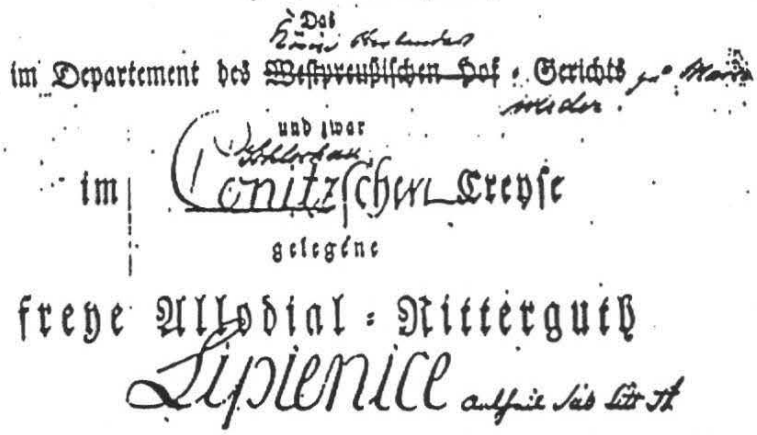
Old Land Records
For the Villages of Lipienice and Ostrowitt

by Peter von Lipinsky



When I visited the ancestral villages of my ancestors in 2003, I sort of felt that I had come home at long last. My cousin, who knows almost every square inch of the area and who also knows almost all the old folks in these villages, did all the talking as we did our "walk-about" in the villages of Lipienice and Ostrowitt. We talked to the local people and they in turn wanted to know from my cousin, who the stranger was that he was showing around in the village. My cousin told them that I had come from farm away, to have a look at the place which my ancestors had called their home a long time ago. Once my cousin told them that I had come all the way from Canada, you could see the disbelief in their faces. Why would somebody travel that far to see a small place they had lived in all their lives? My cousin kept on talking to different people for a while and told me afterwards that these people had told him that the Pazatk's had owned most of the land in the area a long time ago. This of course was news to me. MY father had never spoken of any land holdings our ancestors may have owned in the 1700's or 1800's. Maybe my father did not know himself some of our family history. This needed to be further investigated and researched.

Surely the old Prussian land records would shed some light into this mystery. I knew that the L.S.D. Library in Salt Lake City did have several rolls of micro film from the Domaineamt (old Prussian land title office) in Schlochau and Baldenburg (Czluchów and Bialy Bor). So, after my return to Canada, endless hours were spent viewing roll after roll of micro film in the hope of finding some clues. Would I encounter another one of these 'roadblocks' we all know so well? Nothing could be found. Every other family name, village and district was recorded, but not that for which I was looking. It would take another trip to Poland to solve this mystery and to find these elusive land records. With some help of course, these old land title records, consisting of some 100 pages, were discovered. I am most thankful for the help that I received in Poland in my search to find these old land records. These of records may not reveal the birth, marriage or death dates from anybody, but these records will tell you who lived in that village and who owned what property and how many "Hufen" of land some ancestor owned at that time. (Hufen = old Prussian land measurement, approximately 30 acres). The discovered land records are for the years from around 1821 to about 1848 and have not been microfilmed by the L.D.S.

In many cases, these records make references back to the early 1700's. In some cases it will state in the document who inherited what parcel of land, or to whom a parcel of land was sold and for how much. These old land records can provide names of somebody's ancestors and are an excellent source of reliable information. The one thing the Prussians did well was to keep good records. (That is, if you can locate them).

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Some of the names listed in these old Prussian land records for the two villages of Lipienice (Polish = Lipinica) and Ostrowitt are:

von Wysocki, Wirkus, von Kiedrowski, Sykorski, von Cieminski, von Mrozek-Glyszczynski, von Pazatka-Lipinski, von Rekowski, von Ru(y)man-Lipinski, von Trzebiatowski, von Lonski, von Kistowski, von Wnuk-Lipinski, von Gostomski, von Pych-Lipinski, Pradzinski, von Pupka-Lipinski, Labuhn, von Ostrowski, von Zabinski, von Lakie, von Piechowski, von Janta-Lipinski, von Palubicki, Topka, von Styp-Rekowski, Tyborczyk, von Wantoch-Rekowski, Stoltmann, Durowa, von Pluto-Pradzinski, von Wrycza-Rekowski, Binczyk, von Justrenka, von Borzyszkowski, and a few more.

For the Kaszubian researcher, all these names will sound very familiar, and perhaps are even the names of some of the readers' relatives. It always surprises me, just how much information is still out there to be discovered. I suppose that is one reason why it always draws me back to Kaszubia, so that I can discover more of the history of my ancestors.

I know that is what they would have wanted me to do.

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Excerpts from ***Kashubia, Homeland of the Baltic Slavs***
by Jaroslaw Ellwart and translated by John M. Hingst and Liesel Herchenroether Hingst
Ed: We think perhaps this is a variant spelling of the places mentioned by Peter von Lipinsky in the previous article.

Lipnica (Liepnitz)

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

The Vicinity of Lipnica (Liepnitz)

The vicinity of Lipnica (Liepnitz) lies north of Chojnice (Konitz) and west of the Zabory Land on the border of the Butow Land and the former county of Czluchow (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 the area.]* The countryside, with dense pine woodlands, sandy hills and numerous lakes is little changed from its primeval condition by human activities.