

Pioneers In The Warsaw Community: Part II, Brief History of Saint Stanislaus Parish, Warsaw, North Dakota

taken from *The History of St. Stanislaus Church, 1900 to 1975, Diamond Jubilee Book*

According to a book published by the Polish National Alliance in 1955 and from other sources we learn the names of some of the first settlers in this community. The first three men to come here from Poland were Julius Risky, Thomas Wirkus and Frank Narloch. Soon after that came families with names such as Kasznera (he was a school teacher), Szarkowski, Danielski, Warczak, Diedrowski, Rudnik, Moga, Narlock, Wysocki, Rogalla, Gerszewski, Jamrowski, Pella, Grzadzieleski, Mask, Slominski, Landowski, Byzewski, Rolzinsky, Stoltman, Gornowicz, Stanislawski, Gudajtes, Ebertowski, Duray, Grabanski, Schuster, Feltman, Perkerewicz, Kowalski and many, many others.

Two sons of pioneers are at the present time (1975) the oldest living members of this parish. One is Joseph Risky, son of Julius Risky and Rose Skibor. The records show that he was born on the 27th of February, 1883 and was baptized on the 4th of March, 1883 by Father John Considine. He was married to Anastasia Stanislawski on the 22nd of July, 1908. The marriage was blessed with six children.

The other oldest member of this parish is August Byzewski, son of August Byzewski and Julia Byzewska. August was born on the 12th of March, 1883 (13 days after Joseph Risky). He was baptized on the 1st of April, 1883, by Father John Considine. He was married to Rosalia Duray on the 21st of November, 1910. The marriage was blessed with seven children. We hope and pray that Joseph and August will enjoy life for many, many more years to come.

Ed: a later note in the book reads, "Since this was written Joseph Risky passed on to his eternal reward."

Story of Fortitude and Courage: Part III, Brief History of Saint Stanislaus Parish, Warsaw, North Dakota

From the days of the Apostles, the Catholic Church has always been a pioneer. From the earliest days her priests and missionaries have gone to the bamboo huts of Africa, the rice fields of China and to the igloos of the frozen northland to bring the love and the teachings of Christ to their fellow man. It was only natural then that they should come and minister to the spiritual needs of the pioneers of the Red River Valley. According to a Polish National Alliance brochure, Father Grynole and Father Flanagan and some other priests visited the Warsaw community from time to time between 1878 and 1880. During these visits they offered the holy sacrifice of the Mass, heard confessions, distributed the Bread of Life and performed other spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Unfortunately we have no church records to verify the above facts. The first Mass was said in the locality in 1878 in the Paul Pella farm home located near the present Warsaw community hall. Later on, Mass was said in the Peter Kiedrowski farm home located one and one half miles north of Warsaw. That farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Gerszewski. Mass continued to be said in these and other farm homes in the locality until a small church was erected in 1884 at a cost of \$2,500.00. This church was later used for a hall and was finally destroyed by fire.

Before the church was built the people did not know for sure when the priest would visit them or when or where Mass would be said. When word was received that a priest was in the locality, the time and place where Mass would be said spread like wild fire and for many miles around the people gathered there in great numbers. Poor roads or trails, stormy weather, long distances and antiquated means of transportation did not deter these intrepid and stalwart pioneers from making a great sacrifice in order that they might be present at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.