Mesznego Records

by **Peter von Lipinsky**

When I visited the village of Borzyszkowy in 1998, I knew that some day I had to come back to this place. (Please see KANA newsletter, Spring, 1999) Somehow, I felt that I had not accomplished everything I set out to do on that visit.

Now, five years later, I did come back again, trying to discover more of my Kaszubian roots. I felt like Indiana Jones, discovering an old long lost treasure, when I cam across the old "Mesznego" records from the parish of Borzyszkowy.

What are these old "Mesznego" records, dating back to the early 1700s? The "Mesznego" records, consisting of about some 175 pages, are a written account of the contributions made by the parishioners to the Church in the village of Borzyszkowy. The page shown here is a list of some of the people living in the village of Prondzona in 1848. These people, however, did worship in the Church in Borzyszkowy and were, therefore, part of that parish.

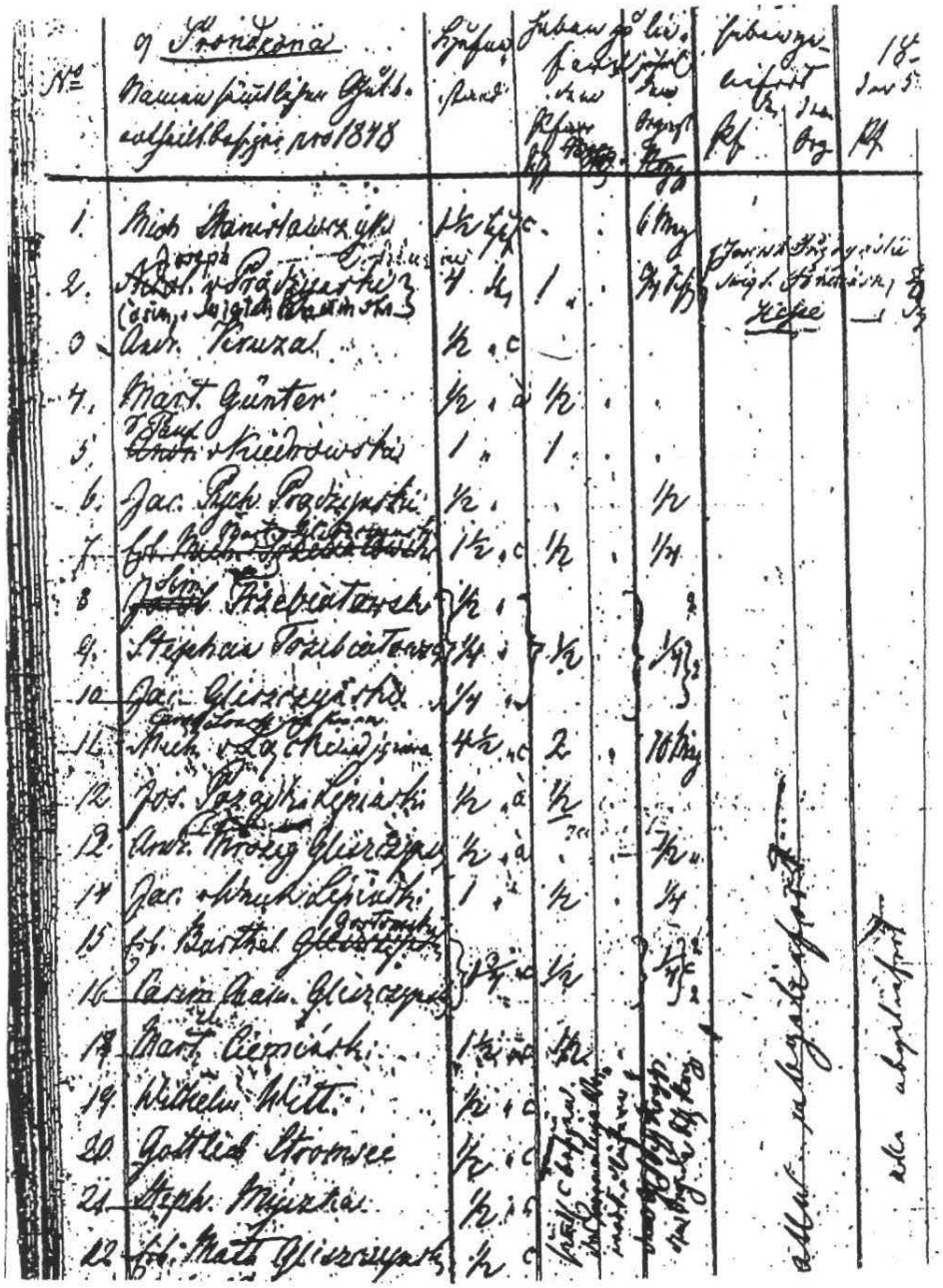
The "Mesznego" records start in the year 1727 and go to the year 1896, with some years missing in between. Any "Mesznego" records from before 1727 could not be found. While these records may not be a complete as one could hope, these records can still provide a lot of historical information to the people with roots in and around the village of Borzyszkowy. Most of the villages from the surrounding area of Borzyszkowy are listed in the Mesznego" records. The records show the name of the parishioner, the amount of land the individual parishioner owned at the time (1848), as well as the amount of grain he or she contributed to the Church treasury. The contribution is usually split, with 1 Scheffel (+ 1 bushel) of grain going to the *Pfarrer* Priest and 1/2 *Scheffel* of grain going to the organist. Depending on the time frame, the entries are either in Polish or in German. In Polish the contribution is shown as *Korzec of Zyta* (= 1 bushel of rye grain.)

However, unfortunately these records do not reveal such information as, date of birth, date of marriage or date of death. But all the familiar names which we are accustomed to see and read about from this area are listed in these records, such as Rekowski, Trzebiatowski, Kiedrowski, Pradzynski, Gliscynski, Cieminski, Rudnik, Hapka, Myszka, Zmuda, Wirkus, Szyprit, Mrozig, Gruchalla, Ostrowski, Gostomski, Palubicki, Tyborczyk and many more—all name which we know and recognize. In the case of the "Pazatka-Lipinski" name, there are as many as 20 entries on as many pages listed.

For a reasonable donation to the Kaszubian Instytut in Gdansk, we will copy and mail to you (at our expense) all relevant pages with your family name, or the name you requested. (One name per donation only.) Some of the donations will also go to the parish of Borzyszkowy. A full account of all donations will be provided upon request.

For more information, please contact the writer, Peter von Lipinsky by e-mail at **Lipinsky@connect.ab.ca**

The Mesznego Records from the parish of Borzyszkowy



With Sympathy

We express deepest sympathy to the family of **Lawrence Schultek**, an early and continuous supporter of KANA. Larry, a retired engineer from General Dynamics, Convair, died 18 June, 2004 at the age of 83. Mrs. Bula Schultek can be reached at jacschu@pacbell.net