

1651

First Generation

- a. Name - Professor Stanislaus Wlodarczyk
- b. Address - 9 Eld Street, New Haven, Connecticut
- c. Occupation - Assistant pastor
- d. Age - 64 years
- e. Sex - Male
- f. Nationality - Polish
- g. Religion - Roman Catholic
- h. Country emigrated from - Poland
Town " " - Wielizka
Province " " - Krakow
- i. Age at time of Immigration - 38 years old
- j. Entered this country in 1912.
- k. Number of years in this country - 28 years.

I. Period Prior to Immigration

A. Environmental Factors

a. Economic

1. "My father had a large grocery business. He also had two farms outside of the town. These farms were taken care of by hired men as father had to be in the store most of the time. We were not wealthy, but we were very comfortably situated as to finances.

2. "There were twelve of us, six boys and six girls. I was the ninth child. After my brothers finished their college education they worked for the government as Engineers or Civil Service. Only one of my

brothers helped father in the store. We were about twenty-three years old when we finished our education.

3. "We started to work when we were about 23 years old,

4. "I started as a missionary priest after my education,

5. "Our home was made of brick and contained eight rooms besides the store. The kitchen was in the cellar as/ the pantry and store room, wall as
There were three large rooms on the first floor very well furnished. We had five bedrooms altogether on the first and second floor. We used oil lamps and candles, when I was a child. No modern conveniences at all. Our water came from springs because we lived in the salt mine country and could not drink well water. There were beautiful salt mine caves under ground, with all kinds of shapes carved out of the salt. Churches and many beautiful statues of all kinds. Around our home we had beautiful trees and flowers. Outside the town we had two farms of about fifteen acres, where we raised all our food.

6. "Our daily food consisted of all kinds of meat and vegetables. Fruit from our farm such as apples, pears and plums. Our luxuries were bananas, wine and pineapples. The pineapples themselves were cheap, being about twenty-five cents but the tax on them was \$3.00. Oranges also were a luxury, which we had at Christmas time.

7. "We had a tailor and dressmaker twice a year to make our clothes and also a shoemaker.

b. Social and Cultural

1. "My parents had a public school education. All of my brothers and myself went to college. My sisters had a high school education, then they studied cooking, sewing, piano and oil painting. Also some of my

sisters studied singing.

2. "In our town we had a very fine library, where we procured books of all kinds. When I was a child our part of Poland was ruled by the Hapsburgs so it was very difficult for us to learn the real history of Poland. Everything was under German supervision. Newspapers and magazines were run under the Germans so we did not take them, because they did not tell the truth. Sometimes we managed to get some Polish papers and books but it was very hard on account of the German laws. Most of us learned Latin, Polish, French, German, Greek, Russian and a little English. Only German was compulsory to learn. Some of my sisters and brothers took dancing lessons.

3. "We studied music and painting in our leisure time. I was interested in butterflies and insects and had quite a collection of them, also I studied about all kinds of birds. We would have outdoor picnics under the direction of our professors and study botany. We had two outdoor concerts every week. Sometimes we would visit our friends.

4. "During our summer vacations we would visit our school friends.

5. "We entertained our friends with music and refreshments.

6. "I did not belong to any social societies. The newspapers were so full of politics and one never could really believe what they said.

B. Attitudes and Values

1. "My father thought he was the boss, but really mother was the one. Father was so busy with his store and farm that he let mother manage the home and plan our education. Mother was always interested in a higher education for all of us. She did a great deal of reading and studying by herself. When my parents were first married father had to work very

hard, between the store and managing the farm, so he did not care much for pleasures. Mother loved to go places, like concerts and theatres. Father was unable to go, so mother would take one of us. In later years father enjoyed going out with mother. We children were very friendly with each other and of course love predominated in our home.

2. "Our religion does not allow divorce. If the marriage is not successful the church makes it invalid. Not one of my brothers married, but all of my sisters married and were allowed to choose their own mates.

3. "There were about 7,000 population in our town. It was noted for its salt mines, which had been in operation since the 13th century. There was a Post Office, three Catholic churches, one synagogue, and a fine library. After the boys in our town finished public school they went to a special school where they studied to be foremen in the salt mines. There was a beautiful castle that had belonged to the Polish Kings that dated back to the 13th century, which was owned by the government when I was a child. Also we had a wonderful museum of natural history. We all were very fond of music. We had a hard time learning the real history of Poland because all our history books were written and supervised by the Hapsburgs.

4. "All of us were strongly attached to our town. At our home we were all interested in flowers and our fruit trees.

5. "We all were interested in the history of our country. When I was about 15 years old we had a wonderful Professor who taught us the real history and literature of many countries. Ancient and Roman history fascinated us very much. Of course we were influenced by our school.

6. "The girls in our family were much more religious than the boys. The church was really run by the Germans but we did not believe their views

and ideas we felt they were prejudiced and did not tell us the real truth. In 1890 the change came and we were again ruled by the Poles. At this time the center of education had been in Vienna but after Poland was returned to the Poles the center moved to Krakow, Poland. When I was about 14 years old one of my older sisters influenced me to become a priest. She thought I was suited to be a teacher and a missionary.

C. Circumstances Leading up to Emigration.

1. "When I was about 18 years old the political situation began to change for the betterment of the Poles; before that the Germans had ruled everything, and we were very depressed.

3. "When I was 26 years old I was ordained as a priest. At this time I taught Polish in my college for 9 years. When I was 38 years old I was sent to Erie, Pennsylvania, to teach Polish to the students in the St. John's College. My parents were dead at this time and my family were very pleased to have me go to America.

5. "My personal reasons for coming to America were to help the Polish Americans to learn the Polish language and help them with a higher education so they could become good doctors and lawyers.

6. "I did not have any discouragement in coming to America.

7. "I was afraid of the lack of the English language when I left Poland.

8. "I was sent by my college to America as a missionary priest so I did not have to worry about money.

9. "My ambitions were to teach Polish to the students and help them with a higher education, so they could become better citizens and have more of a chance in America.

10. "I was qualified to teach languages, also as a missionary priest.

II. Adjustment to the American Environment.

A. Early Period

a. First Impressions

1. "I was 38 years old when I came to America.
2. "I came to America with three other priests on a German boat.
3. "My college supplied the money, for my trip to America.
4. "I was sent immediately to Erie, Pennsylvania, after arriving in New York.
5. "I came to New Haven in 1927.
6. "The rush and hurry of America shocked me at first. I was so pleased with the way the policemen and the conductors on the train treated me. They were so kind and polite. In Poland they were very rude and cross.
7. "The changes I noticed in my countrymen here were for the better. Labor here was more organized and there was plenty of work for everyone. The cleanliness of the people here and the modern ways of living with electricity and gas in every home.
8. "It struck me so funny to see men chewing tobacco and chewing gum. I did not like this habit. The American teachers seemed rougher to me on the surface in their manners, but underneath they were very kind; but in Europe the teachers were very polite on the surface but cruel underneath. In America the youths are able to get their education in a shorter time than they can in Europe. There are so many ways for them to work their way through college, but not so in Europe. At first I did not like the American food. It was too soft and so many preservatives in it, but now I like both the American and Polish food. The standard of living

is so much higher here than in Europe, therefore a man has to work harder to keep up appearances, but I like the wonderful freedom of speech in America.

B. Subsequent Life in America

a. Economic Life

1. "When I arrived in America I went directly to St. John's College in Erie, Pennsylvania to teach Polish. I have been a missionary priest since I was 26 years old, also I am professor of languages and history.

2. "No trade.

3. "The hardest thing for me in America was to learn and pronounce the English language.

4. "I lived at the college, having a very fine room of my own. In America I felt more free than in Poland. I could talk and express my views without fear of the government. In 1925 I went back to Poland for a visit. I stayed three months, visiting my friends and relations. I enjoyed my visit, but had no desire to stay in Poland. Life in America is so much better in many ways. One works harder but I enjoy it. In Poland the people do not work very hard.

Family and Home Life

1. "I believe the wife should stay at home and raise her family. I observe all the saints days and holidays that are in my religion. I still enjoy some of the Polish foods. I do not believe in co-education in the higher grades in the schools. The girls in the high school do not pay attention to their studies because they are always looking at the boys. The boys are more diligent and study harder than the girls. Thus I think the boys and girls should attend separate schools.

Social and Cultural Life

1. "I do not belong to any club.

2. "I do not belong to any Polish organizations.

3. "I would like to perpetuate Polish history and its culture, but find it is very hard even in the parochial school.

4. "I believe in assimilation of the different groups, that is the American way and the reason America goes ahead. I have many friends of all nationalities. I went back to Poland once to visit my friends and relations. I keep some contact with my friends and family in Poland.

"When I was in Poland I found it took a long time to get things done. There is still so much conservatism in Poland and militarism. When I was in Poland I enjoyed the social life and the beautiful scenery. In Poland the people spend so much of their time in restaurants because they are not allowed to form clubs. I think they waste too much of their time in this way. The men should spend more of their time with their families like they do in America. In Poland now the younger generation are learning the English language so they can have more business with America.

"I try to teach the history and culture of Poland but when the children go on to high school they mix with all nationalities and that makes them real Americans. I like the American ideals and especially the American Constitution which I believe so firmly in and try to live by."
