

**Śliwice , Tuchola County,
Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship,
Poland**



**Descriptive Data and Maps
by
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Introduction



- My great-grandfather Ambrose (Ambrozy) Ciechanowski was born on 08 December 1833 in Sliwice (*German: Gross Schliewitz*), Tuchola County, Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province, Poland. I have assembled this document to give me a better understanding of the area of his birth, and how this area geographically relates to the rest of Poland.
- In 1854, Ambrose emigrated to Canada and, shortly afterward, trekked to the “Thumb” of Michigan where he was one of the founders of the village of Parisville.
- He died in Parisville on 23 May 1911
- NOTE: go to http://polishorigins.com/document/ciechanowskis_story for a detailed write-up about Ambrose Ciechanowski.

Map of Poland & 16 Provinces



**Kuyavian-Pomeranian
(Kujawsko-Pomorskie)
Voivodeship**

Map Showing Geography of Poland



Rysy: highest Point in Poland, 2499 meters

Map Showing Rivers of Poland



Background of Poland



- **Poland is an ancient nation that was conceived near the middle of the 10th century. Its golden age occurred in the 16th century. During the following century, the strengthening of the gentry and internal disorders weakened the nation. In a series of agreements between 1772 and 1795, Russia, Prussia, and Austria partitioned Poland amongst themselves. Poland regained its independence in 1918 only to be overrun by Germany and the Soviet Union in World War II. It became a Soviet satellite state following the war, but its government was comparatively tolerant and progressive.**
- **Labor turmoil in 1980 led to the formation of the independent trade union "Solidarity" that over time became a political force and by 1990 had swept parliamentary elections and the presidency. A "shock therapy" program during the early 1990s enabled the country to transform its economy into one of the most robust in Central Europe, but Poland currently suffers low GDP growth and high unemployment. Solidarity suffered a major defeat in the 2001 parliamentary elections when it failed to elect a single deputy to the lower house of Parliament, and the new leaders of the Solidarity Trade Union subsequently pledged to reduce the Trade Union's political role. Poland joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004.**

Poland: Geography



- **The Republic of Poland (Polish: Rzeczpospolita Polska) is one of the largest countries in Central Europe. It borders Russia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Germany. Its northern frontier on the Baltic Sea gives it easy access to Scandinavian and North Sea ports.**
- **The capital of Poland, Warsaw, is situated right of center in the country. Poland ranks eighth in Europe in terms of size with a surface area of 312,677 sq. km, which constitutes about 3% of the continent's surface.**
- **The country lies almost wholly on the North European Plain and is a land of gentle slopes, rarely rising above 300 m, except along the southern border with the Sudetic and Carpathian Mountain ranges. Rysy, the highest mountain peak rises 2499 m above sea level.**
- **Approximately one-fifth of the land is maintained as pasture and meadows. Forests cover over 28% of the total area. The longest rivers cross the country northwards: the Vistula (1074 km in length) in the centre, and the Odra (854 km), which flows along Poland's Western border.**

Poland: Climate



- **Poland has a temperate climate characterized by relatively cold winters and warm summers.**
- **Winters become increasingly severe inland from the Baltic coast, with January temperatures averaging -1°C (30°F) in the north and going as low as -5°C (23°F) in the southeast.**
- **July temperatures range from 16.5°C (62°F) near the coast to 19°C (66°F) in the south. Rainfall varies with the altitude, from less than 500 mm a year in the lowlands to as high as 1270 mm in the southern mountains.**

Poland: Natural Resources



- **Poland has substantial agricultural and mineral resources.**
- **It has the world's fifth-largest proven reserves of hard and brown coal, besides deposits of copper, sulphur, zinc, lead, silver, magnesium and rock salt. All these contribute significantly to Poland's exports. There are also potentially useful deposits of chalk, kaolin, clays, potash, and natural gas.**
- **The main agricultural crops are wheat and other cereals, potatoes, sugar beet and fodder crops. Poland is the leading exporter of apple concentrate and is among the world's leading producers of berries, cabbage and carrots. Due to its favorable geographical position and temperate climate, Poland's agricultural area amounts to almost 60% of country's surface (18.4 million hectares, or 45.5 million acres).**
- **In addition almost 8.9 million hectares (or 22 million acres) are wooded, making sawn timber an important resource.**

Poland: Population & Language



- **The population of Poland is currently 38.7 million people. Approximately 62% of Poles live in 880 cities, which are mostly small or medium-sized, and half the population lives in 42 cities with a population of over 100,000 inhabitants. Warsaw, the capital and Poland's largest city has a population of 1.6 million people.**
- **Poland ranks 8th in Europe and 29th in the world, with an average population density of 124 persons per km². The population of Polish communities abroad is estimated at 12 million, with the largest communities living in the USA (5.6 million), Commonwealth of the Independent States - CIS (2.5 million), France (1 million), Germany (0.8 million), Canada (0.4 million), Brazil (0.2 million), Australia (0.15) and the UK (0.14).**
- **From the ethnic point of view, Poland is one of the most homogeneous countries in Europe, with over 98% of the population being of Polish ethnic origin. In the business community, as well as among young people, English is the most popular foreign language. Further, reflecting the geographical position of the country, German and Russian are frequently spoken.**

Poland: Political System & Government



- **Poland was the first country in Central and Eastern Europe to break out of communist rule. Major agreements with the communists led to the legalization of the "Solidarity" trade union and an agreement to hold elections on 4 June 1989, which were won by the representatives of "Solidarity" (Lech Walesa) who formed the first non-communist government since the Second World War. Poland is a republic adopting a mixture of parliamentary and presidential models. In 1997 a new Constitution was adopted.**
- **The President, elected by general election for a 5-year term, appoints candidates for Prime Minister and has the right to veto acts passed by Parliament. He has the right to dissolve Parliament if it is unable to approve the budget law or to form a government. Legislative authority is vested in the Parliament or National Assembly composed of two Chambers: the lower house, the Sejm, and the upper house, the Senate (both elected for a 4-year term).**
- **Executive powers are vested in the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, called the Council of Ministers, while judicial power is vested in independent courts. Poland is a member of the European Union (EU) and NATO.**

Overview of Voivodeships



- The voivodeship (Polish: *województwo*), or province, has been a high-level administrative subdivision of Poland since the 14th century. Pursuant to the Polish local government reforms passed in 1998, which came into effect on January 1, 1999, sixteen new voivodeships were created. These replaced the 49 former voivodeships that had existed from July 1, 1975.
- Today's voivodeships are largely based on the country's historic regions, while those of 1975–1998 were centered on and named for individual cities. The new units range in area from under 10,000 km² (3,900 sq mi) (Opole Voivodeship) to over 35,000 km² (14,000 sq mi) (Masovian Voivodeship), and in population from one million (Lubusz Voivodeship) to over five million (Masovian Voivodeship).
- Administrative authority at voivodeship level is shared between a government-appointed governor called a voivode (Polish *wojewoda*), an elected assembly called a *sejmik*, and an executive chosen by that assembly. The leader of that executive is called the *marszałek województwa* (voivodeship marshal). Voivodeships are further divided into *powiats* (counties) and *gminy* (communes or municipalities).

Map of Poland Showing Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship



Map of Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship



**Tuchola County
(Powiat
Tucholski)**

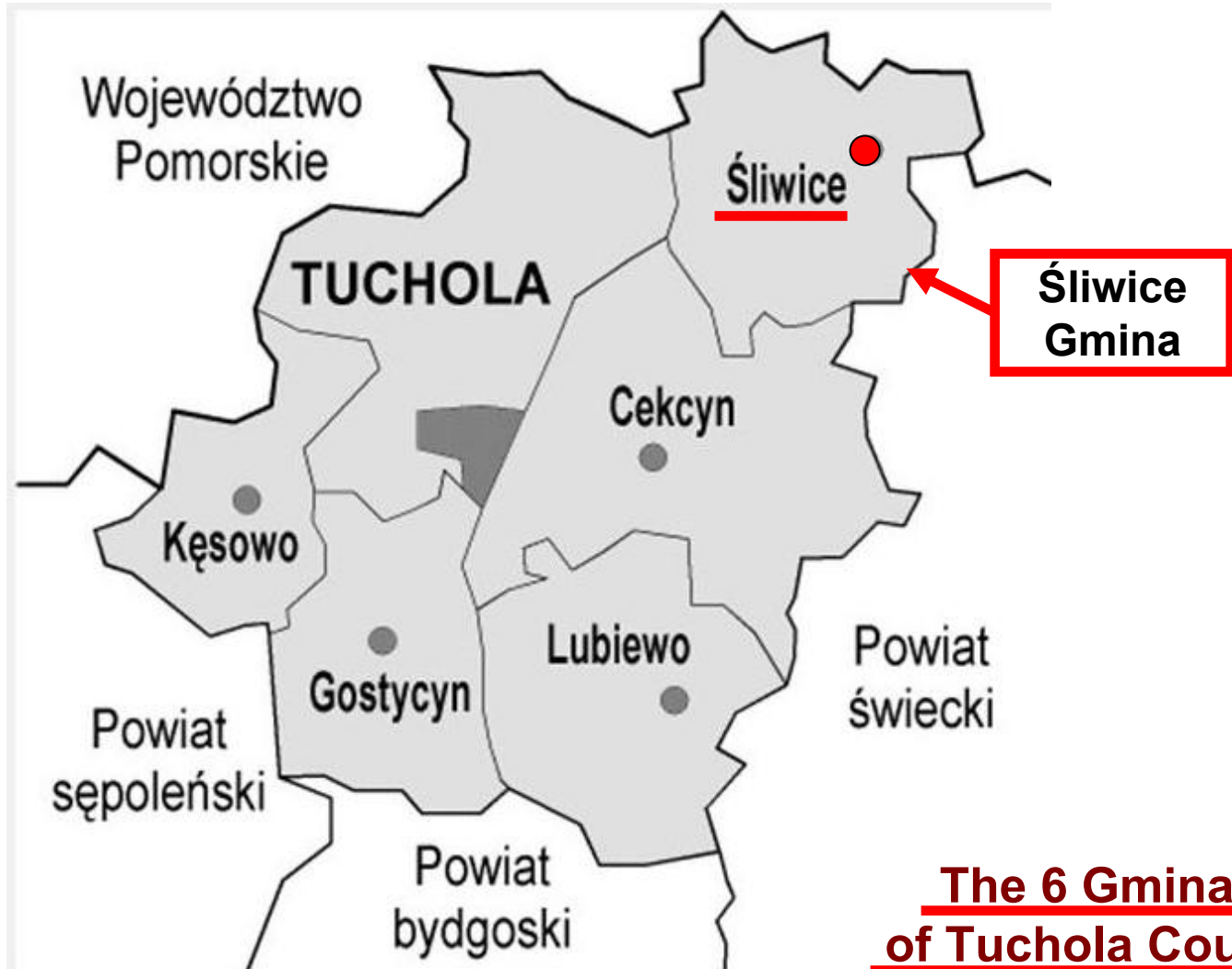


Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship



- The Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship (also known as Kuyavian-Pomeranian Province, or by its Polish name of *województwo kujawsko-pomorskie* or simply *Kujawsko-Pomorskie*) is one of the 16 voivodeships (provinces) into which Poland is now divided. It is situated in mid-northern Poland, on the boundary between the two historic regions from which it takes its name: Kuyavia (Polish: *Kujawy*) and Pomerania (Polish: *Pomorze*).
- The Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship was created on 1 January 1999, as a result of the Polish local government reforms adopted in 1998. It consisted of territory from the former Bydgoszcz, Toruń and Wroclawek Voivodeships.
- The functions of regional capital are shared between two cities: Bydgoszcz and Toruń . Bydgoszcz serves as the seat of the centrally appointed governor or voivode (Polish: *wojewoda*), while Toruń is the seat of the elected Regional Assembly (*sejmik*), and of the executive elected by that assembly, headed by the voivodeship marshal (*marszałek województwa*).

Tuchola County (Powiat Tucholski) Map



Tuchola County (Powiat Tucholski)



Overview

- **Tuchola County** (Polish: *powiat tucholski*) is a unit of territorial administration and local government (powiat) in Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, north-central Poland. It came into being on January 1, 1999, as a result of the Polish local government reforms passed in 1998. Its administrative seat and only town is Tuchola, which lies 55 km (34 mi) north of Bydgoszcz and 81 km (50 mi) north-west of Toruń.
- The county covers an area of 1,075.27 square kilometres (415.2 sq mi). As of 2006 its total population is 47,230, out of which the population of Tuchola is 13,935 and the rural population is 33,295.
- The county contains most of the protected area called Tuchola Landscape Park.
- Tuchola County is bordered by Starogard County to the north-east, Swiecie County to the east, Bydgoszcz County to the south, Sepólno County to the south-west and Choinice County to the west.

Tuchola County (Powiat Tucholski)

Overview



The county is subdivided into six gminas (one urban-rural and five rural) These are listed in the following table, in descending order of population.

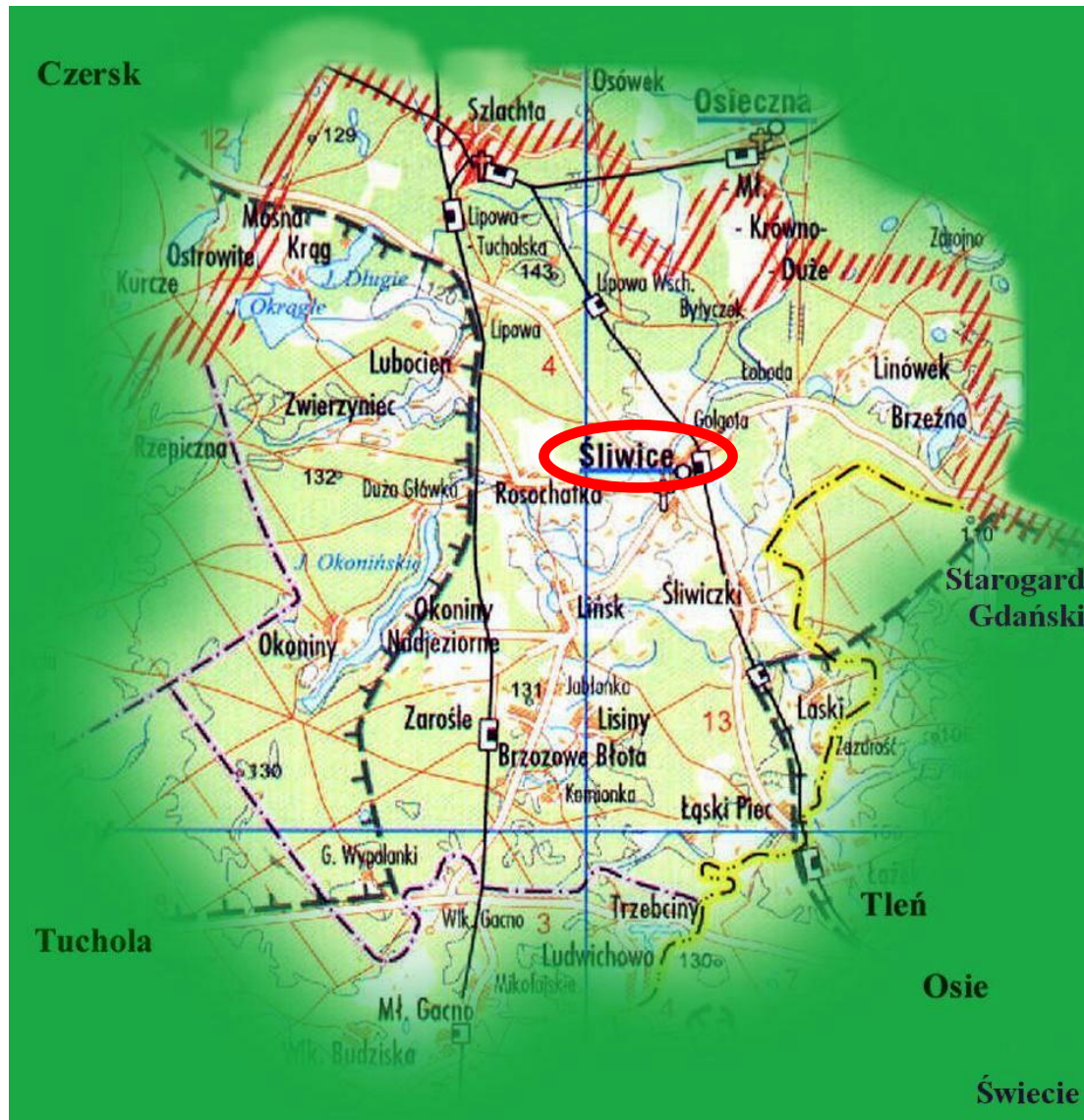
Gmina	Type	Area (km ²)	Population (2006)	Seat
Tuchola	Urban-Rural	239.4	20,076	Tuchola
Cekcyn	Rural	253.3	6,437	Cekcyn
Lubiewo	Rural	162.8	5,717	Lubiewo
Śliwice	Rural	174.8	5,430	Śliwice
Gostycyn	Rural	136.2	5,189	Gostycyn
Kęsowo	Rural	108.8	4,381	Kęsowo

Gmina Śliwice



- **Gmina Śliwice is a rural gmina (administrative district) in Tuchola County, Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, in north-central Poland. Its seat is the village of Śliwice, which lies approximately 25 kilometres (16 mi) north-east of Tuchola and 68 km (42 mi) north of Bydgoszcz.**
- **The gmina covers an area of 174.75 square kilometres (67.5 sq mi), and as of 2006 its total population is 5,430.**
- **The gmina contains part of the protected area called Tuchola Landscape Park.**
- **Gmina Śliwice contains the villages and settlements of Brzeźno Male, Brzozowe Blota, Bylyczek, Glówka, Krag, Laski, Łaski Piec, Linówek, Lińsk, Lipowa, Lisiny, Lubocień, Okoniny, Okoniny Nadjeziorne, Rosochatka, Śliwice, Sliwiczki and Zwierzyniec.**
- **Gmina Śliwice is bordered by the Gminas of Cekcyn, Czersk, Osie, Osieczna, Osiek and Tuchola.**

Map of Gmina Śliwice



Village of Śliwice



Seat of Gmina Śliwice

in

Tuchola County

in

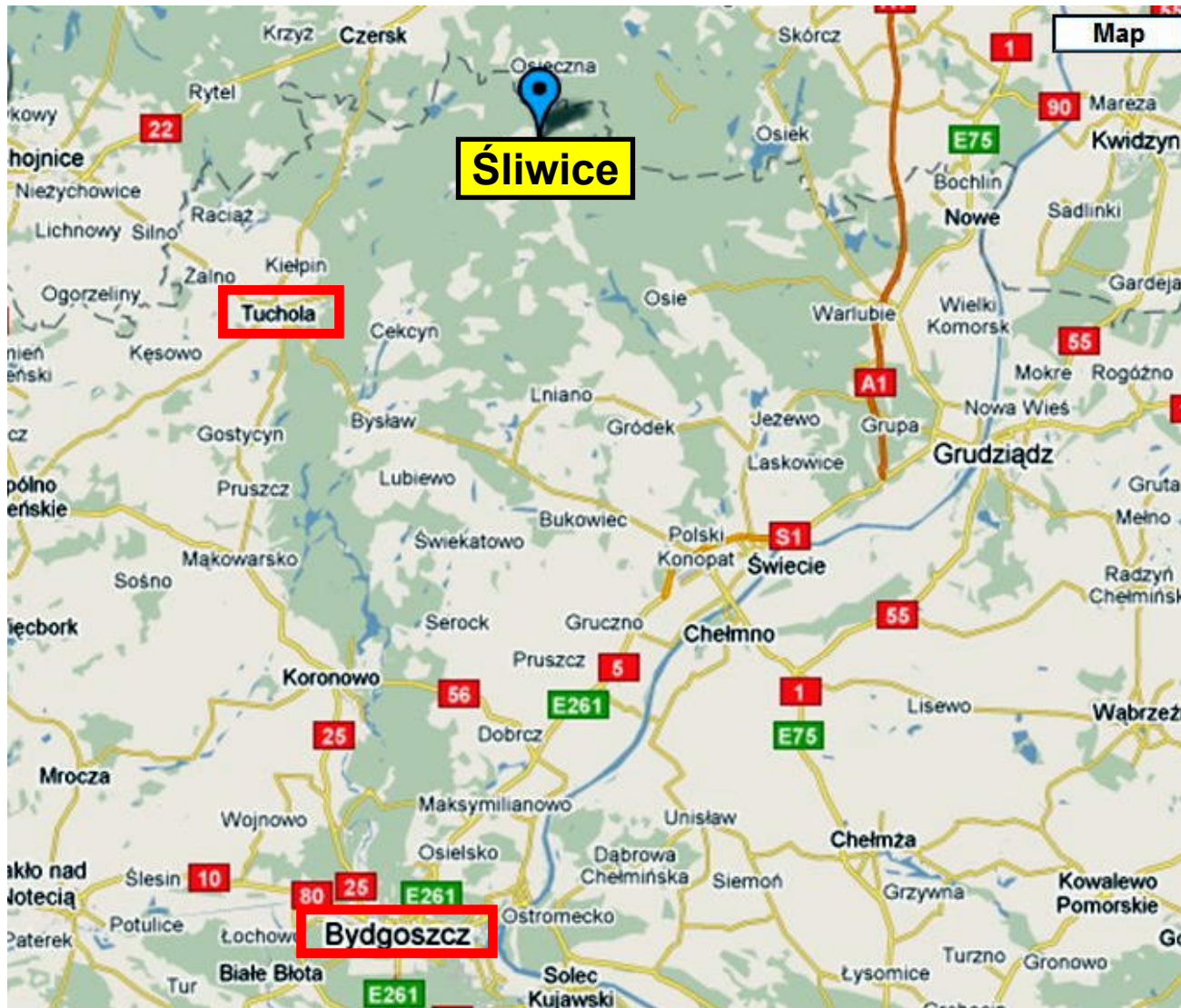
Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship

Village of Śliwice Location within Poland



**Kuyavian-Pomeranian
Voivodeship**

Śliwice Area Map



Śliwice's Catholic Church



- **Śliwice's Parish Church, St. Catherine of Alexandria, is located in the center of the village. The church was founded by Fr. Stanislaw Sychowski. The Church was erected in 1830 - in place of the earlier wooden church. In the years 1901-1902 the structure was increased in size to make the body of the church contain a three-nave chancel and annexes. The church is gothic in nature - built on a small stone pedestal with the construction being of stone and brick. Surrounding the church is the church cemetery.**

Aerial View of Village of Šliwice



**St Catherine of
Alexandria Church**

**Grotto of
Lourdes**



Views Around Village of Śliwice



Grotto of Lourdes



St Catherine of Alexandria



A neighborhood in Śliwice

History of Śliwice



- **The history of Śliwice dates back to the twelfth century. Śliwice probably got its name from a wild plum which grew abundantly in the area. The arrivals to the area were impressed with the flowery carpet which covered the fields during the spring. Initially, Śliwice was a small hamlet with a few families engaged in fishing, hunting and cultivation. For these privileges, they had to pay taxes to the owners of the land of the area.**
- **In the early 14th century Śliwice was owned by Pomeranian princes, who had built the 13th century parish church of St. Catherine which was made of wood and had a thatched roof.**
- **Around the mid-15th century, Śliwice was in the hands of the Teutonic Knights, and from this period came some important Śliwice documents concerning the Teutonic Order. The Thirteen Years' War, 1454 to 1466, led to the downfall of the Teutonic Order and the lands around Śliwice were returned to the Republic, becoming royal property.**



History of Śliwice

- **Although the village gradually expanded, Śliwice did not avoid the unpleasant consequences of fate. She was engulfed in looting, murder, pestilence and poverty due to several years of drought, along with a fire which partially destroyed the village.**
- **To raise the devastated economy of the area, King Augustus II of Saxony granted the residents of Śliwice the privilege to freely use some of the hay meadows, pasture lands and fishing areas. This document has been preserved to modern times.**
- **After the first Polish partition in 1772, Śliwice came under Prussian rule. With this came a form of slavery. The Prussians wanted to Germanize the local people forbidding them to speak and write Polish. Despite the pressure of Germanization, Śliwice eventually continued to develop. In the late 19th century Fr. Dr. Stanislaw Sychowski helped develop a cottage industry for making wickerwork and cigars. Around 1902, Fr. Dr. Sychowski expanded the parish church, and with it built a beautiful grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes.**

History of Śliwice: WW-II



- In September 1939 the Germans arrested several farmers, including fathers and sons. They were forced to dig their own graves before being shot and tossed into the holes in the ground.
- These actions by the Germans did not destroy the spirit of the residents of Śliwice. They formed partisan groups which worked to obfuscate the actions of the German soldiers. The work of the partisans provided important support for the allies, but resulted in the death of many of them. Many of these killings took place in the village of Brzezno, which is a few miles east of the village of Śliwice.
- Śliwice was liberated from German occupation on 19 February 1945. Immediately after liberation, Śliwice residents dug up many of the graves of the partisans so that they could receive a proper burial.



**Cemetery Monument:
Site of Mass Grave**



Central Śliwice about 1945

A Šliwice Business Today



- Here we see a recent addition to the business community of Šliwice. It is a lumber yard which specializes in wood products made from a variety of trees, some of which are from local forests. Their work includes sawmilling, planing of wood; impregnation of wood, and the preparation of some wood for the manufacture of furniture.

