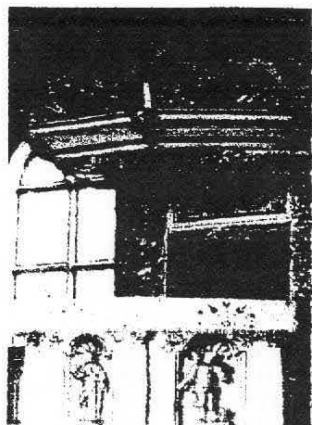
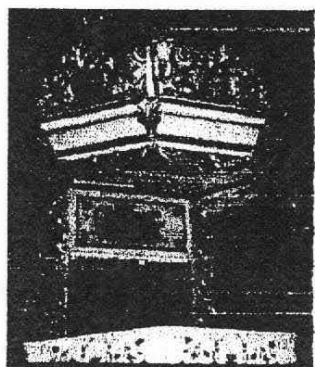


## THE INSIDE STORY

by Peter von Lipinski



*Richly in gold colors decorated pulpit with canopy. Please note the hand painted "Coat of Arms" or "Herb" from five of the old noble families, being displayed here above the pulpit.*



*Close-up on the "Coat of Arms" described above.*

In the spring issue of this newsletter, the featured story was: "The Old Church In Borzyszkowy". This story created a fair amount of interest, and in view of this, it was decided to bring you "Part 2" of the Borzyszkowy church story.

For obvious reasons, the title of this story is "The Inside Story" (of the old church in Borzyszkowy). We have to point out however, that when we first visited Borzyszkowy in the fall of 1998, we had no idea that we would be allowed inside the church, to take a few pictures. Our camera equipment was not suitable to take pictures inside a fairly large but relatively dark room. So the quality of the pictures we took is not that great. Subsequently, it was tried again to obtain permission to take pictures again with better equipment. The request was denied. So the pictures we present to you in this issue are maybe not the best, but it is all that we have to offer.

The church, which was immediately rebuilt after it was destroyed by fire in 1721, is not that small, but it offers a warm and secure feeling to its parishioners. The walls are made of large square timbers, which create the impression that this church will stand up against the elements to eternity. The pulpit is to the left of the front, and is decorated with different Saints. Above the pulpit is a canopy, which is richly decorated in gold colors. There are five plaques of different family "Coat Of Arms", (Szlachta, Herb) attached to the canopy, representing five of the old noble families from around Borzyszkowy. Some of these families have a history, dating back some 500 years. As far as assigning the five "Herb" to the different families, we believe that starting from the left on the canopy, these "Herb" belong to the following families:

- 1) Franciscus Borzyszkowski, 2) Cuminskiego,
- 3) Wnuk Lipinski, 4) Avbraschtow / Aubrach,
- and 5) M. Kiedrowski.

Left of the pulpit is another colorful display of a few religious icons, and on the left and right sides along the walls, there are of course the 12 stations of the cross. There are also a number of other beautiful religious pictures throughout the church. What a shame that not more people could visit this jewel of a church, which has so much history within its walls.

A couple of letters had been written after our return home, to see if somebody would produce a small series of 3 - 6 high quality postcards with pictures of the church, both in and out side. All proceeds from the sale of these postcards would go to the church to help pay for minor repairs and general up-keep. Nothing ever came out of this idea, but maybe somebody will pick up on this. A gift set of such a set of postcards would truly be something to

have for anybody with roots in this area. Just think how many sets of these postcards could be sold in Canada and the U.S. alone.

Just before we left Borzyszkowy, I spend a few minutes in one of the church pews. I thought about my ancestors who had worshipped in this very same church a couple of hundred and more years ago. I sat there quietly with my thoughts, and I could feel a gentle breeze blowing through the church. I got the feeling that the spirits of my ancestors were also in church. Maybe just to check out the stranger from a far away land. Of course it was just a feeling I had, because after all these years, I finally came home to the place of worship of my ancestors, and I guess my imagination as well as the moment in time, got the best of me. Would I go back for another visit? Yes, tomorrow.

P.S. I forgot to mention, that when I came out of the church, it was a nice warm day, with no wind or even the slightest breeze.

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### Comment on Hoffman's ....

by Ks. Aloysius Rekowski

(continued from page 1)

All of Pomerania had an area of more than 12,000 square miles. In 1939 the population was 2,405,021, the great majority Prussian German and Protestant.

To return to Kashubs, Hoffman writes: "The Kashub is not tall, he is bony nimble, of fair complexion with light colored hair." On my first visit to Poland in 1965, it appeared to me that the Kashubs were taller and fairer than the Poles of southern Poland. The men, and even the women of my home parish were generally tall, many over six feet. Having an Irish church and a Polish one in Barry's Bay, Ontario, gave us the advantage of comparing. As a boy I remember thinking the people in the St. Lawrence O'Toole's church were shorter in structure and darker of hair but better looking!

A short comment from Blanche: Father Rekowski's mother was a Peplinski as was my mother, but we have not yet tied the families together. Father Rekowski's family is mostly from the parish of Lipusz and mine from the parish of Lesno directly south of Lipusz. In contrast, my family is on the shorter side, but prevailing throughout both families to this day are the "steel blue-gray eyes of the Peplinskis."