

ARRIVAL ON THE AGDA & SEARCHING SHIPS' LISTS FOR YOUR KASHUBIAN ANCESTORS

by Shirley Mask Connolly

Most of the Kashubs who emigrated to North America prior to 1900 came through the ports of Hamburg and Bremen in Germany. Many of those who settled in the United States arrived via the port of Quebec, while many of those destined for Canada came through the port of New York. Thus the North American Kashubian researcher must explore both possibilities.

In the 1860's, the Hamburg Lines proved popular, while in the 1870's, Bremen seemed to be the port of choice. In the 1880's and 1890's, Kashubs destined for Canada often chose the more indirect and slightly cheaper route from Hamburg to England, and then from Liverpool to Quebec. Direct passage from Germany to Canada seems to have dried up in the 1870's and those who did not wish to make the long inland journey to Canada from New York, chose instead the indirect Hamburg -Liverpool- Quebec route. For the American Kashub researcher, from the mid 1870's on, New York would be the most likely port of entry. Prior to that, many chose Quebec especially if they were headed to the American midwest.

Searching ships' lists can be a rewarding and/or frustrating experience. New York port of entry records are available from well before the first Kashubs started to emigrate to America in the late 1850's and a couple of excellent reference books with alphabetical indexes, makes finding your Kashubian ancestors easier. See GERMAN IMMIGRANTS: Lists of Passengers bound from Bremen to New York, compiled by Gary J. Zimmerman and Marion Wolfert and GERMANS TO AMERICA, Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, edited by Ira A. Glazier and P. William Filby. Since the Kashubs were Prussians, they were often included with the Germans. However, if their names are not found in these indexes, the actual port of entry records should be searched.

The port of Quebec entry records are virtually non existent prior to 1865. After that date, they vary in quality with some lists so faded that they appear to have been written in invisible ink.

If you can't search the port of entry records, the port of exit records for Hamburg are excellent from 1850 on. Often these records include the village or district of origin as well as the passengers' names, ages, sex, occupation, and destination. Unfortunately, Bremen was a bigger port of exit for the Kashubs and those records were destroyed. Thus for Kashubs leaving from Bremen, the port of entry records are the only source of information.

And sometimes one can hit the jackpot, such as I did with the list for the ship, the *Bark Agda*. This shipload of Poles and Kashubs sailed from Bremen on May 18, 1872 and landed in the port of Quebec, Canada on July 29th. The list was clear and concise. Of the 336 passengers on board, 200 were destined for Renfrew County, Canada and thousands of their descendants still live in the area to this day. On board the Agda were families with the following local surnames: *Burant, Chapeskie/Czapiewski, Cybulski, Herron/Eron, Cashaback/Cashubec/Kaszubik, Dobeck, Keiser, Kunopaski/Konopacki, Kasaboski, Kubesheski/Kubiszewski, Kuiack/Kuash/Kujach, Coulas/Kulas, Lipiński, Laturski/Liturski/Literski, Mask/Maszk, Norlock/Narloch, Olsheski/Walk, Palubeski/Palubicki, Pastway, Pepliński, Pecoskie/Piechowski, Prince, Recoskie/Rekowski, Sernoskie/Surnoskie/Czarnowski, Stubinski, Sulpher/Schulfer/Szulfer, Turzyński, Voldock/Waldock, Vitkuske/Witka and Yantha/Jenta*. (These are the Canadian spellings used today, although in some cases where there is a considerable difference, I have also included the original).

Several of the families shown as destined for Renfrew did not stay long before they moved on, while others left no other indication of being in Canada at all. Their names were *Barlowski, Dzwonkowski, Hammernick, Jazdzewski, Kurs, Michloc, Minkowski, Myszka, Osziski, Retth, Rogalla, Schutza, and Zaborowski*. Most of the remaining 126 passengers were destined for America including:

21 to CHICAGO with the surnames *Malkowski, Minkowski, Konopacki, Polawski, Szczek* (from Marienwerder).

29 to DETROIT with the surnames *Barkalzki, Daletzki, Datschwaki, Glasski, Haenke* (from Posen), *Klebba, May* (from Marienwerder) and *Wissusek*.

24 to MILWAUKEE with the surnames *Dewitzki, Kalausek, Kiszewski* (from Paag?), *Lipski, Lubinsky, Stramer* (from Paag?) and *Volguth*.

4 to IOWA of the surname *Butzen* (from Brunk).

18 of the Agda passengers were destined for Port Hope, Ontario, but may have made their way to the U.S. They included the surnames *Barczynski, Baschinski, Brzczinski*, (all three from Posen), *Buchholz* (from Ostpreussen), *Droczkowski, Glinski, Hoynatzki* (from Posen possibly to Detroit or Milwaukee which is stroked out), *Knobloch* (from Filhene), *Moruszewski, Nowaski* (from Posen), *Pawlak, Radke, Suppnick, Slunka* and *Wesolik* (both from Posen).

20 were headed to Toronto, Canada or other Ontario destinations. They included *Bickert* (from Hessen), *Heimbecker, Jager, Jasper, Peters* (from Uckermark), *Ponto* (from Posen), and *Vanselow* (from Pommern).

Most of the Agda passengers were "Westpreussen". The "story" of the voyage and the origins and lives of the 200 passengers destined for Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada will be told in my book on POLISH PIONEERS WHO SAILED TO CANADA ON THE AGDA IN 1872. Most of these 200 people were Kashubs who had lived in or near the parish of Lipusz, West Prussia. My own great grandmother, Josephine Voldock/Waldock, was a teenager when she sailed to Canada with her brother and widowed mother. Keith Kaszubowski's great-great grandfather, Joseph Kaszubik, was also a passenger with his wife and family. Only Keith's great grandfather, Frank, Joseph's eldest son, was left behind and never would be reunited with his family. Instead the 12 year old Frank stayed with his maternal grandparents, grew up in Prussia in the parish of Wiele, married and then moved to Buffalo, New York. If you think your history is also linked to this voyage, please contact Shirley Mask Connolly at maskconn@intranet.ca or mail to 21 Granville Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1Y 0M5. ✂



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old Wilno
church. ✂

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