

"Kontributionkataster" Records for the years 1772-1773

(Prussian Land Registration Records for Taxation)

by Peter von Lipinsky

Here are a few examples of the "Kontributionkataster" (census) records from the years 1772-1773 for the villages of Lipienitz/Lipnica, Przondzona, Kiedrowitz/Kiedrowice, Briesen/Brzesno and Borzyszkowo/Borzyszkowy. For most of these villages, except Borzyszkowo there is a written government farm land assessment of what all the agriculture land and forest belonging to each village can produce each year, i.e. from the land, grain such as oats, barley and rye and from the forests, building lumber. Further, only the head of each household was enumerated by name, but all other members of the same household, including servants, were also recorded. Widows were listed by the name of their husbands. The age of the children was recorded for both male and female in columns "12 years and under" or "12 years and over." Anybody under 12 years of age was listed as 'small' people. In the summary of all households for the village of Kiedrowice the count of all inhabitants is indicated as 44 big and 20 small people. The amount and variety of live stock owned by each household was also counted and recorded. For example, Kasimir Trzebiatowski from the village of Przondzona had the following: 4 oxen, 2 cows and 1 pig. In the same village there were only 8 horses in total of which Jakob Kobersierki, Jakob Kepka, Albrecht Lipinski and Mathias Zeminski each owned two.

In the census for the village of Orlowo the following inhabitants have been listed by name and occupation: Stanislaus Deczinski, game warden; Joseph Mackowski, cook; Johann Schney, gardener, Szeberski, wagon builder. The next ten villagers have been listed as 'Dannicker' which is a farmer with a bit of land, but working with his team of horses or team of oxen for the owner of the manor. Next three 'Gärtner' are listed which are owners of land of about 7 to 8 acres, a small holding. The direct translation of a gärtner is a 'gardener', but this would be misleading, unless one would consider 7 or 8 acres a large garden. Following are the widow of Sheppard and a Szlatkowska, also a widow. (The 'a' on the end of the name tells us that.) Next is one 'Ratteyer', a coachman for the owner of the manor driving the owner of the manor around in his horse-drawn carriage. A ratteyer also drives a team of horses with a farm wagon to haul such things a freight for the manor when not driving the manor owner. Next are five 'Instleute' and a shepherd listed. Instleute are farm workers who live in rented accommodations, most likely renting from the manor and also working for wages at the manor estate. Lastly, there are nine 'Lose Weiber' listed. These are old, worn out (that is the description on one page) single or widowed ladies, too old to work with no real income. They often live alone or with their daughter or son. These old ladies have to depend on hand outs from friends, relatives and the church.

The old Prussian census may not give the family researcher specific dates of events, i.e. birth, marriage or death, but much information is still contained in these records.

P.S. The foregoing story is based on copies from the "Marburger Auszüge" which are typed copies from micro films of the original records. Please note: these are not LDS micro films. The original documents are located at the Prussian Privy Archive in Berlin, Germany and other original documents are located in Polish archives.

| Namen der Einwohner | Anzahl der Personen | | | | | | Hufenzahl | | Haben an Vieh | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|----|----|----|-----|------|-----------|-------------|---------------|----|-----|----|----|--------------|
| | M. | W. | S. | T. | Kn. | Mgd. | Zud. | H. | W. | P. | Pf. | O. | K. | O. Sch. Sch. |
| Den von Melien gehörig, Der Hof und das Vorw. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 27 | Po 1 | 21 33 11 18 | | | | | |
| Frl. von Szalowska | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ausgeberin von Babsckin | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jäger Stan. Deczinski | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 4 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Koch Joseph Mackowski | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | 4 | | | | | | 1 | |
| Gärtner Johann Schney | 1 | 1 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Stellmacher Szeberscki | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Dannicker | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Mathes Gottonski | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 | 3 Mg. Vorw. | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Anton Michalski | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 6 | w. Acker | 3 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 3. Andr. Bruschowski | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 5 | 2 Mg. Vorw. | 3 | | | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 4. Casimir Masuhr | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 5 | Acker | 2 | | | 1 | | |
| 5. Ant. Lipinski, Krüger | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 | 3 Mg. dgl. | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| 6. Franz. Sarczewski | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 4 | " " | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 7. Ant. Paplowski, Schuster | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 | " " | 1 | | | 2 | | 1 |
| 8. Mathes Kuckella | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 | " " | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| 9. Joseph Olexi | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 4 | " " | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 10. Peter Wisczadowski, Fischer | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 4 | " " | | | | | | |
| Gärtner | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Johann Sczikurra | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | 6 | ein jeder | 3 | | | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 2. Joseph Horta | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 7 | 5 Morgen | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. Mart. Jendrelack | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | | 6 | Vorw. Acker | 2 | | | 2 | | 1 |
| Schäferwitwe Maria Szlatkowska | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 5 | dgl. | | | | | | |
| Ratteyer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Thomeck Sczykurra | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Instleute | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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