



**Vanishing and vanished:
Villages of Orzysz commune, Gorzekaly and Oszczywilki – now and before**

**An exhibition in Museum of Orzysz,
01.10.2017 - 30.10.2017**

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

“European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas”

Europejski Fundusz Rolny
na rzecz Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich:
Europa inwestująca w obszary wiejskie.



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INTRODUCTION

Two villages in the Orzysz commune, Gorzekaly and Oszczywilki, have had a common history throughout the ages. One of them vanished a long time ago, and the second one is disregarded and vanishing, although in this year it's 475 years since it was founded.

Thanks to the coincidences and the long-lasting memory of the former inhabitants, we can see what these villages looked like.

At first sight Gorzekaly and Oszczywilki are not a tourist attractions. Neither of them lies along a busy road. There are no fertile lands, besides the fields taken by the military area a hundred years ago. There were forest, meadows and the lakes.

The area, now almost deserted, had its inhabitants. In 1925 there were 625 people of Oszczywilki (along with Bemowo Piśkie) in 80 houses. The area of the village along with its fields counted for 518 hectares (1930).

In 1938/39 in Gorzekaly were 36 homes buildings with 176 people (along with Forest District Grądówka and families living near the Kępno Lake). The field's area was 270 hectares.

Whether we care or not, history knocks on our door. The former inhabitants of these areas have their stories. We, who live in post-German villages now, make part of them. So we should remember about the past of these places and live our own history. And we hope that if our children would ever decide to leave and feel at home in other place, they will be able make a free choice – not a must, forced by wars and shifting borders.

The more we know about the history of the homes we live in, the easier it is to grow roots. To acknowledge a place for one's own means to respect its history. Especially, when our village is in the area where almost all of people are newcomers. The need of roots is a natural need of human beings. It makes for a reason why we listen to the stories of former inhabitants of Mazurian villages. We are writing the next chapter, whether we want it or not.

Idea and text: Miłosława Jung – Mieluch

Graphic design: Karina Marczak – Skirko

Translation: Dorota Piwowarska

The exhibition is divided in two parts. One of them is available September 30th – October 30th 2017 in the Museum of Orzysz. The second will be an open-air exposition on the private property fence in the village of Gorzekaly, opened May 1st – July 31th 2018.

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Dwie niewielkie wsie w gminie Orzysz, Gorzekały i Oszczywilki, przez kilkadziesiąt lat złączone były wspólną historią. Obecnie jednej z nich od dawna już nie ma, a drugą można uznać za wieś zanikającą, choć w tym roku mija **475 lat** od jej założenia. Dzięki szczęśliwemu zbiegowi okoliczności oraz życzliwości i doskonałej pamięci byłych mieszkańców udało się dotrzeć do materiałów, z których możemy się dowiedzieć, jak te wsie wyglądały w przeszłości, jak wyglądali i czym zajmowali się żyjący tam, a właściwie tu, ludzie.

Two villages in the Orzysz commune, Gorzekały and Oszczywilki, had a common history through the ages. One of them vanished longtime ago, and the second one is disregarded as vanishing, although this year it's **475 years** since it was found. Thanks to the coincidence and long-lasting memory of the former inhabitants, we can see how these villages looked like.

Na pierwszy rzut oka Gorzekały i Oszczywilki wydają się mało atrakcyjne turystycznie, położone na uboczu i zapomniane. Nigdy zresztą nie leżały na ruchliwych szlakach. Nigdy nie było tu urodzajnej ziemi, poza fragmentami w okolicach wsi Oszczywilki, włączonymi niecałe sto lat temu w obszar poligonu. Był natomiast las, z którego zasobów korzystano, prowadząc, tak jak dzieje się to obecnie, normalną gospodarkę leśną. Były łąki, na których pasły się zwierzęta, były jeziora, w których łowiono ryby. Był też poligon, który zwiększał swoją powierzchnię, pochłaniając pola i wioskę.

At the first sight Gorzekały and Oszczywilki are not a tourist attraction. Neither of them lies along a busy road. There were no fertile lands, besides the fields taken by the military area hundred years ago. There were forest, meadows and the lakes.

Okolice, choć dziś na to nie wygląda, była kiedyś gęsto zaludniona. W roku 1925 liczba mieszkańców Oszczywilków (razem z obrębem Schlagakrug, dzisiejszym Bemowem Piskim) wynosiła 625 osób (80 budynków w samych Oszczywilkach), a powierzchnia wsi wraz z okolicznymi polami 518 hektarów (1930). Oszczywilki należały administracyjnie do okręgu piskiego. Granica okręgów biegła wzdłuż istniejącej już wtedy drogi asfaltowej z Bemowa Piskiego do Wierzbina.

The area, now almost deserted, had its inhabitants. In 1925 there were 625 people of Oszczywilki (along with Bemowo Piskie) in 80 houses. The area of the village along with its fields counted for 518 hectares (1930).



ZANIKAJĄCE I NIEISTNIEJĄCE WSIE GMINY ORZYSZ: Gorzekały i Oszczywilki kiedyś i teraz

W Gorzekałach w roku 1938/39 znajdowało się 36 domów. Mieszkańców było wówczas 176 (liczonych razem z osadą nadleśnictwem Grądówka oraz osadami nad jeziorem Kępno), a powierzchnia pól wynosiła 270 hektarów. Gorzekały obejmowały również leśniczówkę Wolfsnest (dziś leśnictwo Grądówka), Wolfsheide (dziś leśnictwo Wilczy Las), Kosseln i Seehof, a także szkołę znajdującą się pomiędzy Gorzekałami a Bemowem Piskim. Wieś należała do parafii w Klusach, poczty w Orzyszu, okręgu Elk.

In 1938/39 in Gorzekały were 36 house buildings with 176 people (along with Forest District Grądówka and families living near the Kępno Lake). The fields' area was 270 hectares.

Czy tego chcemy czy nie, historia przychodzi do nas. Byli mieszkańcy tych miejsc powierzają nam swoje historie, historie swoich domów i swoich rodzin. Nas, obecnych mieszkańców poniemieckich wsi, łączy z byłymi ich mieszkańcami miejsce oraz historia wojennych oraz powojennych ucieczek i przesiedleń. Pamiętając o historii tych, którzy mieszkali tu przed nami, piszemy swoją historię, mając nadzieję, że nasze dzieci będą chciały tej opowieści wysłuchać, a jeżeli zdecydują się wyjechać i uznać za swoje inne miejsce, będzie to wyłącznie ich wolny wybór, a nie dziejowa konieczność.

Nevertheless we care or not, the history knocks on our door. The former inhabitants of these areas have their stories. We, who live in post-German villages now, make part of them. So we should remember about the past of these places and live our own history. And we hope, that if our children would ever decide to leave and feel at their own in other place, they will make a free choice – not a must, forced by wars and shifting borders.

Im więcej sami wiemy o historii miejsca, w którym mieszkamy, tym łatwiej jest nam się zakorzenieć i działać dla dobra wspólnego. Uznać to miejsce za własne oznacza szanować je razem z jego przeszłością. Tym bardziej, gdy nasza miejscowość leży na terenach, gdzie prawie wszyscy są przyjezdni. Potrzeba korzeni to naturalna potrzeba każdego człowieka. Dlatego słuchamy opowieści byłych mieszkańców mazurskich wiosek, opowieści, których czy chcemy czy nie, jesteśmy kolejnym rozdziałem.

The more we know about a history of the homes we live in, the easier we grow roots. To acknowledge a place for one's own means to respect its history. Especially, when our village is in the area where almost all of people are newcomers. The need of roots is a natural need of a human being. It makes a reason why we listen to the stories of former inhabitants of Mazurian villages. We write the next chapter, either we want it or not.

Realizacja projektu była możliwa dzięki grantowi LGD Mazurskie Morze – cel ogólny 3 Lokalnej Strategii Rozwoju: „Poprawa konkurencyjności obszaru jako miejsca wypoczynku, prowadzenia działalności gospodarczej i zamieszkania”, cel szczegółowy 3.2: „Pobudzenie aktywności gospodarczej, społecznej i kulturalnej mieszkańców”, przedsięwzięcie 3.2.3: „Promowanie zachowania i upowszechniania dziedzictwa lokalnego, np. poprzez tworzenie wiosek tematycznych, odtwarzanie ginących zawodów, organizację wydarzeń promocyjnych, edukacyjnych, sportowo-rekreacyjnych - regionalnych i lokalnych”.

Koncepcja wystawy i teksty [Idea and text]: Miłosława Jung-Mieluch

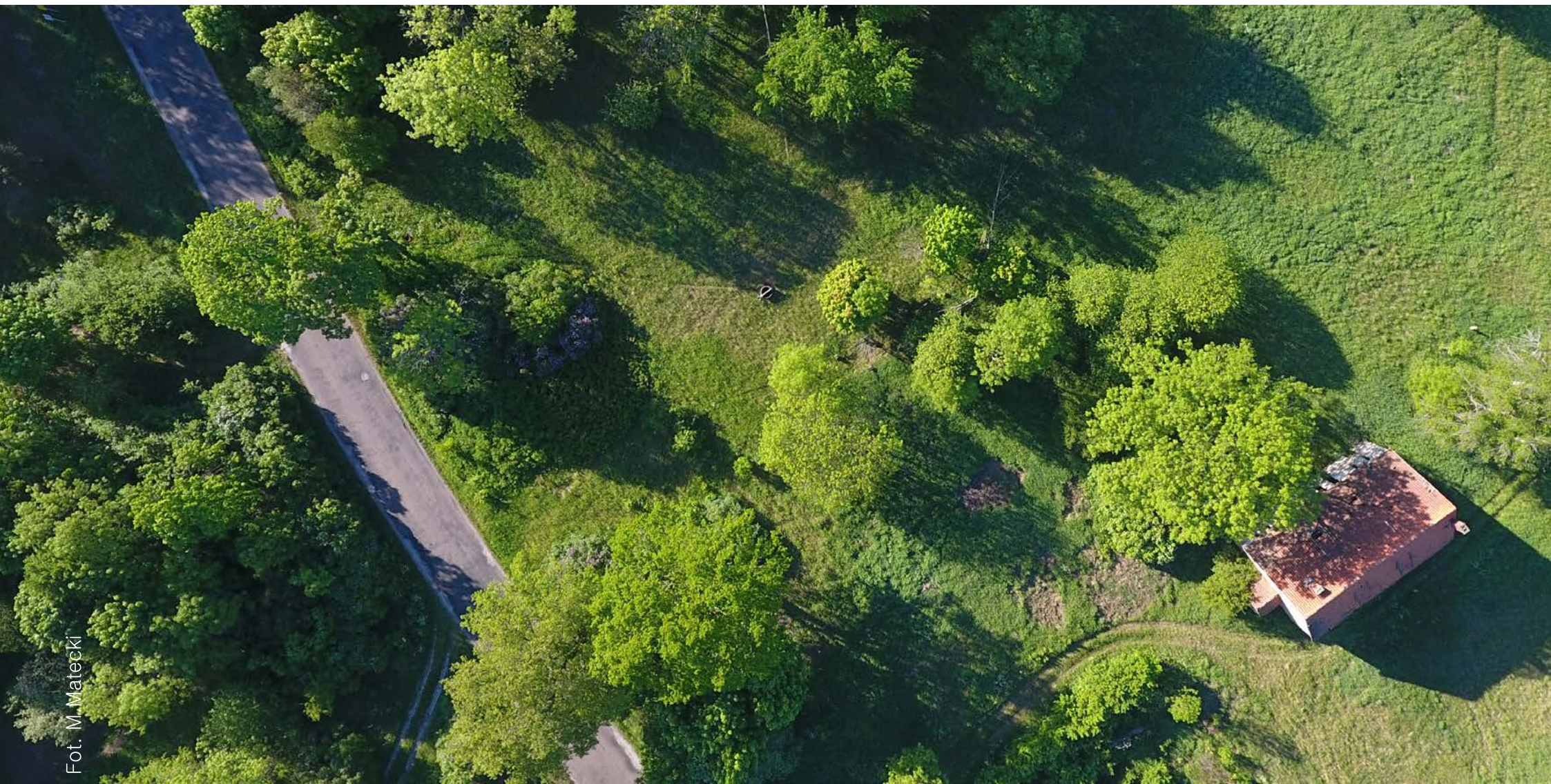
Projekt graficzny [Graphic design]: Karina Marczak-Skirko

Mapa [map]: Muzeum Wojska, Wojskowości i Ziemi Orzyskiej w Orzyszu.

THE VILLAGE OF GORZEKALY

The village of Gorzekaly was founded in 1542. This year it's its 475th anniversary. Brothers Adam, Michal and Maciej Gorzika bought 6 fields of land from the commander of Districtus Rheinensis (Ryn District). These 6 fields were about 90 hec-

tares. 1 field was a measure of land that would be ploughed by one family and one plough and would give enough food for a family to survive. The village was granted a permission of free fishery.



In 1564 there was an inn already. The number of inhabitants gradually grew. In 1818 there were 37 people, in 1883 – 109, in 1933 – 156, and in 1939 – 176. Now in Gorzekaly there are 5 residential buildings (including 3 forester's houses), one uninhabited house and a church building. Initially the village was named Gorsikallen, then Gorzekallen, and in 1938 Gortzen, the name that became official on September 1st 1939. From 1947 onwards the name has been Gorzekaly.

According to the statistics from 1932, the wealthiest men in the village were Hans Hoffman and Emil Rosteiuss. They first owned 30 and the second 98 hectares of land. In 1938 the whole area of land in Gorzekaly was 270 hectares. Both of them rest in peace in the cemetery in the woods and their graves still exist.

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The administration of Gorzekaly until the 1945 was in Elk District (Kreis Lyck). The parish of evangelic church was primarily in Orzysz and after XVIth century in Klusy. The New Apostolic Church was built here in 1903.

Before WWII in the village the cattle and sheep were kept as army supplies. After the war these lands, belonging to the state, were divided between the Polish Army and State Forests.

The army established a farm, leaving two of 36 houses and discarding the remaining. The State Forests planted the woods. On picture (1) the remains of the army farm, fenced with barbed wire (private property).

There are only few pictures from the pre-war Gorzekaly, con-

trary to the nearby village of Oszczywilki. One of them shows a group of men in front of Mr. Schlamm's inn. The second one is the picture of a band from Gorzekaly and Orzysz in 1925.

In the house register, dated 1938/1939, there are marked buildings of the post office, two military posts, grocery store/ inn, the transformer, smithy and the forester's house Wolfsnest. Outside the map are the new school (built in 1938 for children of Gorzekaly and Bemowo Piskie after the village of Oszczywilki was torn down) and two forester's houses – Wolfsheide and Kosseln, also located in Gorzekaly.

In Encyclopaedia of Warmia and Masuria we can read that in wintertime of 1954 a famous Polish writer, Jaroslaw Iwaszkiewicz, lived here.

„The most wonderful thing in Gorzekaly is silence” – he wrote. “It's so complete, like it is high in the mountains. Sometimes the car passes by, but later on, the silence is even deeper. Especially when you go on the field or to the woods – this place is ideal”.

Wieś Gorzekały założona została w roku 1542, czyli **475 lat** temu, gdy bracia Adam, Michał i Maciej Gorzikalla z Zalesia kupili od komtura ryńskiego sześć łanów ziemi (ok. 90 dzisiejszych hektarów) na prawie magdeburskim za sumę 124 marek pruskich. Jeden łan ziemi to obszar, który mógł być zaorany jednym pługiem przez jedną rodzinę i mógł tę rodzinę wyżywić.

Wieś korzystała z przywileju wolnego rybactwa.

W roku 1564 była już tu karczma. Liczba mieszkańców stopniowo rosła. W 1818 roku było ich 37, w 1883 - 109, w 1933 - 156, a w 1939 - 176. Obecnie w Gorzekałach znajduje się pięć domów mieszkalnych (w tym trzy leśniczówki Lasów Państwowych), jeden dom niezamieszkały oraz kościół wpisany do gminnej ewidencji zabytków, a także dwa cmentarze, również w tej ewidencji wymienione. Początkowo wieś nosiła nazwę Gorsikallen, potem Gorzekallen, a w 1938 została przemianowana na Gortzen, która to nazwa stała się oficjalna 1 września 1939 roku. Od 1 października 1947 nazwa wsi to Gorzekały.

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Fot. M. Matecki



WIEŚ Gorzekały



MIESZKAŃCY WSI GORZEKAŁY

Stan na rok 1939

1 Werner, Kirsch
2 Zymny
3 Pawelzik
4 Rosteius
5 Pogorzelski
6 nn [unkn.]
7 Kościół Nowoapostolski
[New Apostolic Church]
8 Reisehauer H.

9 Reisehauer F.
10 Administracja wojskowa
[military post]
11 Fahrur
12 Kulinna, Müller, F.
13 Salamon - Poczta [post office]
14 Kulinna, E
15 Kullick
16 Posegga

17 Kayka / Niechotz
18 Reisenauer
19 Kulinna, C.
20 Schlimm, Rosteius -
sklep kolonialny / gospoda
[grocery shop / inn]
21 Sbrzesny
22 Segadlo
23 Völker

24 Reisenauer
25 Brügemann
26 Worobyow
27 Administracja wojskowa
[military post]
28 Pedak
29 Lindenau
30 Jedamzik
31 Sablodnie

32 Bindernagel
33 stacja trafo (transformator)
[the transformer]
34 Potepski - kuźnia [smithy]
35 Friedhof
36 Neumann W -
leśniczówka Wolfsnest
[forester's house Wolfsnest]

Europejski Fundusz Rolny na rzecz Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich:
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LEŚNICZÓWKA w Gorzekałach

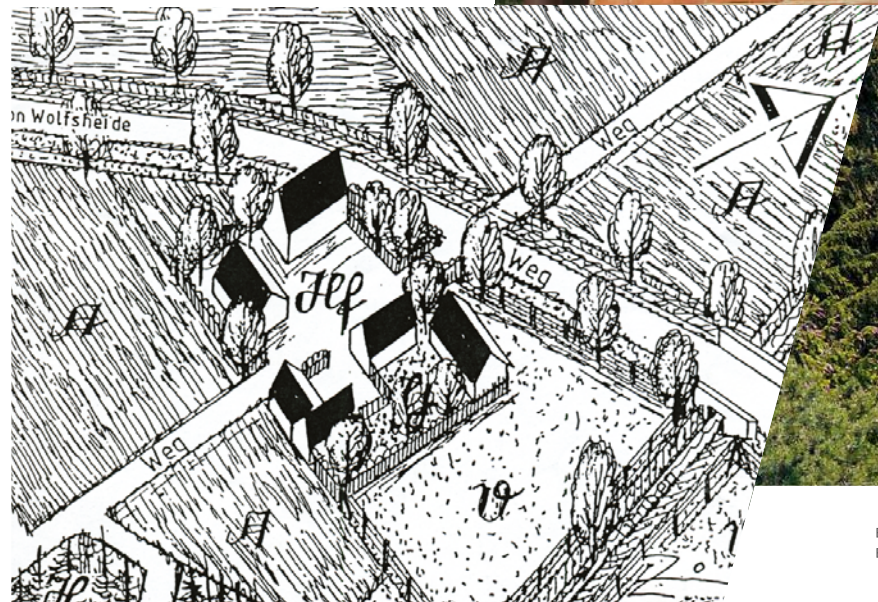
Leśniczówka w Gorzekałach została zbudowana w latach 30. XX wieku. Budynek od początku został zaprojektowany jako leśniczówka i nieprzerwanie pełni swoją funkcję, najpierw pod nazwą Wolfsnest, następnie Wilcze Gniazdo, później Koźle, a obecnie Grądówka. Jest to osada służbowa należąca do Nadleśnictwa Drygały i leśnictwa Grądówka.

To charakterystyczny dla regionu, typowy projekt osady leśnej z terenu Prus Wschodnich i Pomorza, reprezentujący styl architektury tzw. brandenbursko - holenderskiej, charakteryzującej się m.in. zewnętrznymi ścianami murowanymi w cegle licowej, fundamentami z kamienia polnego łupanego, dachu krytego dachówką ceramiczną oraz piecem chlebowym i wędzarnią umieszczonymi w piwnicy.

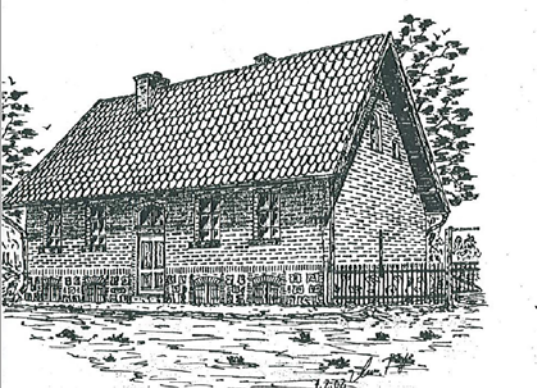
The forester's house in Gorzekałach was built in the thirties of XX century. From the beginning it was planned as a state property of national forests and is still keeping its form and function. At first it was named Wolfsnest, then Koźle and now Grądówka. It's a State Forests property of Forest District Drygały, Forestry Grądówka.

It's a typical project of the forest settlement in the region of East Prussia and Pomerania. It represents the architecture style common in Germany and the Netherlands. The specific features are external walls made with red brick, foundation with field stone and a roof of ceramic tiles. The basement is equipped with a bread stove and a smoker.

Fot. 1,5 T.Mieluch, fot. 2,3,4,6 z archiwum [courtesy of] Karin Matray, fot. 7 M.Matecki.



THE FORESTER'S HOUSE IN GORZEKALY



The forester's house in Gorzekaly was built in the thirties of XX century. From the beginning it was planned as a state property of national forests and is still keeping its form and function. At first it was named Wolfsnest, then Kozle and now Grądówka. It's a State Forests property of Forest District Drygaly, Forestry Gradowka.

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The sketch documentation by Ernst Zimmer from 1937 includes not only the existing buildings, but also the planned ones. Two of them were never constructed. The initial three – the house, the stable and the barn are still in use.

The forester's house was built at the crossroads. One road leads right, to the Head Forest Office near the Kempno Lake and further to Klusy. To the left it leads to the

nearby village of Oszczywilki. The second road was a connection between a village of Gorzekaly and Wierzbiny.

Near the Kempno Lake were another forester's house, Seehof, and over 1 km further a house of forestry workers. The former inhabitant of Oszczywilki, Ulrich Czichy, has a memory of these places:

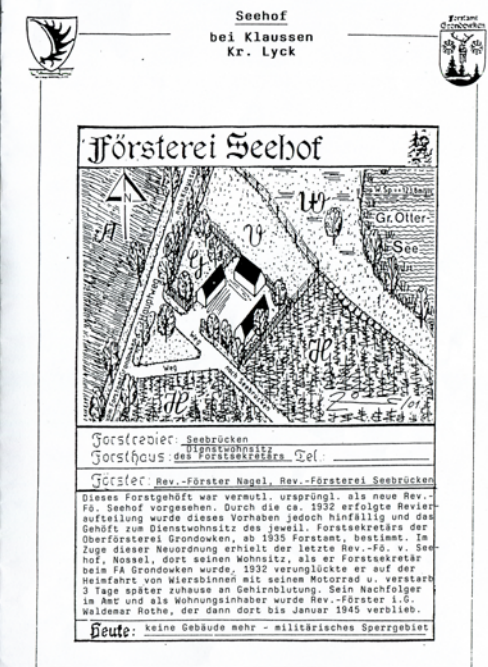
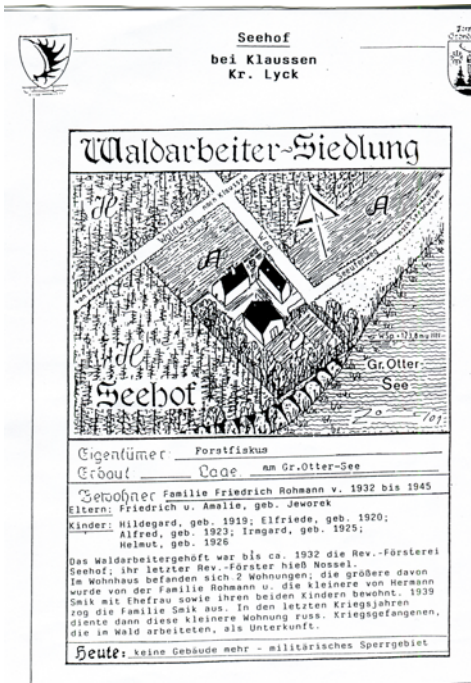
„One my grandpa said to grandma: Tomorrow we'll go to visit the Rohmann's on Kempno! So Uncle Gustav had to prepare the little carriage for the trip – it meant greasing the axles and polishing the Sunday harness. On the next day he yoked our two dark-brown Kozak horses from WW I, and grandparents went for a ride, taking me with them as usual.

This long road through the dark woods was always for me a deep experience. First we passed by Wolfsnest, a forester's house in Gorzekaly, when I could often see a tamed red deer that lived in the garden of the forester. The rest of the trip was not so exciting. From time to time a scared hare jumped off; sometimes a doe crossed our way. The forest had a lot of surprises for us. (...) At some

moment we could feel a scent of the lake and it become more and more intense. (...) Aunt and uncle, along with their children, welcomed us. Next we needed to take care about horses, and after that we could enter the house. The adults had always their matters to discuss, especially my grandma and aunt, who were very close to each other. We, the kids, could not resist very long to the call of the lake. We either swam or fished. As we could catch only the small fish, the fishermen were not making any problems. We brought all our trophies to aunt and she took care of them – they were delicious. In the evening we went once more outside, to look for cancers. She cooked them for us as well. At nightfall, after the supper we came home. Although it was dark, it was not scary. Grandpa let the harness go loose and the horses find the way back by themselves.”.

[U. Czichy, Seehof, the Otter Lake]

The name of the first forester being resident of Wolfsnest is unknown. But he is remembered as a person of extreme political opinions. Until today there are the remains of a monument he founded for Hitler. The second forester here was Walter Neumann, who took charge in 1937. He was born in Gehland and his wife, Marta, in Piecki. They married on December 17th, 1937. Walter was soon called up to the army – in July 1939. On September 1st he marched towards Poland. During the war he visited his home few times, but later he was imprisoned by the Soviets. Released in the late fifties or early sixties of XX century, he came back to Germany and died soon.



All pictures made before WW II are from the family archive of Karin Matray, daughter of forester Neumann. She comes to visit the house she was born every year. On the small cemetery in the forest she commemorates her little brother, Klaus, born and died later in January 1939.

Below there is a bit of memories she wrote:

„My father has been named a forester in Wolfsnest Forestry on May 1st 1937. The forestry belonged to the Forest District Grondowken. My parents, father Walter Neumann and Marta Neumann (b. Kompa), got married on December 1937 in Piecki. My brother Klaus was born in January 1939 and died few days later. His grave is on the cemetery in the woods. Me, Karin Neumann, I was born on February 22nd 1940 and my younger sister Brigitte on June 30th 1942.

My mother liked a village life very much and she had a lot of work. Next to the forester's house there was a piece of land and a field as well. Two workers from the village were coming to help her. One man living in Gorzekaly kept his bees here. He had about 13 hives.

On July 16th 1939 my father was called up for a 6 weeks military exercise next to the Polish border. My mother went to see him at the end of August in front of the church in Drygaly. There were a lot of women from Gorzekaly as well. This was a farewell – next day the war begun.

My mother kept a lot of poultry – hens, ducks and guinea hens. She had five or six cows as well. I liked the chicks very much – as every kid does. One day I went to the hen house and hugged them so tight that they died unfortunately. We had some dogs as well. It was impossible to live in a forest without a dog.

One day a Russian/Soviet war prisoner was passing by and he looked into a cradle my sister was lying. The dog barked, and my mother came shouting "Ivan, what are you doing?" He answered he just wanted to ask what the time was and told her he had a little baby at home as well. My mother gave him some cigarettes and a schnaps. Soviet war prisoners were helping the countrymen on the fields and in the woods.

One day we get to know that somewhere nearby soviet partisans killed a whole family of a forester. Since then a German soldier lived with us at home. Wounded on battle, he was coming to health being our protection.

Since the war started, my mother was very scared, especially at Wight. Sometimes she had to come out when the cows were giving birth. For us, children, cows and horses were a great joy.

I remember well two Russian girls who lived with us. They were also war prisoners. We called them "Wally" and "Mari-schka". Wally was from Grodno, Mari from Kiev. I think I have learned a little bit of Russian from them. My mother liked Wala very much and trusted her absolutely. Neither of our Russian girls ever betrayed our mother. She was making butter during the war, what was strictly forbidden. We had regular visits from the gendarme who was asking for the news and looking for butter.

The year 1944 ended with a Russian front coming near and near. My mother took my sister and me to grandparents in Piecki. She also asked a man from Gorzekaly to kill our dogs. She left the cows with plenty of food helped by Marishka and Wala. On January 23rd at 11 o'clock we left Piecki on a military truck in direction of Pomerania district. The temperature was 25 degrees below zero.

Wala went with us to Berlin. Then in Potsdam we stayed at my father's friend's family. His wife disliked Wala, so my mother found a family of a German officer who agreed to give her a shelter. We never saw her again. Her name was Valentina Gerasimovitsch."



Nazwisko pierwszego leśniczego zajmującego leśniczówkę Wolfsnest nie jest znane. Drugim leśniczym był Walter Neumann, który objął leśnictwo w roku 1937. Pochodził z Gielądu (Gehland), a jego żona, Marta, z Pieck (Peitschendorf).

Ich ślub odbył się 17 grudnia 1937 w Pieckach. Walternie pełnił urzędu zbyt długo - został zmobilizowany w lipcu 1939 i 1 września wkroczył do Polski. W czasie wojny kilkakrotnie przyjeżdżał do domu. Na froncie wschodnim dostał się do niewoli rosyjskiej. Powrócił do Niemiec na przełomie lat 50. i 60. XX wieku i zmarł niedługo potem.

Archiwalne zdjęcia leśniczówki pochodzą z archiwum rodzinnego Karin Matray z d. Neumann, córki leśniczego Neumanna. Wykonane zostały pomiędzy rokiem 1938 a 1944. Karin co roku przyjeżdża do leśniczówki, w której przyszła na świat. Na leśnym cmentarzu w Gorze Kałach odwiedza grób swojego brata, Klausa, zmarłego niedługo po urodzeniu, w styczniu 1939.

The name of the first forester being resident of Wolfsnest is unknown. The second forester here was Walter Neumann, who took charge in 1937. He was born in Gieląd (Gehland) and his wife, Marta, in Piecki (Peitschendorf).

They married on December 17th, 1937. Walter was soon called up to the army - in July 1939. On September 1st he marched towards Poland. During the war he visited his home few times, but later he was imprisoned by the Soviets. Released in the late fifties or early sixties of XX century, he came back to Germany, found his family and died soon.

All pictures made before WW II are from the family archive of Karin Matray, daughter of forester Neumann. She comes to visit the house she was born every year. On the small cemetery in the forest she commemorates her little brother, Klaus, born and died in January 1939.





Fot. z arch. Karin Matray

In 2010, after a specialist research, Polish State Forests, an owner of the building, decided to renovate the house. This decision was connected to various fungi affecting the construction of the building as well as a natural wear and tear of the property. Piotr Kozarski from The State Forest Information Centre in Warsaw conducted the research.

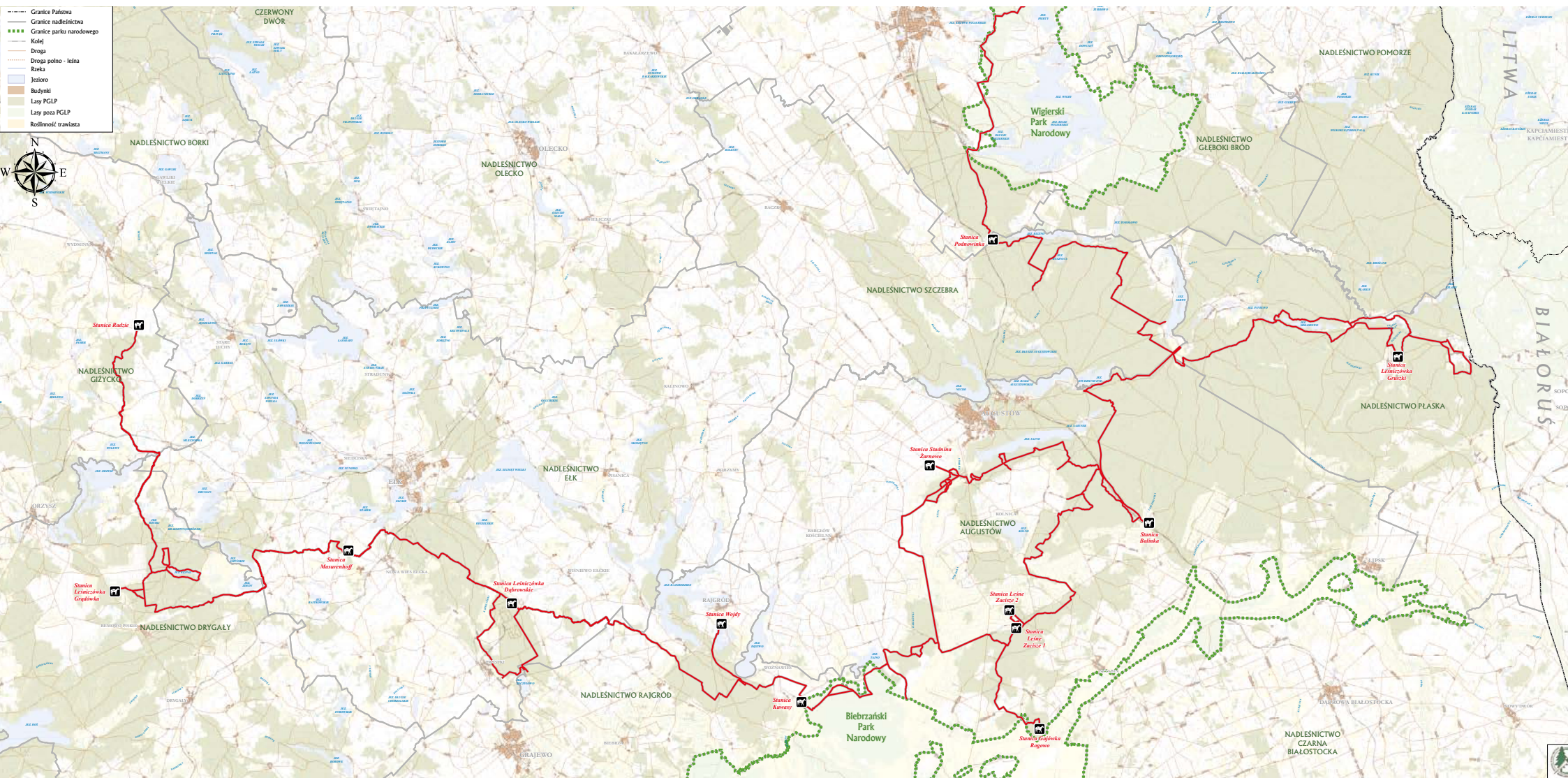
The project of the renovation assumed overcoming the fungi and insulating the building, but keeping the original red brick outside. As a result the renovation was conducted with use of an internal insulation system designed for protection of old buildings and architecture monuments. This allowed keeping the culture landscape of the area, where the forester's house

is present for almost 100 years.

Since 2005 the forester's house in Gorzekały has been a checkpoint on a horse trail joining the Wigierski National Park, through the Forest Districts of Suwałki, Szczebra, Płaska, Augustów, Biebrza National Park, and Forest Districts of Rajgród, Elk and Drygały to Giżycko. The route is over 400 km long and until a few years ago it was the longest horse trail in Poland.

Map courtesy of Forest District Rajgród.

Every year the horse riding groups, including foresters, reach the Grądówka forester's house, being one of the stop over for horses and people. Recently they also can stay in Gorzekały, in the house near the old church. The additional attractions of this place are the horses and the goats accompanied by a ram kept by the forester.





W roku 2005 leśniczówka została przyłączona do Szlaku Konnego Puszczy Augustowskiej i Mazur. Do niedawna był to najdłuższy w Polsce, liczący ponad 400 km nizinny szlak jeździecki. Prowadzi od leśniczówki Lipniak w Wigierskim Parku Narodowym przez nadleśnictwa Suwałki, Szczebra, Płaska, Augustów, Biebrzański Park Narodowy, nadleśnictwo Rajgród, nadleśnictwo Elk, nadleśnictwo Drygały do nadleśnictwa Giżycko.

Since 2005 the forester's house in Gorze kały has been a checkpoint on a horse trail joining the Wigierski National Park, through the Forest Districts of Suwałki, Szczebra, Płaska, Augustów, Biebrza National Park, Forest Districts of Rajgród, Elk and Drygały to Giżycko. The route is over 400 km long and until a few years ago it was the longest horse trail in Poland.

Fot. M.Jung, T.Mieluch, mapa [map] Nadl. Rajgród



Europejski Fundusz Rolny na rzecz Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich:
Europa inwestująca w obszary wiejskie



THE CHURCH

The local community of New Apostolic Church (NAC) built the church in Gorzekaly in 1903. Since the second half of XIX century the apostles of NAC were very active in the region of Warmia and Masuria. In 1935 there were 192 NAC churches across East Prussia. The church in Gorzekaly was very popular – between 132 inhabitants of Gorzekaly and Bemowo Piskie in these days, 87 were new apostolic.

On Sundays many more people came from nearby villages and from Orzysz. (The NAC church in Orzysz was established in 1909 by the Turowski family.)

16

In 1937 there was a fire in the church and the whole interior was burnt. The community rebuilt the church, which was consecrated on August 14th 1938. After WW II the church was used as roman – catholic. The priests from Orzysz and later on from Drygaly came for Sunday services. There is no information when the church stopped being used.

In December 2014 a specialized architect, M. Górski, Ph.D, measured the whole building and its construction. This documentation will be a basis to create a project of renovation for the church. Thanks to M.Górski, founder of NGO „Poligon Kultury Gorzekały”, the church, still present in the landscape of a vanishing village, is an inspiration for architectural students, coming here for workshops. The ideas for the new functions of the church presented by illustrations are term papers at Faculty of Architecture at Warsaw University of Technology.

Fot. M.Jung



KOŚCIÓŁ w Gorzekałach

Kościół w Gorzekałach, zbudowany w roku 1903, wzniesiony został przez miejscową gminę wyznaniową Kościoła Nowoapostolskiego. W roku 1935 na terenie ówczesnych Prus Wschodnich istniały 192 zbory tego wyznania. 21 listopada 1937 w kościele wybuchł pożar, w wyniku którego budynek uległ zniszczeniu. Odbudowany, został poświęcony 14 sierpnia 1938 roku i w tym kształcie przetrwał do dzisiaj.

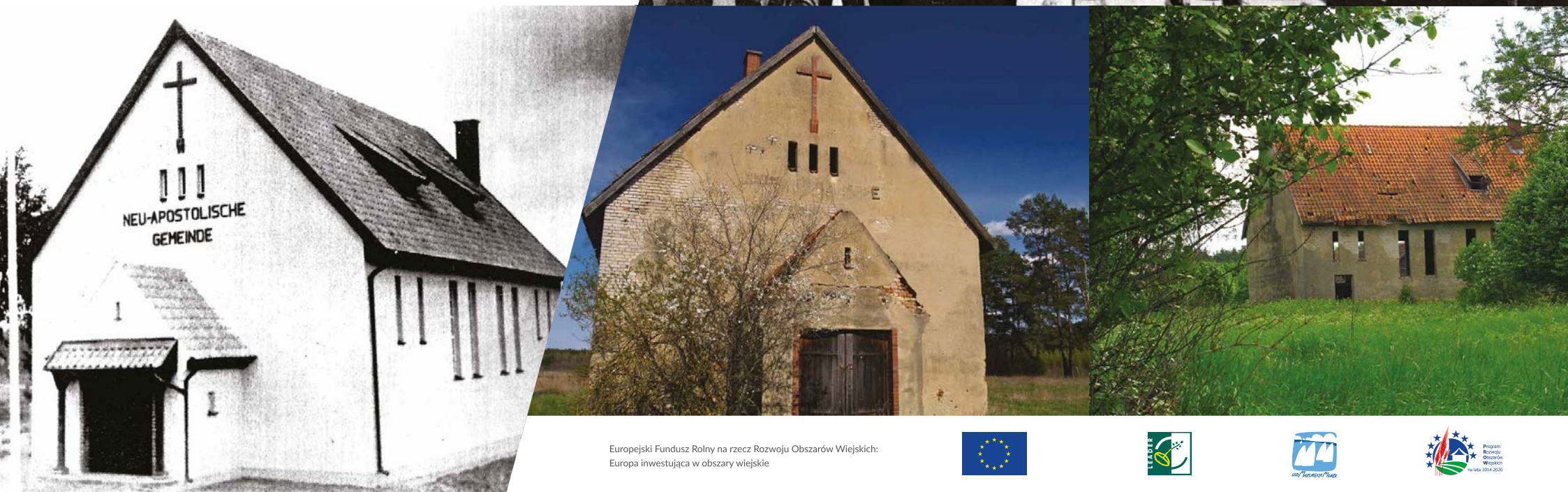
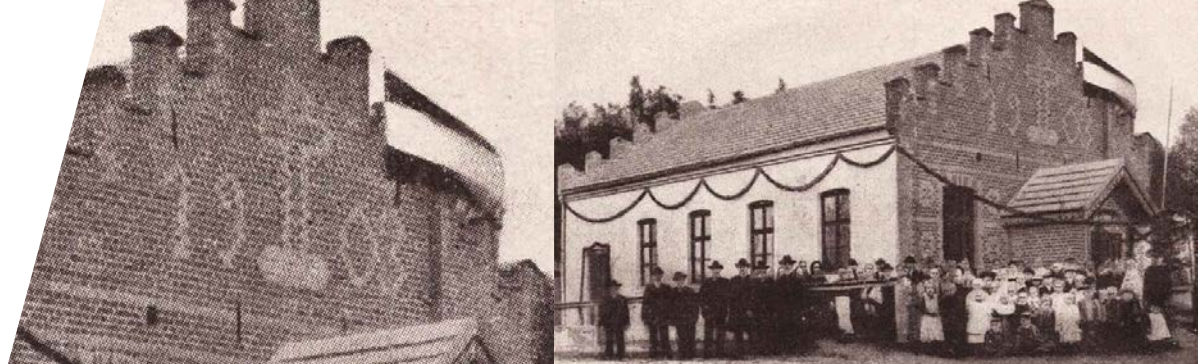
Był czas, że na 132 mieszkańców Gorzekał i Bemowa Piskiego, 87 należało do Kościoła Nowoapostolskiego, a w niedzielę na mszę przybywali wierni również z okolicznych wsi, a także z Orzysza. Ważną postacią wspólnot nowoapostolskich z Gorzekał i Orzysza był Wilhelm Turowski, dzięki któremu w roku 1909 w Orzyszu powstał również kościół NAK. Po wojnie kościół w Gorzekałach funkcjonował jako kościół katolicki. Odprawiał tam msze ks. Piotr Koszykowski z Orzysza (1945-48), a później ks. Adolf Jaroszek z Drygał.

The church in Gorzekał was built in 1903 by the local community of New Apostolic Church (NAC). Since the second half of XIX century, the apostles of NAC were very active in the region of Warmia and Masuria. In 1935 there were 192 NAC churches across East Prussia. The church was very popular - between 132 inhabitants of Gorzekał and Bemowo Piskie in it's era, 87 were new apostolic.

On Sundays many more people came from nearby villages and from Orzysz as well. (The NAC church in Orzysz was established in 1909 by the Turowski family, who moved from Gorzekał to Orzysz.)

In 1937 there was a fire in the church and the whole interior was burnt. The community rebuilt the church, which was consecrated on August 14th, 1938. After WW II the church was used as a roman-catholic. The priests from Orzysz and later on, from Drygał came for a Sunday services.

Fot. 1,2,3,4,5 Zeitschrift Unsere Familie 1938, Unsere Familie Kalender 1982 (c) Verlag Friedrich Bischoff GmbH, Frankfurt am Main, fot. 6,7 M.Jung





NGO „FUNDACJA POLIGON KULTURY GORZEKAŁY”

Nothing happens by accident even if it looks like. Around ten years ago the new owners of the property in Gorzekaly, including the church, met the inhabitants of the forester's house.

The meeting of people of similar age and common insight on history matters resulted with founding an NGO “Fundacja Poligon Kultury Gorzekaly”. Now the church is administrated by FPKG, which aims to restore the building and use it for various local cultural activities.

So far there were paint workshops for children (2015), horse riding stopovers (2016, 2017) and open-air painting weekend (2017).

The church building is now recognized as a local architectural monument.

More information can be found on www.ngomazury.pl/organizacja/poligonkulturygorzekały



Około dziesięciu lat temu nowi właściciele starego kościoła w Gorzkałach, kupionego wraz z równie starym domem i ziemią po dawnym Wojskowym Gospodarstwie Rolnym, spotkali się z tymi, którzy również niedawno zamieszkali w leśniczówce.

Spotkanie ludzi różnych zawodów, ale w podobnym wieku i podobnie patrzących na historię, która jest na Mazurach taką samą esencją, jak lasy i jeziora, zaowocowało w roku 2012 powołaniem Fundacji Polygon Kultury Gorzkały. Jej celem jest odbudowanie kościoła i zinventoryzowanie zapomnianych okolicznych cmentarzy, a także rozszerzenie palety lokalnych aktywności i inicjatyw kulturalnych.

Odbyły się tu warsztaty dla dzieci z malowania w krajobrazie (2015), rajdy konne (2016, 2017) oraz plener malarski (2017).

Od roku 2016 fundacja jest zarządcą budynku pokościelnego położonego na terenie wsi Gorzkały, który, na wniosek fundacji, został wpisany przez burmistrza Orzysza do gminnej ewidencji zabytków.

Nothing happens by accident, even if it looks like. Around ten years ago the new owners of the property and the church met the inhabitants of the forester's house.

The meeting of people of similar age and common insight on history matters resulted with founding an NGO „Fundacja Polygon Kultury Gorzkały”. Now the church is administrated by FPKG which aims to restore the building and use it for various local cultural activities.

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The church building, is now recognized as an architectural monument.

Fot. M.Górski, M.Jung, K.Marczak, rys.1,7 [fig.1,7] M.Górski





Fot. courtesy of J. Wolkowycki

THE NATURE

The forests area around Gorzekaly is now visibly larger than before WWII, when the village area was over 270 hectares of fields, meadows and pastures. The soil here is mainly poor, with occasional fertile lands. Swampy meadows in Gorzekaly are exceptional because of their value of nature, covered by Nature 2000 and Special Bird Protection Areas.

In the nearby military zone there is a black grouse habitat. The local population is one of the most numerous in northeastern Poland. During autumn you can hear the red deer lowing – it's rut time! Meeting an elk is also nothing unusual. In wintertime wolves' prints are visible in the fresh snow. Wolves avoid human neighborhood, but as there are lot of wildlife in the forest, the wolves' population is stable.



Fot. M. Jung

THE CEMETERIES

The location of two cemeteries in Gorzekaly can be found on an old map. One of them is behind the church in a group of old trees; the second one is in the forest and can be hardly found. Both places are on the local list of cultural monuments. Only few graves still exist.

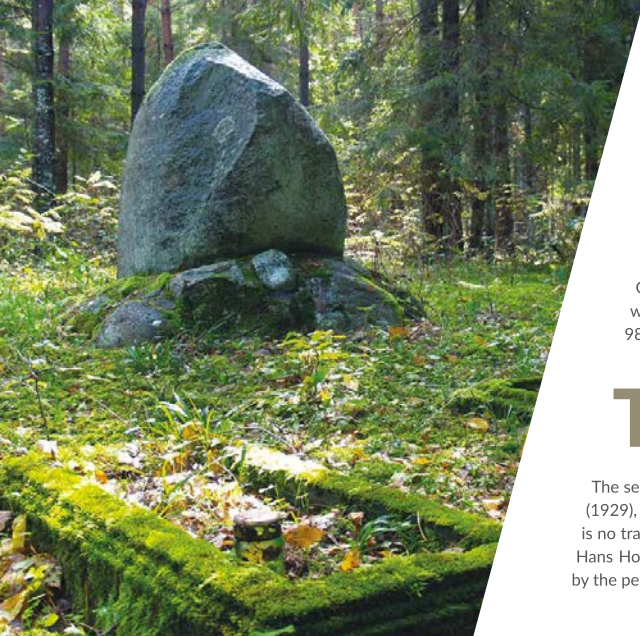
In the churchyard there are remains of four burials, including two graves of unknown Russian soldiers from WW I.

The second cemetery was next to the village, but not in the woods as it is now. It had a metal fence (not retained). The entry gate was in front of the big grave stone (still in place).

It's the grave of Franz Schulz (1929), a retired police chief officer. In the middle of the cemetery there was a big wooden cross (3–4 m high). It was still in place in the eighties of XX century, but there is no trace of it now.

These days (2017) the remains of 15 burials are on site. The readable inscriptions are of three of them, for Franz Schulz, Emil Rosteius and Hans Hoffman. Rosteius and Hoffman were the wealthy men from Gorzekaly – one owned 98 and the other 30 hectares of land.

The cemetery was also used by the people of the nearby Bemowo Piskie.



CMENTARZE w Gorzekałach

Lokalizacja dwóch gorzekałskich cmentarzy została zaznaczona na starej mapie. Jeden znajduje się za kościołem w kępie drzew, drugi w lesie za wsią i trudno go już odszukać. Przetrwowało bardzo niewiele grobów. Na cmentarzu za kościołem można odnaleźć dwa cementowe krzyże z datą 1914-1915. To groby nieznanymi żołnierzy rosyjskich z I wojny światowej. Oprócz krzyży na cmentarzu są również resztki dwóch innych nagrobków.

Drugi cmentarz w Gorzekałach był położony za wsią, wzdłuż drogi. Brama wejściowa znajdowała się naprzeciw dużego kamienia nagrobnego. To grób Franza Schulza (1929), emerytowanego naczelnika policji. W centralnym miejscu był drewniany krzyż, który stał tam jeszcze w latach 80. XX wieku. Obecnie (2017) na miejscu można odnaleźć pozostałości 15 nagrobków. Możliwe do odczytania napisy znajdują się na trzech grobach - wspomnianego wcześniej Franza Schulza oraz Emila Rosteiusa (1939) i Hansa Hoffmana (nn). Dwaj ostatni panowie posiadali największe obszary ziemi w Gorzekałach - 98 i 30 hektarów. Na tym cmentarzu chowano również zmarłych z Bemowa Piskiego (Schlagakrug).

The location of two cemeteries in Gorzekaly can be found on an old map. One of them is behind the church in the group of old trees, the second one is in the forest and can be hardly found. Both places are on the local list of cultural monuments, only few graves still exist. In the churchyard there are remains of four burials, incl. two graves of unknown Russian soldiers from WW I.

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Fot. M.Jung



PRZYRODA w Gorzekałach

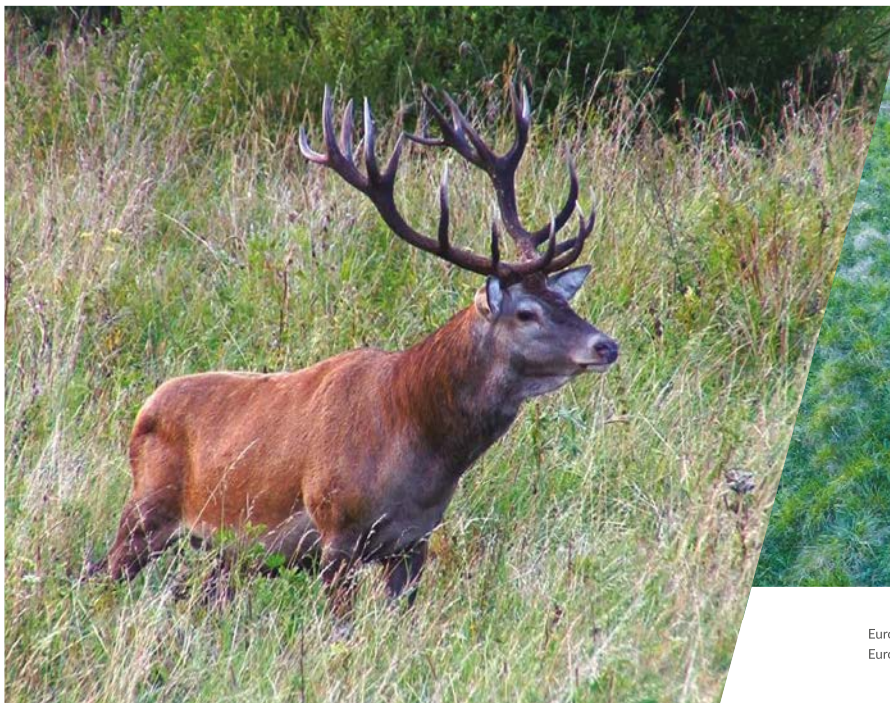
Lesistość okolicy jest dzisiaj wyraźnie większa niż przed drugą wojną, kiedy to obszar wsi obejmował ponad 270 hektarów ziemi rolnej, łąk oraz pastwisk. Są to przede wszystkim słabe gleby z żyzniejszymi mikrosiedliskami. Podmokłe łąki w Gorzekałach są wyjątkowe ze względu na cenne walory przyrodnicze, co potwierdza objęcie ich obszarem Natura 2000 oraz Specjalnym Obszarem Ochrony Ptaków.

Na pobliskim poligonie znajduje się ostoja cietrzewia, którego tutejsza populacja jest jedną z najliczniejszych w północno-wschodniej Polsce. Jesienią na łąkach i w lasach otaczających Gorzekały i Oszczywilki słychać rykowanie jeleni. Spotkanie z łosiem nie jest również niczym niezwykłym - to najłatwiejszy do zaobserwowania mieszkaniec grądowieckich lasów, znanych również z obfitości grzybów. Zimą bez trudu można zauważyć na śniegu wilcze tropy. Wilki unikają ludzkiego sąsiedztwa, ale dzięki dużej liczebności dzikiej zwierzyny w okolicy ich populacja jest stabilna i niezagrożona.

The forests area is now visibly larger than before WW II, when the village area was over 270 hectares of fields, meadows and pastures. The soil here is mainly poor, with occasional fertile lands. Swampy meadows in Gorzekały are exceptional because of their nature value, covered with Natura 2000 and Special Bird Protection Areas.

In the nearby military zone there is a black grouse habitat. Local population is one of the most numerous in northeastern Poland. During autumn you can hear the red deer lowing. Meeting an elk is also nothing unusual. In wintertime wolves prints are visible in the fresh snow. Wolves avoid human contacts, but as there are lot of wildlife in the forest, the wolves population is stable.

Fot. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 - J. Wołkowycki. 6 - M. Matecki.



THE VILLAGE OF OSZCZYWILKI

According to the account books of the Districtus Reinesis (Ryn District), in 1564 a village of Oszczywilki was a newly established one, with an overall area of around 660 hectares. In later years it was called either Bogusche either Osziwilken or Wilkowen. From 1928 it was Wolfsheide, from 1947 Oszczywilki.

Despite of being rather far from the main routes, the village was plundered by the Tatar invasion in 1656 and deeply touched by the plague that came with the Swedish troops in 1710.

24 The establishment of military training area in Orzysz (1891) made the village grow, as the inhabitants were allowed to pasture the animals in the military zone. Next, when the military area expanded, the decision was made to displace the village and displace its inhabitants. It finally happened in 1934. Nevertheless, according to some sources, some people were still living there in 1939.

The school in the village of Oszczywilki was founded between 1737 and 1743. Apart from the local children it was attended also by the children of the nearby village of Gorzekallen, Suchawolla, Forest District Grondowken and forester's house Kosseln.



Picture courtesy of Ulrich Czichy.

In 1934 the teachers there were August Bahlo, Rudolf Stampe and Gunther Tobien.

In the village there were a voluntary fire brigade (from 1924), sports team “Alemania”, a choir and a veteran’s association. Members of these organizations were not only the inhabitants of Oszczywilki but also the nearby village of Gorzekallen. There was an inn as well, of course.

The village was not poor – besides the agriculture the inhabitants kept cattle and worked in the woods or in the sawmill. The latter gave works to 70–80 people between the years 1903 to 1933.

Now the area of the former village is still in the military zone. We can find only the remains of brick or stone cellars. In the springtime the only sign of a vanished village are the garden flowers near the old road and lilac trees.



Pictures courtesy of Urilich Czichy

WIEŚ Oszczywilki

W księgach rachunkowych starostwa ryńskiego z 1568 roku Oszczywilki wymieniane są jako nowa wieś, wielkości 40 łanów, czyli około 660 dzisiejszych hektarów. W XVI wieku w niektórych dokumentach wieś nazywana jest Bogusze, w innych Osiwilken. W roku 1663 pojawia się również nazwa Wilkowen. Od roku 1928 oficjalna nazwa wsi to Wolfsheide, a od 1947 znów Oszczywilki, choć nikt już tam nie mieszkał.

Pomimo pozornie odludnego położenia, przez Oszczywilki przetoczył się najazd tatarski (1656) oraz epidemia dżumy po przejściu wojsk szwedzkich (1710). Założenie (w roku 1891) poligonu Orzysz początkowo przyczyniło się do rozwoju wsi, która otrzymała przywilej wypasu bydła na terenach poligonowych. Następnie, w wyniku powiększania poligonu, wieś była redukowana terytorialnie, aż do decyzji o jej całkowitej likwidacji w roku 1934. Według niektórych źródeł Oszczywilki zostały zburzone niedługo potem, według innych w roku 1939 wciąż były zamieszkałe.

In the account books of the Districtus Reinensis (Ryn district), in 1568 the village of Oszczywilki was a newly established village with an area of around 660 ha. In the later years it was called either Bogusche, either Osiwilken or Wilkowen. From 1928 it was Wolfsheide, from 1947 Oszczywilki.

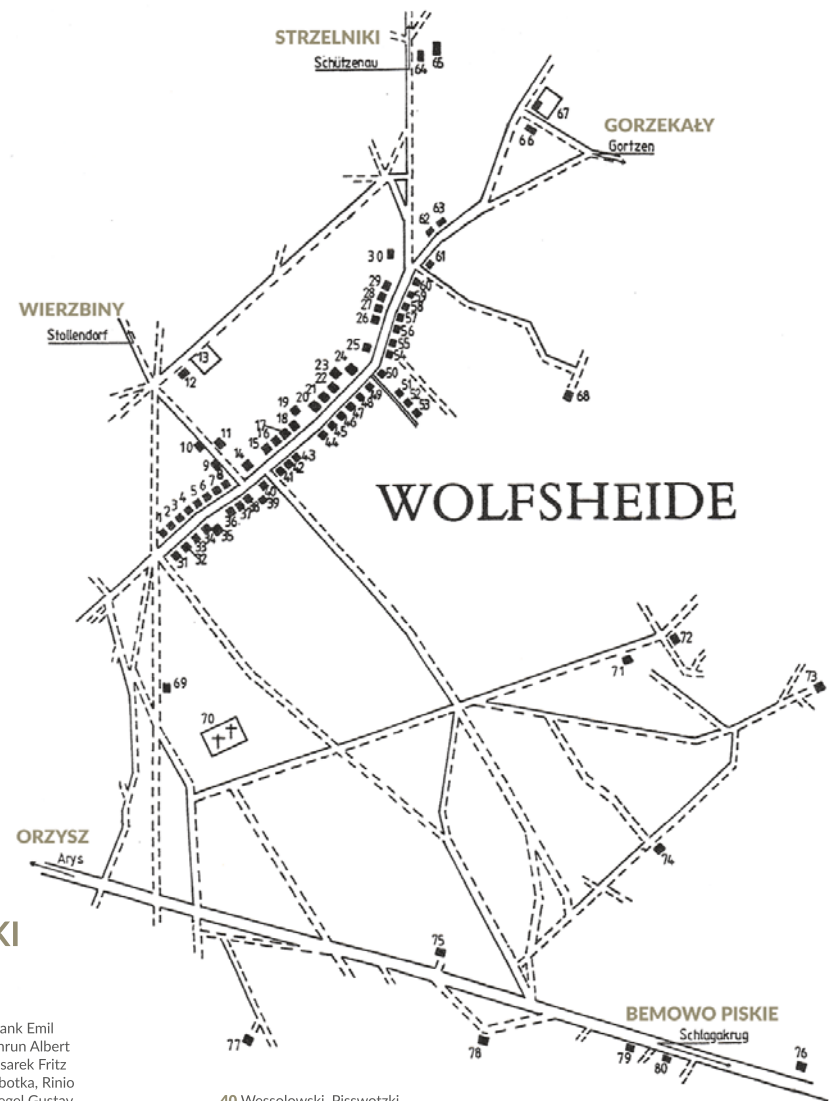
Despite of being rather far from the main routes, the village was plundered by the Tartar invasion in 1656 and deeply touched by the plague in 1710 that came with the Swedish troops. The establishment of the military training area in Orzysz (1891) made the village grow, as the inhabitants were allowed to pasture the animals on the military area. Next, when the military area expanded, the decision was made to disperse the village and displace the inhabitants. It finally happened in 1934. Nevertheless, according to some sources, there were still some inhabitants in 1939.



System Informacji Przestrzennej
Miasta i Gminy Orzysz

MIESZKAŃCY WSI OSZCZYWILKI Stan na rok 1934

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1 Marcziński – stolarz [carpenter] | 19 Strank Emil | 40 Wessolowski, Pisswotzki | 55 Szislo Ludwig | 67 Tartak [Sawmill] |
| 2 Völker | 20 Fahrur Albert | 41 Grünhoff Konrad –
leśniczy, leśniczówka
[forester, forester's house] | 56 Sulimma Leopold | 68 Fritzenwanker Emil |
| 3 Lunau – myśliwy okręgowy
[county hunter] | 21 Pissarek Fritz | 42 Rostejus August | 57 Salamon Minna | 69 Sarnoch Johann |
| 4 Trojan Leopold | 22 Sobotka, Rinio | 43 Salamon Gustav –
sklep spożywczy [grocery store] | 58 Trojan Heinrich – sklep spożywczy
[grocery store] | 70 Groby dragonów rosyjskich
[graves of the Russian soldiers
(WW I)] |
| 5 Sulimma, Joachim | 23 Gregel Gustav | 44 Ortmann Franz | 59 Janzik Wilhelm | 71 Pissarek Karl |
| 6 Malinowski Maria | 24 Gant Leopold | 45 Mendritzki Franz | 60 Willy Trojan – kuźnia [blacksmith] | 72 Littwin Emil |
| 7 Sach Adolf | 25 Dischereit, Seibel Wilhelm | 46 Niechotz Gustav | 61 Frey Leopold | 73 Chukowski Johann |
| 8 Drost | 26 brak [non existing] | 47 Salamon Johann | 62 Skowronek Hermann | 74 Chukowski Gottlieb |
| 9 Röske Erich – właściciel gospody
[innkeeper] | 27 Rostek Johann | 48 Frisch Hermann | 63 Schier | 75 Brodowski, Jeromin |
| 10 Straż Pożarna [Fire Brigade] | 28 Niechotz Rudolf | 49 Gant Rudolf | 64 Salamon, Leopold | 76 Lockowandt Gottlieb |
| 11 Gospoda [Inn] | 29 Glembotzki Franz | 50 Gehrman Heinrich | 65 Lukaszewski Franz, Kopka Rudolf,
Krieger Rudolf, Lukaszewski, Fuhs
Hans Peter, Ahlrep Richard, Danielzik
Heinrich, Kozian | 77 Scheyka |
| 12 Abel, Strauch | 30 Michalzik Adolf, Gant Johann | 51 Lukaszewski | 66 Menik Marquardt – biuro tartaku
[sawmill's office] | 78 Niechotz Johann |
| 13 Boisko sportowe [sports ground] | 31 Joachim, Sach Emil | 52 Salamon August | | 79 Seebald August |
| 14 Gant Gustav | 32 Kozian Rudolf | 53 Trojan Willy, Opalka Johann | | 80 Solenski Emil |
| 15 Rymarzik Emil | 33 Joachim, Sach Emil | 54 Dorroch August | | |
| 16 Kayka Minna | 34 Schiwiek Emil – burmistrz [mayor]
Salamon Adolf | | | |
| 17 Bahlo August –
nauczyciel kl. I, szkoła
[school and school teacher class 1] | 35 Müller August | | | |
| 18 Kayka Marie | 36 Stromatus, Dziengiel Hermann | | | |
| | 37 Pawelczyk Friedrich | | | |
| | 38 Maziul Leopold – krawiec [tailor] | | | |
| | 39 Czychy Gustav | | | |





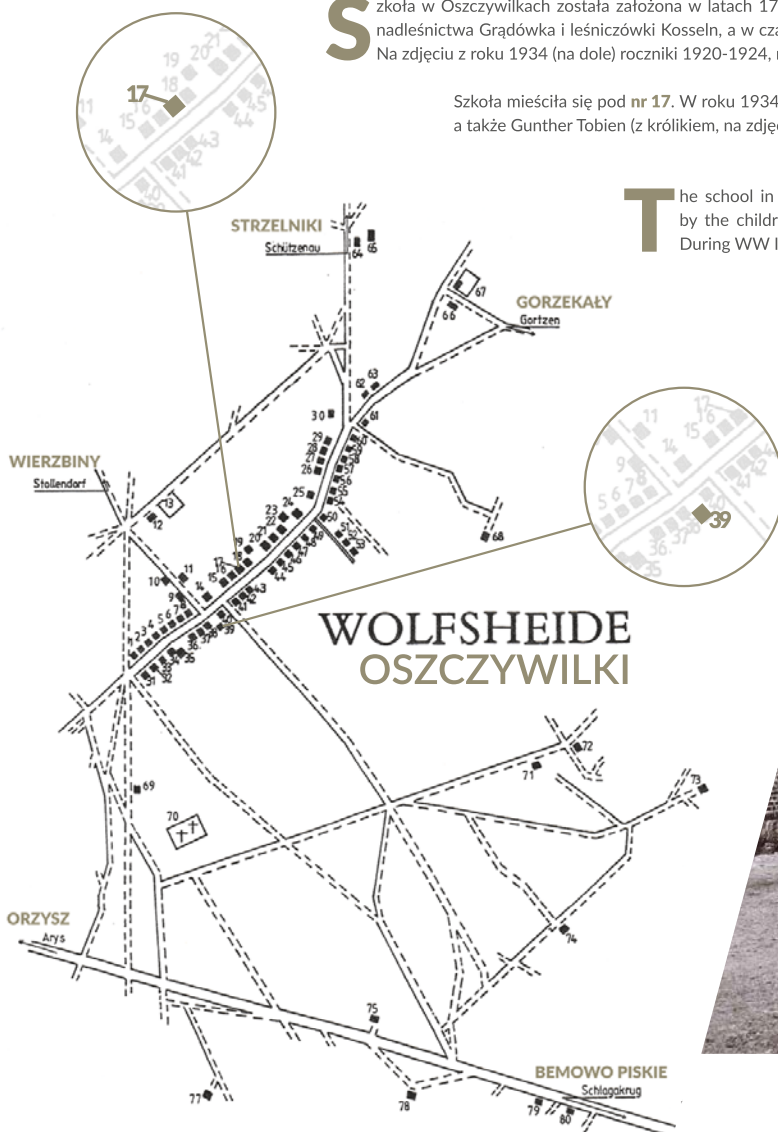
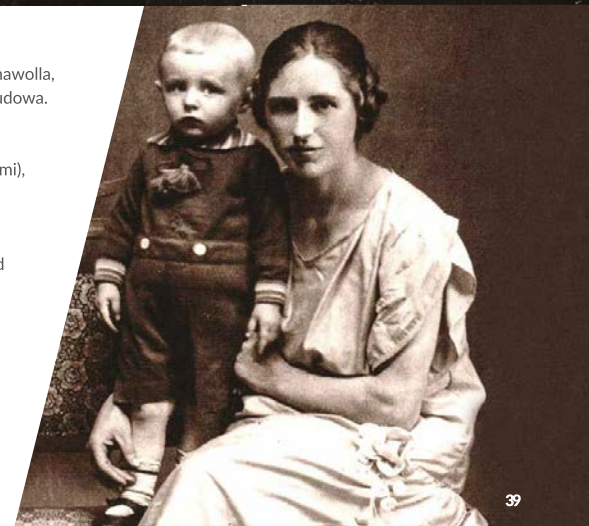
Szkoła w Oszczywilkach została założona w latach 1737-43. Oprócz miejscowych, uczęszczali do niej również dzieci z pobliskich Gorzekał, nieistniejącej już wsi Suchawolla, nadleśnictwa Grądówka i leśniczówki Kosseln, a w czasie pierwszej wojny światowej również z Bemowa Piskiego. W latach 30. XX wieku była to dwuklasowa Szkoła Ludowa. Na zdjęciu z roku 1934 (na dole) roczniki 1920-1924, na zdjęciu z roku 1928 (na górze), dzieci urodzone w latach 1905-1908.

Szkoła mieściła się pod nr 17. W roku 1934 nauczycielami byli tam August Bahlo (na dole z żoną Ottilie) i Rudolf Stampe (z prawej na dolnym zdjęciu z uczniami), a także Gunther Tobien (z królikiem, na zdjęciu na górze, rok 1932).

The school in the village of Oszczywilki was founded between 1737 and 1743. Apart from the local children, it was attended by the children of the nearby village of Gorzekallen, Suchawolla, Forest District Grondowken and forester's house Kosseln. During WW I also by the children from Bemowo Piskie. In the thirties of XX century it was a two-class „People's School”.

In the picture from 1934 (below) children born in 1920-1924. On the picture from 1928 (up, left) born from 1905 to 1908. The school was a building **number 17**. In 1934 the teachers were August Bahlo (below with his wife Ottilie), Rudolf Stampe (on the right on the group photo below) and also Gunther Tobien (with a rabbit, up).

Wszystkie zdjęcia z archiwum Urlicha Czichego. [All pictures courtesy of Ulrich Czichy.]





W e wsi funkcjonowała ochotnicza straż pożarna (10), klub sportowy Alemania (13 - boisko), chór i związek weteranów.

Członkowie tych stowarzyszeń pochodzili nie tylko z Oszczywilków, ale i sąsiednich Gorzełek. Oczywiście funkcjonowała też gospoda (11).

Na zdjęciu w lewym dolnym rogu Felix Wyszyński. Znajduje się również na zdjęciu strażaków oraz drużyny sportowej. Pracował też w tartaku. Po wojnie został leśniczym i pracował w leśnictwie Borek koło Karwicy (Nadleśnictwo Maskulińskie.) Na kolejnych zdjęciach z żoną Martą (z domu Karwatzki) i córką Lidią (1931). Jego brat Paweł (zdjęcie z prawej na dole) poległ w I wojnie światowej.

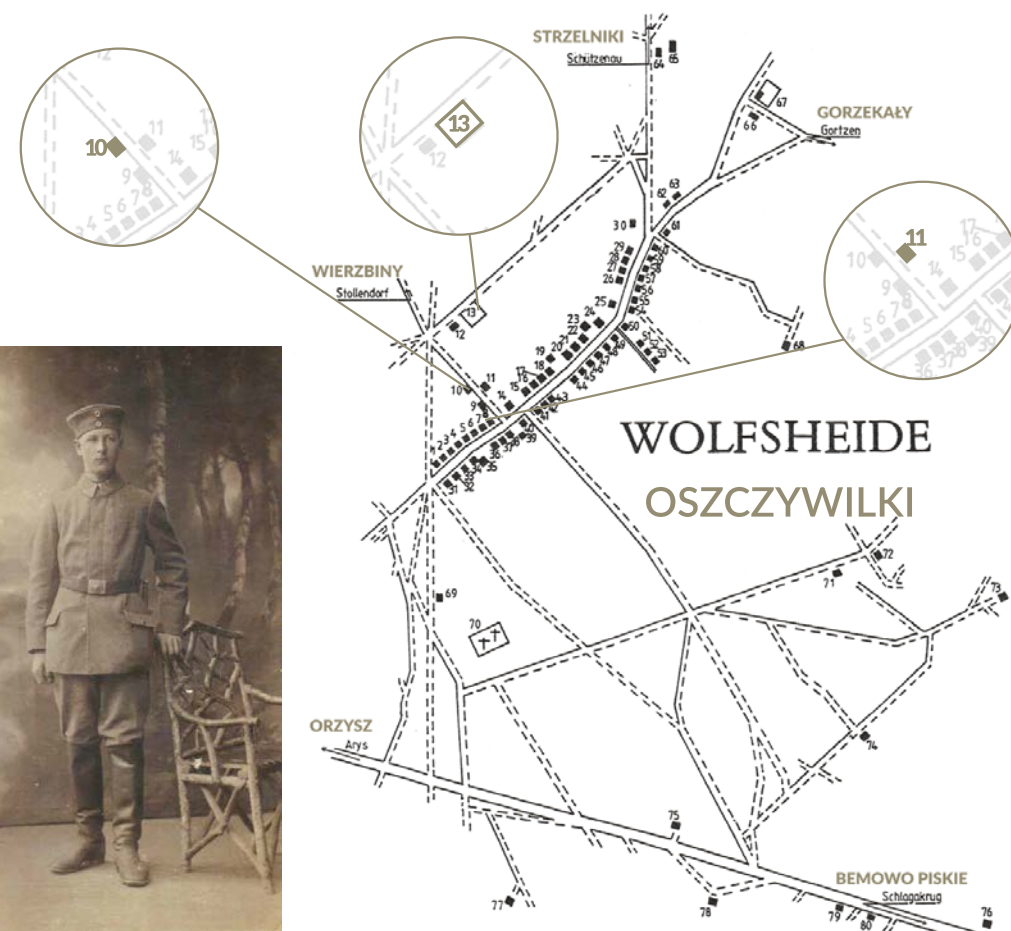
Zdjęcia grupowe i gospoda z archiwum Urlica Czichy, pozostałe z archiwum rodzinnego Roberta Myrcha (wnuka Lidii Wyszyńskiej).

W the village there was a voluntary fire brigade (10), sports team Alemania (13), a choir and a veteran's association.

Members of these organizations were not only the inhabitants of Oszczywilki but also the nearby village of Gorzekallen. There was an inn as well, of course (11).

On the left picture below - Felix Wyszyński. He is also on the picture of fire brigade and sports team. He worked in the sawmill. After WW II he became a forester and worked in Borek Forestry near Karwica. In the next picture he stands with his wife Marta (b. Karwatzki) and daughter Lidia (1931). His brother Paul (picture on the right, below) died during WW I.

Group pictures and inn photo courtesy of Ulrich Czichy, remaining from the family archives of Robert Myrcha, grandson of Lidia Wyszyńska.

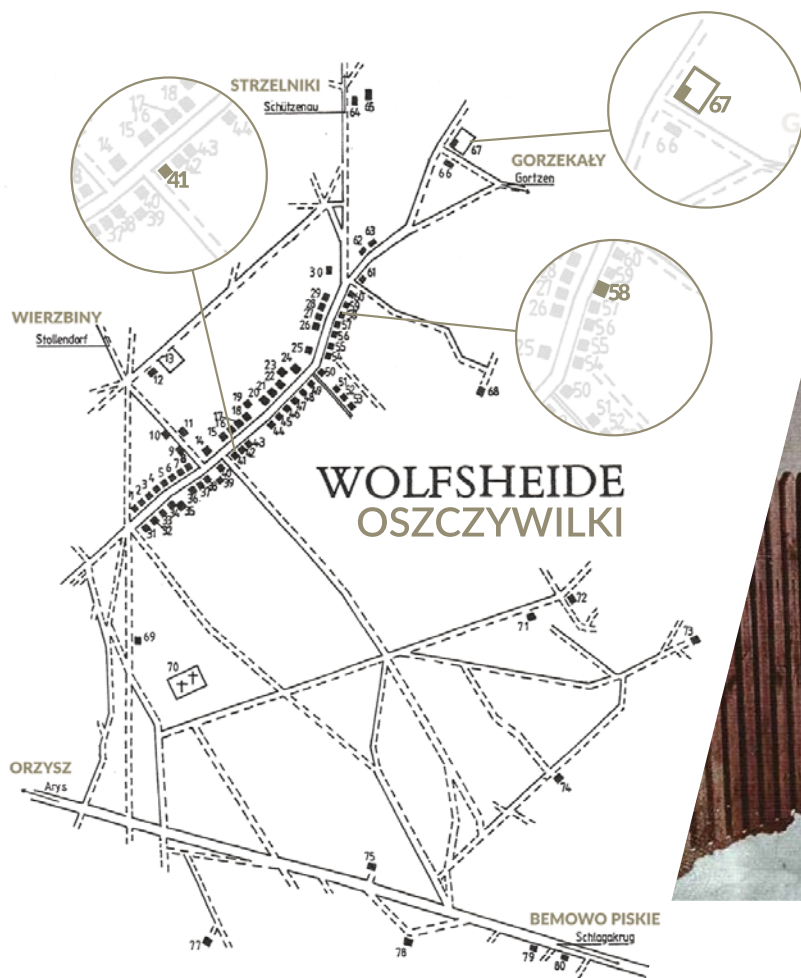


Wieś nie była biedna – oprócz rolnictwa zajmowano się hodowlą bydła oraz pracami leśnymi, w tym zrywką drewna, które przerabiano w tartaku i transportowano na dworzec kolejowy w Orzyszu. Tartak parowy, przeniesiony do Oszczywilków w roku 1903 z Pasymia, funkcjonował do roku 1933. Pracowało tu ok. 70-80 osób.

Na zdjęciach od góry: rodzina Trojan przed budynkiem domu, będącego również sklepem (budynek nr 58), widok sklepu od ulicy, zabudowania gospodarcze. W środkowym rzędzie pracownicy tartaku (1919, budynek nr 67) oraz robotnicy leśni (1933). Na dole: leśniczy okręgowy Konrad Grünhoff (1927) z upolowanym wilkiem, jego żona Hedwig karmiąca kury (1933) oraz ich córka Annemarie przed leśniczówką (budynek nr 41). Wszystkie zdjęcia z archiwum Ulricha Czichego.

The village was not poor – besides the agriculture the inhabitants kept cattle and worked in the woods or in the sawmill. The sawmill gave works to 70-80 people between the years 1903 to 1933.

In the pictures: the Trojan family in front of their house (grocery shop, nr 58). The street view and back view next. In the middle row the sawmill workers (1919, building nr 67) and the forest workers (1933). Below: the forester Konrad Grünhoff with a wolf (1927), his wife Hedwig feeding hens (1933) and their daughter Annemarie in front of the forester's house (nr 41). All pictures courtesy of Ulrich Czichy.



WISCHINSKI FAMILY

ROBERT MYRCHA:

„My grandmother Lidia (Lydia) was born in the village of Oszczywilki. She was a daughter of Felix Wischinski and Marta Wischinska (born Karwatzki). First picture of Felix was taken in 1927. He is also on the picture of fire brigade and sports team.

A picture with a little Lydia was taken in 1931. I don't know the dates of the third and fourth picture. On the fourth there is Felix's brother Paul – died during WW I. Felix worked in the sawmill. After WW II he became a forester and worked in Borek Forestry near Karwica.”

Pictures courtesy of Robert Myrcha.





Fot. M. Matecki

SURROUNDINGS

Not all of the pictures presented in the exhibition could be connected to Gorzekaly or Oszczywilki. So we decided to gather them on a separate board, showing an old map of the area. (Map courtesy of Museum in Orzysz.)

The name of Forestry Gradowka existing today in the village of Gorzekaly comes from the old name of Forest District Grondowken. This place is hard to identify today, but in the past it was an important location in the map of the area.

The postcard sent on December 30th 1908 from the post office in Klusy with New Year's wishes shows the family of the chief forester standing near the house. We can see him in the group picture, taken on June 21st 1917, sitting in the middle. His name was Hermann Royeck. Second from the left is standing father of Ulrich Czichy, Walter Paul Mitzka.

The only trace of this place now is an alley of monumental lime trees.

Nearby the Kempnio Lake on the map (now – Kępno Lake) there was a fo-

rester's house Kempnio (later re-named Seehoff) and over 1 km further, a house of forestry workers. The last forester here (until January 1945) was Waldemar Rothe. In the house of the workers lived two families. During WW II in one of the apartments lived Russian prisoners of war working in the woods. Later all buildings were destroyed – date unknown.

The road from the Grondowken to Orzysz led through Wierzbiny. On the picture from ~ 1900 we can see two couples going to the church to be married. Their names are Alfred Papajewski / Anna Jerosch and Gustaw Czychy / Hedwig Jerosch. The second couple is grandparents of Ulrich Czichy.

If we go from Orzysz to Pisz, we need to pass Gaudynki (Pappelheim). There was an inn kept by Johann Trojan. He moved to Gaudynki from Oszczywilki after the latter had become a part of military zone and torn down (1934).



Nazwa dzisiejszego leśnictwa Grądówka wywodzi się ze starej nazwy nadleśnictwa Grądówka (O.F. Grondowken). To miejsce kiedyś było ważnym punktem na mapie okolicy. Świadczy o tym m.in. kartka pocztowa z wizerunkiem nadleśnictwa, wystana 30.12.1908 roku z poczty w Klusach z noworocznymi życzeniami oraz zdjęcie, zrobione przed budynkiem nadleśnictwa 21 czerwca 1917 (1). Jedynym śladem po tym miejscu jest obecnie pomnikowa aleja lip.

Nad jeziorem Kępno znajdowała się leśniczówka Kempnio (później nazwana Seehof) oraz ponad kilometr dalej, osada pracowników leśnych (2). W osadzie leśnej nad jeziorem mieszkali dwie rodziny. W czasie wojny jedno mieszkanie zajmowali radzieccy jeńcy wojenni pracujący w lesie. Później wszystkie zabudowania zostały zniszczone. Na zdjęciu (3) widać jadące przez wieś do ślubu dwie pary - Alfred Papajewski i Anna Jerosch oraz Gustaw Czychy i Hedwig Jerosch. Fotografia została zrobiona około roku 1900 w Wierzbiniach. Wieś Gaudynki kiedyś nazywała się Pappelheim (4), a gospodę ze zdjęcia prowadził Johann Trojan, który przeniósł się tam, tak jak wiele innych osób, z likwidowanej wsi Oszczywilki.

The name of Forestry Grądówka existing today in the village of Gorze ka ły comes from the old name of Forest District Grondowken (1). The postcard sent on December 30th 1908 from the post office in Klusy with a New Year's wishes shows the family of the chief forester. We can see him in the next picture, taken on June 21, 1917, sitting in the middle. The only trace of this place is an alley of monumental lime trees.

Nearby the Kempno Lake, there was a forester's house Kempnio (later re-named Seehof) and over 1 km further, a house of forestry workers (2). In the house of the workers lived two families. During WW II in one of the apartments lived Russian war prisoners working in the woods. Later all buildings were destroyed (date unknown). In the picture (3) there are two couples going to the church to be married. Their names are Alfred Papajewski / Anna Jerosch and Gustaw Czychy / Hedwig Jerosch. Picture was taken ~ 1900 in Wierzbiny. In the village of Gaudynki (Pappelheim, 4) existed the inn kept by Johann Trojan. He moved here, as a lot of people, from Oszczywilken after it had become a part of a military zone (1934).



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The inspiration for this exhibition, were my meetings with Karin Matray, who once showed up at my doorstep. She is the daughter of forester Walter Neumann, and was born before WW II at the forester's house that I call my home now. She shared with me her stories, memories and the pictures. Always enthusiastic for further historical research, she is still helping me to grow the knowledge about the place we live in now and about the people that have lived here before.



This exhibition could not include any information from Oszczywilki without the kind support of Ulrich Czichy. In many letters, he shared with me his extensive family archives with detailed descriptions.

Many thanks to all the people who helped me to run this project in every way they could:

- Adam Rajkiewicz for his article about Oszczywilki and his advices
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