



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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No. 1

Polish Fraternal Insurance Associations: Emphasis on Polish White Eagle Association, a Minnesota Fraternal

by

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(john@john.rys.name)

Introduction

This article begins with a discussion of Polish fraternal insurance associations. It then describes and illustrates the type of information found in claim envelopes from fraternal life insurance policies written by the Polish White Eagle Association (PWEA). PWEA, a Minnesota ethnic fraternal, provided insurance coverage in the early 1900's. In 2003, many early PWEA insurance claim envelopes were deposited in the Immigration History Research Center. The IHRC notified the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota which resulted in the indexing of this collection.

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POLISH FRATERNAL ASSOCIATIONS

In his book, *For More than Bread*, Loyola University Chicago Prof. Emeritus William Galush makes the following points about Polish fraternal associations in his chapter called "Organizing Polonia." He states: "A colony was much more than an aggregation of immigrants; soon after a residential concentration coalesced the institutions of Polonia began to form. By World War I in most settlements there were organizations for every age and gender... The award for profusion goes to the fraternal insurance lodges, an organizational form common among other Catholics as well.....Not only was the first Polonian organization in most colonies a fraternal, but they multiplied faster than other formal structures and took the role in defining Polishness."¹

"The federations, much more than lodges either independent or affiliated, articulated ideology. The Polish Roman Catholic Unio (PRCUA) held that a

Polish Fraternal (Continued on page 8)

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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

We have almost 300 members, and I know they do not all live here in Minnesota. So, let me tell you: the winter here was brutal. The coldest in 35 years; 5th coldest on record! By February, it was far more depressing than normal. You would think that would lead to many late nights scanning the computer for family members. But actually, it was the opposite. Most often I found myself rather tired and just went to bed early.

I will mention my own little genealogical bright spot in this bleak winter. My wife, son, and I had our DNA tested through **23 & Me** (www.23andme.com – the *Ancestry DNA Test*) as a group Christmas present. I did it more as a double check to see what science could confirm about my bloodlines. So yes (like most of my Polish brethren), I'm mostly European with about 3% Neanderthal. But the fun came when the website started matching us up to "cousins." Even with the database having less than its first million persons, my son has made contact with half a dozen cousins close enough to compare family trees and find common ancestors just three to five generations back! The new finds have helped us broaden our branches and we have helped them on details of our common trunk.

I went into this a skeptic. But the prices have come way down and the ability to complete useful research is real. That usefulness will only increase as more people are tested and loaded into the database. So, if you have been holding off from trying this new and powerful tool, now might be the time to give it as a gift to the uber-genealogist in the family.

Back to the Society: our member meetings have been very well attended lately with often four to five dozen guests attending. If you haven't come to a meeting lately, we'd love to see you in May. Come for the cookies; stay for research in the library. Before you know it, we'll be at the Polish Festival in August and headed for an autumn of new meetings. Keep checking the new website, pgsmn.org, for the most up-to-date meeting information.

Jerome Biedny jaybiedny@juno.com



The Bulletin Board

Correspondence ... Komunikacja

I would appreciate a correction to my Missing Branches listing in the Winter 2013 PGSMN news letter, page 9. I would not normally say anything but the entire entry had misspellings. Corrections in red.



Thank you

Joan Gordenier

Joan Gordenier, 10505 Hadley Rd. Gregory, MI 48137 jgbones@juno.com researching: MASLOWSKI (not sure where they are from) **YOREK/JUREK** of Falkowicz, **PIKULA** of **Wola** Debowiecka; **DZIABAS** of Boruszyn settled in Morrison County, MN.

Editor's note: I used bold and underline to show Joan's "corrections in red" since we don't have color print for the newsletter. Members, please remember to print as clearly as possible when submitting forms with Polish names and places. Paul Kulas was excellent at reading Polish words but most of us are novices. Thanks for letting us know, Joan. Happy to get the corrected information!

Recently at PGS-MN Meetings

On Saturday, March 1, 2014, Dr. Jan Werner presented

"Poland and the Changing Economy"

Dr. Werner gave an informative presentation about the changing Polish economic conditions in recent decades and how the changes in Poland have affected the everyday lives of our relatives in various regions of our homeland today.



Dan Schyma, M. Dillon and Dr. Jan Werner

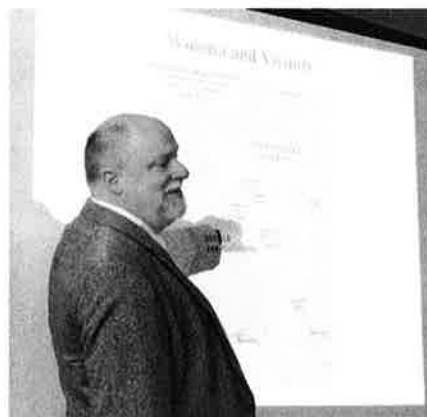
Dr. Werner is a professor at the University of Minnesota. He emigrated to the U.S. about 20 years ago to take a position at the University. He is an expert on the Polish economy and is recognized worldwide.

On Saturday, March 8, 2014, at Murzyn Hall in Columbia Heights, MN, Dr. Joseph Hughes presented

"Kaszubian and Pommern Cultures in Poland Thrive"

Dr. Hughes gave an informative and entertaining presentation on how the folkways and traditions of the Kaszubians, with their own language, blended with the German-speaking Pommerns in the

northern region of Poland.



Dr. Hughes is a professor at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. He earned his PhD from the

University of Iowa. Closely associated with the Polish Cultural Institute & Museum of Winona, Minnesota, Dr. Hughes is enthusiastic about genealogy and the history and culture of the Kaszubians in both Poland and the Minnesota/

Wisconsin area. Visit <http://polishmuseum.winona.org/> and <http://smilesinboxes.blogspot.com> to learn more about Kaszubian settlers in this area.



On Saturday, April 5, 2014, Dr. Anne Klejment presented

“Poland and Emigration during the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries”

Dr. Klejment’s presentation on the social, economic, and political conditions in Poland that led to the period of Immigration to the States and why many of our ancestors came to Minnesota was very well attended and she answered many, many questions from members. She said over two million Poles permanently left Poland for countries overseas or for other European countries between the years 1870 and 1914.

She said economic modernization was a major factor in the decision to emigrate. Economic modernization, that is, industrial capitalization, the end of serfdom, the creation of modern state institutions, and modernization of the West were all contributing factors for the Polish emigration to the U.S. between 1880 and 1914.

As Poland didn’t exist as a country during these years, she discussed these contributing factors for each of the Polish partitions: German/Prussian, Austrian, and Russian. Each partition showed a different migration pattern and different reasons for that migration.

Dr. Klejment’s presentation was very informative and stimulated much discussion among members.

Dr. Klejment is a professor at the University of St. Thomas. She earned her PhD from the State University of New York at Binghamton. She is a trained social historian. A native of Rochester, New York, she likes to talk about her Polish roots and how her great grandfather and his brother were among the founders of the first Polish Roman Catholic parish in the city.

Upcoming Meetings, Programs, Events

Polish Genealogical Society Meetings Calendar

May 3, 2014 – Double Presentation Saturday

Topic 1 - Genealogical Resources and Methods

Topic 2 - Tracing Your Polish Roots: Starting in America

September 6, 2014 – Topic to be announced

October 11, 2014 – Topic to be announced

November 1, 2014 – Topic to be announced

See details below....

PGSMN Member Meetings

Double Presentation Saturday

Saturday, May 3, 2014

10 a.m. – 12 noon

MGS Library, 4th floor boardroom

Topic 1 - Genealogical Resources and Methods

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. with Brigid Shields

Brigid Shields, Reference Associate at the Minnesota Historical Society’s research center, has a wonderful power point presentation on the History Research Society’s role in not only the great resources they have available for genealogists, but also the many educational programs and exhibits

the Minnesota Historical Society hosts for all members of the family as you explore your family roots. The presentation will include a multitude of research records available and the help available from their devoted staff.

This will be a great opportunity to become acquainted with a fantastic historical and genealogical resource we have right here in the St. Paul.

Topic 2 – Tracing Your Polish Roots: Starting in America, 11:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. with Jay Biedny

Jay Biedny, current President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, has spent more than 30 years researching the records of his 100% Polish heritage. His presentation will review basic strategies for finding and organizing Polish-American genealogical records. This will be an excellent presentation for both someone just bitten by the genealogy bug and someone that thinks they have explored every last scrap of paper that exists. The presentation is full of clear examples to get you moving toward the ultimate goal: finding your ancestral town and parish in Poland, and reconnecting with lost relatives.

Minnesota Genealogical Society Events

MGS Technology Conference

Friday, April 25, 2014 - 7:00 AM to 8:30 PM and
Saturday, April 26, 2014 - 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Hennepin Technical College, Brooklyn Park
Featured Speaker: Thomas MacEntee

Thomas specializes in using technology and social media to improve genealogy research and connect with the family history community.

Friday April 25: evening reception and lecture by Thomas MacEntee

You Use WHAT for Genealogy? Wonderful Uses for Unusual Tools

Saturday April 26: full day of educational sessions!

Three plenary sessions from Thomas MacEntee:

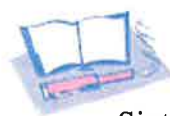
Building a Research Toolbox

Managing Your Genealogy Data

Google for Genealogists

Plus 20 breakout sessions presented by Midwest genealogy educators on social media, images, genealogy programs, genealogy websites, getting printed materials via the Internet, websites for Czechoslovak and Pommern research, and geography/mapping. Silent Auction, door prizes, vendors! Brochure, session descriptions, and speaker bios are here: <http://mngs.org/>.

2014 Writing Competition



Do you need an incentive to start writing family history? Enter the Sixth Annual MGS Family History Writing Competition!

Check out the [Writing Contest Rules](http://mngs.org/) and [Writing Contest Entry Form](http://mngs.org/) at <http://mngs.org/>. Submit your entries by **July 15, 2014**. The winners of the Michael Clark Family History Writing Awards will be announced in fall 2014.

UPGS Conference - Genealogy & Technology



United Polish Genealogical Societies
2014 Biennial Conference - Salt Lake City, UT -
May 2 – 5, 2014

Keynote speaker: D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS

Josh is the Business Development Manager – North America for brightsolid online publishing and Lead Genealogist for findmypast.com. A nationally known and recognized genealogical author, lecturer, and researcher, he is a frequent speaker at genealogical societies, libraries, and other organizations,

including the annual conferences of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, and RootsTech. He has authored articles in *American Ancestors*, *UGA Crossroads*, *FGS Forum*, *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, and *New England Ancestors*, and was a columnist for *Digital Genealogist*.

Active in the genealogical community, Joshua is the current President for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and the former Director of Education and Programs at the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Special Events:

- Keynote Address - Family History in Popular Culture
- Wesoły Lud Polish Folk Dance Company - Each registrant will receive entrance to see the dancers perform, compliments of PGSA.

New information:

- Advancing Your Polish Research
- Maps & Gazetteers for Genealogy
- Immigration Agents
- The Peasant and the Palace: Locating and Researching Manor Records in Europe
- This is Woman's Work - Midwifery
- Notary Records in Poland

New technology:

- New Tools and Ideas in Research
- Creating Your Personal Family History Website
- Partition Records in FHL; LDS Filming Projects
- MyHeritage.com

For more details and to register, go to <http://www.pgsa.org/index.php>

2014 Advancing Your Polish Genealogy: 300 Years of Records



Sponsored by the
Genealogical Research
Institute of Pittsburgh

Course held **ONLY** in **Orchard Lake, Michigan**

August 3-8, 2014

Course Instructors for this advanced course include:

- Genia Gorecki, *Genealogy Roadshow*;
- PARI Co-Director Dr. Hal Learman;
- Paweł Pietrzyk - visiting Polish archivist, from Łódź, Poland
- Robert Sliwinski, M.S.
- Patricia Yocum, MLS.

This Polish track will continue to advance your research and expand your knowledge of resources in Poland. Prerequisites for this course are to identify and bring copies of the U.S. census records, ship manifests, naturalization papers, and WWI and World War II Draft registrations for your target family. Please register for a free FamilySearch online account, and bring your personal email log in and password. We'll cover finding your ancestors' parish and civil registration records in Poland and explore the holding of regional Polish archives. The course wraps up with a discussion on the usefulness of DNA evidence.

The teaching team will dispel the myths that records were destroyed during the world wars and that language barriers make Polish research difficult. They will also give examples and suggestions on how to use advanced records, databases, and archives.

For more details and to register, go to http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=1233 **PGS-MN**

Polish Fraternal (continued from page 1)

true Pole had to be Roman Catholic; the Polish National Alliance (PNA) professed religious neutrality, though the vast majority of members were Catholic. The former orientation may be termed 'religionist' and the latter 'secularist'..."²

University of Alaska-Southeast Professor John Radzilowski provides an interesting perspective in his book *Poles in Minnesota* where he addresses the general benefits of fraternal organizations stating: "Although usually based in the parish, lay organizations transcended parish boundaries and gave the local Poles a window on the larger Polish community in the United States and its politics. The most important associations in this respect were the local units of the major and competing Polish fraternal benefit societies, the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA) and the Polish National Alliance (PNA). While many began as independent parish societies, the benefits of joining these national federations quickly attracted most local groups into their folds."³

Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA)

PRCUA, the oldest Polish fraternal, headquarters in Chicago, IL, traces its early existence to two priests, Rev. Theodore Gieryk and Rev. Wincenty Barzynski. "Its membership adheres to Roman Catholic tenets, promotes Catholic action, religious retreats, support of the clergy and strong support of the Catholic Church."⁴ The PRCUA is the principle patron of the Polish Museum of America. For further information visit: www.prcua.org. **NOTE:** A PRCUA database created by PGSA member James Czuchra, called "PRCUA Insurance Claim File Index" is located at pgsa.org. It is a search tool for locating surnames of PRCUA policy holders and their death claim files.

Polish National Alliance (PNA)

The PNA also has its headquarters in Chicago, IL and was established in 1880, seven years after the

PRCUA. PNA claims to be the largest fraternal insurance benefit association of the more than **twenty such organizations created by Americans of Polish origins**. It is also the largest of all fraternal organizations formed on the basis of the national origins of their members. Polish National Alliance translates to "Związek Narodowy Polski" and the letters "znp" are incorporated into their website domain name. For more information visit: www.pna-znp.org.

Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWA)

The Polish Women's Alliance of America is a fraternal benefit society founded by Stefania Chmielinska in 1898, also with headquarters in Chicago. Stefania, a Polish immigrant, was active in promoting women's equality and self-sufficiency. "PWA was a major step in the evolution of an independent role for women in Polish America."⁵ PWA has been active in central events in Polish-American life. One outstanding activity was helping Madame Marie Sklodowska Curie fund her radium research. PWA is a strong supporter of children in Poland. For more information visit: www.pwaa.org.

Polish Union of America and Polish Union of the United States of North America

Polish Union of America: In 1889, Rev. Jan Pitass of Buffalo, NY met with Msgr. Dominik Majer of St. Paul to organize a new Polish fraternal organization motivated in part by allegations that the PNA Censor, Frank Grygla (Gryglaszewski) of St. Paul, was a Mason. They formed the Polish Union of America as a substitute for the PNA. The location of the new PUA headquarters started in St. Paul, MN; shifted to Buffalo, NY; came back to St. Paul; then moved to Wilkes Barre, PA; and finally back to Buffalo, NY. Their organizational abstract states they are "seeking to provide our members and indeed, the whole Western New York the opportunities essential to participate in modern Polish-American culture." For more information visit: www.polishunion.com.

Polish Union of the United States of North

America: Based on information from the above cited polishunion.com website, immediately after a convention of the above Polish Union of America, a disagreement arose with many of the societies from Pennsylvania. The result was the formation of a separate fraternal organization which today is known as the Polish Union of USA with headquarters in Wilkes Barre, PA. The split was confirmed in 1910.

NOTE: Their 1891-1987 records were deposited in the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia, PA. This collection represents their national office records including some death claims on microfilm. Some 1939-1971 business records have been deposited in the Immigration History Research Center. For more information visit: www.polishunionusa.com.

Polish National Union of America (PNU)

For members of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Polish National Union of America, a.k.a. PNU or Spojnia, was organized in 1908 by Prime Bishop Franciszek Hodur, eleven years after the organization of the Polish National Catholic Church. "One of the initial purposes of Spojnia was to help people belonging to the **Polish National Catholic Church**." PNU is headquartered in Scranton, PA. For more information visit: www.pnu.org.

FRATERNAL ASSOCIATIONS IN MINNESOTA

Rev. Edward Chmielewski, a Minnesota Polish community/ church historian, published a series of six articles in the early 1960's in the Polish American Studies journal about the early history of the Polish Diaspora in Minneapolis. His last article (1962) was titled "Minneapolis' Polish Fraternals 1886-1914."

In this publication, he describes the rocky past encountered with the local St. Paul, MN church establishment, the most tumultuous being "When Rev. Majer discovered in 1890 that Frank Grygla was a Mason, he broke completely with the

Alliance, formed the "Polish Union of America" and invited all to leave the PNA."⁶

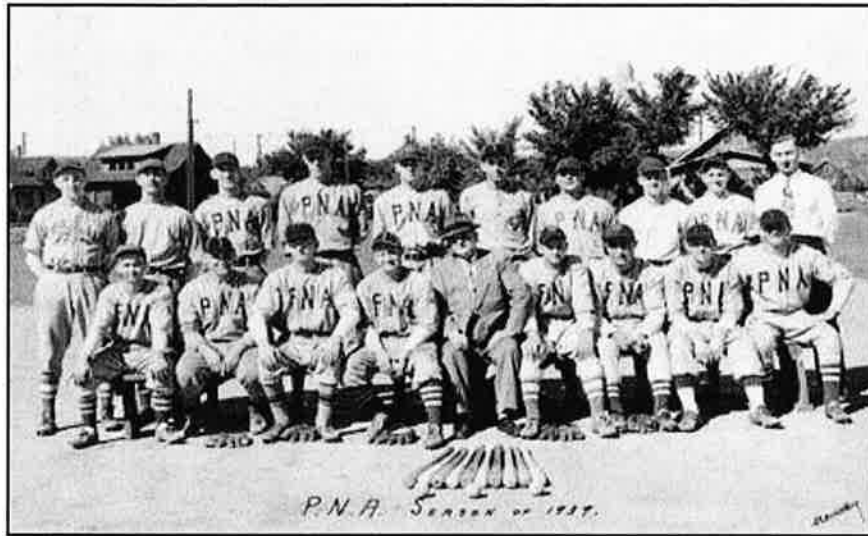
Rev. Chmielewski later summarizes, "The fraternal organizations, despite their good and bad periods, did a great service for the Poles not only by reason of the material benefits of their insurance programs, but also because they were a cohesive influence among scattered Polish communities."⁷

Regarding Minnesota and specifically the Twin Cities, the PRCUA was not met with wide acceptance in the Minneapolis Polish community. Although the Polish Union of America (PUA) was formed in St. Paul by Msgr. Majer, in part as a reaction to PNA Censor Frank Grygla's Masonic allegations, it did not appear to become a big fraternal factor in Minnesota. The PNA with its religious neutrality was more popular and a PNA Hall still exists in NE Minneapolis. PNA saw more overall success in Minnesota and sponsored wide-ranging programs such as baseball teams. (See photo next page of PNA baseball team from Winona, MN.)

Polish White Eagle Association (PWEA) – A Minnesota Fraternal

In Minnesota, a local fraternal insurance association developed, totally independent of the PRCUA, PNA and the PNU. It was called the Polish White Eagle Association (PWEA) and it evolved into an association which did not place Polish or religious restraints on who could participate. The PWEA, established in 1906, was headquartered in Minneapolis, MN.

According to the historical account written for the PWEA Diamond Jubilee publication, the organization had three stated objectives: 1) To promote unity and fraternity within its community; 2) To openly express loyalty and appreciation to their adopted country, the United States of America, and; 3) to make it possible for their fellow members to participate in a program offering death benefits to beneficiaries.



Winona MN, PNA Baseball Team (1939)⁸

In 1926 the organization filed official "Articles of Incorporation" in the state of Minnesota and the PWEA was allowed to sell insurance as a corporation. At that time, insurance policies with PWEA were available initially to persons who were Roman Catholic and of Slavic origins. This was later changed to accept memberships from all Christians.



1945 PWEA Convention at St. Philip's Church in North Minneapolis



At one time, the PWEA had 3,000 members and was organized into groups with each group holding its own meetings and social activities. Each group had a set of officers to determine their activities and responsibilities. In the early years, PWEA sponsored more socially oriented events, like picnics with beer drinking contests.

The Polish White Eagle Association (PWEA) later became known as the Eagle Fraternal Life Association. It reflected a change of direction which opened membership to a more diverse clientele and started insurance groups for Hmong, Liberians, Chicano, Gambian, and Anuak clients. Finally, in the fall of 2001, it was merged into the Degree of Honor Protective Association. Following that merger, the existing older Polish White Eagle Association insurance records were deposited in the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC). The IHRC then notified the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota which resulted in the indexing of this collection.



PWEA Beer Drinking Contest (Undated)¹⁰

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS RECORD RESOURCES

Immigration History Research Center (IHRC)

The IHRC's stated purpose is to be "an international resource on American immigration and ethnic history. The IHRC was founded in 1965. The Center promotes the study and appreciation of ethnic pluralism through an active program of archival collection development, publications, lectures, and exhibits." In 2000 IHRC moved its resources to the unique Andersen Library on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota built into the high bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. For more information visit: www.ihrc.umn.edu.

Elmer L. Andersen Library

The Elmer L. Andersen Library, located on a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, is uniquely suited for its purpose of preserving archival documents, manuscripts, and artifacts. The unique underground document storage system makes use of two large caves tunneled into the sandstone of the high river banks where a constant optimum natural environment is maintained. Each cavern is two

stories high and the length of two football fields. This massive storage area is sixty feet below the library atrium.

Polish American Studies Fund at IHRC

The Immigration History Research Center claims the nation's most extensive resource for the study of Polish American history. A Polish American Studies Fund was established as part of the University's Campaign Minnesota. The stated purpose is: "to raise public consciousness of Polish American history, foster wider understanding of the contribution of Polish immigrants to American life, and make a significant investment in future scholars of the Polish experience in the United States." Further information about this fund is available at the IHRC website, www.ihrc.umn.edu.

CONTENT OF PWEA INSURANCE CLAIM ENVELOPES

Generally there were four basic records included in the claim envelope, **although not in all cases**. Claim envelopes from other fraternal associations may have similar documents and information in their claim folders.

Polish Fraternal (Continued on page 19)

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota 2013 Financial Report

	2012 Actual	2013 Budget	2013 Actual
Starting Cash Balance	\$5,910.73	\$7,274.27	\$7,274.27
RECEIPTS			
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Back Issues	10.00	60.00	31.00
Donations / Library Fund	215.00	200.00	280.00
Dues	4,605.00	3,950.00	3,865.00
Miscellaneous	417.97	150.00	426.45
Program Attendance	2,076.01	1,150.00	1,219.00
Sales (Books)	876.63	800.00	394.51
Sales Tax Collected	64.77	59.11	29.57
Freight/Shipping Out	20.00	10.00	0.00
Surnames/Family Ties	135.00	155.00	135.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$8,420.38	\$6,534.11	\$6,380.53
DISBURSEMENTS			
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges	21.90	0.00	0.00
CD purchased	0.00	0.00	0.00
Items for Resale	972.29	500.00	322.50
Library Expense	95.91	200.00	47.75
Meetings/Speaker Fees	1,490.22	1,450.00	1,696.32
Office Supplies/ Copies/Misc.	329.24	500.00	489.35
Postage	449.21	600.00	525.69
Publishing Expense	2,181.60	2,500.00	1,961.00
Rent/Insurance MGS	1,449.00	1,478.00	1,478.00
Sales Tax Paid for Prior Year	67.47	64.77	64.77
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$7,056.84	\$7,292.77	\$6,585.38
TOTAL DIFFERENCE IN CASH	\$1,363.54	(\$ 758.66)	(\$ 204.85)
Ending Cash Balance	\$7,274.27	\$6,515.61	\$7,069.42
TCF CD	\$6,114.73	\$6,137.69	\$6,137.78
Total Ending Assets	\$13,389.00	\$12,653.30	\$13,207.20
New Members	32	30	23
Paying Members at Year End	258	260	247

The Polish Genealogical Society's financial results through December 31, 2013, show a decrease in cash in the checking account. Rent, newsletter, postage, and sales taxes are in line with or below budget. Book Sales are well below budget and below last year. Meeting Fees include the Annual Meeting and \$294.57 of expenses for the Twin Cities Polish Festival and are above budget. The Library Expense is for a new copy of the Polish surname books.

The Prepaid Dues is dues paid for periods beyond the current year.

The \$426.45 Miscellaneous contributions include \$150 of donations specifically for the Polish Festival expenses and \$113 for program expenses. The favorable 2012 results were driven by \$886.01 of income from our co-sponsorship of the Eastern European Conference.

The 2013 budget figures assume 30 new members and 28 members with 12/31/2012 end dates lapse. In 2013, we had 23 new members and 35 members with 12/31/2012 end dates lapsed. The total amount of dues in 2013 was close to the budgeted amount because many members renewed for a 3-year membership. **PGS-MN**

Welcome to our
Annual Membership
Meeting folks!

Dzień Dobry

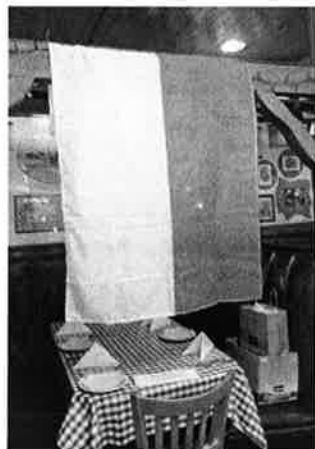
Gasthof zur Gemütlichkeit
Restaurant
Saturday, January 18, 2014.



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.

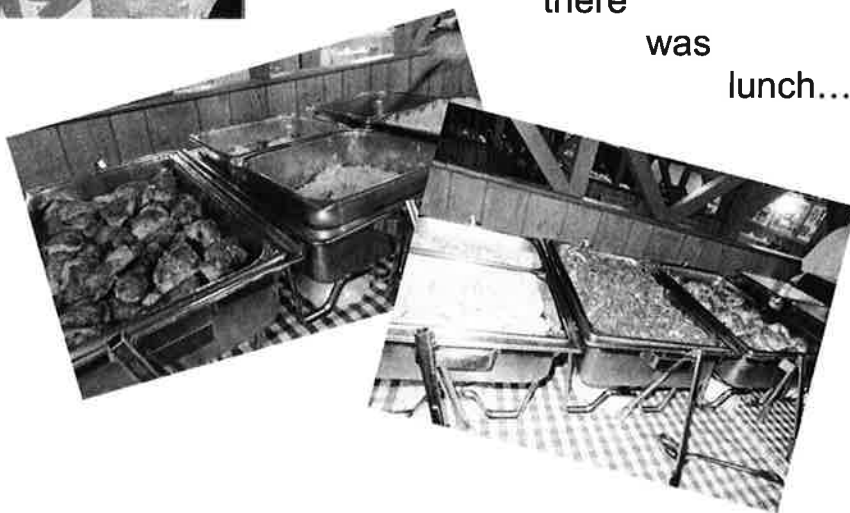


Dori Marszalek was re-elected to her spot as Director II and Marie Pryznki joins the board of directors in the post of Director IV.



Along with serving as a new board member, Marie is also taking on the administrator responsibility for our website, pgsmn.org.

And
there
was
lunch....





And Awards!

2013 Achievement Award Winners!
Dori Marszalek and Audra Etzel.



Congratulations Dori and Audra!

And Speeches and Prizes! PGS-MN



Hey, Jay, is that a "prize" belt you're holding?!



100 Things Every Polish American Should Do

compiled and edited by Stas Kmiec
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Do you consider yourself a true Polish American? Are you Polish in name only, or are you a “Practicing Pole?” Do you know the heritage and traditions of your ancestors? These questions were asked 10 issues ago, as we began the countdown marking the 100th Anniversary of the Polish American Journal.

As Americans, we tend to define ourselves by the country of our ancestors’ emigration, rather than where we reside. Should someone inquire about our nationality, how do we respond? Do we answer American? If the answer is Polish or Polish American is there a commitment to your ethnicity to back that claim?

It is not enough to be Polish when it is convenient. Before Karol Wojtyła became Pope John Paul II, many would deny their Polish background. Political aspirations can often bring out the “Polishness” in a candidate. Americans of Polish descent should appreciate and embrace the exquisite and heartfelt traditions of our ancestry. We should have knowledge and be aware of the connection we have with this vibrant country across the ocean. There is a responsibility to those who struggled and died to keep their nation and heritage alive.

This ideology falls on deaf ears with various church officials, as we see the cultural anchor of our existence — the Polish “ethnic” church being swept away in a flood of closures.

The lack of interest and views of many Polish Americans may reflect those of Polish society. Many in Poland simply do not consider 3rd, 4th, and 5th generation Polish-Americans to be Polish, especially when they can’t speak Polish?

When putting together 100 for 100, I did not pursue the listings in a “politically correct” manner. While aware that today’s Polish Americans represent a diversified cross-section of race and religion, I am also aware of the demographics of the majority of PAJ subscribers. The listings are suggestions for Polish Americans to explore and select as applicable.

To my amazement, I have encountered many Poles of the Jewish faith who do not know anything of the culture and traditions of the Polish Jewish village shtetl or even their city roots. Their knowledge begins with Israel. Given history’s brutal blow, this may be understandable.

Then there are the Poles of the Catholic faith who do not know and are not even aware of the rich traditions of Easter and Christmas. Inter-ethnic marriages, along with the “American melting pot” theory can be attributed to this shift in cultural distinction.

There are many aspects of the Polish and Polish American experience. Given the centuries of Polish existence, the learning period never ends. It is my hope that from the 100 list, readers will explore and learn something about their heritage, hold on to it like a cherished possession and then pass it on to the next generation.

The Off-Broadway play with the misunderstood and controversial title — *Polish Joke* (reviewed in PAJ back in 2003) transformed ethnic discrimination, stereotypes and jokes into a thought provoking comedy.

The play, written by Polish American playwright David Ives, had a climactic speech in which a LOT Polish Airlines worker confronts Jasiu (who experiences an unexpected stop in Poland while on route to Ireland), on being Polish — delivering a moving passionate litany about ancestral pride in one’s heritage:

OLGA: Do you love Poland?

JASIU: No

OLGA: (excerpts) Then you are not Polish... You are ashamed of Poland, ashamed to think you are Polish, and you tell me you are Polish? ...You read Shakespeare. Do you read our poets? Kochanowski, Szymborska, Miłosz, Herbert, Mickiewicz? You listen to Bartok and Beethoven, but do you listen to Penderecki, Lutosławski, Górecki and Szymanowski? Then you are not Polish... [You're ashamed] because we are not Americans. The Nazis killed three million Poles, not only the Polish Jews, three million Poles. Catholics. Lutherans. Exterminated. Who says this? Who makes movies about this? You don't want to be Polish... be American Jasiu, but get out of the country that I love — that I live in every day and that I love."

In today's world of lost identity, it is important to know who you are, the roots from which you come from, and what your background represents. Take the time to reflect upon what it means to be a Polish American in today's world. Being Polish in name or origin only is not enough. Show pride in your Polish and Polish American heritage.

1. Learn the standard version of "Sto Lat," and sing it at all birthday parties. Bonus: if you learn the waltz version and góralskie mountain versions.
2. Buy a Polish cook book and start learning and experimenting with your Babcia's cherished recipes.
3. Learn the the Sign of the Cross, the "Lord's Prayer" ("Ojcze Nasz"), and "Hail Mary" ("Zdrowaś Maryjo") in Polish.
4. Find a Polish church and attend Mass conducted in Polish.
5. Digitally transfer your favorite Polish and Polka 78, 45 or 33 1/3 rpm recordings to audio CD.
6. With blessed chalk, mark the lintel of your entry door with the initials of the three Wise Men and the year (20 K+M+B 11) on the feast of the Epiphany (January 6), if you cannot find a priest to do so.
7. Listen to a broadcast of the *Fr. Justin Rosary Hour*, www.rosaryhour.com.

8. Write to your cousins or relatives in Poland.
9. Display the image of Our Lady of Częstochowa and Pope John Paul II in your home, along with plaques of "Boże błogosław nasz Dom" and "Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus."
10. Order your homemade Polish kielbasa sausage and other meats from a Polish butcher or delicatessen.
11. Relate your love to your wife/husband, girlfriend/boyfriend by frequently stating "Ja cię kocham," and encourage them to return the gesture, even if they are not Polish.
12. If no longer needed, donate your collection of Polish books and archives to a well-known and respected Polish archive, such as the Polish Mission at Orchard Lake Schools' Polish and Rare Book Collection.
13. Support Polish and Polish American authors by buying, reading, and promoting their books.
14. If not stocked by your grocer, ask them to carry quality *pierogi* – a significant step above mass-produced brands.
15. Invite your neighbors, friends, or business associates for a dinner of traditional Polish favorites, or a sampling of Polish liqueurs with Polish desserts and coffee.
16. Conduct, record and document an oral history of a relative or another person regarding their Polish or Polish-American experience.
17. The next time you call your Polish grandparents, uncles and aunts, address them with their Polish titles – *babcia* (grandmother), *dziadziu* (grandfather), *wujek* (uncle), or *ciocia* (aunt), as appropriate.
18. Pay homage to deceased members of your family by arranging a requiem mass at your parish, and attend the mass. Arrange that a Polish choir or soloist sings, or that the organist plays Polish hymns.
19. Read a book on Polish history or check an internet site documenting Polish history.
20. Preserve your lineage by designing a family tree chart, or join a Polish genealogical society to assist with the discovery of your roots in Poland.
21. Experience Polish *pączki*. Make them, order them, or buy them at a Polish bakery. Not jelly doughnuts, *pączki* dough is traditionally made with a small amount of pure grain alcohol –

- spiritus* or rum and filled with plum jam or wild rose hip jam.
22. Attend one of many public events at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington or a Polish Consulate in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.
 23. Learn the words and melody of Poland's national anthem "Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła" (Poland Has Not Yet Perished), and the religious anthem, "Boże, coś Polskę" (God Save Poland).
 24. Attend a Polish-style pre-Lenten festivity such as Zapusty, Ostatki, Karnawal, Pączki Day or a Pączki Ball for a last bit of merriment before ushering in 40 days of fast and penance for Lent.
 25. Try making homemade pierogi: find a relative or family friend to teach you or organize a pierogi-making circle – allowing the older generation to enlighten the younger and pass on this cherished tradition.
 26. Take a Polish language class to familiarize yourself how to read and write and achieve basic conversation travel skills. If you can not find an area location, take a Polish language course in Poland and open a whole new world of communication.
 27. Attend *Droga Krzyżowa* (Stations of the Cross) and participate with *Ojciec nasz* ("The Lord's Prayer"), *Zdrowaś Maryjo* ("Hail Mary"), *Chwała Ojcu* ("Glory Be to the Father") and the response, "Jezu Chryste, zmiłuj się nad nami" (Christ, Have mercy on us.).
 28. Read *The Polish Way: A Thousand-Year History of the Poles and their Culture* by Adam Zamoyski.
 29. Join a Polish church, choir, dance troupe, club, organization or foundation and be connected to your heritage.
 30. Participate in the uniquely Polish ceremony *Gorzkie Żale* (Bitter Lamentations).
 31. On Palm Sunday, fill a vase with pussy willows and display in your home, along with Polish *palmy* sticks and *Palmowe Tkania* (weaved palms).
 32. Visit seven churches on Holy Thursday.
 33. Learn how to create *wycinanki* (Polish paper cutouts).
 34. Decorate your Easter table and basket with homemade *pisanki* (Polish Easter eggs) decorated by numerous regional styles and techniques.
 35. Prepare a traditional Polish Easter basket and have your foods blessed.
 36. On Easter Monday surprise your family or loved one with a sprinkle of water and the phrase "Śmigus-Dyngus."
 37. Say the chaplet of the Divine Mercy and follow the life of St. Faustina (Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska); The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday – May 1, 2011.
 38. Donate a Polish themed book (s) of history, biography, cooking, or culture to a local library or school.
 39. Cook a pot of *bigos* — Polish Hunter's Stew.
 40. Organize all of your mother and grandmother's Polish recipes by typing them into a word processing file and distribute them to your family.
 41. In commemoration of Polish Constitution Day on May 3rd (Trzeci Maj) arrange that the Polish flag is flown at your City Hall (organize that the press attend the ceremony); make sure you fly the Polish flag in front your homestead; wear red and white and a Polish flag pin.
 42. Learn how to dance the Polish national dances: *Krakowiak*, *Polonez*, *Mazur*, *Kujawiak* and *Oberek*, along with the *Trojak*; then learn the Polish American versions of the *Polka* and *Oberek*.
 43. Document famous and unique Polish churches in your area (those that still exist and those that are gone). Start with photographs and a brief history, and continue with interviews of older parishioners. Submit your research findings to your local library and the Orchard Lake library archives.
 44. When making a philanthropic contribution, attach a recognizable Polish name to the donation. If your name is not recognizable use a hyphenated maiden or family name, or distinguish the name in parentheses.
 45. Teach or influence a Polish-American boy or girl about their heritage by giving them a book, CD, or DVD. Invite them to a Polish event, and teach them basic words and phrases in Polish.
 46. Visit the Polish Museum of America and the Polish Genealogical Society in Chicago, The Polish Cultural Center and Museum Exhibit

- Hall in Philadelphia or any Polish museum in the United States.
47. Learn about Poland's first native saint, Stanisław of Szczepanów – the patron of Poland, venerated in the Roman Catholic Church as Saint Stanislaus the Martyr.
 48. Visit www.WUNH.org to listen online to *The Polka Party* with Gary Sredzinski as it is being broadcast – Saturdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. EST; it's a combination of Polish American and Polish folk music, with history, customs and culture thrown in. Listen to: Polonia Today – Sundays 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. 1540 AM with hostess Debbie Majka (Webcast: www.wnwr.com; www.polishamericancenter.org/Additional.Radio.htm).
 49. Find a Polish deli: buy food products from Poland - Polish mineral water, canned foods such as: pickles, beets, kapusta, and treat yourself to freshly made rye bread and pastries.
 50. Learn about Polish Constitution Day commemorating the Constitution of May 3, 1791 (*Konstytucja Trzeciego Maja*). Check out: www.wikipedia.org.
 51. On the night of June 23 hold a St. John's Midsummer Night's Eve (*Sobótka Świętojańska*) party in your backyard, by a flowing river or lake, or organize a community event. Float candled wreaths in your pool, jump over an open fire pit, and sing the traditional songs. Learn about this ancient custom and familiarize yourself with Poet Jan Kochanowski's *Pieśń Świętojańska*.
 52. Establish connections with relatives in Poland, write them, visit them, invite them to visit you.
 53. Attend summer Polish Festivals in your area and at American outdoor festivals visit and support the Polish food booth.
 54. Order "Polish" tomatoes and grow them in your garden or on your deck.
 55. Stand up against anti-Polish behavior. Send responses (respectfully and factually) when necessary and request that newspapers and magazine print a correction when German death camps in Nazi-occupied Poland are labeled as "Polish Death Camps."
 56. Visit Panna Maria, Texas, America's oldest Polish settlement.
 57. Attend a Polka Mass.
 58. Familiarize your ear to the strains of Polish classical music. Listen to CDs or attend a concert of Chopin, Paderewski, Szymanowski, Moniuszko, or other composers.
 59. Experience the Polish cinema of classic masters such as Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Kieslowski or the newest film makers.
 60. When traveling to Poland or in Europe opt to fly on Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT (PLL LOT).
 61. Learn about the many saints of Poland.
 62. Learn about the complex history of Poland and its ever-changing borders.
 63. Learn about the minority cultures of Poland's ethnic mix.
 64. Research and own a Polish costume (possibly from the area of your family's origins); wear it correctly and whenever appropriate.
 65. Expose yourself to and be aware of Poland's current modern culture – the new artists of Polish literature, art, poetry, music, theater, film, and dance.
 66. Visit the Polish American Cultural Center and Museum in Philadelphia or the Polish Museum of America in Chicago.
 67. Learn about the Kings and Queens of Poland.
 68. Learn about Fr. Leopold Moczygemba ("Patriarch of American Polonia"). Visit his burial place in Mount Elliot Cemetery, Detroit, Mich.
 69. When traveling, find a Polish restaurant in the area and sample their cuisine.
 70. Purchase a Polish flag and display it proudly.
 71. Bring a bouquet of flowers and herbs to Church on the feast of Our Lady of the Herbs – Matka Boska Zielna (Assumption, August 15).
 72. Celebrate the Harvest by attending or having your own traditional Dożynki, Święto Plonów.
 73. Visit and attend Mass at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Doylestown, Pa. The Polish American Festival occurs during the first two weekends in September.
 74. Read books concerning the Poles during World War II, such as *A Question of Honor: The Kosciuszko Squadron*, and stories of courage and survival during this period; and read about a vibrant, colorful Poland before the war in *Warsaw: The Cabaret Years*.

100 Things (Continued on page 26)

Polish Fraternal *(continued from page 11)*

Application for membership: The early insurance applications are three pages in length. Later the application increased to four pages. The first page contains personal information about the applicant, including place of birth. If the applicant was born in Poland, this could help genealogists “bridge the gap” between the U.S. and the village of origin in Poland. Pages 2 and 3 contain the examining doctor’s report including standard medical questions concerning the applicant’s physical condition including height, weight, and vital signs. They also include questions about the applicant’s parents and siblings.

Illustration #1 is an example of the first page of a PWEA insurance application for Ludvika (Rys) Zmuda. (See page 20.)

Illustrations #2 & #3 is a record of an early application dated May 30, 1920. This is a good example of discovering early information. The applicant, whose name is Wiktorya (Victoria) Szyszka, was born on June 6, 1885 in the village of Toporzysko in Małopolska. The second page gives her father’s name as Jozef Cieslak and her mother’s maiden name as Liepak and cites 2 brothers and “dwie” sisters. For some, this could be a genealogy goldmine. (See pages 21-22.)

Małopolska or Lesser Poland is traditionally the name given to the large area surrounding Krakow, Poland. Toporzysko is southwest of Krakow. The author’s grandfather, Jan Rys, was from Toporzysko and apparently helped fill out this particular application because both his signature and handwriting are on the application as the representative.

Death Certificate: A death certificate was the document needed to trigger the payment. These are notarized copies of the original death certificate as received from a municipality. Exceptions to this rule came in the early to mid-1940s where a letter or a telegram from the War Department indicating the

war time death of a son or daughter was used in lieu of a certified death certificate.

Policy Certificate: This is the original large sized formal certificate which was prepared by the Polish White Eagle Association.

Death Claim Form: This form was used until about 1971. This final document was prepared as a summary of the claim, indicating the disposition and beneficiaries of the claim. Latest records do not have a formal death claim form.

Other Envelope Contents: The claim envelope may also contain miscellaneous documents. Examples are: newspaper obituary notices; correspondence on a variety of matters (some letters are still in the original stamped envelope); funeral bills; Raport Smierci (PWEA Group Report); double indemnity form if applicable; payment books; change of beneficiary forms; and an occasional probate document.

PWEA Index

Database creation and data entry on this project was conducted during March and April, 2004. The database was particularly exciting for me, since my father, Anthony J. Rys, was a group financial secretary for the Polish White Eagles and in 1941 worked on the purchase of the Polish White Eagle Association building in Northeast Minneapolis at 1302 N.E. Second Street.

A sample page of the printed index is shown in Illustration #4. Approximately 3,000 insurance envelopes containing varying amounts of information have been indexed. It is a straight forward index sorted alphabetically by surname. It gives the surname, first name, claim number, claim date, date of death, and box location number. This index is available both at the IHRC and the MGS Library in the Polish materials section. (See page 23.)

No. 1450

Proszę tu nie pisać, to miejsce
wypełnia Sekretarz Generalny.

\$5.00

Tu należy wypisać cyframi
wysokość ubezpieczenia członka.

ORGANIZACYA POLSKI-BIAŁY ORZEŁ

Tabela 1 szta

W Minneapolis, Minn., Stanach Zjednoczonych Północnej Ameryki

POLISH WHITE EAGLE OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Aplikacja Kandydata (Kandydatki, na członka))

Grupa No. 3

Towarzystwo Jedność
minneapolis

DO ZARZĄDU CENTRALNEGO POLSKIEGO BIAŁEGO ORŁA

Poznaawszy konstytucję Polskiego Białego Orła i zawarte w niej zasady i cele, pragnę zostać członkiem tegoż P. B. O. i ręczę pod słowem uczciwego człowieka, że wszystkie niżej wymienione odpowiedzi są zgodne z prawdą. Nie wykreślono mnie ani wykluczono z żadnej Grupy Polskiego Białego Orła i w żadnej z nich nie nie zalegam. Nie wypłacono mi nigdy żadnych pieniędzy z kasy Polskiego Białego Orła w Minneapolis, St. Zjed. w Ameryce na rachunek benefitu pośmiertnego z powodu kalectwa.

Nazywam się (imię i nazwisko) Ludwika Zmuda

Mieszkam przy ul. University No 2641 w mieście Mpls Stanie minn

Urodzon a dnia 12 Czerwca 1886 roku, mam lat 40 w Toporzysko

Powiat myslenicki Województwo śląskie Kraj Polski

Imię i nazwisko ojca Jan Rys Imię i nazwisko matki z domu Anna Morawa

Ludwik Zmuda Imię i nazwisko męża (lub żony z domu)

Zajmuję się rolnictwem

Czy kiedy należał... lub należy obecnie do Polskiego Białego Orła i do której Grupy nigdy

Życzę sobie, aby gwarantowane konstytucją Polskiego Białego Orła Pośmiertne w sumie \$ 5.00

wypłacone było Mezowi Ludwik Zmuda

zastrzegając sobie prawo zmiany tego rozporządzenia, dodaję, że jestem przekonana o swoim dobrem zdrowiu i żadnej chronicznej chorobie nie podlegam. W razie wykrycia jakiego fałszu w zeznaniach poczynionych w niniejszej aplikacji, albo w razie suspendowania, wykreślenia, lub dobrowolnego wystąpienia z Polskiego Białego Orła, zrzekam się wszelkiej pretensji do Polskiego Białego Orła w Ameryce. Zgadzam się na obecną konstytucję i reguły Polskiego Białego Orła, jakoteż na jakiegokolwiek zmiany tychże przez właściwe władze Polskiego Białego Orła w przyszłości poczynione.

Ludwik Zmuda

Podpis kandydata. Imię i nazwisko.

Przedstawion przez:

Jan Winiarski

Illustration #1 PWEA application for Ludwika (Rys) Zmuda showing birth village, Toporzysko (misspelled)

Stara Stomino 453

ORGANIZACYA
BIAŁY ORZEŁ POLSKI
W PÓŁNOCNYCH STANACH AMERYKI

No. Porządkowy. *537*

No. Towarzystwa. *24* No. Członka.

Tow. *Białego Orła Polskiego*

w *Minneapolis*

APLIKACYA

Imię Członka. *Wiktoria Szyszka*

Adres. *216 31st Ave North*

Miejscowość. *Minneapolis*

Urodził się w *Toporzysko mała Polka*

dnia *6 czerwca* 1885 liczy lat *35*

Oplata w klasie *II* po *65* groszy

Zatrudnienie. *domowa*

Kawaler, żona, czy wdowiec? *żona*

Pośmiertne ma być wypłacone *Janowi Szysce*

wsuwanie 600 \$

Do jakiej organizacji należysz? *do Romana*

.....

Ja niżej podpisany, niniejszem oświadczam że mam
szczerą chęć wstąpić do Organizacji Białego Orła Pol-
skiego, że jako człowiek honorowy i wyznający wiarę
rzymsko-katolicką, podaję odpowiedzi zgodne z prawdą i
wiedzą. Jestem przekonany o dobrym zdrowiu mojem i
mojej żony.

Zgadzam się w razie wykrycia jakiego fałszu w zez-
naniach przeze mnie popełnionych, albo w razie suspendo-
wania, wykluczenia lub dobrowolnego wystąpienia, stracić
razem z moją rodziną prawo do pośmiertnego i wspania, tak
w starości jakoteż w kalectwie, i zrzeknę się wszel-
kich pretensyj do funduszy tejże Organizacji.

Wiktoria Szyszka

Podpis kandydata—Imię i nazwisko

Przedstawiony przez *Jan Rys*

Niniejszem powiadamia się, że ob-
.....

został przyjęty do Towarzystwa *24*

na posiedzeniu dnia *30* *Maja* 1920

Stanisław Malochowski sekretarz.

Członek przyjęty do Organizacji Białego Orła Polskiego

w Ameryce, dnia *11* *Lipca* 1920

John Galuszka
Sekretarz Generalny

Organization of
Polish White Eagle
In States of North America

Policy number 537

Branch (Group) number Group 2 Member Number

Society Polish White Eagle

in Minneapolis, Minnesota

Application

Member's name .. Wiktoria Szyszka

Address 216 31st Avenue North

Locality Minneapolis

Born in ... Toporzysko ... Little Poland

On the 6th day of June... 1885 Years of age .. 35

Fee and class ... II Up to 65

Occupation House wife

Single, married or widow(er)

Pay after death to Husband

..... Janosz (John) Szyszka

Amount of \$600.00

To which organization do you belong? Roman Catholic? ...

.....

..... X Wiktoria Szyszka

Signature of candidate – Name and surname

Representative

..... Jan (John) Rys

Present to attest about

To be accepted in branch Group 2

Upon meeting on day of May 30 1920

..... Stanisław Malochowski Secretary

Membership accepted to the Polish White Eagle Association
Of America on the 11th day of July, 1920

..... John Galuszka

Secretary General

Author's translation of first page of the application.

Illustration #2 PWEA Insurance dated 1920 for Wiktoria Szyszka (Translation by author)

Applicant's Certificate — Zeznanie Kandydata.

Mizmeopolio *min* 1920

Examination of—Zeznanie kandydata..... *Wiktorja Szyszka*

for admission into Branch No..... O. P. w A..... przyjęcia do Towarzystwa No..... O. P. w A.....

I was born on the..... day of..... 18..... and I am..... years of age.
 Urodziłam się dnia..... miesiąca..... roku..... i liczę lat.....

Is your father living?..... Age..... State of health..... Name.....
 Czy ojciec żyje?..... Wiek..... Stan zdrowia..... Imię..... *Józef Cieslak*

If dead, at what age?..... Cause of death.....
 Jeżeli zmarł, to w jakim wieku?..... Przyczyna śmierci..... *nie ma*

Is your mother living?..... Age..... State of health..... Maiden name.....
 Czy matka żyje?..... Wiek..... Stan zdrowia..... Nazwisko z ojca..... *Liepał*

If dead, at what age?..... Cause of death.....
 Jeżeli zmarła, w jakim wieku?..... Przyczyna śmierci.....

Number of brothers living..... Age..... State of health.....
 Ilość żyjących braci..... Wiek..... Stan zdrowia..... *good*

Number of brothers dead..... Age at death..... Cause of death.....
 Ilość zmarłych braci..... Zmarli w wieku..... Przyczyna śmierci.....

Number of sisters living..... Age..... State of health.....
 Ilość żyjących sióstr..... Wiek..... Stan zdrowia..... *dobry*

Number of sisters dead..... Age at death..... Cause of death.....
 Ilość zmarłych sióstr..... Zmarli w wieku..... Przyczyna śmierci.....

1. Are there any hereditary diseases in the applicant's family?—Czy nie ma dziedzicznych chorób w rodzinie kandydata?..... *no*

2. Have you ever had any severe illness, deformity, or undergone any surgical operation?—Czy nie przebywał kandydat jakiej ciężkiej choroby, czy nie miał lub nie ma jakiego kalectwa, czy nie podlegał jakiej operacji?..... *no*

3. Have you ever been subjected to or have any of the following disorders or diseases?—Czy nie miał lub nie ma których z następujących chorób:..... *no*

Asthma—Dychawica..... Apoplexy—Apopleksja..... Colic, hepatic or renal—Kolki żółciowe lub nerkowe.....
 Fistula—Fistula..... Convulsions—Konwulsje..... Gravel—Kamień..... Insanity—Pomieszenie zmysłów.....
 Delirium tremens—Biała gorączka..... Paralysis—Paraliż..... Swelling of the feet or face—Puchlina nóg lub twarzy.....
 Eye diseases—Choroby oczu..... Chronic diarrhoea—Rozwolnienie chroniczne..... Cancer or tumor—Rak lub inny nowotwór.....
 Difficulty of hearing, of vision, or loss of consciousness—Słabość lub czasowa utrata wzroku, słuchu, przytomności..... Inflammatory rheumatism—Zapalny reumatyzm stawów..... Raising of blood—Hodowanie krwi.....
 Varicos—Rozszerzenie żył..... Rupture, single or double—Ruptura, pojedyncza lub podwójna.....
 Laryngitis Chronica—Zapalenie gardła chronicznie..... Acites—Wodna puchlina brzucha..... Hemorrhoids—Hemoidy.....
 Difficulty of urinating—Zatrzymanie moczu lub bóle przy oddawaniu go..... Habitual cough—Kaszel chroniczny..... Pleurisy—Zapalenie opłucnej..... Pneumonia—Zapalenie płuc..... Syphilis—Syfilis.....
 Hemoptysis, or spitting of blood—Plucie krwią..... Open sores—Nie gojące się rany.....

4. Are you temperate?—Czy prowadzi życie umiarkowane?..... *yes*

5. When were you successfully vaccinated?—Kiedy miał skuteczną szczepioną ospę?..... *no*

6. How long since you were attended by a physician, or had occasion to consult one?—Jak dawno używał porady lekarskiej, z jakiej przyczyny potrzebował porady?..... *no*

For what disease?—W jakiej chorobie?..... Give name of physician and address—
 Podaj nazwisko lekarza i jego adres.....

I hereby warrant the truthfulness of all the foregoing answers and statements—Wszystkie powyższe odpowiedzi są zgodne z prawdą, co poświadczam własnoręcznym podpisem.....

APPLICANT'S NAME—Nazwisko Kandydata..... *Wiktorja Szyszka*

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS—Adres Kandydata..... *210 - 31 av north*

Signed in the presence of—Podpisane w obecności..... *Jan Ryo* Med. Exam.—Lekarz Egzam.

Illustration #3 Additional page of PWEA application for Wiktorja Szyszka, giving parent's surnames. (Note: Bilingual questions including health in Polish and English)

Polish White Eagle Insurance Death Claims - Index By Name						
Immigration History Research Center - University of Minnesota						
Record Count:		1055	Index printed: 12-Oct-2009			
Last Name	First Name, MI	Claim #	Claim Date	Death Date	Box #	
Abrahan	Ludwik	293	24-Jun-19	16-Jun-19	2	
Adamczyk	Frank	900	08-Jul-19	24-Jun-19	4	
Adamczyk	Josefa	203	15-Aug-19	05-Aug-19	1	
Adamczyk	Marya	189	22-Aug-19	18-Aug-19	1	
Adams	Anne K.	1571	14-Nov-19	25-Oct-19	10	
Adler	George	1436	26-Oct-19	02-Oct-19	9	
Alfuth	Aniela	1604	05-Jul-19	07-Jun-19	11	
Andryski	Joseph	1234	29-Sep-19	20-Sep-19	7	
Andryski	Stanley	997	26-Nov-19	16-Nov-19	5	
Andrzejewski	Boleslaw	363	20-Mar-19	06-Mar-19	3	
Antolak	John	353	22-Aug-19	10-Jul-19	3	
Antolak	Joseph J.	1021	11-Jul-19	11-Jun-19	6	
Antolak	Joseph J.	1022	11-Jul-19	11-Jun-19	6	
Aplikowski	Edward	1228	16-Jun-19	23-May-19	7	
Awietek	Jakub	256	29-Jun-19	24-May-19	2	
Baczewski	Ignacy	1099	09-Jul-19	27-Jun-19	6	
Baldigo	Edward M.	1231	15-Aug-19	29-Jun-19	7	
Baldigo	Emma	1734	23-Mar-19	10-Feb-19	11	
Baldigo	Stanislaw	374	12-Jul-19	03-Jul-19	3	
Balut	Frank	1083	05-Mar-19	21-Feb-19	6	
Balut	Magdalena	910	19-Sep-19	08-Sep-19	4	
Balut (Ballot)	Joseph Edward	1695	03-Feb-19	19-Oct-19	11	
Banasik	Agnes Zantek	1045	30-Jan-19	09-Jan-19	6	
Banasik	Anthony	1415	30-Dec-19	09-Dec-19	9	
Banasik	Katarzyna	380	16-Nov-19	14-Oct-19	3	
Banasik	Stephen A.	1041	22-Dec-19	10-Dec-19	6	
Bania	Edward	1557	10-May-19	21-Apr-19	10	
Bania	Josephine	989	05-Oct-19	22-Sep-19	5	
Bartecki	Lukasz	1284	22-Jan-19	07-Jan-19	8	
Bartecki	Stephania	1320	06-Feb-19	24-Jan-19	8	

Illustration #4. Sample page of PWEA Death Claim Index (last 2 digits covered)



Polski przepis rogu

(Polish Recipe Corner)

(Polish Recipe Corner)



Welcome to the
Polish Recipe Corner.

We've published recipes in this newsletter on prior occasions. Because I enjoyed reading and trying recipes from other Polish families I decided a good way to continue this cooking education was to establish a regular newsletter column featuring Polish recipes. So, if you'd like to join in and share your family's heritage recipes, please e-mail the recipes to editorpgsmn@gmail.com and each quarter I will choose one or two to publish. I hope you enjoy this new column.

To start things off, and in the spirit of the Easter season, I am sharing a traditional Easter recipe of my mother's called **Kraszanki**. Growing up I had no idea how to pronounce that word on her recipe card and didn't know what it meant. We just called them Polish Easter Eggs.

Kraszanki

Raw white eggs (room temperature)
Onion skins (brown, red, purple or mixed skins)
as many skins as possible
3 Tbsp vinegar OR 3 Tbsp salt
6 cups water
Porcelain pot with lid
Paper towels
Bacon fat OR Vegetable oil

Directions:

- Place onion skins and water into a porcelain pot.
- Bring to a boil, reduce heat, simmer 30 minutes.
- Cool onion skin dye and remove skins (strain liquid).
- Add vinegar OR salt to the onion skin dye.
- Layer raw, room temperature eggs into the liquid.
- Bring eggs in onion skin dye to a boil, cover and reduce heat, simmer 20 minutes.
- Turn off heat and let eggs cool in the onion skin dye.

- Remove cooked, dyed, cooled eggs and blot with paper towels.
- When dry and cool, rub dyed eggs with bacon fat or vegetable oil.
- Hide eggs for kids to find or put in Easter basket.

† †

I have since learned **Kraszanki** means “painted eggs.” Painted “one-color” that is. In my mom’s case, Easter eggs were “plain brown.”

Through the power of the internet, online photos of Kraszanki show painted Easter eggs with “pictures” on them. Even if the coloring is one color, the designs and patterns on the eggs are interesting and many times, to me, fascinating to look at. I’ve since read variations of this recipe online for “marbleized” and “kid’s” versions using cheese cloth and rubber bands to make patterns on the eggs.

I think my mom would have loved to learn how to make those “fancy” brown eggs instead of just “plain” ones. Rest in peace, mom, because I’m still coloring eggs plain ol’ brown just like you did☺.



(Obviously, not a photo of my
Easter eggs!)

Peggy Larson
PGS-MN

Photo: <http://elubin.pl/images/pisanki.jpg>

† †

Don't forget Smigus-Dyngus Day!

Wet Monday / Lany Poniedzialek

Monday (just after Easter) is a holiday in Poland and is called in Polish, "Lany Poniedzialek" or "Smigus- Dynqus". This is a wonderful day of fun.

This ancient Polish tradition on Easter Monday is celebrated by everyone with enthusiasm by sprinkling each other with water. Especially kids have fun this day. Some people say being splashed with water on Easter Monday will bring you good luck throughout the year!

75. Learn about or relay the experience of growing up in a Polish neighborhood in the United States.
76. Send your children or grandchildren, or attend a summer youth program, such as to the ACPC's "Youth Leadership Conference" in Washington, Polish National Alliance's Youth Camp, or a summer camp in Poland.
77. Keep an eye out for products made in Poland and equip your home with such items as Bolesławiec pottery and Polish crystal.
78. Learn about the Polish Catholic Church and the Polish National Catholic Church in the United States.
79. Increase your music library or discover older recordings. Hold a "Polish Record Swap," where people can bring in to trade or sell vintage Polish or polka 33, 45, and 78 r.p.m. recordings, or to swap digitized versions of the originals. Keep this music history archived for the next generation.
80. Learn where you come from. Document the village or town of your origins: research the history, discover family photos, visit and take new photos — preserve the memory.
81. Keep Polonia and Poland alive on the airwaves. Ask local radio programs to mention your area Polish American events (every radio station is required to give time for public service announcements). Ask stations to play selections written by Polish composers over the centuries and recorded by internationally famous artists.
82. Create a network of Polish and/or Polish American friends from diverse backgrounds and even religions to share perspectives, interests, and endeavors. Facebook and Yahoo Groups are key for those involved in the internet's social network.

83. Meet with your local Polish American organizations or make special visits when traveling.
84. Find the church or synagogue of your ancestors in Poland. Find out where others from that location may have resettled in the United States.
85. Review a map of Poland and learn about the towns, cities, geography, and historical borders.
86. Become connected and current with what happens in Poland. Read a Polish newspaper such as *Nowy Dziennik* or check English language internet sites, such as *Warsaw Voice*, *Warsaw Express* or *Krakow Post*.
87. Read a books or articles related to Poland and share that information with family and friends.
88. Attend Polish American events and invite others to attend with you.
89. Keep Polonia in the forefront. Request and encourage local elected officials to present proclamations or special greetings to the Polish American community in relation to commemorative events.
90. Offer a Mass or service at your local place of worship for the intention of your area Polish American community or in connection to a historic event. Following the service in the spirit of Polish hospitality, hold a reception with Polish pastries and refreshments.
91. Set up an October Polish Heritage Month display or organize a cultural performance at your local library or town hall.
92. Visit Jamestown and tell the people there that you are there to honor the Polish Glassmakers of 1608.
93. Light a candle at the grave of a relative on November 2 (All Souls' Day).
94. Share opłatek at Christmas Eve Wigilia dinner or experience a Polish tradition of your religion.
95. Sing and play kolędy (Polish carols) and give recordings as Christmas presents.
96. Decorate your Christmas tree with Polish-made ornaments, or make your own village-style ornaments from paper, straw and blown-egg shells.
97. Write "Wesołych Świąt" on all your Christmas or holiday cards.
98. Visit Poland — the country of your ancestry; the homeland of your forefathers.
99. Get your family and friends to discover their heritage through a subscription to the Polish

American Journal – buy a subscription for a friends and family, for your local library; get your club or organization to buy 100 subscriptions for PAJ's 100th anniversary.

100. Dziękuję Bogu za rodzinę, przyjaciół i dziedzictwo. (Thank God for family, friends, and heritage.)

Be proud to be a Polish American!

For tips on how to accomplish these items: recipes, music, lyrics, etc., check: www.pajtoday.blogspot.com or inquire at PAJtoday@yahoo.com.

— Edited and compiled by Staś Kmiec from contributors: Geraldine Balut-Coleman, Florence Clowes, James Conroyd Martin, Benjamin Fiore, Staś Kmiec, Mark Kohan, Lydia Kordalewski, Mary Ann Marko, Krysia Markowski, Ed Mohylowski and Leopold Potsiadlo.

Editor's note: I thought it would be fun to see how many of these 100 things our members have done. So there is an insert with this newsletter for you to use as a checklist for the things you've done and those you have yet to do! I realize several of the items on the list are geographically located for the Polish American Journal's major audience in the eastern U.S. but think of this as an entertaining and educational exercise to do in the spirit of celebrating our Polish heritage! Good luck!

p.s. Look for "help" with item #1 on page24 of this newsletter.

-PL

PGS-MN

It's an unprecedented event!!



April 27, 2014 –

The Canonization of

Pope John Paul II

(Karol Józef Wojtyła)

Minnesota Genealogical Society
*Polish Genealogical Society
of Minnesota Branch*
1185 No. Concord St., Suite 218
So. St. Paul MN 55075-1150

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ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

Please contact me with your temporary or permanent ADDRESS CHANGES.

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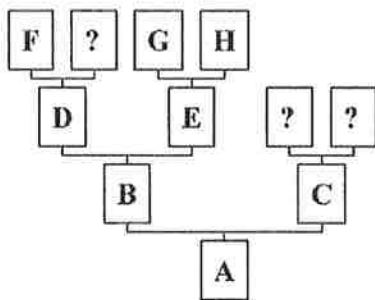
Did you know that our database allows for winter and summer change of addresses?

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** or editorpgsmn@gmail.com or send in with new or renewal membership forms.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Skok, 887 Weeks Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414-2673 katie1942@msn.com researching TOMASZEWSKI of Poland.

Susan Spahl, 1176 Hawthorne Ave. East, St Paul, MN 55106-2018 researching KULAS and GABRYCH of Kashubia, Poland settling in Winona, MN.

Linus Ulfig, 1690 3rd Street NW, New Brighton, MN 55112-7204 ulfig@usfamily.net researching SMAGLINSKI of Sliwice, Pomerania and ULFIG of Boronow, Slaskie all settling in Huron County, MI.

UPDATES – *The following members have sent us updated information:*

William O. Larson, 317 West Gustavus Ave, Fergus Falls, MN 56537-3310 bbekkestad@live.com researching DIETERICH of Geburten, Ritzig, Schivelbein, Pommern Preu, settled in Ottertail county, MN.

Linda Veillet, 2467 Smith River Rd, Duluth, MN 55804-9623 daniel44@q.com researching BABACZ of Giebnia, Inowrazlaw, Liswo Koscielna; KUJAWA of Sojkowo, Inowrazlaw both settling in Duluth MN; LEWANDOWSKA of Province of Posnan settled in WI and Loretto MN.

Kevin and Mary Ann Johnson, 3210 139th Lane. NW, Andover, MN 55304 kmmmjohnson@msn.com researching MANIAK, CIESIELSKI of Bieganin, Raschkow, Poznan, settled in Duluth, Split Rock township, MN; BUTKIEWICZ, SZEDIS of Kolesniki, Suwalki settling in Duluth, MN and Superior, WI; KUBICKI, WACHOWIAK of Miescisko, Poznan settling in Winona and Duluth, MN; KRZESZEWSKI and BANNACK of Kozielsko, Poznan settling in Duluth, MN.

Missing Branches..... (continued on page 7)