

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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Ephemera's Role in Genealogical Research

By Jerome Biedny, Jr.

So much of genealogy is hit-and-miss. For every grandmother who kept a cedar lined "Hope Chest" filled with organized and labeled family objects, you have a grandfather who cleaned house as soon as something became useless or someone died. All our families have "savers" and "cleaners." Many articles have been written on how to preserve, organize, and store the family heirlooms that have safely come down to your care. Similarly, there are books full of advice on interpreting, scanning, and sharing photos and other relics. But what IF a "cleaning" member of your family got there before you and now you lack artifacts for a person or an entire branch of the family?

This article lays out strategies for acquiring and using "ephemera" to fill in the gaps regarding people and places in your family tree. Ephemera are defined as *things that are useful or fashionable for only a short time*. More specifically in the world of collecting, ephemera are *printed material, such as tickets, notices, etc., that people read or use but do not usually keep*. These would be pieces that were not meant to be treasured, but they document the way we ran our life. For various reasons, the "savers" of the world hold onto these things. They fill boxes of them in attics and barns all over America. Then the items work their way into the open market when the collector retires from the hobby or passes away. Believe it or not, it is an entire segment of the Antiques and Collectables market.

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Over the last two decades, I have acquired ephemera to form background for the places my family inhabited and the things they did. I believe that, when you stop digging deep to find that very last great great-great-grandniece and start collecting the back stories of those people in your pedigree chart, ephemera can be a great tool for you.

Ephemera's Role (continued on page 14)



Photo courtesy of freedigitalphotos.net

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To apply for membership

Please use application form on insert page

Dues are \$20 for one year or \$50 for three years.

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President's Letter

Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmastide are now in the rearview mirror. I hope you had just as much fun with your living family over the holidays as you have looking for your ancestors. Don't forget your family story is written everyday by your own actions with the people around you. Let your words and actions count: tell your son, niece, or grandchild a story from your personal history or from your parent's history. No matter how many hours someone spends on Ancestry.com they will NEVER reconstruct an event in the detail **you** can give right now.

We have completed our year-end accounting and have run a manageable deficit this year. In the past, we have had extra blocks of revenue from sponsoring workshops, etc. There was none of that revenue this year. At the same time, our rent has increased and we have revamped our entire website. It is no longer sponsored for free. So, we have new hosting and development costs starting this year.

I mention this because it is also membership renewal time. You will note this year's form has a new category: Sponsor. If you can manage to send along a little something extra this month, it would be greatly appreciated. Even though our local meetings are self sufficient, once we pay for the newsletters and other fixed costs, we just don't have anything left over. For the past five years we have also had a booth at the Twin Cities Polish Festival. We never sell enough new memberships to pay for our costs there, but we think it is important to be represented at the preeminent local Polish-American Cultural event. We would rather not cut any membership benefits and now rely on the generosity of those that can assist us in a special way. In advance, I thank you for being generous.

We have a great slate of speakers for this spring and are working on lining up more for the fall. Keep checking the new website for the latest information: PGSmn.org.

Happy hunting!

Jerome Biedny jaybiedny@juno.com



The Bulletin Board

Recently at PGS-MN Meetings

Joint Meeting with the Pommern Group held on Saturday, November 2, 2013. The morning session was an interesting and informative presentation given by Dr. Arthur Grachek. Dr. Grachek shared his experiences traveling in Poland. He included lots of advice and tips for first-time travelers.



Dr. Arthur Grachek and Dan Schyma

Annual Membership Meeting was held at Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit restaurant Saturday, January 18, 2014. The food was great – no fighting over pierogi this year! The conversation was lively and entertaining. Achievement awards were presented to Dori Marszalek and Audra Etzel. The annual election for the open board of directors' member positions was conducted.

Treasurer Mike Eckman and Secretary Jason Waldowski were re-elected to their board positions. Dori Marszalek was re-elected to her spot as Director II and Marie Pryznski joins the board of directors in the post of Director IV. Along with serving as a new board member, Marie is also

taking on the administrator responsibility for our website, pgsmn.org.

Congratulations everyone and Welcome to the Board Marie!

Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events

PGSMN Member Meetings

Poland and the Changing Economy

Presented by Dr. Jan Werner
Saturday, March 1, 2014, 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
MGS Library, 4th floor board room

Dr. Jan Werner will present on the changing Polish economic conditions in recent decades and how the changes in Poland are affecting the everyday lives of our relatives in various regions of our homeland today.

Dr. Werner is a professor at the University of Minnesota. He emigrated to the U.S. about 20 years ago to take a position at the University. He is an expert on the Polish economy and is recognized worldwide.

He received his doctorate from the University of Bonn and was a Research Fellow at the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. He holds editorial positions on the *Annals of Finance, Economic Theory, the Journal of Mathematical Economics* and the *Central European Journal of Economic Modeling and Econometrics*. He has a long list of professional activities and positions in a multitude of European and Asian countries including visiting professorships, book and journal articles, and Ph.D. thesis supervisions.

Kaszubian and Pommern Cultures in Poland Thrive

Presented by Dr. Joseph Hughes
Saturday, March 8, 2014, 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill St. NE, Columbia Heights, MN

Dr. Joseph Hughes will do a very exciting presentation on how the folkways and traditions of

MDC Genealogy Website Ranked in U.S. Top 75

CHISHOLM, MN — Family Tree Magazine, a genealogy periodical, recently ranked the Minnesota Discovery Center's website, with its Iron Range Research Center genealogy database and features, in their annual list of "Top 75 State Sites of 2013."

The "Best State Website" list honors America's leading genealogy research websites. The seventy-five sites listed represent the go-to bookmarks for browsing America's past, state by state.

"We are pleased and honored to be recognized by Family Tree as one of the best," said Lisa Vesel, CEO of Minnesota Discovery Center. The center is in the process of improving their system to make even more data available and to make searching for family histories more convenient, she added.

"As the collection grows and additional years are added to the database, we know more people will want to spend time learning about their families' roots," Vesel explained.

Genealogy has been a fast-growing hobby internationally, and each year finding ancestors gets easier with websites that allow searchable databases to help people browse and search. It is much more important than the study of our family's ancestors. According to the center, it's how people view themselves, their history and the connections they have around the world.

The Iron Range Research Center contains one of the largest collections of genealogical and local history research materials in the Upper Midwest, including census, naturalization, and passenger arrival records in addition to mining company newsletters, surveys from women in industry in 1919 and much more.

Other archives are also collected as a repository for the Taconite Tax Relief Area which consists of local, municipal, county, and state records.

To visit the web site, go to mndiscoverycenter.com, or visit familytreemagazine.com/article/75-best-state-sites-2013.

<http://www.virginiamn.com/news/local/>

Valentines Day in Chełmno, a Polish Tradition

Chełmno, the lovers' city, sits on a hilltop in northern Poland, overlooking the Vistula River. There are other Polish places by the same name but this one is the ancient capital of the Chełmno Lands, so pretty it's often called little Krakow.

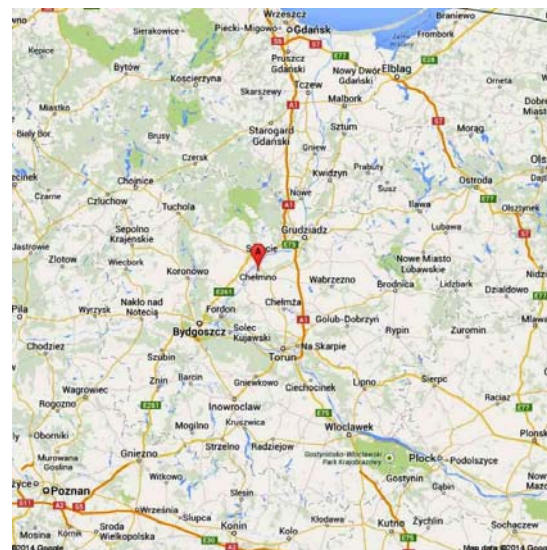
Chełmno has good reason to be called the lovers' city. A few centuries ago, a fragment of St. Valentine's relics found its way into the parish church. The relic is kept there in a silver casket.

Today, Valentines Day begins with a ceremonial Mass when the holy relics are exhibited and blessings are sought by sweethearts and lonely souls. It's a noble start to a day of colorful and riotous celebrations.

Festivities include a whole range of Valentines games and competitions, parades, brass bands, lucky cakes and pastries and a popular outdoor concert after dark. Then, thousands of lights are placed on the ground around the town square, in the shape of a giant heart where sweethearts gather to declare their love and exchange romantic gifts.

But the ultimate gift is the heart-shaped cake offered to sweethearts and special visitors. It comes in different sizes, home baked or from the shops, a humble bread bun or a filling cake topped with red icing. Its power lies in a special herb, grown in every garden and guaranteed to be an aphrodisiac. For a lasting effect, visitors can buy seeds to take home.

If you want to hold your sweethearts hands in yours against a nice backdrop, you will find few places like Poland.



Map courtesy of maps.google.com

Twin City Polish Festival 2013

by Dori Marszalek

Once again the weather for the Annual Twin Cities Polish Festival held Aug 10th and 11th was great. Saturday was a little warm, but the breeze helped out a lot.

It was a little hectic setting up on Saturday morning but in the end the tent looked great. John Rys brought his ever popular church record data base and included the Polish White Eagle Insurance book, both were a big attraction.

I would like to send a big thank you to Rita Peterson who stepped in and organized the volunteers. And of course to all the members who came and volunteered their time which made our presence at the event a huge success.

It was so much fun to tell people about our organization and to let them know what a wealth of knowledge is available to them from our board members.

This year we passed out some of our old PGS-MN Newsletters and got the crowd very interested in our organization.

PGS-MN would like to welcome the new members that signed up at the festival. I know you will benefit from being a member of PGS and hope you will take full advantage of all the resources that we have to offer.

Until Next year.....



All the News That's Fit to Digitize

By Mark W. Olson

February 28, 2013

<http://www.chaskaerald.com/news/activities/>

Newspaper archives provide a blow-by-blow of history for genealogists, students and other researchers.

Looking for great-grandmother's obituary? Trying to find a story about that big high school game? Want the price of a box of cereal 20 years ago? It's all in newspaper archives.

Per state statute, every newspaper in the state is sent to the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS). For decades, every newspaper (at last count about 425, mostly weeklies) was dutifully made accessible to the public via microfilm.

However in the midst of a budget crunch, on June 30, 2009, the state shuttered its microfilm lab.

"The opportunities and challenges related to newspapers have taken on a great deal of significance in the organization," said MHS Library and Collections Director Jennifer Jones.

So during the past three years, MHS has grappled with how to move forward — testing various methods to digitally preserve modern-day newspapers, as well as microfilmed newspapers from the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

Now, the society may have an answer.

EASE OF RESEARCH

MHS is within two years of launching a digital newspaper database for researchers, called Minnesota Newspapers Online.

"We're getting really close to our launch point," said Jane Wong, Central Collections Services manager at MHS.

Minnesota Newspapers Online is beginning as a pilot project with 12 members of the Minnesota

Newspaper Association — a trade organization of over 360 state newspapers.

Instead of mailing newspapers to MHS, publishers would upload digital copies of their print editions to an MHS database. This database of recent newspapers would join a patchwork of older digitized newspapers.

Officials note that the beauty of the digital system is the ability to skip across vast fields of content. For instance, in the past, finding a story containing a family name would require countless hours of turning microfilm reels. With the new system, a genealogist could merely type in a name, and all of the stories containing that name would pop up.

A researcher exploring the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918-19 could easily research hospitalizations, deaths, and public response to the epidemic, notes Dennis Meissner, head of collections management at MHS.

"Sometimes, when people see digitized copies of things, it opens up a whole new world of research," Wong said.

OWNERSHIP

So far, the society plans to make the archive inclusive to researchers who visit the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. "That's as far as we've taken it," Jones said.

That's because, while digitalizing newspapers would be a boon to researchers, providing information remotely, via the Internet, creates other issues.

Currently, accessing newspapers via microfilm is a laborious and restrictive process, which eases most newspaper owners' copyright concerns. However, providing up-to-date, instantaneous access to newspapers creates ownership problems.

"The plan has been for some time to convert the newspapers in digital format and, like everything, those digital copies can then be accessed in all kinds

of exciting and wonderful ways – primarily by computers,” said Mark Anfinson, attorney for the Minnesota Newspaper Association (MNA).

However, Anfinson said, it creates a potential for copyright abuse. Newspapers maintain copyright control for 95 years so, for instance, this paper is copyrighted to 1918. “The thievery would take what newspapers have collected at valuable expense,” Anfinson said.

Perhaps more importantly, many newspapers (such as this one) are now charging access to their own websites with paid subscriptions.

“If you can have a digital copy of that newspaper, it can be accessed from anywhere. And why buy it? You don’t even have to buy it anymore. You just pull it up on your computer,” Anfinson said. Another risk is that another third-party user would grab onto the proprietary information and sell it themselves, he said.

So the MHS and MNA have discussed other possible solutions for remote access, such as creating a “pay wall,” where newspapers would receive a portion of the collected fees.

“It’s good for the historical society and good for newspapers if it’s done right. It’s good for the public,” Anfinson said.

OLD NEWSPAPERS

Newspaper digitization doesn’t come cheap, and like many state historical projects in Minnesota, Legacy Amendment Funds have been a godsend to the digitization project, which costs approximately \$245,000 annually to create the database and continue digitizing historic microfilm, Meissner said. By comparison, in 2009 the microfilm lab was reported to have a \$200,000 annual budget, microfilming about 800,000 pages a year.

“The society is very grateful for the Legacy Amendment funds that have enabled us to build this newspaper preservation and access system. We believe

that, in the spirit of the Legacy Amendment, it will truly create an enduring legacy for generations of Minnesotans to come. The history of Minnesota communities is documented first and foremost in the newspapers of those communities, and we are preserving that information legacy,” Meissner said.

MHS hasn’t only been working on digitizing modern newspapers. It has also been attempting various methods to preserve older issues of newspapers. The society is “filling the pie from both ends,” Meissner said, with content that is already digital, and microfilm content that needs to be digitized.

There are portions of about 30 state newspapers that have been digitized. For instance, print issues of the Chaska Herald have been digitized from 1862 to 1887 via the “Internet Archive” database, as part of a trial program that has since ceased.

But digitizing the society’s microfilm collection is a mammoth undertaking, since it holds a total of about 80,000 reels — 73,000 of which are newspapers, dating back to 1849, Meissner said. If MHS wanted to digitize every page of microfilmed content, it would be as many as 55 million pages.

“Given the budget, we have only so much of existing content we can digitize in a year and that’s going to be somewhere between 100,000 and 500,000 pages,” Meissner said, adding “500,000 pages is pretty optimistic.” That’s because the cost from microfilm to full digitization for a page of microfilm is \$1.50 to \$2.

Part of the historical society’s work has been to drive the cost of digitization down — an issue that other libraries and historical societies are also facing, Meissner said.

The society also hopes that local historical societies will partner with the state to digitize local newspapers, Meissner said.

WHAT IS SAVED?

In December 2009, this newspaper published a story, “How can this story be saved.” At the time, MHS officials were grappling with what exactly to preserve.

Rather than save the print edition of the newspaper, a former society official had said the most “attractive looking” option was Web harvesting, which would glean material from a newspaper’s website and online archives.

However, newspapers, once only available in print, can now be read on websites, as well as Twitter and Facebook. And each of these digital mediums carries different news, or various renderings of the same story.

“The direction we’ve ended up going, for better or worse, is really collecting what is the digital version of the print newspaper,” Jones said. “That’s consistent with our mission and individual publisher’s mandate to do that ... Nobody has got unlimited resources to save everything digitally.”

MHS is attempting to save some online content, collecting data from 50 news-related websites, most without a print edition, Meissner said.

STACKING UP

As MHS moves closer to launching its new database, it has reason to move along quickly – diminishing space.

In the past, after a newspaper was microfilmed, it was thrown out.

However, since the microfilming stopped 3-1/2 years ago, the newspapers have continued to stack up. “We still receive the physical paper from the newspapers on the same basis as we had before, and temporarily holding all those paper copies rather than microfilming them as we once did,” Meissner said.

The issues “take up every nook and cranny of the building,” Wong said. “Every nook and cranny” amounts to about 200 cubic feet of historical society storage space, according to Meissner.

“That creates a burden for the historical society, but a temporary burden. And as the digital project moves forward, when we’ve solved all the technical problems and made sure that we can provide access to these digital materials, we can get rid of the accumulated paper content,” he said.

Although storage of digital newspapers presents its own problems. “The single biggest challenge is creating and managing a sustainable preservation environment. As the project ramps up and the digital content accumulates rapidly we need to add storage server space and create a digital preservation environment in which we ensure that information stored is permanently stable and accessible,” Meissner said. “That requires fixity of the data, redundant storage, regular refreshing, and periodic testing for quality and reliability of the stored data.”

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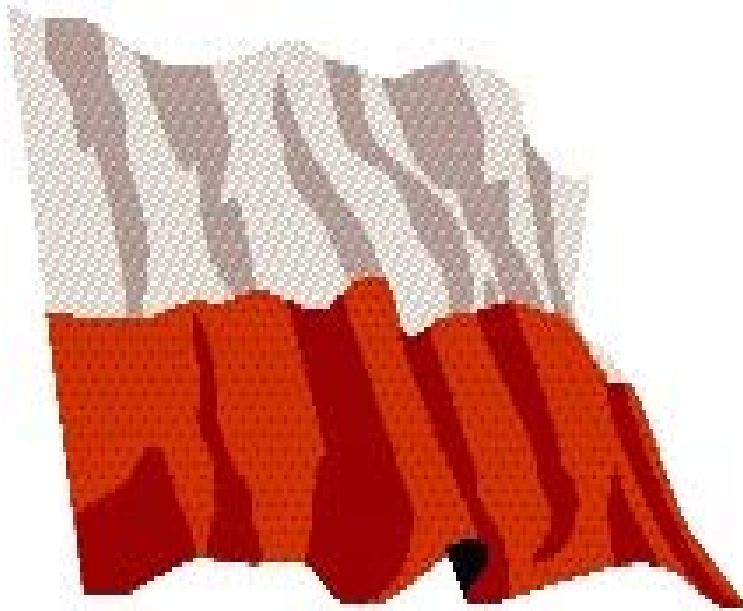
Missing Branches (continued from page 4)

Joan Gordenier, 10505 Hadley Rd. Gregory, MI 48137 jgbones@juno.com Researching: MASLOWSKI (not sure where they are from) YORLK, JUREK of Falkowicz; PIKEILA of Nola Debowiecka; DZAIBUS of Boruszyn settled in Morrison County, MN.

Michael Jarmuz, 808 Green Street, Hudson, WI 54016-1952, myjarmuz@yahoo.com Researching: JARMUZ, KALAS, SWITALA of Junczewo and Murczyn; KUSZ of Junczewo.

Mary V Kampmeier, P.O. Box 608, Graceville, MN 56240, eak7mvk@mchsi.com Researching: WINDORPSKI, DREWICKE settled in St Paul, MN and Graceville

Missing Branches (continued on page 12)



**SUMMER STUDY-TOUR AT
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY**

LUBLIN, POLAND

July 5 – August 11, 2014

Five weeks in historic Lublin, with a course of Polish language (100 hours) at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. Also available: three weeks and six credits: Polish Culture course (3 cr.) and Polish language (3 cr.), July 6-27, \$2,761.00.

- * Lectures, films, and cultural performances
- * Excursions to Warsaw, Sandomierz, and other places of interest
- * Optional trip to Cracow
- * Also available: two, three, four-week courses as well as intensive, and highly intensive two, three, four, and five-week language courses.

Estimated costs:

\$3,375 for Five weeks, All Inclusive
\$2,675 for Two weeks, All Inclusive

Program fee includes:

- Lodging and all meals in Poland
- Group travel in Poland
- Lectures, language classes, performances
- 5 UWM credits for five-week program
- Health insurance
- + Round-trip air transportation (Chicago-Warsaw) NOT included

This study tour is led by Dr. Michael Mikoś, professor of Polish language and literature and leader of 32 study tours to Poland.

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION:

Prof. Michael Mikoś at 414-229-4151
Dept. of Foreign Languages & Literature
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201
e-mail: mikos@uwm.edu



Call
or write:

A SON'S SEARCH - COMPLETED

By Dan Schyma

My second cousin, Gary Bozych, never knew his father. His father, Eustace Bozych, died when he was too young to remember him. I never knew Eustace either. Eustace was the one person I knew next to nothing about as I filled in the U.S. links in our family tree. My mother Irene Bozych Schyma only remembered two things about her cousin Eustace. He was constantly in trouble with the nuns in the Catholic grade school in Gilman, Minnesota, and he was an adopted child who was supposedly born in New York City.

Eustace grew up with his adoptive parents, George and Frances Bozych. George and Frances were unable to have any children. George had a younger sister named Valeria Bozych Kujawa who died from tuberculosis at the age of 33. Valeria had a daughter named Dolores. After Valeria's death, Dolores lived with the George Bozych family even though she had a living father. And it wasn't that she didn't like her dad. She just loved her uncle George so much that each time the Kujawa family prepared to leave to return to Chicago after visiting the Gilman relatives, Dolores managed to be absent. Usually she was hiding somewhere on the farm or on one of the farms of two other uncles who lived just a little ways down the dirt road. Dolores grew up, married Gene Stibal and happily lived her life in Chaska, Minnesota. My search for the missing Eustace included visiting with Dolores. But Dolores too had lost track of her brother, Eustace.

I never felt content knowing the search for Eustace wasn't complete. Then I read about the New York Orphan Train Riders. I learned the national president for the remaining 50 New York Orphan Train Riders, Renee Wendinger, lived in Minnesota. I contacted her to ask her to do a program presentation for the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. And from that point on the search for information about Eustace was on again.

Renee pointed me to the New York Foundling Hospital records which were at the time kept by the Sisters of Charity. It was a logical choice because Eustace was adopted by a Catholic family and the nuns only allowed their orphans to be adopted by families of the Catholic faith. But the gatekeeper in New York was reluctant to release any records to anyone but a direct descendant. So a second search was on to locate any possible children of Eustace Bozych. Eventually the search led to Eustace's son Gary Bozych, now living in California. Gary was very excited to hear that someone else was searching for records of his father.

A search of death certificates in the Brule County Vital Records in Chamberlain, South Dakota resulted in finding Eustace Bozych's death certificate. That death certificate, along with a letter from Gary Bozych appointing me as a search agent for his father, copies of Gary's driver's license and birth certificate was everything the New York Foundling Hospital had required be given to them to release any records.

Still the Foundling Hospital reported they had no record of Eustace. Then Gary said that later in life he had visited with his grandparents, George and Frances Bozych and he thought they had mentioned the name Duffy. So the name Eustace Duffy was passed on to the New York Foundling Hospital. About a week later the Foundling Hospital reported back they did have the records of a Eustace Duffy, but would still have to verify that indeed that was the boy adopted by George and Frances Bozych. Very quickly the answer came back. It was! At last some information was in the mail. Gary excitedly stayed in close contact with me as we waited to find out what information existed.

Then we knew! Eustace was born on November 20, 1910 in New York City. His mother, Helen Duffy, signed papers turning him over to the New York Foundling Hospital when he was 16 days old. Eustace spent his first three years bouncing from one home to another in New York City until the

Book review

Polish Genealogy: Four Steps to Success

Written by Stephen Szabados

Reviewed by Jerome Biedny

It is always good to see a new title in the ranks of "How-to" Polish Genealogy books. Mr. Szabados gives a very personal look into his family search while pounding home his four step process:

- Find town names
- Find their locations
- Use those to find actual records
- Translate those records

He uses excellent examples from his own research to clearly walk the reader step by step through this process. His chapters are short and to the point with some repetition of the main points in each. He also includes a numbered list at the end of each section as a summary.

The book is clearly written in a conversational tone and simple to understand. It also has three appendices that are helpful to future research. I believe it is the first book of this theme that really stresses the information available on the World Wide Web and how to mine that wealth of data for Polish research.

It is important to note, however, the focus of the book is on finding your European roots, not your American ancestors. So, if you are a beginner, or someone under 40 who has yet to dig up a full generation of information, as opposed to, say, a retiree who is closer in age to the immigrant ancestor, you will need to reference other good books on researching your American roots. This does not make the book any less effective at what it does do: helps people use the web to cross the ocean and find Polish records. But, if you are giving it as a gift, you need to know that its focus is right for the receiver.

It appears that the book is self published. So, it did not have the benefit of an editor to catch typos and repetition. This is not critical to the book's success and could be remedied in future printings. Most of the images in the book are taken from screen shots of websites or web-based information. Here too, the publishing method hampered the reproduction of the graphics which are often a bit fuzzy. They are still very good examples to illustrate the four step process however. Small flaws aside, as a ground-breaking work, it does very well in show-casing the opportunities for web based Polish research.

If you have dug back far enough to find the relatives that actually came to America, and you are ready to take the next big step back to Poland, Mr. Szabados new book will help you. In this easy to read book, you will feel as though you are sitting next to him, learning from his own research process.

Sta Lot! Stephen for this great personal undertaking.
PGS-MN



Missing Branches (continued from page 12)

Gary Karger, 2 Partridge Lane, North Oaks, MN 55127-6308 gary.karger@gmail.com Researching: MARCZAK, JOSE FINK and IGNAL KARASIEWICZ of Poland settled in Duluth, MN.

Eleanor Kasella 7637 Ojibway Park Road, Woodbury, MN 55125-4300, ellieok@msn.com Researching: KASELLA of Preussen, Opole settled in Delano and St Paul, MN; KOSIK of Poland settled in St Paul, MN, Fargo, No. Dakota; TREBO of Poland settled in Delano, MN; BEGON of Poland settled in Delano, MN, Gr Falls, MT and Washington.

Gerald Keeville 10773 181st Circle NW, Elk River, MN 55330-4532 gerald.keeville@hotmail.com Reasearching: WREZA of Leczyn/Bismark; LESNAV of Puck/Putzig, settled in MN.

Missing Branches (continued on page 22)

Ephemera's Role (Continued from page 1)

Although there are no ridged categories for ephemera, I offer some broad groupings below. Each one starts with a general overview of the category and ends with specifics as how it relates to genealogy.

Postcards

The first postcard was produced in 1871 and from then on you could mail a postcard for a penny (except for a few war years). Until 1898, a penny was the same rate as a first class letter. So, as letter rates rose, the postcard became a "bargain" for over 50 years. Once mailed, the card would be dutifully delivered by the U.S. post office department in just a few days. The cards travelled by cart, horse, truck, riverboat, and coastal ships. Huge quantities of them moved from city to city by train- often being sorted en-route on special mail trains. This was reliable, quick and, compared to telegrams, inexpensive. Postcards were really the emails of their day. Dashing off a few lines to say "got to Omaha Monday night, see you home at the station Friday at noon." They were also sent as greeting cards at holidays and to commemorate vacations with lines like "having a great time in (*fill in the city*); wish you were here." Even after postage went up to two cents in 1952, the sending of postcards remained popular through the 1970s. Eventually the postage and the cards themselves became expensive and use dropped off. As a result of their multiple uses over a hundred years, billions of postcards were sent -and millions survived. Sometimes they are first found in lovely albums- but more often in shoeboxes pulled from granny's closet. Eventually, these come to market through postcard dealers that sort and organize them for sale.

The organization of postcards comes in two flavors: Geographic or Topical. Many dealers have both groups. Geographically, it could be as simple as state-by-state (or county for international cards). For larger collections, I have seen this taken down to the

town level. Topical collections can be broad categories, such as "Transportation" and "Holidays," or as specific as "Ships-military" and "Easter-chicks." The card is usually placed in a plastic sleeve and then organized in boxes with tabs sticking up for each topic or place name. They could also be slid into albums like photos. The very best are often set apart from the rest in hard plastic sleeves that prevent bending. These can include rare pieces and/or "real photo" cards. Real photos were produced by roving photographers, who would come to town and for a small price, print a photograph directly to a card. Their subjects often included: prosperous farm families, shops along Main Street and whatever else they could get paid to do. These cards are valuable because they are the ONLY copies of that particular event, person, or place.

Most mass produced cards can be picked up at local antique dealers for one or two dollars apiece. Often the less organized they are, the less the dealer understands them and the lower the price. For specialty dealers with very good organization, the cards will be a bit more money. But realize that the higher value for the same card represents the time and effort the dealer has invested so that you can walk up and get exactly what you wanted in minutes- not hours of searching through endless boxes. Depending on its condition, Real Photo postcards start at about \$20 and go up from there depending on content. If multiple collectors would want it- say an old sports team, local disaster, or celebrity- you could be talking \$50 or more. The Twin Cities has two big postcard shows each year- spring in St. Paul and fall in Bloomington.

So how does this relate to genealogy? Think of anything you would like to have a picture of: the ship your ancestors came on, the general store they owned in that small town, the ballroom they talked about visiting every Friday night in the summer as a youth, the department store that was their first employer, etc. If someone threw it out before you got to keep it, for a few dollars you could have your own example of this place and time. Once, I

actually bought a card from a small town in southern Minnesota simply because it shown the new brick school house across the street from the church where my wife's great grandfather was pastor. When I turned it over, it was signed by my wife's great aunt and was being sent to another great aunt- wow! At this point,



don't let on to the dealer or the price may go up! Now I had a true family history piece in my hands; not because someone in the family saved it, but because an ephemera collector did.

Here are a couple of my favorite finds in this category:

← Hutchinson Tech, my father's high school. This card was produced about the time he was a freshman.



← My parents spoke of taking a 2000 person passenger ferry from the pier in Buffalo, NY across the eastern end of Lake Erie to the resort town and amusement park at Crystal Beach, Ontario, Canada. It would leave several times each weekend and they could spend an entire day in the fun and sun, then board again and dance the night away. That ferry was the *Canadiana*. It was built in Buffalo in 1910 and operated until 1956- the approximate date of this "view" type postcard.

Transportation Items

You can find menus, schedules, and boarding passes for ships, trains, and buses. You can find posters, newspaper, and magazine advertising for all modes of transportation. Then there are specialty collectors like the train people that collect anything with a line's logo from napkins and china, to note cards, and pay stubs. Subway and bus tokens abound.

You can find these items at antique or specialty shows or on the internet. Always remember that excellent quality or condition and rarity usually demands higher prices. Also, you will not find all these items in one booth, store, or even town. The advertising pieces could be with a collector that cuts up old print material, wraps it in plastic, and files it like postcards. The tickets and schedules may be in albums or boxes set out for sale. The rail items command their own shows that draw nationally.

Prices vary widely and can be affected by the "local" factor. For example, say you find a map for the Greyhound route to Bemidji in Minneapolis. It will go for more money than if you find that same item in

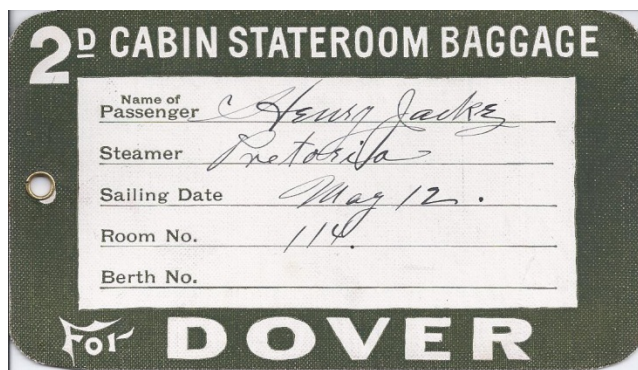
Tucson. As with all paper items, check for black or grey dots denoting mold. That will tell you if the piece was not stored in the right location. There is also the brown stains and crinkled texture that warn of water damage. That damage is not easily reversed without professional help. Again, the seller need not know that your grandfather worked for that company for 40 years until AFTER you have purchased the item. Don't seem too eager.

Back to genealogy...It is neat to see how much something cost "back then". So, anything with the price printed on it is interesting. The employment connection is also good to explore as it was the mode of transport that brought your family across town or across the ocean.

Some of my favorite finds follow:



← This is a baggage tag for a voyage from New York to Hamburg, Germany via Dover, England circa 1912. The Hamburg-American Line was abbreviated in German as "HAPAG" (seen on the shield of the anchor logo). It was the largest trans-Atlantic passenger company in the world at that time and for many decades afterward. It was founded in 1847 on the German immigration to America trade, but later carried the waves of eastern Europeans that followed.



← On the reverse side of the tag, you see it was for a Second Class passenger aboard the *SS Pretoria*. She was built in 1898 and refitted in 1910 to carry only Second and Third Classes. So, Henry Jacke would not need to mix with the rabble of 2200 passengers in steerage class. He and his fellow 400 Second Class passengers would have their own salons, cabins, and dining rooms. The ship was seized as America joined WWI and used as a troop transport under the name *USS Pretoria*.



← This card shows the Hamburg-American Lines docks in Hoboken, New Jersey that were used in the late 1800s. A good portion of it was rebuilt after a fire in 1900. The docks were confiscated when America entered WWI. Note the streetcars running in front of the ticket building. The *SS Pretoria* would have sailed out of these docks. Ships my family used to immigrate- the *SS Suevia* and *SS Batavia*- would have used these docks.



← Competing directly with the Hamburg-American Line was the North German Lloyd, Bremen. (In German, abbreviated- NDL). This richly illustrated passenger list booklet was from a sailing exactly 12 months after the maiden voyage that brought my father's mother's family to America aboard the fastest ship of its day- the *Kaiser Wilhelm, II.* This line also brought two other of my families to America.

Government Paperwork

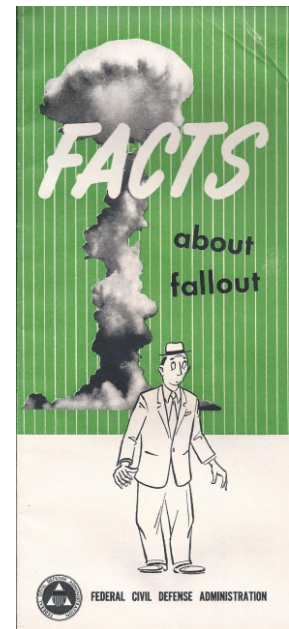
We are all used to seeing the passports, naturalization papers, and vital records certificates from our family. But the city, state and federal governments have printed a huge volume of general and specific information that your relatives might have picked up, read, and tossed out. Things like: items during the wars that encourage the planting of the Victory Garden your grandmother discussed; public health notices on Tuberculosis, its causes and treatment; War Ration books and stamps, and so much more.

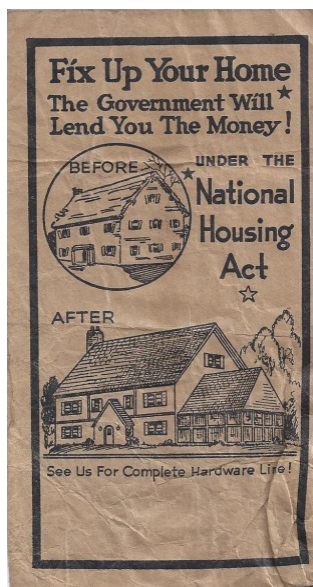
As interesting as these items are, they are not avidly collected. They will be found in piles of "Miscellaneous Paper" in boxes at antique or special ephemera shows that are held regionally- usually only once per year. In July each year, the City of Lakes show held in Egan, MN is one of the best shows in the state.

Chances are you will never pick something up that was used by your ancestor. But if he lived through that time in American history, if she told stories about that event, having an item from the actual time period would be great.

Here are examples from my collection:

→ This 1955 pamphlet from the Civil Defense Administration prepared people for nuclear fallout during the Cold War.





← This advertisement appeared on the envelope of a bank account book. The program started in 1949 to help people get their houses in shape after WW II. It eventually morphed into Fannie Mae and the recent housing bubble 70 years later.

→ This is an example of a Mortgage

Contract. They were often recorded at the County Hall. When the counties eventually microfilmed the originals, the paper ones were thrown out by the case.

800-ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE. The Signal, Printers, Geneva, Neb.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, F.M. Sweet,

of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Three hundred fifteen DOLLARS,

to me in hand paid by H.W. McConnell

of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have sold, and by these presents do sell, assign, and transfer unto the said party of the second part a certain indenture of mortgage bearing date the

22nd day of February in the year one thousand, nine hundred and nine

made by Cora A. Tremble and John Tremble, her husband:

The original face of this mortgage was Three hundred fifty dollars but there has been a payment made on same of thirty five dollars

in favor of F.M. Sweet, in the Original Town of Superior

and conveying the Lot (19), in Block 22 Section No. _____ in Township No. _____

in Range No. _____ of the 4th P. M. in Nuckolls County, in the State of

Nebraska and which said mortgage was recorded in the office of County Clerk _____

in the said County of Nuckolls on the 24th day of February

in the year 1909, in Book 33 of Mortgages, at page 296-7 together with the notes or obligations therein described, without recourse on me in any event or for any cause: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same unto the said party of the second part or his executors, administrators, or assigns, subject only to the provisions in the said Indenture of Mortgage contained.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 4th

day of April in the year one thousand, nine hundred and nine.

In presence of

H. Sweet (L. S.)

H. Sweet (L. S.)

(L. S.)

(L. S.)

Work and Play Items

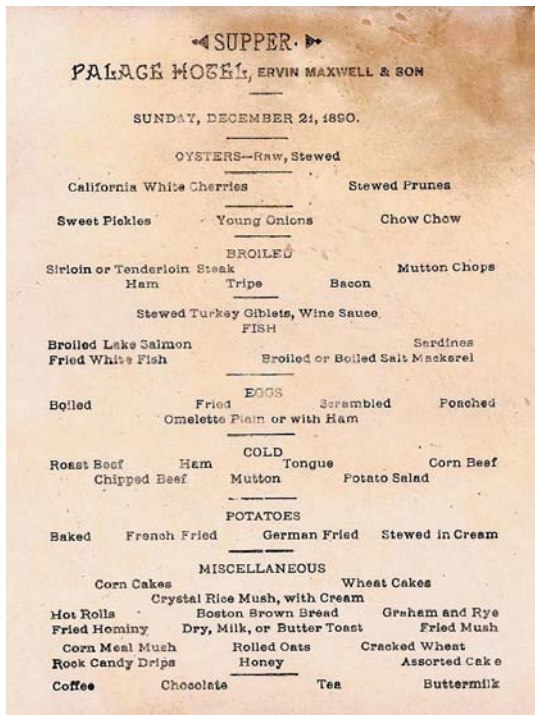
When so many more people smoked, collecting match books from places you visited was popular. They were small items imprinted with the location or event. They even made special albums to safely hold them. But this Work/Play category is practically endless. If you look hard enough, you can find: sports and concert ticket stubs; board games; restaurant menus and advertisements; bowling, golf, and other scorecards; recipe booklets; equipment manuals and the like. There could also be items from employers ranging from paychecks to pins for good attendance or longevity.

There is a smattering of all these items everywhere. You just need to keep your eyes open for them. Chances are that if you pick up something and think it was "neat" the dealer thought that too. So, don't expect him to cut his price in half just because you want it. Be selective, but don't be afraid to dicker. Anything over \$20 usually has 15% built into it for discount and quick sale. Antique dealers, especially those renting space in a mall (multi-dealer stores), need to move a certain volume of items every month to pay their rent. Items that seem to have been around a long time might be ready to go. But,

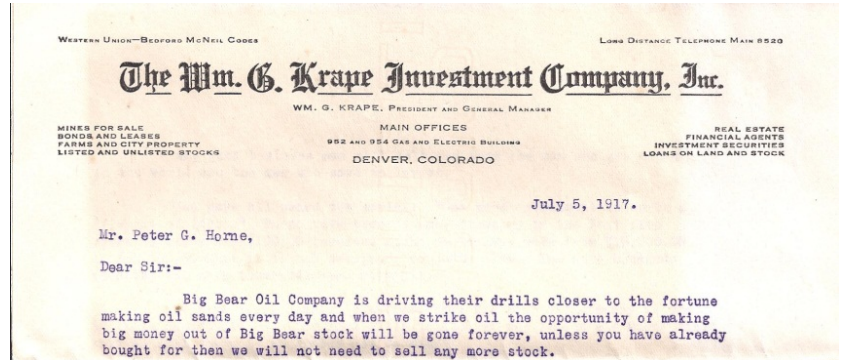
the person behind the counter may not own your item in question and sometimes needs to call the real owner to see if they will work with you on the price. I bought a lot of one item from a woman after talking to her from Hastings as she sat on the beach in Florida one snowy Sunday afternoon in January.

At the same time, items that are marked only a few dollars will not go out the door for pennies. Your better bet in this case is to pick up four or five items that are at the same price point and do a "four for the price of three" deal or the like.

These items may not sound old enough to be true History, but if they represent something that you (or your ancestors) liked to see or do, as they get passed down, they become your history.



← This menu shows what a Christmas Holiday meal might have been like for your relatives in 1890 if they could afford the \$2 for room and board at the Palace Hotel in Cleveland, OH. Why would you boil bacon?!?



↑ This is the start of a get-rich-quick letter sent by an oil company that will any day now strike it big in Colorado oil sands- the North Dakota of 100 years ago.



← This is an example of the beautifully Lithographed stock certificates issued in the decade just before and after 1900. Almost every major railroad, shipping, and heavy industry corporation issued stock. Some large company's shares go for hundreds of dollars especially if signed by one of the Captains of Industry. However, you may find the shoe company at which your great grandfather worked on line for \$20. They will probably have holes punched in them to prove they were redeemed. They should be signed to have been actually issued; without the signatures, they could be reproductions.

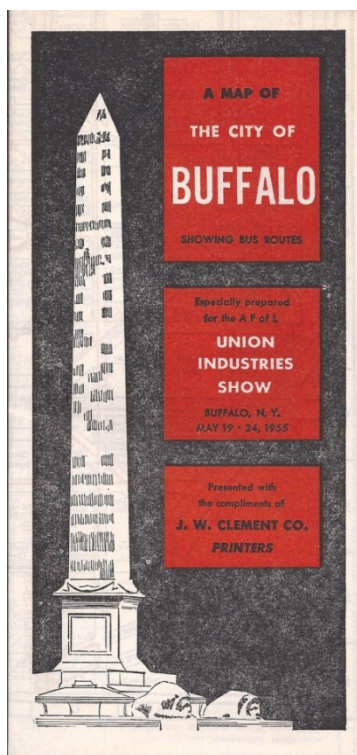
Other Items of Everyday Life

It is amazing what people keep tucked in drawers and boxes, never thinking that someone would eventually sell them. Maps, membership cards, canceled checks, financial paperwork, parking tickets, old bills, stationary- you name it, and it's floating around out there. Last summer, I actually picked up a box of papers that must have come right out of someone's night stand. It had her personal information all over it: name, birth date, SS number, health insurance policy information, etc. I could only assume she had recently passed away. But, even with today's warnings against identity theft, I think this sort of thing happens much too often. It occurred at a flea market where less-than-professional dealers sell things out of the trunk of their

cars. When I brought the personal nature of the box to the dealer's attention, he DID take it off the table- but I wonder if it went back out when I was safely out of sight.

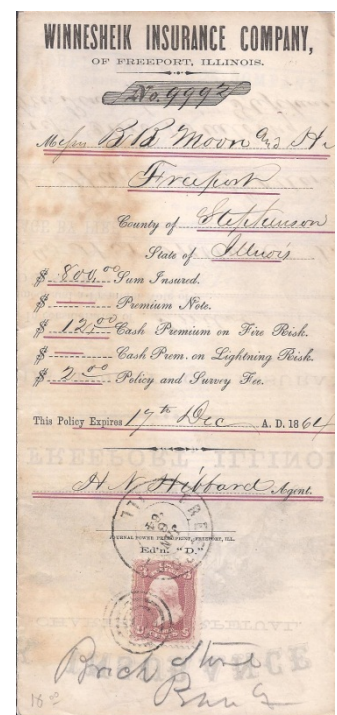
I bring this example up only because you should keep track of your own ephemera. You need not burn everything you touch, but you should be cognizant of the things you leave behind. Old letters and utility bills combined with the postmarks give a date and address for you. But you do not need to leave the Visa bill or bank statement inside!

Also, be kind if you can. I once found a letter sent from a military base to a soldier's family here in town. The family name was close to mine but different enough to know we were NOT related. I bought the inexpensive piece and searched the internet to find the person. Calling the last known address, I found it was a nursing home. He had passed away two years before. After checking the obituaries for that time frame, I found the name of a son that still lives in MN and sent the letter on to him. Boy, did I get a nice thank you note. It seems the boy's mother donated boxes of what she thought were clothes from the man's closet before the son could search everything. Now he had something back from his father!



← This 1940s map of Buffalo, NY shows streets that no longer exist- something you can't find on Google maps! I found it while on vacation in a small shop outside Chicago for \$1. In New York it would have been \$10. Location, location, location.

→ This is an insurance certificate for a brick home valued at \$800. The policy was written in Illinois in 1864 and includes a fire risk premium and survey fee. Note that many official documents had a stamp attached used to pay the filing fee. These were most often "revenue" stamps, but in a pinch postage stamps were also used.



← This check was written to transfer money from one bank to another. I selected it for the excellent printing. These were generic designs by companies like the American Banknote Corp. Local banks would select and print them with their own logo, town, and branch information.

Where to Look

Now that I have your interest peaked, here are some places where you can start hunting for ephemera:

Metro Antique Stores. Wherever two or three are gathered...it seems that the foot traffic at antique shops tends to favor several shops close to each other. Shops are clustered in: Wayzata, 50th and Xerxes, Uptown, and Stillwater. However, these areas tend to cater to home decor enthusiasts not ephemera dealers. For in-the-trenches, way-of-life ephemera look in the shops on West 7th Street near downtown or Fairview/Marshall in St. Paul; and downtown Anoka, Hastings, North St. Paul, and Hopkins.

Outstate Antique Stores. Almost every small town large enough to have a vacant storefront and/or on the route to the cabin may have an antique store where you will find material that is usually attractively priced and from local attics and barns. Beware, many a rural "antique shop" turns out to be a combination of gift shop and cabin decor item shop -with nothing of real age. You often will not know until you stop in. There ARE several bona fide locations for quality antique ephemera out of the metro area: Cannon Falls, Rochester, Buffalo, and the lake communities north of Brainerd are some of my favorites.

Antique Shows. There are four or five promotion companies in the state that specialize in organizing weekend long, multi-state dealer shows. So, if you are willing to drive a bit, you can find an antique show at least once a month all year round. Typical venues include: HarMar Mall in Roseville, the State and several County Fair grounds and the towns of Elko, Cannon Falls, and Oronoco (as seen on TPTs show "Market Warriors"). Google for specific dates and times, or pick up discount coupons at many metro area antique shops. Their dealers often exhibit at these shows.

Wherever you live, check out the local paper/ephemera shows and visit a local antique

shop. They often have maps with other local shops marked out. They like to keep the buzz in their business and that of their fellow dealers.

Special Note

Almost anything I just discussed can also be purchased on the Internet from sites as general as eBay to some specialty auction sites for collectors including: **Freemans** (very old, very expensive stuff); **delcompe** (international eBay for paper stuff); **mynotera** (smaller site); **ephemeranet** (a catalogue of sorts); and **artifact** (includes fine art and offers much background and general information). For me, the thrill is finding and holding the item in my hand. The internet lessens that connection with the piece. As always, "Buyers Beware." Read online descriptions very carefully and look for what is unsaid as well as what is stated. If it is too good to be true- it usually is. As an example: 19th Century ship postcards have gotten so rare or expensive, quality reproductions have been issued by museums. Genealogists don't necessarily need an original ship's card, but they should not be charged original pricing for a copy that was not described as such!

In Closing

After reading this article, I hope you understand what Ephemera are, how you can find them, and what could help your genealogical research. Gathering this material may not lead you to a long lost uncle or break through a "brick wall," but it helps round out the stories we tell about our family with actual examples of the people, places, and things that meant so much to them. On your next rainy afternoon, venture out to an antique shop, show, or special event and see what you can find. Happy hunting! **PGS-MN**

George Koleas, WI56 N10640 Cobbler Lane,
Germantown WI 53022, georgejk676@wi.rr.com

I am seeking information on:

Jacob MANKIEWICZ, born 1 June 1827 in Lubnia, Brusy, Chojnice. He married Mary BARDON, daughter of Andrew BARDON in Brusy, Chojnice on 9 January 1860. They left the Port of Hamburg on 2 May 1868 aboard the S.S. Atlas bound for Quebec and arrived at the Port of Milwaukee in June 1868. The Quebec passenger list records their name as MANCZEWITZ. There are no Port of Milwaukee records. Jacob's sons were Vina, John, Jacob, Joseph, and Valentine. Jacob and his son, also named Jacob, changed their names to MANSAVAGE or MANSAVITZ. The family lived in Stockton, Polonia, Fancher, Plover, and Stevens Point, all in Portage County, WI.

Jacob MANKIEWICZ's father, Andreas MANKIEWICZ, was born about 1793. He married Susanna KUKLINSKI, born about 1796 in Lubnia, Brusy, Chojnice. Mary BARDON's father was Paul BARDON. He married Rosaliam KIEDROWICZ on 28 January 1838 in Lubnia, Brusy, Chojnice. Rosaliam was the daughter of Joannis KIEDROWICZ and Josephine KREYSKIE.

I would like to extend the MANKIEWICZ, BARDON and related KIEDROWICZ and KREYSKIE lines farther back in Poland.

2) Jacob MANKIEWICZ was born 1 June 1827 in Lubnia, Brusy, Chojnice. He left the Port of Hamburg with his wife Mary BARDON on 2 May 1868 aboard the S.S. Atlas bound for Quebec. The Quebec passenger list records their name as MANCZEWITZ. On the same ship, was another family whose name was also listed as MANCZEWITZ. The father's name could not be read from the records but the spouse was Catherina and the children were Rozalia, Julianne, Johann, Paul, and Anna. Jacob and the unknown father may be related.

Jacob's son Vina, moved to Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI and used the MANKIEWICZ name. Other potentially related MANKIEWICZ families also settled in Milwaukee, WI, which included Nikolai and Wojciech and in Philadelphia, PA, which included the family of film producer Joseph MANKIEWICZ.

I would like to locate the unknown MANCZEWITZ family and the other unknown MANKIEWICZ

families from Milwaukee and Philadelphia to determine if they are related.

3) Andrew KIEDROWSKI, KEDROWSKI, KEDROSKE, or KIEDROWSKI, was born 23 October 1823 in Konitop, Lipusz, Koscierzyna. He was the son of Martin KIEDROWSKI and Victoria MASCHKE, MAZKE or MAZK. His siblings include Anna, Catherina, Jacob, Joseph, Mathias, Peter, Paul, and Valentin. Andrew was in Winona, MN before he came to Portage County, WI. Some of his siblings may have also followed him. Andrew died 30 December 1895 in Pike Lake (Bevent), Marathon County, WI.

I would like to locate information on Andrew KIEDROWSKI, KEDROWSKI, KEDROSKE, or KIEDROW-SKI siblings and extend those lines and the MASCHKE, MAZKE, or MAZK lines further back in Poland.

4) Andrew KEDROSKE or KIEDROWSKI's first wife was Justina (also known as Josephine) CYBULSKA. Josephine was born 1821 to 1825. They were married in Poland between 1841 to 1853. They lived in MN. She may have moved with him to Portage County, WI. Justina or Josephine may have died between 1860 and 1870.

I would like to locate the birth and marriage of Justina or Josephine CYBULSKA in Poland and her death in Minnesota or Wisconsin.

5) Andrew KEDROSKE or KIEDROWSKI's second wife was Magdalena BEMOWSKI or BEJMOWSKI. She married Andrew KIEDROWSKI, 25 June 1879 in Stevens Point, Portage County, WI. Magdalena was born about 1848. She died in 26 June 1901 in Stevens Point, Portage County, WI. Magdalena's death certificate lists her father as Frank BEMOWSKI or BEJMOWSKI and her mother as Katherine BRUFSKI. However, I suspect that her father was Albrecht BEMOWSKI or BEJMOWSKI, who was sometimes known as Frank, and her mother was Catharina KUCHTA.

I would like to locate Magdalena's birth record in Poland and a record of her marriage to Andrew KEDROSKE or KIEDROWSKI to confirm the identity of Magdalena's birth parents. I would also like to extend Magdalena's birthparents lines further back in Poland. PGS-MN

Minnesota Genealogical Society
*Polish Genealogical Society
of Minnesota Branch*
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So. St. Paul MN 55075-1150

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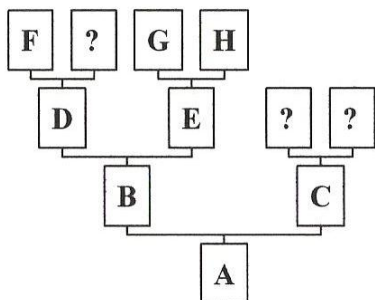
Did you know that our database allows for winter and summer change of addresses?

If you furnish dates we will enter them into our database and it will automatically change your address so that you do not lose out on any of the newsletters and PGS-MN will not be charged for non delivery.

You can contact me by email doripgs@comcast.net or phone 763-535-2296

Thank You,
Dori Marszalek
Membership Director

Missing Branches



Send queries and branch updates to: **Peggy Larson**, Editor, PGS-MN Newsletter, 557 98th Lane NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433 (e-mail: editorpgsmn@gmail.com) or send in with new or renewal membership forms.

Marcia Anderson 130 Edgewood Ave N., Golden Valley, MN 55427, marcia.d.anderson@gmail.com
Researching: ZWOLINSKI, Posen, settled in Thrope WI, Mpls, MN; ZAKRZEWSKI, of Suwalki? settled in New London, CT, Mpls, MN; KLUCZENSKI, SHUPIEN of Suwalki Lithuania/ Poland settled in New London, CT; Mpls, MN

Mary Ellen Bruski 3412 Parkview Blvd, Robbinsdale, MN 55422 mebruski@comcast.net
Researching: KRUSZEWSKI, of Poznan, settled in St Paul, MN; BRUSKI of Kashubia/Czersk settled in Owatonna, MN

Thomas Burke, 1152 Via Capri, Winter Park FL 32789, teburke@mac.com Researching: MATCZYNSKI, HELINSKI of Wysoka (Wissek, Posen) settling in Minnesota and Wisconsin

Vivian Chamberlain 34675 Fountain Blvd, Westland, MI 48185 vivdonchamberl@ameritech.net
Researching: JARNOT of Brzeszcze, MORON of Katowice; WODNICZAK, Gorzyczki, Gdolanow; WIZNER, of Fabianow, settled in ND, Minnesota

Col. James Ebertowski, jsluggo@aol.com
Researching: EBERTOWSKI of Lag settled in Warsaw, ND; STOLTMAN of Konzourny/Zapcen settled in Warsaw, ND, Winona, MN; DURAY/DURAJ, of Wiele settled in Warsaw, ND; DICKARSKI of Lag settled in Warsaw, ND and Greenbush, MN; KASPRICK/KASPRZYCK, of Galacia settled in Mass, ND

Jason Franzen, 133 Shadywood Ln, Delano, MN, 55328 edrahil_jf@yahoo.com. Researching: GABRELICK of Opolc/Zelasno

Missing Branches (continued on page 4)