

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA



Newsletter Volume 25 # 3

Autumn 2017

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings everyone! I hope you all had a great summer and kept up with both discovering ancestors and developing and/or deepening relationships with living relatives. As we all know those living relatives have stories to tell that sometimes shed light on our genealogical mysteries.

I have three big announcements to share with you this quarter.

The first announcement is the Minnesota Genealogical Society (MGS) is relocating to Mendota Heights, MN. One of the key findings from last year's member survey was that over 56% of the survey respondents said they never or rarely visited the Library. The primary reason given was because the location was not convenient. When asked what MGS could do to improve member satisfaction, the overwhelming suggestion was to change the location, followed by being open more hours.

A Site Selection Committee was formed to explore relocation options and the new location was chosen at **1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights, MN 55120**. Occupancy of the new place will begin on November 1, 2017. The new facility is all one level on the first floor. It has a number of conference rooms and offices available for meetings and classes. There are big windows on one side so the library will have plenty of daylight.

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Your input is important and appreciated—Deadline for the Winter 2018 issue is December 15, 2017.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and meetings.

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota 1185 N. Concord Street
South St. Paul, MN 55075
763-445-0090

Visit us on the web at www.pgsmn.org

Please note that on 11/01/17—we're on the move and will be at 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Plus there will be outside signage so people will see the words "Minnesota Genealogical Center" as they drive by the building. Hopefully that will encourage people to check us out and join in this hobby we all enjoy.

The second announcement is about PGS_MN upcoming meetings. Our October 7th members' meeting will be our last at the Concord Street, South St. Paul location. This meeting will feature PGS-MN member Nancy Gagner doing a presentation on America's Polonia. Nancy will share lots of information, travel stories, and photos of the many Polonia areas in America she has personally visited such as Panna Maria, Texas and others across the country.

Being uncertain if the new MGS location would be ready in time for meetings, we rescheduled our regular November members' meeting in day, time, and location. Please mark your calendar the November meeting will be on:

Saturday, November 18, 2017
Noon to 2:00 p.m.
Dakota County Wescott Library
1340 Westscott Road
Eagan, MN 55123



PGS-MN member Allan Woitaszewski is the presenter at the November 18th meeting. Allan will share a military family history story. The story will describe Allan's efforts to find out about his great uncle Martin Roy who was killed in 1918 in Europe fighting in WWI but his body wasn't returned to the U.S. until 1921. Sounds like an interesting military history story. I hope you will join us.

After the meeting, we could do a "caravan field trip" about four miles north and check out the new Minnesota Genealogy Center if anyone is interested.

Finally, the third announcement is about the PGS-MN by-laws/constitution. The bylaws of PGS-MN define the operations of our organization as well as duties of the Board of Directors. It has been more than ten years since our organization has reviewed this operating document. Vice president, Paula Colwell and the Bylaws Committee are currently updating and revising the bylaws.

The revisions will be finalized and available for approval by the Board of Directors by November 1, 2017. The proposed revised bylaws will then be placed on the PGS-MN website for review by the PGS-MN membership. If you do not have access to our website, www.pgsmn.org, you may request a copy of the proposed revised bylaws be sent to you via U.S. mail by contacting me at 763-445-0090. Please leave your name and address if you reach voice mail. This announcement in this newsletter serves as previous notice that a motion to adopt the revision of the bylaws will be introduced at the Annual Meeting on January 14, 2018. The revisions will be discussed and a vote on the motion will be conducted that day.

Thank you. I hope to see many of you at the upcoming meetings or at the new MGS library this fall.

Peggy Larson

PGSMN Officers/Board of Directors

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

***A branch of the
Minnesota Genealogical Society***
**1185 North Concord Street, #218
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www.pgsmn.org

Committees

Library—Bob Kraska
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Membership—Dori Marszalek & Mary Johnson

Newsletter/Website —Marie Przyński

Programs/Publicity—

Research—John Rys
(jlr55@john.rys.name) &
Greg Kishel(gfk1@cornell.edu)

Address/email changes or membership questions? Contact Dori Marszalek, Membership Chair, 3901-61st AV N, Brooklyn Center, MN 55419-2403 or email dorim@comcast.net

Just a friendly reminder - don't forget to renew your PGS-MN membership. You don't want to miss out on the Quarterly Newsletter. PGSMN continues to produce our four excellent newsletters each year and offer social activities at the Annual Meeting, the Twin Cities' Polish Festival and general meetings throughout the year.

If you have meant to renew but just haven't, simply go to the website **www.pgsmn.org**, and print out the membership form, or fill out the enclosed form in this newsletter and mail to the address listed.

PGSMN membership dues have been maintained at \$20 per year—Your membership support allows for the quarterly newsletter, and general operating expenses. We look forward to hearing from you soon. If you're available, please join us at a monthly meeting and take in the great presentation offered.

Contact Dori Marszalek, Membership Chair for additional information.

Free Genealogy Books — on The Internet Archive

The following is excerpted from an article by [Dick Eastman](#) · [December 13, 2016](#)

The Internet Archive, also known as “The Wayback Machine,” is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that was founded to build an Internet library. Its purposes include offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format.

The Internet Archive is well known for storing terabytes of old web pages. However, the organization has also expanded its role to digitize and store all sorts of public domain material, including old books, movies, audio recordings, radio shows, and more. (There are) a few modern books on The Internet Archive that were legally contributed by the copyright holders themselves.

The site’s Text Archive contains a wide range of fiction, popular books, children’s books, historical texts and academic books. The list includes genealogy books as well. The Internet Archive is working with several sponsoring libraries to digitize the contents of their holdings. In addition, private individuals are invited to scan the public domain books in their personal libraries and upload them as well. (See <http://www.archive.org/about/faqs.php#195> for information about contributing your books.)

The result is a huge resource of books in TXT, PDF, and other formats, books that you can download to your computer, save, and then search for any word. The same books are also visible to Google and other search engines, including online every-word searches.

“Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more. ”

The Internet Archive does not yet have all the genealogy books ever published. In fact, nobody seems to know how many genealogy books are available this way. Even the folks at The Internet Archive don’t know. They simply scan everything they can find and don’t worry much about classifying the topics. However, it is known that the Archive’s ever-expanding collection of genealogy resources includes items from the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Robarts Library at the University of Toronto; the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Library; Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah; the National Library of Scotland; the Indianapolis City Library’s Indianapolis City Directory and Yearbooks Collection; The Leo Baeck Institute Archives of German-speaking Jewry Leo Baeck Institute Archives; and the Boston Public Library.

Resources include among many things books on surname origins, vital statistics, parish records, census records, passenger lists of vessels, and other historical and biographical documents, as well as individual volumes contributed by thousands of users from around the world. Most of the genealogy books are published in English but there are numerous exceptions.

The Internet Archive also has scanned and digitized the U.S. Census records from 1790 through 1930. Unlike the commercial providers of census data, the versions provided by The Internet Archive have not been indexed. They are useful only if you already know where to look for your ancestors. Small towns can easily be searched one page at a time while cities probably are best searched if you already know the enumeration districts involved.

Also unlike the commercial providers of census data, the census information on The Internet Archive is available free of charge to everyone. However, the Internet Archive version has not been indexed.

In fact, **everything on The Internet Archive is free**. There is never a charge for anything on The Internet Archive. As a non-profit, however, the organization does accept donations which are tax-free to Americans.

The Internet Archive isn't perfect, but it does provide a great resource for genealogists, historians, and others. If you are looking for information about your family tree, I'd suggest that you check out The Internet Archive at <http://www.archive.org>. You can read about the Internet Archive's genealogy collection at <https://archive.org/details/genealogy>.

For the complete article by George Eastman, see <https://blog.eogn.com/2016/12/13/free-genealogy-books-on-the-internet-archive/>

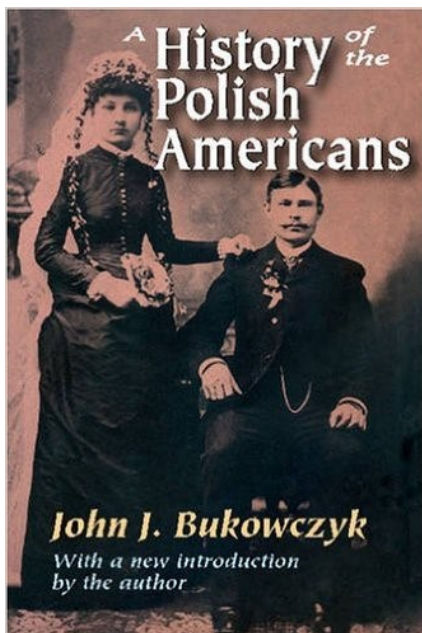
Internet Archive genealogy section see <https://archive.org/>

Did you know -

PGSMN has volunteer staffing at the MGS Library on the first Saturday of the month from 1:00 - 4:00 pm and "Polish Night at the Library" on the 2nd Thursday of the month with expert genealogical resources available from 6:00—9:00 pm

A History of the Polish Americans

By John J. Bukowczyk



In the last, rootless decade families, neighborhoods, and communities have disintegrated in the face of gripping social, economic, and technological changes. This process has had mixed results. On the positive side, it has produced a mobile, volatile, and dynamic society in the United States that is perhaps more open, just, and creative than ever before. On the negative side, it has dissolved the glue that bound our society together and has destroyed many of the myths, symbols, values, and beliefs that provided social direction and purpose. In *A History of the Polish Americans*, John J. Bukowczyk provides a thorough account of the Polish experience in America and how some cultural bonds loosened, as well as the ways in which others persisted.

Book Review by Paula Colwell

The Saga of the Kashub People in Poland, Canada, and USA
by Aloysius J. Rekowski

I have learned from researching my family that I am 100% Kashubian, so I was very excited to discover a book that is entirely about Kashubians!

The author, Aloysius Rekowski, was a Catholic priest from Wilno, Canada who spent much of his life researching the Kashubians in Poland and where they emigrated to in Canada and the United States. While the book was published in 1997, the information is timeless. Father Rekowski traveled to Minnesota and Wisconsin several times and while we have all been tracing our own specific ancestors' footsteps, he has captured the collective story of where Kashubians came from and where they settled. Unfortunately, Father Rekowski died in 2006 at the age of 84 -he would have been a wonderful speaker at one of our membership meetings!

The book is divided into logical chapters, starting with the origin of the Kashubian people in Poland and an overview of the history of the border changes. It also discusses reasons for emigration and how they traveled. If you are more interested in a specific time period and/or location, it is easy to skip around due to the detailed outline of the chapters.

Because Father Rekowski lived in Wilno, Canada most of his life, he focused on the Kashubians in Canada with much detail. However, he also outlined details of the locations in the United States where Kashubians settled, including Wisconsin (Steven's Point, Polonia, Rosholt, Pine Creek), Minnesota (Winona, Perham, Little Falls, Greenbush), North Dakota and Montana.

Father Rekowski studied names listed in churches, cemeteries, and phone books as he traveled. From this information, he did a comparative analysis of the Kashubian names in Poland, Canada and the United States. He even compared variations in the spelling of names. It was interesting for me to see so many last names that are in my own family as well as the last names of my high school classmates (who I did not know were Polish!). It also made me realize that it is possible I have ancestors who settled in Canada- another project to put on my list!

I highly recommend this book to anyone with Kashubian ancestry as it provides an interesting view of Kashubian life that is easy to read and is based on many years of practical research by Father Rekowski.

I obtained the book from the Wilno Heritage Society in Ontario, Canada as I couldn't find it in the U.S. Their email address is heritage@wilno.org and I received a quick response to my request for the book.



PGSMN IS ON THE MOVE

We are moving along with the MN Genealogical Society into their new home. The move will be on 11/01/17, and we'll be located at 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Please note that the PGSMN November meeting will be held nearby at the Dakota County Wescott Library—see info page 2.

Genetic Genealogy and its Role in Genealogy Research

Genetic genealogy is the use of DNA testing in combination with traditional genealogical and historical records. Genetic genealogy involves the use of genealogical DNA testing together with documentary evidence to infer the relationship between individuals.

Genealogical DNA testing first became available on a commercial basis in the year 2000 with the launch of Family Tree DNA and Oxford Ancestors. Since then other companies have been established, dozens of relevant academic papers have been published, and thousands of private test results organized by surname study groups have been made available on the internet. The comparison of results may be complicated by the fact that some laboratories use different markers and report the results in different ways. By 2007 annual sales of genetic genealogy tests for all companies, including the laboratories that support them, were estimated to be in the region of US \$60 million. By January 2013 it was estimated that around two and a half million people around the world had paid for a consumer genomics test, with the majority of participants testing for genealogical purposes.

Genetic genealogy is also concerned with phylogenetic analysis. The phylogenetic tree of Y-chromosomal haplogroups, popularly known as the Y-DNA haplogroup tree, is maintained by a volunteer team of researchers from the International Society of Genetic Genealogy. The phylogenetic tree of global human mitochondrial DNA variation, known as the mtDNA tree, is maintained by Mannis Van Oven and is published on the Phylotree website. Knowledge of one's placement on the Y-DNA or mtDNA tree can extend the genealogy of the patrilineal or matrilineal line beyond the traditional paper trail, and it is sometimes possible to make inferences about the geographical origin of the patrilineal or matrilineal line ancestor.

The three main types of DNA test (Y-DNA, mtDNA and autosomal DNA) are explained in this video presentation entitled *DNA - Brick Wall Buster?* by Maurice Gleeson which was the subject of the Irish Genealogical Research Society's Spring Lecture presented at the National Library of Ireland in Dublin on 19th March 2013.

<https://youtu.be/Zj5ORgZhirM>

Benefits

Genetic genealogy gives genealogists a means to check or supplement their genealogy results with information obtained via DNA testing. A positive test match with another individual may:

- verify existing research
- establish that two surname variants are related
- provide locations for further genealogical research
- help determine the ancestral homeland
- discover living relatives
- confirm or deny suspected connections between families
- Prove or disprove theories regarding ancestry

Drawbacks

People who resist testing may cite one of the following concerns:

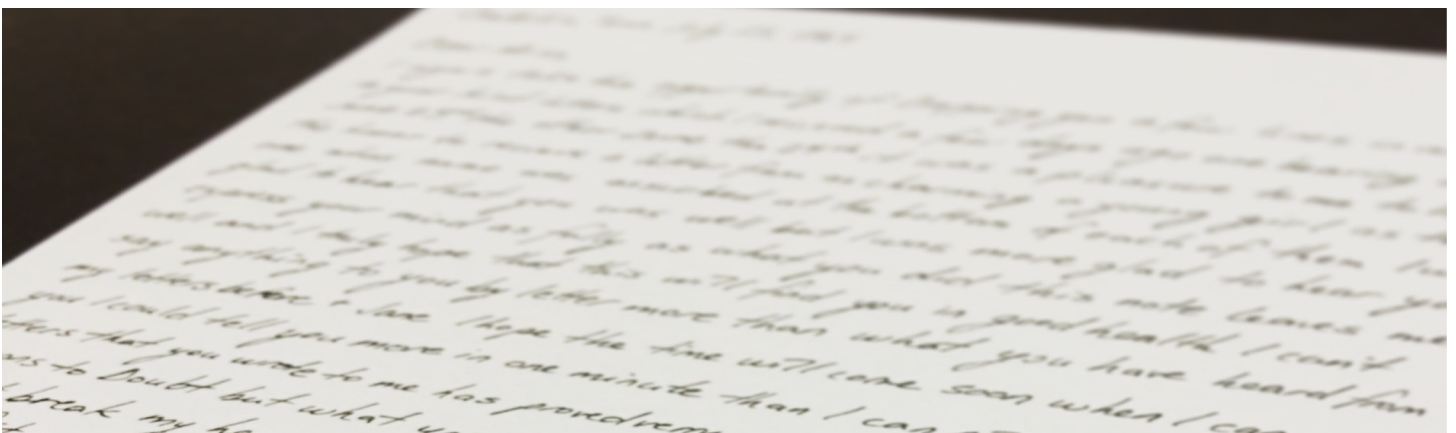
- Cost
- Quality of testing
- Concerns over privacy issues
- Loss of ethnic identity

Finally, Y-DNA and mtDNA tests each only trace a single lineage (one's father's father's father's etc. lineage or one's mother's mother's mother's etc. lineage). At ten generations back, an individual has up to 1024 unique ancestors (fewer if ancestor cousins interbred) and a Y-DNA or mtDNA test is only studying one of those ancestors, as well as their descendants and siblings (same sexed siblings for Y-DNA or all siblings for mtDNA). However, most genealogists maintain contact with many cousins (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., with different surnames) whose Y-DNA and mtDNA are different, and thus can be encouraged to be tested to find additional ancestral DNA lineages

Free website on genetic genealogy is available

The International Society of Genetic Genealogy has a mission to educate others about the use of genetics in genealogy. This society is a non-commercial non-profit organization. There are NO dues or fees to join, it is entirely self-supporting by its members. Learn more about Genetic genealogy, Genealogical DNA testing myths, Success Stories, A Beginnings Guide of Resources, and the ISOGG Glossary. See <http://isogg.org/> for further information.

How can one ancestor be so much trouble!



Research your family history with MN Historical Society

Learn tips and tricks for preserving your family's letters and stories in a **Family Letters Workshop** with Nancy O'Brien Wagner, **Tue., Oct. 17, 6:30—8:00 pm**, at the Minnesota History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN. New to family research? Take the free class **I'm New Here: Introducing the Library**, offered every Saturday at the Gale Family Library at the History Center. Cost—\$20/\$16 for members. See <http://www.mnhs.org/event/4253>



Cooking with Kora

Learn to cook tasty authentic Polish favorites for your family table. Tried and true recipes taught by Kora Korczak at the Good Acre kitchens, 1790 Larpenteur Av, Falcon Heights, MN.

5 Class sessions - Thursdays 7-9 pm— Limited to 18 students per session

Bigos (Hunters Stew), Pierogi (Stuffed dumplings), Zupa Grzybowa (Mushroom soup), Golabki (cabbage rolls), and final session with Surprise Polish Meal

Cost: PACIM Members - \$30 per session / \$135.00 for all five sessions
Non Members - \$40 per session / \$185.00 for all five sessions

Schedule and Registration online at www.pacim.org

**Tenth Annual
North Star Conference
Family History Crossroads
6-7 October 2017
Earle Brown Heritage Center
Brooklyn Center, MN**



See www.MNGS.org for additional information.

**2017 Family History Fair
October 28, 2017 - 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Minneapolis Central Public Library**

Connect with experts, attend presentations and start your research with library resources.

Reservation to Free event—<https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/events/59849257daf2d42400e4e86d>

Additional Information—please contact HCPL Minneapolis Central at 612-543-KNOW (5669)

Grazyna Kita Bombelczyk - Article by Terry Kita 06/15/2017

I first met Grazyna Kita Bombelczyk and her family in 1994, in Lubasz, Poznan, Poland, while I was volunteering at a UNESCO English language camp in Torun, Poland. I had taken a train, then a bus, from Torun on a weekend, then bicycled to Lubasz with a high school student, Derek, to search for relatives of my great grandparents.

Valentine Kita and Magdalena Szmit were born near Lubasz, and immigrated to Door County, Wisconsin in 1881, along with many other Poles from this same area. Others from this area immigrated to the Stevens Point, Wisconsin area. After walking through both cemeteries, I went to the church in Lubasz, where the pastor told me that there were no Kita families in his parish. The assistant priest came with a parish register showing that there was Kita family in Sokolowa, about 10 km away. While we decided whether to continue my search, Derek was told by the restaurant owner that there was a Kita who lived in Lubasz.

We bicycled to her home, met Grazyna & her family, and I agreed to visit the following weekend, to meet other relatives. Her daughter Miraslawa (Mirka) spoke English well. Grazyna and her husband Kazimierz, had two children and she had a brother in Poznan. I visited the following weekend, and spent an evening with some of her cousins, trying to determine how we might be related, but to no avail. We left it as "distant" cousins

I visited Lubasz again in 2001, with my wife & daughter, while attending the wedding of our first exchange student. We stayed for just one day, to introduce ourselves and possibly meet more cousins. Both of Grazyna's children were married, and she was a grandmother. I learned nothing more about our relationship in that brief time together.

In preparation for my planned visit to Poland in 2017, I asked Grazyna to send me any family information or records that she had. She sent a family tree of sorts early in 2017, which included many KIta generations, from the early 1800s to the present. My research had uncovered Kita family baptism, death and marriage records for the Lubasz area from the early 1700s. I hoped to find our most recent common ancestral parents, to determine our relationship. She also included a certificate of death for Wojciech (Adalbert) Kita, who would have been born in 1834, to parents listed on the certificate as Thomas Kita and Helena _____. Wojciech was Grazyna's great grandfather. I was unable find Wojciech (Adalbert) Kita, born in 1834, to those parents, in my records, so I ordered LDS Roman Catholic (RC) Church films for Lubasz and then 5 or 6 from the surrounding areas, to determine his birth and/or marriage. I was unable to find the birth of Wojciech to Thomas & Helena, and in fact no record of a marriage between them. I also tried the Poznan Marriage Project, with no success. I decided to visit the Poznan RC Archives while visiting Mirka & her family.

She and her family live in Rokietnica, Poland, about 20km from Poznan. I drove from Prague on May 29th, and stayed at their home for 3 nights. Mirka works in Human Resources, Piotr is a trombonist for the Poznan Opera Co, and teaches music, and they have daughters Alicja, 14, & Johanna, 10.

I went with Piotr, and Alicja to Poznan on the next day, to visit the Archives, as well as to visit the city and the Opera. In exchange for being allowed to miss a day of school, Alicja was to write a report, in English, of our visit. At the Archives we met an attendant who suggested a microfilm which I had used previously, for earlier research. As soon as I saw it, I told her I had used it several times, without success. I showed her the death certificate for Wojciech Kita. She talked to a colleague, and returned with the Book of Deaths for Lubasz, the original record book, beginning in 1834 (Sepulchrum Liber). It was so fragile that white gloves were required for users. We found the death record for Wojciech Kita, who had died December 2, 1913, in Sokolowa, age 79 years & 7 months.

Upon close scrutiny by myself, the attendant and another colleague, we agreed that the parents were in fact Thomas Kita and VICTORIA, not Helena. The script handwritten name was difficult to ascertain but clear to us. I was not allowed to copy this page because of its condition, but transcribed the information. Victoria's surname was not shown. Next the attendant obtained the Book of Marriages (Liber Copulatorum) for the period of Wojciech's birth, for Lubasz. Again a fragile register, the original record book.

Upon examination the marriage of Thomas Kita and Victoria Geremek, October 13, 1832, was shown. It listed Thomas' parents as Mathias Kita and Regina, which I had previously determined from researching LDS films. The parents of Victoria were Mathias Geremek and Marianna Wyrebelski. Again no copy was allowed but I would be able to get the LDS film if I wished. From this information and my research records, I determined that Grazyna and I had the same GR GR GR grandparents, Mathias Kita and Regina Jaskola, from Slawno, Poznan. This makes us 4th cousins, and our children and grandchildren correspondingly 5th & 6th cousins.

The next day we visited Grazyna and her family in Lubasz. Her son Radislawa and wife Lucinda Kita Bombelczyk have daughters, Jagoda and Angelica, and son Patrick. After a meal and discussion about our discovered "cousinhood", Grazyna, Radislawa, Mirka and I drove to nearby villages of Slawno, Prusinowa, and Bzowo, to look for manor houses, and for the church in which Valentine Kita and Magdalena Szmit were married, in Polajewo. At the time of Valentine's birth, peasants such as he and his family lived in villages owned by wealthy landowners, who owned the villages, land, and large communal farms, and lived in quite sumptuous manor houses/palaces. Radislawa knew the location of many of them, and has worked on some. He knew the caretaker in Slawno (the village of my GR GR GR grandparents Mathias & Regina). The lower level has been returned to its original décor; it is privately owned; while the second floor is to be repaired. Next we drove to Polajewo, to see the two churches, one in use the other abandoned. I will try to determine which was in use for the marriage of Valentine and Magdalena. Next to nearby Prusinowa, to uncover the abandoned and derelict manor home, which appears to be owned by a nearby farmer-Radislaw had done some work on this.

Finally we found the manor house of Bzowo (Bzowo was the village of Mathias and Michalina Furman, the parents of Valentine Kita). This house is in excellent condition, and is being used as apartments for several families. The manor house in Lubasz is used as a hostel. Each manor house is surrounded by forested grounds, and has a nearby large communal barn.

After our hurried drive around the Lubasz area, we had a light supper while we talked about what we had learned. Grazyna was very pleased to learn how we were related, and Radislawa was very pleased with uncovering each manor house and church. It was a voyage of discovery of sorts for each of us. Mirka and I returned to her home, and the next day I continued my plan to visit each of our past four foreign students-next was to be Petra, in Ostrava, Czech, Republic

P.S. After I had located the places of birth for each of my great grandparents, I decided to visit each, to look for relatives, and try to determine what my life might have been if my great grandparents had not immigrated to America. I have visited Lubasz, Poland, Ottersum, Netherlands, Beuzeville, France, Hysov, Czech Republic, Haselmuehle & Arnschwang, Bavaria and have found cousins in each, and have found that my family and lifestyle are not unlike those of my distant cousins

			DOB	POB	Religion	
b33	1201043/76	9/14/24	Kita	Francisca	Thomas	Francisca
			wtns	Rataszarak		Slawno
b34	1201043/76	2/6/24	Kita	Mathias *	Mathias	Regina Jas
			wtns	Peter Jaskola		Slawno
b35	1201043/76	1824	Kita	Marianna	Joseph	Catharina J*
			wtns	Thomas Jaskola		Bzowo
b36	1201043/98	1825-182	Kita	Laurentius	Jacob	Catharina
			wtns	1824	Margarita	Regina
b37	1201043/122	1824	Kita	Furman		Stajkowo
b38	1201043/122	1826	Kita	Angela	Francis	Marianne J
			wtns	Adalbert	Joseph	Catherine
b39	1201043/139	1827	Kita	Joannes Jaskola		Bzowo
b40	1201043/139	1830	Kita	Ignatius	Jacob	Catharine
			wtns	Kita	Thomas	Stajkowo
b41	1201043/298	1830	Kita	Marianna	Frances	Marianne
			wtns	Kita	Peter	Stajkowo
b42	1201043/298	1831	Kita	Magdalena	Peter *	Marianne
			witness	Catharine		Stajkowo
b42A	1201043/298	1831	Kita	Martin		Stajkowo
b42B	1201043/298	1831	Kita	Joseph		Stajkowo
b43	1201043/334	1832	Kita	Anton	Jacob	Catharine
b44	1201043/334	1832	Kita	Joanna	Regina	Stajkowo
b45	1201043/360	1833	Kita	Andreas	Francis	Marianna
			wtns	Marianna	(virgin) wtns	Slawno
b46	1201043/360	1833	Kita	Marianna	Peter	Marianna
b47	1201043/38	1834	Kita	Martin	Thomas	Victoria
b48	1201043/60	1834	Kita	Marianna	Joannis	Regina
b49	1201043/60	1835	Kita	Joannis	Jacob	Catharine
b50	1201043/60	1836	Kita	Antonia	Thomas	Victoria
b51	1201043/84	1837	Kita	Joseph	Francis	Marianne
b52	1201043/84	1837	Kita	Andreas	Joannis	Regina
b53	1201043/108	1838	Kita	Laurentius	Peter	Magdalena
b54	1201043/108	1838	Kita	Marianna	Michael	Magdalena
b55	1201043/108	1839	Kita	Adalbert	Thomas	Victoria
b56	1201043/136	1839	Kita	Michael	Jacob	Catharine
b57	1201043/136	1839	Kita	Martin	Joannis	Regina
b58	1201043/165	1840	Kita	Martin	Michael	Magdalena
b59	1201043/165	1840	Kita	Simon	Francis	Marianne

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Lubasz, Poland, 1834-1835

(Testimonium mortis)

1. Rok i numer księgi zmarłych (Annus et numerus libri mortuorum) 1913/149

2. Imię i nazwisko (Nomen, cognomen) Wojciechus Kita

3. Wiek (Aetas) 79 lat i 7 miesięcy (aetas 79 annos, 7 menses)

4. Imię i nazwisko rodziców (Nomen, cognomen parentum) Thomas Kita, (Helena) (Bonda) (Lange) ?

5. Miejsce i data zgonu (Locus et dies mortis) Sokolowo, 2 December 1913 v. Hora 8:30

6. Miejsce i data pogrzebu (Locus et dies sepulturae) Lubasz, 5 December 1913 v.

Łódź, dnia 30.07.1915.

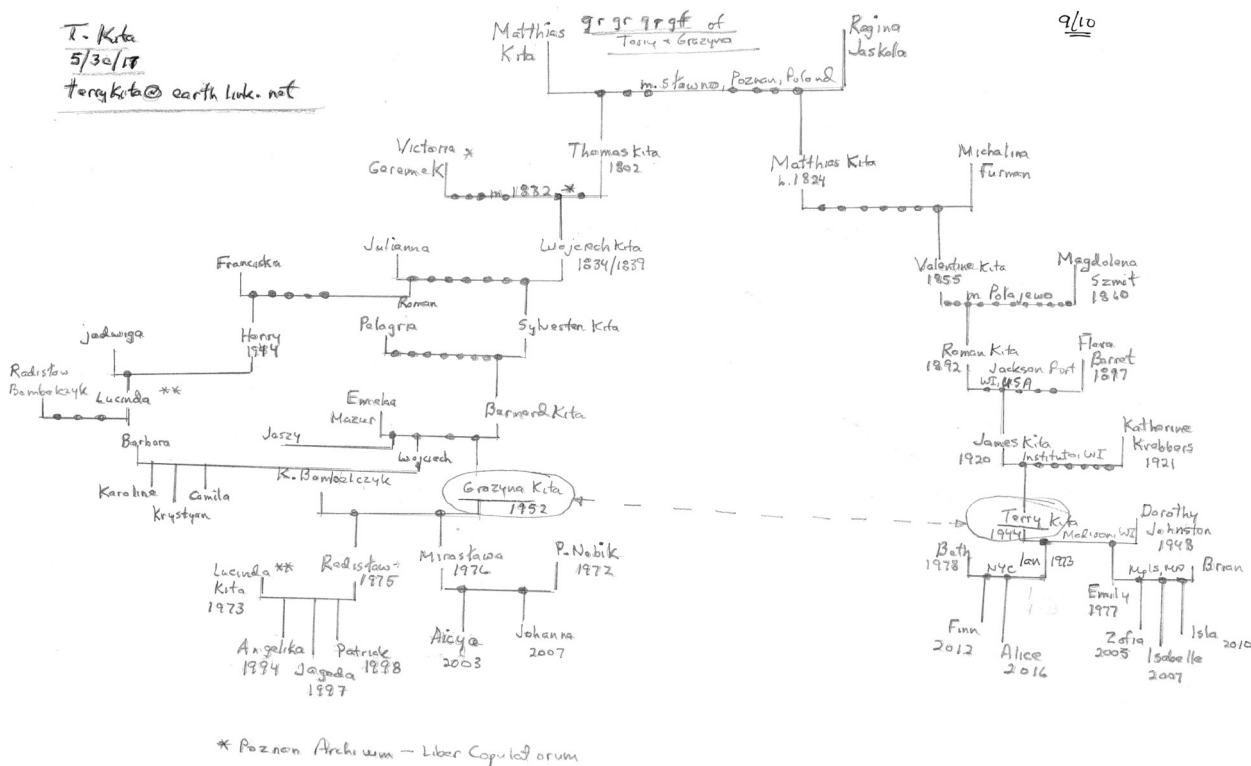
Zakład Poligraf. K&W, Zam. 372, 5000.

Death Record Wojciech (Albert) Kita, born May 1834
parents Thomas Kita + Helena (from Grzywa family married in 1834)

Poznan Marriage Record:
Polajawa (Chorabki) Gildonow 1872
Albert Kita 27 ✓ 1872-1874 = 28
Juliana Bielec 21
Polajawa 1867
Albert Kita 28
Juliana Bielec 23

Book 1825 Thomas Kitawicz 28
Helena Lashawicz 29

2/12/1913
79, 72, 71
to Adalbert b (1839)
to T. b
1813 12
79 7
1834 5
marriage = Sept 1833





PGS-MN at the Twin City Polish Festival 2017 by Dori Marszalek

First of all a Big THANK YOU to all the PGS-MN members that Volunteered at the tent this year. We couldn't have done it without you.

What a great time we had at the 2017 Twin Cities Polish Festival. The weather was perfect.

We set up Friday and opened the tent at 5:00pm and stayed opened until 8:00pm. We signed up 5 new members on Friday.

Saturday was another beautiful day. The booth was very busy and by the end of the day we signed up another 6 members, sold 6 books and 14 of our PGS-MN Can Koolies.

Sunday was our biggest day and the booth was crazy busy. By the end of the day we signed up 8 new members, sold 7 books and 6 Can Koolies.

All in all this year's participation in the Twin Cities Polish Festival was a Huge success bringing in 18 new members at the festival.

Thanks Again for all the wonderful volunteers.



Can Koolies are still available — If interested contact Dori Marzalek at 763-535-2296 or dorim@comcast.net for additional details.

"I had a great time volunteering at the Polish Festival. It was exciting to talk to so many people who are interested in knowing more about their ancestors. I also enjoyed working with such enthusiastic volunteers and meeting others who are part of the organization. Thanks for the opportunity to work at the festival."

Member Susanne Langworthy



"It was good to see you and other members who volunteered at the Polish Festival this year. I worked on Sunday afternoon and was surprised by all the visitors to the booth. It's good to see so many people that are searching for their roots. I thought we had the perfect combination of help at the booth – Sign ups for new members; name search in Poland areas and the Church records for those looking for marriage and baptism records; oh, and also books and pamphlets to help with family tree searches, the "How tos". Of course, I got to enjoy some polish foods – I really enjoyed a Kielbasa with Kraut – Yum-m-m!"

I have marked my calendar for next year's Festival."

Member Don Jurek

I only worked on Saturday, but it was a blast. I love getting there early, before the gates even open. Everyone is scurrying around making final arrangements AND you can buy a puncki donut without a line. Our tent starts to fill as soon as the gates open at 10am. This year we had a super method for action: people would line up with Dori and company to get the membership discussion and look at books. Then they would make their way to surname and church records tables. That way no one left without know about the organization and we had shorter lines for service. The weather was excellent- not too hot. Plenty of friendly faces. Every year I think we must have answered everyone's questions, and yet we get a whole new crop of people with questions! I could hardly use my voice Sunday- but it was all worth it. Fun for everyone.

Former PGS-MN President Jay Biedny



Mark your calendars—

Twin Cities Polish Festival 2018

August 10-12 2018

The Twin Cities Polish Festival would like to thank everyone for making the 2017 Twin Cities Polish Festival a success and a special thanks for all who made a donation online and at the festival to help keep it a free festival. See you next year!



News Release from Family Search

Additional Records have been added an existing collection in the [Poland, Lublin Roman Catholic Church Books, 1784-1964](#)

[FamilySearch](#) is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources for free at [FamilySearch.org](#) or through more than 4,921 family history centers in 129 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Smaczne Jabłka (Tasty Apple Festival) – Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, 12—4 pm

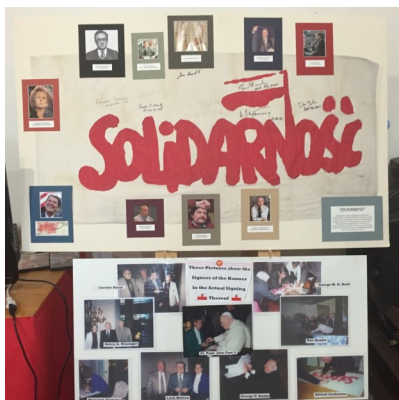
Located at the Polish Cultural Institute, 102 Liberty Street, Winona, MN

Activities for the entire family. Greeters in authentic Polish folk costumes, live music including a polka band, international dancers from Winona to perform Polish folk dances at 2:00, wagon rides for the children, face painting, pumpkin painting, Polish cartoons on TV, Polish sheep dog. Food menu: pierogi, gołąbki (cabbage rolls) kielbasa, grits and baloney, Polish rye bread, poppy seed coffee cake, pączki (jelly-filled donuts) and all things apple – apple pie, apple crisp, apple juice, fresh apples, Polish beer, Craft fair of local artisans, silent auction and more.

Museum gift shop will be open featuring our latest shipment of authentic Polish pottery

Kashubian Polish Museum of Winona Virtual Exhibitions

The Polish Institute & Museum of Winona has placed a number of their exhibits on a webpage for your viewing pleasure. Exhibits include a collection of Polish Sheet Music, Solidarnosc, a Bridal Exhibit, even an unusual library collection of Polish books covering the written inheritance and history of 6000 Kashubian Polish immigrants to Winona, and more. The various exhibits can be viewed at www.kashubwinona.com



Szukam cię —I'm looking for you

Missing Branches July—September 2017

Attention new and renewing members: Please type your family names and locations or print clearly in block letters to avoid confusions. We do our best to type the names and locations. Unfortunately some handwriting is difficult to discern correctly.



New and Rejoining Members:

Capitola, Robert, 5204 Deerfield LN SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372, robertcapitola47@gmail.com, Researching: **KAPITOLA** of Galicia, settling in Minnesota; **WASECK** of Poland, settling in Minnesota.

Detzler, Wayne, 4413 Aquila Ave N, New Hope, MN 55428, wedetzler@yahoo.com, Researching: **STACHOWSKI** settling in Minnesota.

Dougherty, Mark, 1423 Gardena Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432, mark.dougherty@totinograce.org, Researching: **GRONOWSKI**, **KUARA/KUJAWA** of Poznan, settling in Owatonna, MN.

Hales, Allison, 15118 Brookview DR, Urbandale, IA, 50323, Researching: **KUCZYNSKI/KUTSCHINSKI** of Bischofswerder Kreis Rosenberg, settling in Crawford County, Iowa; **BAUMGART** of Freystadt Kreis Rosenberg, settling in Crawford County, Iowa; **JAHN** of Nev Stefflin, settling in Crawford County, Iowa.

Kocik, Tracy, 525 Dogwood Ave NW, St. Michael, MN 55376, kocikt@yahoo.com, Researching: **KOIK, KOWALSKI, JESSICKI**.

Kraska, Joseph, 11035 41st Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55441, krask003@tc.umn.edu, Researching: **KRASKA** of Poland, settling in Minnesota.

Kropski, Ryan, 117 12th Ave NW, New Brighton, MN 55112, krop9@msn.com, Researching: **KROPSKI** settling in Buffalo, MN.

Micek, Rick, 1821 5th ST S, South St. Paul, MN 55075, rrm651@comcast.net, Researching: **SANDEROWSKA**.

Nielsen, Ashley, 6125 Chasewood Pkwy, Apt 118, Hopkins, MN 55343, spintiger1@gmail.com, Researching: **EDWARD AND HELEN PULAK** of Warsaw, Poland, settling in Brainerd, MN; **ROCB MALESK** settling in Brainerd, MN.

Pitra, Tom, 16464 76th PL N, Maple Grove, MN 55311, pitra@comcast.net, Researching: **PITRA, HUDY, PIETRASZKO** of Poland, settling in Minnesota.

Piwoschuk, Joe, 5140 St. Moritz Dr, Columbia Heights, MN 55421, pwjpp55@msn.com, Researching **BIEGALSKI, PIWOSCHUK** of Poland.

Poterucha Carter, Jeannie, 1524 11th Ave NE, Rochester, MN 55906, poterucha.jeanne@mayo.edu, Researching: **POTERUCHA, GDOWSKI, ZYCH** of Poland, settling in Chicago, IL.

Raleigh, Deb, 2737 Lake Elmo Ave N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042, debraleigh@lakeelmobank.com, Researching: **CHLEBECK/CHLEBEK**.

Rogan, Pete, 4780 Hamilton RD, Minnetonka, MN 55345, rogan.pete@gmail.com, Researching: **TOMASZEWSKI** of Czekai, Poland, settling in Chicago, IL; **WYGONIK** of Dębowiec, Poland, settling in Chicago, IL; **WYBRANIEC** of Luszowiec, Poland, settling in Chicago, IL.

Rozeck, David, 1854 Grand Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105, dave@customcontractingmn.com, Researching: **ROZEK, DBAZKOWSKI** of Poland, settling in Winona, MN.

Runnakko, Margaret, 10440 49th Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55442, mrurnakko@gmail.com, Researching: **POLENIK** of Radawa and Cetula, Poland, settling in Chisholm and Bear River, MN; **SHYMUS, LUDWICK, LODOVICA** of Cetula, Poland, settling in Chisholm, MN.

Stanek, John, 1465 West 33rd St, Apt 109, Minneapolis, MN 55408, jstanek@visi.com, Researching: **STANEK** of Krakow, Poland, settling in Minnesota.

Stonina, Darrell, 1321 45th Ave NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421, stnd05@mac.com, Researching: **STONINA** of Poland.

Wajda, Larry, 1417 – 27th Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418, larrywajda@aol.com, Researching: **WAJDA, RABSKA** of Poland, Settling in Minneapolis, MN.

White, Robert and Janet (Pinewski), 8948 Northwood Pkwy, New Hope, MN 55427, rwwhite57@comcast.net, Researching: **PINEWSKI** of Klecko, settling in Buffalo, NY and Minneapolis, MN; **GRUGEL** of Cekayn; **SOBCZAK** of Klecko, **OLSZEWSKI** settling in Wisconsin.

Ziskovsky, Betty, 4800 Kent St, Shoreview, MN 55126, betty.ziskovsky@msn.com, Researching: **GALONSKA/GALAZEK** settling in Omaha, NE and Chicago, IL, **KRUPSKI** of Kolaczyce and Zurano, Poland, settling in Omaha, NE.

Renewing Members:

Ebertowski, James, 5631 Teterling CT, Chester, VA, 23831, jsluggo@aol.com, Researching: **EBERTOWSKI** of Lag, Czersk, settling in Winona, MN and Warsaw, ND; **STOLTMAN** of Zapcen, settling in Winona, MN and Warsaw, ND; **DUNAY** of Wiele, Settling in Greenbush, MN and Warsaw, ND; **KASPRICK/KASPRZYK** of Galicia, settling in Warsaw, ND and Boston, MA.

Jowers, Amy, 312 Spring St, Apt 301, Saint Paul, MN 55102, jowersa24@yahoo.com, Researching: **WOLAK** of Galicia settling in Shamokin, PA, Lement, IL, and Gilman, MN; **OCHWAT** settling in Indiana; **KMIOTEK** of Laski, Galicia, Settling in Shamokin, PA, Lemont, IL and Minnesota.

Kiser, Charleen, 22250 Beaumont Way, Farmington, MN 55024, cdkiser10@gmail.com, Researching: **NOGOSEK, KAMPA, LYGA** of Popielow/Popialau, Opole and Schalkowitz, Opolskiego, settling in Trempeleau, Wisconsin.

Kudek, Gerald and Henrietta, 2204-159th LN NW, Andover, MN 55304, jerry0305@netzero.net, Researching: **SKWORA** of Miendzy Beodzie, settling in Minneapolis, MN & South Fork, WI; **COPIJA, SLONKA** of Zadzielie, settling in Minneapolis, MN and South Fork, WI; **BRZEZINSKI** of Krakow, settling in Pennsylvania and South Fork, WI; **KUDUK** settling in Minneapolis, MN and South Fork, WI.

Discovering my Polish Ancestors—Heather Pedersen

After 24 hours of knitting, napping, and movie watching on our flight to Poland, my cousin Rosanne Betley and I landed in Krakow on June 11th. We had two goals for our trip: to experience what life was like for our ancestors in the late 1800s and to find as many genealogical records as we could that were hiding away in the churches and Archives.

My Grandpa [Edmund "Sonny" Wasik] was 100% Polish. We had completed as much research state-side as we could and were finally ready to "jump the pond". Our search included research on his paternal line, the Wasik's [pronounced Von-sheek in Polish] and Kopec's [also spelled Kopacz], and his maternal line, the Piwinski's and Rucki's [also spelled Rudzki]. Lucky for us, all families originated from current day Podkarpackie Voivodeship.

The Wasik's and Kopec's come from the area of Majdan Królewski, about a two-hour drive east of Krakow. Our first stop on the trip was to look through the 'recent' records of 1890-1899 and 1906-1910, kept at the Archives in Sandomierz, located at the old synagogue. The librarian there was extremely helpful and understanding. We found many birth, marriage and death records for family members already on our family tree and took nearly 100 pictures of the records over a day and a half!

The Sandomierz Archives

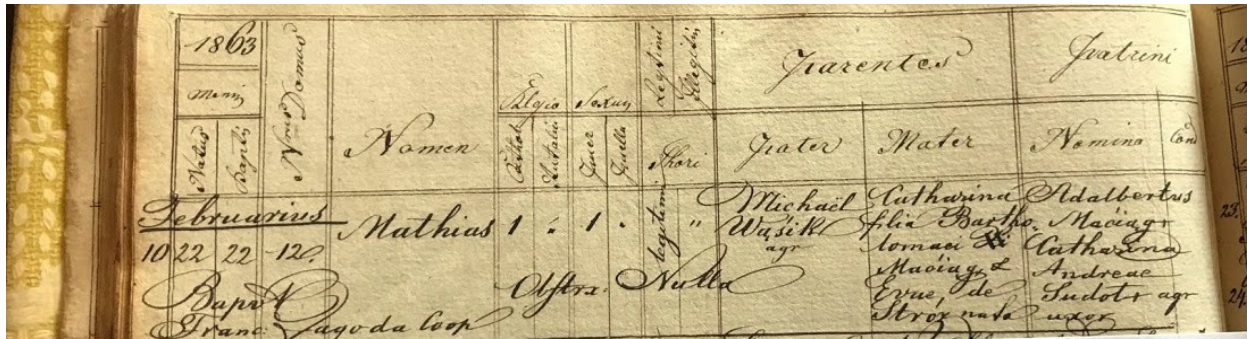


The greatest finds at the Archive were the marriage record of my Great-Great Grandparents Matthew Wasik [Maciej Wasik] and Eva Kopec [Ewa Kopec] in 1890, and the birth records of my Great-Grandfather, Lawrence and his 3 siblings, Mary, Minnie, and Frank. We felt like we won the lottery with these records! But we knew there were more records available and were ready for the history hunt!



We asked the hotel reception to call St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church in Majdan Królewski to set up an appointment for us to search for records from before 1890. This proved to be extremely helpful.

The Priest in Majdan only had 25 minutes to spend with us but was able to help us find our relatives, as he knew to expect us. We arrived with a list of names and approximate dates of births, marriages and deaths for the Wasik family that we had documented based upon our state-side research. While we couldn't look through the Church records ourselves, he found more than half of what we requested, including the birth record of my Great-Great Grandfather Matthew Wasik (see below), plus a few siblings we didn't know existed!



During our time at St. Bartholomew, we were told the records for the neighboring village of Huta Komorowska had been moved to the new church when it was built in 1988. Huta was the village the Kopec's came from and since it was only 1 km away we decided to make the drive.

In Huta, Rosanne and I met the Maintenance person at the Church. After explaining we were only in the area that day, he allowed us complete access to the church records. We were able to view the records ourselves and took another 100 pictures from the 1840s to the 1890s.

Rosanne and I successfully had found countless new Wasik and Kopec records however we still had the Piwinski and Rucki side of the family to uncover.

Our first stop was the village of Trześń, the location of the Church of the Holy Family. Trześń was the parish seat for many of the local villages, including Nadbrzezie, where my Rucki ancestors lived. Here we met Father Mateusz and were pleasantly surprised when he asked in English how he could help us. We explained what we were hoping to find and then he spent almost 3 hours with us tracing the Rucki family back to 1795.

Rosanne and I also took a side trip to Kolbuszowa where we visited the Open-Air Museum [Skansen]. The museum has recreated what life was like in the late 1800s/early 1900s in this part of Poland with original buildings and furniture. They also offered a guided tour in English. The biggest surprise of our trip came from visiting here – our ancestors have their own sub-ethnic group called the Lasowiacy [the people of the forest]!



A typical home in the late 19th Century

Our trip to Poland was coming to an end and we knew we needed to go home and enter all the data into our family tree. While we were not able to get further records on the Piwinski family, Rosanne and I are still going through our hundreds of pictures of church records from the other 3 family lines. There is still more to research and we can't wait to go back!

For more information on my genealogical research on the Wasik, Kopec, Rucki and Piwinski families as well as more information about me, please visit my website:

<https://wasikfamilyhistory.wordpress.com/>

Writing & Publishing your Family History



PGS-MN was excited to have Terri DiCarlo, present a "how-to" produce and write the family narrative and publish it. She provided many helpful ideas and hints, inspiring members to write and preserve an interesting format for non-genealogist descendants.

Requests were received to obtain handouts of the presentation, and Ms. DiCarlo, provided the below handout for members. Enjoy.

***Don't delay use the KISS method ...
Use Poland's history to educate ... to
place your ancestor's lives ... Squeeze
out the facts ... helpful resources and links
for you to use....***

Pass down your knowledge in an interesting way to non-genealogist descendants.

TODAY'S GOALS:

- * Convince you if I can do it, so can you!
- * Show you examples of beautiful heritage books you can create.
- * Give you tips and show you examples from my book, ZMUDA Siblings from Chabowka, Poland.
- * Motivate you to begin writing!

TIP: BEGIN!

- * **Don't delay starting to write the book, just because you think you don't have enough research completed. As you begin to organize, you'll see the gaps for your focus group. You can fill in the blanks with more research as you go along.**

Example of organizing: My working outline, used only to organize what I had already & identify the gaps.

TIP: FOCUS

- * **Establish your focus group at the beginning. Be realistic! For your 1st project, use the KISS method.**

Example: Title of book states my focus group, ZMUDA Siblings from Chabowka, Poland.

Example: 1st page of book lists my focus group with both their Polish & American first names, the years of their birth & deaths.

TIP: AUDIENCE INPUT

- * **As you write, choose a few from your audience (in my case, non-genealogists) to preview & critique your book.**

One result: Found out they wanted a one-page genealogy chart at the beginning of the book to keep track of who's who, like some novels have.

Example: I created my own simple chart to show five generations (115 names) all on one page, using Microsoft Word's option of inserting a 5-column table, one column for each of my focus group's five siblings.

TIP: YOUR CREDIBILITY

- * **Establish your credibility on the dates you use and your research methods, using an Introduction and/or "About the Author"**

Example: "Introduction: My ZMUDA genealogy research" page near the beginning of the book.

Example: "About the author" page at the end of the book.

PLAN: DECISION TIME

- * **SUBJECT:** Who, what, when, where, why? Focus on a manageable size.
- * **AUDIENCE:** Family? Public?
- * **FORMAT:** Book? Series of profiles? Interviews?
- * **DISTRIBUTION:** Written form printed at a copy store? Written form sent to a publisher? Digital form on a thumb drive.
- * **DOCUMENTING SOURCES:** Casual: In line? Formal: Footnotes or Endnotes?
- * **CONSISTENCY:** I chose to always refer to the siblings by their Polish given names (never Louis, Ludovicus, nor "my grandfather," but always as Ludwik) and to always capitalize all surnames.

Example: My chosen method of in line sourcing and name consistency.

PREPARE MEMORABILIA

- * Think about what pictures, documents & stories you want to share for your focus group.
- * Research the history & social history of the time period of the focus group.
- * Set a deadline?

TIP: POLAND'S HISTORY

- * **Use Poland's history to educate your audience & to place your ancestor's lives into the time period.**

Example: "Our Ancestors Were Podhale Gorals."

Example: "Why Did They Leave Their Homeland?" (And show timeline of Poland's history with the siblings' immigration years interspersed.)

TIP: SOCIAL HISTORY

- * **Use Social History to place your ancestor's lives into the time period**
- * **Social History describes the lives of ordinary people, not specifically your ancestors.**
- * **Key Point: You're building a REPRESENTATION of your ancestor's life. It is not the real thing. Draw conclusions after presenting evidence that leads to those conclusions.**

Example: Travel conditions in getting to the port of departure.

Example: Travel conditions in the ship's steerage class.

TIP: SHOW & TELL

- * **When showing records or documents, share the knowledge you've gained as an experienced genealogist.**

Example: Immigration records.

Example: Foreign language documents

TIP: SQUEEZE OUT THE FACTS

- * **BIRTH:** Who were the sponsors? Where is the church? Who was the celebrant? Grandparents listed?
- * **MARRIAGE:** Who was in the wedding party? Who were the witnesses? Where performed?
- * **CENSUS RECORDS:** Occupations? Neighbors? Owning or renting? What was their wealth compared to neighbors?
- * **IMMIGRATION:** Name of the ship? Who was recorded close to them (might be friends or relatives)? Where was their destination? Who were they meeting? How long did the voyage take? Were they detained? If so, why? How much money did they have at the start of the voyage vs. the end of the voyage?
- * **DEATH:** Cause of death? Where? Cemetery gravestone picture?

TIP: THE FAMILY "SECRETS"

- * **As you write, choose a few from your audience (in my case, non-genealogists) to preview your book, so as not to offend with family "secrets" or stories.**

Example: Illegitimate births

Example: Seven-week pregnancy

Example: Losing the farm.

Example: Extreme alcohol use.

PRESENTATION'S EXAMPLES are from the book, *ZMUDA Siblings from Chabowka, Poland*, by Theresa Simeo DiCarlo. An 80-page, hard cover book I wrote using MyPublisher.com's "story telling" option and the "heritage" theme. Bought a Groupon (90 days to complete the book) \$40 for 80 pages with hard cover. Added in s/h plus extra options of lay flat pages and premium paper. Total cost for 1st book was \$67. Bulk order published in March 2017. 70% discount from full price of \$134 for a bulk order (20+ books), so final cost was \$50 each and includes bulk shipping to one location. MyPublisher went out of business in May. Their sister site is Shutterfly.com, with frequent sale prices. I sold these at cost to my Zmuda relatives.

OTHER EXAMPLES OF FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS I SHOWED TODAY:

- * *Donald Isadore Zachman—The First 85 Years. As told to Mary Zachman Knapp including tributes from family.*
- * *Stella Simco's Memories. As told to Terri Simco DiCarlo.* Example of a 122-page soft cover, spiral bound book I created using Microsoft Word and the interview method of questions, "Mom, tell me about yourself." Published in 2000 at Office Max print center. Except for the cover, all pages are black & white, including pictures.
- * *The Bachman Bugle—The Story of John, Bev, Mary and Jane Bachman 1963-1971. As recorded and written by Bev Bachman.* Example of a 56-page soft cover, spiral bound book my sister Beverly created by reprinting all of the newsletters she mailed out to family and friends during her family's 12 moves around the US during an 8-year time period. Unknown publication date from an office supply store's print center. The cover has pictures. The rest of the book is black & white text.
- * *The Life and Genealogy of Jan (John) Rys, 1857-1929. Written by John Rys.* Example of a 40-page loose leaf notebook my cousin John Rys created, focused on his grandfather (my great-grandfather.) Created in 2006 and onward.

HELPFUL LINKS – WRITING AND PUBLISHING

- * The WRITE Stuff: Using Nonfiction Writing Techniques to Write a Better Family History by Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A.
http://www.lisaalzo.com/assets/files/Alzo_2015_Write_Stuff.pdf
- * Concise HISTORY of Poland: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwggw/history.html> and <http://www.staypoland.com/poland-history.htm>
- * Where I've had my books published: MyPublisher (out of business) & www.Shutterfly.com (Bulk order discount of 50% for over 10 books.)
- * Compares PHOTO BOOK sites Shutterfly, Mixbook, & Adoramapix. Gives options & prices. <http://www.toptenreviews.com/services/multimedia/best-photo-books/shutterfly-review/>
- * Compares BOOK MAKING sites Shutterfly, Mixbook, & Blurb. <https://www.cnet.com/news/best-and-worst-photo-book-making-websites-for-you/>

HELPFUL LINKS – QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW METHOD

- * 50 Questions You Must Ask Parents Or Grandparents Before They Die
<http://ezinearticles.com/?Write-Your-Family-History---50-Questions-You-Must-Ask-Parents-Or-Grandparents-Before-They-Die&id=800937>
- * Family History Sample Outline and Questions <http://oralhistory.library.ucla.edu/familyHistory.html>
- * 172 Questions to Ask When Doing a Family History Interview
<http://pioneerthinking.com/home/172-questions-to-ask-when-doing-a-family-history-interview/>

Questions/comments? Contact me at TerriSlovakPolish@gmail.com

American Polonia

by Nancy Gagner Part two of America's Polonia (see part 1 in PGSMN Spring 2017)

Visits to Hamtramck and Cleveland. I had family in Hamtramck and parts of the suburbs of Detroit and we took several trips there in last 8 years to find family and sight see in the area. We also took a trip to Cleveland to explore some of the Polish culture in Cleveland along the Great Lakes. It's a fabulous way to engage in some of the history that surrounds the immigrants who brought Poland and its traditions to America. I plan to share with you some of the interesting sights in Hamtramck, Cleveland and as noted before in the previous newsletter highlights on my trip Panna Maria, Texas. I will also share a few pictures of the Polish area of East Chicago, Indiana where my mother grew up before settling in the Polish section of Chicago. All four of my grandparents made their home with my parents right in the heart of the Polish Museum area., the Polish Corridor of the near North side.

CLEVELAND OHIO

Cleveland like many other cities on the Great Lakes was home to ethnic communities as the immigrants made their way from Europe to America. The Polish immigrants settled in Cleveland in several areas. One of those areas labeled "Birdtown". The name was derived from several streets named for birds believed to be indigenous to the area. The district was also referred to as a "village" by its original residents. A visit today in the area a very tidy neighborhood bounded by factories. Ethnic Churches dot the neighborhood.



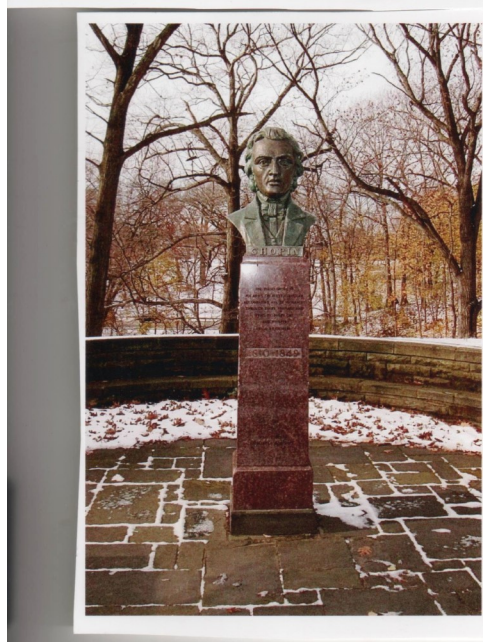
St Hedwig's Church now closed has been resurrected as the Museum of Divine Statues. St. Hedwig's was built because the Polish people wanted their own nationality-driven church. Lou McClurg gained a deep respect for the immigrants who founded the Church. He acknowledges that these men and women often arrived in the United States' with absolutely nothing." But they had faith, and they sacrificed for their parishes. McClurg has painstakingly collected and repaired statues, glass and sacred objects from urban and inner-ring churches that have been closed by the Cleveland Catholic Diocese.



A Polish flag flies along with the American, state and papal flags. "I really think it's cool to honor the nationality that was here," said McClurg. McClurg is able now to keep the stories alive, with help from the community. My goal is to turn it into a Catholic heritage museum.

The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr in Cleveland was established in the Newburgh area. The owner of Newburgh Rolling Mills advertised in Poland for workers. Thousands of Poles answered this call and migrated there. The Shrine represents the history of the Polish community in Cleveland since the mid 1800's. During the years many Church dignitaries have visited St. Stanislaus: Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, Right Reverend John Cieplak, Archbishop of Wilno, Bishop Ladislaus Rubin, Bishop Julian Grobicki of Krakow and Lech Walesa. It hosts many events celebrating new and old world Polish achievements.

Also in Cleveland are the Cultural Gardens. The gardens embody the history of 20th century America, perhaps the world's first peace garden. They tell the story of hope and despair, joy and sadness, conflict and cooperation, growth and decline. The stones, paths and memories of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens tell us what it has meant to be an American. One of the gardens is the Polish Cultural Garden. The Polish Garden Poles were one of Cleveland's largest nationality groups in the 20th century. The Polish community peaked in 1930 with a population of 36,668 foreign -born Poles. The Polish Garden originally designed as a sunken hexagonal court was built with organic material from Poland. Surrounding an octagonal fountain in the center are seven busts to Polish artists, scientists: Frederic Chopin, Nicholas Copernicus, Marie Sklodowska Curie, Maria Knopnicka, Adam Mickiewicz, Ignace Jan Paderewski, and Henryk Sienkiewicz.



HAMTRAMCK MICHIGAN (suburb of Detroit)

Hamtramck was originally settled by German farmers, but Polish immigrants flooded into the area when the Dodge Brothers plant opened in 1914. Poles used to make up a large proportion of the population. It is sometimes confused with Poletown, a traditional Polish neighborhood, which used to lie mostly in the city of Detroit and includes a small part of Hamtramck. As of the 2010 American Community Survey, 14.5% of Hamtramck's population is of Polish origin; in 1970, it was 90% Polish

Known in the 20th century as a vibrant center of Polish American life and culture, Hamtramck grew into a Polish enclave between 1910 and 1920 when large number of Polish laborers arrived seeking employment. The city has grown increasingly ethnically diverse but still bears many reminders of its Polish ancestry in family names, street names and businesses.

Today, Hamtramck includes many different ethnic groups, but maintains its Polish identify as can be found in the shops, restaurants and bakeries in the area with a pierogi and a paczki. We are a city within a city, come enjoy all Hamtramck has to offer. The city's motto was "A League of Nations" Neal Rubin of *The Detroit News* wrote in 2010 that despite the demographic changes, "In a lot of ways, Hamtramck still feels like a Polish enclave.

Pączki Day

Polish immigrants and residents of Hamtramck and southeastern Michigan celebrate Tłusty Czwartek (Fat Tuesday), known locally as Pączki Day by lining up at the city's numerous Polish bakeries to purchase paczki. On Pączki Day, several local bars host parties with live entertainment and free pączki.

St. Florian Strawberry Festival

Held annually in the first weekend in May on the grounds at St. Florian Church.

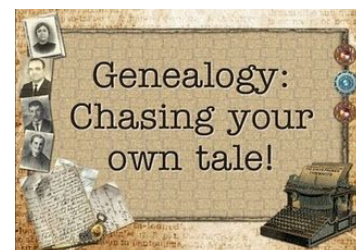
Hamtramck Labor Day Festival

Held on Labor Day weekend, ending with the Polish Day Parade on Labor Day. Live music on two stages, carnival area, beer, and food tents line a half-mile stretch of Joseph Campau Street, from Caniff to Carpenter-

The Polish Art Center, at 9539 Joseph Campau Street, is a local institution in Hamtramck. There, one can find many Polish art objects, books, foods, and art from other areas of Europe.

For more than 85 years, **Kowalski Sausage Co.** has manufactured meat products at 2270 Holbrook Street, which are distributed in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Notwithstanding the statement in the credits that it was filmed "in Detroit, Michigan", the 1998 Indie film Polish Wedding was filmed mainly in Hamtramck, and particularly at a house on Wyandotte Street. Theresa Connelly, who wrote and directed the film, had spent her childhood in Hamtramck.



Saint Florian Church

Saint Florian Parish was founded in 1907 to serve the Detroit area's rapidly expanding Polish Catholic community. The village's population boomed from 3,559 in 1910 to 48,615 in 1920. In the shadow of the magnificent Saint Florian Church, modest houses occupy thirty-foot-wide lots. By the 1920s Saint Florian was the second largest Catholic parish in Detroit, and it required a larger church. The Reverend John Bonkowski hired Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram to design this building, inspired by the Gothic churches of the Middle Ages. The church's medieval style contrasted with the modern industrial community. Nowakowski and Sons of Hamtramck built the church, and the J.M. Kase & Company made the stained glass in its New York Studio. The working-class parishioners sacrificed to build the church. In 1929 American Architect magazine named it the best new church in America.



Want to learn more about American Polonia—Nancy Gagner will be presenting at the October 7th, 2017 PGSMN Member meeting, from 10 am—12 pm. This meeting will be the last one held at 1185 Concord, in South St. Paul, before we move to Mendota Heights. Ms. Gagner will delight with her adventures and travels throughout the US and visiting the various Polish Centers. She is currently in Poland doing genealogy research.

Polish Genealogy Society of Minnesota
A branch of the MN Genealogical Society
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PGSMN Annual Meeting
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2300 University Av NE
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Membership Renewal - Please check the date on your membership mailing label. If it reads 9/31/2017, or earlier please renew. Renewal is available at \$20 per year, and you can renew for up to 3 years. Renewal is needed before 10/31/2017 to continue newsletter subscription and email announcements. We appreciate your attention to this item.

The PGSMN Newsletter is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Newsletter subscription is included with membership.

Submitting items for publication is welcomed and highly encouraged. We require feature-length articles to be submitted exclusively to PGSMN. Mail articles, letters, book reviews, news items, send queries to Marie Przyski—email - Przyski@comcast.net.