

# POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA



Newsletter Volume 25 #2

Summer 2017

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy Summertime Everyone!

Summertime is so short and goes by so fast this letter is going to do the same!

Our member meetings in the first half of the year went very well. Thank you very much John Rys, for stepping in and substituting with a presentation on the churches of "Northeast" Minneapolis when my health precluded me from finishing my family tree presentation. Hopefully, I'll get back on the speakers' calendar next year!

I'm happy to announce we have member speakers scheduled already for the autumn season. Terry DiCarlo is going to discuss some do's and don'ts for writing and publishing your family history. Terry has some great sample books available for inspiration. Nancy Gagner will present her travels and exploration of Panna Maria, Texas – the first Polish settlement in America, and other Polish-American settlements around the country. In November, we'll have a joint meeting with the Pommern and PACIM groups. The speaker for that one is TBD. More details will follow closer to the date.

As always, all members are encouraged to get involved and take an active role in sharing their genealogical journeys with our group. Remember, your personal research experience(s) may prove helpful to others studying their own family history. (I think that's called learning from others' mistakes?) Sharing knowledge, experience, and skill is right in line with PGS-MN's mission of education and promotion of the Polish culture. To help, please contact me at [peggylarson23@gmail.com](mailto:peggylarson23@gmail.com) and I'll get you on the calendar.

Until then, we'll see you when you visit the PGS-MN tents at the premier Polish event of the year, the **Twin Cities Polish Festival, August 11, 12, and 13** along the banks of the Mississippi across from St. Anthony Main, 43 SE Main Street, Minneapolis, MN.

It's going to be a great time!! And there's pierogi!!

Enjoy every moment of the summer!

Peggy Larson  
[peggylarson23@gmail.com](mailto:peggylarson23@gmail.com)

*Your input is important and appreciated. Deadline for the  
Fall 2017 issue is September 15, 2017*

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## 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](http://www.pgsmn.org)

**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)**

#### **PGSMN Officers/Board of Directors**

President — Peggy Larson (763-445-0090)  
[peggy Larson23@gmail.com](mailto:peggy Larson23@gmail.com)

Vice President— vacant

Treasurer - Mike Eckman (952-944-4008)  
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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 Przyński

Programs/Publicity—

Research—John Rys, Greg Kishel



#### **Family History Workshop 2017**

Saturday, September 23, 2017

08:00 am — 4:30 pm

Moorhead, MN

Finding your long-lost relatives can be a challenge, but a rewarding one! Learn from successful genealogists how to start and continue your search. With 20 workshops and a nationally recognized speaker, this is a day filled with opportunities to learn how to successfully climb your family tree.

This workshop cost of \$49 includes your choice of four out of the 20 sessions offered, the workshop syllabus with all session handouts, lunch and coffee breaks. An exhibit hall featuring booths for organizations and vendors will be open throughout most of the day.

The 42nd Annual Family History Workshop is sponsored by the Heritage Education Commission in partnership with Moorhead Community Education.

For more information about the workshop, the presenters, and the family history research/book contest, go to [www.heritageed.com](http://www.heritageed.com) or email [info@heritageed.com](mailto:info@heritageed.com).

- This location is easily accessible to the handicapped.

# The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

**Who:** The Polish Genealogical Society of MN was formed over 20 years ago as a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society.

We are currently over 250 members strong from across the country; more predominantly from the upper Midwest- especially the Twin Cities area.

**Why:** We were formed with four main goals in mind

- \* Create an interest in Polish genealogical research
- \* Work with other genealogical organizations with similar interests
- \* Preserve the family and institutional history of Minnesota's Polonia, and
- \* Encourage the exchange of ideas and information between individuals of all research levels through meetings, forums & publications.

**What:** We maintain a library and map collection as part of the larger MGS Library;

- \* Personalized assistance at the library on specific Thursdays and Saturdays.
- \* A great quarterly newsletter with articles of local interest published quarterly
- \* Host an annual social meeting and several informative meetings throughout the year.
- \* PGSMN fosters the indexing of local records from historically Polish parishes.
- \* PGSMN offers publications and research aids specific to Polish Genealogy for purchase.

Please note, PGSMN does not do individual personal history research, but can assist you to do your own.

**When:** PGSMN hosts informational meetings, three in the spring, and three in the fall. Topics range from research. Cultural, historical and economic aspects of Poland and Polish America

PGSMN holds its annual meeting luncheon every January. Election of officers occurs at this meeting.

PGSMN participates in the Twin Cities Polish Festival every August. PGSMN has done this every year since the Festival inception.

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**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](http://www.pgsmn.org), and print out the membership form, or fill out the enclosed form in this newsletter and mail to the address listed.

THE POLISH  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA





## ***“Dear Diary***

**1886**

***Today I received my first beating at school. The soldiers came and questioned all of us, first in Polish and then in German. When we would answer in Polish, they would hit us with a stick. Why won't they let us speak in our own language?***

***When I came home crying, mother gave me this notebook and pencil as a surprise. She must have saved her money for a long time to surprise me with this gift. She worked so hard since our father died. Mother was afraid we would be beaten but there is nothing she can do for us.***

***The soldiers are mean.***

***My brother John, who is five years older than I am was beaten last week by the soldiers. He hates them! He says he will run away to America some day. Our sister Johanna, who is 12 years older than I am, wants to go with him. That would leave only Mother and myself here in Poland. I wish I could go too.”***

This diary is one of the reasons I want to go to Poland to search for my ancestors. The girl and the brother were best friends of my ancestors. They all wanted a better life; I can't wait to share the rest of the diary!

My two cousins and I are traveling to Poland at the end of August. We will begin in Warsaw for three nights. We wish to see many of the churches, the Palace of Culture and Science, Fryderyk Chopin museum, the Warsaw Zoo and Old Town if possible.

Then we'll head southeast to Krakow and Opole. With a translator we hope to hire, we will visit smaller towns and villages such as Goslawice, Twardawa, Mechnica, Zwiastowice, Polwies and Ledziny.

Hotels are quite inexpensive, especially if you share! Hotels were booked through Venere.com.

Our biggest stumble has been the interpreter/translator. The ones we have found live in Warsaw and they charge for gas to Opole, hotels and translation time per hour. My cousin has been to Poland once before, but without a translator, it was very difficult for her to talk to priests, villagers, etc.

Thanks for taking an interest in our trip; we can't wait to share what we learn!

- Linda Borrell

***“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***

## Kapusniak—Polish Sauerkraut Soup Recipe

By Barbara Role / The Spruce

- \* Prep: 10 mins,
- Prep: 10 mins
- Cook: 90 mins

### What You'll Need

- 2 pounds ham hocks or meaty ham bone
- 2 quarts water
- 1 large chopped onion
- 1 bay leaf
- 5 black peppercorns
- 1 sprig fresh parsley or 1/4 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1/2 cup barley (not quick-cooking), rinsed and drained
- 1 (14-ounce) can sauerkraut, drained (reserve liquid), rinsed and chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon caraway seeds (optional)



### How to Make It

.Place pork and water in a [dutch oven](#) or other large pot. Bring to a boil, skimming off foam. Add onion, bay leaf, peppercorns, and parsley. Return to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer and cook about 45 minutes or until meat falls off the bones.

Remove meat from broth, dice and return to the pot with barley, sauerkraut, and caraway seeds, if using. Return to a boil, reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for an additional 45 minutes. If soup becomes too thick, add meat stock or water. If a more sour taste is desired, add some reserved

## Historical and Genealogical Societies will merge in Dakota County

Minneapolis StarTribune, June 17, 2017

The Dakota County Genealogical Society (DCGS) will become part of the Dakota County Historical Society (DCHS) as of September 2017, with full integration of services and operations by January 2018.

The two organizations have worked together for 30 years, but now the genealogical society will become a specialized working committee at the historical society, offering the opportunity to cosponsor events and share resources, a news release said.

“We have a similar mind-set in terms of who we reach,” said Matt Carter, Dakota County Historical Society’s executive director. “We were kind of surprised no one had thought of it before.”

The genealogical society will continue to host seminars and provide space for genealogical services. More genealogical information will be included in the DCHS monthly newsletter and quarterly historical magazine.

DCHS, which started 78 years ago, is a nonprofit membership organization and open to the public. It is housed in the Lawshe Memorial Museum in South St. Paul and manages two historic sites.





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### 2017 Hours

Wednesdays 10 am - 4 pm

Thursdays 10 am - 4 pm & 6 pm - 9 pm

Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm

### Days Closed in 2017

April 13-18, Nov. 23-28, and Dec. 13 - Jan 2, 2018

*Please note a recent change, we WILL be open the Saturday before July 4th, and Labor Day!*

MGS Library is closed if volunteers are not available.

Check the [Volunteer Calendar](https://MNGS.org) at [https:// MNGS.org](https://MNGS.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***

MGS announces that the **online library catalog** is up and ask that you check out this excellent resource. Here is a quick peek of available titles available to assist in your research located at the Library.

**Guide to Records of Border Crossings between the United States and Canada 1895-1954** by Zaleski, Jan Steven.

**A Guide to Chicago and Midwestern Polish-American Genealogy** by Kruski, Jason

**Polish Genealogy & Heraldry – An Introduction to Research** by Hoskins, Janina W.

A translation Guide to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Polish Language, Civil Registration and Documents (including Birth, Marriage and Death Records), 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Frazin, Judith R.

**An Annotated and Topical List of Aids to Polish Genealogy** by Markowski, Benedict

**Resources for Polish-American and Polish-Canadian Genealogical Research** by LaBudie-Szakall, Kathleen Ann and Zaleski, Jan Steven.

**Finding your Polish Ancestors** by [LaBudie-Szakall, Kathleen Ann and Jan Steven Zaleski.](#)

**Polish Genealogy: Four Steps to Success** by Szababos, Stephen

There are many other publications for your assistance in genealogy research. Check out the library.



# American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**NEHGS Library Director Jean Maguire acknowledges that “Polish genealogy—like any other genealogical research area—offers its own set of unique challenges. For example, tracing the place of origin for a Polish ancestor can sometimes be challenging for two reasons: 1) the changing politics of the region meant that a person’s country of origin could be listed in one of a variety of ways other than Poland (e.g., Austria, Prussia, or Russia), and 2) people from Poland often gave the nearest city as their place of origin instead of the actual village or town, or they gave a village or town name, but there is more than one place in Poland with that name. There are ways of dealing with these research challenges and there are resources that will explain these methods to you. This guide provides a listing of essential resources for anyone delving into their Polish ancestry. ”**

Maguire recommends the following resources to assist in your Polish Genealogy research

[\*The Borders of Integration: Polish Migrants in Germany and the United States, 1870-1924\*](#) by Brian McCook

[\*A History of the Polish Americans\*](#) by John J. Bukowczyk

[\*The Polish Peasant in Europe and America\*](#) by William I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki

[\*Polish Roots, 2nd ed.\*](#) by Rosemary A. Chorzempa

[\*Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy\*](#) by Cecile Wendt Jensen

[\*Going Home: A Guide to Polish-American Family History Research\*](#) by Jonathan D. Shea

[\*Guide to Chicago and Midwestern Polish-American Genealogy\*](#) by Jason Kruski

[\*In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents\*](#) by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman

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**Family History Microfilm Discontinuation** - On September 1, 2017, FamilySearch will discontinue its microfilm distribution services. The change is the result of significant progress made in FamilySearch’s microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology. For further information, see <https://www.lds.org/callings/temple-and-family-history/familysearch-microfilm-discontinuation?lang=eng&r=1>

## Hennepin County Library System offers genealogical resources

Another resource for genealogy researchers is the Hennepin County Library. The library has the following resources to assist. Check out their calendar (dates/information also listed on the PGSMN web calendar)

Resources available—

[Ancestry Library Edition](#)—**Available only in a library.** Census records, passenger lists, birth, death, marriage, and military records, family and local history collections, newspapers and directories. Best viewed using Internet Explorer or Firefox.

[Fold3 History & Genealogy Archives Plus](#)—Original historical documents including U.S. military records, newspapers, images, city directories, naturalization documents, personal histories, and more.

[Genealogy Connect](#)—Records of Colonial and Revolutionary U.S., Immigration, Royal and Noble families, Native American tribes, and New England. Includes information on getting started and essential research tips.

[HeritageQuest](#)—American local history books, primary sources, family histories, images, and finding aids. Goes back to the late 1700's.

A quick peek of available print publications to assist your research at HCPL

The Family Tree Polish, Czech & Slovak Genealogy Guide  
How to Trace your Family Tree in Eastern Europe By Alzo, Lisa A.

A Student's Guide to Polish American Genealogy By Rollyson, Carl E.

Polish Genealogy & Heraldry: An Introduction to Research By Hoskins, Janina W.

Resources for Polish-American and Polish-Canadian Genealogical Research By Brandt, Edward R., 1931-

Polish Roots: Korzenie Polskie By Chorzempa, Rosemary A., 1951-

Finding your Polish Ancestors By LaBudie-Szakall, Kathleen Ann

Peszynski - A Genealogical Collection of A Family Name Originating in Poland By Peszynski, Eugene J.

Tracing your European Roots By Quillen, W. Daniel

In Their Words - A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents By Shea, Jonathan D.

The Polish Peasant in Europe and America By William I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki.

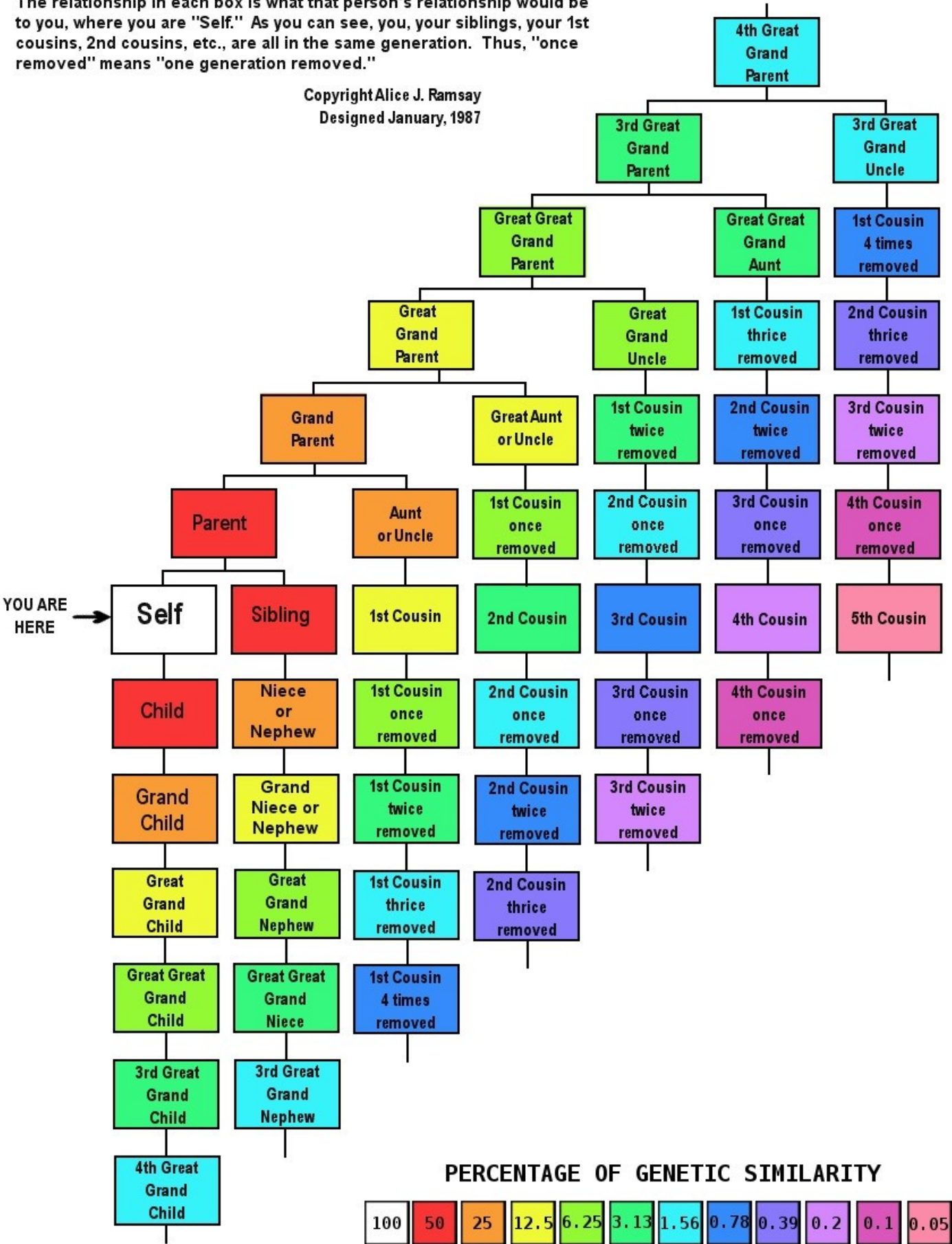
For further information and assistance see <http://www.hclib.org/programs/genealogy-local-history>



# So is that my second cousin, and what is that once removed stuff?

The relationship in each box is what that person's relationship would be to you, where you are "Self." As you can see, you, your siblings, your 1st cousins, 2nd cousins, etc., are all in the same generation. Thus, "once removed" means "one generation removed."

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Designed January, 1987



# Search tips for beginners in Polish Genealogy

by Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz

1. **Get a book.** Researching your Polish genealogy is quite a different thing in some ways from researching one's U.S. ancestry. To help you familiarize yourself with the history and geography that are essential to your understanding of researching your family in Poland, it's a good idea to get a beginner's guide to Polish genealogy. There are quite a few books on the subject; you can check Amazon (search "Polish Genealogy") for reviews, or you can click on the magnifying glass icon in the upper right corner of the group page to view past discussions of Polish genealogy research guide books.

2. **Start with yourself and work backwards.** Interview older family members, if any are still around, and ask them questions about everything they remember about their immigrant ancestors. If all your older family members are deceased, don't panic – their paper trail is still there, and that's what we all use to document those family stories anyway.

3. **Check out the "one-stop shopping" sites** like [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com), etc. Family Search is free, and the paid sites can probably be accessed free of charge at your local public library. These sites are good for gathering census records, passenger records, military records, and other types of basic documentation. Please note that the information available on these sites represents only the tip of the iceberg for what's out there. Most of the documents you'll need are still sitting in churches, courthouses, archives, and libraries, waiting for you to discover them. In this era of immediate gratification via the internet, people sometimes begin with the unrealistic expectation that somewhere, someone out there has done all the work for them. While this might be true (to a point) if your ancestors have been living in the U.S. since Colonial times, it's much less likely to be true if your ancestors arrived here from Poland just a generation or two ago. Don't forget that genealogy still requires patience, persistence, time, and good-old fashioned research done with letter-writing, phone calls, and personal visits, if possible.

4. **Do your homework in U.S. records before attempting to trace your family in Poland.** It's a common mistake for people to find one document with a place of birth on it (most likely misspelled) and to try to use that to begin tracing their family in Poland. Be patient. In many cases, there are multiple towns and villages in Poland with the same name (think of researching a U.S. place called "Springfield"). It's a good idea to obtain several documents with place of birth information so you can compare them before trying to research in Poland. It'll save you time (and maybe money) in the long run.

5. **ABSOLUTELY MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN VITAL RECORDS FROM THE CHURCH YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS ATTENDED IN THE U.S.** I cannot state that strongly enough. Church versions of marriage and death records are much more likely to contain your immigrant ancestor's precise place of birth in Poland than are the civil equivalents. Moreover, these places were probably recorded by a Polish priest, so they're likely to be spelled more or less correctly. You should also obtain baptismal records for the children of your immigrant ancestors. These frequently contain an "ex loco" portion that will tell you where the parents came from. Not every record will contain that information, so be thorough: if you know that your great-grandmother's sister also immigrated and lived in that same parish, get her marriage record as well as your great-grandmother's record. Get ALL the baptismal records, not just for your own direct line of descent. Documents from collateral lines can often provide that critical breakthrough you need.

5a. Don't know what parish your ancestors attended? Find their address in the census records. Parishes had defined geographic boundaries (still do!) and people were not likely to "shop around" for a parish they liked, as is often the case today. People in the group can often assist with identifying the correct parish, so ask if you need help.

5b. Before you write to that parish, check the Family History Library catalog at [www.Familysearch.org](http://www.Familysearch.org) to see if records for that parish were microfilmed. If so, it's often faster to order the microfilm than to wait for the (tired, overworked) parish secretary to get around to replying to your genealogy request.

Continued p.11

5c. **If you do need to write to the parish**, keep in mind that the primary function of the parish staff is to meet the spiritual needs of their congregation, NOT to fulfill genealogy requests. Make sure to enclose a donation for the parish, and be prepared to wait a while. It's best to request only a few records (1-3) at a time, keep your letter brief, and be as specific as you can. If you're requesting a marriage record, for example, obtain the civil equivalent first – that way, you already know the exact date of the event. It's okay to follow up with phone calls, emails or letters if a decent interval (4-6 weeks) has gone by and you still have not received a reply. When you do receive your records, remember to send a thank-you note.

6. **Obtain other key records** to obtain in order to determine place of birth in Poland:

a. Passenger records. Family Search, Ancestry have these, and you can find records specifically for the Port of New York from [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) (after 1892) and [www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org) (before 1892)

b. Naturalization records. Pre-1906, they might not give specific place of birth info, but after 1906 they almost certainly will. My ancestors are from Buffalo (in Erie County) New York, so I have always been able to obtain these records by visiting/calling/writing to the Erie County Court building. However, you may need to try the National Archives (<http://www.archives.gov/research/naturalization/>) or the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (<http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>) Post-1906 records can be goldmines. They often contain not only the place of birth of the man who was becoming a citizen, but also the place of birth of his wife. Remember that, prior to the Cable Act of 1922, a woman's citizenship was a reflection of her husband's (see [http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/summer/women\\_and\\_naturalization-1.html](http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1998/summer/women_and_naturalization-1.html) for more information). So prior to 1922, you'll want to look for the naturalization records for the husband of your female ancestors.

c. Military records. World War I draft registration cards will often provide a specific place of birth.

7. **Leave no stone unturned.** As family historians, our job is to document the lives of our family members, so be thorough. Think beyond the basics, and check out additional sources for information about your family. As an example, the Polish Genealogical Society of America has a database of insurance claim files from the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America. The application for life insurance often has fantastic medical and personal information about the applicant (number of brothers and sisters still living, age at which parents died, etc.). Buffalo's Polish-language newspaper, the Dziennik Dla Wszystkich, published from 1911-1957, provides a fascinating look into the lives of our ancestors. Even if you don't read Polish, you can scan through and find stories and photos of your family, and post them here in the group for translation. If you have ancestors from New York State, also be sure to check out the newspaper archive at [www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com), which contains keyword-searchable newspapers from all across New York State, from the late 1800s until about the 1980s.

8. **Join a Polish genealogical society**, either nationally (the Polish Genealogical Society of America, <http://www.pgsa.org>) in an area where your ancestors lived, or where you live now. Examples include the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State ([www.pgsnys.org](http://www.pgsnys.org)), the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan ([www.pgsm.org](http://www.pgsm.org)), the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast ([www.pgscne.org](http://www.pgscne.org)), the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts ([www.pgsmma.org](http://www.pgsmma.org)), etc. Typically their websites have useful databases and resources (i.e. the Polish letter writing guide at the PGSA site) and they have meetings at which you can connect with others researching their Polish heritage in your area.

Hopefully these tips will help you get started in researching your Polish family in U.S. records. When you're ready to make the leap into Polish records, the real fun begins. All of us here in Polish Genealogy on Facebook are looking forward to sharing your joys and frustrations on your genealogical journey, and helping out when we can. Happy researching, and remember that there's no such thing as a stupid question – we're here to help.

Best regards, Julie Szczepankiewicz, Hopkinton, Massachusetts, 26 August 2014





The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota will be participating at the Twin Cities Polish Festival. We are in need of volunteers to help us with this event.

We truly appreciate our volunteers. Come join in the fun, and help us make it an enjoyable and enriching experience for those in search of genealogy information.



For more information contact Dori, at 763-535-2296 or by email at [dorim@comcast.net](mailto:dorim@comcast.net)

For additional PGSMN info see [www.pgsmn.org](http://www.pgsmn.org)

The Twin Cities Polish Festival seeks to inspire people throughout the region to discover more about our world and embrace the rich cultural diversity brought by immigrants from around the globe.



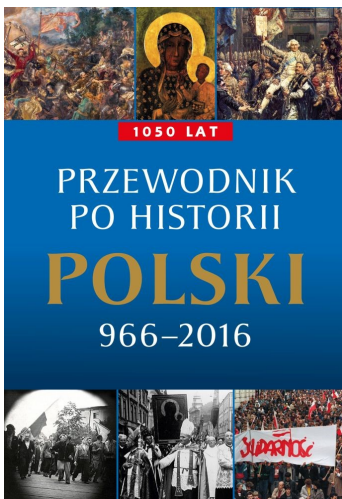


## Card index on Jewish victims now online

*The International Tracing Service (ITS) has published two further resources in its online archive. They include the card index of the Reich Association of Jews in Germany and material on death marches from concentration camps.*

What is left of the card index of the Reich Association of Jews in Germany (Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland) comprises 32,264 registration cards, primarily those of Jewish school pupils, emigrants and deceased persons. Now interested persons all over the world have access to these cards. The ITS has moreover placed an additional 15,000 documents pertaining to the death marches online, thus supplementing the first group of documents on that subject published on its internet portal last year. "We chose two sets of documents that, while they are small, are of especial interest to the public. They conclude the successful test phase of the online archive," ITS director Floriane Hohenberg explained. "More extensive holdings will follow, with which we aim to make documents on deportations, the Holocaust and **forced labor** available to people all over the world."

The archive of the ITS in Bad Arolsen is one of the largest collections of documents on Nazi persecution and the aftermath of those crimes. In order to provide as many interested persons as possible access to this material, which holds the status of UNESCO world documentary heritage, the ITS set up an online archive in 2015. It offers direct access to the documents along with descriptions of the various holdings. The work of indexing the archives goes hand in hand with the continual expansion of the portal. With the new online placement a central search function has been expanded, allowing comprehensive research on names of people and places throughout the available collections. The ITS has placed a total of some 170,000 images (80,000 documents) in its Online-Archive.



## The Polish Consultate of New York offers a free Guide to the History of Poland 966-2016

This brochure (120 pages) was prepared for the participants of World Youth Day, held in 2016 in Krakow. It presents a summarized overview of Polish history, with particular emphasis on World War II and information about Polish saints. Foreword written by the President of Poland Andrzej Duda and Cardinal Archbishop of Krakow Stanisław Dziwisz. The brochure was published in 9 languages: Polish, **English**, Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German and French. It is intended for free distribution in parishes and in the various places they are visiting pilgrims, e.g. At the Auschwitz Museum and the Museum - House of John Paul II in Wadowice.

It is now available to the public, and can be downloaded at <http://pamiec.pl/pa/biblioteka-cyfrowa/publikacje/16251,Przewodnik-po-historii-Polski-9662016.html>



## Genealogical Database of Ukrainians Born in 1650–1920 is Now Online

EuroMaiden Press at <http://bit.ly/2tbqm9k>:

A huge database of people born in the territory of contemporary Ukraine between 1650 and 1920 became available online. Its opening crowned a four-year effort of activists to digitize, systematize, and assemble countless entries from historical documents—but is not the final point of the project.



The database includes 2.56 mn people and is expected to reach 4 to 5 mn in 2019. The access to its contents is and will remain free of charge. The sources of data are manifold: birth registers, fiscal and parish censuses, lists of nobility, voters, the military, and victims of repressions, address directories, and other documents produced under the Tsardom of Muscovy, Russian and Habsburg Empires, Poland and the Soviet Union. A Roman-letter version of the data index is reportedly to be enabled in the coming months.

All the users who register profiles on the project's website [pra.in.ua](http://pra.in.ua) can construct their own family trees. Nearly 18 thousand trees have been created in the first couple of days following the official inauguration of the site.

The project founder is the Ukrainian IT businessman [Igor Hoszowski](#). A historian by training, he has studied his ancestry for many years and achieved spectacular success. The personal experience of genealogical searches inspired his online project. When working in the archives, Hoszowski worried that the bundles of old paper could turn to dust with time or their entries could become unreadable. Our forefathers are with us, he believes, as long as we remember their names. So he decided to launch a platform that would preserve this information for the future and be easily accessible to the public.

You can read the full article at: <http://bit.ly/2tbqm9k>.

Although the site is in Ukrainian, it translated into English with Translate Google and Bing. The site indicates that shortly they will have it in English for easier access.

The Ukrainian births database is available at: <https://pra.in.ua>.





# American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEHGS Library Director Jean Maquire advises that Polish genealogy—like any other genealogical research area—offers its own set of unique challenges. For example, tracing the place of origin for a Polish ancestor can sometimes be challenging for two reasons: 1) the changing politics of the region meant that a person's country of origin could be listed in one of a variety of ways other than Poland (e.g., Austria, Prussia, or Russia), and 2) people from Poland often gave the nearest city as their place of origin instead of the actual village or town, or they gave a village or town name, but there is more than one place in Poland with that name. There are ways of dealing with these research challenges and there are resources that will explain these methods to you. Ms. Maquire recommend the following publications to

## HOW-TO AND OTHER GUIDES FOR POLISH GENEALOGY

[\*The Borders of Integration: Polish Migrants in Germany and the United States, 1870-1924\*](#) by Brian McCook

[\*A History of the Polish Americans\*](#) by John J. Bukowczyk

[\*The Polish Peasant in Europe and America\*](#) by William I. Thomas and Florian Znaniecki

[\*Polish Roots, 2nd ed.\*](#) by Rosemary A. Chorzempa

[\*Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy\*](#) by Cecile Wendt Jensen

[\*Going Home: A Guide to Polish-American Family History Research\*](#) by Jonathan D. Shea

[\*Guide to Chicago and Midwestern Polish-American Genealogy\*](#) by Jason Kruski

[\*In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents\*](#) by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman

[\*Roman Catholic Parishes in the Polish People's Republic in 1984\*](#) by Lidia Müllerowa

[\*A Translation guide to 19th-century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents\*](#) by Judith R. Frazin



2015 SCI award accepted by Gloria Bergstrom and Dolores Strand

## Congratulations to Sister Cities Columbia Heights

Columbia Heights Sister Cities has been awarded the Best Overall Program Award, a prestigious award from Sister Cities International. They received the award for outstanding accomplishments over the past year and advancing the goals and mission of SCI.

Dolores Strand, co-chair and State Coordinator Karen Karkula (a resident of Columbia Heights) will travel to Virginia Beech in July to accept the award.

"We hope that residents of Columbia Heights are proud of their sister city program with Loianki, Poland" SCO Vice President Adam Kaplan said, "The program's broad-based community support and commitment to building a mutually beneficial relationship with Lomianki, Poland is a great example of how even cities of this size can have an international impact.. Even more outstanding is this is the 2nd time that Columbia Heights has received this honor.

PGSMN commends Sister Cities Columbia Heights for this achievement, for their ongoing efforts in support of "global commitments for world peace," which builds on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationship through communities.

## The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

THE POLISH  
GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA



**Who:** The Polish Genealogical Society of MN was formed over 20 years ago as a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

We are currently over 250 members strong from across the country, but predominantly from the upper Midwest- especially the Twin Cities area in Minnesota.

**Why:** We were formed with four main goals in mind:

- \* Create an interest in Polish genealogical research;
- \* Preserve the family and institutional history of Minnesota's Polonia,
- \* Encourage the exchange of ideas and information between **PEOPLE** of all research levels through meetings, forums & publications.
- \* Work with other genealogical organizations with similar interests

**What:** We maintain a library & map collection as a part of the larger MGS Library

- \* We offer personalized assistance at the library on specific Saturdays and Thursdays.
- \* Publication of a great quarterly newsletter with articles of local interest.
- \* Host an annual meeting and several informative meetings throughout the year.
- \* Foster the indexing of local records from historically Polish parishes
- \* Publications and additional resources specific to Polish Genealogy are for sale

Please note : *We do not do personal history research for you, but will help you do your own.*

**When:** Informational meetings - free and open to the public: three in the Fall and three in the Spring. The Meeting topics include research, cultural, historical & economic aspects of Poland and Polish America, as well as member's personal journeys into our ancestry research.

Host an annual meeting luncheon for the annual report and election of board officers every January.

Participate in the Twin Cities Polish Festival, providing genealogy information, and have done so every year since the festival's inception.

**Where:** Meetings at the MGS Library building on Concord Street in South St. Paul

**Cost:** Your \$20 membership in the ***Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota*** include: the quarterly newsletter; monthly meetings and summer activities; **total access** to the MGS Library; great website; and networking opportunities with great fellow genealogists.

**Google us or checkout our brand new web site is:** [www.pgsmn.org](http://www.pgsmn.org)

## ***Upcoming training opportunities***

Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS)  
2017 Eastern European Family History Conference  
July 17-21, 2017 in Salt Lake City, Utah



This conference has Polish-specific as well as German, Austro-Hungarian, Jewish, and Russian/Ukraine sessions. The conference is located near the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and provides an opportunity to access resources at the library.

For additional information, see <http://feefhs.org/conference-2017-schedule>

## **From the Neighbors**

The Wisconsin State Genealogy Society (WSGS) wants to let you know that they may have some helpful resources for you to explore. Although they concentrate on Wisconsin and the families there, they offer monthly online genealogy webinars with handouts (open to public); various articles on a variety of genealogy topics; links to other genealogical resources. If you become a member you have access to the webinar archives, and receive their newsletters. For additional information see <http://wsgs.org>

### ***WSGS July 2017 Webinar***

***Tuesday, July 18, 2017***

***7:00 PM CST***

***Presenter Elizabeth O'Neil***

Lineage societies have been collecting and preserving family histories for over 125 years, but did you know that these treasures can be located online for free, and you don't have to be a member to take advantage and use these sites. Thousands of applications and supporting documents have been submitted to the societies for years, and information could be just a click or two away. This webinar will show what gems are available and where to locate them.



Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7132402566148077570>

After registering, you will receive an email with information and a link to join us the night of the webinar. This is a first-come, first-served webinar, and that there are a limited number of spots to view the webinar live. Registering does not hold a spot for you. Those that log in first will be admitted to the webinar.

***Upcoming WSGS Webinars—see their website for additional details.***

**August 2017—How Advertising Brought Our Ancestors to the Midwest**

**September 2017—Third Coast: How the Great Lakes Shaped America**

**October 2017—The Aliens Are Coming: USCIS Record Sets**

**November 2017— Midwest Historical Genealogy for Genealogists**

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



### **Missing Branches April—June 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 Members:**

**Becker, Mary**, 1703 James Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105, [mtbecker@infionline.net](mailto:mtbecker@infionline.net), Researching: **TRZCINSKA** of Zales, Poland, settling in Hartford, Wisconsin.

**Borrell, Linda**, 6936 Knox Ave. S., Richfield, MN 55423, [borrell.linda@gmail.com](mailto:borrell.linda@gmail.com), Researching: **LICHY, PIERSKALLA** of Opole, Mechnitz, settling in Stearns County, MN; **PHILIPCZYK, HUNTZEK/HUNCEK/HUNTSEK** of Lenzin, Twardawa, settling in Stearns County, MN; **BANNERT, PARWOLL** of Połowity, settling in Stearns County, MN; **PASSONIN, KUTZ, FILUSH, KAMPA, KANZIN** settling in Stearns County, MN.

**Jordan, Melanie**, 3411 Pillsbury Ave S, Apt. 1, Minneapolis, MN 55408, [meljordan56@msn.com](mailto:meljordan56@msn.com), Researching: **RUSSELL** of Poznan, Poland, settling in Duluth, MN; **WOZNIAK** of Grzybowo, Poland, settling in Duluth, MN; **WOSNISK** of Lichlen, Poland, settling in Duluth, MN.

**Klonecky, Kathy**, 15621 Cornell TRL, Rosemount, MN 55068, [thjudy@gmail.com](mailto:thjudy@gmail.com), Researching: **KLONECKI** of Poznan, settling in Wisconsin & North Dakota; **SZUBART, RECK** of Silesia, settling in North Dakota; **HECEK, MISH** of Silesia/Poland settling in Wisconsin.

**Sarvie, Lisa**, 2225 University Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418, Researching: **DOBOSENSKI** of Poland, settling in Willow River, MN; **PASEK** of Poland, settling in Split Rock Township, MN; **DELESKI** of Poland settling in MN.

**Wilson, Theresa**, 1115 Autumn ST, Roseville, MN 55113, [tgifwilson@gmail.com](mailto:tgifwilson@gmail.com), Researching: **ANTKOWIAK** from Kalisa and Kościan, settling in Chicago, IL; **ROGOWICZ** from Cienien Zaborny, Poznan, settling in Chicago, IL.

**Wolf, Gary C.**, 828 138<sup>th</sup> ST, Amery, WI 54001, [gcwolf@att.net](mailto:gewolf@att.net), Researching: **LAMCZYK** settling in Milwaukee and Lacrosse, WI, and St. Paul, MN; **DEMSKI** settling in St. Paul, MN.

#### **Renewing Members:**

**Anderson, Marcia**, 130 Edgewood Ave. N., Golden Valley, MN 55427, [macia.d.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:macia.d.anderson@gmail.com), Researching: **ZWOLINSKI** of Poznan, Poland, settling in Thorp, WI, Minneapolis, MN, Griswold & Baltimore, MD, and Longrun, Ohio; **SZUPIEN, KLUCZYNSKI** of Suwalki, Poland, Lithuania, settling in Shenandoah, PA, Griswold, CT, and Minneapolis, MN; **KOBACWECKI** of Poland, settling in Baltimore, MD, Whelling, W.VA, Griswold, CT, Longrun, Ohio, and Thorp, WI.

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

**Huneke, Joan**, 1650 McKnight Rd N, Maplewood, MN 55119, [joan.huneke@yahoo.com](mailto:joan.huneke@yahoo.com), Researching: **FILIPCZAK** of Poland, settling in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, & Chicago, IL; **DRWEIGA** of Poland, settling in Minnesota and Chicago, IL.

**Kortus, Kathy**, 2340 16<sup>th</sup> Ave E, North St. Paul, MN, 55109, Researching: **KORTUS, LUCZAWESKI** of Poznan, settling in Wisconsin and Minnesota; **DELONG** settling in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

**Schiebe, Lowell and Mary Ann**, 13040 Oakwood Dr., Rogers, MN 55374, [LMA.SCHIEBE@usfamily.net](mailto:LMA.SCHIEBE@usfamily.net), Researching: **OKONESKI** settling in St. Paul, MN; **OKONIEWSKI** of Berent, West Prussen, Koscienczyna, Poland.

**Syverson, Alice**, 5399 County 12 Blvd, Kenyon, MN 55946, [syverson@citlink.net](mailto:syverson@citlink.net), Researching: **WITSKI** settling in Ottertail County, MN.

**Wielinski, Stan**, 16601 Riverwood Dr, unit 504, Little Falls, MN 56345, [swielinski@yahoo.com](mailto:swielinski@yahoo.com), Researching: **VICTOR RUDEK** of Prussia- Oppeln Opale, settling in Elmsdale, MN.

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## Piast Institute seeks nominations for the Polish Women Hall of Fame

Polish women have long had a reputation for beauty, intelligence, and courage.

Poland herself has appeared in iconography, especially in the Romantic era, as a woman bravely suffering oppression, defying her tormentors or grieving her sons and daughters. People call to mind Queen Jadwiga, the legendary Princess Wanda or the brilliant Marie Skłodowska-Curie when Polish women are mentioned. But the full story of their accomplishments finds almost no place in the popular history of Poland. Yet, it is a rich, inspiring and complex story that gives us new perspectives on the history of Poland and Polish communities throughout the world. We can never fully understand who we are until we join the histories of our mothers to that of our fathers.

It is for this reason that the Piast Institute founded the Polish Women's Hall of Fame as a record of the story of Polish Women and as a resource for our community, schools and universities, and especially for young Polish women—and indeed young women everywhere so that they might know and remember.

The Polish Women's Hall of Fame is a virtual exhibit hosted by the Piast Institute that seeks to honor and raise awareness of the stories of women's lives and contributions to Polish and Polonian culture and history, and the contributions of women of Polish birth or descent to the world. Housed online, the project provides biographies, photographs, bibliographies, and articles on both individual prominent women and on the more general history of Polish women both in Poland and abroad.

Individuals or groups may be nominated to the Hall of Fame in any of six categories:

Arts and Humanities

Religion

Science and Education

Public Life and Service

Sports

Philanthropy

<https://youtu.be/66HVZQr8Azc>

There is one week left to submit nominations to the Polish Women's Hall of Fame for the September selection cycle! We are still seeking nominees in all six categories. The nomination process is simple, and we're here to help you through the process.

There is one week left to submit nominations to the Polish Women's Hall of Fame for the September selection cycle! We are still seeking nominees in all six categories. The nomination process is simple, and we're here to help you through the process. Visit our website at [www.FamousPolishWomen.com](http://www.FamousPolishWomen.com) to submit your nomination. We look forward to seeing it!



**Polish Genealogy Society of Minnesota**  
*A branch of the MN Genealogical Society*  
1185 North Concord Street, Suite 218  
South St. Paul, MN 55075-1150

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PGSMN September  
Meeting

Publishing Your Family  
History

Presenter Terry DiCarlo

September 9, 2017

10:00 am—12:00 pm

MGS Building

1185 N. Concord Street

South St. Paul, MN

**Join the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota at the Twin Cities Polish Festival ,  
August 11-13, 2017. Free Admission. For additional festival info see  
[www.tcpolishfestival.org](http://www.tcpolishfestival.org) .**



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 Przynski— email [Przynski@comcast.net](mailto:Przynski@comcast.net).