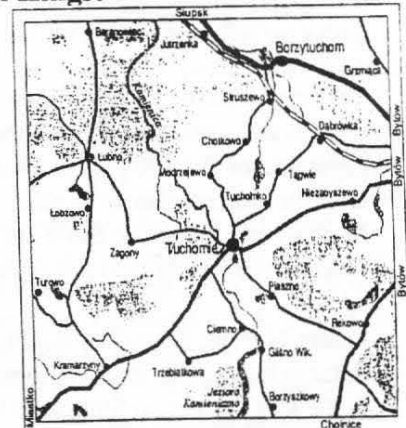


Gochy Region

Excerpted from **Kashubia, Homeland of the Baltic Slavs, A Tourist Handbook**
by **Jaroslav Ellwart**, translated by **John M. and Liesel Hingst**

The Gochy Region. "Gochy" is a name that the Kashubes themselves can scarcely explain. It derives from the word "jochy", which once applied to poor and sandy areas. Historically, the Gochy was the northeastern part of the former Land Czluchów (Ger: Schlochau), which belonged to Poland after World War I, along with territory belonging to Germany until 1945 and reckoned with the Buetower Land. Since World War II, most of the settlers here come from the small nest of aristocrats in the Polish Gochy. This is especially noticeable at Tuchomie (Ger: Gross-Tuchen), which carries on the Kashubian and aristocratic tradition. However, these nobles are distinguishable from the Kashubian [common] farmers only by their class-consciousness, and not by their prosperity.



Osieki Bytowski (Ger: Wusseken) is a former manorial village laid out in 1355. Later it was part of the Pomeranian ducal domain and was an outlying farm engaged in sheep-breeding.

Borzytuchom (Ger: Borntuchen) was first mentioned in 1350. Like neighboring Osieki Bytowski it was a Pomeranian ducal property in the 1500's. The village has preserved an unusual layout until today. One part represents a Slavic "heaped" [randomly arranged] village, whereas the central area around the church characterized a [Germanic] roadside village. In the 1700's two churches still stood here, one Catholic and one Protestant. The present church was erected in 1804 for the Protestant community [but taken over by the Catholics in 1946].

Jutrzenka (Ger: Morgenstern) was first mentioned in 1387 as a manorial estate with the name of "Morgenstern" morning star]. Later it was part of the Pomeranian ducal domain.

Modrzejewo (Ger: Moddraw) is an old manorial village that formerly belonged to the Tuchomie manorial district, presided over by a knight named Chocimierz. Although the present name "Modrzejewo" was announced after World War II by the Polish Place-Names Commission, the name was formerly recorded as **Modrzewo**. The village was first mentioned in 1345. In the mid-1600's it was inhabited by eight noble families.

Tuchomie (Ger: Gross-Tuchen) is one of the largest villages in the Buetower Land. Around 1300 it was the seat of the Tuchomie Manorial district, which belonged to the Swiec (Ger: Swenzo) family. In 1315 it passed to the knight Chocimierz (Swiec). In 1385 the district was pawned to the Teutonic Order, which later became the owner. The manorial estate existing then became a stud farm for army horses. The village later belonged to the duke of Pomerania and then to the Polish king in 1637, before passing to Brandenburg in 1657.

The parish existed already in the Middle Ages. During the Reformation, the majority of the residents turned to Protestantism and confiscated the only church building then standing. During the twenty years under Polish rule (1637-1657) Tuchomie reverted back to Catholicism, although the local Catholics were decidedly in the minority and belonged until 1931 to the Catholic parish in neighboring Niezabyszewo (Ger: Damsdorf). The small church standing today was erected in 1904. Shortly after 1800 the local Pastor Mueller proudly reported that he had succeeded in stopping all preaching in the Kashubian language. The dilapidated neo-Gothic Protestant church dates from the 1800's and stands on the site of an earlier structure. [Its Evangelical parish records are temporarily in the care of the local Catholic pastor.]

A paper-mill stood in Tuchomie until the 1800's. The small manorhouse seen today was built in the 1800's on the foundation of an older structure.

Gochy continued on page 13

Gochy continued from page 12

Kramarzyny (Ger: Kremerbruch) is one of the westernmost villages in which Kashubes reside today. The village was laid out in 1610 in a large marshy area. For several centuries it belonged to the county of Miastko (Ger: Rummelsburg). Before World War II it was inhabited by Germans, who in the early 1900's built a church of stone and brick. After the war the village was re-settled by Kashubes from the bordering Gochy.

Trzebiatkowa (Ger: Radensfelde) is an old Kashubian village first mentioned in 1345. Before 1385 it was conveyed to the Tuchomie manorial district. From this village stems the Trzebiatkowski family which has spread throughout the entire region.

The Vicinity of Lipnica (Ger: Liepnitz) lies north of Chojnice (Ger: Konitz) and west of the Zabory Land on the border of the Buetower Land and the former county of Czluchów (Ger: Schlochau). From the local villages sprang prominent Kashubian families. The small landholdings of the lesser nobility are preserved here unchanged. The poverty of this region is proverbial, and an old saying is, "A hare utilizes a thousand morgen, and yet he must steal!" [*A Kulmish morg, about 1.38 acres, was a former land measure in this area.*] The country side, with dense pine woodlands, sandy hills and numerous lakes is little changed by human activities from its primeval condition.

Lipnica (Ger: Liepnitz) formerly had the character of a roadside village, but in recent years this has been totally altered by many new houses.

Brzezno Szlacheckie (Ger: Briesen) is one of the largest villages of the Gochy. It was first mentioned in the 1300's and was at that time part of Pomerania. The Polish name means "Noble Briesen" and signifies that it was a knightly settlement from the start. Over the course of time the larger properties were divided among numerous descendants, so that already in the 1600's, 14 families worked an area of less than 8.5 hufen. [*A Kulmish hufe contained 30 Kulmish morgen, about 41.4 acres.*] However, time and again, free farmers settled here whose farmsteads were often much larger than those of their aristocratic neighbors.

The wooden church was built in 1716, and is surrounded by monuments today. In this village, which once was the center of the Gochy, is a large obelisk unveiled in 1983, with the inscription: "The Kashubes before Vienna." It commemorates the participation of a local Kashubian unit in *[breaking the Turkish]* siege of Vienna in 1683. An interesting fact is that in 1920 the Kashubes living here *[on land retained by Germany after World War I]* took it upon themselves to move the German-Polish border markers a few kilometers to the west.

Borzyszkowy (Ger: Borzyskowo) is another large village, first mentioned in a 1352 document confirming its sale to Jan Szada. The purchaser also took over patronage of the local church. As with neighboring Brzezno, poor noble families resided here and were known as "petty lords". The impressive wooden church was built in 1724. The parish owns a considerable collection of old prints, which the provost and historian Johann Gottfried Bork began to assemble while working here in 1751-72. Near the church is a sculpture commemoration the second reunion of the Borzyszkowski family, one of the best-known Kashubian lineages. In the cemetery is the grave of Jozef Gierszewski, who was the commander of the Kashubian resistance movement "Pomeranian Griffon" during World War II.

Ciemno (Ger: Zennen) formerly belonged to the Tuchomie manorial district, which the owner Chocimierz bequeathed in 1345, along with this village, to his attendant Wislaw. Wislaw was apparently the patriarch of the Cieminski noble family line.

Glisno (Ger: Glisno) is the seat of the Gliszczynski family lineage. The German-Polish border ran north of here before World War II. Between the World Wars, Jozef Slominski was a village teacher and also the magistrate of Lipnica (Ger: Liepnitz) and Borzyszkowy (Ger: Borzyskowo). In the autumn of 1939 he was bestially hacked to death by National Socialists.