

Słownik Geograficzny
Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajow slowianskich
(Geographic Dictionary of the Former Kingdom of Poland and Other Slavic Lands)
c. 1889

Shumskoye (Szumsk, Shumsk)
50°07' N / 26°07'E

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[Intro]

Translation Editor's Note

The following text is a translation from the Polish language *Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajow slowianskich* (Geographic Dictionary of the Former Kingdom of Poland and Other Slavic Lands) – usually referred to as the *Słownik Geograficzny* – published between 1880 and 1904. The Shumskoye entry was published in 1889. To better understand the text it should be realized that Poland began as a sovereign nation in 1025 and from 1385 to 1569 participated in an informal union with Lithuania: the Polish-Lithuanian Union. From 1569 until most of Poland ceased to exist in 1793 at the time of the so-called Second Partition, Poland and Lithuania formed a formal joint nation: the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Shumskoye and most of the western part of Ukraine were always in the historically Polish part of the Union and later the Commonwealth. In 1793, under the terms of the Second Partition, Russia took control of the area around Shumskoye, which lasted until the end of World War I when it was restored to Poland. Poland held it until after World War II when Russia again gained control. Ukraine became an independent nation in 1991. The native inhabitants of the area around what is now western Ukraine included various ethnic minorities, among them Ukrainians, Cossacks, Tartars, and Jews. For many centuries before 1793 the area around Shumskoye, as well as much of the rest of present day Ukraine, was a constant battleground between the Russian, Polish and Lithuanian armies, which sought to establish or maintain control of the area. The allegiance of the various ethnic minorities shifted between Poland, Russia and Ukrainian nationalists from time to time. At times there were others involved in the battles, including the Swedes, Saxons and Turks.

Confusing, incomprehensible or inconsistent material in this article is found in the original text and is not a result of the translation. In-text references in the original Polish text are presented at the end of this translation. They are keyed to reference numbers in the translated text. Names and Places Indexes also have been added at the end of this translation. The indexes refer to the page numbers of the original document (77 and 78). These page markers are in square brackets in the upper left of the translated text, as close as possible to the place in the original text where they appear.

Richard Spector, Translation Editor
Summer 2006

[77]

Shumskoye (Szumsk, Shumsk)

Szumsk is a small town on the river Wilia, the left tributary of the River Horyń, located in Krzemieniec District, near the border of Ostrog District. It is 35 verst east of Krzemieniec, 10 verst from Dederkał W. and 24 verst from Kuniow [**Translation Editor's Note: a verst is about 1.067 km. Kuniow now is known as Kunëv.**]. The police precinct and township headquarters are in Szumsk. The town has a Christian Orthodox church, the parish's Catholic Church, a Synagogue, a brewer, four tanneries, a post office, a telegraph station, and four markets. In 1881 there were 1550 residents, currently it has around 2300, of which, about 2000 are Jews. Christians are predominantly farmers while Jews tend to be small merchants.

On the road out of town, on a knoll, surrounded by water on three sides, are the ruins of an old castle, built probably by the Maliński family. The ruins still contain the outer walls and some of the castle's rooms. This castle, during the time of Prince Radziwiłłów was still habitable.

In 1852, Ludwika Mężyńska, built the local Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary, on the site of the old church. It was consecrated in 1860 by the Łucko-Żytomierski Bishop Borowki. The Catholic Parish, Krzemieniecki deanery, has 3577 parishioners, with the chapel being located in Brykow.

The Szumsk police precinct covers four communities of the District: Szumsk, Dederkał W., Borka, and Białokrynica. Szumsk is one of the oldest settlements in Wołyń [**Translation Editor's Note: Wołyń is essentially the area of the 19th and early 20th century Russian gubernia (province) of Volhynia.**] First mention of Szumsk can be found in 1149, when it was seized by Włodzimierk, Halicki Prince. In 1152 Iziaslav, the Great Prince of Kiev, allied himself with Giejzą, King of Hungary, and demanded that Włodzimierk return the town, which he did not do.

During the Tatar invasion of Russia, Szumsk was the capital of an independent principality. In 1224, during a battle with the Tatars, at Kałka, Prince Świętosław Szumski was killed. In 1261, the Szumsk principality was owned by Wasilka, Prince of Włodzimiersk. In the same year, in the town of Szumsk, Wasilka, paid homage to the Tatar Hun Burundaj. In 1366, Kazimierz the Great, after conquering Bełzk, Chełmsk, and the entire Wołyń area, signed a peace treaty with Lithuanian princes, giving each of them a share of these lands. The town of Lubart was left as part of the Łuck lands, which were previously owned by Kazimierz the Great. In this division, as part of the Lubart estates are the following settlements: Stożek, Daniłów, Zakamień, Szumsk, Ostróg, Połonne, and Międzyboż. After this division of lands, the only mention of Szumsk for many years is that it passed into private hands.

According to the 1545 audit of the Krzemieniecki castle, Szumsk and the surrounding estates belonged to Iwan Bohusz, who was obligated to the upkeep of the two castle

towns. [Reference 1] According to legal documents from 1583, Stefanowa Szumska was obligated to pay taxes for seven homesteads, five gardens, eight gardens, one craftsman, and one popa. [Reference 2] [Translator's Note: In Polish the ending of a last name changes based on the gender of the individual; for example, in the Szumski family, the woman is Szumska and the man is Szumski; these differences have been maintained in the translation of this article. It is unclear what the meaning of the Polish word "popa" is.] After Stefanowa Szumska, the heirs of Szumsk and several surrounding estates were the Jelo-Maliński family, who helped increase the size of the town and built several new buildings and churches. [Translator's Note: The term used here, "several," refers to a Polish term of measurement meaning "teens;" literally it means more than 10 but less than 20.]

[Translation Editor's Note: To put in context the following reference to Chmielnicki and his destruction of Szumsk, it is useful to detour briefly to the following passage describing him.]

"Bohdan Chmielnicki was a Cossack chieftain who, in 1648, rallied the disaffected masses of Ukrainian peasants, as well as the warrior caste of Cossack and Tartar horsemen, to rise up against their Polish overlords. This did not happen without provocation, as the Poles had exploited and abused the peasants very thoroughly. In the annals of Ukrainian history, Chmielnicki is remembered as the first leader to rebel against the oppression of the Polish state. In Polish memory, he is demon incarnate. Certainly the invasions conducted under his leadership were ruthless in the extreme. For nine years his seemingly unstoppable armies rampaged through southeastern Poland, burning and pillaging every village and town in their trajectory, and raping, torturing, and murdering their inhabitants with wild and cruel savagery. Large swaths of Poland were devastated; hundreds of thousands of people were killed. The Ukrainians and the Cossacks, who were Russian Orthodox, attacked two groups with particular relish and impunity: the nobility and the Jews. The Catholic clergy, although not the main target of the invasions, also came in for its share of persecution.

"...Both Poles and Jews were horribly and fundamentally threatened, but they were in curiously unequal positions even in the equalizing face of death. It was for the Polish nobility that the Cossacks reserved their most elaborate tortures; the Jews were usually 'merely' burned alive, often inside their synagogues....Both Poles and Jews suffered enormous losses of life in the course of the invasions, but Jewish people were butchered on a mass scale. It is estimated that as much as 20 to 25 percent of the Jewish population, or between 70,000 and 80,000 people, were killed in the massacres." (*Shtetl* by Eva Hoffman, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1997, pages 57-58)

In 1575 Szumsk was the location of a small congress of the Wołyń province. In 1637, Daniel Jelo-Maliński, Wołyń Cornet and later the Castellan of Belzk, and his wife, Halszka from Wielhor, built a small wooden monastery for Basilian Monks next to the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. In 1648, Szumsk was completely destroyed by Chmielnicki's Cossacks. The Cossacks set fire to the town and to the Catholic and Orthodox churches. In 1656, Daniel Maliński left in his will 4,000 złoty to convert the Basilian Monastery to a brick structure and 8,000 złoty for its upkeep, with the condition that his remains be buried in the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church besides those of his

forefathers. [Translator's Note: the złoty is the traditional principal Polish currency unit whose use dates back to the Middle Ages.] His heirs, however, after laying down the foundation for the monastery, delayed so long with its completion that the monastery was never completed. At the time, there was also a Franciscan monastery in the town. Maliński left them 8,000 złoty in order to convert the monastery into a brick building, with the condition that they perform masses for his soul. Stanisław Maliński, the Cup-Bearer of Halicz and the grandson of Daniel finally completed the Franciscan Church and monastery, which contained six cells for the monks, in 1715. According to legal documents from 1715, 1729, and 1746, he generously gave them lands and the right to gather hay from the meadows. On June 3, 1722, Stefan Rupniewski, Bishop of Łuck and Brzesk, approved the founding of this church and created the borders of the parish. The church was consecrated on September 8th, 1741 by Franciscan Dmeninie Kobielski, Bishop of Łuck and Brzesk. In addition to what was given by Daniel Maliński, other families also included the church in their will, those families were: Drzewiecki, Pruszyński, Wkryński, Leszczyński, Wyleżyński, and Iskierski. According to accounting done in 1820, the various wills amounted to 67,102 złoty of collectible donations, 18,062 złoty in donations where the ability to collect them was questionable, and 45,488 złoty in donations which were uncollectible.

In 1752, two brothers, Aleksander and Stanislaw Maliński, sold Szumsk, along with all the neighboring settlements belonging to it, to Prince Michel Radziwiłł, Lithuanian Koniusz, Great Lithuanian Hetman and father of Prince Karol Panie Kochanku [Translation Editor's Note: A hetman was the highest military rank, besides the monarch, in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.] Prince Michel Radziwiłł, and later Prince Karol, came here frequently to hunt in the large old forests of Szumsk. [Translation Editor's Note: The Radizwill family is a very large and famous Polish noble family who origins date back to the mid-15th century. A 15th generation descendent, Stanislas Radziwill, in 1959 married Lee Bouvier, the sister of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis; they divorced in 1974.]

In 1806, Prince Dominik Radziwiłł, after inheriting the entire estate from his uncle, Karol, and upon coming of age, sold the entire Wołyń fortune, Szumsk, its neighboring settlements, and Rachmanow, to Romuald Bystry, District Chief of Hutow.

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Bystry did not hold on to the lands for long because in 1817, Szumsk, by congressional decree, was sold off to pay various creditors for Bystry's past debts. The largest portion of this sale was to a man named Mężyński.

In 1867, the piece of land belonging to Daniel Mężyński, last elected Marshal of the Nobility in Krzemieniecki District, was taken by the treasury and given to Countess Antonina Błudow, the founder of the Orthodox Christian Brotherhood in Ostrog. In 1832, the Franciscan Monastery was liquidated and the church converted to an Orthodox Christian parish. On the façade of the new Orthodox Church is the relief of the crest of

Maliński-Pietyroch, and in the chapel, on the right of the altar, there still remain the graves of that family.

In 1761, a great fire destroyed a portion of the town. On the other side of the Wilia River, separated from Szumsk by a pond, lies the village of Rachmanów, which used to house the printing press of the Wiszniowiecki princes. A more extensive description of Szumsk was written by Stecki [Reference 3], who, in his appendices, attached documents referring back to this town [Reference 4].

J. Krz.

[Translation Editor's Note: This is an abbreviation of the author's name.]

REFERENCES

Reference 1. Jabłonowski, *Rewizya*, 94, 97.

Reference 2. Jabłonowski, *Wołyń*, 141

Reference 3. *Wołyń*, II, 38-51

Reference 4. 428-441

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SHUMSKOYE – Name and Place Indexes

Richard Spector, Translation Editor, and
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