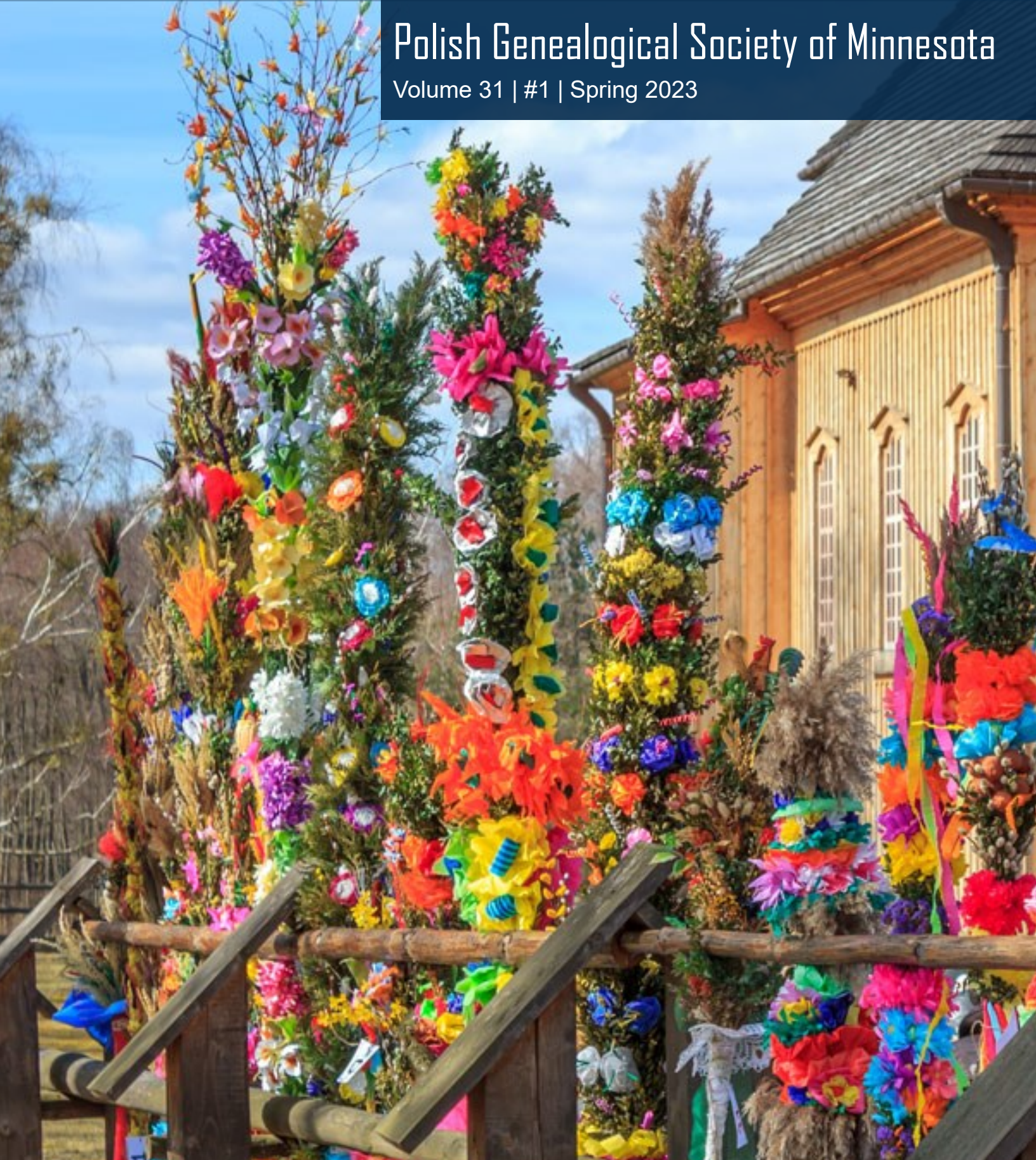


Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

Volume 31 | #1 | Spring 2023



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A 2023 Polish Genealogy Journey Has Begun

Spring. A time of renewal and rebirth. Celebrated around the world. As those of us in Minnesota celebrate the end of the cold and ice and snow, we can look forward to getting out more, connecting with people, and enjoying the warmth and sunshine.

We have another great newsletter here for you to sit back and enjoy reading. So many volunteers come together to make something that will hopefully bring you some happiness, joy and a little fun in your genealogy journey.

PGS-MN has great board and committee volunteers for 2023, and they're discussing what we can do to continue to grow, strengthen and support our society and members.

Plans are in the works for program meetings, attending events, cool stuff at the MN Genealogy Center and Library, and new resources you can access on pgsmn.org and facebook.com/pgsminnesota, as well as emails with select content just for you.

Our MGS Library collection has been categorized to make research easier. We have map collections from the German Empire, Austrian Empire, Poland and topographic Poland. A PGS-MN member staffs the Library at certain times every month. Please contact us ahead of time so we can help you.

We thank you for being a member. And remember, this is YOUR genealogical society. We WANT your feedback! New ideas, praise, criticism, your personal stories, recipes, photos, etc. so we can all grow and become better and better as a genealogy group.

Speaking of pgsmn.org, the board has approved making some enhancements and improvements this year. Can you help? Will you help? We'd love to have some members who we can show some new concepts to, and you simply give us your honest feedback. No experience required. We can do an online meeting, or arrange an in-person meeting if it is easier for you. Your involvement helps us all.

Email us at pgsminnesota@gmail.com, or write to us at PGS-MN, 1385 Mendota Heights Rd, Mendota Heights, MN, 55120 and we will reply. You can include a telephone # if you prefer to talk/ text.

Let's make 2023 the best year yet for PGS-MN. Together.

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PGS-MN

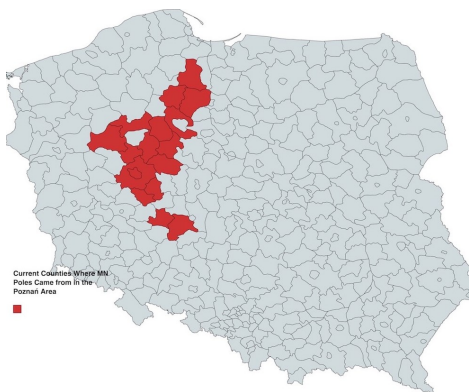
1385 Mendota Heights Rd #100,
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Mission

- To provide an association for persons interested in the genealogy of Polish-Americans whose ancestors lived within the historic or current boundaries of Poland.
- To provide opportunities for exchange of ideas and information related to genealogical practices and experiences.
- To provide programs for the instruction and education of interested persons.
- To foster and increase an interest in Polish history, culture and genealogical research, encompassing both historic and current geographic boundaries.
- To collect, disseminate, preserve, and share genealogical, biographical, and historical material relating to families of Polish descent.
- To collaborate with other community organizations in projects and activities that promote interest in Polish genealogical research, history, and culture.

This newsletter is 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.

From Poland to Minnesota—Paula Colwell

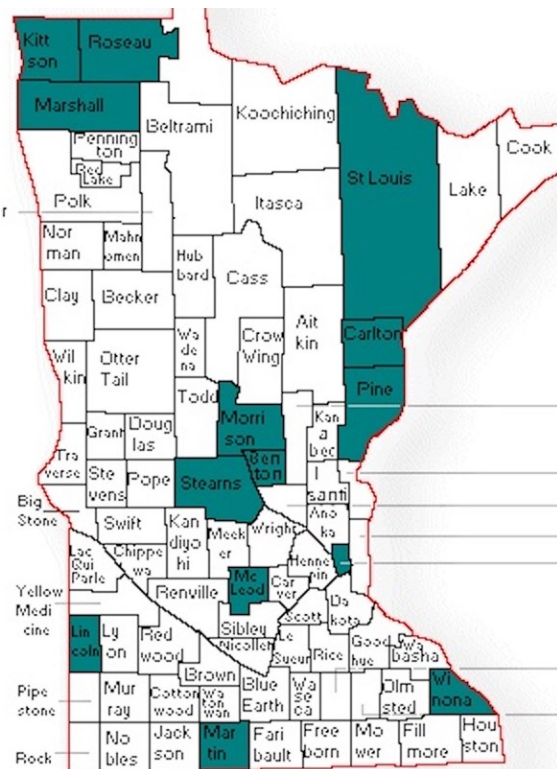


The purpose of From Poland to Minnesota is to provide our members the tools to learn more about where their family came from in Poland, where they settled in Minnesota, as well as the time frames of when they came to America.

If your Minnesota ancestors came from the Poznań area, we are pleased to inform you that the Poznań section is now available on pgsmn.org! You will find information to better understand the history of the Poznań area, where that area is located within Poland, and the churches affiliated with those locations. You will also learn about the culture and food that is unique to the area.

I was surprised to learn that Minnesota Poles came from many Poznań villages. The Poland map shows you the number of Powiats (Counties) within the Poznań area that Minnesota Poles came from. The Minnesota map shows the different counties where the Poznan immigrants settled.

I encourage you to explore this new Poznań section on the website. If you have questions, or have content / photos to add, please contact me at pgsminnesota@gmail.com today. Thank you!



Missing Branches—Welcome New PGS-MN Members—Thank You For Joining

- Barnak, Bonnie | DRAZKOWSKI; LOSINSKI; BARNAK; BAMBENEK.
- Brill, Karen | PELLOWSKI, Dodge County, WI; LILLA, Winona, MN; ZABINSKI, Dodge County, WI; GLAZER, Winona, MN; SOJKOWSKA, Winona, MN; STOLTMAN, Winona, MN.
- Kensok, Thomas
- Kulas-Haines, Jane | KULAS, Bak; DERDOWSKI, Brusy and Wiele to Warsaw, ND; KALDUNSKI, Gorki and Koscierzyna; ZABROCKI, Bak and Koscierzyna; MILOCH, Wiele and Przyternia; NIEMEZYK, Korson; KRYZSKO/ KRZYSKO, Boroszyn to Greenbush, MN; MARCIMAK, Poznan to Drayton and Minto, ND; OLSZEWSKI, Poznan to Phillips, Montana; MASTEK and MAZUK, Boroszyn.
- Maertens, Patricia
- Weeks, Fred | MAJEWSKI; SEKULSKI.
- Wlazlo, John | WLAZLO to MN; BEDNARCZYK to MN; KULKOWSKI to MN; ZAGORSKI to MN.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS—THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING



VICE PRESIDENT—Kay (Janiszeski) Freund | I grew up in Lincoln County, Southwestern Minnesota, a 1/2 mile from the small village of Wilno, which was a planned Polish community formed in 1884. All 8 of my great grandparents and 3 of my grandparents immigrated from Poland to the U.S. in the 1870's, ultimately ending up in Lincoln County.

My genealogy journey began in the 1970's while visiting with relatives, telling stories about their ancestors. One of my grandparents' family members created a family tree report, which led me to start creating something similar for the other three grandparents' families. It was very fortunate that all 4 of my grandparent's families originated from Poland, so research was concentrated in a single region in Europe. Also, all the families were members of St. John Cantius Catholic Church (established in 1883) in

Wilno, which published a centennial book in 1983 including a rich history of the families that were early settlers and founding members of the church.

Over the years, there have been many relatives that have helped with doing genealogy research. Collaboration is SO beneficial, especially when it comes to documenting stories handed down through generations. In the last few years, I have started to find family records from villages in Poland. With so many of the old records being digitized and made accessible online, research is much easier today.

I have 2 goals for PGS-MN in 2023:

1. Make enough progress on indexing church records from St. John Cantius Catholic Church, located in Wilno, MN (which is part of the New Ulm Dioceses) so we can publish a partial index of records on the PGS-MN website for other members to access.
2. Work on creating a series of videos on the 'Basics of Genealogy Research' that can be posted on the PGS-MN website. A common comment from people who stopped by the PGS-MN table at the two festivals I attended in 2022 was they just didn't know how and where to start with their genealogy research.



DIRECTOR—Hello, I am Mike Stodolka. I'm 70 years old, and live in Mendota Heights, MN. I have been researching my family's history, off and on, for over 30 years.

My father's side of the family came from Silesia and also the towns of Falkowice, Dammratch and Lubnow in southwestern Poland. My ancestors immigrated to central Minnesota in 1872 near the towns of Bowlus and Royalton.

I am now researching my great uncle Cyril Stodolka and his early connections with Minnesota aviation and Charles Lindbergh. Cyril is nominated for induction into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame for his early aviation efforts.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS—THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING



DIRECTOR—I'm Jim Warzonek. While I was born to parents of farmers in the southern part of the state, I grew up in God's Country, as my father would refer to the area near Orr, Minnesota. My parents operated a family oriented fishing resort for 20 years. My mom is 100% German, while my dad is full Polish.

I served in the US Army during the early 1970's, as a legal clerk while stationed in Germany. Thereafter, I worked for a small local construction company. In 1976, I got married to Rosemary, who had a BS in Education. Utilizing my GI Bill, I went back to college for a 3rd time, graduating from NDSU with a BS in Engineering. After 33 years in the construction industry, I retired in 2017.

My dad's father immigrated from the Lubelska province to the US in 1909. I have been a member of PGS-MN since 2018. It was through the help of the staff, that I was able to find sufficient documents to provide a genealogist in Krakow. After only several weeks, Jakub provided me with a family tree with more than 200 Polish family members!

In the past four trips to Europe, I have met over 50 of them! I am so very grateful, humble and proud!!! Now, I am ready to give back to the organization which helped me 'Find Family in Poland.' You may contact me anytime regarding your journey. Best Regards, Jim



DIRECTOR—My name is Tom Losinski. I am Kashubian Polish. My parents were born and raised in Winona, MN and after WWII, where my dad served aboard the USS Independence aircraft carrier, there was no work available in Winona. So they left for St. Cloud, MN, where my dad had an aunt. I and my 4 siblings were born and raised in St. Cloud. Because my dad and grandparents died relatively early in life, I always wondered about my genealogy.

So, in the 1990's I joined PGS-MN and started my research. Because of the help I received from PGS-MN and members, I was able to piece together my heritage. In 2002, I and 2 of my brothers travelled to Poland in a rented car, and the first destination was Prystarnia near Wiele.

With the help of some locals we were able to get into the parish house at the local church in Wiele and was shown the actual recording of my great grandfather's baptismal record from 1866! He and the family immigrated to the US, by way of Canada, in 1869 and bought a farm in Pine Creek, WI.

I encourage all members to begin/ continue your search to find the stories of how you came to where you are now, what was your relatives' life like before immigration, and how they assimilated to their life in the USA.

Thank You 2022 PGS-MN Donors

We would not be where we are now, without these generous members! THANK YOU!

Angrist, Georgene Becker, Mary Broll, Vern Chamberlain, Vivian Cieslak, Therese E	Davy, Joan Gagner, Nancy Hart, Adeline M. Joyce, Elizabeth Kraska, Robert	Landucci, Judy Langworthy, Susanne Lepkowski, Cynthia Rozek, David Runnakko, Margaret and Sam	Rys, John Shaltz, Jennifer Soyett, Maryland Stodolka, Mike
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The Polish Genealogical Society of MN and The Minnesota Genealogical Society

PGS-MN is one of many 'Branches' of the MGS. We work together on many things, while also maintaining our own Board and Bylaws. Consider joining both to enjoy all of the benefits for doing genealogical research!

Genealogy and Cultural Calendar Highlights

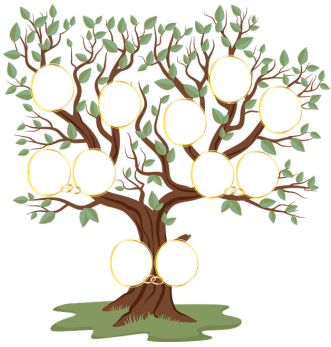
Email pgsminnesota@gmail.com for more information.

- Mar18 | German Genealogy Society Library Open House at the MN Genealogical Society
- Mar24 | Holy Cross Fish Fry (Lent)
- Mar25 | Polish American Cultural Institute MN—The Drowning of Marzanna—Riverfront Park, Fridley
- Mar25 | Norwegian American Genealogical Association—Breaking Brick Walls Using DNA
- Mar25 | Irish Genealogical Society Int'l—Using Google Earth Pro, Griffith's Valuation and Irish Townlands
- Mar25 | Swedish Genealogical Society MN—Finding the Home Parish of Your Swedish Ancestor
- Mar27 | National Danish-American Genealogical Society—Introduction to Danish Genealogy
- Mar30 | German Genealogy Society—German Pronunciation for Genealogists
- Mar31 | Holy Cross Fish Fry (Lent)
- Apr01 | Our PGS-MN Program Meeting—Digitizing Photos and Documents
- Apr02 | MN Polish Medical Society—History Revealed: An Interrupted Childhood Part One
- Apr03 | Polish American Cultural Institute MN—Polish Family Stories Group
- Apr06 | MN Polish Medical Society—History Revealed: An Interrupted Childhood Part Two
- Apr10 | Winona MN Smigus Dyngus Day
- Apr22 | MN Genealogical Society—Second Annual Spring Connect Event
- May01 | Polish American Cultural Institute MN—Jay Biedny
- May06 | Our PGS-MN Program Meeting—Aspects of Polish Culture
- Jun16 | Little Falls Dam Festival
- Jul01 | Bowlus Fun Days



Send your calendar items for the Summer Newsletter! pgsminnesota@gmail.com

Continuing the Search for My Korcal Ancestors—Kay Freund



In the last newsletter, I shared details on my search for the village in Poland where my great-grandparents Johann and Rosalie (Kurkowska) Korcal were from. The key to my success was finding hidden family gems, like Johann's passport (issued 1878), a paper marriage record for my great-grand parents, and the birth record for my great-grandmother, along with expanding research to the Pomeranian region, and not limiting to the Poznan region where we were always told we were from.

Searching the Pomorskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne site (ptg.gda.pl) for baptism, marriage & death records resulted in finding baptism entries for my great-grandmother Francisca Korcal (1876), great-aunt Catherine Korcal (1874), and the marriage record for my great-grandparents Johann Korcal and Rosalie Kurek (1873), and the village in Poland (Prussia) where these events occurred: Zblewo (Hochstublau).

Next, I found someone in Poland that could help obtain digital copies of baptism, marriage, and death records in the Pomeranian Region, initially reaching out to the Pomeranian Genealogical Association (PTG), who connected me with Albert Chmielecki. (Pomerania.gen2@wp.pl) He was very helpful in obtaining records and explaining what else was written in each entry, as the language used was "Old German".

Even though I found the village in Poland where my great-grandparents were married, and where their first two children born, and where my great-grandmother Rosalie was born, I did not know if my great-grandfather, Johann was originally from Zblewo; or, did he move there from somewhere else in Poland? It is important to remember that in the 1800's, the country of Poland did not exist due to the partitioning between Russia, Austria, and Prussia. The region where Zblewo was located was controlled by the Prussians. The Polish people in all three partitions were severely oppressed, and those living in rural areas were forced to move to other areas in search of jobs.

Next Steps—My search in the PTG Database for my great-grandfather Johann Korcal's baptismal record continued, but I didn't have much luck on my own. Being persistent that the baptismal record existed somewhere in the Pomeranian region, I emailed Albert, providing him with Johann's birth date of 12 March 1844.

It didn't take long for Albert to reply that he had found a baptismal record from the parish in Dzierżążno for a Johann Koreal with the date of 12 March 1846. Johann's parents were listed as Franz Koreal and Katharina Kwaterka. Everything, but the year of birth, appeared to be correct in the record Albert found. I had been told by elderly family members that my great-great-grandparents' names were Frank and Kathryn. How could the birth year for my great-grandfather been wrong in all my other records?

This took me back to reviewing old emails from relatives, family history reports and obituaries. The emails and family history reports all supported a birth year of 1844. As this was the first information I had when I started recording information in my genealogy software program, the date of birth I entered for Johann Korcal was March 12, 1844.



John F Korcal

BIRTH 1844
DEATH 1938 (aged 93-94)
BURIAL Saint John's Cantius Ce
 Wilno, Lincoln County, M

I didn't have an obituary for my great-grandfather, so I went to findagrave.com to see what was on the headstone. It also supported a birth year of 1844, just as was listed in the family histories I was given years ago!

The last place I could think of to search was census reporting. U.S. Federal Censuses and Minnesota Territorial Censuses were taken in June or April, so it would be after the March birthday of my great-grandfather. Below is a summary of census reports that John Korcal was listed in. The 1890 U.S. Census is not listed due to most records being lost in a fire.

None of these records supported a birth year of 1844; and, there was variation on the possible year of birth between 1845-1847. But then I remembered, the 1900 U.S. Census included more details, providing the month and the year of birth. What I found was totally amazing!

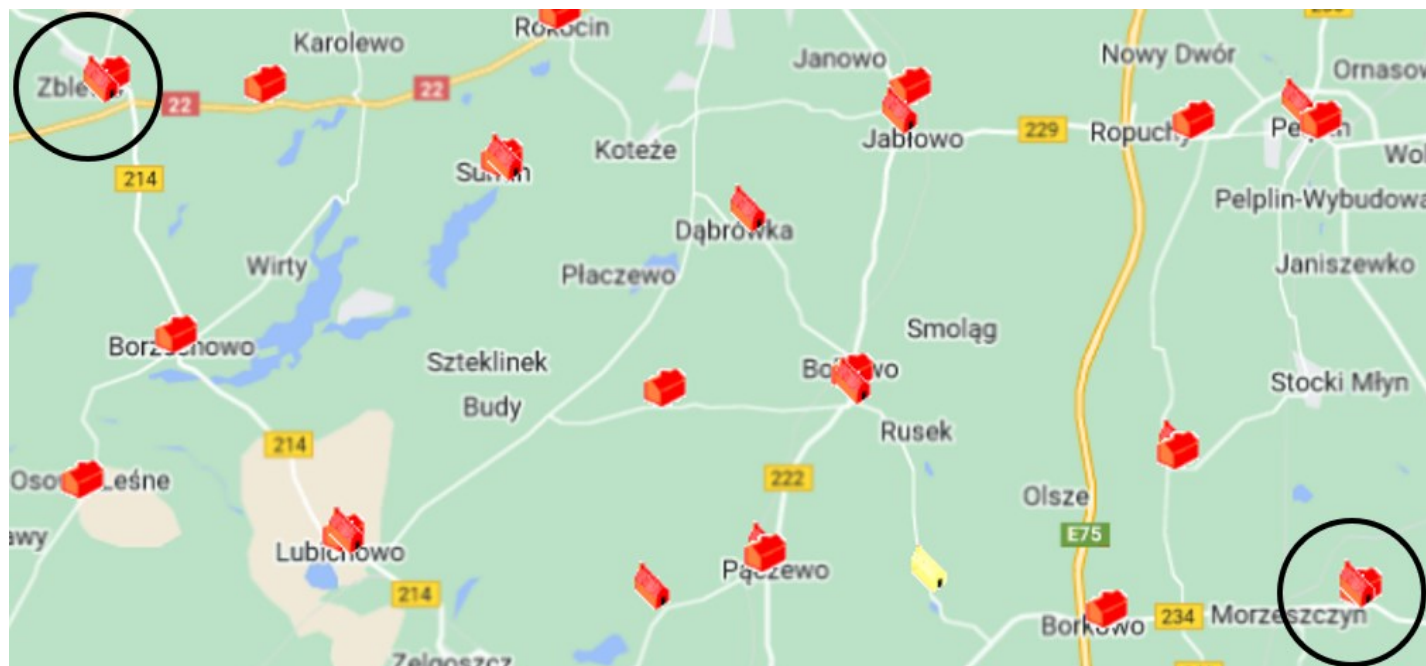
Census Year	U.S. or Minnesota	Month Taken	J. Korcal's Age	Estimated Birth Year
1880	U.S.	June	33	1847
1885	Minnesota	June	illegible	unknown
1895	Minnesota	June	49	1846
1900	U.S.	June	54	1846
1905	Minnesota	June	60	1845
1910	U.S.	April	65	1845
1920	U.S.	June	74	1846
1930	U.S.	April	85	1845

Not only did the 1900 U.S. Census have more detail for my great-grandfather, but in small writing in the column for Month of Birth was the number twelve. John (Johann) Korcal was born on March 12, 1846, just as was reflected in the baptismal record Albert found.

LOCATION.				NAME of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on June 1, 1900. Omit children born since June 1, 1900.	RELATION. Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.							
IN CITIES.		Number of dwelling houses, in the order of valuation.	Number of family, in the order of relation.			Color of hair.	Sex.	DATE OF BIRTH.		Age at last birthday.	Whether single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Number of years married.	Number of how many children.
Street.	House Number.			Month.	Year.								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

45	91 507	Korcal	John	Head	W	M	March 12	1846	54	M	26	9	
46			Rosalie	Wife	W	F	Sept.	1857	43	M	26	10	9
47			Frank	Son	W	F	April	1879	21	S			
48			Joseph	Son	W	M	March	1882	18	S			
49			John	Son	W	M	May	1884	16	S			
50			Tekla	Daughter	W	F	Sept.	1887	13	S			

Based on my research, I am very confident that we have the correct record. The village in Poland (Germany) where Johann was baptized was Dzierżążno (Dzierondzno), which is about 9 miles from the village of Zblewo, Poland where the other Korcal records I previously found were from.



The baptismal record for Johann Korcal from St. James the Apostle (Św. Jakuba Apostoła) in Dzierżążno is below. I spent a fair amount of time deciphering the headings, as they are written in Old German text. I relied on a Translation Packet published by the Polish Genealogical Society of America, and Google Translate.

re (1846) Eintausend Achtthundert Tauff und Bierzig vom 1 ten Janua						
Tag der Taufe (mit Ziffern und Buchstaben)	Taufname des Kindes	Tag und Stunde der Geburt (mit Ziffern und Buchstaben)	Namen, Stand und Confession des Vaters	Namen, Stand und Confession der Mutter	Wohnort des Vaters (bei unehelichen Kindern der Mutter.)	Namen, Stand und Wohnort der Tauf-Vathen.
15 März 1846	Johann	12 März 10 Uhr	Franz Korcal Korcal	Catharina Kwaterka	Mühle	Johann Derezkwisig Barbara Kottewska

Columns Shown Above:

1. Tag der Taufe—Day of Baptism, March 15, 1846
2. Taufnamen des Kinder—Baptismal Name of the Child, Johann
3. Tag und Stunde der Geburt—Day and Hour of Birth, March 12 at 10:00
4. Namen, Stand Und Confession der Vaters—Name, Status/Occupation and Confession of Father, Franz Korcal (unsure what is written below his name)
5. Namen, Stand Und Confession der Mutter—Name, Status/Occupation and Confession of Mother, Catharyna Kwaterka
6. Wohnort des Vaters—Place of Residence of Father, Mühle
7. Namen, Stand und Wohnort der Tauf-Vathen—Name, Status/Occupation and Residence of Christening Father, Johann Derezkwisig and Barbara Kottewska

My great-grandfather's surname (Korcak) on the baptismal record was transcribed slightly different (Koreak) in the PTG database. Viewing the handwritten record, the "e" very well could have been a "c". It's important to remember the variables of the handwriting on records, or deteriorated records over the years, leading to transcription errors. Always try different spellings when searching any database.

Johann's parents' names were listed as Franz Korcak and Catharzyna Kwaterka. The family records previously listed Johann's parents as Frank & Kathryn Korcak. We never knew the maiden name of my great-grandmother, so finding this record will lead to another name to research and build into our family tree.

I found the 6th column most puzzling, place of residence of father. All the other entries in this column on the page list either Dzierżazno or Gogolewo, both being villages close to each other. However, the entry for my great-grandfather, and one other entry on the page, lists Mühle, which translated to English means 'miller'.

When I asked Albert, he explained that often in the Poland countryside, the profession of a miller was very important, which is why it was marked in church books. For this record, my great-great-grandfather, Franz Korcak's place of residence was referred to a place-building (Mühle), not the village of Dzierżazno.

In addition to finding the baptismal record for my great-grandfather, Albert was able to find a death record for my great-great-grandfather, Franz Korcak. The record is from Dzierżazno, the same village as Johann's baptismal record. Franz died April 15, 1851, at the age of 35. He was buried in Dzierżazno on April 18, 1851. In the 4th column, this record reflects Residence of the Decedent (Wohnort des Verstorbenen) as Mühle, the same reference that we found in Johann Korcak's birth record.

There was a second page for this death record which indicated that Franz left behind a wife, a son, and a daughter. Based upon the family history I have for the Korcak family, Franz and Kathryn had two children – a son named Johann and a daughter named Frances. It looks like I have more research to undertake.

Tag der Beerdigung (mit Ziffern und Buchstaben)	Beerdigungs- Platz	Namen und Stand des Verstorbenen	Wohnort des Verstorbenen	Tag und Stunde des Todes (mit Ziffern und Buchstaben)	Alter		
					Jahr	Monat	Tag
18. April	Dito	Franz Korcak Käufmann	Mühle	15 fünfzehnter April 5 fünf Uhr abends	35.		

Guidance on using the PTG website & database can be found on the PGS-MN website:

- The link to the "Members Area" is listed on the far right on the menu bar on the main page of the website.
- Hover your mouse over "Members Area" and select the first item, which is "From Poland to Minnesota".
- At this point you will need to provide a password that is sent to members and updated annually.



Map of Churches

Attached is a map from the 1500's that might be of interest to you before you explore the information on this page.

church records available online. This is a free website, but you will have to register to access data.

You also can reach out to the Pelplin and Gdansk Dioceses through the links provided. For the Pelplin Dioceses, you will need to read the Polish language or have Google Translate available. I used my web browser to translate the Gdansk Dioceses pages into English.

The final option is reaching out to a resource (Stanley Frymark) that Paula Colwell has used. Paula created the "From Poland to Minnesota" on the PGS-MN website. She also has ancestors from Zblewo. She recommended I consider this resource for obtaining records. A listing of parishes in each the Pelplin and Gdansk Dioceses for which records are available can be found on the page, along with details for Stanley Frymark.

Another "From Poland to Minnesota" section I have found very helpful is the summary of "Books and Articles About Poland". I have found "Polish Roots: Korzenie Polskie, Second Edition" full of good information about doing Polish genealogy research.

My Key Takeaways

- Be diligent to accurately document the sources for the records you find on your ancestors. You never know if something you previously documented could be questioned for accuracy.
- Question records that reflect something different from what you previously believed was correct. If one part of the record is different, look carefully at what other information is included in the record.
- Corroboration (validation) and collaboration (working together) are very important—whether it be corroborating different records you find to assure that the person in the record is indeed the family member you are searching for or collaborating with other resources to help you find what you are searching for.
- Take time to explore the "From Poland to Minnesota" section on the PGS-MN website. There is a considerable amount of information included on various regions in Poland and counties in Minnesota.

Take these steps to get to the page containing detailed instructions for using the PTG Database: [Click Here to Begin Your Journey, Poland, Kashubia, Kashubian Resources, and Finding Kashubian Church Records.](#)

On the "Finding Kashubian Church Records" page, you will find instructions how to search the PTG database for baptism, marriage & death records. If you think you have ancestors from the Pomeranian Province, read through the guidance on using the PTG database, then conduct your own search for church records using this database. I hope you will be as lucky as I have been with finding records for my family.

On this same page toward the bottom, you will find information about obtaining church records from the Pomeranian Region that you have identified through the PTG database. FamilySearch.org has some of the

Easter Palms—Palma Wielkanocna



Palm trees are rare in Poland, so churchgoers often bring Easter Palms made of catkins (pussy willow branches), with greens and flowers taken from flowering bushes, or ones made of colorful woven dried branches, straw, and grains to welcome the Lord on his way into the Holy City.

Consecrated palms are believed to have defensive powers, and are kept in the house for protection from misfortune. Here is a picture of my palm bouquet. It is, perhaps, a little over the top. Plus, a lot of it is fake, which saves me the effort of yearly gathering of the materials, especially the pussy willow, which is WAY in the back of my yard.

There are some regions in Poland that have for generations made different sizes and types of palms. Easter palms can reach as high as 33 ft! In a 2011 competition, one entry reportedly topped 118 ft, making it the tallest Easter palm on record.

Easter Babka and Chicken Noodle Soup

My food comments were to be about Easter Babka. But, I simply must share some tips I've learned about making chicken noodle soup. Mine is always watery and tasteless. What kind of a Polish cook am I? I tried putting in a lot of chicken. Unfortunately, I had only white meat. Cooks Country (CC) cooks really emphasize using dark meat that is well seared.

I added Bone Broth, which I bought from Walmart. I have also seen both chicken and beef bone broth at Aldi. One of the reasons soups are so good for you is that the marrow and other ingredients from the bones seep into the water during the long cooking time.

My soup was thin, so I cooked it longer. Unfortunately, I was on the computer, and by the time I remembered the soup, there was hardly any liquid left. There was this jar of Better Than Bouillon sitting unopened in my cupboard. It said it was seasoned with "roasted chicken." It was a game changer! (However, it is rather high in sodium as bouillons tend to be.) and the soup is still thin.

So I employed the old trick used to thicken creamy soups, adding a little bit of dried, flaked mashed potatoes! Now, my soup is thick, flavorful, and the color of chicken fat! YUM!

Now, to get to the point of this article... Easter Babka! This recipe was given to me by Roma Kehne, who told me her mother baked it all of the time because it produced a tasty babka which was easy to make. I won 1st prize in the Twin Cities Polish Festival Baking Competition using this recipe and a Bundt mold given to me by my Polish neighbor and friend, Leona Tomczyk.

Babkas come in various shapes, from being baked in a 3-pound coffee can, to fancy cake molds. Just remember to butter the mold well! Because Roma's directions are so specific, I'll only say that bread is fully baked at a center temperature of 190°F. You can thump it, but the thermometer will tell you for sure.



Babka Ponczowa z Rumem

1. Take eggs out of the refrigerator.
2. Put raisins in a small bowl and cover with liquor.
3. Put milk in small pan and bring just to a boil (scald). Add butter. Cool.
4. Grate lemon.
5. Sift flour.
6. Check temperature of milk and butter mixture. When it gets to 115 degrees, add yeast. Stir.
7. Transfer above mixture to a large bowl and add sugar. Beat.
8. Add eggs, one at a time. Beat between each addition.
9. Add sifted flour & salt, a little at a time. Beat between each addition.
10. Add lemon zest. Beat until smooth.

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp raisins
- 1 ½ Tbsp dark rum/ other liquor
- ½ Cup skim milk
- 3 Tbsp butter
- 1 Package dried yeast
- 2 Tbsp + 1 Cup sugar
- 2 Eggs (room temperature)
- 1/2 tsp grated lemon zest
- 1 ¾ Cup flour sifted
- ½ tsp salt

11. Cover the bowl & put in a warm place until the dough double in size.
12. Butter mold. Stir down the dough with a wooden spoon and put it in the mold.
13. Let the dough rise until it is above the top of the mold.
14. Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees. Bake the babka 30-45 minutes, until the top is brown.

Traditionally, the babka would be dusted with sifted powdered sugar. It can also be dressed with a glaze made of 1 ¾ Cup confectioner's sugar, ¼ Cup lemon juice, 1 tsp lemon zest, and a pinch of salt. Let mixture sit until thickened (about 25 minutes).

Judith Blanchard (Judyta Tomaszewska)—The Polish Update started as a reminder to my friends of upcoming events. Over the years, I have started including information on Polish culture and traditions. Readership now goes to people in the U.S., Poland, England, and Norway. The Update is free. New readers welcome.
Email: judytam@usfamily.net



Do you have a family story to tell? Or perhaps, a recipe to share? We are always looking for great stuff to put in this newsletter. Contact us today, and we will work with you to create something to publish and share with all of our members. Thank you!

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Smok's Corner—Musings by Marie Przynski

Mother Nature keeps adding a post script to the winter season. However, Spring is just around the corner and all those garden catalogs are filling up the mailbox and allowing dreams of what will be (hopefully). Also blooming inside is the rehab of the bathroom and the addition of a 2nd bathroom.

PGS-MN is also looking to the new year. The Programs committee has mapped out an array of topics for participants to enjoy. The March 4th Program Meeting was Poznan Pointers, with helpful tips on researching ancestors in the Prussian (German) Partition area of Poland. It covered some history on the area, and specifically about the heaviest immigration from Poland to the U.S. in the 1800's. The Poznan Marriage Project, Family Search, and other valuable internet resources were covered as well. Members can always access the program recordings on www.pgsmn.org at anytime.

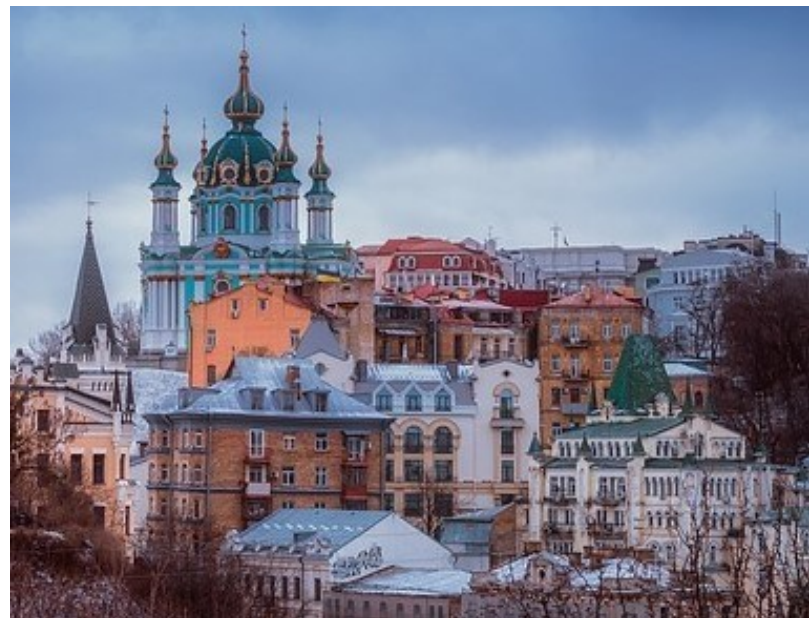
There was a recent article from the Association of Professional Genealogists to cross my desk. They support that organizations Educate, Advocate and Collaboration are key to the success of genealogy organizations. PGS-MN is working on these areas for our members. For example, we have a library, hold monthly program meetings 6 times a year, provide a quarterly newsletter, maintain a website and share information on our Facebook page. Education is at the heart of what we do.

I've used these resources myself to "place" my family within the historical events occurring to my family, which immigrated from the Polish area under Prussian Partition. During research it was discovered that my great grandfather had received notice that he was possibly going to be drafted into the Prussian army. In that time, military service was a 30 year commitment. He was the 3rd son, with no possibility of land acquisition. His aunt and family had immigrated years before him, so off he went to Stevens Point, WI, and later following them to Stearns Co/Benton Co, MN. In researching the aunt, it was discovered that many others from their small village in Poland had also immigrated at the same time. Was the political structure under the Prussian Partition such, that they left in search of their piece of the pie?

The latest Russian aggression against Ukraine has passed the one-year mark. They continue to hold their own in defense of their country, their freedom and their way of life. Negotiations continue, but Ukrainians are apprehensive. The past has given them many "negotiations" that the Russians promptly ignored.

Over the last 30 years, hostilities increased, and little change occurred. Throughout the years Putin made promises, engaged in negotiations, ignored all, and continued to build a military response to Ukraine. Putin also questions Ukraine's sovereignty, claiming that it never had genuine statehood; dominated by neo-Nazism, that it wasn't Jews the Nazis were eliminating but the Russian Christians.

Image by David Mark





(Continued) Russia has made demands to remove NATO forces. Russian military attacks increased in Dunbas as a pretext for invasion. Putin announced that Donetsk and Luhansk were republics, sending Russian troops to the area on a “peace keeping” mission. So much for the Minsk treaties.

Zelenskyy appealed to the Russians for the prevention of war. The very next day, 2/24/22, Russia invaded Ukraine with airstrikes, missiles, and ground invasions across several fronts. Ukraine declared martial law. The war, documented cases of human rights violations and atrocity crimes, have been soundly decried by the international community. The UN has de-

manded a full withdrawal of Russian forces. Countries across the globe have imposed and strengthened sanctions against Russia, and there has been an outpouring of support, both military and economically for Ukraine.

The latest is that Putin also wants to move into Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, and Moldova, Georgia and Finland. A Russian official stated that they should include Alaska, claiming that the US had defrauded Russia of its rightful ownership. The war is ongoing. It is international opinion that Ukraine is surviving, continuing to maintain their demand for freedom and sovereignty, and could be victorious.

Support for Ukraine has a number of agencies. Visit uaccmn.org to learn more from the Ukrainian American Center based in Minnesota, and “founded in 1964 by Ukrainian immigrants who found a new life and homes in Northeast Minneapolis and formed a community and cultural center to call their own.”

Lastly, I now turn my attention to Blessing of the Easter basket, Easter itself, indulging in good Paczki, and the fun of Smigus-Dyngus on Easter Monday. As a child, my grandmother would color dozen of eggs, and then hide them all over her very large yard. Small children were allowed out first, and I often saw a guiding hand in the location of eggs.

I no longer color eggs, but I do put out my painted wooden eggs for the season, and take delight in old family memories. Plans are in the works to create Polish lunch “takeaways” for those family members who are working that day.



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