

## 1,000 kinfolk get together

FLOBIAN, Minn. (AP) — More than 1,000 descendants of an immigrant couple gathered in this tiny prairie hamlet yesterday, rallying 'round their Polish name and five generations of American heritage.

The celebration was three years in the making, and Florian, so small its population is not listed by map makers, was overrun with kinfolk who pitched tents, slept in campers and booked into motels 30 miles from town.

"It was a nice day," said Wanda Grazes Kuznia, 85, a second-generation family member who lives on the original homestead and has 45 grandchildren and 60 great-grandchildren.

"I don't expect to see another like it," she said. An exact count of the throng was not available.

The family counts 1,742 direct descendants of Albert and Hedwig Kuznia, who left Poland for America in 1881 and eventually bought a 160-acre farm here for \$488 in time for spring planting in 1885.

At the Catholic Mass, the five generations, including 728 members of the clan who still reside in

northwestern Minnesota's Marshall County, merged their voices in Polish and English for "Faith of Our Fathers," "We Gather Together" and "America."

Albert Kuznia was 26 and Hedwig 14 when they wed. They had six children and fled Poland because, the family says, Albert did not want his sons pressed into compulsory service in the Prussian army. Kuznia worked for several years as an interpreter in Chicago, then sent for his family. Ten children were born in the United States.

Of the 16 children, only Anna Wilenak of South St. Paul survives. Bedridden at 80, she was unable to attend the reunion.

Wanda Kuznia, who married into the family, remembers helping clear the 160 acres with an ax and hoe, cleaning clothes on a washboard and reading by kerosene lamp.

"The good old days were good because we didn't know better," she said. Of her eight children, seven still live nearby.