

*Stoltman, continued from page 3*

The second place where the Stoltman family lived was Marion Lake near Perham, Minnesota (1876). From there they moved to Warsaw and finally to nearby Minto in North Dakota (1879).

Minto was founded by emigrants from Ireland, from a town of the same name. Warsaw is a little over five miles to the east. Polish descendants pronounce it in the Polish way, Warszawa, even though they do not know or speak the Polish or the Kaszubian language. It was and has remained a symbolic expression of identification with their homeland. Great waves of immigrants, mainly from Norway and Germany, came to the Dakotas during the years of 1875 to 1890. Kaszubians were considered to be German.

North Dakota—the territory on the border of the United States with Canada—is former prairie land which had tall grasses and grazing herds of buffalo. It was the main territory of the Sioux Indian tribe who called themselves Lakota or Dakota. Today they live on reservations in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Montana. (sic)

Ed Stoltman said, "Great grandfather, Michael Stoltman, and his family left Winona for Marion Lake with their possessions pulled by oxen. The journey over the pathless prairie took them a month. In the same year, the Indian chief *Sitting Bull* led the Sioux in the battle of Little Big Horn."

"The Indians would come to us for meat," said Ed. He pointed out a place on his farm where Indians had camped "on that hill." It was difficult to see any hill there. The land is so flat and one can see so far away that as they say, "You can see on Monday who will come for dinner on Saturday."

#### **Kaszubes and Kaszubian Language in North Dakota**

Emigrants from Kaszubia used their language over the generations, especially in the closely bonded farming families where all the children, regardless of their age, stayed and worked on their parents' farms.

What is left of the language among American Kaszubes?

With a certain degree of hesitancy, the great grandsons were able to recall the Kaszubian they spoke as children. However, one can easily find Polanization in this Kaszubian. It is the result of close family contact with emigrants from the Poznan region who often would cause the Kaszubes to feel their 'inferiority.' Ed's father-in-law would systematically teach him to speak 'correctly.' This problem was especially noticeable in the mixed Kaszubian-Polish couples, and sometimes led to family conflict.

"My great grandfather, Michael Stoltman, also used a lot of German," said Ed. "In those times, it was easier to communicate using German in American offices, because there were a lot of settlers from German territories."

#### **Cathedral on the Prairie**

Cathedral on the Prairie is the official name given to honor Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church in Warsaw. It was built with red brick and its size is impressive. Almost all the recesses commemorate numerous donors with Polish names. The same is true about the beautiful stained glass windows. Among the donors are Słominski, Jan Narloch, Teodor Wysocki and Piotr Kiedrowski. The Stations of the Cross were donated by others, among them, Piotr Stoltman, Józef Stoltman, Franciszek Ebertowski and Andrzej Maszk. Each Station has two donors.

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In the cemetery adjacent to the church, Kashubian names dominate. Among them are many Stoltmans, Dulek, Czapiewski, Gerszewski, Babinski, Ebertowski, Narloch, Kiedrowski, Lizakowski, Grabański, Plutowski, Rudnik and Wysocki. Notations written on the gravestones consist of unique family histories: "Józef Stoltman i jego żona Anna ur. Dulek przybyli do tutejszej parafii z kraju. Posiadali 14 dzieci, w tym siedmioro z nich zmarło w czasie panującej dyfterii 1882-1883" *Joseph Stoltman and his wife Anna, nee Dulek, came to this parish from their home country. They had 14 children, 7 of which died during the diphtheria outbreak 1882-1883.* "Matka Śp. Marta Ebertowska urodziła się w Polsce 5 października 1889 r. umarła 17 lipca 1982. Prosi bardzo o modlitwę Ojciec Śp. Josef Ebertowski urodził się w Polsce 28 lutego 1879 r. umarł 11 lutego 1958 roku. Prosi gorąco o modlitwę. Jako zany małżonek i małżonka prosili kornie Boga o łaski w życiu Bóg obdarzył to małżeństwo licznym potomstwem, dając im 7 synów i 11 córek. Wdzięczni byli Bogu za wszelkie łaski i błogosławieństwa Boże w ich życiu. *Mother, of holy memory, Marta Ebertowski, born in Poland October 5, 1889, died July 17, 1982. She asks devoutly for a prayer. Father, of holy memory, Josef Ebertowski, born in Poland 28 February 1879 died 11 February 1958. He asks fervently for a prayer. As devoted husband and wife they asked God humbly for blessings in their lives. God granted the couple numerous offspring, giving them 7 sons and 11 daughters. They were grateful to God for all His favors and blessings in their lives.* W grobowcu tym spoczywa ich syn Max Ebertowski, zmarły w wieku 26 lat w 1951 roku". *In this grave rests their son Max Ebertowski, who died in his 26<sup>th</sup> year in 1951.*

### **The Farm of Ed Stoltman**

The farm of Edward Stoltman, great grandson of Michael, lies between Warsaw and Minto. In contrast to Minto which was founded by Irish emigrants, New Warsaw, as it was originally called, was founded by Poles. The first settlers were Julius Ryszke, Thomas Wirkus and Frank Narloch. They were followed by a teacher Szarkowski, Danielski, Warczak, Kiedrowski, Rudnik, Moga, Wysocki, Rogała, Gerszewski, Kamrowski, Pella, Grządzielewski, Maszk, Słominski, Landowski, Stoltman, Górniewicz, Stanislawski, Gudajtes (Polonized Lithuanian), Ebertowski, Duray, Babiński, Grabański, Schuster, Feltman, Perkerewicz and others.

The date of the founding of Warsaw is 1873. The township in which Warsaw lies was named Stanislaus Pulaski by the Poles.

In the beginning, Warsaw was inhabited by about one hundred residents. It was possible to purchase building materials in the town of Grand Forks, about 50 kilometers distant. With time, a post office and telephone service came to the town, as well as craftsmen and merchants. The goods were brought and taken away by boat at a landing on the Red River, which is about 1.5 kilometers from Warsaw.

Ed's farm is about 600 hectares. It is the same farmland that had been possessed by his great grandfather Michael. In 1893, it included two sections of 640 acres each, for a total of 518 hectares. In 1893, according to a plat map, the farm had two farm buildings and one house. For over three generations, animals were raised on the farm. "Sometime between 1955 and 1958," says Ed, "we stopped raising livestock. It was mainly beef cattle. Since then there have been no animals, only crops." The major crop is potatoes—very delicious potatoes with slightly pink skins. Next is sugar beets, followed by some unknown-to-us type of black beans, and wheat.

*The author originated from Chojnice, but for several years has lived and taught in Bielefeld in Germany.*

### **!! STOLTMAN FAMILY REUNION in POLAND !!**

This summer on Saturday, the 19th of June, 2004  
starting with Mass at 10 am in Lesno, Poland with activities continuing all day.

For information, contact Stanley Frymark in Poland, e-mail [zaborski@web.de](mailto:zaborski@web.de), web page <http://Zaborski.info>  
or Leo Stoltmann in Germany, e-mail [Leo.Stoltmann@gmx.de](mailto:Leo.Stoltmann@gmx.de)

**!All family members are cordially invited!**