Following the translations is *An explanation of unfamiliar terms.

Translations from the *Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego*

by William F. Hoffman

Sierakowice [pronounced roughly "sheh-rah-ko-veets'-eh"], Germ. *Sierakowitz, Sirakowicz* in a 1396 document, a knightly estate with a Catholic parish church in Kashubia, Kartuzy *powiat**, elevation 672 feet above sea level, on the Gdańsk-Słupsk highway between Lake Świniewo and Księży Staw, 22 km west of Kartuzy ([and served by the] railroad station [there]). The soil is sandy, the climate harsh. In the village is a third-class postoffice that sends a private post to Kartuzy. The Protestant church for the *gminas** of Mirachowo, Suleczyno and Bukowina is supposedly there. The Catholic school numbered 128 children in 1887. The estate covers 882.41 hectares (348.66 of farmland and gardens, 22.07 of meadows, 63.72 of pastures, 416.38 of forests, and about 20 unused, 116.58 of waters). Net income from the land is 3,280 marks; there is a brickyard as well as a distillery and cattle-raising. This estate was leased by F. Łaszewska in 1858, by Roman Łaszewski in 1867, and by a Jew, Jakub Kerbs, currently. The following belong to the gmina: Sierakowice, *wyb.* Johannisthal (two houses and 20 inhabitants as of 1885), Karczewko (three houses, 36 inhabitants), Karwacya (two houses, 17 inhabitants), Mrozy (13 houses, 114 inhabitants), Patoki (11 houses, 80 inhabitants), Poręby (three houses, 28 inhabitants), Sierakowska Huta (11 houses, 96 inhabitants), Wełk (seven houses, 35 inhabitants), for a total of 1,620 hectares (774 of farmland). As of 1885, all these settlements totaled 101 houses and 168 hearths, with 941 inhabitants—790 Catholics, 109 Protestants, and 42 Jews. There are four markets held here each year.

Saint Martin's church, of private patronage, was built in 1820. It has a shelter for six paupers, founded by Bishop Marwicz, as well as the Brotherhood of Saint Barbara (since 1761) and the Brotherhood of Sobriety, founded in 1856. Belonging to the parish of Mirachowo deanery are: Sierakowice, *wyb.** Benkendorf, Bącka Huta, Brzeźno. Ciechomie. Dąbrowa, Jelonki, Johannisthal, Kamienica, Kamieniecka Huta, Karczewko, Karwacya, Kokowin, Kujaty, Leszczynki, Lisie Jamy, Łączki, Łyśniewo or Liśniewo, Migi, Młynki, Mojusz or Mojsz, Mojszewska Huta, Mrozy, Nowa Ameryka, Nowalczysko, Nowy Wełk, Ostrowo, Padzewo, Pałubice, Patoki, Poręby, Potęgowo, Przylesie, Putijańska, Puzdrowo, Rębienica, Szklanna Huta, Skrzeszewo, Szopa or Szopy, Tuchlin, Tuchlińska Huta. In 1867 it had 4,293 souls, 2.658 communicants; in 1888, 4,938 souls.

Sierakowice is an old settlement; many stone box graves have been found there. In 1382 Teutonic Knights Grand Master Winrich v. Kniprode gave "the faithful Piotr of Lewin *(Petro von Lewyn)* and his heirs the estate of Sierakowice with 50 *włókas** with a charter of Chełmno law. In return, he is to do service in light armor and help with construction, and, in addition, give for each settled włóka one bushel of oats in lieu of a plow tax, one pound of wax, and Cologna *fenig* [penny], or five Prussian [pence], in recognition of our sovereignty, on Saint Martin's day, issued in Malbork. Around 1440, 31 of 42 włókas lay fallow, due to which the Sierakowice Postołowo estate was exchanged for the village.

Continued on page 13

Slownik Geograficzny Translations continued from page 12

In 1401, "Mylun von Syracowicz" appears as guarantor, and somewhat earlier, Procholla von Sirkowicz. In 1396, the pastor of Sierakowice was mentioned in Gdańsk wax tablets as was Jacob Bandergowssen. During the Teutonic Knights period, Sierakowice belonged to the Mirachowo *wójtowstwo**, and during Polish rule, to Mirachowo powiat. According to 1648 tax tables, when a double tax and triple excise duty were levied, Łaszewski paid 32 florins and 14 pence on one settled włóka and four gardeners there. Madaliński's 1686 inspection report states that the church was made of wood and had two altars; the parishioners numbered around 500. Four włókas belonged to the church, but at the time it had less than half. The lord was Łaszewski.

In 1710 Jerzy Bystram leased the village; a school existed there at the time. The parish included Sierakowice, Pozdrowo, Tuchlin, Gowidlino, Liśniewo, Załakowo, Pałubice, Kamienica, Kamieńskie Młyny, Moisz, Moiszewska Huta, the wood-distillery at Bukowo, Mrozy, Patoki, Huta Sierakowska, Huta Tuchlińska, Kijota, the Gowidlino wood-distillery, a freedman outside Gowdlino, Kowale, Potęgowo, Pączewo, Kokwin, Szopa, Huta Szopska, Huta nad Łąkami, and Wołand. According to the table for a one-time tax in 1717, Sierakowice paid 20 pence. In 1780 Józef Łaszewski, Inflanty standard-bearer, was the leaseholder. There were six altars in the church. The parish school was in Gowidlino. There were four włókas, three meadows, two gardens, and a forest belonging to the pastor. He collected a Mass tithe of 76 ½ bushels of rye and 77 ½ of oats. There were 1,868 parishioners, 1,235 communicants, 120 Protestants, no Jews. The pastors in Sierakowice were Jan Wildermann † 1672; Michał Głok 1678, Naguszewski 1685, Chrystyan Besztel or Bephel, 1686 and 1692 †, Jan Bystram 1710, Aleksander Lewalt Jezierski 1728, Maciej Łegowski resigned 1763, † 1765, Jan Zielewski, died as pastor in Strzepcz in 1763, Franciszek Weiher 1763 and 1780, Jan Wamke of Bysław in 1848, Dyonizy Knast in 1865 and Franciszek Niklewicz in 1887.

Postołowo [pronounced roughly "po-sto-woe'-vo"], better than *Po elau*, a village in Gdańsk *powiat,* served by the post office in Skarszewy, the Catholic parish of Trąbki, and the Protestant parish of Sobowidz, 4.5 *milas* north of the powiat seat, has 19 *gbur* properties and 23 crofts, with 1,521.04 *mórgs.* In 1867 there were 47 houses, 400 inhabitants, 211 Catholic and 189 Protestant. Also belonging to the village are the unused property of Baerenkrug and the forest district of Schoenholtz. Postołowo lies on the border of Gdańsk and Kościerzyn powiaty.

In 1283 Duke Mestwin gave Albert, bishop of Kujawy, the villages of "Pozstołowo" and half of Cetnowo and Mrzezin in return for tithes he had given up in Gniewo. In the *Kodeks wielkopolski,* the name is erroneously given as "Porstołono," with the note that this locality is a mystery. In 1286 the Duke granted some estates of the bishop, including Postołowo, the right to unlimited judiciary and exemption from public taxes. But it was still during the rule of Mestwin that the former owners of several Episcopal properties, including, rose up and demanded the demanded the return of their former holdings. That same year, 1290, the Duke issued a new document in which he stated that during his [Mestwin's] war with the margraves, the owners of those villages had taken the side of his enemies and caused the death

Continued on page 14

Slownik Geograficzny Translations continued from page 13

of many Pomeranians; and he noted that they had been expelled from the country and stripped of their estates by the high court. The Duke therefore stated that the verdict pronounced upon them was still in force and that all the privileges they had enjoyed in regard to the villages enumerated must by regarded as revoked. Postołowo belonged to the bishops of Kujawy for only a short time, however. Before the reformation, Postołowo was attached to Skarszewy parish. A Catholic church, apparently parochial, had existed there since ancient times, and the pastor was endowed with four *włókas*. Over the many years in which unbelievers predominated in Skarszewy, the residents of Postołowo were induced by the preachers to accept Lutheranism, and as a result their small church fell into decay. In 1583 the pastor's three *wółkas* lay fallow and the fourth was worked by a certain Michał Maciek. Postołowo was later incorporated into Trąbki parish, and as a result, the old Postołow church and its *włókas* were the more easily forgotten. In 1583 the village belonged to the Bażyńskis. In 1710, Postołowo provided a Mass tithe of 4.5 bushels of rye and the same amount of oats.

Małżewo [pronounced roughly "mahw-zheh'-vo"], German *Gr. Malsau*, in documents *Malsow, Malsowe, Malschow,* and *Malszewo*, a knightly estate in Starogard *powiat*, served by the post office in Swarożyn, 7.5 km away. Its area covers 534.77 hectares, that is, 451.93 of farmlands and gardens, 46.20 of meadows, 18.61 of pastures, and 18 unused. As of 1868, there were 169 inhabitants, 138 Catholics, 21 Protestants, and nine habitable houses. It is in the Catholic parish of Lubiszewo and Protestant parish of Sobowidz; the school is in Wielkie Turze, 2.5 *milas* from Starogard.

Małżewo is a very old settlement. As early as the 13th century, the Pomeranian Duke Sambor II settled German nobles there. On 11 November 1258, Sambor gave Herman Bolco the estate of Małżewo and Turze, which he had acquired 'emptionis titulo" from Conrade de Bordin. "For this, Herman and his heirs are to serve us on one horse *(cum uno equo servire).* He can sell the estate to anyone he chooses." The borders: "Protenduntur siquidem haec bona Malsowe et Thurn eciam (?) lacus nomine Thurn usque ad granicies illorum de Gostowe et abinde ad granicias illorum de Lubsow. Datum: Dyrsowe" (Tczew). On 23 November 1303, the Pelplin abbot Henryk stated that he saw the above document with his own eyes, complete and undamaged. Issued in Pelplin. According to a 1717 tax register, Małżewo paid a one -time tax payment of 12 pence.

*Explanation of Unfamiliar Terms

Gbur – from Middle High German *gebűr,* "farmer," a farmer or peasant who owned his own land and was therefore relatively well off for a peasant. The term appears mainly in areas formerly under German rule or with large German populations.

Gmina – administrative subdivision of a *powiat*, ruled by a council and a *wójt.* A *gmina* may encompass several villages, a combination of villages and smaller settlements or of a single large estate or a town. In most cases the best way to translate it is "district," but you may also see it translated as "borough," "commune," or "township."

Continued on page 15