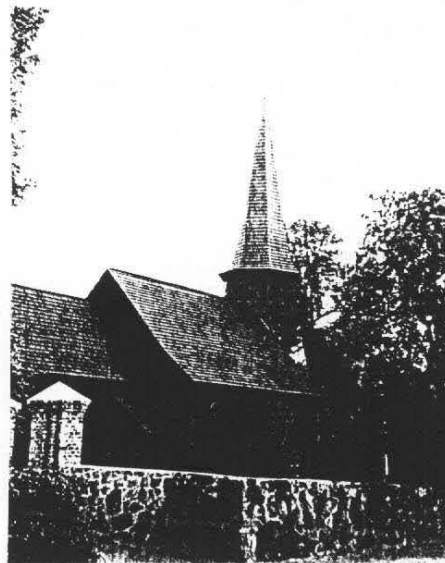


Legend of the Paradise Apple of Lesno

It was in the XVIth century that the Jesuits came to Lesno and brought with them the Paradise Apple (L: Malus Pumila Paradisiaca) . To the residents of Lesno it was promised that as long as the Paradise Apple grew and flourished, prosperity would come to them. It was necessary only to tend the seedlings. The farmers willingly agreed to look after the little plants thinking they would become rich. Some planted them in the sandy soil but failed to water them, so from lack of attention those seedlings did not grow. Some planted them and fertilized them with too much manure, so from too much attention those seedlings did not grow. But there were some who were skilled in the care of trees and properly fertilized them and pruned the branches, so those seedlings became healthy trees.

Today Lesno is neither rich nor poor. The Paradise Apple trees no longer grow on the grounds of the rectory. Yet, there are still scattered farmsteads where the gift of the Jesuits continues to be nourished and to thrive. The fruit of the tree is not large, is a dark red color, and has a somewhat bitter taste. Jam is no longer made with the original flavor. In the past, but no longer, a special tort decorated on top with preserved Paradise Apples complete with their stems was prepared only at the rectory. Today as the small trees in the countryside which were started from the old trees begin to bear fruit it might happen that the torts will again appear on tables in Lesno!

***Source: Historical University in Bielefeld. Polish wording by Sylwia Bukowska.
English version/translation: Stanislaus Frymark and Blanche Krbecek.***



Church in Lesno, Poland