

Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

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Welcome to The Summer 2022 Edition!

Our Spring 2022 programs are history and our summer hiatus begins the process to select topics for 2023 programs. They can be based on any aspect of genealogical interest, including history, demographics, immigration, culture, genetics, research, etc. Past programs have covered many topics. See them at pgsmn.org/members.

We will consider any topics for future programs. If you have an idea, send it to: programs@pgsmn.org along with a brief description. We will reply to all suggestions. Thank you.

The PGS-MN membership voted for an annual dues increase from \$20 to \$25 beginning January 1st, 2023. All new & renewing membership payments should reflect this change.

Our primary expenses are rent at the Minnesota Genealogy Center, publication of our newsletter and website costs. Each of these will continue to increase. Our only real revenue source is from membership dues. To renew your membership, go to pgsmn.org and click on "Join Us" and follow the instructions. ([Click here to Join or Renew.](#))

A reminder that the Members area of our website can be accessed via a password that was sent to each member. (Contact webmaster@pgsmn.org if you need help.)

This section includes video-recorded past programs and slides, From Poland to Minnesota, Missing Branches, Komunikat, Catholic Church & Polish White Eagle databases, and all past newsletters since 1993. See you in person this Fall. —Terry Kita, President

Update Your Contact Information

Are you receiving our Emails? Komunikat E-News? Don't miss out on receiving important messages about upcoming program meetings, and the Komunikat electronic member bulletin, emailed 6 times a year with current news and articles as well as genealogy tips in a short video.

Send updates to membership@pgsmn.org

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Our Mission

Since 1991, our society has been assisting Polish-Americans with roots in Minnesota and elsewhere to explore their family history. Create interest in Polish ancestry and heritage. Promote quality genealogy research. Encourage the exchange of genealogical information through meetings, forums and publications. Preserve the family and institutional history of Poles in Minnesota and globally. Work with other genealogy organizations that have similar interests and goals.

About Our Newsletter

A publication of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, and a 501(c)(3) organization per the United States IRS rules.

Photos | Front: Hills of Poland with the Carpathian Mountains behind. —Arek Socha (pixabay) Back: Church Cemetery in Kashubia —Member Photo



1920's—30's Life in St. Paul, Minnesota

This is the story my dad (Paul Zawislak) wrote about growing up on the Eastside of St. Paul in the late 20's, early 30's. I found it after he died when we were looking for pictures. He used a manual typewriter and probably did hunt and peck with errors in spacing, spelling, and punctuation. Enjoy. —Kathy Zawislak

When I was a young kid here are some of the things we did but probably not in the right order. In our family everybody had a job to do during the week. You see there were 13 of us at home at a time.

The boys took care of all the outdoor chores and the girls did the inside work. Some weeks your job was bringing in coal and wood for the stoves and cleaning out the ashes from the stoves.

You see we didn't have no furnace.

The next week your job was to clean out the chicken coup. That was a very dirty job. All the chicken ma

nure had to be to the bare wood, then we would paint all the roosts with sulfur then put a match to it so they would burn and kill all the lice in the barn, the barn was sealed while we did this work, when the fire stopped we could open up the chicken coup so the chickens could go and lay there eggs.

Then the next week your job was to beat all the rugs in the house, my mother would check them to see that they were clean.

When my dad worked all day and when he got home early he would go out to Phalen Park and start digging up oak threes, when we got home from school out to Phalen Park we went, we would be out there till dark. It would take almost a week just to get the tree out of the ground, after we got the stupid tree down we had to saw it in six foot pieces, then we would load up a huge wagon and push it home.

After we hauled all the wood home, my dad would have a guy with a big power saw cut it into small pieces. Then we had to split the wood into small pieces and stack it up.

My mother would give us a quarter a week for all the work we did. When we weren't chopping wood we were at Griffen Wheel works where my dad worked, picking up pieces of coke that wasn't burnt to take home for our stoves.

After supper for a little fun we would go out on the corner and have a little fun, my dad would say be home by 8:30 and he meant 8:30 not 8:35. If he came after you he beat you all the way home.

When my mother would bake bread she would make at least half a dozen loafs every third day, and on

Saturday she make coffee cake that was really good, she made about four of them, that would last a couple of days.

When supper was served you ate what was on the table and if you didn't like what was on the table my mother would say get away from the table you can't be hungry, she would say go on Arcade street they have restaurants with menus.

When supper was done the girls did the dishes, then my mother put all the food left over in the pantry then she would lock the door and put the key in her pocket.

Some suppers we would have pig snouts, pig tails, or pigs feet in sauerkraut. We all filled up on that.

We made our own sauerkraut every fall my ma would buy a bunch of cabbage bring home cut it and the boys would take turns jumping on it in the big barrel one boy couldn't stand it cause there was so much salt in it your feet would be all shriveled up.

On Fridays we would have potatoes covered with lots of onions and butter to drink we had fresh buttermilk and eggs, we had our own chickens so there was all the eggs you wanted.

In our spare time we would lay on top of the chicken coop and have a contest on who could shoot the most rats. Some rats were quiet big almost like a small cat, when we got through we would dig a hole and bury them.

In sports we had one football and one softball. When the football broke we filled it full of rags and kept on playing, when the softball got all ripped up we would have turns sewing it up again.

There was a pond behind our house and one on Maryland and Mendota. We made our own boats out of old ice boxes and in the ponds we would catch minnows and frogs, we sold them to the hardware store on Arcade street.

From Maryland to Ivy street were all hills there were no houses in that area at all. On the hills off Maryland street we would go skiing there and make a big pile of snow for a bump, we would see who could jump the farthest.

Certain kids used to come and try to take our hill away from us and it ended up into a fight with these guys. We sure had some good fights on that hill, if you won or lost you never let your parents know about it or you would be in trouble if they found out you got a few cracks from them.

(End of Part 1. Part 2 in the Fall Newsletter.)

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When I was a young kid here are some of the things we did but probably not in the right order. In our family everybody had a job to do during the week. You see there were 13 of us at home at the time. The boys took care of all the outdoor chores and the girls did the inside work. Some weeks your job was bringing in coal and wood for the stoves and cleaning out the ashes from the stoves. You see we didn't have no furnace. The next week your job was to clean out the chicken coop. That was a very dirty job. All the chicken manure had to be to the bare wood, then we would paint all the roosts with sulfur then put a match to it so they would burn and kill all the lice in the barn, the barn was sealed while we did this work, when the fire stopped we could open up the chicken coop so the chickens could go and lay there eggs. Then the next week your job was to beat all the rugs in the house, my mother would check them to see that they were clean. When my dad worked all day and when he got home early he would go out to Phalen Park and start digging up oak trees, when we got home from school out to Phalen Park we went, we would be out there till dark. It would take almost a week just to get the tree out of the ground, after we got the stupid tree down we had to saw it in six foot pieces, then we would load up a huge wagon and push it home. After we hauled all the wood home, my dad would have a guy with a big power saw cut it into small pieces. Then we had to split the wood into small pieces and stack it up. My mother would give us a quarter a week for all the work we did. When we weren't chopping wood we were at Griffen Wheel works where my dad worked, picking up pieces of coke that wasn't burnt to take home for our stoves. After supper for a little fun we would go out on the corner and have a little fun, my dad would say be home by 8:30 and he meant 8:30 not 8:35. If he came after you he beat you all the way home. When my mother would bake bread she would make at least half a dozen loafs every third day, and on Saturday she make coffee cake that was really good, she made about four of them, that would last a couple of days. When supper was served you ate what was on the table and if you didn't like what was on the table my mother would say get away from the table you can't be hungry, she would say go on Arcade street they have restaurants with menus. When supper was done the girls did the dishes, then my mother put all the food left over in the pantry then she would lock the door and put the key in her pocket. Some suppers we would have pig snouts, pig tails, or pigs feet in sauerkraut. We all filled up



Polish Roadside Shrines

Growing up in Portage County, Wisconsin, we traveled the back roads to picnic and swim at Collins Park, which has a crystal clear spring-fed lake. Later in life, I'd experience this wonderful place with my children, and we would often see roadside shrines along the way. Central Wisconsin had the largest amount of these shrines. North Dakota also had a large Polish population and there are shrines near Minot.

Poles began arriving in Portage County as early as 1857 from the Kaszuby region (Gdansk area) and brought with them their strong, Catholic religion. My family arrived in the large wave of immigrants in the 1880's.

My Dad would tell us stories of how family would support Sacred Heart Church in Polonia and St. Adalbert's in Rosholt. The story of the roadside shrines are of the faithful and grateful Poles, the farmers seeking blessings over the fields, guidance, and care of the travelers.

These shrines were usually found at country crossroads.

They are meant to be reminders to pray for the sick, a successful crop, to protect our families, and the safety of travelers.. A beautiful symbol to remind us that our faith is with us wherever we are.

It was common in springtime to see donations of flowers at the shrines. They are built of wood or red brick with a shingle or metal roof.

If the shrine is enclosed, it has a door or window that opens for maintenance. Typically the shrines contain both the Blessed Virgin and Joseph. Most have a Holy Cross on them, and were blessed by the local Priest.

Author Sophie Knab is releasing a book in October, "Spirit of Place: The Roadside Shrines of Poland" which can be pre-ordered now at your favorite bookstore.

Here is link to the Polish Heritage Trail with current shrines: polishheritageawareness.com/links

—Nadine Guilbault, Nadine17543@yahoo.com



Lithuanian Cold Beet & Vegetable Soup

In America, thoughts move towards thick and hearty soups during the crisp and windy days of Fall and the frigid and snowy days of Winter. In Poland, soups are an all year-long essential. This is particularly true in summer when traditional soups are augmented with a variety of cold and room temperature varieties. If these soups are known to Americans, they probably know them as “dessert” soups such as Chłodnik Jabłkowy (cold apple soup), Zupa Jagodowa (blueberry soup), or Chłodnik z Truskawek i Agrestu (strawberry-gooseberry soup).

In the real heat of summer though, there is nothing as refreshing as a Lithuanian Cold Beet and Vegetable Soup (Chłodnik litewski) or a Green Cold & Creamy Soup (Chłodnik zielony). Here’s an easy version of the Lithuanian soup—In a mixing bowl, combine:

- 1 peeled and chopped cucumber,
- 1 bunch each of chopped radishes and green onions,
- 2-3 chopped dill pickles, and
- 3 Tbsp. chopped dill. Pour in
- 4-5 cups of buttermilk,
- 1-2 cups of canned beet juice and mix.



Season to taste with salt, pepper, garlic powder, several pinches of sugar and a sprinkle of vinegar or dill pickle brine. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Optional: Serve cold over hard-boiled egg slices or diced ham, veal, crayfish, or shrimp for better flavor.

The dill used is the weed or the tops. You usually can find fresh dill in oriental or eastern markets. Once you have it home, chop it up, put it in a plastic bag, and freeze it. Dill will keep a long time. For the canned beet juice, you could probably use a dried or wet barszcz soup mix. Enjoy. —Judith



Judith Blanchard (Judyta Tomaszewska)

The Polish Update was started originally as a reminder to my friends of upcoming events. It grew over the years and now it goes to readers in Poland, England, and Norway as well as across the US.

For the Polish Americans, I have started including more information on and even the history of some articles. Periodically, there will be a section entitled ‘Page Two’ which has reprints explaining cultural traditions.

In this week’s Update, I explain how I made the Kraków Easter Birds and how to make dandelion syrup (which was recommended by a Polish reader.) The Update is free and new readers are welcome. Just send your name and email address to judytam@usfamily.net.

Every Detail Counts

I can sum up all I know about my grandfather's life in Poland in 57 words: His name was Adam Waszyk, the son of Jozef Waszyk and Marianna Dymerska. He was born December 21, 1885 in the village of Gibałka. He came to the United States in 1906 on the SS Amerika, arrived in New York, and went to Bridgeport, CT to the home of Jozef Nalewajk. These 57 words is all I have to work with right now.

His life in America before he married my grandmother is also an unknown. His first American document, the ship manifest, lists him as Adam Dymerski. Was it an error or intentional? In Bridgeport, he does not appear in the 1910 census or any city directories until he is married.

The main cause of my dilemma is that the Polish church records are gone. The lack of vital records is a problem, but there is an amazing amount of other records and sources of information. You must approach your research like a police detective and constantly look for the smallest detail. Every detail counts.

Since I'm interested in finding out if Adam Waszyk had siblings or cousins, and if any of descendants are still alive, I headed to Poland to do research. I had prior success finding my grandmother's-sister's descendants in another Polish village, still living on the family farm, so I was hopeful. I headed to Gibałka with a translator, and asked if anyone knew about my grandfather.

I spoke to several people, including an old woman who remembered someone came to the village in the 1970's/ 80's looking for the Waszyk family. No one from my extended family has traveled to Poland, so no clue on the identity of that visitor.

Another woman in the village pulled out the telephone book and looked up Waszyk. She made a few phone calls and gave us people to follow up with. We successfully met with one, the widow of a Waszyk in a close by village. Again, nothing. Why are there no descendants from my grandfather's siblings? What are the chances that he had no siblings? Who owns the farm he was born on?

In 2021, I ran across 1960's tax records from Gibałka. The records were very complete, including maiden names for women. Still, no Waszyk. I have a recreated birth certificate that puts Gibalka as the place of birth so why is no one there? My Polish DNA will not let me give up this easily. Trip two to Poland was scheduled with a new plan: a few days of "research" with a Polish genealogist acting as my driver, translator and expert in Polish culture. First stop on this trip was the church in Kadzidło, the parish church for the village of Gibałka, where we looked for two items.



The first was any records prior to World War II that did not make it to the archive. In particular, we were looking for the priest's notes from that period. The church records are kept in a book and usually they are neatly done. Some priests will jot down the details to be put into the official book later. These are referred to as *raptularz*. Sometimes, those notes survive. In Kadzidło, they did have a small folder of these notes. Unfortunately, nothing that helped me.

The second thing to look for was in the oldest surviving book. This Church record books start around 1945. My grand-

father was born in 1885, so it is possible that the death of siblings may be recorded in this book. No surprise, there was nothing. No one from the first trip remembered anyone from that family, so it was no surprise there were no death records.

We did take notes of any Waszyk names mentioned, along with Dymerski and Nalewajk. We also reviewed other record books up to the current time and made notes of the three names of interest. It would help us to find other living people to interview. We also walked across the street to the cemetery to take pictures of all the stones with our names of interest. Again, most graves in the cemetery were from World War II or later.

Unlike the United States, Polish people visit the cemetery a lot, sometimes daily. Who knows, maybe you can run into an unknown family member at the cemetery? Having exhausted the church and cemetery records, it was time to look for living people to interview. I expanded my people of interest to Dymerski, my grandfather's mother's people, and Nalewajk, the sponsor in America who is listed as "brother in law" on the ship manifest.

Nalewajk's wife was a Florek. I was hoping she was a Waszyk, but I was now working on the theory that "brother in law" was a very broad term meaning some sort of relationship somewhere. We tracked down a Nalewajk who remembers the family in America, but no memory of this Waszyk guy. I still have Dymerski to track down. We learned there were still Dymerski's in Gibalka, so we went there.



I will skip the details, which includes milking cows (not the only cow story I have from doing genealogy research in Poland) and jump to Henryk Dymerski. He was an older gentleman who remembers there was a family member in America, a priest who he thought was in Chicago. The family held onto letters from this priest for years, but recently threw them away. Since my grandfather was not a priest, I was disappointed. I should not have been. It was an important detail, although a little wrong.

We interviewed Henryk to build a family tree for him. I missed another important detail: his grandmother was a Florek. Over the next few years, I made six more trips to Poland which always included a few days of genealogy research. We interviewed more people

and constructed little family trees. We reviewed the recreated vital records in Kadzidło. We visited archives. We ate pizza with kielbasa and pickles on it. Still no sign of Adam Waszyk.



And now there is DNA. Over my many trips, I learned there were three existing lines of Waszyk in the area of Kadzidło. I set out with a bag of DNA tests, hoping this would help. I tested two of the three lines of Waszyk and none were close matches to my dad. Only fifth cousins or more—not unexpected when you are testing people in nearby village. Also, the two lines I tested are not related to each other. I still have Henryk Dymerski to test and he agreed.

And folks, we have a winner! Henryk tests to be my dad's second or third cousin. Also, he tests to be a first or second cousin to the grandchildren of Jozef Nalewajk, my grandfather's sponsor. My dad is not a DNA match to Nalewajk.

Remember Henryk's grandma Florek? It looks like she is the connection. And the priest from Chicago that sent a letter to Henryk? Jozef Nalewajk had a son who was a priest in Connecticut. Is this clue going to help me?



So in 2021, another trip to Poland to track down the Florek family. I did some research on the Florek family in America and found they were from the village of Chudek, in the parish of Kadzidło. There were two Florek families still in Chudek and my friends in Kadzidło had contacted both of them to tell them I would be visiting.

The first family didn't seem to be the right one. Waiting for me at the second house were several Florek family members who had traveled to Chudek that day to meet me, including the oldest relatives. As soon as I said I am looking for the family of Rosalia Florek who went to America, their immediate response was, "Of course. She had a son. The priest."

They were excited that someone from America with a connection to their family was visiting. As so often is the story, they had lost contact with the American family many years before. We interviewed the Florek family. As usual, no recollection of Adam Waszyk. They do not think they are related to Henryk, but they agreed to DNA test the next time I was in Poland, so I can resolve that relationship. They are probably not DNA related to me, but they are another piece in my puzzle.



To you, it may seem that this story does not have a happy ending; but to me, it has not ended yet. I still have one more line of Waszyk family in Poland to DNA test. There are some interesting DNA match Dymerski's to track down, as well as non-Dymerski DNA matches to explore. I'm looking at the big picture for little clues, so I am currently researching all the people from Gibalka that came to America. Gibalka is a small village—for sure they knew my grandfather.

My best chance is a new database called Projekt Kurpie. They are a group in Poland indexing every scrap of paper about the Kurpie people. My research continues...

—Dorena Wasik, dorena726@yahoo.com

Runestone Museum & Poles In Minnesota Book Review

I was in Alexandria, MN recently and went to the Runestone Museum. I was in town for another reason, but had always wanted to visit. As an old history buff, the entire museum was very interesting. They had a number of exhibits of the Indians who were here. My wife is part Indian, making the experience even more personal.

The gift shop had several books on ethnic groups in Minnesota. I snapped up the one entitled “Poles in Minnesota” by John Radzilowski. In only 102 pages, it contains voluminous amounts of Polish history and has a list of 56 Polish parishes. It also mentions Victor Kordela, who in 1902, joined an architectural firm in Minneapolis and designed a number of Polish churches.

One of them was Our Lady of Lourdes in Little Falls. In 1922, the basement was dug by Polish immigrants using picks, shovels, horses and scrappers. My grandfather was one of them.

At the 50th anniversary of the parish, he and the other old timers who were still alive were recognized and decorated by the bishop.

The foundation was the native granite quarried in St. Cloud, MN. The size and majesty of his churches astounded the onlookers.

The book also touched on the debate between Archbishop Ireland and Bishop Trobec. The Archbishop was more in favor of assimilation, while Bishop Trobec was in favor of letting parishes keep their own language and customs.

Bishop Trobec was of Slovenian descent, and was a polyglot, speaking Polish and several other languages.

John was born in Krakow of a mixed Polish-Italian family and was educated in Lviv. (Lviv is currently in the news for very different reasons.)

Poles in Minnesota by John Radzilowski is a great and interesting book for some light reading sometime, and the museum is worth the trip. It has the Kensington Runestone mounted front and center.

Its authenticity is a perennial debate that goes on today. In the gift shop, they have one of those machines where you can get a penny flattened. They have 4 designs, and as a coin collector, I turned the crank and got all four. —Ben Zilka (More: runestonemuseum.org)





From Poland to Minnesota (polandtomn.pgsmn.org)

One purpose of 'From Poland to Minnesota' is to provide members with key resources on Polish and Minnesota genealogy topics, and hopefully, save you time from doing random searches on the internet. In this article, I will focus on three sections in the 'Minnesota Resources' section.

Naturalization

Want to learn more about the Naturalization process? Go to: From Poland to MN, Minnesota Resources, Minnesota State-Wide, Additional Genealogical References, Naturalization. ([Click here](#) if you're reading this online.) You'll find examples of naturalization papers before 1906 compared to 1906 and after. The records starting in 1906 include a lot more information.

You will also find links to search for a specific naturalization record. The Iron Range Research Center Database has indexes of naturalization papers where you can obtain Location/County, Reel #, Volume #, Page # and Record #. You can purchase the record through their website, or you can go to the MNHS website where they will do a search for you.

Another option is to go to the MN History Center in St. Paul with the information you obtained from the Iron Range Research Center and look at/make a copy of the record on microfilm. There are also links to articles about the naturalization process (from previous newsletters, FamilySearch, and the National Archives).

Drobne Echa Articles

Member Greg Kishel wrote 22 Drobne Echa articles in our newsletters between 2002-2012. They're a valuable resource regarding the Polish settlements in Minnesota. Go to: From Poland to MN, Minnesota Resources, Minnesota State-Wide, Books, Articles, Newsletter Articles, Drobne Echa. ([Click here](#) if you're reading this online.) These articles use translations from the well-known Polish Wiarus newspapers during the years 1885-1914. They provide a glimpse of the communities and lives of Polish immigrants across Minnesota from that time. We're fortunate Greg captured this information.

Minnesota Towns Where Poles Settled

This section is interesting and fun to look at. Go to: From Poland to MN, Minnesota Resources, Minnesota State-Wide, Minnesota Towns Where Poles Settled. ([Click here](#) if you're reading this online.) The page provides an overall view of the different communities across Minnesota where Poles settled by region, county and community. Further down the page, you can see those same communities in relation to which part of Poland the immigrants came from.

My Kashubian family settled in Winona, which is where a large number of Kashubians settled. I was surprised to learn that they settled (in small numbers) in 14 other counties in the state as well. I also found that some were related to my ancestors.

We welcome any information you would like to contribute. I'm sure some of you have content others could benefit from. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or suggestions.

—Paula Colwell, project.leader@polandtomn.pgsmn.org



The Legend of Lech, Czech and Rus

More than a thousand years ago, there lived a king who ruled over the lands that lay near the mouth of the Danube River. When the king died, his wealth was left to the care of his three sons.

When the three brothers became aware that their father's small domain was not large enough to be split between them, they were very unhappy. Each one wished to rule, yet all three could not rule upon the same throne, nor was there enough land to be divided among themselves.

Rather than fight among themselves, they decided to search for other lands which would be large enough to satisfy their needs. They started on their journey and found themselves in strange lands, meeting with many dangers and with wide assortment of wild animals, dangerous serpents, and savage men.

While walking through the road, one of the brothers gazed upwards. He saw three eagles high in the air. At first, he thought nothing of this because birds were a common sight, and there were a number of them flying in every direction and at various

heights. What bothered him was the fact the birds were following along with them. This was considered unusual.

The brothers were joking about the incident. "I choose the white bird," said Lech, the eldest brother. "And I choose the black one," said Rus. "Then I must take the only one left," exclaimed Czech, and in this choice of birds they passed the time and continued on their travels.

At last, the three brothers came to three roads, diverging like the rays of a fan. One road led to the north, the direction in which they were originally destined to continue their journey. Another road was turned to the northeast, and the third road pointed to the northwest.

"Which road shall we take?" asked one of them, as they halted their footsteps in order to decide the important question. "I am all set to go straight on," Lech said. "And I too was heading in the same direction," said the others. "There is no reason why we should separate so soon. Let us wait!"

As they argued the point back and forth, Lech saw the white eagle, the one he had chosen, winging its way to the north, and the two remaining birds each followed the direction of the other two diverging roads. "There goes your bird," Lech said to his brother Rus, as he pointed to the black eagle flying to the right. "Mine goes straight onward," continued Lech, "and so I shall also go.

As for the rest of you, you may do what you please." "Then I shall follow my bird," Rus replied. "Perhaps it may bring us all good luck."

The three brothers parted with affectionate farewells. Rus followed the black eagle until he came to the country of Russia, which he founded and named after himself. Czech came to the country of Bohemia, which in later years became known as Czecho-Slovakia because its inhabitants were Czechs.

And as for Lech, he went north until he came to the broad plain where he settled. Inasmuch as his guide was a white eagle, he decided to appropriate the bird and use it as an emblem. In this way, it happened that Poland has a white eagle upon its flag.

Lech settled in an immense plain, the Polish word for which is "Pola," and then Lech added his own name to that, making Po-Lech, sometimes written as Lach. In this way the "Po-Lachs" or as they called themselves "Polacks" came to be. They were the people of Lech who settle the plains.

The chroniclers tell us that the three brothers—Lech, Czech, and Rus, were waging a keen strife among themselves, and that they met at the Warta to make peace. There they found an island settled by fishing people. At the place where Lech stayed, he built a town called Poznań because of this meeting (poznanie).

—Legend taken from the book, *Tales of Early Poland* by Sigmund H. Uminski





Calendar

- Jun24, Fri—Columbia Heights will host its annual Jamboree Parade. Come and have a great time. Info: columbiaheightslions.com/2022-jamboree
- Jul03, Sun—Bowlus Fun Day. Info: facebook.com/bowlusfunday
- Jul25-29, Mon-Fri—Registration for the 2022 FEEFHS conference and workshops is open. They will take place online. The workshops will be taught Mon-Tue (Jul25-26). The regular classes are Wed-Fri (Jul27-29). Planned are 63 classes (4 different classes taught simultaneously), 6 workshops, and 2 special presentations.
- Jul29-31, Fri-Sun—Pierogi Fest, Whiting, Indiana. The incredible event draws more than 300,000 people from across the nation and the world. Numerous live music acts will be performing throughout the three-day event across multiple stages, and dozens of food vendors will be serving up tasty eats to enjoy. Info: pierogifest.net
- Aug19-27, Fri-Sat—The Southern California Genealogical Society is offering three (3) virtual conferences in August, with each one focusing on a different aspect of genealogical Research: solving your DNA puzzles, preserving your family tales, a mix of open discussions on a variety of topics e.g. what's new at FamilySearch, and ethnic and DNA round tables. Info: genealogyjamboree.com
- Aug20-21, Sat-Sun—Slavic Experience, Boom Island Park, Northeast Minneapolis. Food. Music. Family. Info: slavicexperience.com
- Sep16-18, Fri-Sun—The PGSA Annual Conference (Virtual) The theme of this year's conference is "expanding the use of known sources as well as making you aware of new ones." Planned are 6 presentations, 2 each day. Info: www.pgsa.org
- Sep18, Sun, 12pm-6pm CST—Dozynki Harvest Fest, Moose Family Center, 1025 2nd St. North, Stevens Point, WI. Polka bands, food by local restaurants, Syrena Dancers, Polish Highland Dogs and more. Info: polishheritageawareness.com

Send your calendar items to: newsletter@pgsmn.org

BOWLUS FUN DAY

SUNDAY, JULY 3rd, 2022

OUTDOOR POLKA MASS AT 10:00 AM

MUSIC BY:
JERRY AND JOYCE

MEN & WOMEN'S WATER FIGHTS
AT 2:30 PM
WITH LOCAL TOWNS FIRE DEPT. COMPETING

MUSIC & DANCING
AFTERNOON & EVENING

POLKA'S & WALTZ'S 12:30-4:30
BY CYNOR CLASSICS FROM WISCONSIN

UPSURGE 7:00-11:00 PM
60'S 70'S + MORE

JOIN US FOR A FULL DAY
OF FUN AT BOWLUS!

FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT DUSK

TOUR BOWLUS ON THE BOWLUS FUN TRAIN

ADULT & CHILDRENS GAMES

REFRESHMENTS

ICE CREAM
MOONWALK
SNOW CONES
NACHOS & CHEESE
BEER GARDEN

RING TOSS

BINGO
POLISH SAUSAGE
HAMBURGERS
HOT DOGS
POPCORN

5 K FUN WALK/RUN - CALL 320-345-1702

PARADE AT 11:15 AM

PARADE STAGING AREA: BOWLUS BALL PARK
9:30-11:00 AM (NO ENTRY FEE)
CALL LUCAS: 320-492-8856

FOR MORE INFO

PARADE TROPHIES

1ST PLACE - HUMOROUS
2ND PLACE - HUMOROUS
3RD PLACE - HUMOROUS
1ST PLACE - ATTRACTIVE
2ND PLACE - ATTRACTIVE
3RD PLACE - ATTRACTIVE
1ST PLACE - ORIGINAL
2ND PLACE - ORIGINAL
3RD PLACE - ORIGINAL



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

A Branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society
 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Suite 100
 Mendota Heights, MN 55120
www.pgsmn.org

Membership Application

Membership fee is \$25 for one year, ending December 31. Membership includes a subscription to the PGS-MN newsletter and free access to the Minnesota Genealogical Society Hoffman Research Library in Mendota Heights.

Thank you for helping to preserve and foster interest in Polish heritage!

_____ New Member \$25 _____ Renewing \$25 _____ Donation	Make check payable to: Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota Mail form and check to: PGS-MN Membership c/o Gary Wolf, Treasurer P.O. Box 291 Amery, WI 54001-0291
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 Name Date

 Address

 City State Zip

 Phone (with area code) Email (*Will be used to send program notifications and renewal reminders.*)

PGS-MN endeavors to connect individuals researching their family roots. If information is included in the chart below, it will be published, along with your name and email, so other researchers can contact you. Adding information in the chart below indicates your acceptance of this release of information through both digital and paper formats by the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota.

Polish Surname(s) Currently Being Researched	Location in Poland Where Surname Originated	U.S. Location Where Immigrant Settled



Two Databases Added to Pgsmn.org

The two PWEA Insurance databases have been added to the website. They are combined, so you can easily search both at one time. It makes me happy and proud that all the hours I spent indexing those records at the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) in 2004 have now become useful to others with some connection with the PWEA.

The time I spent at the IHRC at the University of Minnesota made me aware of their resources and was very interesting to me in a broader immigration sense. They are part of the College of Liberal Arts and www.ihrc.umn.edu is their website. ([Click here to visit the site.](#))

There is an article in the PGS-MN Summer 2004 Newsletter about my IHRC experience. It can be found at www.pgsmn.org in the Newsletters section. —John Rys



The MGS Family History Writing Competition

Do you have a story to tell? Have you found a solution to a family mystery? Are you itching to share your research? MGS invites your submissions for consideration in the Family Story and Problem-Solving categories. The winner in each category will receive a certificate, and will be invited to submit the winning entry for publication in the Minnesota Genealogist quarterly journal. Learn more: mngs.org/Writing-Competition



Missing Branches

Nowak, Terrence, nowaktj@yahoo.com, Researching: NOWAK; STENZEL.

Sather, Mary, sathermary48@gmail.com, Researching: BIEGANET settled in Holdingford and Harding, MN; DERING settled in Sobieski, MN; BIELAWNA of Kobierno; SKOWRONSKA.

Schilling, Donna, sdc50456@gmail.com, Researching: GEHRKE; SEGLER; GERSTMAN

Stiverson, Cynthia, cindystiverson@verizon.net, Researching: KUHARSKI of Poznan settled in Minneapolis, MN; BLACIK of Poznan settled in Ramsey County, MN; BONA of Poznan settled in Ramsey County, MN; KOZIOL of Poznan settled in Waverly, MN; PAVELA of Poznan settled in La Crosse, WI.

Varian, Karen, kvar121@gmail.com



Volunteer Opportunity—Membership Chair

Join us! Get involved! Communicate with Members! PGS-MN Membership Chair position starting January 2023. Answer questions regarding membership. Maintain database and manage official listing of members on Membership Chair PGS-MN Windows laptop. Compile Missing Branches list from Membership Applications. Participate virtually in Board Meetings. Work from home. For more details about duties and training, contact membership@pgsmn.org. We look forward to hearing from you.



Bowlus Fun Day Volunteers Needed (July 3rd)

We will be attending the Bowlus Fun Day Festival on July 3rd. We converse with everyone regarding their family's research efforts and hopefully get new members. Want to join us? Email membership@pgsmn.org



Smok's Corner

I spent my spring bingeing on genealogical webinars—some fantastic, some so-so, but there was something to be learned from each one, small tidbits that were invaluable. My plan is to keep up the binge, learning about all different avenues into various aspects—the learning continues.

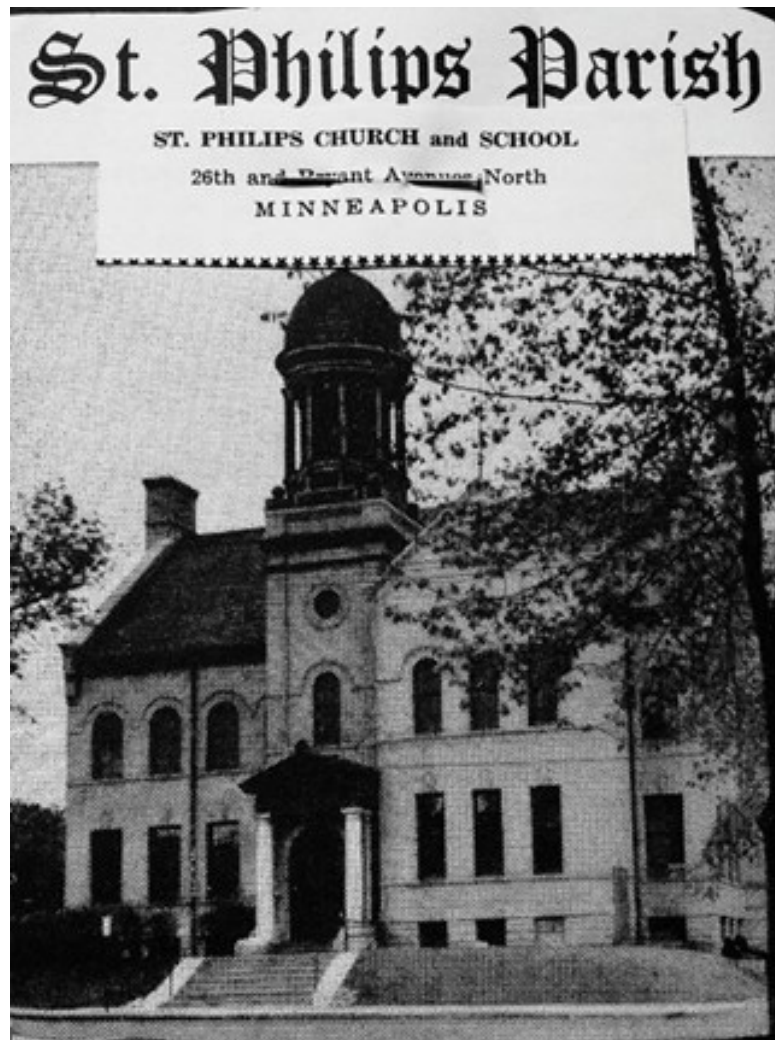
One of the instructors I viewed was Nancy Loe, and I'm happy to report that the Bergen County, NJ Genealogical Society is offering "Ten Skills Every Genealogist Needs." It will explore ten information management and research skills that help you uncover new resources, extract more information from records, defeat brick walls, share information with other researchers, and stay organized. The webinar is designed to help master new and essential skills to find and manage your genealogy research effectively. This will be offered on Monday, July 11, at 1pm Central Time. Info: <https://www.njgsbc.org>

While tiptoeing through Facebook, there was a post from a friend. His post was about St. Philips Parish, (26/Bryant N, Minneapolis) mainly about the school, and his recollections. He described that this was a Polish church where each Sunday one of the services was all in Polish. Students learned to sing in Polish. Each school day began with Mass in the church and all students were required to attend mass each school day.

The church was upstairs, and 4 classrooms were on the main floor. Each classroom was a double grade. One classroom was in the basement. The Annex, a small building on the same property, housed 9th & 10th grades. The Annex was heated with a type of a pot belly wood stove. "I attended 8th grade there... I have wonderful memories from school there. (Robert Huber).

Simultaneously, I went to St. Elizabeth's (South Minneapolis) and also attended mass before school. Father Decowski was the pastor. My mother would talk with him after Sunday mass, sometimes in Polish. There were occasions when he would take the older boys out of class, and they would be out on the concrete area (our playground) and he would teach them various sporting activities.

The church and school were taken for the freeway build, and Fr. Decowski was assigned to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, my parish as a University Student. He then went to St. Philips, and finally to Holy Cross. Father Decowski was always very active and supportive of all the parish projects, and about the community at large. Polish generosity and love of community always evident.



Mark your calendar's, August 1, 10am Central Time—Give a minute of silence. This moment commemorates the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, one of the most tragic and heroic events in Poland, and especially its capital city. The Warsaw Uprising was the rebellion act of the people of Warsaw which started on August 1st, 1944, and was an attempt by the Polish Home Army to liberate the city. Following the uprising, Hitler declared that Warsaw should be reduced to rubble. So, every August 1st, the people of the city stand still, take a minute and remember their history.

The Polish Catholic Cemetery (Duluth, MN) is reaching out for support. They need funds to repair the cemetery. It was established in 1892. Every year during the spring, (think frost heave), the headstones are on the march. Ultimately, they fall over and need to be restored. In many cases there is no longer any family to assist in this effort. The cemetery is asking for donations. If interested contact Ed Grochowski, Sexton, 218 -590-7682 or at shchurchsupply@aol.com

This year my desire is to get outside more, so I mapped out my vegetable garden with a Polish flair. Upon research, there are about 40 vegetable types cultivated in Poland commercially; the leaders being cabbage, carrots, onion, red beet, tomatoes, cucumbers and cauliflower. I also learned what you would personally grow the backyard garden.

Shortening the lists considerably, deciding on cabbage (bigos/Gołąbki), zucchini (salads/bread), sorrell (herb for soups/salads), spinach (salads), dill (flavor for potatoes, canning pickles), peas (my favorite), beans (looking for the large white ones like I found in Zakopane), onions, chives, garlic, carrots (bigos, salads), cucumbers (Mizeria and sandwich filling) and tomatoes (not my favorite, but family have told me that it's a sin not to have a tomato plant or two). Additionally, pumpkin (Halloween, perhaps pie), and am considering potatoes. The goal is to eat healthier, and having fun being outdoors.



The Foundation for East European Family History Studies Annual Conference is July 25-29 and also virtual viewing available. Early Bird registration ends June 30th. The program will feature tracks in research in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire (including Czech, Slovak, etc.), German Empire, Poland, and the Russian Empire (including Ukraine, Belarus, and Baltic Countries) as well as classes on DNA Research, Jewish, Germans from Eastern Europe, and more. Additional info at feefhs.org

—Musings by Marie Przyski

WARZYWA ①



