus which was part of the Soviet Union. It was in the 1970's, and their son Rev. Eugene Kasper, who spoke Belarusian, accompanied his parents. They were granted special permission to independently travel to the village where they once lived. Stanley and Julia's relatives were farmers, had been awarded recognition placards for their superior production efforts during the WWII. They were required to make written requests to the Soviet government to grant them exit visas to leave the "iron curtain" for a visit to the United States.

Rev. Eugene, while visiting the parish church in Dolginovo where his parents were married, was able to view parish records of births, baptisms etc. He was not able to copy any documents but remembered notations on them, indicating they were born outside the wall/gate. This meant that their family had been freed from serfdom

Serfs were unfree peasants who, unlike slaves, historically could be sold only together with the land to which they were "attached". They lacked many of the personal liberties that were held by freedmen. The serf provided his own food and clothing from his own productive efforts. A substantial proportion of the grain the serf grew on his holding had to be given to his lord. The lord could also compel the serf to cultivate that portion of the lord's land that was not held by other tenants.

What was not clear is how Barbara and her children's status was achieved. Such a benevolent gesture was rarely granted.

Since Barbara was a widow, it's possible her husband died in battle or some other brave service to his lord and the family rewarded, by being freed from serfdom. Rev. Kasper viewed documents and said the free status granted, was more likely from another means of achieving free status. He said it probably was for dedicated faithful service as a Bailiff. A bailiff was in charge of the farming for his lord.

During this trip, Rev. Eugene Kasper disappeared. He was arrested and jailed for filming scenes of rural Belarus (at that time part of the Soviet Union – the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic). The Soviet government thought he might be a spy. He was suspected of filming propaganda i.e. poverty in the Soviet Union. He was a United States citizen and "a tourist who spoke Belarusian very well". They developed his film and found no ill intent. Stanley was furious when he found out what happened to his son and berated the police who were not used to being called stupid. Fortunately, nothing resulted from the incident.

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

## To Continue, scroll down to Family Notes

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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

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.

Those 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 lived the Kasperowicz families. 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.

The country was under German military and political occupation. By the **end of 1918** 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 spreading their Marxist ideology among our families.

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.**

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## **Family notes:**

Our grandparents and all the relatives, experienced hardships in their homeland during this period of war. They felt blessed when they were able to leave after the war. Uncle Nikodem Kasperowicz immigrated in 1914 and later was able to bring grandfather Kazimierz and grandmother Grasylida to the United States. Stanly and Julia's early days in the United States were during the great depression of 1929. Stanley, a skilled tailor always had work. Grandpa, Kazimierz ,also a master tailor moved to live with Stanley and helped him in his business.

Stanley managed well, was frugal and helped others. His primary goal was to incentivize and provide for his children to be college educated. A few years after mother and father came to the United States, our grandparents came to live with us in our rented cold water flat. We upgraded our hot water heater from a coal stove located in the basement to a gas hot water heater which stood next to our modern coal fired heating / cooking "dual oven combination range" in the kitchen area.

## **Grandpa Grandma and Uncle Nikodem**



Our rented living area in Garfield consisted of four rooms, one bathroom with no central heating or cooling which was called a "cold water flat". Summer cooling was provided by window screens. Winter heat for all the rooms was provided by a coal stove in the kitchen area. (Coal was bought, delivered and stored in the basement under the downstairs tailor shop. It was brought up to the flat above the store by bucket from the outside entrance to the basement.) I'm certain Stanley and Julia appreciated this multipurpose heating appliance which also provided a coal fired surface for heating pots and pans. It had a modern gas cook top to more efficiently heat the pots and pans with an adjacent baking oven.



CRESCENT DUAL OVEN COMBINATION RANGE

White Porcelain enameled finish—Polished Top

We all lived above my father's tailor store. The household included grandma, grandpa, my mom, dad, three older brothers and me. Each day we had two gallons (eight quart bottles) of milk delivered up the hallway stairs directly in front of our door. One day in 1938 grandma Grasylda Kasperowicz took me, as she often did to Pulaski Park in Passaic, near our Garfield, NJ home. While sitting on a park bench, 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 it. I heard other stories from a number of our relatives who had survived and suffered physically from wars.

**To Continue, scroll down to Family Notes**

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# 1918 - 1939

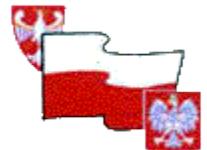
## 21 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

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



**SOVEREIGN AND DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
from 1918 to 1939

This was the POLISH LAND of our relatives



**INDEPENDENT POLAND**



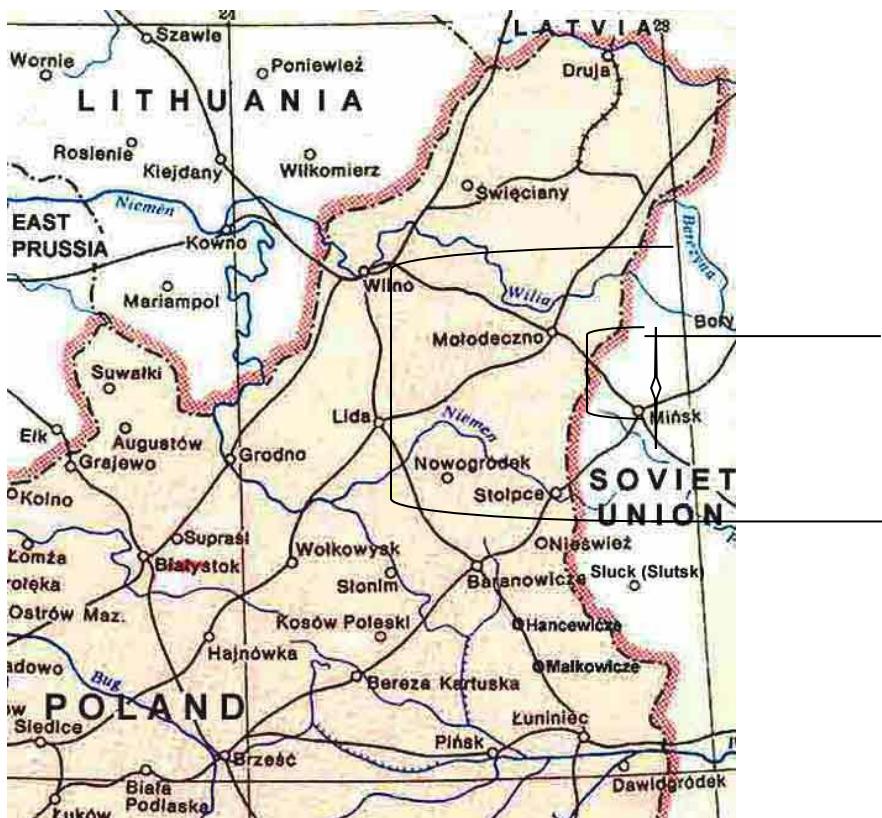
1918-1939



MARSHAL Józef Piłsudski

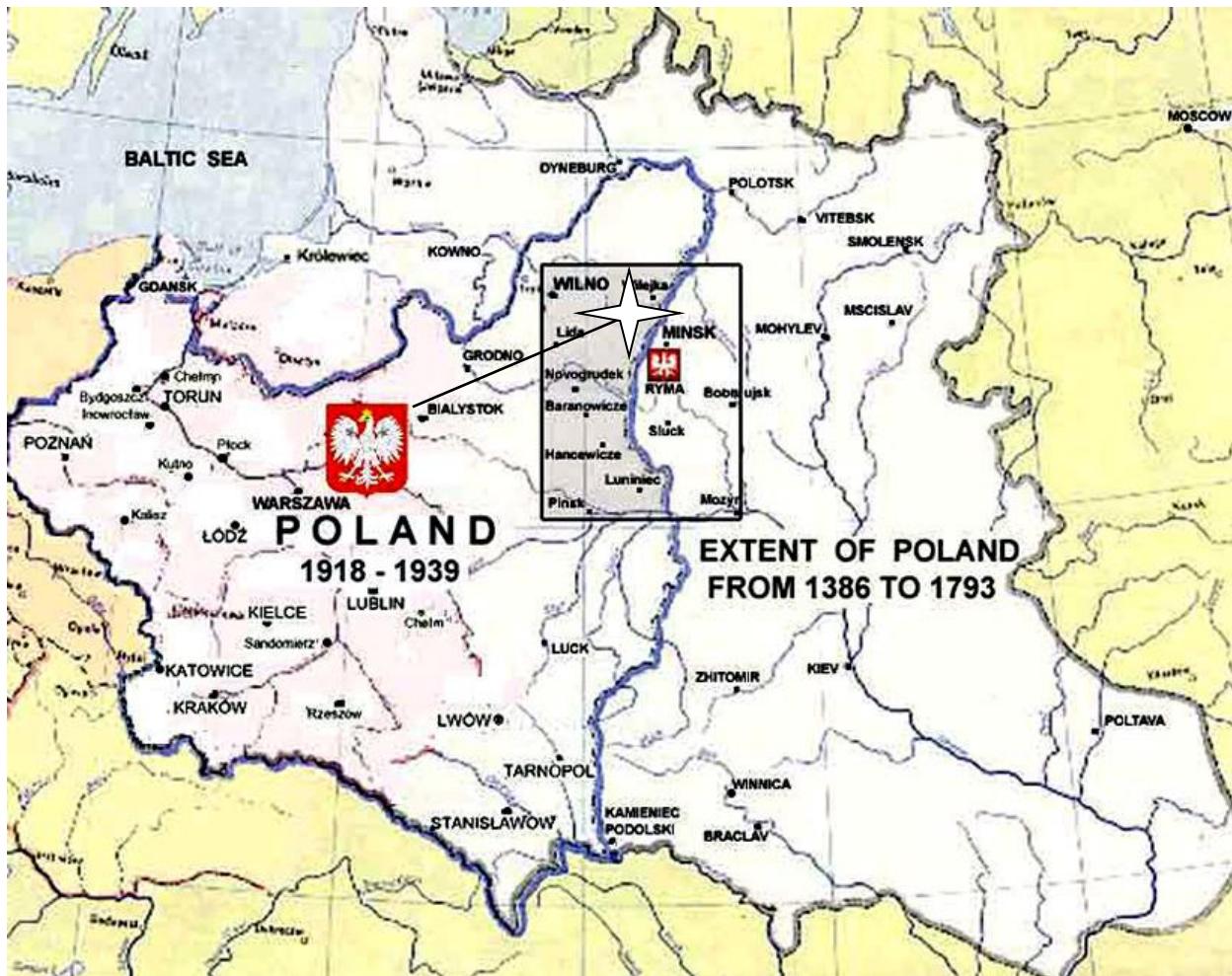
PRESIDENT Ignacy Mościcki

ESTONIA →



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 HOMELAND 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



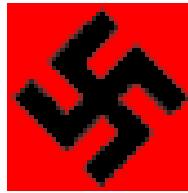
## September 1939 The outbreak of World War 2

Red Army crosses the Polish border on the 17th September 1939, after destroying the border marker. Soon



afterwards all boundary markers were removed.





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**.

### Battle front

Wilno upper 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 Januszczak, 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 Januszczak 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.

**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 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

Large areas of land were ceded to Belarus which became the BSSR (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) 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 or 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. 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.



**“Kolhoz (collective farm) named 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'I 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 of Collectivisation (without ecological consideration)

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## **Family notes:**

Family members changed the Kasperowicz name, shortening it to Kasper. In their youth, many of the Kasper's in the United States heard their parents and grandparents describe their homeland and the life they lived. They would tell them that they had to work very hard, faced a lot of turmoil and hardships but managed to live a fulfilling life guided and sustained by their Catholic religion.

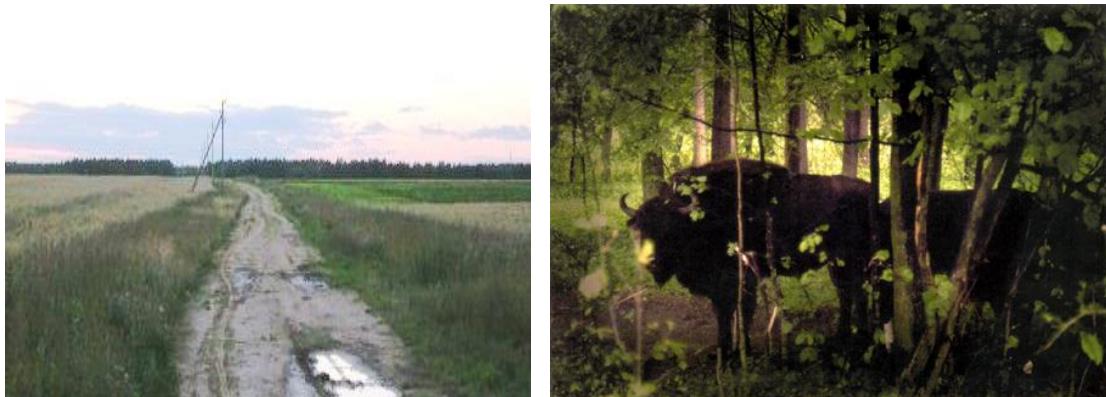
A major consequence of collectivization was noticed by **Julia Kasper in 1966**. When visiting the village, she left many years ago, she was shocked. She saw the natural beauty of the surrounding land destroyed. The deforestation of the area with little or no ecological consideration while changing the land into farmland made no sense to her.

"We had forest and Pripet marshes all around us. In the summertime when we had any spare time after helping with haymaking 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



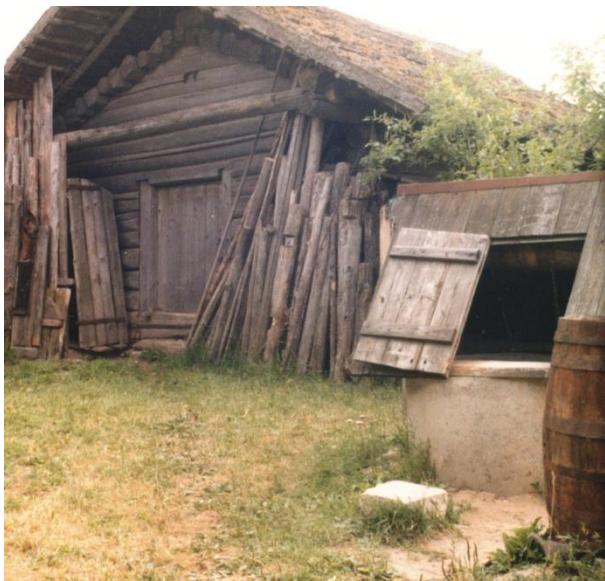
Above is what most of the land looks like now. Fortunately, **the photo above right**, shows it's not all completely deforested. A small section remains as it was. You can see European bison in a primeval forest as well as many birds and animals. Some of this area has been preserved. It's just a few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



Some of us have been able to visit our relatives a few times. We visited homes of mom and dad and other relatives. Mom's central heating and cooking (and sleeping quarters during severe winters is pictured above). It's being tended by her 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 a bungalow, a lot of outbuildings such as stables, barns with hay lofts and stork nests on roofs, cowsheds, piggeries, poultry houses, etc.

A separate stand-alone big cellar had a dugout, part 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 Onoshki was demolished during construction of a new road. It had been the residence of Arkadziej Lagutka and his wife Theofilia (Kasperowicz). The picture of Theofilea's parents Grasylda and Kazimierz, original owners and builders, prominently was hung in the living area of the house. At the back entrance was a large room with a dirt floor where some of the valued livestock was brought indoors during severe winters.



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

Behind the farmhouse was a vegetable garden, an orchard and 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 was 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, Bronislawa would be summoned to practice the gift of healing that she possessed. She was one of the select people called "Whisperers". When called, she would stand facing the interior wall on the east side of the ill person's dwelling. She then would line up her belly button with a knot hole of the wooden frame of the house and recite prayerful incantations requesting God's healing intervention through Jesus Christ. Bronislawa joined her family in the United States and lived with family into her 90's.



After WWII, Stanley and Julia Kasper reestablished contact with relatives. Letters and photos were exchanged. Money, food parcels and clothing was sent via commercial companies. Most often oppressive duties equal to the cost of the package content were imposed by the government of the Soviet Socialist Government of Belarus and at times additional costs levied at the point of delivery (disregarding prepayment of duty and all shipping costs). They 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 repressive and, drove them into a third world type of existence. Any chance of improving one's lot in life depended totally on communist party membership and embracing Marxism/Socialism

**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. Travel or contact with the West was limited and strictly controlled. Phone calls were limited and monitored. Visitors from the United States and Western Europe were restricted. They were monitored

by National 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 and suppressed religious belief, calling religious practice, “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.

At this same time, during the post war period, the United States economy and standard of living flourished.

**An example of the above indoctrination** was evident in a letter received by my mother Julia Kasper 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 poor 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 visited mother, she cried when attending mass at our local church. The priest noticed and believed 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 told her she cried in church because she could not understand why God made her endure so much, was lied to and was deprived of a life like Julia’s in the United States.

# To Continue, scroll down to Family Notes

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behind Stalin's "Iron Curtain"



In the 1980's, I experienced similar propagandized mindset 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. As the world changed so did they.

**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**

**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 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**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.**

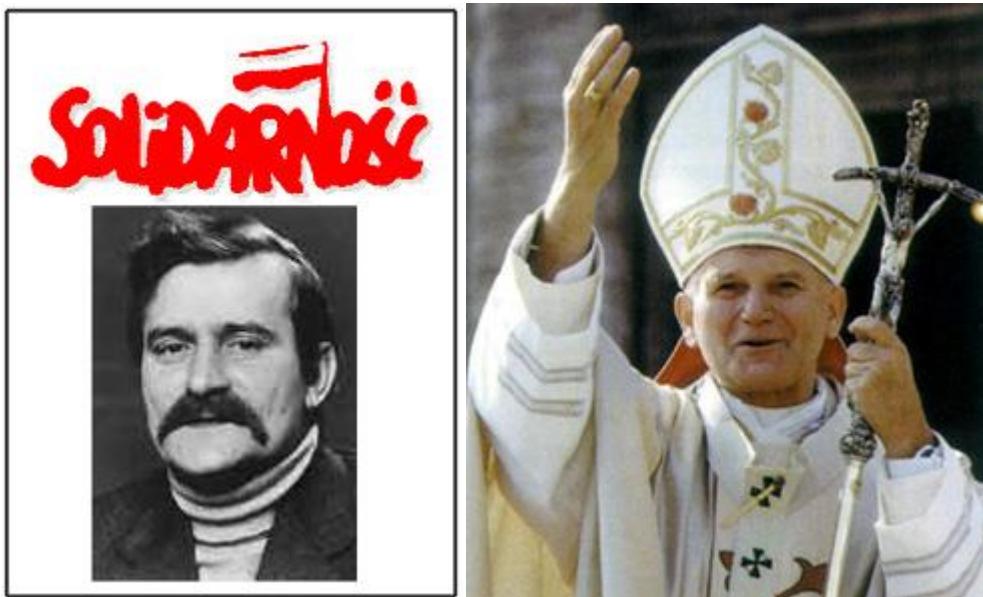
**Nearly 60% of the radioactive fallout landed in Belarus. Large areas were contaminated, forcing the evacuation and resettlement of 200,000 people.**

**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. A Kasperowicz**

relative from Belarus died an early death after volunteering to cart radioactive waste from The Ukrainian catastrophe.

## 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 Wałęsa 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.



Gorbachev

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 integration.

More recently world geopolitics has again focused a light on Poland.

President Donald Trump's visited Warsaw in 2017. He cited Poland's historical core values, focusing on the earthly importance of spiritual power. In a speech he said: "For two centuries, Poland suffered constant and brutal attacks. But while Poland could be invaded and occupied, and its borders even erased from the map, it could never be erased from history or from your hearts. In those dark days, you have lost your land but you never lost your pride. Poland is the geographic heart of Europe, but more importantly, in the Polish people, we see the soul of Europe. Your nation is great because your spirit is strong. We can have the largest economies and the most lethal weapons of anywhere on Earth, but if we do not have strong families and strong values, then we will be weak and we will not survive. If anyone forgets the critical importance of these things, let them come to one country that never has. Let them come to Poland, and let them come here to Warsaw and learn the story of the Warsaw Uprising. After two months of fighting, in which some 15,000 Poles were killed, the rebellion was crushed. If untimely death came to those Polish heroes, so, more importantly, did eternal glory. Then, the following year, the Soviet Red Army entered Warsaw, and the brutal Nazi occupation was replaced by the only-slightly-less-brutal Soviet occupation. Yet even so the long-suffering Poles held out: Through four decades of Communist rule, Poland and the other captive nations of Europe endured a brutal campaign to demolish freedom, your faith, your laws, your history, your identity—indeed the very essence of your culture and humanity. Yet, through it all, you never lost your spirit. Your oppressors tried to break you. But Poland could not be broken. And a crucial part of the spirit that could not be broken was spiritual faith. The day in 1979, when a million Poles came to hear a mass by the new Polish-born Pope, John Paul II; they chanted, "We want God!" In those words, the Polish people recalled the promise of a better future. They found new courage to face down their oppressors. And they found the words to declare that Poland would be Poland once again. In other words, faith doesn't just redeem in the hereafter, it redeems in the here and now."

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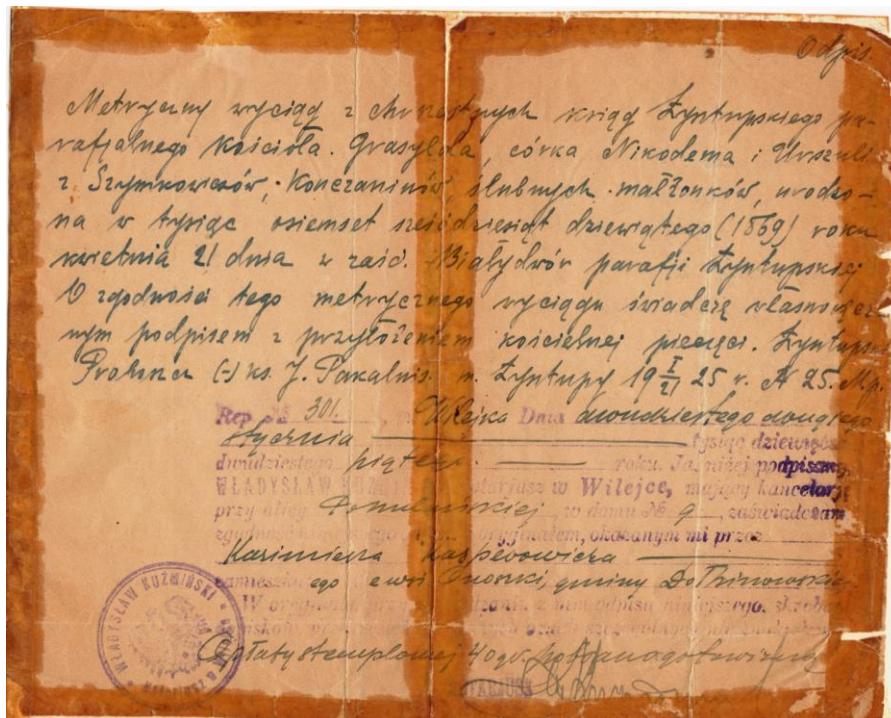
## **Final Kasperowicz Family Notes, Recap and Addendum:**

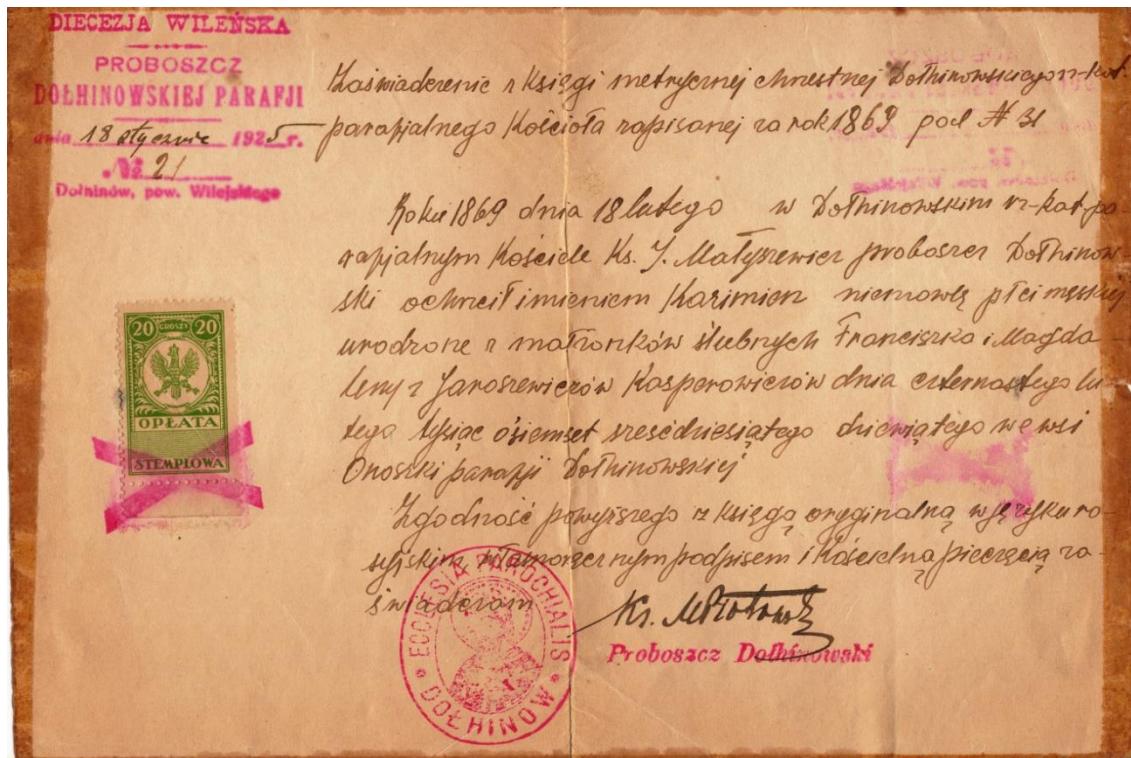
## Roots of the Kasperowicz family

Barbara Kasperowicz (widow) lived with her children: **Antoni, Franciszek**, Marek, Praxida and Anna In the village of Anoszki in the 1840's. It had been taken over by Russia twenty five years earlier. **In the early 1800s Napoleons army fought and marched through the village of Onoszki.**

**Children of Antoni** are: Piotr (**Peter**) and **Joseph** and his wife Anna from the family of **Zyzniewski**. We are related by marriage to the Stanley **Sturycz** lineage. . [Stanley Sturycz authored “Kasperowicz History”](#) which is on this web site.

**Franciszek's** only son **Kazimierz**, our grandfather, married **Grasilda** from the family of **Kanczanin**.  
**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 26<sup>th</sup> 1888



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

## Thei homestead they built and their progeny



Grasylda Kanczanin Kazimierz Kasperowicz

Nikodem  
1891-1945



Bronislawa  
1893 -



Magdalena  
1895-1942



Teofila  
1898-1967



Stanislaw  
1907-1983

Kazimierz and Grasylda followed their son Nikodem who emigrated in 1914. They emigrated to the United States in 1925. Stanley followed in 1926. He arranged for his wife Julia to emigrate December 11, 1926. She arrived the following year. He also arranged for two of his sister Bronislawa's children Nikodem and Stanley Faryno to emigrate, accompanied by their wife and family members. Later, Bronislawa also emigrated leaving some family who moved to Poland. The two remaining daughters of Kazimierz and Grasylda remained in Belarus.

## Kazimierz and Grasylda's journey from Poland.

# Passage on the SS(steam ship) Estonia 1925

**INSPECTION CARD**

(Immigrants and Steerage Passengers).

Port of departure, DANZIG. *U. S. Estonia*

Name of ship, *Kazimierz*

Name of Immigrant, *20 NOV 1925*

Date of departure, *20 NOV 1925*

Last residence, *Poland*

Inspected and passed ad DANZIG.	Passed at quarantine, port of U. S. (Date).	Passed by Immigration Bureau port of (Date).
Seal Stamp of Consular or Medical Officer		
(The following to be filled in by ship's surgeon or agent prior to or after embarkation).		
Ship's list or manifest <i>3</i> No. on ship's list or manifest <i>14</i>		
Berth No.	Steam- ship In- spection	1st day:
		1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

No. 37c. 5000. 5. 24.

Diese Karte muss aufbewahrt werden, um  
Aufenthalt bei der Quarantäne sowie auf den  
Eisenbahnen der Vereinigten Staaten zu ver-  
meiden.

Keep this Card to avoid detention at the  
Quarantine and on Railroads in the United States.

Cette carte doit être gardée pour éviter  
une détention à la Quarantaine, ainsi que sur les  
chemins de fer des Etats Unis.

Эту карту нужно сохранять въ избѣжніе задер-  
жекъ на карантинной станціи и на желѣзныхъ дорогахъ.

VACCINATED

(Signature or Stamp).

Back of card

**INSPECTION CARD**

(Immigrants and Steerage Passengers).

Port of departure, DANZIG. *R.S. Poland*

Name of ship, *Nazimica, Frasylde*

Name of Immigrant, *20. NOV. 1925*

Date of departure, *20. NOV. 1925*

Last residence, *Poland*

Inspected and passed at DANZIG.	Passed at quarantine, port of U. S.	Passed by Immigration Bureau port of
UNITED STATES Seal-Stamp of Consular or Medical Officer		
(Date).		
(The following to be filled in by ship's surgeon or agent prior to or after embarkation).		
Ship's list or manifest <i>3</i>		No. on ship's list or manifest <i>23</i>
Berth No.	Stamp ship in- spection	1st day: <i>+ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19</i>

No. 37c. 5000. 5. 24.

On the map below, the straight line above Bialystok Poland begins North West of Minsk and traces their journey west from Onoszki **Poland** to Danzig(Gdansk) 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.



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 helped 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 of Nickodem and Stanley's children were born in the United States of America. There never was discord between parents and grandparents,. Grasylda died March 30<sup>th</sup>, 1944. Kazimierz died three months later, from a heart attack on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

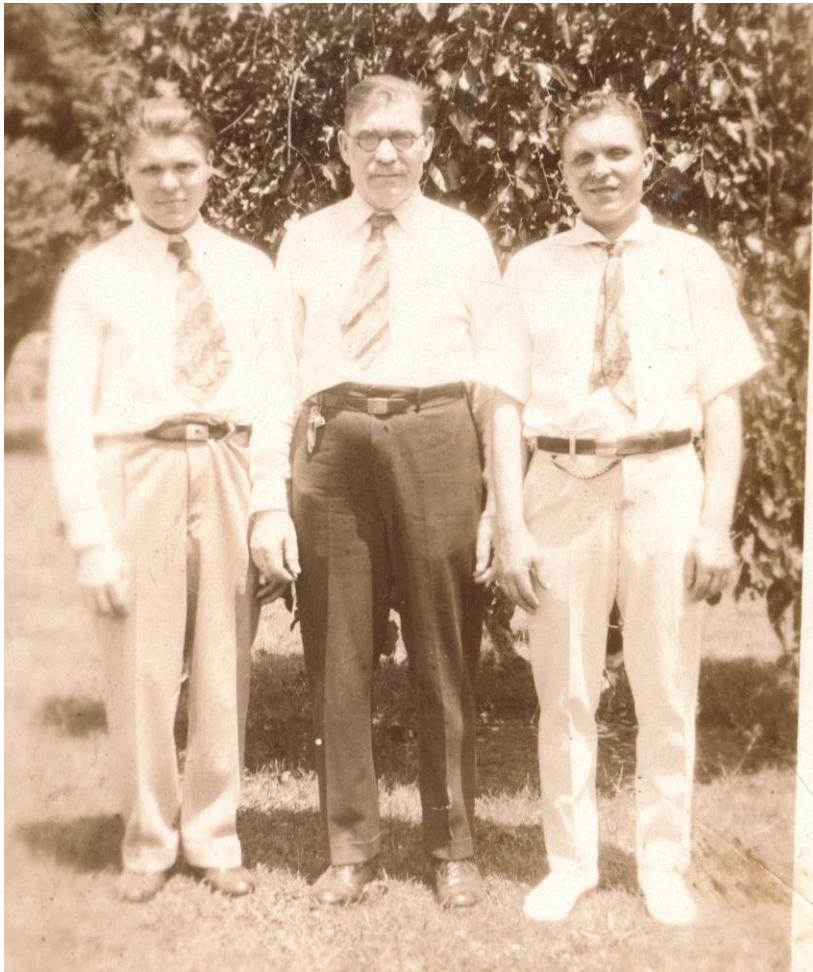
Map of the area in the 21<sup>st</sup> century blue star ancestral land



Photo memories of our parents, grandparents, great  
grandparents and great great grandparents and cousins



Kazimierz, Grasylda and son Nikodem 1920's



Stanley, Kazimierz and Nikodem 1928

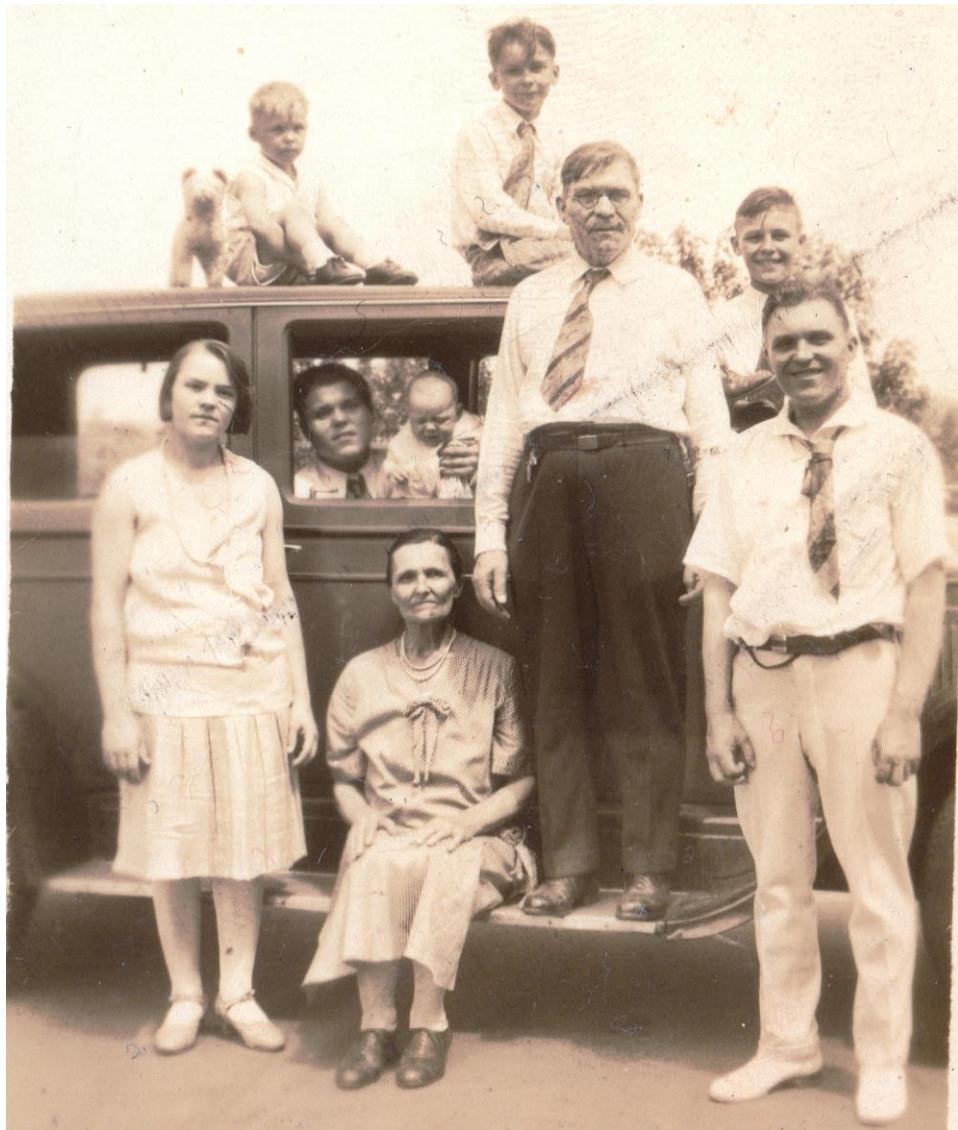


Tailor shop where Kazimierz worked with son Stanley



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

Henry and Nikodem Jr. 1930

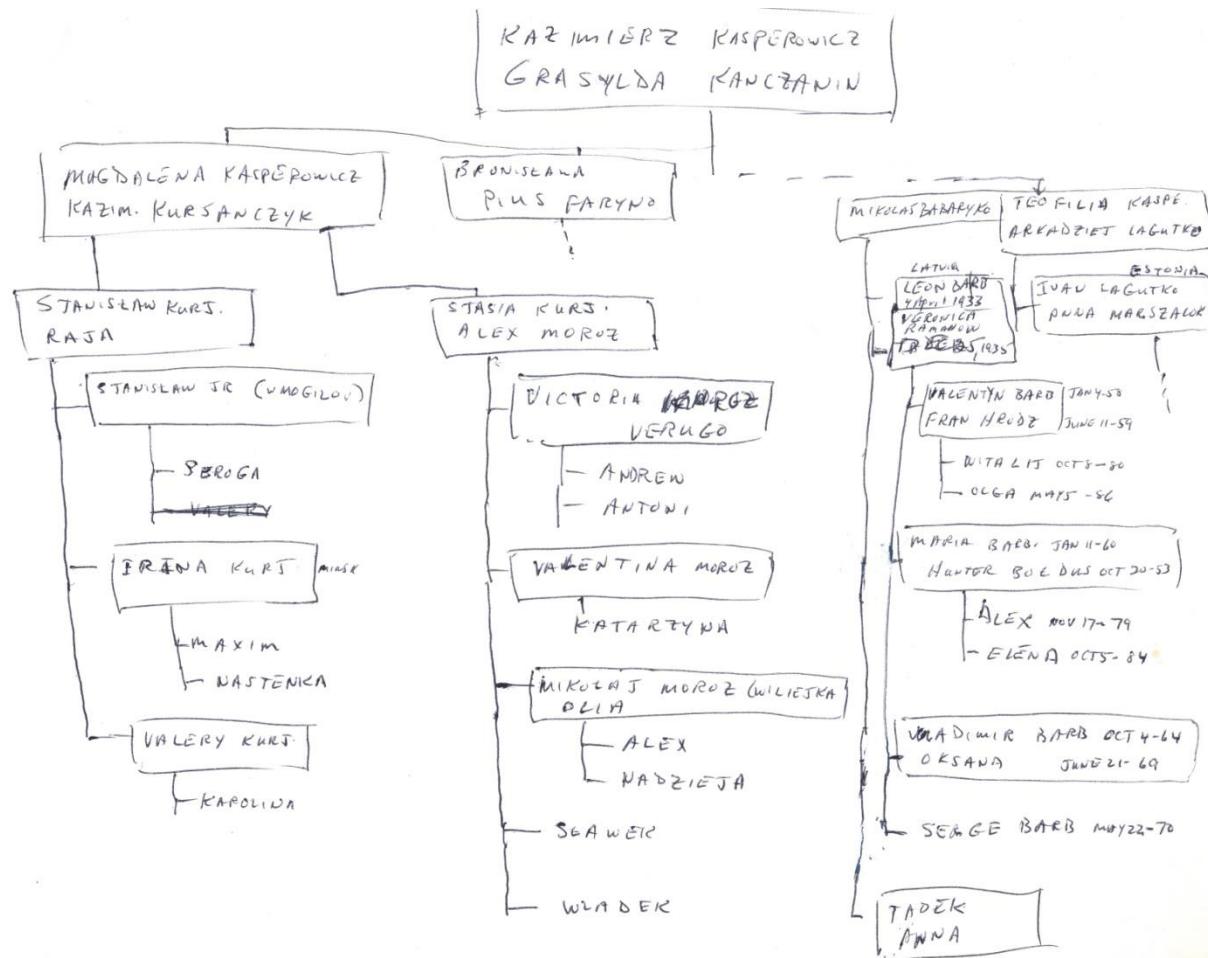


Eddie, Henry, Stanley holding Stanley Jr. in car, Julia,  
Grasylda, Kazimierz, Nikodem Jr. and Nikodem Sr. 1930

# Addendum:

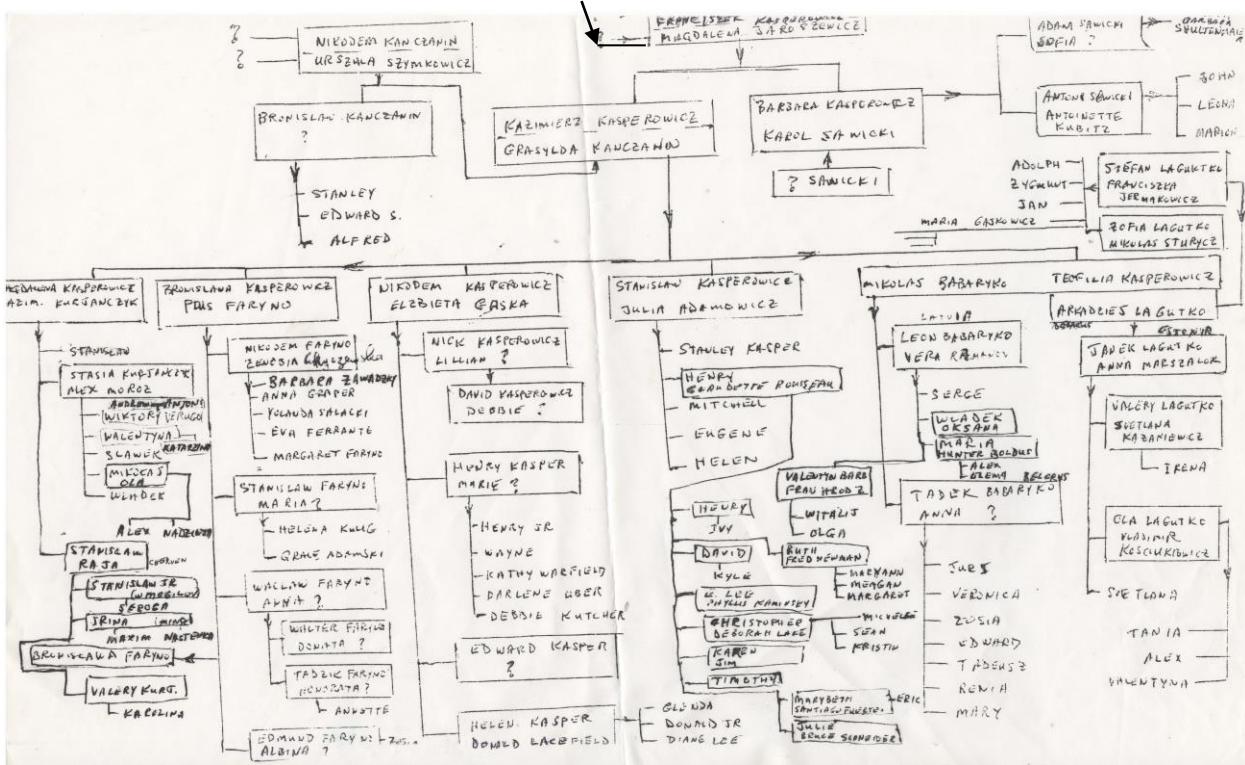
## Charts showing the family tree and relatives

### Modified short version



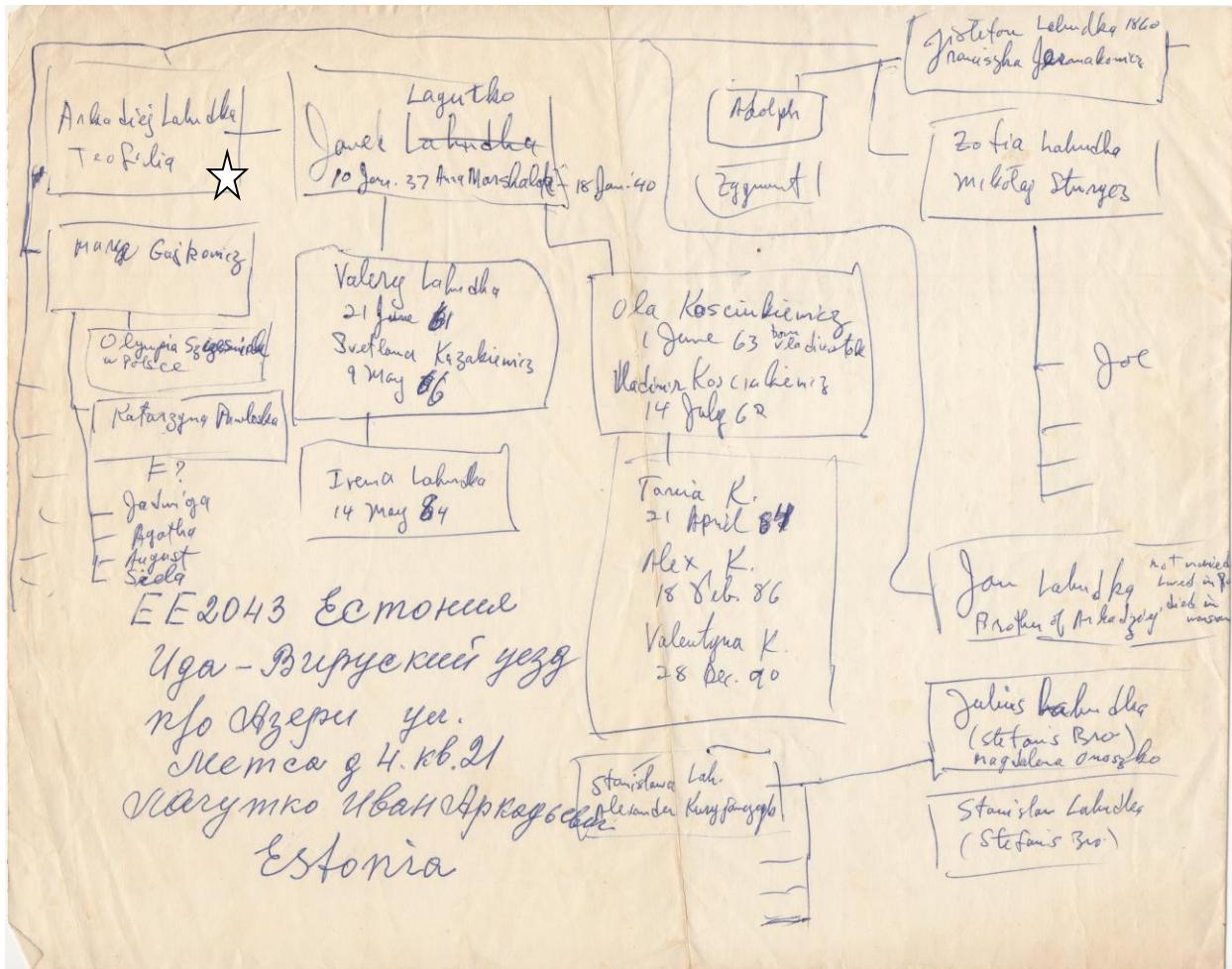
Barbara Kasperowicz, widow

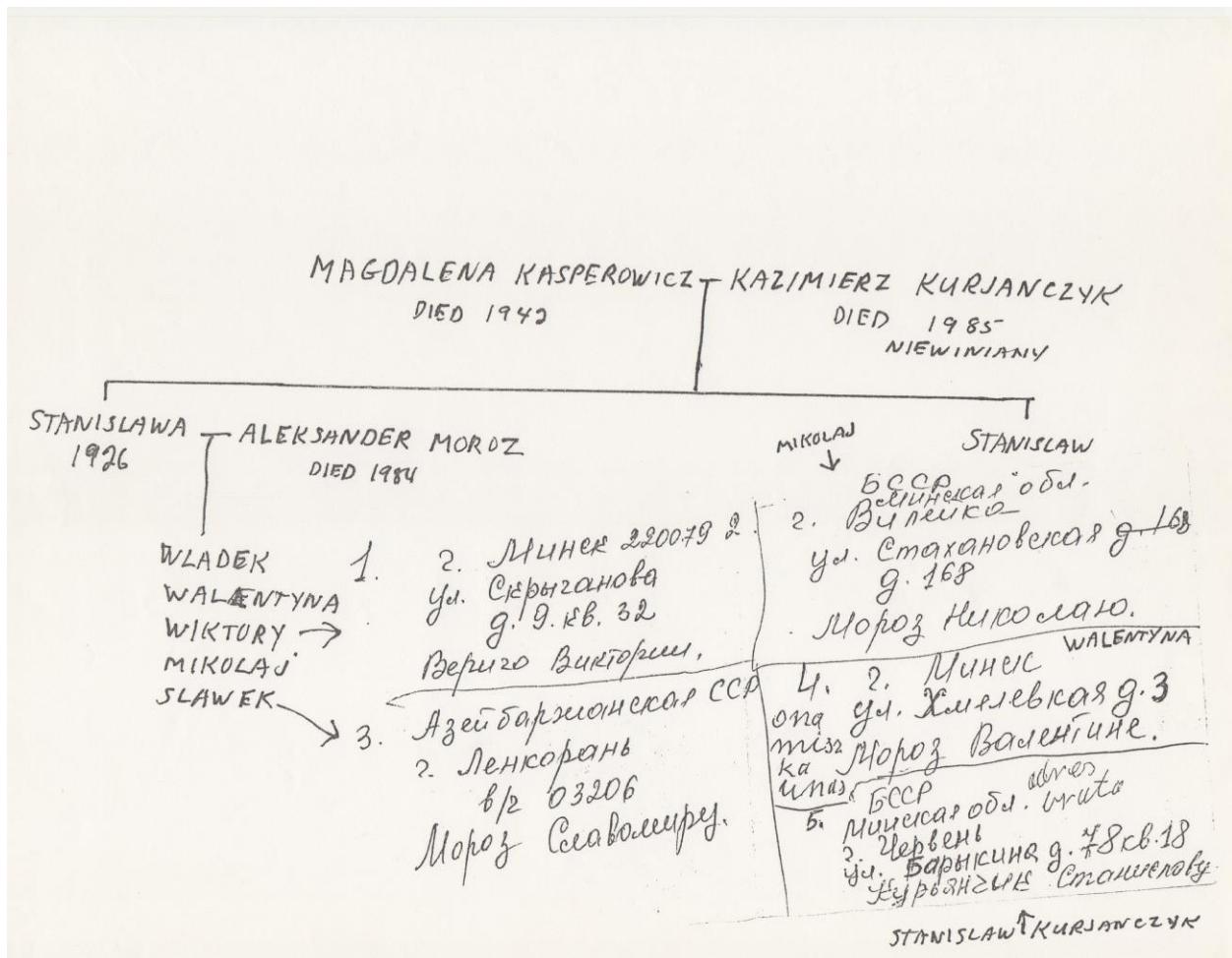




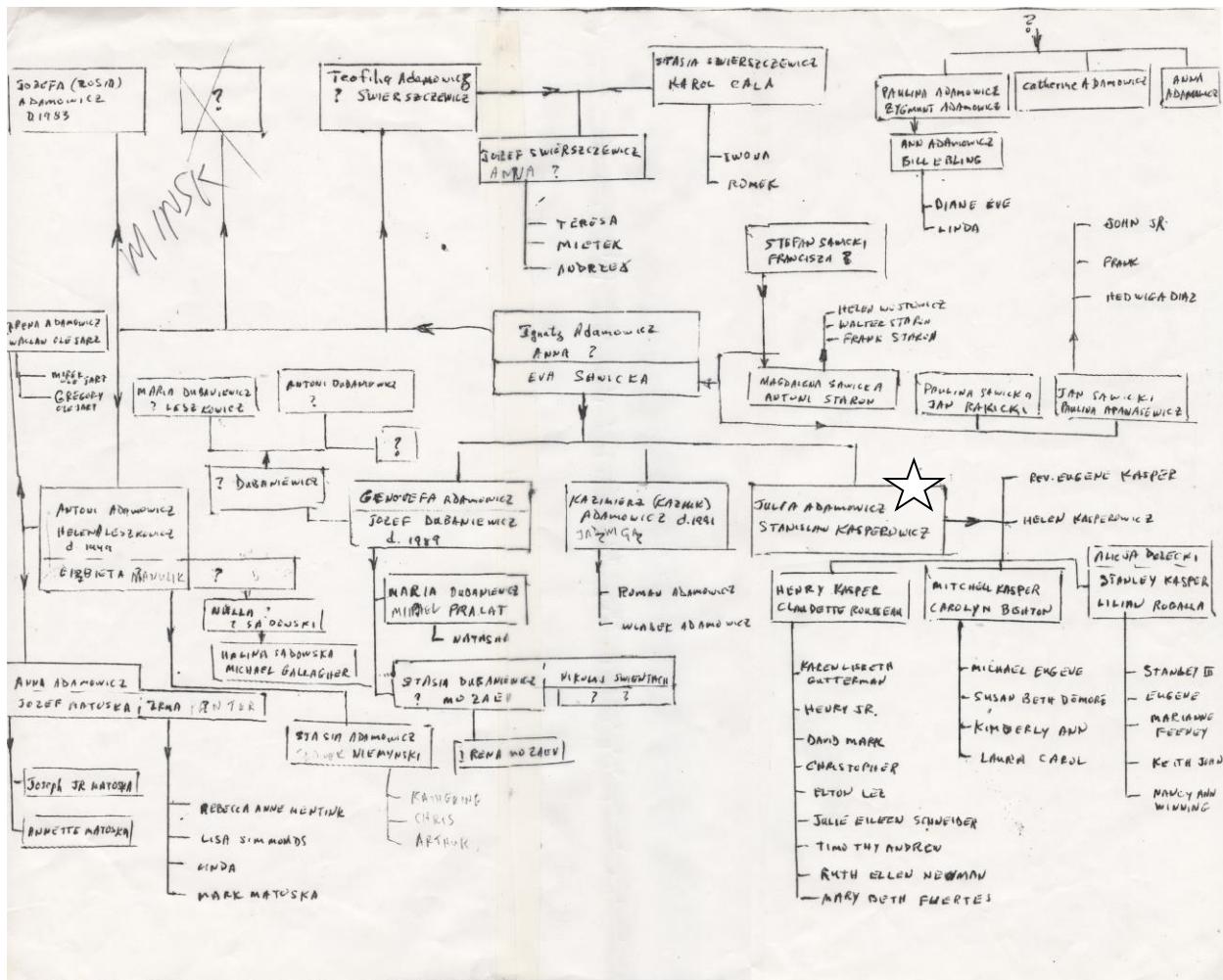
## Teofilia (Kasperowicz) Lagutka

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:

Anna Furgio  
05-120 Legionowo  
Lajski 10  
ul. Olszankowa 17.  
woj. Warszawskie.

БЕРЛІНСКИЙ ПРОВІДНИЧИЙ САМОУПРАВЛІННЯ  
ЛІТНІХ ОСІЛ  
БІЛДЕКІНІ. Р-Н  
НІДДОДІЧІВ. г. НЕВАРІН  
Мороз Станіслава

dad ll' Zimnoch  
44-572 Szepian  
ul Faltryzna 42m.18  
Polska

Zimnoch

Stanisława Moroz





Kanczanin Butcher Shop  
Paterson NJ

1920's Bronislaw , Julia  
Kasperowicz's uncle  
(Grasylda's brother) with  
sons Edward & Alfred



Bronislaw Kanczanin



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





Bronislaw Kanczanin and Family



1926 Mikolaj Babaryko Polish Ulan (cavalry) officer

Thank You for your 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

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