



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota NEWSLETTER

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No. 3

**JOSEPH GEORGE WOLAK
&
SOPHIA JAREK
(1882-1969)**
by

Amy Jowers

The Polish Genealogical Society of MN published research on my great-grandparents, Thomas and Tekla Wolak, and their second-born son, my grandfather, John Wolak, several years ago. I've continued to build on that research and am now presenting information on their first-born son, *Joseph George Wolak*. Joseph's research was unique in that I had to piece together his lifetime of events from numerous second-hand sources such as military records, parental and sibling obituaries, and census reports, rather than the original documents for births as I was able to find with his brother, John Wolak.

JOSEPH GEORGE WOLAK

After arriving in Baltimore, Maryland in June 1881, Thomas and Tekla Wolak headed to Pennsylvania (Mahanoy City) with their first child, born January 30, 1882, Joseph George Wolak.

Joseph is the only child I can prove was born in Pennsylvania (Thomas and Tekla have eight children, according to the 1910 Census, but one dies within days of his birth, and another cannot be verified as to where he/she was born). Joseph's birth date is less than seven months after his parents arrival in the United States; Tekla must have been

pregnant with him while onboard the ship from Bremen, Germany.

I found Joseph when I submitted a general search on Ancestry.com for "Wolak" with a birthdate of 1881 or 1882. After several hundred pages☺, I found Joseph's WWII draft registration card. It listed Joseph's birthdate as January 30, 1882; and after comparing this with several U.S. census reports, I could confirm this was the first-born of Thomas and Tekla.

WWII Registration Card; Serial No: U2599

Name: Joseph George Wolak
Place of Birth: Mahony City, Pennsylvania
Date of Birth: Jan 30 1882

I spent a lot of time trying to find Joseph's birth certificate. Based on writings of this area, most Polish immigrants belonged to St. Casimir's Catholic Church.

Joseph George Wolak..... (Continued on page 6)

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society
1185 No. Concord St., Suite 218
So. St. Paul, MN 55075-1150
www.pgsmn.org

Officers/Board of Directors:

President Jerome Biedny (952-944-5905)
..... jaybiedny@juno.com
Vice President..... Dan Schyma (612-819-3479)
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..... whosit@integra.net
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..... przynski@comcast.net

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Polish Genealogical Society of MN Newsletter

Editorial Contact..... editorPGSMN@gmail.com
Associate Editor..... Greg Kishel
Mailing Labels..... Dori Marszalek

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Submitting items for publication is welcome and highly encouraged. We require feature-length articles be submitted exclusively to PGS-MN. Articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries, etc. should be mailed to: Peggy Larson, Editor *PGS-MN Newsletter*, 557 98th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 or e-mailed to: editorpgsmn@gmail.com

To apply for membership

Please use application form on insert page

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

Address/e-mail changes or membership questions?

Contact: Dori Marszalek, Membership Chair
3901 - 61st Ave. N., Brooklyn Center MN 55429-2403
or e-mail: doripgs@comcast.net

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President's Letter

The wind begins to blow a little colder and the leaves will soon all be off the trees again until April. Hibernation time for Minnesotans is upon us. But you have to do SOMETHING between snow shoveling. So, get your notebooks out and plan a To Do list for your genealogical research over the next few months. If you don't, it will be like cleaning out the garage: you know you should, but you never make the time to. So... nothing gets done. If you do something right away, you may have new information to share at the family gatherings coming up in the next few weeks.

Speaking of that, don't let the Holidays go by without some teachable moments. Tell life stories to and take pictures with the grandkids. Host or attend a Wigilia Christmas Eve supper. If you have not done one of those since your own grandmother was alive, dig in and resurrect the tradition in your own family. There are several great Internet sites to help with menu planning, etc. They even have on-line places to get the oplatek wafers.

Get ready for another great year with the Society in 2015. Dan Schyma has been busy putting another fine slate of presentations together for the spring. Check the newsletter for dates and double check the website just before the event to confirm any changes.

May you and yours close out 2014 in happiness and start 2015 with health and good humor.

Jerome Biedny
President, PGS-MN



Recently at PGS-MN Meetings

On Saturday, September 6, Minnetonka-native and writer Mark Dillon shared his genealogical and travel journey to Poland in May 2014 to the village of Libusza. Founded in 1336, Libusza was one of the many villages founded under the rule of Kazimierz the Great that was granted the right of self-rule. Marks's family, the Dylags, have been residents of the village since 1727. We heard about the family that Mark's grandfather left behind in 1905 and their life in Libusza today.



D. Schyma, M. Dillon

On Saturday, October 11, PGS-MN president, Jay Biedny did a presentation that picked up from his May presentation in which he covered American sources. Jay's follow-up presentation entitled "*Tracing Your Polish Roots: from America to Europe*" focused on records you can find in Europe. He presented lots of clear examples of how to get and where to get records in the homeland. Having traveled to Poland himself with his family, Jay shared many hints, tips, and anecdotal stories on what the research in Poland experience is like. It was an information and enjoyable presentation.

Upcoming Meetings, Programs, & Events

PGS-MN Meetings Calendar

January 17, 2015 – Annual Membership Meeting including Election of Officers

March 7, 2015 – Jewish Identity and Legacy Project

April 4, 2015 – TBD

May 2, 2015 – TBD

See details below....

PGSMN Member Meetings

Saturday, January 17, 2015

11:00 a.m.

Gasthof Zur Germulichkeit

2300 University Ave NE

Minneapolis, MN 55418

(612) 781-3860

Annual Members Meeting

This is the meeting where the membership elects the officers of PGS-MN. Membership will vote for the offices of President, Vice President, Director I, and Director III.

If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please send an e-mail to Jay Biedny at jaybiedny@juno.com to be included on the candidate list.

Saturday, March 7, 2015

10 a.m. – 12 noon

MGS Library, 4th floor boardroom

Jewish Identity and Legacy Project

Guest Speaker: Susan Weinberg

Susan Weinberg is an artist and genealogist who has done genealogy consulting and speaks both nation-

ally and internationally on Jewish genealogy, and her Jewish artwork exhibits.

Susan will share her work on the Jewish Identity and Legacy project, an oral history project with residents from Sholom Home in collaboration with Sholom Home and the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest.

She began a series of interviews with residents, most in their 90s and spanning those who grew up in early immigrant communities in Minnesota, Russian immigrants and Holocaust survivors. She is continuing her work with a series of cross-generational interviews. She will play brief excerpts of the interviews and share the artwork she developed to tell their stories.

Our ancestors, some Jewish, came from Poland or lived and worked with many Jewish families because Poland had the greatest or one of the greatest Jewish populations in Europe before the holocaust. We are very pleased to have Susan speak to us about that heritage. **PGS-MN**

PACIM Events

26th Annual Polish Soup Festival

Sunday, November 16

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

John P. Murzyn Hall

530 Mill Street, Columbia Heights, MN

Come and sample a variety of authentic Polish soups, including favorites such as *zupa grzybowa* (mushroom soup) and *zupa ogórkowa* (dill pickle soup).

See traditional Polish *wycinanki* (paper cuts) and *pisanki* (ornamented eggs) craft demonstrations, view historical displays of Poland, and visit vendors selling artisan gifts from Poland.



Wigilia Benefit Dinner for Disadvantaged Polish Children

Sunday, December 14

Gasthof Zur Gemutlichkeit

2300 University Ave NE, Minneapolis

Proceeds from this year's event are going to the *Dom Dziecka* in Tuchola, Poland. This orphanage houses thirty children with ages ranging from 11 to 20 years old.

Schedule

5:20-5:50pm: Social Hour

6:00-8:00pm: Dinner

Tickets for the event are \$42 (there is no discount for PACIM members). Ten dollars from each ticket is tax deductible and will go towards this year's charity.

Deadline for ticket purchase is December 8th.

Seating is limited and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Go to pacim.org and click on *Events* to purchase tickets today!

Bal Karnawałowy

Saturday, February 14, 2015

Saint Paul Hotel

350 Market Street, St. Paul, MN

PACIM's formal carnival ball event returns in 2015 on Valentine's Day! The *Bal* features fine food, entertainment, dancing, and a silent auction. Save the Date! Details are forthcoming. **PGS-MN**

Minnesota Genealogical Society Update

(Source: MGS newsletter, November 2014, Vol. 45, no. 11)

2015 MGS Board of Directors

Linda Westrom	President
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Melva Cain	Treasurer
Sandy Stadherr	Secretary
Nancy Blume	Director
Thad Carlson	Director
Ruth Gundale	Director
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Michael Clark Family History Writing Award Contest Winners

1. Problem-solving Article winner is
Barbara A. Wilson, for "*TB Consumes the Barr Family – Echoes of Death*" which explores the impact of tuberculosis on a family that experienced eleven deaths in 10 years.
2. Family Story Article winner is
Barbara R. Wilson, for "*Liisa Pik and the Empress of Ireland*" in which the author recounts her search for an elusive Finnish great-grandmother and a life filled with tragedy on both sides of the Atlantic. **PGS-MN**

UW-Milwaukee Annual Summer Study-Tour at the Catholic University Lublin, Poland

July 6—August 8, 2015

Five weeks in historic Lublin, with a course of Polish language (100 hours), at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels

Lectures, films, and cultural performances

Excursions to Warsaw, Sandomierz, and other places of interest.

More information on page 17

2014 Membership Renewal Reminder!!!!

You are a valued member of PGS-MN
Please renew your membership before December 31, 2014.

Renew your membership because you receive.....

- The PGS-MN quarterly newsletter mailed directly to your home.
- Free use of the MN Genealogical Society Library collection, Ancestry.com and more programs (non-members \$10 per visit).
- Excellent speaker programs throughout the year.
- Research specialists available to help.
- Updated PGS-MN website!
- Pride knowing you are helping to keep PGS-MN alive and growing!

Questions? Please contact, Dori Marszalek at doripgs@comcast.net

Send your dues payment to: Mike Eckman, Treasurer
7222 Oak Pointe Curve
Bloomington, MN 55438

Dues: \$20 / 1 year membership	\$50 / 3 year membership
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Joseph George Wolak (cont'd from page 1)

Unfortunately, as congregations have decreased, Polish churches in this area have had to close. By the time I started my work, St. Casimir's had closed and its records had been transferred to St. Anne's. Then, after several more years, that church closed and records were sent to another church. I called and sent several letters to both churches, but never received a reply.

My only source was to use Tekla's obituary in 1939 to learn that the family likely lived in



Pennsylvania for about two years. With further documentation from the 1905 MN Territorial Census and the 1885 baptismal certificate of their second child, John, I confirmed they moved to Lemont, Illinois when Joseph was about 3 years old, and stayed there between 8-10 years. They have at least five children in Lemont (John, Mary, Leo, Peter, and Sam) and were members of the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church.

In 1895, Thomas and Tekla moved the family to Gilman Township as recorded on the 1900 U.S. Census. Eighteen-year-old Joseph is a farm laborer.

Twelfth Census of the United States: Schedule No. 1 - Population; June 8, 1900

Gilmanton Township, Benton County, Minnesota

Name: Thomas Vallak; Head	Born: April 1848; 52 years old
Married; 19 years	Birthplace: Poland/Austria
Parents' Birthplace: Poland/Austria	Immigrated in 1882; in the States for 19 years
Citizen Status: Naturalized	Can Read; Cannot Write/Speak English Occupation: Farmer
Home: Owned; on farm, no mortgage	
Name: Alice Vallak; Wife	Born: May 1857; 43 years old
Birthplace: Poland/Austria	Parents from Poland/Austria
Five of 7 children are living	
Household Members:	
Joseph: Jan 1882, 18 years, farm laborer	
John: May 1885, 15 years, school	Mary: Aug 1886, 13 years, school
Peter: Apr 1890, 10 years, school	Samuel: May 1892, 7 years

Joseph moved to the Chicago area sometime after that, as the next record I find is his marriage to Sophia Jarek on May 28, 1907.

Marriage Index for Polish Parishes in Chicago through 1915 [www.pgsa.org]

Name: Wolak, Joseph	Spouse: Jarek, Sophie
Date: 5[-28-1907	Church: St. John Cantius Church
Film #1704114 6 Page: 50 Volume: 3	

Fortunately, the St. John Cantius Church recognizes the value of Polish genealogy and I was able to write and receive a copy of their marriage certificate; in Latin and English:

**Registrum Matrimoniorum in Ecclesia Sancti
Joannis Cantii Dioecesis Chicagoe**

Nomen Familiae/**Wolak Josef i Jarek Sofia**
A.D. Die Mensis: **1907-28-V**

Registrum Matrimoniorum: Ego infrascriptus **prae**
missis **tribus** denuntiationibus et mutuo
contrahentium consensu habito, per verba de proesenti
matrimonio conjunxi **Josef Wolak.**
ex loco **Szamokin Pa**

Filium **Tomasza i. Tekli Kmiotek** et **Jarek Sofia** ex
loco **Bystra pow Gorlice Gab**

Filiam **Jana i Rosalii Cinlis** Proesentibus testibus
Jan Wolak i Pawet Duszynski

Rev. Br. Cieslak G.R.
St. John Cantius Church
825 N. Carpenter Street
Chicago, Illinois 60622

Marriage Certificate

This Certifies that according to our Marriage Records
Vol. III p. 50

Jozef (Joseph) Wolak – From Szamokin, Pa.
son of **Thomas Wolak** and **Tekla nee Kmiotek**
and **Zofia Jarek** – from Bystra pos. Gorlice, Gal.
daughter of **Jana (John) Zarek** and **Rozalia nee Cinlis**
were united in Holy Matrimony according to the Rites
of the Roman Catholic Church and the Laws of the
State of Illinois on the 28th day of May A.D. 1907 by
the Rev. B. Cieslak, C.R.

Dated May 4, 2010

Rev. C. Frank Phillips, C.R. (Pastor)

Witnesses: John Wolak and Paul Duszynski

Here is a little history on this church:

The Roman Catholic presence was firmly established in Chicago when the French settlement organized the city's first parish, Old St. Mary's, in 1833 under the direction of the Fr. Jean Marie Ireneaus St. Cyr. However, the greatest influx of Catholic population in the area began in the late 1820's and continued through the 1920's with the immigration of millions of European Catholics....

By the mid 1800's, the political situation in Poland was one of non-existence. The country had been partitioned into three sections by neighboring Prussia, Austria, and Russia, thereby, ceasing to exist as an independent country. The partition under the control of the Austro-Hungarian Empire enjoyed religious freedom under the rule of the Catholic Habsburgs, but most found themselves in a state of poverty, as they were not landowners....

From these tragic circumstances, many Poles sought relief in the United States of America. After traveling by sea and arriving at Ellis Island, a great number of Poles came to Chicago and settled near the Rolling Mill district along the North Branch of the Chicago River. **In 1867, St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish was formed and by 1870 was placed under the direction of the Congregation of the Resurrection. This parish was to be the first and mother of all Polish parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago....[emphasis, author]**

To relieve over-crowding in the area immediately surrounding the church, new arrivals began settling in an area southeast of the parish along Chicago Avenue. This area quickly became known as Wygnana Polska ("Expatriate Poland", or popularly known later as the "Polish Patch"). The need to divide St. Stanislaus Kostka soon became apparent....On December 10th, 1892, the New World announced that "A new parish will be made early next year, and a church built in the neighborhood of Chicago Avenue and Carpenter Streets for the Polish residents in that vicinity."[emphasis, author]....On September 4, 1893, Archbishop Patrick A. Feehan officiated at the laying and blessing of the cornerstone, which carried the following inscription, "Awesome is this place. It is the house of God and Gate of Heaven."

Source: www.cantius.org; search parish history

SOPHIA JAREK

Joseph's wife, Sophia Jarek, is born in 1885 in Poland, based on the 1910, 1920 and 1930 U.S. Censuses but her hometown and birthdate have not been found for confirmation. The 1910 U.S. Census records that Sophia immigrated to the United States in 1902, aged about 17. The record below could be hers, as the last place of residence (Bystra) is a match on her marriage certificate. However, a secondary document to confirm this has not yet been found.

Passenger Record [www.ellisland.org]

First Name: Sofya	Last Name: Jarek
Ethnicity: Galicean-Ruthenean	Last Place of Residence: Bystra
Date of Arrival: April 23, 1902	Age of Arrival: 17y
Gender: F Marital Status: S	Ship of Travel: Grosser Kurfurst
Port of Departure: Bremen	Manifest Line Number: 0020

The 1910 U.S. Census also shares that Rosia is their first child born on January 3, 1909; this is confirmed on Rosia's Social Security Death Certificate. Joseph and Sophia own a house, renting out to four boarders; Joseph describes himself as a laborer, but notes he was out of work in 1909 for 11 weeks; it is not clear if his employer was Pullman Standard at that time. It is also unclear why his last name now has two "l's". One correction: Joseph notes his birthplace is Minnesota, but it is Pennsylvania.

1910 United States Federal Census; [www.ancestry.com]

Name: Joseph Wollak	Age in 1910: 28
Est Birth Year: abt 1882	Birthplace: Minnesota
Relation/Head of Household: Head	Father's Birth Place: Austria Mother's Birth Place: Austria
Spouse's Name: Sophia	
Marital Status: Married	Race: White Gender: Male
Home in 1910: Hammond Ward 10, Lake, Indiana	
Household Members:	
Joseph Wollak, 28	Sophia Wollak, 23
Rosia Wollak, 1	Michael Waesche, 46
Janatz Rieba, 28	John Kiehda, 31
Stanislaw Solnick, 50	

For those interested, the Pullman Company shares employment record requests. Here is what I sent in for Joseph Wolak:

Joseph's record consisted of one day; he was not recorded any further as an employee of Pullman Company.

**PULLMAN-STANDARD EMPLOYEE REQUEST FORM
HAMMOND PLANT**

If you are interested in a search for a person whom might have been employed at the Hammond Pullman Plant, fill out the following form and please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to:

Mr. Stephen McShane, Archivist/Curator
Calumet Regional Archives
Indiana University Northwest
3400 Broadway
Gary, IN 46408-1197

Employee's Name:

WOLAK
*Last Name

JOSEPH
*First Name

N/A

Female Name (Maiden or Married if different than above, if known)

Address if known:

HAMMOND WARD 10, LAKE CITY @ 130 JOHNSON, Hammond
Street Number and Name of Street City & State

JAN 30th - 31st, 1882 28 yrs/1910 WHITE / POLISH
*Date of Birth or *Approx. Age at what year *Race/Ethnicity

*Necessary Information

Joseph and Sophia have their second child, Stanley, in 1912; the actual birth date is unknown but the year is based on his obituary and the 1920 and 1930 U.S. Census (see record below and on page 12).

In 1917, Joseph registers for the WWI draft at age 36. His new job is a police officer for the City of Hammond, Indiana.

Registration Card / Serial No. 262 / Order #4965 / 13-1-14 / September 1, 1917

Name: Joseph George Wolak
 Address: 130 Johnson, Hammond, Lake, Indiana / Age: 36
 DOB: January 31, 1882 / White / Natural Born
 Present Occupation: Police Officer / City of Hammond
 Work Address: Johnson Street, Hammond, Lake, Indiana
 Nearest Relative: Sophia Wolak, wife
 Address: 130 Johnson, Hammond, Lake, Indiana
 Description: Tall, Slender
 Color of Eyes: Brown / Color of Hair: Lt. Brown

Local Board, Division No: 2, Lake Co., Indiana

World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918; [www.ancestry.com]

Name: Joseph George Wolak	County: Lake
State: Indiana	Birth Date: 31 Jan 1882
Race: White	FHL Roll Number: 1653557
Draft Board: 2	

The 1920 U.S. Census lists his family with a son, Stanley, age 7 and Rose, age 11. Also living with them is Joel Vskwat and Felix Jarek. Both of these boarders were family relatives, Joel is a relative of the husband of Joseph's sister, and Felix a relative of his wife.

**Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920-Population
 Indiana; Lake County; North Township / January 17, 1920**

Name: Joseph Wolak; Head	Age at Last Birthday: 37
Home: Owned; Free of mortgage	Birthplace: Pennsylvania
Parents' Birthplace: Poland	Occupation: Policeman; City
Name: Sophia, Wife	Age at Last Birthday: 33
Birthplace: Poland	Parents' Birthplace: Poland
Daughter: Rose, age 11	Birthplace: Indiana
Son: Stanley, age 7	Birthplace: Indiana
Boarder: Joel Ochwat, age 37	Birthplace: Poland
Immigrated: 1902; Nationalized: 1904	Parents' Birthplace: Poland
Boarder: Felix Jarek; age 24	Birthplace: Poland
Parents' Birthplace: Poland	Immigrated: 1911; Nationalized: 1918

Joseph's family is noted on the 1930 U.S. Census, including his daughter, Rosia, and her husband, Joseph Kuzel, living with them as renters. Joseph Kuzel is age 23 and Rose is 21; both work at the "Steel Plant."

Joseph George Wolak (Continued on page 12)



Polish Festival 2014

What a beautiful weekend we had at this year's 2014 Polish Festival.

As you can see by the pictures it was a beautiful sunny weekend.

This year we with the help of our board member Marie Przynski we were blessed to get some time both mornings on the Cultural stage.

Jay Biedny and his son, Jeremy gave a wonderful presentation about PGS-MN and they let the crowd know what PGS-MN was all about. The booth was hopping after they invited people to our tent. Jay and Jeremy were amazing and helped over 100+ people do last name searches with our 10 volume Surname indexes.

Thanks to a suggestion from Board member Dan Schyma, we put out our little "Contribution box" and we received over \$50.00 in donations.

And of course we couldn't have done all of this without the help of our wonderful volunteers. A Huge Thank you to: John and Judy Rys, Bob Kraska, Nancy Gagner, Don Jureck, Al Kowalczyk, Terri DiCarlo, Tom Laska, Terry Kita, Jay and Jeremy Biedny. Thank you all so much, you all were amazing. Hopefully our two first timers Al Kowalczyk and Don Jureck enjoyed their experience and will come back next year to help.

I think next year will be even more exciting. If anyone has any ideas on how we can promote PGS-MN at the Twin Cities Polish Festival just drop me an email and let me know what you have in mind.

Thanks again to everyone involved.

Until next year,
Dori Marszalek



Joseph George Wolak (cont'd from page 9)

**Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930-Population;
North Township; Lake County; State of Indiana**

Name: Joseph, Head	Age at Last Birthday: 48
Home: Owned, Mortgaged	Value of Home: \$25,000
Owens a Radio Set in Home: Yes	Age at First Marriage: 25
Attended School in 1929: No	Can Read/Write: Yes
Place of Birth: Pennsylvania	Parents' Birthplace: Poland
Occupation: Policeman, City	Worked Yesterday: Yes
Veteran Status: No	Name: Sophia, Wife
Age at Last Birthday: 45	Age at First Marriage: 22
Attended School in 1929: No	Can Read/Write: Yes
Birthplace: Poland	Immigrated in 1902
Name: Stanley, Son; age 17	Indiana – place of birth
Name: Joseph Kuzel, Head [son-in-law]; age 23; Married at age 22	
Birthplace: Illinois; punch presser; Steel Plant; worked yesterday; not a veteran	
Name: Rose; Wife [daughter]; age 21; Married at age 20; Birthplace: Indiana;	
stenographer; Steel Plant; worked yesterday	Naturalized

Joseph and Sophia travel to Poland during 1938 and then return later on the ship "Batory." Note the period of war at this time (1938); I'm not sure why they would attempt to travel to their homeland when there was so much turmoil and potential threat. Joseph is 56 years old; Sophia is 49. Records of U.S. departures were not kept, so their departure date could not be verified, however, the registration date of their passport is June 1938, so it must have been after that date.

List of United States Citizens on S.S. Batory; sailing from Gdynia, Poland on September 15, 1938 and arriving Port of New York, NY on September 25, 1938

Name: Joseph Wolak, age 56	Born Jan. 30, 82, Mahanoy City, PA
USPassp.557940; Jun.21.38, Wash.	Name: Sophia Wolak, age 49
Home Address: 4324 Johnson Ave, Hammond, Indiana	

New York Passengers Lists, 1820-1957; [www.ancestry.com]

Name: Joseph Wolak	Arrival Date: 26 Sep 1938
Est. Birth Year: abt 1882	Age: 56
Gender: Male	Port of Departure: Gdynia, Poland
Ship Name: Batory	Port of Arrival: New York, New York
NATIVITY: Pennsylvania	

Line: 11; Microfilm Serial: T715; Microfilm Roll: T715_6224

Birth Location: Pennsylvania / Birth Location Other: Mahanoy City

Page Number: 32; Port Arrival State: New York; Port Arrival Country: United States

Ship Information: Ship Name: BATORY; [www.ancestry.com]

Years in Service: 1936 -

Funnels: 2; Masts: 2; Shipping Line: Gdynia-America

Ship Description: Built by Cantieri Riuniti dell' Adriatico, Monfalcone, Italy.

Tonnage: 14,287. Dimensions: 498' x 70' (525' o.l.). Twin-screw, 20 knots.

Motorship. Two masts and two funnels.

History: Launched, July 8, 1935. Maiden voyage: Gdynia-Copenhagen-New

York, May 18, 1936. Became an Allied transport in 1939. First voyage after

World War II, Gdynia-New York in May 1947. Placed in Gdynia-Bombay-

Karachi service in August 1951. Returned to Gdynia-Montreal service in August

1957. Still in North Atlantic service 1961. Sister Ship: PILSUDSKI

Joseph registers at the age of 60 for the WWII Draft. It is not clear why his daughter, rather than his wife Sophia, is listed as the person who will always know his address.

WWII Registration Card / Serial No: U2599 / Name: Joseph George Wolak

Place of Residence: 4324 Johnson Ave, Hammond Lake, Indiana

Telephone: 5968J Hammond Age in Years: 60

Place of Birth: Mahony City, Pennsylvania Date of Birth: Jan 30 1882

Name and Address of Person Who Will Always Know Your Address: Mrs. Joseph Kusell, 4324 Johnson Ave

Employer's Name and Address: Special Police, Hammond Indiana

Place of Employment: Special Police Hammond Waterworks Lake Indiana

Joseph Wolak dies on November 21, 1952 at the age of 70 after a short illness, which is not mentioned. He is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery in Calumet City, IL.

Hammond Times, November 21, 1952

Obituaries: Retired City Police Officer Dead at 70

Joseph Wollak, 70, retired Hammond policeman, died today in St. Margaret Hospital after a short illness.

Wollak served for 28 years on the Municipal Police Force and then became a plant guard at the Calumet Steel Casting Co. in Hammond.

The deceased was a Hammond resident for 45 years. His home is at 4324 Johnson Ave.

He was a member of Hammond Lodge 51 of the Fraternal Order of Police, Court 1645 of the Catholic Order of Foresters and St. Anthony Lodge 312 of the Polish Roman Catholic Union.

* * *

Surviving are the widow, Sophia; a daughter, Mrs. Rose Kuzell of Hammond; a son, Stanley of Hammond; a sister, Mrs. Mary Ochwat of Lincoln, Neb.; three brothers, Pete and Anthony of Foley, Minn., and Sam of Hammond, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Monday from the Bernard A. Dziadowicz Funeral Home at 4404 Cameron Ave., Hammond, and at 10 a.m. at St. Casimir Church. Msgr. John Biernacki will officiate. Burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery in Calumet City.

Friends may call at the funeral home after 10 a.m. Saturday.

Obituary Article - Joseph Wolak / Joseph Wolak Rites at Hammond, Indiana

Benton County News, Dec. 2, 1952

Funeral services for Joseph Wolak, 70, were held Monday, November 24th at the St. Casimir's church at Hammond, Indiana. He had been ill for 10 days.

Mr. Hammond served on the Hammond police force for 28 years and for the past 12 years had been in retirement.

He is survived by his wife, one son Stanley, a daughter, Mrs. Joseph Kuzell, all of Hammond; one sister, Mrs. Mary Oschwat of Lincoln, Nebraska; and three brothers, Sam of Hammond and Peter and Tony, both of Foley.

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Wollak, Mrs. Frances Wollak and Mr. and Mrs. Tony Wollak attended the funeral services.

A very sad part of this family is that Joseph's son, Stanley Wolak, dies on November 12, 1953 of a heart attack.

Hammond Times, November 12, 1953

Calumet Region Obituaries: Wolak

Stanley P. Wolak, 41, of 4715 Johnson Ave., Hammond, a pipefitter for Standard Oil Co. at the Whiting Refinery, died at 1:15 a.m. today in his home following a heart attack.

Hammond Fire Department inhalator squadmen were called.

A lifelong resident of Hammond, Wolak was a member of St. Casimir Court 141 of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

Surviving are the widow, Stella; a daughter, Joyce; a son, Thomas; his mother, Mrs. Sophia Wolak; a sister, Mrs. Rose Kuzell, all of Hammond; and two nieces, Sister M. James, of the Franciscan Order, a teacher at a Fort Wayne parochial school, and Judy Kuzell of Hammond.

Funeral services are scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Saturday from the Bernard A. Dziadowicz Funeral Home, 4404 Cameron Ave., with rites in St. Casimir Church, Msgr. John Biernacki officiating at 9 a.m. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Sophia survives her husband, Joseph, by 17 years, leaving their daughter, Rose as the sole survivor of the family.

Hammond Times, October 15, 1969

Calumet Region Obituaries: Wolak

Sophia (Wollak) Wolak, age 85, of 4329 Johnson Avenue, Hammond, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1969, at St. Margaret Hospital, following a short illness. Survivors: one daughter, Mrs. Rose Kuzell of Hammond; one daughter-in-law, Mrs. Stella Wolak of Hammond; three granddaughters, Sister M. James O.S.F. of Fowler, Indiana, Mrs. William (Joyce) Kasper of Hammond, Mrs. Joseph (Judy) Tokarz of Hammond; three great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 at 10:30 a.m. from the Bernard A. Dziadowicz Funeral Home, 4404 Cameron Ave., Hammond, 11 a.m. St. Casimir Church with Rev. Anthony Balczun officiating. Burial Holy Cross Cemetery, Calumet City. Friends may call at the chapel Thursday and Friday, 2 to 5 and 7 to 10 p.m. She was a Hammond resident for the past 63 years. She was a member of the following societies, which will conduct prayer services at the chapel on Friday: Rosary Ladies Society of St. Casimir Church, 2:30 p.m.; St. Rita's Altar Society at 2:45 p.m.; Orchard Lake Auxiliary, 3 p.m.; Our Lady of Knock Carmel Society, 3:15 p.m.; Catholic Order of Foresters, St. Ann's Court 880 at 3:30 p.m. She was also a member of the Polish Roman Catholic Union, St. Anthony Lodge 312. Her late husband, Joseph was a Hammond policeman.

Rose Kuzell passes away in 1997. This obituary was very hard to find. The Hammond Times, a wonderful source for obituaries and articles on the Polish community from 1940 on, had lost large sections of the newspaper in 1997. Consequently, I only found this obituary by doing a Google search for "Rose Kuzell Hammond Indiana in 1997."

Rose Kuzell (nee Wolak), 88, of Hammond passed away Tuesday, May 20, 1997.

Survived by two daughters, Sr. M. James O.S.F. of LaPorte, Indiana and Judy (Joseph) Tokarz of Hammond; two grandsons, Anthony (Eva) Tokarz of DeMotte and David (Heather) Tokarz of Wheatfield; great-granddaughter, Stephanie Tokarz of DeMotte. Preceded in death by husband, Joseph; brother, Stanley Wolak and sister-in-law, Stella Wolak.

Funeral services Saturday, May 24, 1997 at 9:30 a.m. at the Anthony & Dziadowicz Funeral Home, 4404 Cameron Avenue, Hammond (2 blocks east of Hohman, 1 block north of Gostlin), 10 a.m. Mass at St. Casimir Church, Rev. Vladimir Janeczek officiating. Burial, Holy Cross Cemetery. Visitation Friday 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Mrs. Kuzell was a lifelong Hammond resident; a retired employee of Guarantee Reserve Life Insurance Company; member of St. Theresa Society #1034 PRCU; St. Casimir Ladies Rosary Society and St. Casimir Seniors who will pray together Friday at 3 p.m. and the St. Cecelia Choir of St. Casimir Church and a life member of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Club.

Resources

 "Fifteenth Census of the United State: 1930 in "www.ancestry.com"

1930 U.S. Federal Census; Original Data: U.S. Of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.

http://search.ancestry.com/Browse/print_u.aspx?dbid=6224&iid=INT626_602-0928&pid=116673174

12/26/2011

"Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 in www.ancestry.com.

Note: Enumeration Districts 819-839 on roll 323 (Chicago City, Original Data: U.S. Of America, Bureau of the Census. Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1920. T625, 2,076 rolls.

"Thirteenth Census of the United States" by US Department of Commerce & Labor; Bureau of the Census in "U.S. Government".

CensusFinder
HOME > Census Findings > 1910 Census

1910 Census Findings

* Free Download: Blank 1910 Census Form needed to record your ancestors in the 1910 census.

What information can be found in the 13th Federal Census of the United States?

Questions Asked on the 1910 Census

- Name of street, road, avenue etc.
- House number for city dwellers.
- Number of dwelling in order of visitation.
- Number of family in order of visitation.
- Name of each person.
- Relationship of each person to the head of household.
- Sex of person.
- Color or race of person.
- Age of person at last birthday.
- Is person single, married, widowed or divorced.
- How many years in present marriage.
- Mother of how many children and how many still living.
- Place of birth of each person.
- Place of birth of the father of this person.
- Place of birth of the mother of this person.
- Year of immigration to the US.
- Is person an alien or naturalized.
- Can the person speak English. If not, what is language spoken.
- Occupation, trade or profession of person.
- General nature of industry, business or where this person works.
- Is the person an employer, employee or working on own account.
- If an employee, was the person working on April 15, 1910.
- How many weeks during the year 1909 was the person unemployed.
- Is person able to read and write.
- Did the person attend school since Sept. 1, 1909.
- Does this family own or rent home.
- Is home owned outright or mortgaged.
- Is the dwelling a farm or house.
- If a farm, what is the number on the farm schedule.

The 1900 census questions helped me confirm the number of children born to Thomas and Tekla (8) rather than just the six that survived.

The USGenWeb Census Project - What's On the 1900 Census Record?

Page 1 of 2



The USGenWeb Census Project
Intro to Federal Census Research

1900 Census Facts

Series: T623 Rolls: 1 - 1854

- Twelfth U.S. decennial population census.
- U.S. population: 76.2 million
- Census conducted by the Director of the Census (Census Office, U.S. Department of the Interior).
- Census day: 1 June 1900.
- Mandated copies: One set, to the Director of the Census Local jurisdictions could buy a copy of their schedules at cost.
- The original census schedules were destroyed in the 1940s after being microfilmed.

Information Provided on 1900 Census:

- Address
- name: relationship to family head
- sex
- race
- age
- marital status, number of years married
- for women, number of children born and number now living
- birthplace of person and parents
- if foreign born, year of immigration and whether naturalized
- occupation, months not employed
- school attendance
- literacy
- ability to speak English
- whether on a farm
- home owned or rented and if owned, whether mortgaged.

"WWI Registration Card" in "U.S. Selective Service System"

This database contains an Index and images of WWI draft registration cards completed by approximately 2.4 million men living in the U.S. in 1917 and 1918.

Citation: Joseph George Wolak

"WWII Registration Card" in "U.S. Selective Service System"

The Fourth Registration, often referred to as the "old man's registration", was conducted on 27 April 1942 and registered men who were born on or between 28 April 1877 and 16 February 1897 - men who were between 45 and 64 years old - and who were not already in the military..

Citation: Joseph George Wolak

Google map of the Pennsylvania area where Joseph Wolak grew up.

shamokin pa - Google Maps

Page 1 of 1



Additional Resources used during research:

www.pullmanrecords.com Pullman Company (Chicago)

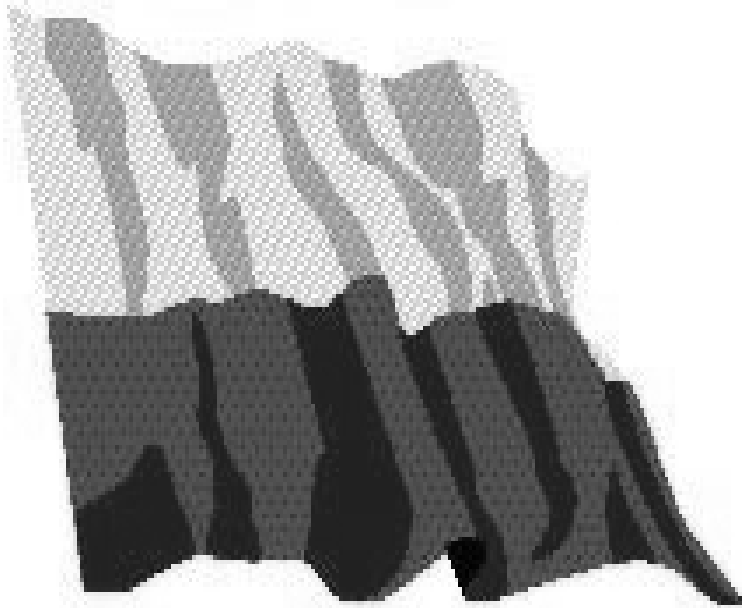
www.hammond.lib.in.us/obits Hammond, IN obituaries

www.nwitimes.com/ The Times of Northwest Indiana

www.pa-roots.com Pennsylvania genealogy

www.mahanoyhistory.org Genealogy in Mahanoy City, PA

www.pennsylvania-genealogy.net/Mahanoy-Genealogy PGS-MN



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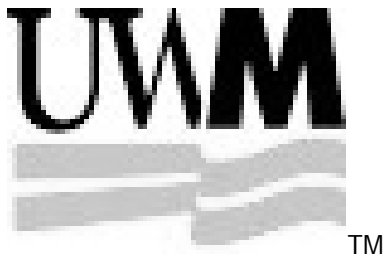
\$3,225 for Five weeks, All Inclusive
\$2,475 for Two weeks, All Inclusive

Program fee includes:

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- 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 33 study tours to Poland.

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION:



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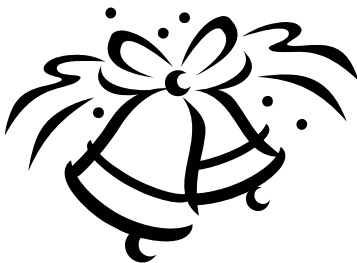
Prof. Michael Mikoś at 414-229-4151
Dept. of Foreign Languages & Literature
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201
e-mail: mikos@uwm.edu

A Polish Wedding

From Winona Daily Republican
November 21, 1885

Editor's note: The bride in the following article from the Winona Daily Republican is my great-

grandfather's cousin, Apollonia Wiczorek. She is called Paulina Wechorak in the article. I think many Polish names were misspelled in the press. Last summer one of my aunts told me her given name is Apollonia but she was called Polly. I've also seen family trees on ancestry where they show her name being "Leona." The groom's name, Glaunert, is also misspelled in this article as "Glamout." After reading this article, I think you may agree Polish immigrants had stamina!



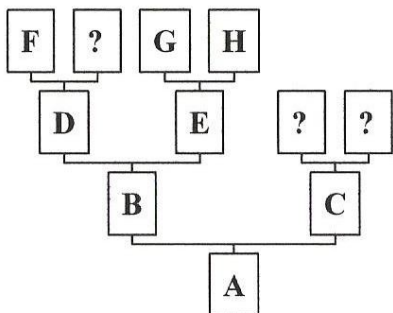
THE MERRY-MAKING THAT ATTENDS THE NUPTIAL CEREMONY AMONG OUR POLISH FELLOW CITIZENS.

A Polish wedding, as described by an eye witness, will be of interest to those unacquainted with their manner of celebrating such an occasion. Last week Mr. Albert Glamout and Miss Paulina Wechorak were married in the Fourth ward, the groom having previously complied with an ancient custom by providing a ring, shawl, dress, and wreath for the bride to wear at the wedding. After the first announcement in the church of their engagement, the groom treated the boys to ten kegs of beer, and on the next Sunday when the second announcement was made he treated his friends to eight kegs of beer more, which gave assurance of a good send off on the voyage to matrimony. The father of the bride erected a special dancing hall, on the occasion of the wedding, which was trimmed overhead and upon three sides with evergreens; on the fourth side were arranged kegs of beer and glasses. A little before 8 o'clock on the morning fixed upon for the nuptials, the groom's best men, to the number of forty, marched into the house wearing a cigar and white artificial button-hole bouquets. After cordial greetings and a social glass of beer, the arrival of the bridesmaids was announced and they came marching gaily in, there

being likewise forty of them, each wearing a wreath of white flowers on the head. Another salvo of greetings followed their arrival, and the line of march to the church was formed. The Polish brass band led the procession, playing a march; then came the bride and her merry troop of bridesmaids, next the groom and his escort of forty best men, then the invited guests. The church was well filled during the impressive marriage ceremony, which was conducted by Rev. J.H. Byzewski. Mr. Hamerski presided at the organ and the vocal selections given by him with this strong voice filled the house with music. At the conclusion of the service the groom and bride marched down the aisle, followed by maids, groomsmen and friends, and returned to the house, where they were greeted by music from the band, that had taken a short route across lots to be ahead of them. A generous lunch was then served, as the bride and groom were not allowed to eat on the day of their marriage until after the ceremony is performed. The refreshments consisted of many varieties of cake, several kinds of meat, bread and coffee, after which there was furnished a generous supply of beer and cigars. The lunch over an adjournment was had to Strehlow's Hall, which had been hired for the occasion, and dancing commenced at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, to be continued until 8 o'clock the next morning. During the day beer was served free at the hall, as was a lunch at the house. At 6 o'clock a good dinner was served, which was a special pride of the bride. At 7 o'clock the bride's dance began, which is a great tax on her endurance, as she is expected to dance once around the hall with everyone present. The start is made from a keg of beer at the end of the hall and after circling around the room to the place of beginning, the escort deposits whatever amount he chooses for the honor of dancing with her, and then a glass of beer is drunk and off goes the bride again around the hall with the next man. One dollar is the amount usually paid for the privilege of dancing with the bride. Numerous presents were left at the house by those not caring to dance. **PGS-MN**



Missing Branches



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Please e-mail queries and branch updates to:
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Mail them to: **Peggy Larson**
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or send with new & renewal membership forms.

Welcome New Members:

Czech, Dennis, 4875 Gopple Trl, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472-2595, czeckrbd@uslink.net is researching **CHECZ** and **WASZECHA** of Falkowitz, settling in Sterns Co, MN; **KLIMICK** of Slawianowo, settling in Douglas Co, MN; and **LOEFFLER** of Prussia also settling in Douglas Co.

Helbach, Mary, 22 Bluebird Ln, Woodbury, MN 55125-5322, mlh0909@yahoo.com is researching **PEITRZAK**, **KOWALSKA** settling in Buffalo, NY; and **KRZANOWSKI**, **JACHAC** settling in Mosinee, WI.

Huhtala, Jane, 2575 Rainbow Ln, New Brighton, MN 55112-1606, janehuhtala@gmail.com is researching **TOMASCAK**, Poland settling in MN.

Krawczyk, Ursula, 2320 Marshall Ave #311, St Paul, MN 55104-5700, umkawczyk@yahoo.com.

LaPear, Rosemary, 7782 Hinton Ave S Apt #2, Cottage Grove, MN, 55016-5742, rlapear.ri@gmail.com, is researching **KUNTZ** of Austria settling in So St Paul, MN.

Marks, James, 7596 Springbrook Ln, Woodbury, MN 55125-1681, jamesmarks08@comcast.net.

Smith, Rick, 1467 N Innsbruck Dr, Fridley, MN 55432-5960, rjsmithinc2000@yahoo.com is researching **PYKA (PEKA)** of Prussia settling in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Texas.

Renewals:

Arth, Janet, 1400 S 2nd St B609, Mpls., MN 55454-1061, arth.jm@gmail.com is researching: **TURCZYR** and **SOBKOWIAK**.

Delaney-Kaletka, Charlene, 12572 Danbury Way, Rosemount, MN 55068, panid@aol.com is researching **KALETKA** of Podhale, settling in WI; and **KLAMRA**, settling in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Frost, David, 2845 Aldirch Trl, So St Paul, MN 55125-7605, dfrost48@yahoo.com is researching **FROST** of Germany, Poland settling in Illinois and Minnesota.

Kasella, Eleanor, 7637 Ojibway Park Rd, Woodbury, MN 55125, is researching **KASSELA**, **KASELLA** settling in St Paul, Ramsey Co, Delano, MN; **KOSKI** settling in Vermillion, MN, Fargo/Moorehead; **PFEIFER** settling in Vermillion, MN, Grand Teton MT, and **GOHLER** settling in ND, all of Opole, Poland.

Rosenthal, Anita, 11991 Aberdeen St N.E., Mpls. MN 55449, rosena828@msn.com is researching **BELKA**, **ADAMSKI** both of Poland.



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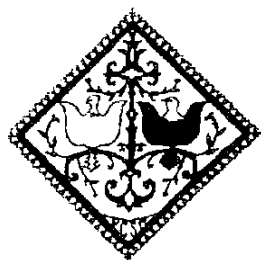
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