Przyjaciel ludu Kaszubskiego
PRZËJÒCÉL LËDU KASZËBSCZÉGÒ
(FRIEND OF THE KASHUBIAN PEOPLE)
NEWSLETTER OF THE KASHUBIAN ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA
WWW.KA-NA.ORG

Volume XI | Winter 2007 | No 3~~1~~ 4

The Village of Lipusz

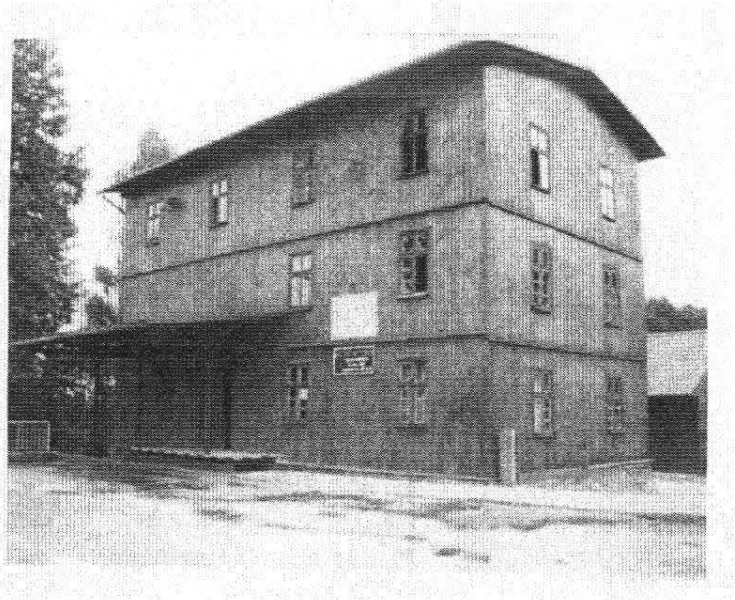
by Peter von Pazatka Lipinsky

The year 2008 marks the 150th anniversary of the first Kashubs coming to Canada. Some of these early Kashubian settlers came from the village of Lipusz and the surrounding area in Poland. This story is dedicated to the descendants of these early Kashubian settlers. A few of these settlers migrated later from Canada to the U.S.A.

In 1988 the town of Lipusz celebrated its 600th anniversary. Church records from the year 1388 show that from the parish of Lyndenpush/Lipusz, tithing was sent to the diocese and then forwarded to Rome. The town of Lipusz is located halfway between the City of Bytów and the City of Kościerzyna. Lipusz is a small town with a present population of about 1800 inhabitants. In 1905 the population was around 1150, so in the last 100 years not much has changed. But today Lipusz offers the visitor all modern services such as good hotels, bed and breakfast accommodations, food stores, restaurants, petrol stations and the large and excellent Kiedrowski Bakery and everything else a visitor may need. In the case of an emergency, the City of Bytów with its modern hospital is only a few kilometers away. Many people travel from far away places, i.e. Canada and the U.S.A., to visit the land of their ancestors. Truly it is a very nice corner of their ancestors' homeland. The mayor of Lipusz, Pan Mirosław Ebertowski, extends a hearty welcome and invitation to everyone to come and visit Lipusz.

For the most part of the last 500 years much of the agricultural land in and around Lipusz was owned by either Polish or Prussian noblemen, depending on the government at the time in history. Most of the peasants were working for the "Lord of the Manor." Serfdom had been abolished in Prussia since the early 1800s. The farm worker was called *Einlieger,* meaning one who would rent his house from the owner of the Manor. In many cases a garden would also come with the rented house. The *Einlieger* would receive a wage and also some *Naturalien* (farm produce for his work.)

Continued on page 14



Old Lipusz Flour Mill. today belonging to Kiedrowski

The English translation of The **Life and Adventures of Remus** by Aleksander Majkowski continues on **page six!**

Lipusz continued from page 1

In the late 1800s several areas in western Prussia were sparsely populated and the Prussian government set out to change this. In 1887 the village of Lipusz, as well as many other small villages in western Prussia, were small with only few inhabitants. The Prussian Land Settlement Commission therefore decided in early 1887 to buy the Manor in Lipusz with its 538.5 hectares (about 1330 acres) of land. The Manor and land was purchased from the then absentee owner Ludwig von Zalewski for 157,313.00 marks. The land consisted basically of two large parcels of land. The northwestern parcel consisted of 226 hectares (about 558 acres). Part of this land was farmed by 6 *Kasschubische* tenants. The overall yield from the land was very marginal and it did not return enough revenue to even pay for the seed and labor. According to Prussian records, this portion of the estate was not to be subdivided and not to be sold to any new settlers. The land was sold back to the Prussian department of forest. The second parcel of land consisting of 274 ha (about 677 acres) of land was in the immediate vicinity of the village. The land, located north and south on the way from Lipusz to the village of Tuskowy was very hilly and needed special consideration regarding seeding and harvesting using a team of horses pulling farm equipment. To raise the necessary funds to cover the purchase price of the Manor, the Department of Land Settlement was selling the following assets from the Manor:

All Manor estate buildings	9,850.00 marks
All inventory from the Manor (seeds, live stock, machinery, feed, etc. according to the manager of the Manor, Herr Franz Schuch)	5,000.00
The "Krug" property (an inn, a large barn and a house)	8,600.00
Peat bog	7,000.00
Karpno Lake	750.00
All standing timber	750.00
Total	31,950.00 marks

The balance of 125,363.45 marks was left to be divided according to the size of each subdivided parcel of land for sale to the new settler. Each parcel of land was indicated on a colored map which could be viewed by prospective buyers at the Manor house and at the Land Settlement Commission office in Poznań. The settler could choose from the plan the parcel of land he wanted to buy. A letter of invitation was sent out by the Commission on 5th November, 1888, to all interested parties, inviting them to view the map/plan of the land. Each settler buying a new homestead was required to submit a business plan showing his present financial status and also the anticipated income from the land to be acquired. To help the new settler get started, the government allowed each new settler three tax-free years. For the first year only, each new settler would also receive a monthly food ration of 75 kilograms of rye grain (to be milled into flour for baking bread, buns etc.) and 200 kg of potatoes. Further, each new settler would also receive the following seed free for the first planting season: 25 kg of rye or wheat seed, 25 kg of oats or barley seed, 150 kg of seed potatoes.

In 1888 the school in Lipusz consisted of only a two room building. One room (one class) was for the Catholic children and one room for Evangelical children. With the increase of the children of the new settlers the small school was no longer sufficient for teaching the children of both faiths. Children came not only from the village of Lipusz, but also from nearby places where people had their own farms with small as well as large parcels of land such as Borowiec, Konitop, Krugliniec, Lipuska Huta, Lubiszewo, Mechewo, Papiernia and Karpno Vorwerk. The Vorwerk belonged to the Manor and was a place with farm buildings and quarters for the workers and even for the 'Inspector" so daily travel from the yard of the Manor to the distant farm fields was not necessary. The government did make provisions for funds and land to build a new school building.

The forgoing story and pictures will give the reader a bit of an overview of what the village of Lipusz, the district of their ancestors, was all about some 120 years ago. This story is only a condensed version of the eighteen page hand written report of the Prussian Land Settlement Commission signed in Poznań on the 3rd of July, 1888. Special thanks for helping me with this story must go to my research colleague, Mr. Gerhard von Pazatka Lipinski of Germany, as well as the mayor of Lipusz, Mr. Mirosław Ebertowski. My special thanks to the privy archive in Berlin, Germany

More information or the complete report is available from Peter von Pazatka Lipinsky, **lipinsky@shaw.ca**

Continued on page 15

Queries

(NB If it is not convenient to use e-mail, please write KANA, PO Box 27732, Minneapolis, MN 55427-0732. We will gladly send the postal address to help in contacting query submitters.)

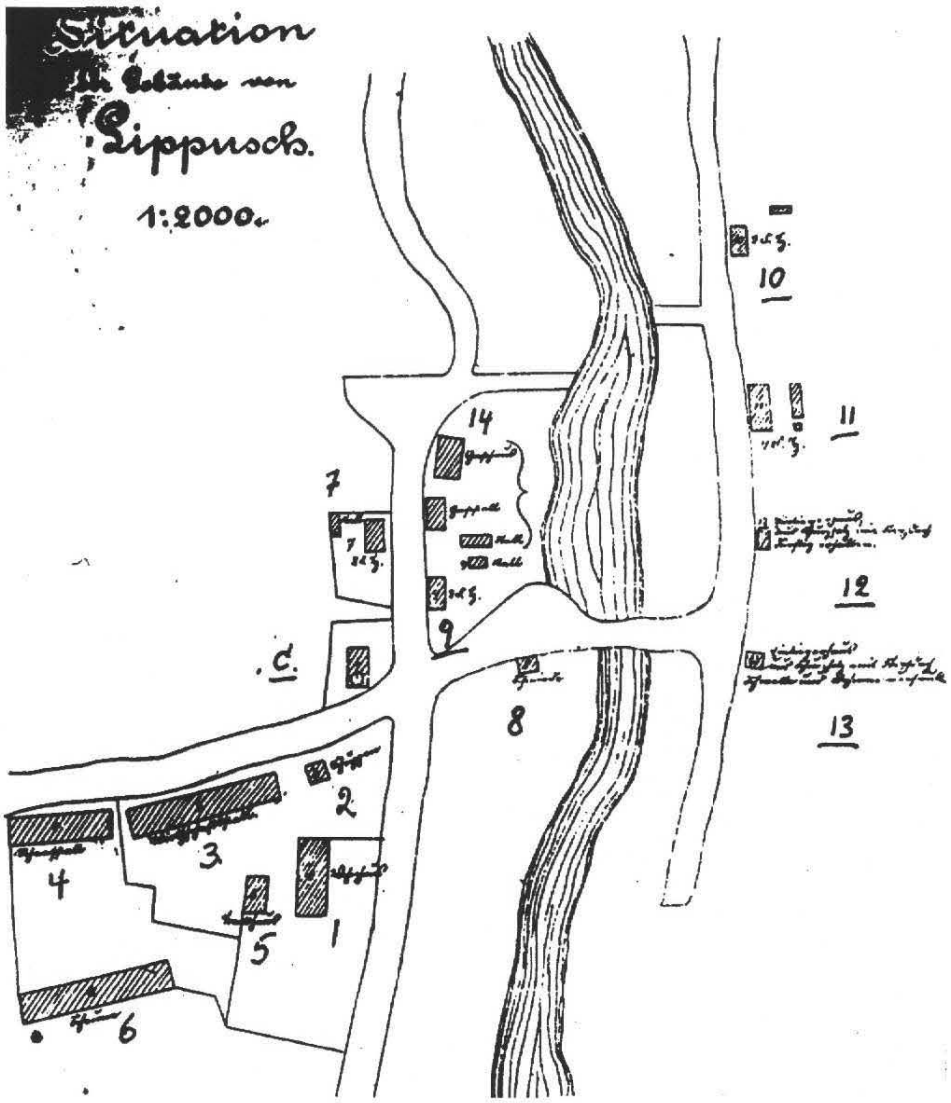
Oops—we stand corrected, twice:
Marilyn Rogge has a new email address: **aknomus@sbcglobal.net**
and would like to hear at that above email address from others researching **Sumonka, Sumionka, Drewka, Miloch, Barczynska, Klodzinski, Molenda, Szulc** and **Bliecki.**

Lorrie Lukas corrected email address: **callorrie@sbcglobal.net** would like to hear from others researching **Dombeck/Dambek,Lukas, Gross, Bachinski, Rompkowski, Miskowiak, Barwick** and **Grabowski**

Joanna Pasowicz japaso@tds.net is interested in the following surnames: **Bleja, Kulling, Dettlaff** and **Kostycz**

* * * * * * * * * *

Lipusz
continued from page 14



1887 Layout of the Lipusz Manor

1) The Manor main house, 2) 1 shed, 3) 1 administrative building, 4) 1 sheep barn, 5) 1 bakery over/house, 6) 1 large hay/straw shed, on the village main road, 7) 1 house for 2 families, 8) 1 blacksmith shop, 9) 1 house for 2 families, on the left side of the Blackwater river, 10) 1 house for 2 families, 11) 1 house for 4 families, 12) 1 house for 2 families, 13) 1 house for 2 families, 14) 1 Gasthaus-Pub with large barn and 1 administrative building. Further away from the village were 2 more homes, 12 and 13, clearly marked as *Einliegerhaus*.