

*A big welcome to all our new & current members & supporters*

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### Chairperson's Report

On the 3rd of May this year I attended a reception organised by the Polish Embassy on the occasion of the Polish National Day. The reception was held at the James Cook Central Hotel in Wellington and was well attended by officials from the NZ Government, representatives of main political parties, and representatives of Polish communities throughout New Zealand.

Mr Soltysinski, the Charge d' Affaires of the Republic of Poland, commented in his official speech on the excellent cooperation and connections Poland now has with New Zealand, and expressed his hopes

for further expansion. Later, and in friendly and relaxed ambience, I had the great pleasure to meet members of other Polish communities whom I only knew from our phone conversations or letters. They all admired our Trust for its vigorous and successful actions and projects. It was an excellent event and an opportunity for all of us to share our ideas, and I would like to thank Mr. Soltysinski and his wife for organising the event.

We are still in the process of negotiating with the Otago University establishing an award for scholar or research work in subjects related to Polish heritage. I have not heard from Wellington on the progress of writing a book about Polish immigration by Dr. Teresa Sawicka, and sponsored by John Roy Wojciechowski, but I am sure it will eventuate. It would be yet another expansion of data on Polish immigration to New Zealand.

November is a very special month in Poland. The 1st and 2nd are All Saint and Souls days and are very spiritual moments dedicated to commemorating our departed ones. All over Poland cemeteries are lightened with candle flames and flowers, and crowded with gatherers reflecting on the past and present. Often it is a day of gathering for whole families and sharing memories and prayers. It is also the month when we celebrate Independence Day on the 11th of No-

vember. And finally, the 30th of November is an old Polish tradition called *Andrzejki*. The day is a fun time, with good music, dances, and games. The most popular game is pouring hot wax into cold water. Experienced wax shadow readers and future tellers predict one's future for the coming year. Games and dances usually last till the wee small hours of the next day.

Ogien plonie u komina,  
Zwawo krzata sie dziewczyna..  
Polnoc..Kur juz pierwszy pieje  
Czar sie zaczal...Wosk sie leje

Swawa Pociecha  
Chairperson

### TRUST MEMBERSHIP

\$10 - Students & Retired

\$15 - Single

\$25 - Family

*Membership is growing and if you are interested in becoming a financial member of the Trust contact Russell Chiles (Secretary) at Polish Heritage of Otago & Southland C/- 723 Highgate, Dunedin.*

### Genealogy Corner

The seminar on Polish Genealogy held at the Allanton Community Hall on the 30th of July was a successful afternoon with about 50 keen enthusiasts attending.

The seminar included a look at Poland's most popular tourist attractions in the way of video which was kindly supplied by Trish Clark

who had been to these destinations. And thanks to Cecylia Klobukowska for her interesting seminar on the Kashubian area and a video of the city of Gdansk after the effects of World War II and its rebuilding. I don't think some of us realised the destruction that occurred at that time to Poland.

We talked about the content to be included in the publication and what information was required by the members of their own families.

If you have any interesting stories to pass on about your Polish ancestry or any early photo's that may be suitable for the publication please get in touch with me.

We also had a look at a map of Poland outlaying the major areas where our ancestors came from and the research that has been involved.

Thanks to everyone who attended for their support & to the people who attended especially to the out-of-towners, to the people who helped with the afternoon tea & to the Allanton Community for the use of the hall.

Thanks to Edward Sakowski for providing his homemade wine for the next raffle. Which was won by Zeta Gray, Stephanie Zurakowski & Gaynor Lane, congratulations to you all.

Our next seminar will be held on the *1st of October* in Allanton at *1.30pm*. This seminar will include a walk around Allanton to view the various remnants our Polish ancestors left behind and a brief history of Allanton. If the weather decides to be against us a guest speaker will be provided. If you are interested in attending the seminar please contact Paul Klemick - 487 6554.

**FAMILY HISTORY**

**KREFT FAMILY**

*SURNAMES & THEIR ORIGINS*

*CHERKOWSKI/CHILKOWSKI derives from the word chylic sie. Meaning: to bend, bow, decline.*

*KOWALSKI derives from the word kowal. Meaning: smith, kowac- to forge metal.*

*KREFT derives from the German word kraft. Meaning: strength, power; most often originated as a first name.*

*STOBZ. Meaning: (Stob) root seen in names for places located above water in wet regions.*

John Martin Kreft (1847-1899), the son of Johann Kreft & Barbara Kowalska m. (1868 Gardschau) Rosalia Cherkowska (1848-1911), the daughter of Adalbert Cherkowski & Catharina Stobz. They settled in the village of Tscherbienin (Szczerbecin) in the parish of Garschau (Godziszewo) where they had their first two children being; Franz (1869-1869) & Johann (1870-1925). They then moved East to the village of Stenzlau (Stanislawice) in the parish of Leibschau (Lubiszewo Tczewskie). Here they gave birth to Joseph August (1873-1952) m. Catherine Crowley.

The family left the village of Stenzlau and headed for Hamburg where they set

aboard the ship "Lammershagen" which set sail on the 1st of April 1875 arriving at Wellington on the 11th of July 1875.

The family headed south to the settlement of Waihola where Rosalia's family had settled. Here they had the rest of their family being; Maria (1876-1912) m. John Pedofsky, Rosalie (1879) m. William Connell, Albert (1881), Martin (1884) m. Nellie Maley, Barbara (1887-1935) & Catharina (1889) m. Francis Calway.

John is listed in the Otago & Southland Directories as a miner in Bald Hill Flat in 1894 & a farmer in Akatore in 1895. They remained in Akatore where John died on the 22nd of September 1899. Rosalia died at Milton on the 31st of July 1911. Both are buried at the Fairfax Cemetery, Milton.

**Masses at Broad Bay for the Year 2000**



24 September - 9am  
 29 October - 9am  
 26 November - 9am  
 24 December - 9am  
 Note the masses are every fourth Sunday of the month.

**DANCE GROUP**

As you know a Polish Dance Group has been formed for the Society & have at hand about 3 to 4 couples who are keen. If you would like to take part in some fun please contact Paul Klemick - 487 6554.

The Society has been granted \$500 towards costumes and thanks to Patricia Clark, Rita Lauder and Angela Donaldson for investigating the fabric and to Angela for going out and purchasing the material.

The Polish Heritage Trust, in conjunction with two members of the Polish Performing Group from Wellington, is organising a 2 day workshop of Polish traditional dances.

The workshop will take place on the 23rd and 24th of this month. It will contain some historical and cultural background to Polish folk music and dance, as well as dance lessons. Most of the time will be devoted to practical lessons of basic steps of the Krakowiak, Polonaise and Kujawiak.

**Where**—Temple Art Gallery, 29 Moray Place, Dunedin.

**When**—(For members only) Saturday 23rd, 11am till 2pm & Sunday 24th 9am till 11.30am.

**When**—(For the public) Saturday 23rd, 3pm till 5.30pm & Sunday 24th, 12.30pm till 3.00pm Cost—\$20 for either Saturday or Sunday or \$30 for both days.

Number of participants are limited to 20 people per workshop so please get in quick.

Note that members who would like to participate in our dance group will not have to pay at this time.

To register and for further information contact Ludmila Sawkowski—ph: 487 7763, after 5pm.

The Temple Art Gallery kindly sponsors the workshop and the Polish Heritage Trust would like to thank the owners, Victoria and Peter Buchan for making this event possible

**JUBILEE A.D. 2000**

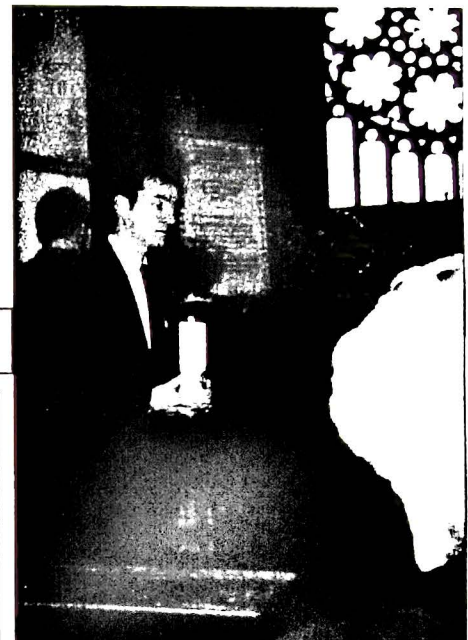


*Last month Ceycilaia Klobukowska, Trish Clark & Paul Klemick attended a mass at St Josephs Cathedral and a church seminar on the preparation of Jubilee Weekend (in celebration of 2000 years of Christianity) to be held on Friday the 1st of December till Sunday the 3rd.*

*Such an event will include a gathering of parishes and groups throughout Otago, displays, discussions, demonstrations, performances & a mass etc.*

*A timetable of events will be published in our later addi-*

*tion. We will bring you up to date news as it comes to hand. So we have just over two months to get things prepared. Each group received a large Jubilee candle to take away to their respective organisation. This is to be lit at our Sunday masses right up to the celebrations in December.*



**Feliks Kwiatkowski  
1924-2000**

It is said that our past experiences make us the people we are today and this was very true in the events that shaped my fathers life the way we all new him.

He was born the youngest of 3 children and was a very sickly

child that was not expected to live long, but right there we think was the first indications of his ability to defy the odds. He recovered and his early years were spent on the family farm working more than this older brother and sister did as they had their futures set—his sister was a seamstress and his brother was identified early as a genius, a fact my father was very proud of. The whole village paid for his brothers education and he was excused normal duties to concentrate on his studies. (He became a government minister later).

With the death of his own father, Feliks assumed to the role of farmer at age 10. Few of us could understand that today, but he cheerfully accepted that this was his lot and got on with it.

Feliks was always keen on new ideas. A troupe of acrobats went through the village and he was quite taken by a pole vaulter and saw at once he could use such a method to cross their stream rather than walk all the way to the bridge. He made up his poles, did a lot of practice in the safety of the fields, and then set off to try it out. Success was short lived however as the bottom of the stream was thick with mud and his pole sank into this and left him stranded on the top of the pole upright and only halfway through its intended arc.

Farming also had its distasteful side. Killing the Xmas turkey proved difficult for Feliks who

did not realise this is done by holding the turkey and cutting off its head—he held the head and cut off the turkey, the result being the headless chook seemingly homed in on a sprinting and very frightened Feliks.

War came to Poland as it had many times in its history. The main towns were dealt with by the Germans and after a year of their occupation they turned their attention to the smaller villages. Feliks was rounded up with most of the menfolk from his area and put on the cattle trucks to a labour camp. The full horrors of this time are something we read about, or see archive footage of, but this inhuman time was very much part of Feliks life. Few could imagine what a 16 year old would think as systematically all the people he knew from his school or village were butchered usually at a whim of the Germans. He survived the camp until it was liberated by the US army—only then did he know the camps location was on the Bavarian border.

Feliks set off for Poland heading for home but was told before he got too far to turn back, everyone was dead, all the towns flattened, and the communists were coming through. The Reds were considered worse than the Nazis, so he did turn back and joined the US Army in the Polish Guard.

The tough start to his life, the time in the camp, what he had

seen and endured, seemed to be put in the background during his time in the military. It was a time he enjoyed immensely—the war was nearly over, the Americans wanted for nothing, and this must have been quite a new experience for him.

The Americans used the Polish Guard in areas where German prisoners were escaping freely. American soldiers didn't seem able to keep their prisoners behind the wire but this changed with the Poles who never asked an escapee to "stop or I shoot" - it was clearly understood the Poles owed them no such courtesy.

The Poles were often the brunt of American humour and derision and there was a particular colonel that thought all Poles were too stupid to obey the rules. Feliks and his fellow guards knew of this and it so happened that one day this colonel decided to catch them slacking on duty and crept up in the night to prove his beliefs. Unfortunately he was heard approaching and Feliks and another guard jumped him and threw him down in the mud and snow with a rifle in his back. They left him like that for the 8 hours remaining of their watch and then frogmarched him off to headquarters as a prisoner. The colonel wanted them "shot at dawn" but they merely said they were obeying orders, what more could a dumb polak do?

Mostly though, the balance of

the war was quite fun. Feliks found he could write his name on a wall with a machine gun, a practise that was discontinued due to the fact there are no short Polish names, and there was still a war on after all. Feliks often spoke of climbing down the barrel of "Big Bertha", sitting in Hitlers Mercedes, visiting Batesgarden (Hitlers mountain retreat) and many othere sights and experiences of that time.

Upon his discharge from the army Feliks headed through Germany, a country he really did like, and ended up in Holland where he met his future wife, Janna. He lived there for a couple of years before coming to New Zealand and the memories of myself and my brothers and sister are nearly all from this time onward.

It was very obvious to us even as children that Dad was a very tireless worker, never complaining, always able to get on with what had to be done. Clearly his past formed such disciplines were the backbone of the man, he was a perfectionist in whatever he set out to achieve, things had to be done right, in a workmanlike manner, and had to last for years, as they usually did.

This perfectionism extended to always putting cups in military rows, tidying up your house if he was visiting, to being a bit difficult to listen to on the piano accordion that he loved to play. He was self taught on the accordion but would never

leave a wrong note played—he would stop, go back a bar, and do it right. Hard to dance to. But it does illustrate the attention to detail that was his hallmark.

As children we have learned the benefit of being fair to every one, not judging those who fail, having ni ill too speak of any person, and also of doing whatever you can to help others when it is needed. Feliks overcame more than most boys or men would have in life, it determination was all that was required to cure cancer he would have excelled, but this is not the way it works and he finally succumbed late in July.

He leaves his wife and seven children to treasure his memories and to pass on to their children the story of this remarkable man.

Tadeusz Kwiatkowski.

**POLISH NEWS!!!**

*Warsaw, Sept. 1: The Remembrance , Responsibility and Future fund that will administer the 10 billion DEM granted by Germany to wartime slave workers officially opened in Berlin Friday.*

*Poland is to receive about 1.8 billion DM for about 500 thousand persons entitled to receive compensation, Mateusz Chachaj of the Polish-German Reconciliation Foundation told PAP.*

*Gdansk Thursday opened it Humanity day celebrations with addresses to school youth by Warsaw's wartime secret courier Jan Nowak-Jesioranski and film director Andrzej Wajda.*

*Humanity Day, a remembrance event organised by Gdansk's archbishop Tadeusz Goclowski, is planned as a retrospective on the Solidarity union's 20-year history and the 20th century's experiences with totalitarian systems.*

*In speeches to Gdansk secondary-school students Nowak-Jezioranski and Wajda praised altruism as an essential value in life and warned that social freedom also carried responsibilities.*

*The Foreign Ministry informed Friday that visas for travellers to and from Poland and the post-Soviet republics will be introduced in mid-October.*

*The main ceremony marking the 61st anniversary of Germany's invasion of Poland and the outbreak of WWII was held at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw. Present were war veterans, scouts and state officials with Senate speaker Alicja Grzeskowiak.*

*President Aleksander Kwasniewski attended the ceremonies held to commemorate the battle of Mokra near Klobuck, one of the famous battles of the Polish defensive war in September, 1939. A roll call was*

*held at the monument to those fallen in the battle.*

*"I bow my head today in honour of all heroes of the war," Kwasniewski said. "We shall never forget our past. We must remember for the sake of our dead and for our own sake."*

Well I hope this newsletter finds you all fit and well and until next time - *Do widzenia* Paul Klemick (ED).

*The Prime Ministers of Poland and Ukraine in Cracow Friday attended the unveiling of a monument to Ukrainian civilians and soldiers who died of disease in a pre-war internment camp at Cracow.*

*The unveiling ceremony took place in Cracow's Rakowicki cemetery.*

*The camp, which operated between 1918 and 1921 in Cracow's Dabie district, was used to confine military and political prisoners from Poland, Ukraine and the Czech and Slovak territories. 351 Ukrainians died there in epidemics of typhoid, scarlet fever and cholera.*

*Compiled from the Polish Press Agency new service.*

## **Hot News**

*Ludmila Sakowska is going to be on Chanel 9 (Local tv) on the programme "Magazine 3rd Floor". She will be talking about Polish dancing on the 21st of September at about 5pm & 9pm.*