

Lithuanian Genealogy Resources for Western Pennsylvania



Dzukijan farmstead, Rumsiskis, Lithuania

Robert Medonis Jr Editor 1999 Copyright applied for

I hope that *Lithuanian Genealogy Resources for Western Pennsylvania* helps you in your search for your Lithuanian roots. It includes the three issues of the *Lithuanian Genealogical Committee Newsletter* as well as maps, Lithuanian archives information and the form for ordering records from the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh's Archives.

The third issue of the *Newsletter* contains the most current information with two exceptions. The first is that the cemetery and death records for St. Peter and Paul's Church of Homestead have been found and they are currently stored at St. Maximilian Kolbe's parish office. St. Maximilian's parish office has moved and their new address and telephone number are:

St. Maximilian Kolbe
129 East 10th Avenue
Homestead, PA 15120
412-461-1054

The other change, which I am happy to relate, is that the Diocese of Pittsburgh has changed their policy concerning sacramental records stored at the Diocesan Archives. The previous policy restricted access to records less than 100 years old. The new policy allows genealogical research on records between 70 and 100 years old but proof of death must be provided. I have included a copy of this form.

The maps are for Dzūkija region of Lithuania, which is in southern area of the country. Dzūkija was and still is the most rural section of Lithuania and the poorest and many Dzūkijans emigrated to Western Pennsylvania. Dzūkija is also one of the four ethnographic regions of Lithuania. This means that Dzūkija possesses a distinct dialect and folk culture.

Another source of information is the Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society, which is an on-line Lithuanian genealogy group. The Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society maintains numerous databases on its web site as well as supporting a Lithuanian genealogy list server and publishing a Lithuanian genealogy newsletter, *Proteviai*. The web site was established in May of 1999 and the first issue of *Proteviai* came out in June of 1999.

The Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society's web address is:

<http://www.lithuaniangenealogy.org>

Basic membership is \$15 and it includes a year's subscription to *Proteviai*, unlimited surname submissions on their web site and special discounts on Lithuanian merchandise. Membership requests and a check or money order should be mailed to:

Arvidas K. Jarasius, Treasurer
Lithuanian Global Genealogical Society
4189 West 97th Court
Westminister, CO 80030

The last thing I would like to say is:

"Genealogy - where the dead are confused and the living are irritated"

Robert Medonis Jr
Editor

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Publisher & Editor
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Table of Contents

Editor's Forum

Diocese of Pittsburgh's Record Policy

Notes on Records

Catholic Parish Records

Catholic Cemetery Records

Lithuanian Synagogue Records

Contributors to St. Casimir's Parish

Silver Jubilee 1918

Editor's Forum

I finally finished this third issue and unfortunately it will be my last. I have enjoyed putting these newsletters together but I do not have the time to continue doing so. However if anyone would like to take over this newsletter please write to me.

I would like to take this opportunity to correct mistakes from Issue 2 where I stated that Prof. Shea of the Polish Genealogical Society of the Northeast used the Lithuanian National Archives illegally. He did not. Prof. Shea followed all procedures using the Archives and I apologize for stating that he did not. Prof. Shea also pointed out three mistakes in my notes from his lecture. Polish archives publishes guides and not indexes to their holdings and the Lithuanian National Archives also publishes a guide to their holdings. Also I was not correct in stating that the Russians have denied the existence of the Imperial Military Archives. One last correction is on Catholic parish records where I said that they were partly typed and written in the 20th century when in fact nearly all the records are handwritten.

Editors Forum

I would like to thank the following individuals, organizations and staffs for their help with this issue and past issues: Lisa Pinigis, Joyce Dodge, Rabbi Savich, Rabbi Jacob, Julian Faulk, Carolyn Shumacher, Susan Melnick, Ave Maria Parish, St. Mary's of the Visitation Parish, Prince of Peace Parish, Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, St. Joseph's Parish, St. John of God Parish, Our Lady of the Valley Parish, Good Shepherd Parish, St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Holy Child Parish, Holy Family Parish (Polish National Catholic Church), St. Paul Cathedral Parish, St. Patrick -St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, St. Peter Parish, Christ the Light of World Parish, Archives of Industrial Society, and Burris Esplen of the Diocesan Archives.

I would like to thank Frank Ziaukas for all the help he has given me with my own genealogy research. Finally I would like to thank Kathleen Sechler who has done a tremendous amount of work for this newsletter over the years and who has been a great help. I would also like to thank Kathy for the aid she has given me with my own family research.

Diocese of Pittsburgh's Record Policy

The Diocese of Pittsburgh instituted an one hundred year closure rule on its sacramental records in September/October 1994 and requested all parishes in the Diocese send their sacramental records 75 years and older to the Diocesan Archives. The Diocesan Archives does genealogy research but this closure rule prevents them from searching the records for the years 1898-1925. Older parishes will send the researcher copies of records no matter what the year be it 1906 or 1956 but if the records are in the Diocesan Archives the closure rule applies.

This rule is a stumbling block for Lithuanian genealogists as 1898-1925 were the years of the major Lithuanian immigration into Western Pennsylvania. Furthermore priests of this era often included the villages of origin, family members and friends on the records. The names of ancestral villages more often than not were forgotten or lost by families leaving sacramental records and passenger lists as the only sources. Passenger lists are very hard to request due to the detail required by the National Archives.

Diocese of Pittsburgh cont.

Sacramental records are priceless due to their accessibility and data.

The Diocese instituted this policy on their accord for it was a recommendation of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Canonical Affairs Committee. The Archives did not have a copy of the Committee Report for I wanted to know why the Committee wanted to restrict access for one hundred years. I can not think of any valid reasons. Procedures can be set up to handle adoptions, illegitimate births, third party researchers and normal requests and if they do not have enough staff fees can be increased. The Diocese should input all sacramental records onto a database accessible to researchers. Please write or fax a letter to Bishop Wuerl requesting that this policy be changed.

His Excellency Bishop Donald Wuerl
111 Boulevard of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Fax: (412) 456-3139

Notes on Records

Please keep in mind that the composition of these various parishes and synagogues was not cut and dried. Many Lithuanians attended St. Stanislaus and St. Adalberts even though they were Polish parishes and likewise St. Luke was Lithuanian but it had a large contingent of Slovaks. Another angle was that parishes were listed as territorial when in reality they were ethnic an example being Our Lady of the Visitation in Export. Synagogues also had overlapping ethnicities as a synagogue may have been founded by Lithuanians but this does not mean it remained Lithuanian. Synagogues listed as Lithuanian were founded by Lithuanians but whether they retained their Lithuanian identity is an another matter unknown as records of these synagogues are poor.

A bright spot in the parish record picture is Ascension whose sacramental records are on microfilm at the Archives of Industrial Society on the 3rd floor of Hillman Library on the Oakland campus of the University of Pittsburgh. They will not do searches by mail; one has to come to Pittsburgh and search the microfilm oneself.

Notes cont.

The records for Beth Jacob and Rodef Shalom synagogue which are stored at The Senator John Heinz Regional History Center have to be searched through in person. The Archives Staff will not do research via mail.

St. Peter and Paul's parishioners were buried in St. Mary's Cemetery which but the cemetery records were kept at St. Peter and Paul. When St. Peter and Paul was suppressed in 1992 the cemetery records were given to Calvary which was to take over St. Mary Cemetery. However this arrangement fell through and the cemetery went back to the parish this time the St. Maxmilliam Kolbe Parish. However Calvary Cemetery and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish both claim not to have the records. Word on the street is that the records never left the basement of St. Michael's which is where St. Maximilian Kolbe has their parish offices. So we have to add another question to the list of Western Pennsylvania mysteries:

1. What happened to the B-25 that crashed into the Monongahela by the Homestead High Level Bridge on January 31, 1956?

2. Who owned the land the Civic Arena was built on?

3. Where are St. Peter and Paul's cemetery records?

As with Bishop Wuerl and his records policy we need to keep the pressure on. Please write St. Maximilian Kolbe parish or call and ask where the cemetery records are.

Other things to remember are that St. Stanislaus' cemetery records were destroyed in the 1936 St. Patrick Days Flood which means if you want to find if someone was buried in St. Stanislaus Cemetery you will have to walk through and check every headstone. Finally St. Anthony parishioners are buried in St. Agatha's Cemetery.

Catholic Parish Records

Name: Archives and Record Center
Diocese: Pittsburgh
Address: Synod Hall

Catholic Parish Records cont.

Address: 125 North Craig Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-1510
(412) 621-6217

Name: St. Adalbert
Status: Polish
Founded: 1883
Supp: 1992
Diocese: Pittsburgh
Location: Pittsburgh-South Side
County: Allegheny
Records: Prince of Peace Parish
81 South 13th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
(412) 431-0168
Dates: 1925-1992
Archives: 1883-1924

Name: St. Agnes
Status: Irish
Founded: 1867
Supp: 1993
Diocese: Pittsburgh
Location: Pittsburgh-SoHo
County: Allegheny
Records: St. Paul Cathedral Parish
108 North Dithridge Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 621-4951
Dates: 1925-1993
Archives: 1867-1924

Name: St. Anthony
Status: Lithuanian
Founded: 1913
Supp: 1994
Diocese: Pittsburgh
Location: Bridgeville
County: Allegheny
Records: Holy Child
212 Station Street
Bridgeville, PA 15017
(412) 221-5213
Dates: 1913-1994
Archives: None

Catholic Parish Records cont.

Name: Ascension
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1906
 Supp: 1962
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Pittsburgh-North Side
 County: Allegheny
 Records: St. John of God
 810 Chartiers Avenue
 McKees Rocks, PA 15136
 (412) 771-5646
 Dates: 1923-1962
 Archives: 1906-1922
 Records: Archives of Industrial Society
 363 Hillman Library
 Pittsburgh, PA 15260
 (412) 648-7184
 Dates: 1906-1962

Name: St. Casimir
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1922
 Supp: 1985
 Diocese: Greensburg
 Location: East Vandergrift
 County: Armstrong
 Records: Our Lady Queen of Peace
 400 Kennedy Avenue
 East Vandergrift, PA 15629
 (412) 567-7603
 Dates: 1922-1985
 Archives: None

Name: St. Casimir
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1891
 Supp: 1992
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Pittsburgh-South Side
 County: Allegheny
 Records: Prince of Peace
 81 South 13th Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15203
 (412) 431-0168
 Dates: 1925-1992
 Archives: 1891-1924

Catholic Parish Records cont.

Name: St. Cyprian
 Status: Polish
 Founded: 1920
 Supp: 1964
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Pittsburgh-North Side
 County: Allegheny
 Records: St. Peter
 720 Arch Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15212
 (412) 321-0711
 Dates: 1920-1964
 Archives: None

Name: St. George Lithuanian National
 Catholic Church
 Status: Lithuanian dissident church
 Founded: 1925
 Closed: 1943
 Location: Pittsburgh-South Side
 County: Allegheny
 Records: Unknown

Name: St. Hedwig
 Status: Polish
 Founded: 1895
 Supp: 1994
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Duquesne
 County: Allegheny
 Records: Christ the Light of the World
 32 South 1st Street
 Duquesne, PA 15110
 (412) 469-0196
 Dates: 1895-1994
 Archives: 1895-1925

Name: St. Isidore
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1914
 Supp: 1985
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Braddock
 County: Allegheny
 Records: Good Shepherd
 416 Verona Street
 Braddock, PA 15104
 (412) 271-1515
 Dates: 1916-1985
 Archives: None

Catholic Parish Records cont.

Name: St. Joseph
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1906
 Supp: 1963
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Donora
 County: Washington
 Records: Our Lady of the Valley
 571 Thompson Avenue
 Donora, PA 15033
 (412) 379-4777

Dates: 1907-1963
 Archives: None

Name: St. Joseph
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1893 - Still in existence
 Diocese: Erie
 Location: DuBois
 County: Clearfield
 Records: St. Joseph
 15 South Avenue
 DuBois, PA 15801
 (814) 371-7956

Name: St. Luke
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1903
 Supp: 1994
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Ellsworth-Bentleyville
 County: Washington
 Records: Ave Maria
 P.O. Box 650
 Ellsworth, PA 15331
 (412) 239-3591

Dates: 1925-1994
 Archives: 1903-1924

Name: St. Mary's of the Visitation
 Status: Territorial
 Founded: 1903- Still in existence
 Diocese: Greensburg
 Location: Export
 County: Westmoreland
 Records: St. Mary's of the Visitation
 5900 Kennedy Avenue
 Export, PA 15632
 (412) 327-0647

Catholic Parish Records cont.

Name: St. Peter and Paul
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1900
 Supp: 1992
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Homestead
 County: Allegheny
 Records: St. Maximilian Kolbe
 605 Ninth Avenue
 Munhall, PA 15120
 (412) 461-1054

Dates: 1925-1992
 Archives: 1900-1924

Name: St. Stanislaus
 Status: Polish
 Founded: 1875
 Supp: 1993
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Pittsburgh-Strip District
 County: Allegheny
 Records: St. Patrick-St. Stanislaus Kostka
 1711 Liberty Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15227
 (412) 471-4767

Dates: 1920-1993
 Archives: 1875-1919

Name: St. Vincent de Paul
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1902
 Supp: 1993
 Diocese: Pittsburgh
 Location: Pittsburgh-Esplan
 County: Allegheny
 Records: St. John of God
 810 Chartiers Avenue
 McKees Rocks, PA 15136
 (412) 771-5646

Dates: 1922-1993
 Archives: 1902-1921

Catholic Cemeteries

Name: St. Adalbert
 Status: Parish
 Records: Prince of Peace Parish
 81 South 13th Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Catholic Cemeteries cont.

Records: (412) 431-0168

Name: St. Agatha Cemetery
 Status: Parish
 Records: Holy Child
 212 Station Street
 Bridgeville, PA 15017
 (412) 221-5213

Name: Braddock Catholic Cemetery
 Status: Diocesan
 Records: 1560 Brinton Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15221
 (412) 271-5950

Name: Calvary Cemetery
 Status: Diocesan
 Records: 718 Hazelwood Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15217
 (412) 421-9959

Name: St. Casimir Cemetery
 Status: Parish
 Records: 430 Cathedral Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15210
 (412) 381-2039

Name: St. Hedwig Cemetery
 Status: Parish
 Records: Christ the Light of the World
 Parish
 32 South 1st Street
 Duquesne, PA 15110
 (412) 469-0196

Name: Lithuanian National Cemetery
 also known as St. George
 Lithuanian Cemetery but never
 affiliated with St. George
 Lithuanian National
 Catholic Church
 Status: Independent
 Records: Frank Zelkovic (412) 481-2810
 Ann Burnett (412) 481-2787

Name: St. Luke Cemetery
 Status: Parish
 Records: Ave Maria Parish
 P.O. Box 650
 Ellsworth, PA 15331

Catholic Cemeteries cont.

Records: (412) 239-3591

Name: St. Mary Cemetery
 Status: Parish
 Records: St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
 605 Ninth Avenue
 Munhall, PA 15120
 (412) 461-1054

Name: North Side Catholic Cemetery
 Status: Diocesan
 Records: 204 Cemetery Lane
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237
 (412) 931-2206

Name: St. Stanislaus-St. Anthony
 Cemetery
 Status: Parish
 Records: 700 Soose Road
 Pittsburgh, PA 15209-1544
 (412) 821-4324

Lithuanian Synagogues

Name: Ahavath Achem
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1920
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Johnstown
 County: Cambria
 Records: Unknown

Name: Agudath Achim
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1885
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Altoona
 County: Blair
 Records: Unknown

Name: Beth Israel
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1890
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Sharon
 County: Mercer

Lithuanian Synagogues cont.

Records: Unknown
 Name: Beth Israel
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1901
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Washington
 County: Washington
 Records: Unknown
 Name: Beth Jacob
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1880 - Present
 Location: Pittsburgh-Hill District
 County: Allegheny
 Records: Beth Jacob
 1230 Colwell
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 (412) 471-4443
 Dates: Unknown
 Records: Historical Society of
 Western Pennsylvania
 1212 Smallman Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222
 (412) 454-6364
 Dates: Unknown
 Name: B'nai Gemiluth Chesed
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1868
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Titusville
 County: Crawford
 Records: Unknown
 Name: B'nai Israel
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1870
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Pittsburgh-Hill District
 County: Allegheny
 Records: Unknown

Lithuanian Synagogues cont.

Name: Keneseth Israel
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1918
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Kittanning
 County: Armstrong
 Records: Unknown
 Name: Rodef Shalom
 Status: Significant Lithuanian presence
 Founded: 1894
 Disbanded: 1992
 Location: Homestead
 County: Allegheny
 Records: Historical Society of
 Western Pennsylvania
 1212 Smallman Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222
 (412) 454-6364
 Dates: 1901-1991
 Name: Shaare Torah
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: Unknown
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Pittsburgh
 County: Allegheny
 Records: Unknown
 Name: Sons of Israel
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1894
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: DuBois
 County: Clearfield
 Records: Unknown
 Name: Temple Israel
 Status: Significant Lithuanian presence
 Founded: 1904
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Uniontown
 County: Fayette
 Records: Unknown

Lithuanian Synagogues cont.

Name: Tiffereth Israel
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1894
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: New Castle
 County: Lawrence
 Records: Unknown

Name: Tree of Life
 Status: Significant Lithuanian presence
 Founded: 1864
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Pittsburgh
 County: Allegheny
 Records: Unknown

Name: Tree of Life
 Status: Lithuanian
 Founded: 1901
 Disbanded: Unknown
 Location: Uniontown
 County: Fayette
 Records: Unknown

Notes on the Lithuanian Synagogues:

The information on Lithuanian Synagogues was taken from:

The Jewish Experience in Western Pennsylvania
 by Jacob Feldman. Copyright 1986. Published by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania.

The records of Beth Jacob stored in the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania Archives are in the process of being indexed so the date ranges for that material and the material still at Beth Jacob are too approximate to use. Please contact the Historical Society or Beth Jacob for more up to date information. Furthermore Beth Jacob merged with Beth Hamedrash Hagodol so the official name is:

Beth Hamedrash Hagodol-Beth Jacob
 Congregation.

Finally Rabbi Jacob of Rodef Shalom Congregation is writing a book on the Jewish communities of Western Pennsylvania outside of metropolitan Pittsburgh. If anyone has any information on them please write to him at:

Lithuanian Synagogues cont.

Rodef Shalom Congregation
 4905 5th Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Contributors to St. Casimir's Parish Silver Jubilee 1918

Adomaite	W	Brazinskas	Martinas
Aikevicius	J	Bubelas	Pranas
Aleliunas	V	Bubelis	Pranas
Aleliunas	Wladislovas	Budvidas	Joz
Alieksnenis	Juozas	Bujokas	J
Aliukonis	Raulas	Butkaite	Marijona
Aliukonis	Vincas	Butkus	Adomas
Aluskas	A	Butkus	Antanas
Ambrasas	A	Butvinskas	Juozas
Andriunas	Antanas	Cariene	Pranciska
Andrunas	Antanas	Ceponis	Ignacas
Arbasauskas	Baltrius	Cipononis	J
Arkusauckas	Antanas	Cizauskas	J
Armukavicius	Povilas	Dailyde	Juozas
Aurila	Petras	Dambrauskaite	Ona
Aurila	Petras	Dauginikas	W
Avynas	J	Daugininkas	Antanas
Bacvinskas	Jurgis	Dauksas	J
Balazantis	M	Dauksas	Juozas
Balcionis	B	Delideniute	Ona
Balukinas	Simonas	Didjurgis	P
Baranauckiene	Kostancija	Dikevicius	J
Baranauskas	A	Diladeniute	Ona
Barsaitis	J	Draugija Jezaus	
Barsauskas	K	Dubosiute	K
Bartininkas	J	Dubosukas	K
Bartininkas	Jonas	Dumbliauskas	Juozas
Bartininkas	V	Duzieniene	P
Bartininkas	Velerinas	Estutis	Jonas
Barzda	Antana	Gaiciunas	Juozas
Batvinskas	J	Gidevicius	Steponas
Bernadizus	Povilas	Gidziauvicius	Steponas
BernataVICIUS	Juozas	Giedraitis	A
Bernatevicius	Juozas	Giedraitis	Juozas
Bernatonis	Ben	Giedvaitis	A
Bernidisius	P	Gilius	Petras
Bernotas	A	Girdauskas	Juozas
Bicken	Mary	Globis	Andriejus
Bikinaite	Tekla	Grafiute	M
Bikinaite	Tekla	Grafus	A
Bitinas	K	Grajauskas	J
Blazaitiene	P	Greicius	M
Blazaitis	Y	Griciene	Kotrina
BorenavicIUS	A	Grivickas	Povilas
Brazinkas	A	Gudavicius	Antanas
Brazinskaite	M	Gurauskas	S
Brazinskas	A	Gutauskas	V
Brazinskas	M	Gvalda	K

Contributors to St. Casimir's Parish Silver Jubilee 1918

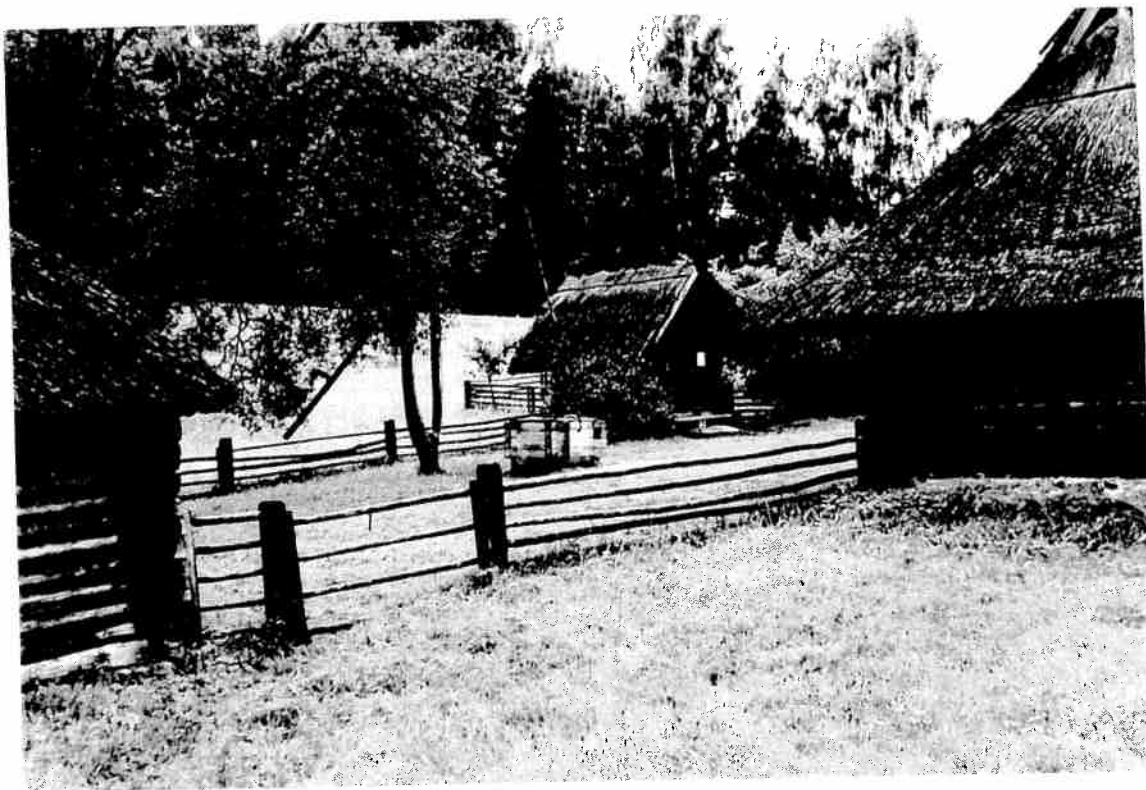
Ierusevicius	Petras	Kontanauskas	B	
Ivanauskas	J	Kozlauskas	P	
Ivanauskas	Juozas	Krivickas	Andrius	
Jaginskas	J	Krusaite	Hiacinta	
Jankauskas	A	Kudzius	Raulinas	
Jankauskas	J	Kungis	Antanas	
Janukaitis	Juozas	Kvederiene	Liudvika	
Janulis	Jonas	A Kvederis	Frank	
Januska	P	Kvederis	I	
Januskauskas	P	Kvederis	Mrs	T
Jaskunaite	Ona	Kvederis	S	
Jekovickas	V	Labunaitis	F	
Jenuska	Petras	Laurinaitis	J	
Jenuszka	Petras	Laurinaitis	J	
Jerapavicius	Ona	Laurusonis	Jurgis	
Jerusicius	Petras	Lausaitis	Juozas	
Jeseniauskaite	Roze	Lelionis	Andrius	
Jesiulis	J	Letockunas	M	
Jonelaitis	J	Lipinskas	I	
Jonelaitis	Jonas	Lithuanian Citizens Club		
Jonulis	A	Lucinskas	K	
Juksna	J	Luniauckas	K	
Jukubauskas	A	Markunas	P	
Juosnukis	J	Markusas	Jonas	
Juozapaviciute	Ona	Marmokas	Motiejus	
Juozavicius	J	Martinaitiene	P	
Juozavicius	Juozas	Masandukas	Petras	
Jurciukonis	Motiejus	Masiulis	T	
Jurgaitiene	J	Masiulis	Tomas	
Jurgaitis	Ignas	Masiulonis	Jonas	
Jurkoniene	Viktorija	Medzius	Gabrielius	
Jurkoniene	Viktorija	Medzius	Gabrielius	
Kaiciunas		Mickevicaite	Marijona	
Kavaliaus	S	Mikeska	Ignas	
Kazlauckas	P	Mikeska	Ignas	
Keldusis	Petras	Mikeska	Petras	
Kelmiekas	Kazimieras	Mikeszka	Petras	
Kelminskas	Kazimieras	Miksonas	K	
Kibarta	Jeronimas	Miksonis	K	
Kibartas	Juozas	Moceika	K	
Kibirkstis	D	Mockunas	P	
Kincius	J	Mockunas	T	
Kinderis	Jonas	Moteru Sajunga		
Kinsgaila	J	Narbuta	Kaz	
Kivinskas	A	Nauja	J	
Klimiete	Ona	Naujokas	J	
Klimiute	Ona	Navickas	Dominikas	
Kliubas	Narbato	Navickas	Domininkas	

Contributors to St. Casimir's Parish Silver Jubilee 1918

Navickas	Paul	Sarynskiene	E	
Norbuta	Kazimieras	Sauris	John	K
Norbutas	J	Saurys	Jonas	
Norbutas	Kazimieras	Savickas	J	
Norkus	J	Savickas	Juozas	
Norvaisas	J	Seima	Mikas	
Obiecunas	J	Seimas	Mikas	
Obiecunas	P	Senbaras	Pranas	
Ozuskaite	Jieva	Serksnas	Jonas	
Pagereckis	A	Serksnas	P	
Pakutynskas	Mikas	Serksnis	Jonas	
Palucis	Antanas	Serksznas	Pranas	
Palupis	Antanas	Simkus	Jonas	
Paulukaitis	A	Simkus	Jonas	
Paulukonis	Vincas	Simonavicius	J	
Pecinskas	Jonas	Simonavicius	Stanislovas	
Petraitis	J	Sinkevicius	K	
Petraitis	Jonas	Skirsnis	P	
Petrauckas	D	Slezauskiene	Antonina	
Petrauskas	Jurgis	Slezauskiene	Antonina	
Pociunas	Kaz	Smigelokis	A	
Pojinauskas	J	Sprigis	Kaz	
Poska	J	Stabingas	Martinas	
Potsievicz	S	Staniauskas	K	
Pozinauskas	T	Stanisauskas	P	
Pranckus	P	Stanisauskas	P	
Pranckus	P	Stanisevice	Marcele	
Pronckietis	Augustus	Stankauskas	Pranas	
Pustelnikas	John	Stieninis	Petras	
Radzewicz	Mariona	Stockunas	M	
Radzukinas	A	Stockus	Kazimieras	
Ragauskas	J	Stockus	M	
Rasimas	J	Storkus	Kazimieras	
Rasimas	J	Stravinskas	P	
Rauktis	Antanas	Stravinskas	Pranas	
Rimkus	A	Striginas	S	
Riska	Antanas	Stroginis	S	
Riszka	Antanas	Stukas	Kazimieras	
Rupslaukaite	Barbora	Stulga	Felix	
Ruptaikaite	Barbora	Sukesiunas	J	
Rutkauskas	P	Sulskis	Antanas	
Rutkauskas	Petras	Sv Juozapo Draugyste		
Rutkowski	Alex	Sv Kazimiero Blaivininku		
Sabutiene	M	Sv Povilo Draugyste		
Sabutis	Anna	Sviezikas	Ignas	
Sadauskas	V	Sviezikas	V	
Sakavicius	K	Sznikstiene	Pranciska	
Samuleviciute	Ona	Takazauskaas	Jonas	

Contributors to St. Casimir's Parish Silver Jubilee 1918

Tamkevicia	A	Zaleckas	P
Tamkievicius	Jonas	Zaleckas	P
Tarpavicus	I	Zamulevicius	Juozas
Tarvidas	Stanislovas	Zamulevicius	Juozas
Tarvidas	Stanislovas	Zasinas	D
Tomasaukas	Motiejus	Zavitauskas	J
Tomkowicz	A	Zemancius	K
Trenekietis	Augustas	Ziaukas	A
Truskauskas	Jurgis	Zilienis	Antanas
Truskauskas	Povilas	Zilinskas	A
Ulis	Mikola	Zilinskas	Ant
Urbonas	W	Zilinskas	Antanas
Urlakis	Jonas	Zimneviciene	Petrone
Vaisnoras	Baltrus	Zimnickas	J
Valalis	Roze	Zimnickas	Jonas
Valancius	Pranas	Zinkevicia	Jurgis
Valincius	B	Zoydel	Thomas
Valiukaite	Petrone	Zubus	Ignas
Valukas	Barbara	Zukevicius	J
Varasiunas	K	Zuraitiene	J
Varasius	Adomas	Zuzius	Vladas
Vasilauskas	Jonas	Zvejis	Juliona
Vasilauskas	K	Zydzianas	Jonas
Vasilis	Juozas		
Veckute	Marcele		
Verigia	A		
Vidunas	J		
Vienazindis	Peter		
Vincianas	Danelius		
Vinciunas	D		
Visniauskas	J		
Visniauskas	V		
Vitkunas	A		
Walukiewicz	W		
Walungevicius	M		
Wankevicius	K		
Wasilauckas	Martinas		
Wasilauskas	K	P	
Wasilauskas	M		
Werkiutie	Marcele		
Widzunas	Antanas		
Wirdzunas	Antanas		
Wolungiewicz	Mikolas		
Yablonskaite	Ona		
Yakowich	Jan		
Yeniulis	J		
Yurkis	V		
Zalaginas	J		



Dzukijan farmstead, Rumsiskis, Lithuania

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LITHUANIAN GENEALOGICAL COMMITTEE

Newsletter
Vol 1 Issue 2
Autumn 1994

In this issue:

- * Editor's Forum
- * Lithuanian National Archives
- * Polish Genealogy Seminar
- * Items of Interest
- * Upcoming Events

Publisher: Rob Medonis
Assistant Editor: Kathleen Sechler
Mailing Address:

Annual Fees:

EDITORS FORUM

The growth of this newsletter has been encouraging. We now have over fifty people on our mailing list and our geographical distribution ranges from California to New Mexico to Florida. The Newsletter will accept surname submissions and please include ancestral villages or towns if known in your submissions.

The 1994 Pittsburgh Folk Festival went very well. The Lithuanians sold their quota of tickets and both dance performances went very well. This was the first year I danced with the Neris Lithuanian Folk Dancers and I had a lot of fun. I was one of two new members in 1994 and all the old hands made me feel welcome and Janet Ruperto, our director, put up with all my rookie mistakes. I also worked at the Lithuanian Display Booth which was also enjoyable.

On December 3 1994 Len Barcousky, Veronica Gorny, Bill Kolicius, and I along with the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania put on a "Lithuanian Bus Tour". The Tour was the result of a year and half of planning and hard work. We told the story of local Lithuanian history by visiting the neighborhoods of SoHo, Esplan, South Side, and Whitehall. We sold out the tour with forty-two people in attendance including a couple who drove in from Columbus Ohio and a woman from Los Angeles California who scheduled her visit with her son around the tour.

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The Summer 1992 issue of *Genealogija* contained the address of the Lietuvos Valstybinis Istorijos Archyvas [Lithuanian National Archives] along with the information that the Archives was accepting genealogy inquiries if birthdates and Lithuanian names were provided. The article stated that the turnaround on inquiries was four to six months because of limited staff, lack of automation, and other duties. The Archives' main job is to investigate property claims of individuals whose land was nationalized by the Bolsheviks. The Archives conducts genealogy searches because the Communists seized the records of most, not all, Latin Rite Catholic, Lutheran, Calvinist churches and Jewish synagogues.

I am fortunate in that I possess a copy of my grandfather's birth certificate from Lithuania along with his Preliminary Form for Petition for Naturalization. I have my grandfathers birthdate, village and parish of birth, and my great-grandparent's names.

I asked only for information on my grandfather and great-grandparents. I mailed my letter May 5th and the Archives received it May 13th. I received my reply on June 18, 1994. The Archives had searched the registry books of Serijai Roman Catholic Church and had found wedding, birth and death certificates. They could not search before 1886 because the records of my great-grandfather are in the Leipalingis Roman Catholic Church. The Leipalingis Parish was part of the Seiniai Diocese in the 19th century which is understandable as Seiniai is just across the border in Poland.

I was very excited about the Archives success but not about their fees. The initial fee is \$50 and the price of a photocopy is \$20. The Archives bases this \$20 fee on time spent on the search, permission to make a copy, price of the copy, value added tax, mailing and postage and translation. If one wants only the written information and not the photocopy then the fee per record is \$10. The Archives' instructions for payment are to send a money order to Citi Bank in New York City or Vytis Bank in Vilnius

POLISH GENEALOGY SEMINAR

After I found out that my great-grandfather's records were in Poland I decided to join the Polish Genealogical Society of the Northeast. I had seen their flyers in the Genealogy Section on the 2nd floor of the Carnegie Library in Oakland and in the Library of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania but I never thought of joining them. I am very glad I did and I recommend the PGS NE highly even if one's ancestors did not come from Poland or from the borderlands. The PGS NE's publication, **Pathways & Passages**, contains information useful for Lithuanian genealogy.

I had requested information in my application letter to the PGS NE and Jonathan Shea, President and Archivist, wrote back with several bits of advice. One was to write to the nearest Branch Archive and parish in case that either might have my family records and Professor Shea included the address for the Parish of Leipalingis. The other piece of advice was to warn me that the National Archives of Lithuania is in the habit of disclaiming ownership of materials which in fact they do possess.

I received not only Professor Shea's letter but also introductory information and a list of Polish genealogical books and flyer for a East European genealogy seminar to be held in Pittsburgh.

The seminar's official title was "Eastern European Family History Course", and it was held on Saturday November 13th, 1994 from 9:30 to 2:00 at the Polish Falcons in Greentree. A show of hands indicated that everyone was interested in Polish genealogy with the exceptions of Kathleen Sechler and I who naturally were interested in Lithuanian genealogy. The cost was \$10.

Professor Shea started the seminar by listing the sources one should research first. Oral history from the family and parish records are the best sources. If the priest spoke Polish or Lithuanian then names would be spelled correctly in the records and often the priests would put the birthplace of the parents on baptismal, death, or wedding certificates. Civil records are not as good as the Catholic records as town clerks often misspelled names. (Pennsylvania's birth and death certificates are in New Castle. The County courts have wedding certificates. Prof. Shea did not know how restrictive Pennsylvania was with its records.)

Prof Shea urged everyone to check and cross reference as many records as possible. Misspellings and dates can be verified by locating as many records as possible. Other information sources are: obituaries, cemetery inscriptions, welfare records, and parish histories.

The next step is to check Federal records which are U. S. census, Naturalization and Immigration records. Citizenship papers are comprised of two parts: Declaration of Intention and Petition for Citizenship. Prof Shea recommended that one uses these terms instead of "first papers" and "second papers". Declaration of Intentions are riddled with inaccuracies since the clerks could not speak or write Polish or Lithuanian and the immigrants to not want to appear stupid so they would give misleading answers. Often the immigrant did not know his birthdate so he would pick the 15th so he only be off by 14 days at the very worst. The other error that would creep in was concerning birthplaces. Often the immigrant would use the name of a large town near to his village hoping that the translator would recognize it. The great majority of immigrants came from tiny villages, and not Krakow or Kaunas.

Petition for Citizenship are more detailed than Declaration of Intention. County Courts have the indexes to Petitions for Citizenship and once you locate your index number you write to Philadelphia for a photocopy of the Petition. The next step is locate the port of arrival, the steamship, and port of departure. The main ports of arrival were New York City, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore. The main ports of departure were Antwerp, Rotterdam, Hamburg, and Bremen. The port the immigrant left depended on cost and schedule and not how close it was to the village.

If the Petition for Citizenship does not have the steamship name and port of arrival one will have to look it up under a Martin Allen Directory which lists every ship that docked in the East Coast between 1890 and 1930. The Martin Allen Directory is on microfilm. One you find the ship you pull the passenger list. Passenger lists are microfilmed and are kept at the National Archives in Washington D.C. and by the Mormons. There are no records on Ellis Island!

Other Federal records are the U.S. Census which is available on microfilm in most major libraries. However it is riddled with inaccuracies as the clerks misspelled names and the immigrants either hid from the Census takers and or they lied to them. Furthermore the 1890 Census burned to a crisp. One uses the Census with caution. Another Federal record to check is the National Military Records in St. Louis. However most of these records were burned back in the late 50's. These records, if available, are good because every male had to register for the draft for WWI and WWII whether they were citizens or not.

The next step is doing research in Europe. Professor emphasized that one has to know the correct spelling and correct name of ones ancestors. American names are not good enough. "Stan" and Tillie" are not Lithuanian names; they will not be listed in the records as such. The other point that Professor Shea emphasized was that one will need to know some words in Russian, Polish, German, and Latin as well as Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Belarusin, and Latvian if one is doing research in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The three partitions divided up the Commonwealth among the Prussian, Austrian, and Russian states. Also knowledge of the Cryllic and Latin alphabets is necessary. Professor Shea said knowing the alphabets is key so you know how to search indexes alphabetically. Phonetics are important.

Record keeping was different in all three empires. Records in Lithuania were kept in Polish till 1867; after 1867 they were kept in Russian till 1918. Catholic records were kept in Latin. The Bolsheviks stole all the church records and put them in the state archives in Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine not in Poland. However as with many other things the Communists did not do this well and some dioceses and parishes still have their records in Lithuania. Professor Shea recommends writing just to double check. When writing remember that the Poles and Lithuanians do not refer to Catholic Churches by their patron Saint such as St. Boniface rather they would refer to a

Catholic Church as the Catholic Church of Dulgenikai. Also if one writes or visits a parish make an offering and if visiting observe protocol. We may look like them and speak the same language but Americans and Europeans have different mindsets. Another item Professor Shea pointed out was that records were written in cursive in the 19th century and partly typed and written in the 20th.

Another source is the State Archives. Poland's main archive is in Warsaw with branch archives around the country. Lithuania has their National Archives in Vilnius with a branch in Kaunas. Ukraine has their National Archives in Kiev with a branch in Lviv while Belarus has a their state archives in Minsk with a branch in Grodno. Poland's archives charge by the hour while Lithuania charges a initial fee and flat fee per record. Belarus' archives are very disorganized and their fees change from week to week but as of November 12th they were \$10 initial fee and \$10 fee per record.

Each of the archives in Poland publishes an index while in Lithuania you are on your own. Professor Shea visited Lithuania last year and used the Lithuanian National Archives. The Lithuanian Archives requires a letter of introduction and a letter of purpose before you are admitted and even then the Archives could bar you for their own reason. Professor Shea was able to use the Archives illegally because he was a college professor and he spoke six languages. The Archives will not let anyone into the archives unless they are self reliant and possess the proper credentials.

Professor Shea also reported that the Russians, after years of denial, have admitted the existence of the Imperial Censuses from the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. They still deny the existence of the Imperial Military Archives but Professor Shea feels they are either all in St Petersburg or kept at the county level.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

John Baltrus submitted an interesting article from **Lithuanian Weekly** from Oct 6th, which consists of an interview with Neringa Ceskeviciute who heads the Russian Imperial Studies Department at Lithuanian State Historical Archives in Vilnius. Neringa researches the Lithuanian gentry and states that 7% of the Lithuanian population belonged to the gentry. Neringa does not state which year that figures applies to and her percentage includes both the high and petty nobility or not. Neringa says the number of inquiries for the Lithuanian nobility genealogical information has increased from 260 in 1991 to 380 in 1992 to over 600 in 1993. Their oldest record is from 1604 from the Merkinė Church and it is in Latin. [Editors Note: The Russians stole many to all of the pre 18th century records from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, and Belarus during the Czarist and Communist occupations. The Russians have refused to return these records to their countries of origin. Aren't the Russians cute?]

Lietuvos Bajoru Draugija (Lithuanian Nobility Association)

Open to individuals who can trace descent from the nobility of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania of all nationalities, religious denominations and political persuasions so long as they support the freedom of Lithuania.

Lietuvos Bajoru Draugija
C/O Dr Jonas Stankus
B Sruogos 36-20
2040 Vilnius Lithuania

(Information supplied by David Zincavage of Newtown CT to **PATHWAYS & PASSAGES** Vol 11 No 1 and also found in **GENEALOGIJA** Vol 5 No 2)

Lithuanian American Genealogy Society
C/O Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
6500 South Pulaski Road
Chicago IL 60629

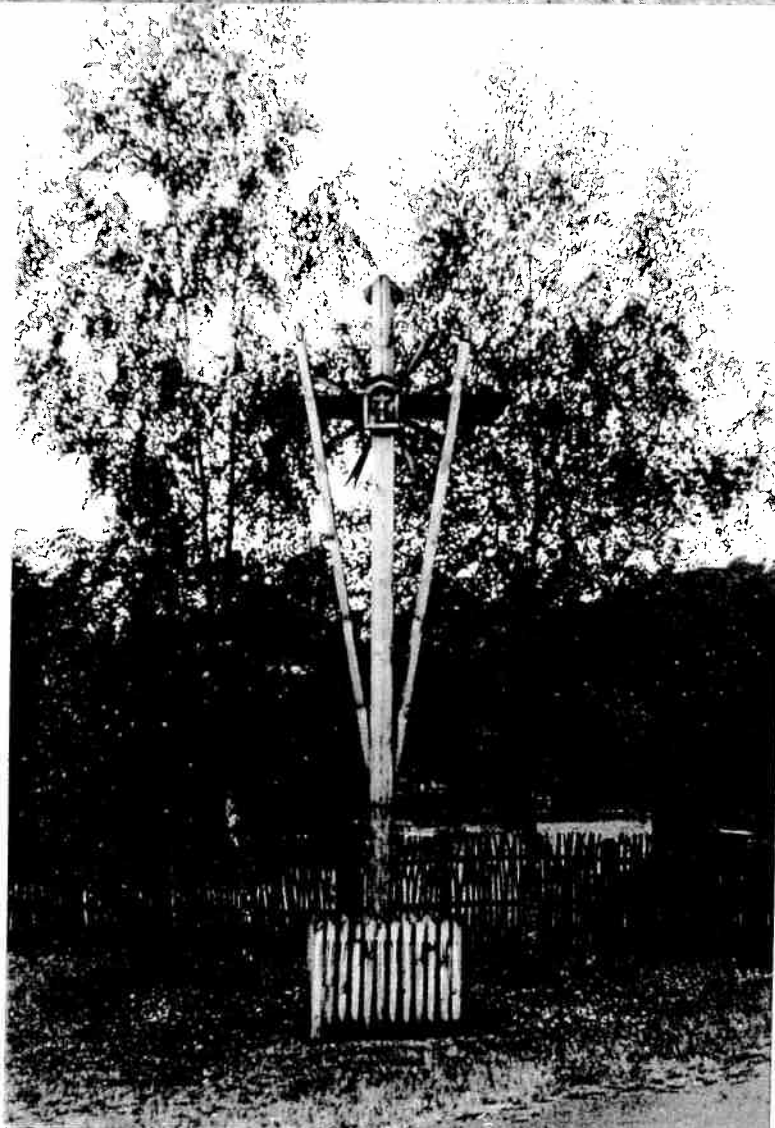
The Lithuanian American Genealogy Society is sponsoring a genealogy tour to Lithuania with the tentative dates of September 10-23 1995. Please write to them for more information.

Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut/the Northeast
8 Lyle Road
New Britain CT 06053

Local Address
PGS NE
706 Jessica Circle
Oakdale PA 15071

The Polish Genealogical Society of the Northeast is also sponsoring a genealogy tour but this one is to Poland with a possibility of a sidetrip to Belarus. The tentative date is the end of May 1995. Again write to them for more information.

Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society
PO Box 99518
Pittsburgh PA 15233-4518



Dzukijan wayside cross and village, Rumsiskis, Lithuania

Lithuanian Genealogical Committee Newsletter
Vol 1 Issue 1 **Spring 1994**

Rob Medonis, Editor, Publisher
Kathleen Sechler, Assistant Editor

I would like to welcome everyone to our first issue. First I want to state our objectives which are to preserve our heritage and to promote interest in Lithuanian genealogy in Western Pennsylvania.

Sources

The first place to start your genealogical search is with your own family members and family records. After that three good places to look are the Carnegie Library, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and the Federal Building.

The second floor of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh houses the microfilm room which contains various Pittsburgh papers on microfilm along with death notices and the National Census. The Carnegie Library's telephone number is 622-3114.

Also in Oakland is the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania whose library houses the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society's collection. The collections contains family histories, genealogy books and every issue of **Genealogija**, a Lithuanian genealogy periodical published by the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture's Immigration and Genealogy Department. The telephone number for the Historical Society in Oakland is 681-5533.

The Federal Building in downtown Pittsburgh contains the Naturalization Index which is another helpful source. The index is located in the Old Post Office Building on Grant Street in Room 829. The actual records are on 3 x 5 index cards in a metal cabinet as you enter the room. The actual naturalization records in this index are at the National Archives, Mid-Atlantic Region, Room 1350, 9th & Market Streets Philadelphia PA 19107 (215) 597-3000. (Information taken from "Truism We Hope !" by Eden Harris, April 1994 issue of **Jots from the Point**)

Other sources are the suppressed Lithuanian Catholic churches. The following is a list of the Lithuanian churches in Allegheny County and the present location of the church records.

Parish	Parish records current location
St Casimir South Side (Pittsburgh)	Prince of Peace 148 South 19th Street Pittsburgh PA 15203 431-1825
Ascension North Side (Pittsburgh)	St Marys 101 Church Avenue McKees Rocks PA 15136 771-5646
St Vincent de Paul Esplen (Pittsburgh)	St Marys 101 Church Avenue McKees Rocks PA 15136 771-5646
St Isidore Braddock	Good Shepherd 1101 Braddock Avenue Braddock PA 15104 271-1515
Sts. Peter & Paul Homestead	St. Maximilian Kolbe 605 East 9th Avenue Munhall PA 15120 461-1054
St Anthony Bridgeville	Parish remains in existence; however it lost its Lithuanian status and is slated to become a worship site. 179 Millers Run Road Bridgeville PA 15017 221-5147

National Archives What to Expect and Not to Expect

(Notes from a lecture given Mrs. Kelly Blake at the September Meeting of The Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society on September 9, 1993.)

Mrs. Blake is an Archivist at the Mid Atlantic Regional Office in Philadelphia. The topic of her talk was to discuss the mission of the archives and clear up misconceptions about the National Archives and Ellis Island. The National Archives do not possess a large staff or a cross-indexed computer database. The Archives also does not have birth certificates, divorce, or death records. Therefore there is no computer you can pull up family documents on and the staff can only answer simple questions if detail is provided.

Furthermore there are other problems involved. The 1890 Census was destroyed by fire and only 3% of the records survived. Also the enumerators received incorrect information or misunderstood answers which adds to inaccuracies in the information.

Mrs. Blake then explained abbreviations used on census records:

NA - Naturalization

AL - Alien

NR - Not reported

PA - First papers which is a declaration of intention which is not the same as naturalization. This abbreviation is often thought to mean naturalized in Pennsylvania.

Another misunderstood subject was the naturalization process. The stages in naturalization were petition of naturalization then petition of intention then certificate of naturalization. If an immigrant arrived as a minor he was not required to file a declaration of intention when he reached eighteen. The average time from declaration of intention to citizenship was five years. Another item of note was that an alien could become a citizen in local and State Courts as well as the Federal Courts before 1906.

Mrs. Blake then discussed Ellis Island and ship lists. Ellis Island does not have a computer database with everyone's family histories or special records. The Mid Atlantic Office has lists for the Ports of Baltimore and Philadelphia. The lists for the Port of New York are located at the National Archives in Washington D.C. and at the Northeast Office 201 Varvick Street New York NY 10004 212-337-1300. Another thing to remember is that the ships were sometimes refused entry by a port because of illness aboard and the ship would then travel south along the East Coast till it found a port that let it dock. Mrs. Blake also pointed out that passenger lists were not required of passenger companies for persons arriving by land from Canada or Mexico.

Journeys

The Chinese philosopher Lao-Tzu said, "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." Nothing more accurate can be said about one's first attempt in the search for their family roots.

One member writes:

The only information I had was my grandparent's wedding date which was inscribed inside my grandmother's wedding band. Through church records , I was able to obtain not only their birthdates but the names of the villages in which they were born in Lithuania. An added bonus was finding the names of my grandparents' parents which included the maiden names of the great-grandmothers. And the last surprise was to be found in the names of the honor

attendants. The best man's surname was the same as my maternal great-grandmother's maiden name; another cousin who came to America? We never knew of him, did he go back to Lithuania or move on to parts unknown? Another finding, though not quite a surprise but enough to bring a smile to my face, was my grandmother's birthdate. She never liked to celebrate her birthday so she told use it was February 29 so we would bother her only once every four years. Well she was born in July!!!

You can see how every opened door leads to another door and another inch or two of paperwork. Requests to the churches should be made in writing with as much information as you can give them. It may take a few weeks until you receive your information. A donation to the church for their time and effort would certainly be appreciated. If you come across any interesting moments or happy surprises in your research we would certainly enjoy hearing from you.

Upcoming Events

The 38th Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival
Monroeville Expo Mart
May 27-28-29 1994
Friday 4 P.M. to 11 P.M.
Saturday Noon to 11 P.M.
Sunday Noon to 9 P.M.

The Lithuanians will be having a food booth and an exhibit booth. Food this year will include cold beet soup, farmers cheese, baked chicken, homemade sausage, kugelis, bacon buns, and napoleon torte. The Neris Dancers will be performing at 7:30 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. Saturday May 28th. There will also be Lithuanian activities for children from 7:00 to 7:30 on Friday and from 3:00 tp 3:30 on Saturday. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children if purchased before the Festival and they are available from John Baltrus (881-1716), Al Lesutis (462-6120), and yours truly Rob Medonis (344-1065) till Tuesday May 24. Tickets are a dollar more if purchased at the Festival. Also if you desire to help out at the food booth call John Baltrus at 881-1716 or if you wish to help out at the display booth call Gail Barkus at 335-7861. Gail will be co-directing the display booth along with Veronica Gorny.

How to find relatives in Lithuania?

DEAR PEOPLE,

Unfortunately there were no institutions in Lithuania which is specially engaged in finding relatives for our nationals, but you could try some ways to find relatives yourself. **Here are some possibilities** I think helpful.

Some of these ways require expense. However I can't guarantee any results.

If you would achieve some results or know other resources to add, please give me a message - your experience would help for other people in the same matter. I will include it in this guide "How to find relatives in Lithuania?".

Neither I nor Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre do not perform any search for relatives, so do not ask additionally, please. All information available for us is provided in this help !

Paulius JURKUS, Lithuanian Folk Culture Centre

1. Ask for help your **relatives or friends** (if any) in Lithuania.
2. Contact **Lithuanian archives** for information.
 - o **Lithuanian Central State Archive:**
Lietuvos Centrinis Valstybes Archyvas
O. Milasiaus g. 21, 2000 Vilnius, LITHUANIA
ph. (+370 2) 765290
fax.(+370 2) 765318
 - o **Lithuanian National Historical Archive:**
Lietuvos valstybinis istorijos archyvas
Gerosios Vilties g. 10
2015 Vilnius, Lithuania
ph. (+370 2) 237482
 - o **Lithuanian Central Registry Archive:**
Lietuvos Centrinis Metriku Archyvas
K.Kalinausko g. 21, 2000 Vilnius, LITHUANIA
ph. (+370 2) 637846
3. Write a **letter of inquiry** to:
Bureau of Addresses
Adresu Biuras
Vivulskio g. 4a, 2009 Vilnius, LITHUANIA
ph. (+370 2) 652632
4. Contact **institution of local administration (municipality)** of specific district in Lithuania (direct your questions to archive department). Look here for the listing or search information companies (below) directories for other ones.
5. Contact some local **Lithuanian attorney agency (lawyers)** to deal with your request. Look here for the listing or search information companies (below) directories for other ones.
6. Free legal consultations service by e-mail at Legal Information Center.
7. Contact your country **Lithuanian Community organizations** (see the list of Lithuanian Organizations Worldwide).
8. Contact Information Center for Homecoming Lithuanians.
ph. (370 2) 313 623

fax. (370 2) 313 624

email: info@lgtic.lt

9. Check Lithuanian Global resources Genealogy page. Non-profit, well organized, growing site, supported by volunteers.
10. Contact
The Lithuanian American Genealogical Society (LAGS)
 at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
 6500 S. Pulaski Rd.
 Chicago, IL 60629, USA
 ph. 773 582 6500
 fax. 773 582 5133
<mailto:Balzekas@aol.com>

Contact person: Mrs. **Jessie Daraska**

(LAGS is a part of the Balzekas Museum and has a fair amount of information and directions in helping to locate relatives on both sides of the Atlantic.)

Note from Julie D. Balzekas:

"Based on our experience over some years with this, and in light of the relationship we've built with the Lithuanian Historical Archives, you may want to consider including the following tips:

- o The KEY to locating your Lithuanian ancestors is determining their ancestral town (we do a LOT of ancestral town research), which is complicated by the various occupations of Lithuania (names can be in other languages, towns that were once in Lithuania no longer are, towns with large Lithuanian populations may always have been part of Poland or Germany). People often confuse regions with towns or cities - Kaunas or Klaipeda or Vilnius are regions as well as cities, for instance.
- o The other point is that the BEST place to start is in the U.S. The records that have the information individuals will need to find their ancestors are HERE - and they will be less expensive to find and copy, and information will be gathered much more quickly. Intent to naturalize papers, census records, birth, marriage and death certificates are all HERE in the US.
- o The final point is that despite the eagerness of many researchers to "go straight to the source" - which in this instance means going to Lithuania - it has been proven time and again that you will get the most out of the Lithuanian Historical Archives if you have more information to give them. They are SWAMPED with genealogy requests from Lithuanian Americans; (you don't need to say this, but we know our members tend to get quicker response, primarily b/c they have their information in better shape when they send requests). The archives has been able to raise desperately needed money for their collections through responding to requests for genealogical information, but it takes time and people need to anticipate that."

-
11. Check Federation of East European Family History Societies pages: LTRL (Lithuania Research List), search available.
 12. Check Lithuanian Genealogical Research page created by Cecelia Yeruski for the ILGenWeb Project.
 13. BalticSeaGenWeb-Lithuania homepage - part of the WorldGenWeb.
 14. Check Edvardas Amstibovskis' page. He can check phone books of the biggest cities in Lithuania. Some fee required.
 15. Zemaitis home page - origin and history of the surname "Zemaitis" and other lithuanian surnames.
 16. A **mailing list** for anyone with a genealogical or historical interest in Lithuania. Mailing address for postings is lithuania@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu
 To subscribe, send the following to maiser@rmgate.pop.indiana.edu

SUB LITHUANIA

17. Another **mailing list** for anyone with a genealogical or historical interest in Lithuania. Mailing address for postings is lithuania-l@rootsweb.com. To subscribe send the word "subscribe" (without the quotes) as the only text in the body of a message to lithuania-l-request@rootsweb.com (mail mode) or lithuania-d-request@rootsweb.com (digest mode).
18. **BALT-L - online forum** devoted to communications to and about the Baltic Republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Subscription to this list is welcomed from anyone with skills or interests relevant to the Baltics, or who just wants to know what's going on. Short requests to help locate families or villages are carried in general-interest digest messages. BALT-L archive also available.
Mailing address for postings is balt-l@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu.
To subscribe, send the following to listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu: SUBSCRIBE BALT-L
firstname lastname
19. Post a email **message to the newsgroup** maintained at Open Society Fund - Lithuania Internet Project.
Send the following in the message body for help to listserver osflistserv@osf.lt
help
end
Accepted languages: **lithuanian, english**. Answers depend from goodwill of people who read these messages.
 - o skelbimai@osf.lt
 - o maqa@osf.lt
 - o or try OSF news server lt.osf*
20. Post a email **message to the newsgroup** omnitel.genealogija@news.omnitel.net
21. Put a message to most readable **newspapers**:
 - o **"Lietuvos Rytas"**
Gedimino pr. 12a, 2001 Vilnius, LITHUANIA
ph. (+370 2) 226389
Advertising dept.:
ph. (+370 2) 619170
fax. (+370 2) 225042
<http://www.lrytas.lt>
 - o **"Lietuvos Aidas"**
Maironio g. 1, 2710 Vilnius, LITHUANIA
ph. (+370 2) 227627
fax. (+370 2) 224876
http://www.lbg.lt/pages/1_aidas/
 - o **"Valstieciu Laikrastis"** (most popular in country between farmers)
Laisves pr. 60, 2056 Vilnius, LITHUANIA
ph. (+370 2) 421281
 - o **"Gimtasias Krastas"** (weekly, popular between foreign lithuanians)
Liauksmo g. 8/3, 2600 Vilnius, LITHUANIA
ph. (+370 2) 623881
 - o **"Kauno Diena"** (Kaunas city newspaper)
Vytauto pr. 27 3000 Kaunas, Lithuania
fax. (+370 7) 227404
Advertising dept.:
ph. (+370 7) 741957
<http://www.kaunodiena.lt>
 - o **"Klaipeda"** (Klaipeda city newspaper)
Siauliu 21 5800 Klaipeda, Lithuania
Advertising dept.:
ph. (+370 6) 310011
fax/ph. (+370 6) 217067
<http://www1.omnitel.net/klaipeda>

Look [here](#) for other newspapers or search information companies (below) directories for other newspapers.

22. Look at **information and telephone directories service companies** web sites, call **free information service** if you need other information (services, addresses, phones, activities, etc):

- o **Minta Info**

Kalvariju g. 3, 2005 Vilnius, LITHUANIA

ph. (+370 2) 753432

ph. (+370 2) 726006 for free info

Demokratu g. 53-812, 3026 Kaunas, LITHUANIA

ph./fax. (+370 7) 260125

ph. (+370 7) 251410 for free info

Home page: www.omnitel.net/minta-info/

email: minta-info@kaunas.omnitel.net

- o LINTEL

- o TELEMEDIA

- o Vilnius telephone book, database of 1992. Private phones only.

- o The Lithuanian Business Directories by Langen Langen.

- o Kompass Lietuva

- o Naujoji Komunikacija

- o Lithuanian Business Guide

- o Information Institute of Lithuania

- o **Televerslas**

Kauno g. 1a-506, 2600 Vilnius, LITHUANIA

ph. (+370 2) 231414 for free info

23. www.genhomepage.com - Genealogy resources on Internet.

24. [LOL Lithuania-On-Line](#) - good collection of lithuanian WWW resources.

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ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER

DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH

SYNOD HALL
125 N. CRAIG STREET
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15213
412 621 6217 • FAX: 412 621 6237
e-mail: archives@diopitt.org

Genealogical research demands a great deal of time; because of the volume of requests received here at the Archives, we must charge for this service as follows:

\$15.00 for an initial search of one hour

\$10.00 for each additional hour of research. If this is necessary, we will bill you for the hours you indicated below.

We require that a check for \$15, made payable to the Diocese of Pittsburgh, be enclosed when you return this form; the research will not be started without it. Please do not send any amount more than \$15.

Please specify your relationship to the person for whom you are searching. Please be sure to sign below, too.

We can do genealogical research in any records one hundred years or older.

**Anything between seventy and one hundred years requires proof of death of the individual(s). Proof of death can include: death certificate, obituary, cemetery records. Research in this period will not be done without proof of death.*

**Records less than seventy years old are closed to genealogy.*

Death records are unrestricted.

If you wish the research done, kindly return this letter with your check. Also, kindly fill in the rest of the information requested.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Enclosed is my check for \$15.00. Please undertake up to _____ hours of research in your Sacramental Records.

(SIGNED) _____

(ADDRESS) _____

(CITY) _____

(STATE & ZIP+4) _____

(AREA CODE/PHONE) _____

Our archives contains baptisimal, Communion, Confirmation, marriage and death records from parishes in the Pittsburgh Diocese. We do not have cemetery records.

Kindly supply us with the following information (if you need additional space, please feel free to use another page):

Relationship to the individual(s):

	Individual or couple #1	Individual or couple #2	Individual or couple #3	Individual or couple #4
Name of individual				
Name of parents				
Type of search requested (circle all that apply)	Baptism Marriage Death Communion Confirmation	Baptism Marriage Death Communion Confirmation	Baptism Marriage Death Communion Confirmation	Baptism Marriage Death Communion Confirmation
Date of event				
Parish (if known) *				
Address or location *				

Other useful information:

* Without an address or parish, the search may be unproductive

