

This is a series of messages between me and Robert Starczewski from Chojnice, in Northern Poland, from which Paplin gets its name and from where many of our ancestors originated from. We began a conversation after he read about Paplin (Chojnice) in newspapers and visited our Web site.

Hello!

Many years ago, I read small article in polish book about Paplin, Chojnice and the church. Amazing today I can see pictures and read many articles for example from newspaper "Katolik". Redactor this newspaper is very known in my town. There's a school dedicated to Hieronim Derdowski*. Best wishes for Your Society.

Robert Starczewski from Chojnice in Northern Poland, from Town which gave name Your place.

**Polish intellectual and activist, was born to Kashubian parents in the Pomeranian village of Wiele. By the time Derdowski emigrated to the United States in 1885, he had already studied for the Roman Catholic priesthood, been repeatedly incarcerated by the German authorities, and edited a newspaper in the city of Torun. At the time, however, Derdowski was better known as a poet. Within two years of reaching the United States he became editor of the Winona, Minnesota Polish-language newspaper Wiarus. In this role he gained a reputation as a strong voice for the Polish-American community, also known as Polonia.*

It is good to hear from you, Robert.

We are very proud of our church in Paplin, Chojnice. It is celebrating its 140th birthday this year. My great-grandparents attended this church after they immigrated from Posen, Poland in 1882. They were married and had two children at the time--my great aunt Agnes and my grandfather, Andrew. They then settled in Nebraska in the Paplin (Chojnice) area. Several more children were then born after they settled here in Nebraska.

We are trying very hard to restore the Paplin church property. It had deteriorated as it sat empty for several years. If you have not already checked out our website, please do so. It is friendsofpaplin.com.

God Bless and have a blessed Easter.

Rose A. Kowalski, Loup City, NE

Thank You for answer. I study Information on your website. Do you have yet white eagle on the crossroads in Loup City? Do You know what is percent people of polish origin in Loup City and Sherman County and in Howard County today?

God Bless and Have A Blessed Easter

Robert Starczewski, Chojnice, Poland

We still have the Polish eagle on the crossroads in Loup City. It is repainted each year prior to our Polish Days celebration. Approximately 29.6% of the residents of Sherman County are Polish. Which means most of them. Howard County has 15% Polish people. Sherman County has the most Polish people in the state of Nebraska! We are proud of that fact, too!

God Bless, Robert.

Rose

Thank You very much for all. Best wishes for all Poles from Loup City and neighborhood. I knew that Loup is the polish capital of Nebraska. Sister of my maternal grandfather also emigrated to USA circa 1920 year to Chicago-Illinois, but contact with this branch of family was break off in 1960s when I was not born yet.

God Bless Rose

Robert (sorry for my English but I know it not too good)

I studied old documents from website of your society and besides polish surnames which are common or very common in different regions and subregions of Poland I find also surnames derived above all or only from Chojnice county in region Pomorze (Pomerania, Pomerelia, West Prussia or Royal Prussia) or neighborhood counties. There are Wardyn, Gapa (Gappa), Dorszyński, Chylewski, Jasnoch, Kortas, Kufel, Czaplewski, other also Wojtalewicz and Szydzik. I have friends and neighbors with name Jasnoch, Kortas. I know also people from Chojnice with name Czaplewski, Kufel, Dorszyński. I see between members FRIENDS OF PAPLIN surnames Gappa. Nowadays in Poland are above all in neighborhood Counties to south from Chojnice county. There are Sępólno Krajeńskie and Nakło Counties. Next surname Czaplewski there is above all in counties Chojnice and neighborhood to the northeast-Starogard Gdański county. I think that today surname Chelewski was changed and correct form sounds Chylewski (eventually rarely Chilewski). This surname derived from 2 neighborhood counties to the east from Chojnice County. There are Tuchola and Świecie counties. I am very interested in history, of course local history and in genealogical studies.

Best wishes and God Bless
Robert Starczewski-Chojnice

I think your English is very good, Robert.

Many of the surnames should look familiar. Some of the spellings were changed when people emigrated because those at their port of entry did not understand their English or dialects.

My great-grandmother was a Lonowski--here parents were Martin and Magdalena (Gruletty) Lonowski. After my great-grandparents arrived here, they sent for Martin and Magdalena and their only son at the time. They also settled in Paplin (Chojnice). Martin and Magdalena are buried in the Paplin cemetery, though their graves are not marked.

It is interesting to read the information you sent. Is it okay for me to post on the Friends of Paplin website? I believe readers would also find it interesting.

Thanks and God Bless, Robert.

Rose

Ok. You may use all the information from me. My pleasure. Lonowski 13 person nowadays in Poland and Łonowski 16 person, this is other form the same surname. All 29 person today exist in Poland and all person live in City of Poznań (Posen, but i don't like this form because this is German form use by German during partitions of Poland). "Ł" in surname Łonowski pronounce like English "W" for example Wisconsin.

Best Wishes
Robert

In Poland I have found 2 villages called Paplin, in middle Poland and in eastern Poland. But I think it is wrong way. You may probably and rather certainly right that is name Paplin take from town called PELPLIN because this small town (8 000 inhabitants) is capital Roman-Catholic dioceses. However I have to say that in northern part of Chojnice county exist small village called PEPLIN. Probably exist some relationship between two place names. I mean town Pelplin indirectly give name to small village in Chojnice county.

Best wishes
Robert

Thank you for the information. I am sure those who visit our website will enjoy reading it, Robert.

Best wishes,

Rose