



# *Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota*

Volume #31, Issue #3 Fall 2023



# ABOUT US

## **PGSMN Mission**

To share genealogical, biographical, and historical information, and collaborate with other organizations that promote interest in Polish genealogical research, history and culture from Poland to Minnesota and surrounding states.

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*Front cover—The **Kotwica** was a World War II emblem of the Polish Underground State and Armia Krajowa (Home Army, or AK). Created in 1942 by members of the AK Wawer Minor sabotage unit, as an easily usable emblem for the Polish struggle to regain Independence. The initial meaning of the initials PW was Pomścimy Wawer ("We shall avenge Wawer"). This was a reference to the Wawer massacre (26–27 December 1939), which was considered to be one of the first large scale massacres of Polish civilians by German troops in occupied Poland.*

## **PGSMN Board**

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Annual Meeting/Awards—Richard Theissen & John Rys

Library / Bob Kraska

Membership / Karen Brill

Newsletter / Marie Przyński

Nominating / Peggy Larson

Programs / Terry Kita

Website / Paula Colwell & Joe Hughes

## **Project Leaders**

Database Project / John Rys

Facebook / Marie Przyński

From Poland to Minnesota / Paula Colwell

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**PGSminnesota@gmail.com**

Or

**PGSMN**

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

## President's Letter

Though it seems not like Fall, this is our Fall edition. It has been a busy summer, trying to increase our membership, attending outstate and Twin Cities festivals. This effort was spearheaded by our director Mike Stodalka, along with others. We are anxious to see the results of the effort.

PGSMN members will volunteer at the MGS State Fair booth, the Pine Creek, WI and Winona festivals, and co-partner with the Morrison County Historical Society in October. Our Fall program schedule begins in September—see our website and Facebook page for details. Each Fall program will be a hybrid meeting, which means that they will be held both at the Minnesota Genealogy Center, and via Zoom. An emailed link will be sent to each member.

Our Library holdings had include four map collections—Poland at 1:100,000; Poland at 1:200000, German Empire and Austrian Map of Middle Europe. Because of lack of member use of these collections, we have donated the last three to the University of Minnesota Borchert Map Library, where they can be viewed and copied by anyone. The promulgation of on-line map resources has caused print maps to be less used.

Through the efforts of Paula Colwell, working with a consultant, not only has our website been restored, it has been improved. Paula and Joe Hughes will act as webmasters until someone can be found to take on this task permanently. We now have a better “feel” for the structure of our website.

PGSMN needs new “blood,” in the form of members who are willing to volunteer their time and expertise to serve as Board or Committee members. The task involved are not onerous, in terms of time required nor effort, and can be very rewarding. If you have an interest, please email me at [pgsminnesota@gmail.com](mailto:pgsminnesota@gmail.com) to discuss, or do so at our program meetings.

As always our newsletter editor welcomes your research efforts and stories. At various festivals, many of the folks I have talked with have a story, query or research they wished to discuss. I encouraged them to write, or talk about it, as a benefit to others. We hope to see you in September at the first Fall program meeting.

Terry

## Website for Genealogical Exploration

**The Kosciuszko Foundation has an app called “KF Eng Polish Dictionary” that is available for free on the App Store.**

The app is a digital version of the revised New Kosciuszko Foundation English-Polish, Polish-English Dictionary, edited by Jacek Fisiak, Arleta Adamska-Sałaciak, Piotr Gąsiorowski and Michał Jankowski, and published in two volumes by the Kosciuszko Foundation (New York) and Universitas (Kraków) in 2003. The dictionary contains nearly **142,000 headwords, 109,000 idioms and phrases** and **439,000 translations**. The distinctive feature of the dictionary is that it is based on American English, although characteristic British usage, as well as forms typical of other varieties of English, have also been noted. The richness of lexical information, including not only everyday expressions but also technical terminology, literary language, and archaic vocabulary makes the dictionary an indispensable tool in the hands of both English and Polish speakers, irrespective of their degree of proficiency in the other language.

## Leszek Kostuj

Leszek Kostuj, born in 1973, and chose to stay Pleszew, Poland. He later relocated to Poznan, and while at Adam Mickiewicz University, he became involved in painting, drawing, traditional and computer graphics. He preferred working in oil and acrylic painting.

He painted oil paintings as a child, and his breakout was a series of several dozen small oil paintings entitled *Asymilanci* (1997), where he symbolized the bond between man and nature and the need for their harmonious coexistence. He works at the boundary of surrealism and allusive abstraction consciously employing illogical, illusionistic space and ambiguous forms that evoke metaphorical associations—"When I begin to paint, often I do not think much about the final effect. Only when working on the surface of the painting, the emerging patches, the lines and colours begin to coalesce, and my imagination wakes and provides an impulse to further artistic invention."

At the turn of the century, he created abstract paintings and works moving towards abstraction and surrealism. In contemporary paintings painted with great care, plant and organic forms create a structure from which fantastic animals, characters, trees emerge, and nature is brought to the forefront. He also indulges with his depictions of fairy tales, surrealism, and sometimes mechanical motifs. His paintings have graced the covers of books and phonographic publications and magazines.

Many of his art pieces can be viewed on his Facebook page, or at his website—[kostuj.netgaleria.pl](http://kostuj.netgaleria.pl)



Magiczny Księżyc II (Magical Moon)  
Acrylic, panel 45x45 cm



Astronomy Lesson V 2017  
Acrylic, 70x60 cm



Strażnicy Snów Magicznych I  
(Guardians of Magical Dreams)  
Acrylic, 70x60 cm (2019)

## Resources for researching the history of homes, buildings and Neighborhoods—Hennepin County Public Library

Resources for researching the history of homes, buildings and neighborhoods

Special Collections at Minneapolis Central Library has many resources to help you find information on the history of your home and other locations. Additional resources can be found at other libraries, archives, historical societies and government agencies.

Contact Special Collections (<https://www.hclib.org/about/locations/special-collections>) for assistance with your search. (Editor's note—all of the following items, except when directed elsewhere, are located on the web at the above website).

### *Building permits and index cards*

**Minneapolis Building Permit Index Cards**—Learn about the construction and improvement history of your house or building (1884-1974). Search by address or street name. Learn how to interpret a permit card (PDF)

**Minneapolis building permits**—Original permits may include the architect and more detailed information about work performed. Available in the City of Minneapolis Historic Property Permit Dashboard. Recent permits available through the online Property Info Search.

**Non-Minneapolis building permits**—Retention varies from city to city. Start by contacting the Building Inspection or Planning Department within your city. They may refer you to the local historical society.

### *Blueprints and Architectural Styles*

**House plan books and periodicals**—Local architect publications like these, primarily from the early 20th century, may contain similar or identical floor plans to your house. Additional house plan books and magazines are available in print in Special Collections.

**Northwest Architectural Archives**—This University of Minnesota archive includes records of architects, engineers, contractors, landscape architects and interior designers from the region. Materials include blueprints, drawings, job files, photographs, and other original material. Appointment required.

### *Photographs*

**Hennepin County Library Digital Collections**—Browse thousands of photos of houses, apartments, duplexes, condos, and more. Search by address or browse by Minneapolis neighborhood or Hennepin County city or town.

**Minnesota Historical Aerial Photographs Online**— Digitized aerial photographs from the 1920s to 1970s from the University of Minnesota Borchert Map Library.

### **Minnesota Historical Society Collections**

#### *Maps and atlases*

**Maps**—Maps may show property boundaries, ward boundaries, roads, railroad tracks, streetcar lines, the names of businesses, geographical attributes, and more. View thousands of maps in Digital Collections. Find more maps at the University of Minnesota Borchert Map Library.

**Plat maps (atlases)** - View the library's digitized Minneapolis plat books (1885 - 1887 - 1898 - 1903 - 1914 - 1940) online in addition to many suburban atlases. Atlases are available in print in Special Collections.

**Historical Hennepin County Plat Maps**—Over 4,000 county plat maps digitized in partnership with the Hennepin County Recorder's Office. These maps show boundaries and ownership of land parcels at the addition level. Please contact the Hennepin County Recorder/Registrar of Titles if you are interested in viewing the current legal version.

**Minneapolis Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps**—Sanborn maps chart the growth and development of cities and provide a wealth of information, such as building outline, size, shape, and construction materials used. The Special Collections edition uses a 1912 base map and includes changes and additions through about 1930.

#### *Additional property records*

**Hennepin County Recorder's Office**—Legal documents, such as Torrens certificates, from real estate transactions related to property within Hennepin County. Other documents such as military separations, mortgage records, and tax liens are recorded here.

**Just Deeds**—Learn about racial covenants and what you can do to acknowledge this discrimination, discharge these covenants from your property, and build a foundation for more inclusive communities. Learn more from Mapping Prejudice.

**Hennepin County Interactive Property Map**—Current map of all Hennepin County properties. Includes description of property, tax information, and more.

#### *Lot Surveys*

Surveys contain original footprint, dimensions, and outbuildings for Minneapolis properties or buildings with building permit work performed from 1916 to 1965 (permits B122143 to B394097). Lot surveys do not exist for every building permit.

**Minneapolis Lot Survey Collection**—Search the digitized collection by address or building permit number, which can be found on the building permit index cards.

**Hennepin County Interactive Property Map**—Surveyed properties for Minneapolis and broader Hennepin County can also be found in the Hennepin County Interactive Property Map. Zoom in to turn on "Surveyed Properties" map layer for access to lot surveys.

#### *City Directories*

Directories list the previous occupants of a house and often their occupation and place of employment. Search online directories by address. Print directories can be searched by address beginning in 1930. Learn how to search the online city directories (PDF)

**Edina City Directories** Available online 1941-1977.

**Hopkins City Directories** Available online 1942-1977.

**Minneapolis City Directories**—Available online 1859-1950. Various print directories available at Minneapolis Central Library through 2020.

**St. Louis Park City Directories** Available online 1933-1977.

**Plat maps (atlases)** -View the library's digitized Minneapolis plat books (1885 - 1887 - 1898 - 1903 - 1914 - 1940) online in addition to many suburban atlases. Atlases are available in print in Special Collections.

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- **Other city directories**

Available in print at Minneapolis Central Library. Coverage varies from city to city. "Suburban Area" directories cover 1956-1988 and include most inner ring suburbs. Additional individual directories are available for many cities in Minnesota.

*Newspapers*

- **Newspaper clippings**—Vertical files are available in Special Collections by subject or person name. Files may be available for a particular address, homeowner, architect or Minneapolis neighborhood. Excellent coverage of 1920s-1980s.
- **Minneapolis neighborhood newspapers**—Special Collections houses a significant collection of Minneapolis neighborhood newspapers. View digitized neighborhood newspapers in Digital Collections.

**Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub**—Free online access to many early Minnesota newspapers, provided by the Minnesota Historical Society.

**Star Tribune Archive (1867-present)** - Subscription database available only in a library. Search by address for classified ads, real estate listings, obituaries, and more.

(Editor's Note—above cited resources and additional genealogical resources are readily available at the Hennepin County Public Library, Central branch (downtown Minneapolis). Additionally, the various resources for other locations can be found at other libraries, city governmental offices, etc. Enjoy your search!)

## Wierszyki (Rhymes)

Nie mój cyrk, Nie moje małpy - not my circus, Not my monkeys

Ciekawość to pierwszy stopień do piekła— Curiosity is the first step to hell

# The Little City that Roars—Gloria Bergstrom & Marie Przynski



**SisterCities**  
INTERNATIONAL

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

*Sister Cities International was the fulfillment of US President Eisenhower's vision of an organization that could be the hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world.*

Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 member communities with 2,000 partnerships in 145 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the [sistercities.org](http://sistercities.org)

Sister Cities International was the fulfillment of US President Eisenhower's vision of an organization that could be the hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world. By forming these relationships, Eisenhower reasoned that different cultures could celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts. Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 member communities with 2,000 partnerships in 145 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the [sistercities.org](http://sistercities.org)

With this concept in mind, since 1991, Columbia Heights (MN) and Lomianki (Poland) created a relationship and members from both communities have dedicated themselves to promotion of humanitarian, educational, cultural, civic and social programming in support of this endeavor and their relationship with each other.

Additionally, Columbia Heights has a further connection with Lomianki. In September 1944, an American B-17 flew to Warsaw to drop supplies and food during the Warsaw Uprising. Unfortunately it was shot down by the Nazis near Lomianki. Sgt. Walter Shimshock, the brother of a longtime Columbia Heights resident, was on that mission. Three members of the crew survived the crash, including 19-year-old Shimshock. He was interrogated and executed by the Nazis because of his Polish heritage. In 1986, the citizens of Lomianki erected a monument in memory of the American flyers who lost their lives.

Since its beginnings, Sister Cities Columbia Heights/Lomianki have supported and been involved in numerous events and projects. Just a few, fundraising for an ambulance for the Children's Hospital, exchange programs for high schoolers, as well as a Police exchange program, raising funds to support the Barrington Wheel chair foundation—providing over 240 wheelchairs for patients in the Warsaw area. Annual donation of "English" books to the Lomianki school library, also providing books for CH local grade school, publication and translation support of Polish author Jerzy Szczesniak "Frantic 7" (documentary of the WWII event described above), support for youth artists in Columbia Heights to participate in the Sister Cities Young Artists and Author showcase, with a collaboration with the local schools, provide volunteers for other "Polish" events (Festival of Nations, PACIM, etc.); participate in the Annual Columbia Heights Jamboree parade, numerous donations to non-profits throughout the community (art supplies for local high school), provide plants and maintain the flower beds at Lomianki Park, sponsor movies at the Heights Theatre, provide and maintain "Polish" displays at the local library, lending support to Ukrainian fundraising, and the lists continues.

In 2017, Sister Cities International awarded the organization "The Best Overall



Program” Award. For a City under 25,000 population, showcasing that Columbia Heights had continuously demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in advancing the goals and mission of the Sister Cities movement. It further acknowledged that the city of Columbia Heights’ identity is noted as a city of peace through the active participation of its volunteers and the strong support of its city officials. Additionally, Columbia Heights/ Lomianki works tirelessly on cultural events, and a historical highlight is its commemoration of 25 years, working with Lomianki, and the local resident was selected as a national winner in the 2016 SCI Young Artists Showcase. This organization embodies and proactively enriches the Columbia Heights community.

Several years ago, Sister Cities member Mary Jerde travelled to Poland for genealogy research and with Lomianki Sister Cities members located her family in one day! “It was absolutely the most thrilling thing I’ve ever done in my life. (Part of the SCI mission)...is to build relationships, and they couldn’t have been more helpful. They made it just one small world.”

Both Columbia Heights and Lomianki have “exchange” programs in various arenas. Over five years ago, Gloria Bergstrom (chair) participated and was involved with teaching for a week in a Lomianki grade school. While working with the “English” teachers and their students, she learned that they had a very good curriculum but were lacking in the area of extra materials that would assist in learning English, making it more fun and interesting. Returning home, she advised the Columbia Heights members, and they opened the door. They have collected over a 1000 books, developing the **English Learners Library** and this effort is still an ongoing endeavor. This September, Gloria, husband Tom, CH Mayor Simulus and other SCI members will be going to Poland with a big suitcase packed with books. Additionally, English” books and financial support has been given to the Lomianki Public library, recognizing the importance of public libraries in our communities and the education of people of all ages.

The Sister Cities relationship between Columbia Heights and Lomianki, Poland, that began more than 30 years ago remains strong.

Sister Cities Columbia Heights/Lomianki raise their own funds. The City of Columbia Heights pays the annual dues to S.C.I. International (Washington, DC). Membership in this premier organization is available to ALL ages — you do not have to be Polish or a resident of Columbia Heights. Membership is from throughout the Twin Cities, Minnesota, and even other US states. SCCH/L encourage you to JOIN this active and effective organization!

Checkout the Lomianki Columbia Heights Sister Cities Facebook page—

For application, or have questions, please contact Chair Gloria Bergstrom  
651-633-0506



Sister Cities Members at the Art Fair



## Donations

Memorial Donation in honor of Gertrude Tabaka

## Missing Branches

Szukam cię — I'm looking for you



PGSMN is excited that you have joined or renewed your membership in the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGSMN). We strive to provide you with inspiration and knowledge that will help you on your quest in discovering your ancestors. Take advantage of the various resources that we have to offer. New and renewing membership information will be available in the password-protected "Members Only" section of the [www.prgmn.org](http://www.prgmn.org) website.

**Stanina, Robert**, [r.stanina19@gmail.com](mailto:r.stanina19@gmail.com)—Researching **Warzecha** in SW & Central MN, **Stanina** in SW MN/Iron Range, and **Matusik** in SW MN/Iron Range.

**Birchem, James & Kathleen**, [kathyb@eldercaremn.com](mailto:kathyb@eldercaremn.com)—Researching the following—all in Morrison County—**Lashinski, Ringweiski, Goike, Koczur, Birchem, and Trutwin**.

**Hacholski, Wayne**, [mathac@earthlink.net](mailto:mathac@earthlink.net)—Researching all of the following—all in Chicago, IL— **CHOCHOLEK** of Glinik Niemiecki; of Zarzecze; **BAJOR** of Oichowa, Nowa Wies; **BASARA** of Krzywa; **OWSIAK** of Lipnica Wielka, Malopolski, and **GAWENDA** of Witkowice.

**Ellison, Kate**, [ke56544@gmail.com](mailto:ke56544@gmail.com)—Researching **Kachel, Gospodar**

**Halvorson, Rodney**, [halvorrod@yahoo.com](mailto:halvorrod@yahoo.com)—Researching **Kaczmarek** of Greater Poland Voivodeship, Appleton, MN and Scranton, Lackawanna, PA, **Wyleżala** of Łękno, Gmina Zaniemyśl, Sroda Wielkopolska County, Greater Poland Voivodeship, Poland/Lackawanna County, PA, **Gliszczynski** of Gliśno Wielkie, Gmina Lipnica, Bytów County, Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland/Appleton, MN; **Drewicke/Drzewicz**, Chojnice, Chojnice, Pomeranian, Poland/Vermillion Twp, Dakota County, MN; **Kurkowski/Przewóz**, Gmina Studzienice, Bytów County, Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland, Appleton, Edison Township, Swift County, MN and **Dalzin of** Gostkowo, Bytów County, Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland and Vermillion, Dakota County, Minnesota.

## Smok's Corner—Marie Przynski



Your traditions are your legacy, keep them alive

Greater interest in ongoing with people looking into their origins and ethnicity by exploring their past. Polish-Americans are no exception. As their descendants, we strive to capture our past and preserve our Polish cultural heritage for the generations which will follow us. Look to your ancestors, find out who you are, preserve the heritage, culture and traditions.



**The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. and The S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies, Central Connecticut State University are sponsoring**

### **2023 Polish Genealogy Conference—Online—Zoom**

The conference provides an opportunity to learn strategies for tracing your Polish-American and Eastern European roots. The speakers are well known in Polish genealogy circles and their discussions will enable attendees to fill in the missing pieces of their family history. Speakers have extensive experience in their respective fields and have been featured at numerous regional, national and international conferences.

**The Conference will be held on October 20, 21 and 28.** The conference will be held **online** using **Zoom**. Attendees can be from anywhere in the world!!

Additional Information and Registration at <https://pgsctne.org/2023-polish-genealogy-conference/>

Cost \$25 Members / Nonmembers \$40

## **Upcoming Holidays**

### **October is Polish American Heritage Month**

Annual celebration in US, celebrated by a variety of events, festivals and myriad activities to honor our culture, traditions and culture.

Officially celebrated in October (1981). It is estimated that there are 9.5 million Polish Americans. The Polish have always held onto a fierce passion for their culture, their independence, and their countries, of residence and of that of origin.

A few things to do - try Polish food - kielbasa and pierogi are favorites, but also try golonka, bigos, Gołabki, or many of the incredible deserts. Seek out your Polish organizations - what events are they hosting - Polish folk dancing ([www.dolina.org](http://www.dolina.org)), a religious service in Polish (Holy Cross, Minneapolis), see a Polish film, or even get in a little traveling and visit one of the great Polish museums (Chicago, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, and the newly rebuilt Panna Maria, TX.)

Learn about American Revolutionary War Hero General Casimir Pulaski, Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Fryderyk Chopin, Marie Sklodowska Curie and so many others. Check out books from the Public Library on Poland, also the MGS Hoffman library (genealogical), and even the PACIM Library. Display Polish and American flags and posters, and can be as simple as display red/white ribboning.

Learn about your Polish ancestry (see [www.pgsmn.org](http://www.pgsmn.org)), get the whole family involved. Obtain a map of Poland, locate where your ancestors immigrated from.

This is just the tip of the iceberg - there are literally hundred of things to view or participate in - give honor to your Polish heritage.

## ***Upcoming holidays in Poland***

### ***All Saints Day***

Starting with vespers on 10/31, Poland focuses on All Saints Day, which takes place on 1st of November. It is the celebration of all known and unknown Saints (also known as the Day of the Dead.) Polish tradition is to light candles and visit the graves of deceased relatives. The candles that are left on graves are believed to help the departed souls find their way through the darkness.



### **Narodowe Święto Niepodległości**

On November 11, 1918, Marshal Józef Piłsudski assumed control of Poland, and this date is considered Poland's National Independence Day. Following the partitions in the late 18th century, Poland had ceased to exist for 123 years until the end of World War I, when the destruction of the neighboring powers allowed the country to reemerge.

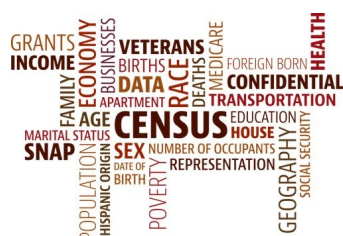
Ceremonious gatherings and parades are held throughout Poland. A change of guards also occurs at midday near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw.

Considered the beginning of the Christmas season, on December 6th, children throughout Poland, eagerly await the arrival of St. Mikolaj (St. Nicolas). Tradition states that he is responsible for gift giving. In some areas they await the Gwiazdor (Starman) who gives the gifts. Truly the start of a merry season.



## **Boże Narodzenie - December 25th**

The most significant day in the Polish calendar, Wigilia begins with the appearance of the first star, (corresponds to the Star of Bethlehem.) According to tradition, an empty place setting is left at the table for the Lord or, a lost wanderer who may be in need of food or shelter. Christmas trees are decorated and an important tradition for Christmas dinner is the sharing of Oplatki (Christmas wafer) – usually takes place before the main supper. During this moment, family members wish all the best to each other.



## **PGSMN September Program Meeting**

**Where Did Your Polish Born Ancestors Settle in Minnesota?**  
Saturday, September 9th, 2023 at 10:00 am CDT

Join us for our first Fall Program Meeting of 2023.

PGSMN Library Genealogist, Bob Kraska, has done extensive searches on the information collected in the US and State Census records from the past century. In this presentation, he will share this knowledge as it relates to Polish immigrants.

MN Polish settlements have been located at the township level and large city ward level by an analysis in the US Federal Census records from the 1890s through 1940. The 1900 and 1910 census data also classifies these settlements as to the three partitions of Poland. The Polish-born population of these through the decades will be presented in a graphical format for select MN Counties.

This program meeting will be held in person at the Minnesota Genealogy Center, 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mississippi Room, Mendota Heights, MN 55120 as well as virtually by Zoom to all PGSMN members. A Zoom link will be sent to members approximately one week before the program.

Not a PGSMN member and want to join the program. For only \$5, you can participate by completing the online guest application, ([www.prgmn.org](http://www.prgmn.org)) which will link you to the online payment option.

## **The Written Polish Language**

Polish first appeared in writing in 1136 in the "Gniezno papal bull" (*Bulla gnieźnieńska*), which included 410 Polish names. The first written Polish sentence was *day ut ia pobrusa a ti poziwai* (I'll grind [the corn] in the quern and you'll rest), which appeared in *Księga henrykowska* in 1270. In Modern Polish spelling that sentence is *daj ać ja pobruszę, a ty poczuj-waj*.

From Omniglot (the online encyclopedia of writing systems and languages)  
<https://tinyurl.com/2hjfw9c>

# Summer Festivals

PGSMN was a hit at various summer festivals .... PGSMN crisscrossed the state, Bowlus, International Falls, Ivanhoe, local metro festival and others. Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who made our participation possible.



Sacred Heart Polish Fest in NE Minneapolis—The fest was a fundraiser to help rebuild the church. A very busy day, lots of questions, visits by various PGSMN members, and hopefully new members. There was great food, and our tent was right off the dance area. Volunteers Dori Marszalek and Marie Przynski were on hand to respond to questions and help in genealogical research.



PGS-MN participated in the Slavic Experience event, held in St. Louis Park on 08/05 & 08/06/23. This is the second year in which we had a booth which included Minneapolis Church database records, a large map of Poland, brochures, Polish surname books, and good discussions of Polish genealogical resources. Attendance was very good Saturday, especially in the morning, with lots of interest in our organization.

Volunteers were Mike Stodalka, Tom Losinski, Rosanne Betley, Connie Waldher, Richard Lemancykef, Jay Biedny, Darlene Ostrowski, and Terry Kita

PGS-MN is participating at the MGS State Fair booth, Education Building, on various days throughout the MN State Fair. PGSMN will be handing out the newly minted "business" cards and spinning wheel winners have a chance of free membership

PGSMN will also have an information table at the 2023 Northstar Conference, being held in Eagan, October 27-28. For additional details, see <https://www.mngs.org>

## Polish Cuisine – Bialy Barszcz

### Polish White Borscht (Bialy Barszcz) - Curious Cuisinière

<https://www.curiouscuisiniere.com>

Prep Time 5 minutes / Cook Time 1 hour / Total Time 1 hour 5 minutes

#### Ingredients

- 4 hard boiled eggs (cook to your taste)
- 6 c water
- 4 garlic cloves, diced
- 2 lbs potatoes, diced
- ¾ tsp salt
- 1 c sour cream
- 1 lb Polish kielbasa, (smoked)
- 1 tsp salted butter
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 bay leaf
- ¼ tsp pepper
- ¼ c unbleached all-purpose flour



#### Directions

1. Bring kielbasa and water to a boil in a large dutch oven or heavy bottomed soup pot. Reduce heat slightly and boil for 25 minutes. Remove kielbasa to a plate and set aside. Leave the broth in the dutch oven.
  2. In a medium, non-stick skillet, saute garlic and onion with a tsp of butter until soft, 5 min.
  3. Add onion mixture to kielbasa broth. Add diced potatoes, bay, salt, and pepper. Cook until potatoes are tender, 15-20 min.
  4. In a small bowl, whisk flour and sour cream together until smooth. Add ½ c of the soup broth to the sour cream mixture and whisk until smooth and thin. Pour mixture into the soup, stirring constantly. Simmer, stirring often, until thickened, 10 min.
- Cut the kielbasas into 1/2 inch slices, chop the hard boiled eggs. Add both to the soup. Taste the soup and adjust the salt and pepper as desired. Cook 1-2 minutes to heat through.

## PGSMN Program Meetings

PGSMN hosts program meetings on Polish Genealogy and Culture six times a year. Meetings take place on the first Saturday of the month. Program meetings are held at the Minnesota Genealogical Center, and streamed online. They are also recorded for members to watch anytime. Meetings are held in September, October, November, March, April and May. Please join us.

### Where Did Your Polish Born Ancestor Settle in Minnesota?

September 9, 2023 10:00 am to 12:00 CDT

### They Came to Lincoln County - (Poles and Other Ethnic Groups)

October 7, 2023 10:00 am to 12:00 CDT

### Who are the Lemkos of Poland?

November 4, 2023 10:00 am to 12:00 pm CDT

## Morrison County Historical Society

The Morrison County Historical Society has reference material and resources available for genealogy research. The staff there is quite helpful in directing one to the material available. Family files and maps are some of the materials offered.

The MCHS is committed to “Exploring History & Culture” in Central Minnesota. An event series was created by the Morrison County Historical Society in 2019 in order to partner on cultural programming with history organizations in Central Minnesota. The partnership includes the Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, and Stearns County Historical Societies. Each year, the four organizations work with another history organization within Minnesota to bring programming to Central Minnesota that highlights a specific history and/or culture.

### ***Passion, Adventure, Intrigue. The Mysteries of Life Await You at...***

...your local historical society? History is the story of life. It is full of action and adventure, murder and mayhem, social unrest and political upheaval. Surprising as it may seem, historical societies are hotbeds of anarchy and revolution as well as purveyors of facts and figures. Seeped in the mysteries of the past, they hold keys to a treasure trove of exciting information. Historical societies, in their role as caretakers of life’s stories, seek to make available a wide variety of material for a growing history-loving public.

The Morrison County Historical Society (MCHS) is one such hotbed of fun. Housed in The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum, the Society functions as a museum and research facility dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Morrison County. The continually growing collections at MCHS provide valuable information for researchers. Some of the most frequently used sources of historical information at the museum are Family Files (information gathered by surname), newspapers, city and county directories, probate records, plat maps, cemetery records and Works Progress Administration histories. An extensive photograph collection and a variety of taped oral interviews covering a wide range of topics are also available. A wealth of information is arranged in specific collections. Some of the more recently used collections include the Hennepin Paper Mill Collection, the Lindbergh Collection, the Anna Coen Music Collection, Musser and Weyerhaeuser Family photographs, and Murders.

Like other historical societies, MCHS serves a diverse public. Over the past two years, the museum has helped over 2,000 individual researchers or research groups from all over the nation and the world. Researchers from forty-four states and eight different countries outside of the United States have made use of the museum’s collections. Well over half of the researchers were from areas across the state of Minnesota. Researchers who are unable to visit the site have made use of the museum’s off-site research service. Information on the service, as well as a more extensive list of the resources that are available, can be accessed by visiting the museum’s website ([www.morrisoncountyhistory.org](http://www.morrisoncountyhistory.org)) or by contacting the museum (302-632-4007).



The vast majority of researchers at MCHS are genealogists delving into family history. Pursuing clues to their past with a tenacity and voraciousness worthy of a police detective on a murder case, many should really be classified as amateur professionals. Career professionals have made use of the museum's collections for a variety of reasons, including upcoming publications and historic survey reports. An increasing number of researchers are students working on various school projects. The students, including grade school through graduate school level, have worked on both individual and group projects. Topics researched at the museum have ranged anywhere from the development of the granite industry in Morrison County to basket-making in central Minnesota to the history of baseball during the 1940s and 1950s. Mary and I have both found that there is nothing like a good researcher to really pick your brain and challenge your knowledge of the wealth and diversity of material available in the collections.

As most researchers can attest, history is anything but boring and dull. If you want a true adventure, one that will delight your senses and stir your soul, accept the challenge of a stimulating research project and visit your local historical society. There you can delve deep and probe with pleasure into the mysteries of the past.

The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum has an extensive collection of archival and library materials pertaining to life in Morrison County and genealogy. The archival collection started with the gathering of Works Progress Administration (WPA) biographies in 1936. These biographies were taken from families who had a long history in the area and are the basis for our Family Files.

Join PGSMN and the Morrison County Historical Society for a joint Fall conference on October 14th, 2003. It will be held in the Great River Arts Building on 1st St and 1st Avenue. Watch the PGSMN Webpage and the Facebook page—more information coming.

## Poland and US tidbits

### Poland and the US have a lot in common

1. The American Constitution is the oldest in the world. Did you know that the **Polish constitution is the second oldest**? It was declared just 2 years after, in 1791.
2. Both Poland and the US have an **eagle as their symbol**.
3. The famous American **bagels originated from Poland**
4. The famous **Warner Bros studio** was founded by four brothers (Harry, Albert, Sam and Jack Warner, all were born in Krasnosiek, Poland and immigrated to US in 1889.)
5. Poles that helped America become independent—Tadeusz Kościuszko and Kazimierz Pułaski.

# Calendar

## September—Wrzesień

**01-04** PGSMN at State Fair—come visit us!

**04**—Labor Day (US)

**September 21 – October 4, 2023**

**THE TREASURES OF POLAND TOUR** with the Columbia Heights Sister Cities Group. There are still open slots for this premier tour.

**31**—Opening of Smaczne Jabklo, Winona, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm -evening program

## October— Październik—Polish American Heritage Month

**01**—Smaczne Jabklo—Winona

**01**—Most Sacred Heart Polish Festival, Pine Creek, WI

**07**—PGSMN Program Meeting— They Came to Lincoln County - Poles and Other Ethnic Groups. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Presenter Kay Freund PGSMN member and Director will discuss the settlement of Lincoln County.

**14**—PGSMN & Morrison County Program Meeting (Little Falls, MN)

**14**—45th Annual Genealogy Seminar, hosted by Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan

**17**—Finding the Law (Genealogy Research), hosted by the Morrison County Genealogical Society and St. Cloud Area Genealogists

## November—Listopad

**04**—PGSMN Program Meeting—Who are the Lemkos of Poland? 10:00 to 12:00 CDT- Karen Varian, President of the Rusin Association of MN, Carpato-Rusyn Society Board Member as well as PGSMN Member will present on this ethnic Polish group.

**11—Poland Independence Day / US Veterans Day**

**19**— Researching in Galicia—Insights, presented by PGSA, 2:00 CDT—<https://pgsa.org/calendar>—Webinar Only

**21**—Vintage Aerial and Genealogy: Exploring your story Through Aerial Photography—Morrison County Genealogical Society and St. Cloud Area Genealogists

**23**—Thanksgiving (US)

## December—Grudzień

**06**—St. Mikolaj

**24**—Wigilia

**25**—Christmas Day

**25—Jan 6th**—Twelve Days of Christmas, Polish Cultural Museum, Winona





## POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MN

1385 Mendota Heights Rd, Ste. 100

Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367

*http://pgsmn.org*

### **Please print clearly:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Home #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Heck, yeah, I'll participate! I am interested in being on the following committee(s):

- Library
- Nominating
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Website
- Research
- Program
- Annual Mtg & Awards

I am unable to commit to a specific committee at this time, but please contact me if you need volunteers for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The best way to contact me is by:     cell #     home #     work #     e-mail

Best day(s):  Anyday     Sun.     Mon.     Tues.     Wed.     Thurs.     Fri.     Sat.

Best time(s)  Anytime     Morning (9AM to noon)     Afternoons (1 to 4PM)     Evenings (6 to 9 PM)

Mail completed form to: *PGS-MN*  
1385 Mendota Heights Road, Ste. 100  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367

or, e-mail completed form to: [peaqylarson23@gmail.com](mailto:peaqylarson23@gmail.com)

Thank you for your interest and participation!!



Morskie Oko (**Eye of the Sea**) is the largest and fourth-deepest [lake](#) in the [Tatra Mountains](#). It is located deep within the [Tatra National Park](#). *The Wall Street Journal* recognized the lake as one of the five most beautiful lakes in the world. (Photograph—*Fall in Love with Poland*)



Located in Warsaw, the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** (*Grób Nieznanego Żołnierza*) is dedicated to the unknown soldiers who have given their lives for Poland. The monument, located at Piłsudski Square, is the only surviving part of the Saxon Palace that occupied the spot until World War II. Since 2 November 1925 the tomb houses the unidentified body of a young soldier who fell during the Defence of Lwów. Since then, earth from numerous battlefields where Polish soldiers have fought has been added to the urns housed in the surviving pillars of the Saxon Palace. (Photographs Wikipedia)

The PGSMN Newsletter is a publication of the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota, a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, and is a 501(c)(3) organization per the U.S. IRS Rules. It is published quarterly—Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.