

Polish Genealogical Society Of Minnesota



PGSMN Newsletter Volume 28 #2

Summer 2020

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Mitego 4 Lipca

Let freedom ring

and democracy flourish

Have a great 4th of July, 2020



The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota wishes to thank its members for their past generosity and support and we look forward to continuing to provide resources, tools and support in your Polish Genealogy research.

From the President

We continue our summer hiatus at PGSMN with the plan to begin programs again in September, virus willing. If we cannot present Fall programs in person, we will establish an on-line platform to allow programs for our members. Our Board conducts its meetings in an on-line manner, and will continue to do so - our next Board meeting will be in July.

The MGS Library plans to reopen July 11, with restrictions. This information will be emailed to PGSMN members. Meeting rooms will also reopen, for limited use, with restrictions, in July. If there is one advantage of our enforced lock-down, it is that we can consider doing some of the activities we have put aside.

Stay well,

Terry Kita, President PGSMN



Saturday, September 5, 2020 10 am

The Polish National Catholic Church and the Immigrant Community

Many Polish immigrants were members of the Roman Catholic Church but a minority belonged to other churches, one of these being the Polish National Catholic Church. Mr. Kevin Tuma, a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church in Northeast Minneapolis, will speak on the origins of the church and how it differs from the Roman Catholic Church. He will also share the place it held in the Polish community during the late 19th and early 20th century, as well as its place in contemporary society.

Please join us to learn about the place this church

Light Snacks and Coffee provided
Cost: \$2 for members / \$5 for non-members
Time: 10 am

Location - **Minnesota Genealogy Center in Mendota Heights, 1385 Mendota Heights Road #100, Mendota Heights, MN.**

***The Board of Directors, alongside MGS Board of Directors, are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to ensure the safety of all members. We will make a determination as September approaches, if the meeting will need to be held virtually. Please watch your email and the website for further information.*



The Twin Cities Polish Festival Planning Committee thanks you for your continued support and interest in the Annual Twin Cities Polish Festival. The scheduled 2020 festival has been moved to 2021. Please see the our website for upcoming information—www.tcpolishfestival.org

Cover Photo—Leaving Poland to a different life

photo: Florian Staszewski / from the collections of the Emigration Museum in Gdynia

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Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society

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Letter from editor

Welcome to the summer edition of the PGSMN newsletter. The newsletter was created mid June and we hope that you enjoy reading, and discovering of great events and articles that engage your interest.

First I wish to offer my apologies—in the spring issue, member information was inadvertently omitted from the “Missing Branches” section. They have been posted in this issue. We welcome them and all members—you are the backbone of the organization! We thank you for your support.

Due to the ongoing pandemic concerns, you are strongly encouraged to check date information surrounding event and locations with the hosting organization, and also the PGSMN website and Facebook pages. PGSMN has also embarked on putting meeting events online to view from the safety of your homes, and upcoming “The Polish National Catholic Church and the Immigrant Community” is sure to be of interest and enjoyable.

Capitalizing on a need and a great ideal, Author Łukasz Bielecki shares with us the creation and history of the Poznan Project. We get a peek at Henry Wolak, and see the many facets of his life. There are some great webinars, online classes, and print publications to peruse. I wish to thank Amy Jowers and Poznan creator Łukasz Bielecki for sharing their information. I encourage all to submit your searches and genealogical information, even if its just a couple of paragraphs. Please note the next deadline is September 15, 2020. Have a great summer.

Marie



“Minnesota People Records Search” can be used to exclusively research birth, death, and state census records, as well as Veterans Graves Registration and World War I Gold Star Rolls. If you'd like to search people records together with the rest of the MNHS collection, use www.mnhs.org/search.

Birth Records (1900-1934), Death Records (1904-2001), State Census Records (1849-1905) and Veterans Graves Registration (1857-1975) and Gold Star Roll (1915-1921).

Did you know that the Minnesota Historical Society holds the largest single collection of Minnesota newspapers, with publication dates ranging from 1849 to the present day.

The MNHS also participates in the National Digital Newspaper Program. This program is a partnership between the NEH and the Library of Congress to build a national digital resource of newspapers published between 1690 and 1963. Find out more about newspapers at the Minnesota Historical Society, including those which have not yet been digitized. Historical American newspaper pages from 1690-1963 can be found at the Library of Congress Chronicling America site.

Minnesota Alien Registration and Naturalization

In February 1918, the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety passed the Alien Registration Act. This legislation **ordered all unnaturalized aliens to register and make sworn declarations about themselves, their immediate family members, and their property holdings.** This act allowed the Commission to gather information on all non-citizens during World War I, but it also encouraged many immigrants to start--or finish--the naturalization process.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
MINNESOTA COMMISSION OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Alien Registration and Declaration of Holdings Serial Number 449

This registration blank to be forwarded to J. A. O. Prens, State Auditor, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

DAKOTA County **CITY OF SO. ST. PAUL,** Town
Village City

1. Full name of Alien Registrant Philip Adler
2. Street Address, Postoffice Box or R. F. D. Route 418 4th Ave. So. St. Paul
3. Village, City or Town CITY OF SO. ST. PAUL
4. Length of residence at the foregoing place 4 years
5. Give Age Last Birthday 29 years
6. To what country do you claim allegiance? Hungary
7. Where Born Offense, Hungary
8. Date of Birth May 3 1890
9. Port of entry to United States New York
10. Date of Arrival in United States 1913

Each Alien Registration and Declaration of Holdings Form gives the following information:

- Registrant’s name
- Address and length of residence there
- Age
- Place and date of birth
- Occupation
- Marital status
- Port of entry and date of arrival in the United States
- Naturalization status
- Names and ages of living children
- A male registrant’s draft status
- Names and relationships of male relatives participating in World War I and the country served
- Information on the ownership, location, value, sale, and transfer of real and personal property (within and outside of Minnesota)



The Minnesota Historical Society Library holds naturalization records for all 87 counties and the Minnesota Supreme Court. These records are on microfilm and organized by county. Several available on-line. MHC also has print copies of the indexes.

Twenty Years of the Poznań Project - A Retrospective

By Łukasz Bielecki

In the summer of 1999, I met an American couple at the State Archives in Poznań. They were trying to find any information about an ancestor who seemingly lived there until 1880, until he finally went to Bremen and traveled further to New York to start new life there. Aware of their Polish heritage, the couple insisted that Poznań was the only keyword that connected their research with contemporary Poland - or was it Posen, the name under which our city was known in the German language for centuries. The librarian showed them a letter he received



POZNAN PROJECT

POZNAN REGION MARRIAGE
INDEXING PROJECT FOR 1800-1899

from the U.S. recently with a request to do research for another family which once emigrated from Poznań. He said, "We are getting lots of similar correspondence. We are routinely checking the birth registers of the four big parishes that our city had in the 1800s. We are never really finding information, so we have to respond back with a negative result. The family must have been living somewhere outside of the city."

Discussing this, we agreed that the vague naming customs of the era were to blame. In the Polish usage, the name of Poznań only identified the city itself, while the region or province was known under other descriptions, more or less official. On the other hand, it became the prevalent custom in both English and German, to use the same name for the city and its region, thus causing confusion (obviously the Germans did not like the historic name of the Poznań region, "Greater Poland"). Of course, we were not the first to figure that out. Meanwhile, many people trying to find their ancestors who originated in our region, were combing through hundreds of microfilms covering the Poznań province, with hope that they might have some luck someday. Predictably, few of them.



Location of the city of Poznań, in "Greater Poland". Picture taken from Wikipedia.

Even though, from today's perspective, the Internet was still in its beginning stages, many of its features were already present, though in much simpler form. Genealogists were conversing using Newsgroups and Listservers, and some early searchable databases were already known. It occurred to me then that most of those people who left Poznań (understood as the region) were definitely hidden in the existent registers, only we did not know which register to pick. If a method were found to extract the basic information on names or inhabitants present in specific registers, and if it was made searchable in an online database, we could locate the town of origin for any particular family. As I was often searching through marriage

registers, I realized they offered a very good combination of useful features—marriage records are rich in relevant data on both families concerned, and their number is relatively small, compared to births, deaths or census-type records. If we are looking for the origin of a couple who emigrated, finding their marriage in their homeland is a major breakthrough, making an efficient search of earlier generations possible. In the case of people who left as singles, often the names of their parents pop-up somewhere in documents produced throughout their lives, or in their death records, and those parents might also be located in Poland by their marriage records far easier, than any birth records of the immigrants themselves.

If only we could transcribe the marriages of all the parishes present in the region that was referred to as Poznań, at least for a period long enough to include at least one generation from each family. This idea started to haunt me. Obviously I realized that there were about 500 parishes in the relevant area, and we would need to index a few hundred or more marriages for each of them in order to ensure a good coverage of the territory. I picked 1835-1884 as probably the most suitable period to start with, as it matched precisely the decades before and during the most massive emigration from the Poznań area. Fifty years seemed like enough to locate either a father or a son's marriage in each family, too.

The Idea Takes Shape

In November 1999, I discussed this idea with some U.S. friends, and I also consulted Fred Hoffman, the renowned author of books on Polish names, among other things, and a very active participant in discussions on Polish genealogy newsgroups at the time. After I received their positive comments and some additional advice, I decided to invite all my genealogy contacts to join the Poznań Project, as I named it, to help with the transcriptions. Initially, my point was that if each participant volunteered to index one or two parishes, possibly the one(s) they were the most familiar with (or for people with no preferences, just a randomly chosen parish), it would be a task that an average person was capable of doing in a reasonable amount of time. All combined, however, it would produce a large amount of data that could be later processed into a searchable database and remain in service for everybody interested. This approach was generally accepted, and I received dozens of offers to help within several weeks.

The Challenges

The beginnings were not all that easy, however. The access to records was limited to Polish (and some German) archives in Poland, and to LDS Family History Centers abroad. Transcribing on paper and re-typing on a computer was the only available option in either case. Records for a significant number of parishes were not even filmed yet by then, and were still kept at the local pastors' offices, rendering them nearly inaccessible to the Project. Still, by starting with what was possible, we were able to make small advances. Settling on a uniform strategy of indexing took some time and effort as well, and until this was done, the job of converting the various formats also added to the difficulties. Many volunteers stepped back from their initial offers to help, as the effort was too demanding. This was understandable. In short, it took about five years to collect enough indexes of good quality to create the first version of the website, although the only search option available was still the browser's Control-F function. But even with this, first discoveries were happening, and I was receiving letters of appreciation from people who found some long-lost ancestors in those indexes. Some were offering to join the volunteer team, and the news about the Project was apparently spreading out of the "bubble" of the registered users of the discussion groups.

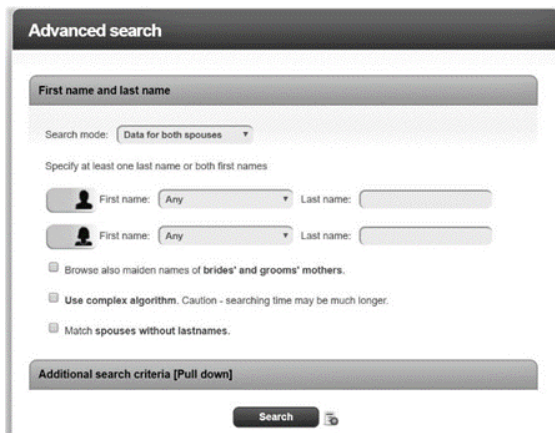
A Break-through

Another important breakthrough came when I met a young computer professional from Poznań, Maciej Głowiak, in December 2005. He was interested in his own family history and offered to help me with the software part of the Project. Indeed, he created a very flexible searchable database quite quickly. By January 2006, the first version of the search engine was presented, and subsequent features were added in later months. Together we developed our own algorithm on matching Polish and German name spellings that was doing well both with misspelled names, and with name variants, which were so common in the 19th century. About 33,000 marriage records were contained in the database in early 2005, and after that, the database grew rapidly until 2019, with about 100,000 new records added each year. As could be expected, the snowball

effect continued, with new people offering to help after they themselves were successful with discoveries made in the database.

In November 2013, a modernized version of the website was launched. Since the very beginning, the hosting for the Project was provided by the Poznań Supercomputer and Networking Center. The Center accepted this arrangement as part of their mission, which includes supporting initiatives focused on local identity and history.

The main objective of the Poznań Project has always been the most complete possible coverage of the area known as Poznań with marriage record transcriptions, no matter where exactly the respective original documents are held. Tracing them actively to some less obvious locations was my important priority, and some indexes were indeed made in remote local libraries or in archives not usually focused on the Poznań region. Despite some problems related to dealing with the church authorities, efforts were made to request access to marriage registers still kept at local parishes in areas which were not covered by the major church archives. In many places we were successful, thanks to a network of people helping to contact and persuade the local clergy. This approach makes the Poznań Project different from several other indexing projects also developed in Poland, as they typically focus on some categories of records which are accessible in a routine way, either at archives or online. Since the Poznań Project's main mission was to help find ancestors from the entire area, it was important to acquire marriage lists from less evident places as well. This strategy has often produced spectacular cases of success, when descendants were searching through microfilms over years in vain, when in fact, the family originated in a parish which still holds its records locally and our database is the only one which has the data.



The advanced search function of the Poznań Project database

As the accessibility of records became better and better over the last two decades, especially with the advent of repositories of scans accessible online, and the permission to photograph documents in the Polish State Archives, the Poznań Project has also benefitted from those changes. As a result, transcriptions were made at a much more efficient pace.

Another important factor that contributed to the fast growth of our database, was the shift in the volunteer team. Whereas the endeavor started with American based transcribers, after 2005 a group of very skilled Polish genealogists joined the project. Also, German speaking volunteers joined in bigger numbers to help, especially with Protestant records that were written in the Old German script. Throughout all of those years (2000-2020), over 300 people contributed by submitting their indexes, with the individual yield varying from dozens to about 100,000. With this much bigger team available, I was now encouraged to extend the time frame of marriages considered for indexing, eventually to include the entire 19th century, and the territory covering not only the original Prussian province of Posen, but also the adjacent Eastern Greater Poland (Kalisz gubernya, then under Russian control) and some neighboring districts of Prussian Poland where we could still expect some branches of Poznań families to settle or marry. Not only Catholic and Protestant marriages are presently transcribed, but records registered civilly are also. Civil records were obligatorily imposed on everyone in Prussia starting in 1874. Even though in most cases they repeat the couples already present in the database, those civil records contain much more accurate and comprehensive information on the spouses and their parents, and they obviously fill many

gaps whenever church records are lost or unavailable.

The Successes Realized

In total, over 1,800,000 marriage records have already been added to the database, including an estimated 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 individuals (notably, a portion of them married more than once). This already covers over 90% of the available material, keeping in mind the fact that up to one-quarter of the original marriage registers from the area might have been lost throughout the difficult history of Poland. This means that along with celebrating 20 years since the inception of the Project, we can also declare its main objective as very close to being completed. In the next years, adding some remaining bits and proofreading the indexes of lesser quality will still remain on our agenda, yet the main job has mostly been done.

Beside its most obvious advantage of offering the opportunity to locate couples in the Poznań region in the 19th century, the Poznań Project has become a platform to reunite families, thanks to the wonderful feature of adding comment tags to individual records. Those comments are then displayed to everybody who found the same record in the search results, so the users can now read any additional information other researchers provide or simply find contact data for distant family. Over 70,000 comments have already been added to our records.

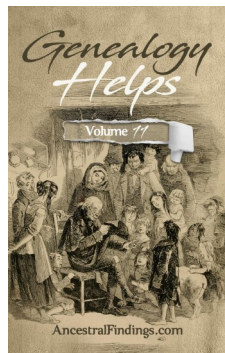
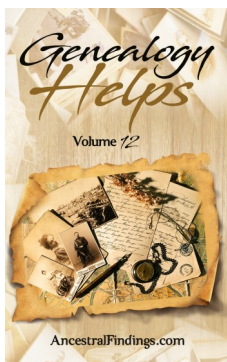
The Poznań Project has made its name in the genealogical world as one of the most important tools in researching Polish roots, and thousands of users are able to break through their brick walls. The help of hundreds of volunteers has to be appreciated and the entire endeavor has become an example of a successful networking project using the skills of a large number of people for the good of the entire community.



About the author: Dr. Łukasz Bielecki is a biochemist and tour guide from Poznań, Poland. Łukasz has been interested in genealogy for many years. Since 2000, he has been the coordinator of the Poznań Project. He coordinates about 100 volunteers from all over the world who have been transcribing vital records from the Poznań region to produce an extremely helpful online database.

Editor's Note: The Poznań Project can be found at the following website address: <http://poznan-project.psnc.pl/>

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Ancestral Findings offers free Genealogy eBooks—all 12 volumes of Genealogy Helps and several others.

<https://ancestralfindings.com/ebooks/>



Saturday, October 3, 2020 – 10 am Polish Genealogy: America & Poland Part 2

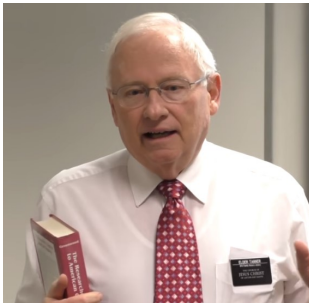
Join PGS-MN's own Genealogist, Bob Kraska, as he shares about researching your Polish family, in both the US and Poland. He'll provide tips and tricks for all levels of family history researchers.

This is part 2 of his presentation from Spring 2020 and will focus mostly on resources in Poland.

Light Snacks and Coffee provided
Cost: \$2 for members / \$5 for non-members

***The Board of Directors, alongside MGS Board of Directors, is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. Our goal is to ensure the safety of all members. We will make a determination as October approaches if the meeting will should be held virtually. Information updates at pgsmn.org.*

What Can I Do If My Ancestors Came From Poland? (webinar from BYU History Library Webinar)



Presenter—James L. Tanner with 32 years of experience in genealogical research. James has presented at seminars and conferences around the United States. James is a member of the FamilySearch Research Wiki Support Team.

<https://youtu.be/v-DBVg9Yiwg?t=405>

Frequently asked question—Does Membership in PGS-MN also give you membership in the Minnesota Genealogical Society?

Membership in the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota **does not** give you membership in the Minnesota Genealogical Society. Both organizations offer great benefits and you'll should consider joining both. The PGSMN membership is \$20 per year and the MGS individual membership is \$40 per year. Members of both organizations include free admission to the William J. Hoffman Library and Research Center with access to MGS, branch, and affiliate library collections and database subscriptions. It is one of the top research facilities in the Midwest.



Being a member of both organizations provides an excellent way to propel your research and share your interest in genealogy. For more information, please visit pgsmn.org and mngs.org.

Also, as a benefit of MGS membership, members can view any of 37 past webinars for free. See www.mngs.org and check their events section.



September 18 – 19, 2020

42nd Annual PGSA Conference 2020
NIU Conference Center Hoffman Estates, Illinois

Researching your Polish ancestry - “From the ABCs to the ZZZs”

(Mastering the fundamentals, and application of advanced techniques, tools, and data resources). More information will be posted at www.pgsa.org

MNGS 2020 Writing Contest is Open



You are invited to enter the Minnesota Genealogical Society Family History Writing Competition. The submission deadline is extended to July 10, 2020. Winners will be notified by September 1.

Do you have a story to tell? Do you want to share your solution to a perplexing family mystery? Are you getting started in writing and would appreciate some feedback?

https://mngs.org/upload/files/GS_writing_2020_rules.pdf



Can Facebook Find My Family? Social Media and Genealogy (online class)

Saturday, July 18th, 2020 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Minnesota Genealogy Center
1385 Mendota Heights Road #100
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

\$15 MGS members, \$20 nonmembers (50% off regular price)

Using social media for genealogy is a new trend. Learn how you can use social media to discover family, research techniques and connect with other genealogists.

Presenter—Jean Bielke-Rodenbiker, librarian with the Hennepin County Library system, working with genealogy and teaching classes at the Central and Southdale library locations. She has been researching her family genealogy and helping patrons with special interest including German, Irish, Swedish and early American (and Quaker) genealogy research.



The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota hosts meetings on Polish Genealogy and Culture six times each year. Meetings take place from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month, noted below, at the Minnesota Genealogy Center, Wm. J. Hoffman Library, 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights, MN. Please note meetings have been temporary suspended due to CV19.

- * March
- * April
- * May
- * September
- * October
- * November

HENRY J. WOLAK

by Amy Jowers, PGSMN Member

Ms. Jowers has committed herself to gathering genealogical information and adding various documents to her genealogical journey. Adding these snippets of information not only provide additional information about our ancestors; in many cases provide information that no one else remembers, and serves to provide a richer backdrop to their lives. These various documents help to track your heritage, and provide accuracy to your collected information.

Henry "Hank" Wolak was born July 22, 1913 in Foley, Minnesota to John and Frances (Smelter) Wolak. He was the oldest of nine siblings. He worked for his father on the family farm by age 16. When his father passed away in 1939, Henry and his younger brother, Alex, ran the family farm. He was 25 years old.

In 1941, Henry enlisted in the U.S. Army for WWII service, and served tours in Iraq and France. A tour in Iraq was likely part of the Persian Gulf Command, set up in 1941 to expedite war materials to Russia under the lend-lease program.

When he returned from the war, Hank worked at an electric machine company in Minneapolis for over 20 years. He was a long-time fisherman, taking trips across Minnesota as well as Canada. He never married but remained close to his siblings, and lived with several of them over the years. Hank was known as a quiet, gentle person. Hank lived in the Foley area until his death at age 82 in 1995, from heart disease. He was buried at SS Peter & Paul Cemetery, Gilman, MN.

Records for Henry

1913 - Henry's birth certificate

1920—information from Census

Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 – Population

Name: John Wolak	Home in 1920: Gilman, Benton, MN
Home: Owned; Mortgaged	Age at last birthday: 34 years
Can Read/Write: Yes/Yes	Birthplace: Illinois
Parents' Birthplace: Galicia/Aus/Poland	
Occupation: Farmer; general	Spouse's Name: Frances
Age at last birthday: 28	Able to Read/Write: Yes/Yes
Birthplace: Minnesota	Father's Birthplace: Germany
Mother's Birthplace: Poland	
Members of Household: John; 34	Frances; 28
	Henry; age 6
	Salena; age 5
	Alexandra; age 2 10/12
	Victor; age 1
	Frances Thomas; niece; age 17

1930—information from Census

Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930

Name: Henry Walak [Wolak]	Birth Year: abt 1914
Gender: Male; Race: White	Birthplace: Minnesota
Marital Status: Single	Relation to Head of House: Son
Home in 1930: Granite Ledge, Benton, MN	
Able to Read and Write: Yes	Father's Birthplace: Illinois
Mother's Birthplace: Minnesota	Able to Speak English: Yes
Occupation: Laborer, General Farm	
Class of Worker: Unpaid worker, member of the family	
Household Members: John Walak; 44	Francies Walak; 37
Henry; 16	Salma; 15
Alexander; 13	Victor; 11
Florance; 9	Alhonse; 6
Josenh; 4	Josenhene; 4
Angelin; 0	

1928—Henry, age 15, and his siblings



Henry also raised prize-winning geese -

St. Cloud Times
Aug 17, 1930

BENTON COUNTY TRIPS AWARDED

Club Leader Announces Boys and Girls to Attend Exhibit.

C. A. Benton, Sauk Rapids, who acted as club leader of Benton county during the close of the 1930 season, has announced the winners of the free trip to the Junior Livestock show at South St. Paul.

Clarence Koep, Sauk Rapids, a member of the Minden 4-H club, will take a fat lamb, as also will Lester Schumann of the Graham 4-H club at Rice.

Gwen Negus and Evelyn Marah will each take a fat barrow. Both belong to the Minden club.

Fat poultry entries will be made by Henry Wollak, of the Oak Park 4-H club. He has geese as his project.

Kenneth Kline, member of the Foley club, takes breeding poultry.

The Junior Livestock show will be an event of even greater importance to northwest boys and girls this year. The winners in Sherburne county have already been selected. Stearns county winners will be announced soon.

St. Cloud Times
Aug 22, 1930

Young Geese, Set of Three
1st, Henry Wollak, Ronneby, 2nd, Cleopha Diederick, Sauk Rapids, 3rd, Carl Hamacher, Becker.

Set of Three Ducks
1st, Gregory Schendzielos, Foley, Joseph Mix, Sauk Rapids, 3rd.

Champion Egg Poultry Pen
Kenneth Kline, Foley.

Special Goose Award
Henry Wolek, Ronneby.

1940—US Census report for Hank's family. His father passed away in 1939; Hank and his younger brother, Alex, were in charge of the farm. Siblings Sally and Victor had moved out of Minnesota for work.

Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940

Name: Henry Wollak	Age: 26
Birth Year: abt 1914	Gender: Male; Race: White
Birthplace: Minnesota	Marital Status: Single
Relation to Head of House: Son	Home in 1930: Gilmanton, Benton, MN
Residence in 1935: Rural, Lake, MN	Occupation/Industry: Farmer/Farm
Attended School or College: No	Highest Grade Completed: Elem. 7 th Gr
Hrs Worked Week Prior to Census: 56	Weeks Worked in 1939: 52
Class of Worker: Unpaid/family work	Income: 0; Other Sources: 0
Household Members: Frances Wollak: 48	Henry Wollak: 26
Alexander: 23	Florence: 19
Josephine: 14	Alphonse: 16
	Joseph: 14
	Angeline: 10

This same year in October, (1940) Hank was required to register for the military draft. He enlisted February 26, 1941 and served until September 23, 1945. He was stationed in Iraq and France. Over 30,000 American troops served in Iran and Iraq during WWII.

SERIAL NUMBER 131	1. NAME (PRINT) Henry Jerome Wollak	ORDER NUMBER 27
2. ADDRESS (PRINT) 4	3. PLACE BORN Foley, Benton, Minn.	4. CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
5. TRADES None	6. AGE IN YEARS 27	7. DATE OF BIRTH July 25, 1913
8. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL SIGN ABOVE YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Francis Wollak	9. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON Mother	10. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 4, Foley, Benton, Minn.
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 4	12. SIGNATURE Henry J. Wollak	

The Persian Gulf Command was established in Iraq in 1941 in order to help supply materials to Britain, near bankruptcy, and Russia, just attacked by Germany. From the National Museum of the United States Army website:

“By 1940, the United Kingdom, already heavily involved in World War II, was strapped for cash and supplies. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt for

assistance. At that time, the Neutrality Act of 1939 limited what the United States could do in terms of assisting belligerent nations. Nevertheless, the United States was willing to sell weapons to Britain but under strict “cash and carry” regulations.

As Great Britain approached bankruptcy by 1941, Roosevelt pushed the Lend-Lease Act, formally known as "An Act to Further the Defense of the United States" (Public Law 777-11), through Congress and signed it into law on 11 March 1941. The terms of the agreement provided that the material was to be used until returned or destroyed. In reality very little equipment was ever returned. The United States supplied war material at a discount using long-term loans or in exchange for rights to set up military bases in British possessions. Under Lend-Lease, the US contributed more than \$50 billion to the Allies, mostly to Great Britain but also to the Soviet Union through the Persian Gulf Corridor. Smaller amounts were also provided to France and China."

1946-1970's—When Hank returned from military service, he worked 22 years for an electrical machine manufacturer company in Minneapolis. After retiring, he moved back to Foley and lived near his brothers, Alphonse and Alex.



Minnesota Death Index, 1908-2002

Name: Henry Jerome Wolak Birth Date: 23 Jul 1913
 Death Date: 27 Oct 1995 Death County: Stearns
 Mother's Maiden Name: Smelter
 State File No: 029917
 Certificate of Death: 029917 Certificate Year: 1995
 Record No: 2551191 SSN: 474-14-7188
 Never Married
 Location of Death: St. Cloud Hospital
 Business/Industry: Electrical Machine Manufacturing
 Decedent's Address: 250 Pine Street, Foley
 Cause of Death: Acute cardiac arrhythmia, due to myocardial infarction, due to ischemic heart disease; 9 hrs from onset to death Other Significant Causes: Peripheral vascular disease, stroke

Henry Wolak, 82, Foley
 FOLEY — Henry J. Wolak, died Friday at St. Cloud Hospital.
 Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Gilman. The Rev. Raymond Schulzenberg will officiate. Burial will be in the parish cemetery.
 Friends may call from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday at Foley Funeral Home and from 8 to 10 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Parish prayers will be 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.
 Henry Wolak was born July 23, 1913, in St. Cloud to John and Frances (Smelter) Wolak. He lived in rural Foley most of his life. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He had worked for 22 years at an electric machine company in Minneapolis. He was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Gilman, and Gilman VFW Post 1558.
 Survivors include his brother, Alphonse, Foley; and sisters, Selma, Denver, Colo.; Josephine, Minneapolis; Angeline, Big Lake; Florence, Chicago.
 He was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Victor, Joseph, and Alexander.
 Pallbearers will be Jeff Lefler and James, Dennis, Richard, Thomas, and Michael Wolak.

U.S. Public Records
 Index
 Henry J. Wolak; PO
 Box 14, Gilman MN



KCC 2020 is a year-long celebration with a series of special events, workshops, cultural events. Further information as <https://www.kcc2020.org/>

The KCC 2020 Steering Committee wishes the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and interest in the Kashubian Capital Centennial Celebration! Please note that all scheduled 2020 activities have been moved to 2021. Please see the calendar for details. www.kcc2020.org



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



102 Liberty Street, Winona, Minnesota 55987

The Polish Institute and Museum advise that due to CV 19 the annual Smazcne Jablka Festival for 2020 has been cancelled—it will be held **Sunday, October 3, 2021**



The Polish Genealogical Society of America presents

The Long Term Consequences of World War II for Poland (webinar)

Sunday, August 16, 2020 2:00–4:00 pm

This presentation will review the dramatic sociopolitical changes that transformed Poland in the 20th Century and examines the evolution of modern -day Poland into a 21st century European nation state.

Presenter—John J. Kulczycki is professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he taught courses in Polish and East European history and nationalism for 23 years. He has published several books and many articles about the history of Poland, mainly on topics related to modern Polish-German relations. His most recent book, *Belonging to the Nation*, published in 2016 by Harvard University Press, received Honorable Mention from the Association of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies in 2017 as the best book in Polish Studies. He received a Ph.D. “with distinction” from Columbia University in 1973.

Non-Members registration \$10 — <https://pgsa.org/product-category/webinars/>



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One of the main goals of the National Genealogical Society is to educate the public about family history research. In our Free Genealogy Resources section, we offer a number of different and important educational resources. Here you will find free genealogy charts, templates, and tutorials on the US Census and How to Borrow Books from the NGS Book Loan Collection.

We have organized helpful tips, articles, and recommended resources for every level of family researcher whether you are Getting Started, Going to the Next Level or working at Building Advanced Skills. And for those of you who are not NGS members, we offer a free sampling of beneficial articles from *NGS Magazine*, *NGS Quarterly*, and *NGS Monthly*. <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/> for all the great offerings. Also until 7/31/2020, the monthly digital genealogical publication is free for viewing.

Szukam cię – I'm looking for you

Welcome to our new members! We hope all members enjoy reviewing the list below for possible connections with other members. You may be related to someone sitting next to you at one of our get-togethers!

Welcome to new members and hello, again, renewing members. Thank you for being an important part of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. We strive to provide you with inspiration and knowledge that will help you on your quest in discovering your family. When completing your Membership Application, please type or print clearly. We do our best to type the names and locations correctly.



Please note the following members were inadvertently not acknowledged in the PGSMN Spring 2020 issue, and your editor sincerely apologizes for the omission.

Waldherr, Connie, waldh001@umn.edu, Researching **JUREK** of Maków, Galicia settled in Minneapolis, MN; **JANIK** of Sucha Zarnowka, Galicia settled in Minneapolis, MN; **KALISZEWSKI & KALITA** of Komarowka settled in Minneapolis, MN; **KAMINSKI**, of Mikulince and Tarnopol settled in Minneapolis, MN.

White, Robert, rwwhite57@comcast.net, Researching **PINEWSKI (PNIEWSKI)** of Klecko settled in Buffalo, NY and Minneapolis, MN; **OSLOWSKI** settled in Chicago, IL and Pennsylvania; **GRUGAL** of Mikolajskie settled in Illinois, Pennsylvania and Minnesota; **SOBCZAK** of Debница; **WOZNIAK** of Dziekanowice and Debница; **WINIARSKI** of Klecko; **NOWAK** of Debница and Klecko; **LUBINSKI** of Cekcyn and Kuj settled in MN; **ZARBA** of Lucim and Makowarsko.

Woitaszewski, Allan L, woitalla44@gmail.com, Researching **WOITASZEWSKI** of Mbowo, West Prussia settled in Nebraska; **LEWANDOWSKI** of Hansfelde, West Prussia settled in Nebraska.

Wolf, Gary, [gcwolf@att.net](mailto:gewolf@att.net), Researching **LAMCZYK** settled in Milwaukee, WI and St Paul, MN; **DEMSKI** settled in St. Paul, MN; **PAWLAK** settled in St Paul, MN.

Wrobel, Gordon, gordonwrobel@mac.com, Researching **WROBEL** of Opole settled in Todd County; **SABOTA** of Opole settled in Todd County.

Wysocki, Jim, 345 Spring Avenue, Troy, NY 12180-5215

Zabel, Mary

Zawislak, Kathy, kzee1607@Comcast.net, Researching **ZAWISLAK** of Jodlowa, Galicia settled in St Paul, MN, Chicago, IL, Pennsylvania, New York, Little Rock, AR and Bayonne, NJ; **TARARA** of Lubiany, Opole and Bierdzany settled in St Paul and Rochester, MN; **DANIELSKI** of Wapno, Srebrna Gora settled in St Paul and Little Falls, MN, Chicago, IL, and Alberta, Canada; **MATZ** of Waldowo settled in St Paul, Wilno, and Little Falls, MN and Alberta, Canada; **RYCHLICKI** of Przysiersk settled in St Paul, MN; **KALUZA** of Lubiany, Opole settled in St Paul, MN.

New Members:

Herhusky, James, jherhucky@cox.net, **HERCHOWSKI** OR **CHERKOWSKI** of Tczew settled in Minnesota; **JASNOCH** of Zajaczkowo Pomerania settled in Minnesota; **SWAKOWSKI** of Zajaczkowo Pomerania settled in Minnesota.

Orvis, J.C., jcorvis88@gmail.com, Researching: **JARACZ** of Lodz settled in Keliher, MN; **JAREWICZ** of Krakow settled in Milwaukee, WI; **MUSIAL** settled in Milwaukee, WI and New Jersey.

Orvis, James D. uberorvi@gmail.com, Researching: **JARACZ** of Lodz settled in New Jersey; **JAREWICZ** of Krakow settled in New Jersey; **MUSIAL** settled in Milwaukee, WI.

Renewing Members:

Farkas, Irene, P.O. Box 223, Three Lakes, WI 54562, Researching: **OSUCHOWSKI** of Brvdow settled in Milwaukee, WI; **TEREK** of Hungary settled in Milwaukee, WI; **FARKAS** of Hungary settled in Milwaukee, WI.

Fitting, Francine, francinesfilling@me.com, Researching: **PALUBICKI** of Lipusz settled in Winona, MN; **RYMARKIEWICZ** of Kiedrowice settled in Winona, MN; **MAJKOWSKI** of Lipusz settled in Winona, MN; **ORLIKOWSKI** of Lipusz settled in Winona, MN; **PIECHOWSKI** of Kiedrowice settled in Winona, MN; **MEIGER** of Kiedrowice settled in Winona, MN.

Foley, Judy, judyfoley@gmail.com, Researching: **WORWA(?)** of Ragka settled in Minneapolis, MN; **DUDEK** of Ragka settled in Minneapolis, MN.

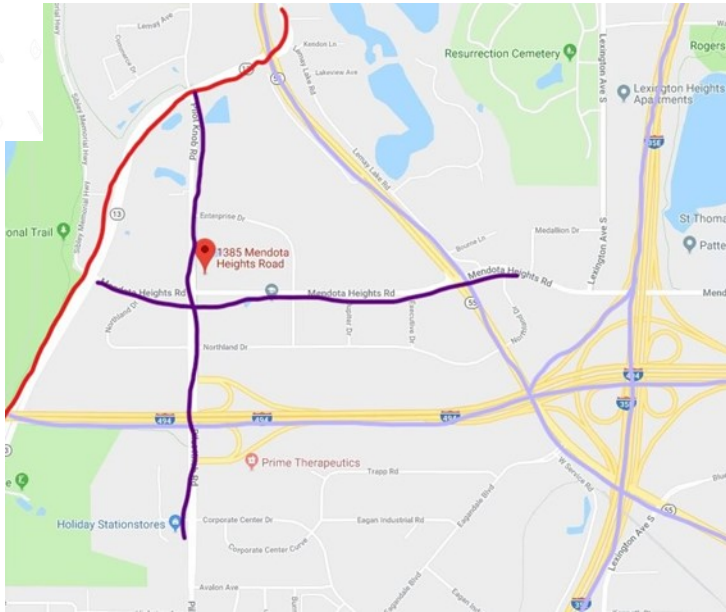
Fortier, Lonita J. ljfortier5@msn.com, Researching: **RUDNICKI** of Wielki Medromicrz settled in Alberta Township, Benton County, MN; **SCRIBER** of Bralewnica settled in Alberta Township, Benton County, MN; **BOZYCH** of Mrocza settled in Alberta Township, Benton County, MN; **SCHULTZ** of Lqsko Wielki settled in Alberta Township, Benton County, MN.

Muellner, Lois Lipinski, lois.muellner@gmail.com, Researching: **LIPINSKI** of West Prussia, settled in LaSelle, IL and Wilno, MN; **BEDNAREK** of Poznan, settled in Chicago, IL and Wilno, MN; **LOZYNSKI** of Poznan, settled in Chicago IL and Wilno, MN; **SKORCZEWSKI** of West Prussia, settled in Chicago, IL and Wilno, MN.

Ogren, Rhonda, tim.rhonda1949@gmail.com

Sansone, Nancy Meyer, nems1947@gmail.com, Researching: **PEPERA** settled in St. Paul, MN.

Welna, Louis D., ojciec@comcast.net, Researching: **DEJA** of Kiszewa; **ZYNDA** of Stara Kiszewa; **DAMBOWY** of Liebenau.



**The Polish Genealogy Society
of Minnesota
1385 Mendota Heights Road
Suite #100
Mendota Heights, MN 55120**



DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Highway 55 (south) - cross Mendota bridge east-bound - keep right onto MN 55 East - turn right on MN 13 (south) - turn left on Pilot Knob Road - take left on Mendota Heights Road to first driveway on left. From west or east on 494: Take 494 to Pilot Knob Road - go north - take right on Mendota Heights Road, take left into first driveway on left. From 35E - Take 35E to Pilot Knob Road - go west on Pilot Knob towards Mendota Heights Road. Address on northside of Mendota Heights Road, just prior to Pilot Knob. **Parking is directly in front of building.**

2020 MGS LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



PGSMN is located with the MGS Building at 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite #100, Mendota Heights, MN.

POLISH NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

“Polish Night at the Library” is the second Thursday of the month from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. One of our experienced genealogists is available to assist you with your Polish research problems.

FIRST SATURDAY AFTERNOON

One of our members is available at the library on the first Saturday of the month from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. to help you with your Polish

The library is closed if volunteers are not available. Please check the Volunteer Calendar at www.mngs.org

Please note that due to the COVID-19 concerns, the library is currently closed to the public.

CLOSED: Saturday July 4th, Thursday Nov 26, Friday Dec 25, Friday Jan 1, 2021

Ph: 651-330-9312 Website: <http://www.mngs.org>

LIBRARY FEES

MGS, Branch, Affiliate Members: FREE
Non-Members: \$10 per use

Internet and WiFi are available in the library.

PASS IT ALONG - Do you know someone who has an interest in Polish Genealogy - give them this membership flyer. Thank you

Need further information - check out our website at

www.pgsmn.org



**Polish Genealogical Society
of Minnesota**
**A branch of the Minnesota
Genealogical Society**
**1385 Mendota Heights Road
Suite 100
Mendota Heights, MN 55120**

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 ship via e-mail at Waldh001@umn.edu.
 Newsletters are not forwarded. If we get your
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PGS-MN would like to help connect you with others researching their family roots. If you fill out the chart below, we will publish the information so that other researchers can contact you. Filling out the chart acts as a release for the Society to present your information in digital and paper formats.

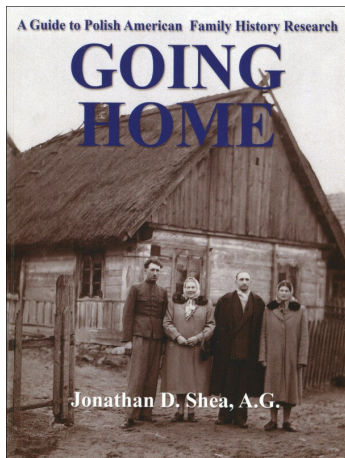
Make check payable to: Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

Mail form and check to: PGS-MN Membership, c/o Gary Wolf, PGS-MN Treasurer, P.O. Box 291, Amery, WI

Researching Surname(s)	Poland - Origin	Where in US Settled

Did you know that spouses still wear wedding rings on their right hand in Poland? This custom emerged after the fall of the January Uprising.

Previously, it was customary to wear it on the left hand, and only after the death of your spouse, you should put on the right hand. After the defeat of the Uprising, married Polish women started wearing their rings on the right hand as a sign of national mourning.



Going Home: A Guide to Polish American Family History Research *by Jonathan D. Shea*

ISBN 978-0-9631579-7-3 Copyright 2008
\$35.00 + postage and handling

This comprehensive reference book covers all facets of research that you will need to successfully trace your Polish-American family history. Topics include:

- Local American records of birth, marriage and death; church records, probate documents, voting records, cemetery records, state censuses, records of fraternal organizations and many more unique sources
- Federal records: United States immigration and citizenship documents, passenger lists from Ellis Island and other US ports of entry, federal census records and Social Security records
- Brief history of Polish-American communities in the US and worldwide.
- European records of birth marriage and death, tax lists, passport records, censuses, repatriation records and much more
- Historical geography illustrated with maps to help you understand the many border changes that took place over the centuries in Eastern Europe
- Extensive language and translation sections to help you understand the documents you find and unlock the secrets of your personal family history. Included are Polish spelling and sounds, grammatical outline of the language and vocabulary lists in Polish, Russian, Latin and German
- A section on our names, their origins and meanings
- Appendices listing the locations of Polish parishes in the USA, addresses of Polish archives and genealogical and historical societies
- A wide range of sample documents so you can see what types of records await you in your search

The author shares his over two decades of research experience in Polish genealogical investigations, including on site archival experience in Poland, Lithuania the US and Canada.

Order form—<https://langline.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Going-Home-Order-Form.pdf>

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Please Note that all PGSMN Monthly meetings and events have been canceled until further notice due to COVID-19

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Please check your mailing label for expiration date, is it time to renew? Please use the Membership Application form inserted in this newsletter or print form

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 to the PGSMN Editor

Contact Us for more information about our services and meetings

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