



Przyjaciel Ludu Kaszubskiego

PRZĘJÒCÉŁ LĚDU KASZĚBSCZÉGÒ

(FRIEND OF THE KASHUBIAN PEOPLE)

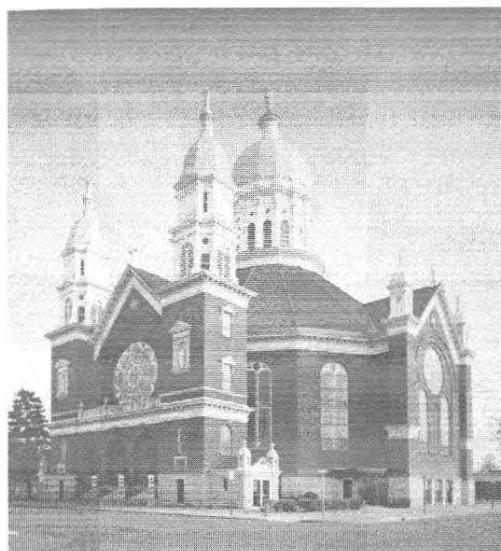
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BASILICA OF ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA, WINONA, MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA NOW HAS TWO MINOR BASILICAS

By Ron Galewski

In 2010, 1588 Roman Catholic Churches bore the title of basilica. The first church in the United States to be recognized as a basilica is the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, MN. On November 10, 2011, St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Winona, MN was named the 70th Basilica in the United States.

In 2010, Winona Diocese Bishop John M. Quinn, approved the beginning of a process to apply for basilica status. In May 2011, Bishop Quinn sent a petition to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, an office of the Vatican, asking that Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, Winona, be raised to the status of "Minor Basilica."

This reply came from the Vatican.

"By virtue of the special faculties granted by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, the *Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments* bestows upon the parish church dedicated to God in honor of Saint Stanislaus Kostka in the City of Winona . . . the title and dignity of "Minor Basilica". The designation as a basilica emphasizes the special bond that the parish has with the Pope and with the whole Catholic Church".

This Decree was issued on November 10, 2011 and announced to the congregation on December 17, 2011.

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STATEMENT OF MISSION

The Kashubian Association of North America exists to preserve and promote Kashubian cultural heritage in North America and to provide and encourage exchange with Kashubs in Poland and world wide. In fulfilling this mission we hope to raise awareness of Kashubian ethnicity in North America, to stimulate an interest in and provide an educational exchange of everything relating to Kashubia and the Kashubs.

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May the Year of 2012

bring

Health

Happiness

and

Prosperity

A reminder for your calendar

Pol Gen Soc—Am 2012 Conference
Learning and Research Opportunity

In conjunction with

United Polish Genealogical Societies' Conference

April 20—23 2012

Family History Library
Salt Lake City

Info www.pgsa.org

I recently heard a lecture by Rebekka Geitner, Historian, BallinStadt Emigration Museum. Since so many of our relatives emigrated through Hamburg I thought this might be of interest. Two things especially interested me. I had always heard the rumours about the Hamburg records being burned. No, except for a part of one year, the records are all at BallinStadt and available to study. Also, it was the less affluent who passed through BallinStadt.

Ms. Geitner kindly provided the following information in the form of BallinStadt press releases.

B. Krbechek

BallinStadt – The Emigration Museum:

An exhibition concept linking past, present and future

The history of emigration from Hamburg is also the history of Europe – one of hopes, dreams and fears that are as relevant today as they were in past centuries. The BallinStadt Emigration Museum is a site where visitors can relive history and explore the connections between past, present and future.

“We don't want to look at emigration simply as a list of historical facts and figures, but as an ongoing and complex issue to which everyone can relate“, explains Volker Reimers, executive director of the BallinStadt. Therefore, the main exhibition focuses on the stories and destinies of more than five million European emigrants, allowing visitors to learn about their hopes, dreams and desires.

Our guests come face to face with the fate of individual emigrants. The combination of interactive elements with historical documents and exhibits is deeply moving for everyone.

Original letters and photographs taken from family albums provide a deep personal insight into historical events. The BallinStadt has always met the challenge of reducing the distance between visitor and exhibit and therefore designed alternative ways of depiction, e.g. historical photographs brought back to life as living pictures. Talking figures, whose biographies are based on historically documented lives, tell visitors about their personal emigration experience. Standing behind Albert Ballin's enormous desk, the legendary ship-owner appears to be nearby. In the hull of a ship visitors experience the different travel conditions of a first-, second- and third- class crossing to the New World about a hundred years ago.

There are special ways for children to explore the days of emigration: dolls talk about their emigration experiences, certain passages and buttons are at eye level with children and they can find information about the passage in a tunnel on a reproduction of a ship.

The “Historical Pavilion” in house no. 3 focuses on the everyday life of emigrants staying in the historical Emigration Halls and also presents other ways in which the site has been used up to the present day.

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What an honor and tribute to the early Polish immigrants who decided to build this magnificent church and subscribed to it with their meager incomes. It was not an easy decision and there were many conflicts during the construction. A major portion of the immigrants were Kaszubian (Polish) and they are known to be stubborn and set in their ways. A majority of the parishioners wanted a new church because the parish had greatly outgrown the original, very small church, but there was also a large minority that wanted to divide the parish.

History:

The first Polish Immigrants came to Winona in 1855 and the numbers grew. Kaszubians understood the German language so they attended St. Joseph German Church. The numbers increased to the point at which the Polish immigrants wanted a church of their own.

Saint Stanislaus Kostka Parish was created in 1871 by the Bishop of St. Paul, and the community built a small frame church. It was completed in 1872 and was dedicated in June of 1873 when the first resident pastor arrived. An addition was built in 1883 that doubled the capacity.

By 1893, Pastor Rev. Anthony Klawiter announced that the church was no longer large enough to accommodate the rapidly increasing number of Polish immigrants settling in Winona. A decision had to be made to either divide the parish or build a new church of much larger proportions.

The public was first brought notice on February 2, 1894 that a new large church, not to be outgrown for years to come, would be built. On March 20, 1894, eight hundred parish members subscribed to fund this new church. On April 22, 1894 Architect J. N. Maybury, a committee from Saint Stanislaus Church and Father Klawiter went to Chicago to inspect a Catholic church that was somewhat similar to the one proposed.

On May 1, 1894, the parish decided to build their new church on the site of the existing church and not to divide the parish. Another site was considered but it would require purchasing more property, adding to the cost. The parish then requested the first installment of money on the subscriptions so that the project could start. In several days \$5,551.25 was deposited in a bank account and more was received every day.

The first bids, to be received on May 28 were for the erection of the stone foundation and basement using plans drawn up by C.G. Maybury & Sons Architects. The next step was the receipt of bids on June 2 to remove of the old church. One bid called for taking the old St. Stanislaus church apart and sorting all the material. Another bid was for taking the church apart with the lumber going to the contractor and the stone, brick and other material stored.

The meetings for approval of these contracts were contested by the minority that was against building the new church. Some parishioners would not attend the meeting because they wanted another location for the church, so the bids were not opened. The problem raised was where the parishioners would worship if the church was demolished.

At another meeting to sign the contract for the foundation, two of the parish officials refused because the low bidder would not get the contract. One contractor submitted his bid with a provision that he would subtract from his bid \$3,000 as his part of the subscription for the church and thus make him the low bidder by \$25

The church services were moved to St. John's Bohemian Church two blocks away by rental agreement. The old church was completely leveled by July 11, 1894 and the contracts were signed, so construction could begin.

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The foundation was completed on August 11, but the staircases were still being constructed.

To save paying rent for using St. John's Church, the parish decided to hold services in St. Stanislaus School starting September 1st until the new church was completed. A wooden thirty-five foot tower was erected in the school house yard for hanging two church bells from the old church.

On September 21, 1894 the contract for construction above the foundation was awarded to Wasiclewski & Hall Construction of Minneapolis with work to start immediately. The galvanized iron cornice work, statues and metal roof was awarded J. Scherinus Company of Chicago.

Scaffolding completely surrounded the perimeter and rose as the walls grew. It is said that teams of horses pulling ropes attached to pulleys raised the materials as they were needed for installation.

The corner stone was laid on Sunday October 28th with a public procession and Bishop Cotter officiating. The cornerstone contained copies of Saturday's *Winona Daily Republican* and *Herald*, the last *Katolik*, the Polish Weekly, a clipping of the May issue of the *Republican* with an account of the projected church, a history of St. Stanislaus Church, gold, silver and copper coins, a Colombian half dollar of 1893 issue, a cent and nickel of 1894 and two Polish groschen 150 years old.

On Saturday November 17, 1894, Frank Lacek a workman, fell from the scaffolding and fractured his skull. He died on Tuesday from the injuries received in the fall.

The brickwork was completed on December 6 and preparations for installing roof trusses and pillars started as soon as the hoisting engine and tackle arrived from Minneapolis.

Bids were approved for the plumbing, gas and electrical from Toye Plumbing & Heating of Winona.

On May 1st during a severe storm, the new St. Stanislaus Church was struck by lightning. The bolt struck the flag pole on the dome and followed the steel to the basement where a plumber and another worker were shocked. Neither were hurt. The severe wind blew down the scaffolding around the upper part of the dome set up for receiving the statue of St. Stanislaus. The scaffolding was rebuilt and a week later the statue was raised and placed on the top of the dome.

Another almost fatal accident occurred on May 22 when two workers on scaffolding in the church interior near the dome fell. The scaffold gave way and they fell with the plank they were standing on. Lorenz Borzyszkowski fell 20 feet to the gallery and managed to hold on while Dan Carroll struck his head on the gallery. It turned him partially and he landed on the floor some 60 feet below the scaffolding. Lorenz had bruises and Dan said he felt good with a great deal of pain in his right arm and possible internal injuries. Cause of the failure was that the scaffold was not properly secured.

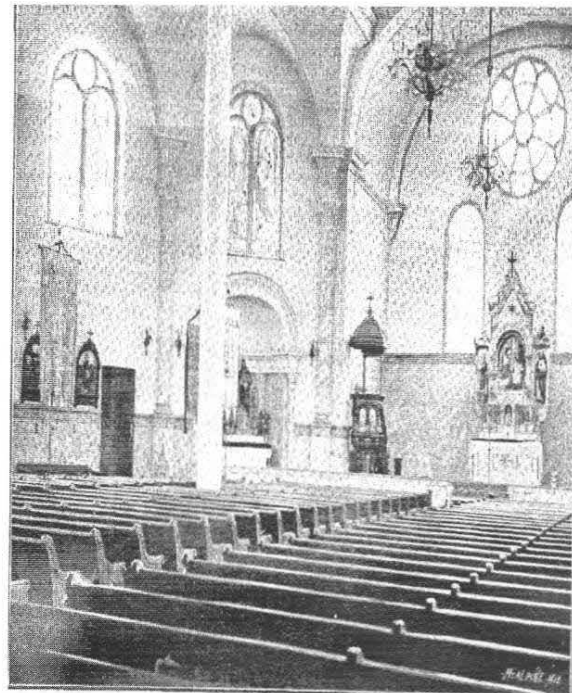
On July 1st the new church basement was completed. The church services were moved from the school house to the church basement.

An engineer selected to be the first janitor and attend the new steam boiler that would heat the church, school and convent was Vincent Gliszczinski. He was paid \$29 a month. Many thought he wouldn't work very long for that amount.

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DEDICATION DAY - THANKSGIVING NOVEMBER 28, 1895



ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA (POLISH CATHOLIC) CHURCH, WINONA, MN

On top of the dome is the fourteen foot statue of St. Stanislaus. He is holding in his right arm the Christ child and the hand holds a cross. The other hand holds a crown of thorns. From the ground to the top of St. Stanislaus is 172 feet. It is the tallest of the nineteen statues on the church. There are 14 - 5 foot 6 inch statues, angels with trumpets, St. Aloysius, St. John, St. Kasimir, three Madonnas, three of St. Vincent de Paul and four crosses. (Some of the statues have been removed thru the years due to deterioration.)

The interior of the church has two balconies. The first is for church seating and the upper one was for the organ and choir. Total seating capacity is 1800 persons. From the main floor to the ceiling is 46 feet. The pews from the old church were installed in the basement. The main floor was used for services on Sundays and Holidays. At other times services were held in the basement. As time passed all the services were moved to the main floor.

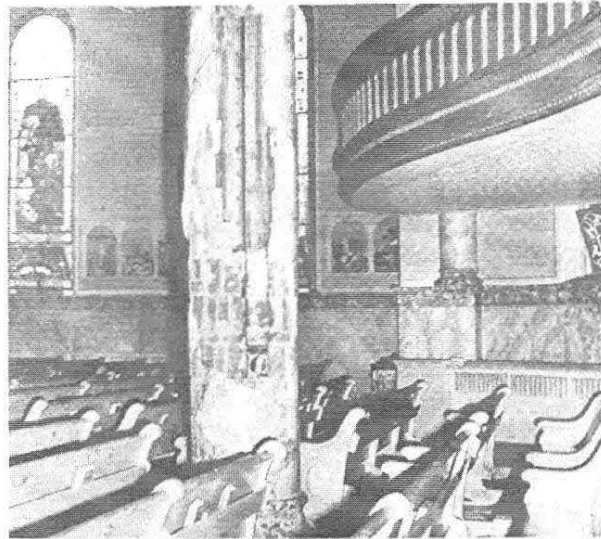
Valuation in 1894 was \$86,000.

New marble altars were installed in 1920.

The current seating capacity is listed as 1095 persons as renovations have reduced it substantially.

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Lightning struck the dome again and set it afire on Sunday June 5, 1966. The Winona Fire Department with quick action saved the church but there was heavy damage to the dome and interior of the church.



Church services were moved to the St. Stanislaus School gymnasium while the church was being restored. It was a joyous day on Sunday November 6, 1966 when services resumed in the church.

A Celebration of Elevation is being planned for **September 8 and 9, 2012.**

* * * * *

Shirley Mask Connolly sends us News from the Wilno Heritage Society

Farewell to the Founding President and Welcome to the New President

David Shulist, the founding president of the Wilno Heritage Society, officially resigned from his position at the Society's Annual General Meeting on Sunday, September 25, 2011. While the Society is deeply saddened to lose Dave who has inspired us with his passion for all things Kashub and has made the dream of making a place to commemorate and celebrate our Polish Kashub heritage a reality, we are very pleased to welcome Peter Gloczieskie who was elected as the new President.

Invitation to Visit

A hearty invitation is extended to our American Kashub cousins to visit Wilno, Ontario, and the Polish Kashubian Heritage Museum with its historic buildings and ever expanding exhibits and to browse the reference library. And do not forget The Kashub Day festival which is held annually on the first Saturday in May.

For more information: heritage@wilno.org and www.wilno.org