

# POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA



Newsletter Volume 24 #2

Summer 2016



Join the party — PGSMN seeks volunteers to assist at our booth at the Twin Cities Polish Festival, August 12-14, 2016 . Come join the fun.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear friends,

What comes to mind when I say, “In the good ol’ summertime”? Certainly not Santa Claus, but it appears that Santa visited the PGS-MN meeting in May leaving off oodles of beautiful roses for the ladies to take home to enjoy on Mother’s Day this year. Thanks Santa!

“In the good ol’ summertime” I think of boating, fishing, gardening, golfing, picnics with homegrown tomatoes and juicy watermelon, and reading a relaxing summer novel by the lake. This year, however, I’m finding near the top of my list is organizing my genealogy documents and family trees. I love organizing so you’d think that would be something I do almost on autopilot. And it is in most areas of life but genealogy creates so many documents, records, photos, interviews, etc. that organizing them can be more than overwhelming even for people who are “born-organized.”

Many genealogy professionals and hobbyists have written books on how to organize your collection(s). Many of them are very helpful but it looks to me there are almost as many methods for organizing the records as there are records themselves! Again, overwhelming!

*Continued p.2*

## In This Issue

- President’s Letter
- Genealogical Byways
- Missing Branches
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- How they became Citizens
- Membership insert
- Summer events

**Your input is important and appreciated—Deadline for the Fall issue is September 15th.**

*President's letter continued*

I've also found that every organizing genealogy book I've read and every seminar I've attended ultimately ends with "It doesn't matter really which system you use. The key is to find one that works for you and stick with it." Sounds easier said than done to me. But this summer I'm going to work at it.

At least until those good ol' watermelon seed fights start!

What are you doing this summer? I hope volunteering to help staff the PGS-MN booth at the Twin Cities Polish Festival in August is tops on your list! See you there!

Hmmm, I wonder if they'll have watermelon.....

Peggy Larson - [Peggylarson23@gmail.com](mailto:Peggylarson23@gmail.com)

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#### **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, Suite 218**

**South St. Paul, MN 55075-1150**

**[www.pgsmn.org](http://www.pgsmn.org)**

Committees

Library—Bob Kraska

Membership—Dori Marszalek & Mary Johnson

Newsletter/Website —Marie Przynski

Programs/Publicity—

Research—John Rys, Greg Kishel

**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](mailto:dorim@comcast.net)**

## Individual Personal Research

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota has received several requests for personal individual research. PGSMN wishes to assist all our members and those that are looking into their Polish ancestors. The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota currently does not perform "individual" research, but can assist in directing you to resources that would help you in your search. You could start with the PGSMN website ([www.pgsmn.org](http://www.pgsmn.org)) and go to the library page which lists publications and other resources, including a multitude of web resources/links for you to use.

Additionally PGSMN is a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society ([www.mnngs.org](http://www.mnngs.org)), and they maintain an incredible library for the various genealogical groups. PGSMN has dedicated volunteers who are there and dedicated "Polish" hours on the first Saturday of the month (1:00 - 4:00 pm) and also the second Thursday (6:00 - 9:00 pm). PGSMN members have free access to the library and its resources, otherwise there is a fee of \$10. The MGS library is located at 1185 N. Concord, in South St. Paul. (Map/Directions located on the PGSMN website also).

Please note that MGS has a research committee also, which will assist with individual detailed searches (costs \$25/hour) - advise that you contact them and they will give an estimate ([research@mnngs.org](mailto:research@mnngs.org)) for your search causes.

PGSMN is also preparing to be present at the Twin Cities Polish Festival to help individuals with limited research and answer genealogy questions (TCPF is August 12-14, 2016 with free admission, see [www.tcpolishfest.org](http://www.tcpolishfest.org).) PGSMN will also have a number of publications available for purchase to help you pull together your research, and also provide valuable information of where to look for specific information. Also, the MGS North Star Conference is 09/29-10/1, 2016 with several breakouts about various genealogical items to be covered. (Check their website [www.mnngs.org](http://www.mnngs.org) for additional conference details.)

As lastly, if you use Facebook, it has a "Polish Genealogy" site, where you can post your questions and other "FB friends" will offer up get suggestions and various resources to check in your search.

If you have a chance check with volunteer Bob Kraska at the library during the "Polish" hours - he is an incredible resource with vast knowledge about Polish genealogical research and could assist in answering your specific questions, or point you in the right direction to continue your research.

*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***

The Minnesota Genealogy Group (with members from everywhere!)

## Travel to Salt Lake City on the annual Family History Library trek

**Dates** – This year the MGS tour visit will be

**Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, to Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Place** – Salt Lake Plaza Hotel

122 West South Temple

Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

Telephone – 801-521-0130

**Rates** – single or double rooms are still **\$87.00**, as are triple or quad, at **\$94.00**. **“Deluxe” rooms (southside, facing downtown SLC) are \$10 more (rooms on northside of hotel) - \$97.00** per night for singles and doubles and **\$104.00** for triples and quads. To ensure group rate be sure to indicate that you are with the **Minnesota Genealogy Group**. The cut-off date for our group to register at this rate is – **September 23, 2016**. Best to reserve earlier to make sure you get a room. ( Currently fourteen rooms have been reserved)

Further details of the trip will be sent and will include information on Sunday registration, Monday night dinner, and bringing a picture(s) to the Friday wrap up party.

Tour chairs Linda Johnson and Dary Boock.



### Uśmiechnij się - powiedzmy sera (Smile, say cheese)

Minnesota Genealogist, the quarterly journal of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, invites you to enter the 2016 Minnesota Genealogist Historical Photo Contest.

Entries are invited in two categories: • Family or Ancestral Photos taken before 1950 (preferably black & white). • Photos (new or old) of ancestral homes your ancestors lived in before 1900.

Your photo will be displayed at the North Star Genealogy Conference, September 30-October 1 at Colonial Church in Edina, Minnesota. Conference attendees will cast votes for their favorite entry. The winning photos will appear on the cover of Minnesota Genealogist in 2017. Please enter no more than two per category. Send a print copy (preferred 5x7 or 8x10) to J. H. Fonkert, 2724 Mackubin St., Roseville, MN 55113, or send a digital scan of your photo by August 1 to [journal@mngs.org](mailto:journal@mngs.org). Scan your photo at high enough resolution for an 8x10 print. Do not send your original photo; send a copy or a scan.

**Genealogy is all about  
chasing your own tale.**



## Genealogical Byways

submitted by Mike Eckman

One of the joys of genealogy is gaining new knowledge, not only about one's family, but about the area and times in which our ancestors lived. Researching even a minor point may lead to surprising results. Recently, PGS MN Member Jerry Trafas sent in a picture and questions about it. Researching to find the answers led to information about a religious society, a church that may have been registered with the wrong name, and stories of east versus west conflicts in a Minnesota town

The ribbon in the picture has the words CZŁONEK, TOW. ŚW. WOJCIECHA B.M., and W PARAFII ŚW. WOJCIECHA B.M. on it as well as LITTLE FALLS, MINN. Using a Polish-English dictionary, I was able to determine that CZŁONEK means member and TOW. ŚW. WOJCIECHA B.M. means the Society of Saint Adalbert bishop and martyr (BISKUP I MECZENNIK). The Society was in the Parish of Saint Adalbert in Little Falls, MN (W PARAFII ŚW. WOJCIECHA B.M.).

St Adalbert was both a Benedictine Monk and a martyr. His name at birth was Wojciech in Polish and at his confirmation he took his tutor's name Adalbert as his own name. He was one of the first patron saints of Poland. More information can be found about him on the internet, including Wikipedia.

Since both of my parents grew up in Little Falls and I was not familiar with St. Adalbert's, I wanted to find out more about the parish. My ancestors were associated with our Lady of Lourdes Church on the west side of town and I was familiar with St. Mary's Church on the east side.

More searching on the internet produced information from a 1915 book ("Churches in Morrison County") about the parishes in Minnesota.

St. Adalbert church, of Little Falls, located on Seventh street, southeast, was organized on May 28, 1900, by Rt. Rev. James Trobec, Fr. Edward Nagl, V. G., Rev. Ignatius Wyppich, vice-president, Frank Zeman and Jacob Nowotny. Prominent among the original membership may be recalled Frank Zeman, Frank Sobolewicz, John Trafas, Joseph Knuth, Frank Kopacz, Frank Wyrwicki, John Marcinkiewicz, Joseph Wyrwicki and Paul Posch.

A parochial school of the Germans is attended by children from this parish, while two hundred and twenty-one attend the public schools of the city. The pastors of this church have been as follow: Rev. John Guzdek, from April, 1901, to April, 1902; Rev. Simon Dabrowski, from April, 1902, to November, 1902; Rev. Theodore J. Rekosiak, from December 1902, to the present time.

There was, however, no information about the recent history of St. Adalbert's. I did find an obituary that indicated that St. Adalbert was still functioning in 1947. The obituary was for Father Walter Bednark who grew up in Little Falls and said his first mass at St. Adalbert's on June 8, 1947. He died in December of 2015 and was buried in St. Adalbert's Cemetery in Little Falls. The mention of the cemetery led me to more research that revealed several other obituaries that noted burials in St. Adalbert's Cemetery, including a 2015 one for Dolores Trafas. A 2010 guide to the cemetery showed many more of the Trafas family buried there. All of the recent burials were from funerals held at St. Mary's, which led me to the online information about the history of St. Mary's.

In that history, it was noted that the history of St. Mary's needs to include the annals of three parishes: Sacred Heart, St. Francis Xavier and St. Adalbert's - all on the east side of Little Falls - and information was given about the founding of St. Adalbert's.

The third parish that would become a (sic) integral part of St. Mary's was the St. Adalbert's Church of Little Falls. It saw its beginnings in 1896. Those of Polish ancestry in Sacred Heart Parish grew in numbers as migrations increased to the St. Cloud Diocese. They were fervent in their desire for their own church. The huge debt incurred by the opening of St. Aloysius School added to their earnest endeavor for a Polish parish in which the language gab between priest and people could be bridged. It was in 1896 that Father John Kitowski of Swan River brought the wish of these people before bishop James Trobec, and their request received his approval. In 1897, a two steepled frame church was built on Seventh Street Southeast-three blocks east of the Sacred Heart Church. Frank J. Kopacz, an ardent supporter and local contractor, was responsible for the building task. Martin Trusynski structured the foundation.

One of the interesting facts in the history is that although the parishioners chose St. Adalbert as their patron of the new church, the articles of incorporation state that it is named St. Albert's Church, probably an English error.

The history of St. Mary's goes on to tell that St. Adalbert's had financial problems from time to time; a devastating fire on November 29, 1953, caused extensive damage to the church, and that by 1957, Bishop Peter A. Bartholome regretfully announced the loss of the church's pastor, and the dissolution of the parish to become part of St. Mary's.

Another account of the formation of St. Adalbert's is given in an interesting little booklet published in 2014 by the Morrison County Historical Society. *East Versus West, Little Falls, Minnesota* by Mary Warner whose research showed that there was more to the stories of east versus west rivalries in Little Falls than just rumors.

In the section A Tale of Two Polish Churches, Mary Warner reviews the history of the desire for a Polish Church. Although most of the Polish speaking farmers lived on the west side, it was eventually decided to build the church on the east side.



“The resulting east side Polish Catholic church was Saint Adalbert’s, which was dedicated in October 1901 and was so far away from the river that west side Polish Catholics continued in their quest to erect a parish and church on their side of town.” Eventually, the west side Poles established Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, which still exists today.

As you research your ancestors, do not forget to leave time for the byways that not only provide entertainment but tell a little more about the world in which our ancestors lived..

Churches in Morrison County. History of Morrison and Todd Counties Minnesota by Clara K. Fuller Volume I, Published by B. F. Bowen & Company, Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana (1915) [http://genealogytrails.com/minn/morrison/church\\_history.htm](http://genealogytrails.com/minn/morrison/church_history.htm)  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sctimes/obituary.aspx?pid=176888865>  
<http://www.shelleyfuneralchapels.com/obituaries/Dolores-Trafas/#!/Obituary>

<http://littlefallscatholic.org/st-marys/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/st-adalberts-cemetery-2010.pdf>

<http://littlefallscatholic.org/st-marys/about/history/>

*East Vs West, Little Falls Minnesota* by Mary Warner — [morrisoncountyhistory.org/eastvswestbklt.pdf](http://morrisoncountyhistory.org/eastvswestbklt.pdf)

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### **Archdioceses Archives in Poland Online access continues**

The various archdioceses of Poland continue to place their records online— these archives are different and separate from the National Archives. The wealth of information these church archives hold— containing various content, book and records fascicules involving everything from inventories of church property, records conducted, legacies, municipal and Soviet, and of special interested to genealogy researchers are the baptism, marriages, and death records. Depending on the archdioceses, there are records dating back to the 12th century.

In Gniezno, the records currently go back to the 16th century, and continue onto into the 18th century. There are some gaps due to fire, wards, etc. The collection has been completely microfilmed. The Registry books as a historical source are quite versatile. They provide materials for research in historical demography, genealogy, onomastics, and allow you to determine the exact dates of birth, marriage and death, and also allow cross-shot social and occupational particulars, town, etc. You will also find records of church brotherhoods (statues, membership lists, meeting minutes, school records, and often many lists of vary parish members. You could actually track the development of the history of any village through its parish records. See <http://www.archiwum.archidiecezja.pl/en/the-archdiocesan-archive-of-gniezno.html>

The current downside is that not all archdioceses have completed putting their records on microfilm or digitally, and the websites differ from site to site—so you will have to check what’s available. There also seems to be some disparity in pricing for record copies.

For a listing of Archdioceses and contact information throughout Poland—see [http://www.opoka.org.pl/struktury\\_kosciola/diecezje/index.html](http://www.opoka.org.pl/struktury_kosciola/diecezje/index.html). Several of the archives are also listed in the article “Online Records for Poland, starting on p.12.



## 2016 North Star Genealogy Conference

Two full days of educational and social events will get you connected with  
the Minnesota genealogy community.

Additional Details at the Minnesota Genealogical Society

<http://mngs.org/>



### MGS Family History Writing Competition

You are invited to enter the eighth annual MGS Family History Writing Competition. The winning entry will be awarded the Michael Clark Family History Writing Award: a certificate, a \$100 cash prize, and publication in the Minnesota Genealogist. See the rules for complete information. **Entry deadline is July 15.**

<http://www.mngs.org/upload/files/Events/2016/Writing/>

*“The thing that interests me most about family history is the gap between the things we think we know about our families and the realities.” – Jeremy Hardy*



## Summer Genealogy Webinars—Free Registration



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3**

### **The Third Coast: How the Great Lakes Shaped America (Webinars)**

7:00 pm to 8:15 pm      FREE to register

**Description:** This session will examine the rich history of the Great Lakes region, particularly its role in U.S. expansion through transportation, economic growth and defense. We will look at the geography of the Great Lakes and regional influences such as Native Americans in the area, commerce, and shipping routes. The program will examine routes into and out of the Great Lakes such as the Erie Canal and railroad lines, and the major ethnic groups that traveled through the region including immigrants from the British Isles, Germany, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe. The roles that the lakes played in war and defense during the "Sixty Years' War" will be discussed. The session concludes with a survey of records useful for tracing Great Lakes ancestors including census, naturalization, homestead, passenger lists, and border crossings records.

Instructor Cari Taplin, CG, is related to Roy Rogers. Or at least the stories her grandparents told her as a child said so. As a result she has been working on finding her true heritage since the year 2000. She is a native of wood County, Ohio now living near Austin, Texas.

To register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6239578226097590017>

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

### **7 Ways to Use the Cloud for Your Genealogy Research (Webinars)**

7:00 pm to 8:15      FREE to register



This presentation will include explanations of what the cloud can do for you and ways to protect your privacy. I will share the 7 ways that you can use the cloud to make your personal research more effective and easier to share with other generations of your family. We will discuss what the cloud is, and cloud tools to share photos, files, notes, trees, audio, video, and stories.

**Instructor: Jennifer Alford** is a Professional Engineer and genealogy professional. Her business, Jenealogy, provides education and publishing for a variety of societies. She is editor of the Indiana Genealogical Society newsletter and associate editor of the Federation of Genealogical Society's FORUM. Her pride and joy is The In-Depth Genealogist's magazine, Going In-Depth.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/157814375008134145>

If you're new to webinars, check out this link: <http://blog.geneawebinars.com/p/how-it-works.html>

## Notice to PGSA's website users—

PGSMN members advised that they were having difficulty accessing research information on the PGSA website regarding Minnesota baptismal, marriage, death and PWEA records and information.

PGSMN on behalf of its members, contacted PGSA and learned the following: That in late January 2016, they redesigned and restructured their website, and launched it believing that it would deliver better service with a customized search engine. Please note that computer design is ongoing process and they brought 1.5 million records from 45+ databases together. It is a new system, and it has developed issues. These concerns have been brought to the attention of the PGSA web administrator, and it was acknowledged that PGSMN found a large “glitch” and it is a top priority to address this concern and bring Minnesota databases on line. While PGSA endeavors to address this concern, PGSMN has listed the below links to access this information located on a different website (this site has indicated that it will have databases available until 12/31/2016.)

Baptismal records can be linked to ["http://polfamily.ino/minnesota-baptisms"](http://polfamily.ino/minnesota-baptisms)

Marriage records can be linked to ["http://polfamily.ino/minnesota-marriages"](http://polfamily.ino/minnesota-marriages)

PWEA data is accessible at ["http://polfamily.info/pwea"](http://polfamily.info/pwea)

Minnesota death/burial records are located at ["http://polfamily.info/minnesota-deaths"](http://polfamily.info/minnesota-deaths)

***Please note that birth, marriage and death records can also be obtained at the  
MN Historical Society***

The Minnesota Historical Society preserves Minnesota's past, shares our state's stories and connects people with history in meaningful ways, for today and for tomorrow. Because history matters!

MHS is a part of Minnesota's rich history. Since 1849, they have grown to become one of the largest and most prestigious historical societies in the country. MHS plays an important role in our state's historic preservation, education and tourism; and provide the public with award-winning programs, exhibitions and events.

MHS believes that they owe it to future generations to be good stewards of the past.

Copies of **Birth or Death certificates, documents, photos and other images**—[copyservices@mnhs.org](mailto:copyservices@mnhs.org)—  
651-259-3301 Phone, 651-297-7436 Fax, Gale Family Library, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd,  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

**Research Services, Veterans Graves Register**—[reference@mnhs.org](mailto:reference@mnhs.org)—651-259-3443 Phone, 651-297-7436  
Fax, Gale Family Library, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 Kellogg Blvd W, Saint Paul, MN 55102



**Polish Cultural Institute, Inc. & Museum**  
The Kashubian Capital of America



102 Liberty Street, Winona, Minnesota 55987



## **Dozynki—Harvest Festival (Assumption Sunday)**

**Aug. 15, 2016**

## **Smaczne Jablka**

**Oct. 2, 2016**

The first Sunday of October, the fun happens in Winona, MN. The Winona Polish Museum hosts its annual Smaczne Jablka, or “Apple Day” festival. Activities include pumpkin decorating, sidewalk art, apple squeezing, a farmers market, Polish music and folk dancers, Kashubian food and a silent auction, and the “Polish Business Power Street” (featuring local businesses with Polish ties and/or beginnings, and the best homemade caramel apples around.

For additional information on the above events, see <http://polishmuseumwinona.org>

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## **PGSA 2016 GENEALOGY WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016**

**Taft High School**

**6530 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue**

**Chicago, IL**

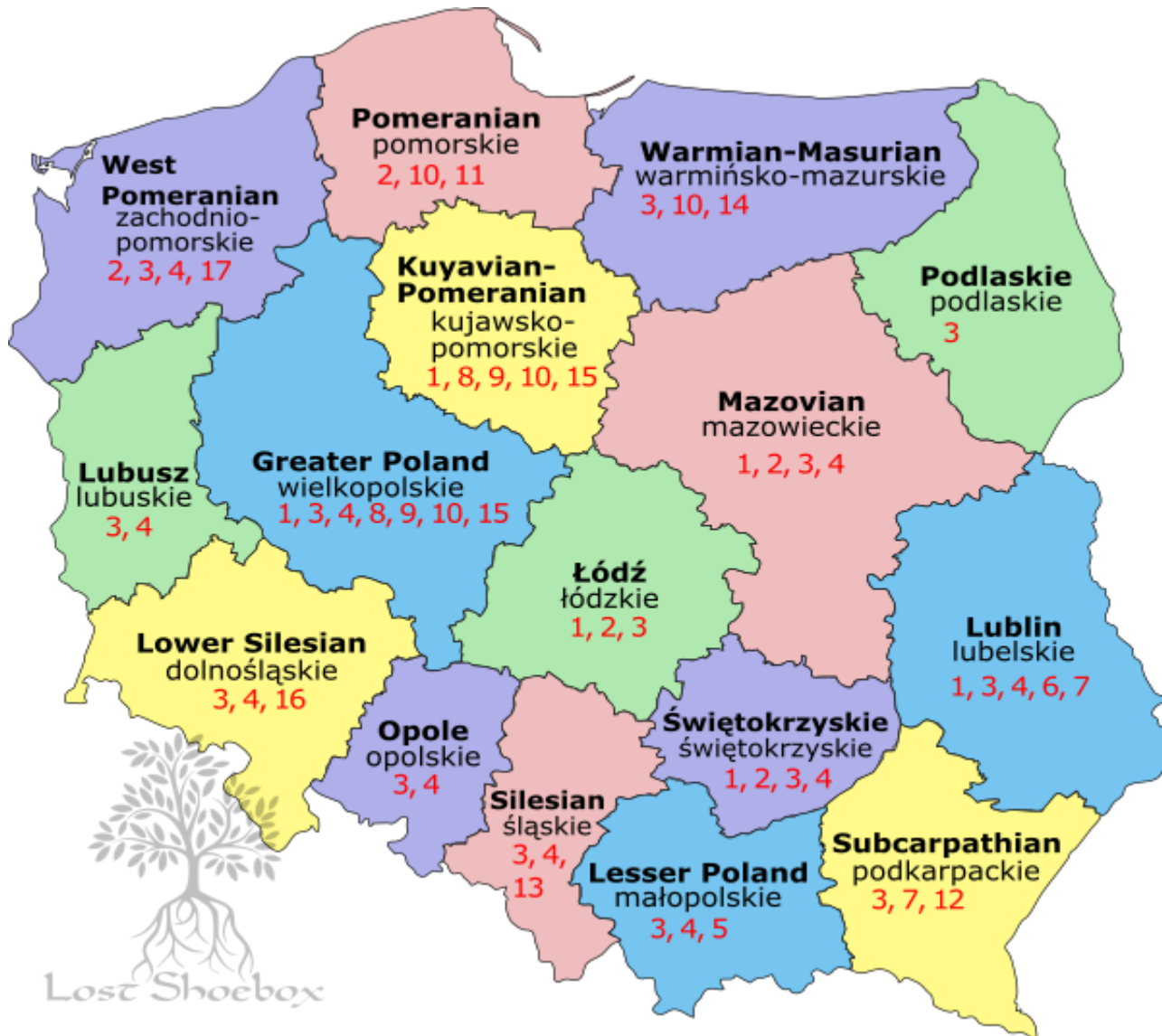
“A Primer,” introducing skills and techniques to research your family tree facilitated by seasoned genealogists and PGSA members.

Featuring Michael Mullholland, Local History/Genealogy Librarian, Arlington Heights Library—an expert in general and European genealogical research, and Ola Heska, genealogist, lecturer, translator, and founder of Heska Worldwide Translations ([www.hwwd.com](http://www.hwwd.com)).

Check for additional details and updates on the PGSA website and in the PGSA Notebook. Registration form will be in the Rodziny magazine and on PGSA website.

# Online Records for Poland

Here is a collection of sites with scans/large indexes available, we have arranged them by voivodship. While this list doesn't cover everything that is out there on the web, we wanted to focus on the sites with indexes and scans of records. This should give you an idea of the major sites for your area of research.



1. **Geneteka** – <http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/> This site is a collaborative effort by numerous volunteers who index church and civil records all over Poland. They don't provide the actual scans, but their index is very helpful and continuously updated. Many indexed records have a link to the scanned record if the record is available online. While they have indexes for all areas of Poland, we have indicated on our map the areas with the most indexed records.
2. **Metryki GenBaza** – <http://metryki.genbaza.com/> This site has scans from a few different Diocesan Archives and State Archives. This site requires registration which is free. Nothing is indexed, so you will need to navigate via the links on the left side of the page but it's very simple to do.

**3. Szukaj w Archiwach**—<http://searcharchives.pl/> This site was launched in 2009 by the Polish State Archives, as of March 2016 they have 18.6 million scans available. They feature collections from all over Poland and are continuously being updated.

**4. Family Search** – <https://familysearch.org/search/> Along with the many microfilms they have, Family Search also has many online collections of images.

**5. National archives in Krakow** – <http://www.ank.gov.pl/en>. They have an online collection of things like census, church books, civil registers etc.

**6. Lubgens** – <http://registry.lubgens.eu/news.php>. This site is focused on the Lublin area and has a large index of the church books. Their indexes provide “akt” numbers which should help you find the record online at another site such as Family Search. They have a nice set of links that gets you directly to the parish records on Family Search.

**7. AGAD (Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie)** – <http://agad.gov.pl/> They have a lot of scans for the Eastern Borderlands (the area of Ukraine, Russia). So you will find scans for the areas of Lublin and Subcarpathian as well.

**8. Poznan Project** – <http://poznan-project.psn.pl/> The Poznan Project is an index of marriages that took place in the 1800s in the Prussian province of Poznan. This collection as of March 2016 has 1.3 million entries and covers parts of Greater Poland and Kuyavian-Pomeranian. For a small donation you can request an actual copy of the record you find in their index. You can also note the information from the entry and possibly find the record online at one of the other online sites like Family Search, Szukaj w Archiwach, Genealogia w Archiwach etc....

**9. BaSIA** – <http://basia.famula.pl/en/> This is an indexing project by the Wielkopolska Genealogical Society (WTG “Gniazdo”). The majority of their entries are for Greater Poland and Kuyavian-Pomeranian, but they are expanding and you can view a map of what areas are covered. (Give the map some time to load)

**10. Genealogia w Archiwach** – <https://www.genealogiawarchiwach.pl/> This is a joint effort by the Torun and Bydgoszcz State Archives that was launched in June 2015. The site features scans from 450 registry offices, mostly in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian area. As of March 2016 they have 3.1 million scans from various books and civil records.

**11. PTG (Pomorskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne)** – <http://www.ptg.gda.pl/> The Pomeranian Genealogical Association (in English) provides online indexes to birth, marriage and death records for the Pomeranian area. As of March 2016 they have 3.7 million records indexed.

**12. Archiwum Państwowe w Przemyślu** – <http://www.przemysl.ap.gov.pl/> This is the website for the State Archive in Przemyśl, they have a nice collection of scans for the area. As of March 2016 they have 380k scans.

**13. Archiwum Państwowe w Katowicach** – <http://www.katowice.ap.gov.pl/> The National Archives in Katowice has a link to the [Silesian Digital Library](#) which has digitized address books. They also have a link to the [Upper Silesian Genealogical Society](#) which has scans of books using dropbox.

**14. Archiwum Państwowe w Olsztynie** – <http://www.olsztyn.ap.gov.pl/> The State Archives in Olsztyn has a nice collection of online scans for civil and church records as well as some other miscellaneous collections.

**15. Archiwum Państwowe w Poznaniu** – <http://www.poznan.ap.gov.pl/> The State Archives in Poznan has most of their records on Szukaj w Archiwach but they also have a nice index for the census 1870-1931, go [here](#) and type a surname into the search box, when a name comes up you can click it and go directly to the scan at Szukaj w Archiwach.

**16. Archiwum Państwowe we Wrocławiu** – <http://www.ap.wroc.pl/> The State Archives in Wrocław has a collection of scans online, these are civil registers.



**17. Archiwum Państwowe w Szczecinie** – <http://www.szczecin.ap.gov.pl/> The State Archives in Szczecin has a large collection on scans for civil registers and church records.

The above image/list was provided by “The Lost Shoebox” Genealogy website. The Polish Genealogical Society of America (<http://pgsa.org/polish-sites/>) has a comparable list of sites also.

The PGSMN website “resources” lists all of the above and additional website resources are located for your convenience.



## 2016 Twin Cities Polish Festival

<http://www.tcpolishfestival.org/>

Friday August 12<sup>th</sup> 5pm - 10:00pm

Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> - 10am - 10pm

Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> - 11am - 5pm

### WE NEED YOU! Calling all PGS-MN volunteers!

For the 8<sup>th</sup> year, **PGS-MN** will once again be represented at the **2016 Twin City Polish Festival**.

Pick your day and what time frame. No experience necessary! Just bring your smile and enthusiasm! It is so rewarding to let people know what resources PGS-MN has to offer at the library and the incredible wealth of knowledge that our members have to share.

Sneak peak of our activity— **Baptismal and Marriage Indexes**. Obtained from the Archdiocese of St. Paul—Minneapolis, these indexes have been organized and printed for member use. ( More info about records are found in Newsletters—**Spring 2014** Vol 22 #1- **Winter 2015** Vol 23 #4 )

These Baptismal and Marriage records are in Alphabetical order from 11 local metropolitan churches that were considered ethnically Polish. (All Saints, Minneapolis; Holy Cross, Minneapolis; Holy Trinity, South St Paul; St. Adalbert, St Paul; St. Casimir, St Paul; St Hedwig, Minneapolis; St. John the Baptist, New Brighton; St. Joseph, Delano; St. Joseph, Lexington; St. Mary Czestochowa, Delano; and St Phillip, Minneapolis.)

Also available are records from the Polish White Eagle Association. (Additional information 2014 Spring newsletter, Volume 22#1 “Polish Fraternal Insurance Associations”.)

These records consist of application forms that include personal information such as, the village of origin in Poland, medical questions, height, weight, parents names, brother or sisters name. A Great resource.

Also available is the very popular *Słownik Nazwisk* by Kazimierz Rymut. Compiled from Polish governmental agency’s records in the 1990’s, this 10 Volume paperback edition lists Polish Surname in Alphabetic order. A map handout of the provinces in Poland in the 1990’s allowing people to be able to track the number of their family surnames listed in that area.

People LOVE this option!!! The word has really gotten around that our PGS-MN tent has these records and every year we hear stories of people that have come to the Twin City Polish Festival just because their brother or sister or Aunt or Grandmother told them about our tent and these records. It is a great way to get people involved in Genealogy and interested in PGS-MN. Watch the magic when they find their surname and then locate the area on the map.

**Contact Dori Marszalek, PGSMN Festival Chair at 763-535-2296 before August 4<sup>th</sup> to be part of the excitement !**



## ***Szukam cię — I'm looking for you***



### **Missing Branches**

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.

**Bednark, Kathy**, 591 Markgrafs Lake Bay, Woodbury, MN 55129, [kathybednark@msn.com](mailto:kathybednark@msn.com), Researching: **BEDNARCZUK** of Uznia, Poland settling in Minneapolis, MN; **DZIAKOWICZ** of Podhajce, Poland, settling in Minneapolis, MN.

**Ceafsky, Tammy**, 940 Main ST, Saint Paul Park, MN 55071, [tamtamalam@yahoo.com](mailto:tamtamalam@yahoo.com), Researching: **CEAFSKY**, **SCIESINSKI**, **RAKOWSKI**, **KOPECZYNSKI**, **BLANK** of Poland.

**Conway, Lorraine**, 3311 Cedar LN NW, Bemidji, MN 56601, [11conway@paulbunyan.net](mailto:11conway@paulbunyan.net), Researching: **LEIBINIEC/ALBINIEC** of Dolinia, Galicia, settling in St. Paul, MN; **LIEBHARDT/LIBHARDT** of Busk, Lviv, settling in St. Paul, MN.

**Esala, Marilee and Hammerstrom, Janice**, 4492 W. Lismere Rd, Duluth, MN 55803-9357, [esalajeff@yahoo.com](mailto:esalajeff@yahoo.com), Researching: **MARQUART/MARFAT/MARKWART/MARKFACT/MARKVARD/MARKQUARDT** of Warsaw, Poland, settling in Duluth, MN.

**Rogacki, Larry**, 4301 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406-3822, [plrogackie@mac.com](mailto:plrogackie@mac.com), Researching: **MIELA** of Gebiczyna, Osterreich (Austria-Hungary), settling in Buffalo, NY; **PADGORSK** of Poland, settling in Buffalo, NY; **ROGACKI** of Jezioro Wielkie Schroda, Poznan (Germany-Poland); **GRZANKOWSKI** of Ojrzeń (Poland-Russia), settling in Buffalo, NY.

**Rolph, Mary**, PO Box 361, Pepin, WI 54759-0361, [maryrolph@aol.com](mailto:maryrolph@aol.com), Researching: **JOHN ZIOLKOWSKI** settling in Menasha, WI.

**Roszak, James**, 86 Wilkin St., Apt. 201, Saint Paul, MN 55102-2758, [iroszak@cbu.edu](mailto:iroszak@cbu.edu), Researching: **ROSZAK** of Poland, settling in Ironwood, MI and South St. Paul, MN; **JAMKA** of Gdow, Poland, settling in South St. Paul, MN.

**Syverson, Alice Bahls**, 5399 County 12 Blvd., Kenyon, MN 55946-4016, [syverson@citlink.net](mailto:syverson@citlink.net), Researching: **WITZKE** of Poland, settling in Perham, Ottertail County, MN;

**Tomzak, Thomas**, 1218 Sophia ST, Fredricksburg, VA 22401, [ttomzak@cox.net](mailto:ttomzak@cox.net), Researching: **TASAREK**, **WOLOWICZ** of Poznan, Poland, settling in Duluth, MN; **TOMCZAK/TOMCZIK** of Poland, settling in Sturgeon Lake, Pine County, MN.

**Tyminski, Michael**, 11435 Oregon Ave N, Champlin, MN 55316, [mtyminski@msn.com](mailto:mtyminski@msn.com), Researching: **TYMINSKI**, **JANOSZEWSKI**, **INDYKIEWCICZ** of Prussian Poland, settling in Hennepin County, MN.

## RENEWING MEMBERS:

**Amato, Joseph and Catherine (Bavolack)**, 12800 Marion Lane W, Apt. 705, Minnetonka, MN 55305-1367, [cathyjamato@gmail.com](mailto:cathyjamato@gmail.com), Researching: **BAVOLACK** of Swiatkowa Mala Kotan, settling in McAdoo, PA; **POLANSKY, DERR** of Poland, settling in Coaldale, PA.

**DeMaster, Janice**, 70 Carriage LN, Burnsville, MN 55306, [demaster@frontiernet.net](mailto:demaster@frontiernet.net), Researching: **HOLEWA** of Planica, Poland, settling in Vicksburg, MI; **VENGIAS** of Visrobba, Poland, settling in Vicksburg, MI.

**Foley, Judith**, 1927 Emerson, Palo Alto, CA 94301, [judyfoley@gmail.com](mailto:judyfoley@gmail.com), Researching: **DUDEK, WORWA** of Rabka, Poland, settling in Minneapolis, MN.

**Helbach, Mary**, 422 Bluebird LN, Woodbury, MN 55125, [MLH0909@yahoo.com](mailto:MLH0909@yahoo.com), Researching: **KRZANOWSKI** settling in Buffalo, NY.

**Huhtala, Jane**, 2575 Rainbow LN, New Brighton, MN 55112, [janehuhtala@gmail.com](mailto:janehuhtala@gmail.com), Researching: **TOMASIAK, TOMSCAK, TOMSZAK, HOSAL, PAWLIK, TOCARCZYK, CIAPALA** of Rytro, County of Nowy Sacz, settling in Minneapolis, MN.

**Kulas, James F.**, 7536 Red Hill DR, Springfield, VA 22153, [polishpop1@earthlink.net](mailto:polishpop1@earthlink.net), Researching: **LACKA, ZABROCKA/ZABROCKI** of Leiele.

**Lackner, Leona**, 3006 SE 161<sup>st</sup> Ave, Vancouver, WA 98683-3025, [jillackner@gmail.com](mailto:jillackner@gmail.com), Researching: **WARZECKA** of Poland, settling in St. Cloud area, MN; **OPATZ** of Poland.

**Lulai, Rita**, 301 11<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Jamestown, ND 58401, Researching: **PAMPUCH** of Popeleau, Poland, settling in Independence, WI and Jamestown, ND; **LULAI** of Popeleau, Poland, settling in Jamestown, ND; **KOKKOT** of Popeleau, Poland, settling in WI and ND.

**Sansone, Nancy**, 2447 Skyline DR, Bloomington, MN 55425, [nancymeyersansone@msn.com](mailto:nancymeyersansone@msn.com), Researching: **PEPERA, STANEK** of Poland, settling in St. Paul, MN.

**Welna, Louis**, 632 Sodom RD, Milton, VT 05468, [ojciec@comcast.net](mailto:ojciec@comcast.net), Researching: **WELNA/WELNER** of Dombrowka Dolna, Poland, settling in NY and Holdingford, MN; **DEJA** of Kobyla, Poland, settling in NY and Holdingford, MN; **PYKA** of Dammratsch, Poland, settling in Holdingford, MN; **PHILIPSEK** of Twardawa, Poland, settling in Holdingford, MN.

**Zotkiewicz, Vincent J.**, 3100 Timber Brook Dr., Plano, TX, 75074, [vinzot35@verizon.net](mailto:vinzot35@verizon.net), Researching: **JOHN ZOTKIEWICZ, JOHN RZOTKIEWICZ** of Russian Sector, settling in Virginia, MN; **VICTORIA ARASIM, VICTORIA CZARNECKI, STEFANIA CZARNIECKI** of Wozna Wies, settling in Virginia, MN.



## ***How They Became Citizens***

Jerome Biedny, past president, Polish Genealogical Society of MN

My last article explored the modes of transportation our ancestors used to travel from Europe to America. Once they arrived, many wished to make their “fortune” and return to Poland to buy land and become respected farmers. Unfortunately, few returned because the reality was harsh: although the daily wage was greater here in the US, so was the cost of living. Few immigrants attained the great economic advancement required to fund their dream to return. The turmoil of the First World War ended many plans for people with the means to return. So, many took the option that gave them the most benefits in this county: Citizenship through Naturalization.

Why should I care if my ancestor was naturalized? If they came at the right time, and started even a part of the process, the naturalization paperwork is one of the best places to find two golden genealogical facts: the town of birth in Poland AND the ship of travel to the US!

Although it is reported that only about 25% of all immigrants to the US were actually naturalized, that percentage was substantially higher for the mass migration of the two decades either side of 1900. So, you have a better chance of finding the paperwork for your clan. Here are some basic facts about becoming a naturalized American citizen:

Most countries administer the right of citizenship via ***Jus Sanguinis*** (Latin for “right of blood”) which means that children of citizens are themselves citizens. The US uses this process and goes further. It is one of the 15% of countries that allows citizenship via ***Jus Soli*** (Latin for “right of the soil”) which means anyone born on US soil is automatically a US citizen- even if one or both parents were not. This has been a long standing and liberal policy allowing our nation to grow quickly in population to take advantage of its vast territories and resources.

Since not everyone can be born here, ever since it’s founding, the United States of America has had laws governing how a non-native born person could become a citizen. These rules were always issued by the Federal government. So, although state or local courts may have been involved, they acted on behalf of the Federal Government but could not alter the rules.

Generally, naturalization has always included at least the following: a total length of stay in the country; an oath of allegiance; and a witnessing that you are fit to become a citizen. The particulars of each of these three changed over time, but can be summarized as follows:

You must have lived in states, territories, etc. of the US for at least two years with one of those being in the state in which you were applying. This was eventually increased to five years total residence.

The pledge was not only TO the US, it was swearing OFF current allegiance to any foreign power, monarch, sovereign, nation or potentate.

The test for fitness was actually that you were NOT in one of the various prohibited classes which at various times included: criminals (especially polygamists, prostitutes, and other moral criminals); the insane or otherwise institutionalized; and those of very low mental abilities. These prohibitions were meant to bar those from entering that might have become a burden to local governments and charities.

The US did not want to become a “dumping ground” for Europe’s social outcasts. There is an even darker side of prohibition (such as the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act) which employed Victorian racist ideals to prohibit entire populations based on ethnic origin. This is a fascinating development, but outside the scope of this article.

Let us return to the specifics of Polish American immigration. 1906 is a turning point in naturalization recordkeeping. Before then a person was naturalized in any record keeping court in the land: local, state, federal, etc. The paperwork varied greatly from court to court, but rarely included much genealogical information. Then in 1906, genealogists luck changed! That year the Federal Government standardized the paperwork and expanded the information required to be taken by the court. They created a two-step process that lasted almost fifty years. Let’s look at the details of the post-1906 process.

The first step was to file a **Petition of Intent**, often called *First Papers*. That is a one page form that recorded the petitioners name, address, birth date and place, description (height, weight, eye & hair color), spouse and children’s information (including birth date, etc.), immigration facts (with date of arrival and ships name), current address and Oath of Allegiance. Until 1922, when separate application was required, wives became citizens upon their husband’s naturalization. Foreign born children became citizens upon one parent’s naturalization.

The record of the court often had attached to it a Certificate of Arrival. This was a sheet of paper that came from the port of entry and confirmed, via the passenger arrival lists (required of every captain carrying passengers), that the petitioner did indeed arrive when, where and how they claimed in the Intention filing. Also of note: Not everyone completed the process after the first step; some moved on, died, etc. However, it is well worth searching for these First Papers.

To complete the Naturalization process, you had to file a **Petition for Citizenship**, often called *Second Papers*. Five years after filing the Intention papers, you would return to court with two witnesses who were already citizens. They would attest to your fitness and the court would then grant you full citizenship and record it as such.

I can tell you from personal experience that every time I received the completed naturalization packet for a family member it is like genealogical Christmas: A present leading to new facts and insights like no other document type.

Now that we know the history of the process, how can you find your own copies of these great papers? This depends on the court in which they were filed. Most courts across the country organize these papers by the petition number assigned when the First Papers were filed on the case (not by date, not by name of person, not by address, etc.). So, you usually start with an INDEX that the court keeps that is organized by Petitioner’s last name. These are often microfilmed copies of index cards listing little else but the Name and the corresponding Petition Number. You can then request from the court copies of the entire file – they are usually free (or inexpensive) and they will even mail them to you. Many of these indexes (but not the petitions themselves) have been moving to searchable databases on the internet. Ancestry.com, available at your local library, has many indexes by state. But for those courts that have not gone digital, you may need to visit the courthouse to view the index and then order the petition.

Luckily for those that have ancestors that where naturalized here in Minnesota, the state has gathered up most of those records into one index that is available for free at two websites: the FamilySearch site of the LDS Church and the Iron Range Research Center run by a state supported museum in Hibbing.

At the Family Search site, you can type the person's name into the index database and get a picture of the index card itself! That card will include the specific court (say the US Circuit Court of Fergus Falls or US Federal Court of St. Paul) and the petition number or record (say Petition #232314 or "Book A, page 30"). It may even include the date of naturalization and the names of the two witnesses. You can use this information to contact the correct court directly for copies of the full file.

The Iron Range site has much more than just naturalization records, so a search with as much information beyond your ancestor's name is very helpful in narrowing the search and getting results. Again, you will only see the index information. Unfortunately, on this site you get only an extracted view of the index card- not the full card. The extraction does not even contain dates, just names and places. But because they copied all the actual files, you can order a copy of the entire file for \$10 before leaving the site. This skips the step of contacting the court directly, but you also risk getting the wrong Stanley Nowak's information from Hennepin County!

Many great books have been written on this subject. This was only a short summary of the process and records that will hopefully bring you great luck in your research.

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The Family Search Library has created a booklet on Finding Records of your Ancestors, Part A—Poland 1809 to 1900. It is available on line. It demonstrates a step by step process, with maps, documents and descriptions on which records to search, what to look for, and what tools to use.

Check it out at <https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/images/0/0f/>

Finding\_records\_of\_your\_ancestors\_Poland.pdf





## Contact Us

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

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.pgsmn.org](http://www.pgsmn.org)

Twin Cities Polish Festival, August 12-14, 2016—Free Admission

See [www.tcpolishfestival.org](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org) for festival information

**Volunteers** are needed for the PGSMN booth—come join the fun

The Polish Genealogical Society of a Minnesota Newsletter is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Newsletter subscription is included with membership.

Submitting items for publication is welcome and highly encouraged. We require feature-length articles to be submitted exclusively to PGSMN. Mail articles, letters, book reviews, news items, queries to Marie Przynski, 1848 Prosperity Road, Maplewood, MN 55109 or email to [Przynski@comcast.net](mailto:Przynski@comcast.net).

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