

President
Lech Walesa

Honorary Citizen of Brudzen Duzy District

27th August 2013



A large, stylized, handwritten signature of Lech Walesa in white ink, positioned at the bottom of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, set against a background of a faint, dark image of industrial cranes.

Swiss Mazovia

www.brudzen.pl

– Brudzen Duzy District, Mazovia, Poland

Swiss Mazovia is a tourist region. It offers you lots of activities from sailing a boat or jet skiing on the Vistula River, kayaking on the Skrwa river, fishing, picking up mushrooms, riding a horse or a bike to walking up and down a vast Brudzen Park.

Brudzen Duzy district is located in the western part of the Plock county on the Vistula River. City of Plock is a few ks away, city of Wloclawek is 40 ks away. It is located at the historic border of Mazovia and Dobrzyn plateau.

Brudzen is first mentioned in history books in 14th century. Its a birthplace of Pawel Wlodkowic (b 1373, d 1435), a distinguished scholar and rector of Cracow Academy. Stanislaw Murzynowski, the first translator of the New testament into Polish was born in a nearby Murzynowo. The Most celebrated historic site is a late Roman brick church in Rokicie dating from mid 13th century.

„My home Popowo, the small scattered village, than Sobowo with the local church and Chalin with its school and local shop form a special triangle that bounded the world of Walesa family”. Its a direct quote from „A Path of Hope”, Lech Walesa's autobiography and the way he describes his home ground where he lived for the first quarter of his life. He was born in Popowo which belongs to the St Hieronimus parish in Sobowo which is part of Brudzen Duzy district. His parents – Boleslaw

Walesa, a carpenter from Popowo and Feliksa Kaminska, a maid from Pokrzywnica got married in the church in Sobowo in 1934. The Local cemetery in Sobowo is the final resting place of Lech Walesa's parents and many of his close relatives.

Walesa family was not exactly a property tycoon. Mr President mentions that himself in his bio – „Little fields were not big enough to run a proper farm. My three older brothers Zygmunt, Boleslaw and Isydor became top local carpenters in no time. They built houses in Brudzen, Sobowo, Chalin and Dobrzyn, set up local country churches, barns and haystacks”. What separated Walesa family from the others was ambition, tenacity and drive to better their status. That was the reason for transatlantic journeys of his family members to the U.S. including his mother Feliksa. Lech Walesa moved in the same way to Gdansk to head the new Solidarity movement. It earned him the Nobel Peace prize and the Presidency of Poland. He grew up here, went to school and church here and started his professional job. We fondly remember about that and feel proud of that too.



Lech Walesa

as a student of 7th form, 1958 (first from the left in a upper row)



Church in Sobowo, late 1930 s

Andrzej Dwojnych
Head of Brudzen Duzy District