



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

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Table of Contents

Page 2

Kashubian Cultural Institute & Polish Museum Virtual Tour

Page 3

President's Letter, Polish Genealogical Website

Page 4

Mission; Board/Committee/Project Chair Directory

Page 5

Networking Group Calls—Karen Brill

Page 6

PGS-MN Membership Survey—Kay Freund

Page 7

Smok's Corner—Marie Przyński

Page 8

Calendar

Page 9

Polish Cuisine

Page 10

Family Members die of Tuberculosis—Connie Waldherr

Page 12

Missing Branches; Honoring Albert "Al" Kowalczyk

Page 13

Missing Branches on PGS-MN Website—Paula Colwell

Page 14

Off the Beaten Path—Szczecin—Marie Przyński

Page 18

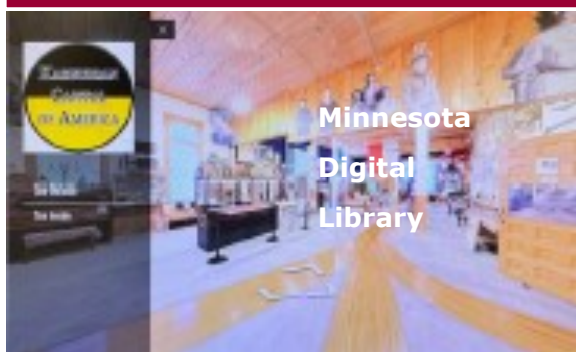
Membership Form

Page 20

Polish Tidbits—Red Poppies; Biedow Desert

Front Cover Photo—Costume of eastern Krakow region—Amm Kirczak / Worldwide Traditional Culture & Costumes

Kashubian Cultural Institute & Polish Museum Virtual Tour



A virtual tour of the Kashubian Cultural Institute & Polish Museum is now accessible on their website—polishmuseumwinona.org/virtual-tour/

This virtual tour showcases the main floor exhibits and provides perspectives on accessibility. Many thanks to Midwest Pano and KCIPM Director Jeff Turkowski for the funding and make the tour a reality.

KCIPM has also contributed to The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL), which contains digitized content from Minnesota's cultural heritage organizations in a single website. Over 200 participating organizations, including the Minnesota Genealogical Society, Kashubian Cultural Institute and Polish Museum, et al, have contributed photographs, documents, maps, recordings, and more to its free searchable online database.

Check it out—<https://mndigital.org>

President's Letter

Welcome to summer, the weather makes me wish we could conduct a member activity outdoors. Our programs are finished for the Spring, with the completion of Peggy's May 11 talk about her Wieczorek ancestral research. Programs will continue in the Fall with three Minnesota Genealogy Center based programs as well as an outstate meeting in Gnesen, MN, September 28. This will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Gnesen, in conjunction with the church parishioners, and the Twin Ports Genealogical Society of Duluth. Information for these programs will be available on our website, in a forthcoming newsletter, Facebook, and an email the week before each event-watch for them.

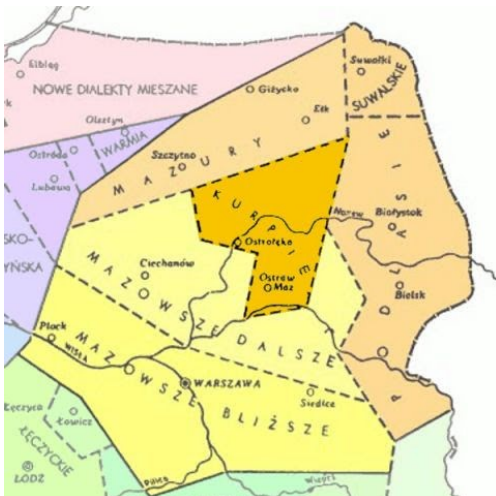
As we did with some success in 2023, we intend to attend several festivals later this year. We typically have a booth with a tent, table, brochures, some resource material, to familiarize attendees about PGS-MN, and recruit new members. We explain our society's mission, and possibly answer genealogical questions. Usually two or more volunteers are required to set up, and operate the booth, each a 4 hour shift. We do not have a firm list of all events, but will attend festivals in Little Falls; Bowlus area, Winona and Pine Creek, Wis., the Minnesota State Fair, and Sacred Heart PNA church, NE Minneapolis. There may be others when dates and events have been confirmed.

If you wish to volunteer for one of our summer events, you should email to us at: PGSMInnesota@gmail.com with the heading " event volunteer." Someone will contact you with information. It is an opportunity to interact with those of similar interests.

A survey will be emailed (mailed if no email) to each member in June, to be completed and returned with your comments and suggestions. We have done at least two previous member surveys, usually receiving about 40 replies. We have over 200 members, and hope to surpass the number of past returns by making the survey easy to understand, fairly short, and providing for your comments, on line. Please do this, to help us better serve you. Enjoy your summer.

Terry Kita, 05/13/24

Polish Genealogical Websites to Explore



If you have ancestors from this region of Poland and only have been using geneteka you must check this site out too.

The main information is at <https://www.projektkurpie.pl/>

Please note the direct database access that was at <https://www.projektkurpie.pl/wyszukiwarka/> is now:

<https://kurpie.genbaza.pl/>

ABOUT US

PGS-MN 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.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGS-MN) is a non-profit organization offering information regarding Polish Genealogy and Heritage, with wide ranging programs and events that provide opportunity to grow deeper understanding and appreciation of Polish genealogical research, Polish and Polish American traditions, culture, and heritage.

SUPPORT PGS-MN

PGS-MN grows through membership from our members, donors and other organizations who desire to connect with their ancestors, and welcome their heritage, whether through art, traditions or information. As a non-profit charitable organization PGS-MN uses your membership costs to fund the Polish library resources at the MGS Hoffman Library, holding programming on topics of interest to the community.

PGS-MN Membership Program is designed for dedicated supporters to play a significant role in sustaining the organization while gaining preferred access. All members receive free access to the library, a quarterly newsletter, email notifications, and access to the "members only" section of the website.

Our membership levels have remained relatively stable, and we continue to manage expenses. The membership fee remains at \$25 annually.

Further information at www.pgsmn.org or at the PGSMN Facebook page.

PGS-MN Board

President / Terry Kita
Vice-President / Jim Warzonek
Treasurer / Gary Wolf
Secretary / Kay Freund
Director / Jerry Bambenek

Director / Karen Brill
Director / Mike Stodolka
Director / Tom Losinski
Past President / Peggy Larson

Committee Chairs

Annual Meeting/Awards—Richard Theissen

Library / Bob Kraska
Membership / Karen Brill
Newsletter / Marie Przynski
Nominating / Peggy Larson
Programs / Terry Kita
Website / Paula Colwell
& Joe Hughes

Project Leaders

Database Project /
Facebook / Marie Przynski
From Poland to Minnesota /
Paula Colwell

Contact Us

PGSminnesota@gmail.com

Or

PGS-MN

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

Networking Group Calls—Karen Brill

During April, we kicked off our first three **PGS-MN Networking Groups** and the Zoom calls were very successful. The current groups are:

- * **Metro/NE Mpls Group** (facilitator: Connie Waldherr) - approx. five members.
- * **Central MN Group** (facilitator: Mike Stodolka) - approx. five members.
- **SE MN group/Pine Creek, WI Group** (facilitator: Karen Brill) - approx. twelve members.

Introductions of all participants were made, family information was shared along with some great tips and resources. One participant shared a family history book he'd written and published while another shared about the creation of their family recipes cookbook. There was discussion about organization of family history/research files, indexing of records and how to work with the different spellings of first names. Another group shared the first few generations of their family trees with the other members and a few had outside discussions with each other about common ancestors.

Ideas for various resources were shared including the newer technology of **portable instant language translators** (for members planning to travel to Poland who don't know Polish), the helpfulness of the **Find a Grave** website, real estate resources for gathering historical information about houses and more.

There was some great discussion about the usefulness of the **From Poland to Minnesota area** on our PGS-MN website, which is chock-full of information for your family history search. The **Missing Branch information** on our website was also discussed as a great resource for determining the surnames members are researching. If you find someone with a common surname for research, their email address is available so you can reach out and share information.

The Networking groups met again in May and there was some excellent sharing of family lines, genealogy journeys and resources. Some people even discovered they were related to each other!

We invite you to join the group of your particular interest to share your family history searches and tips with other members. You will also have the opportunity to learn from others who have a similar focus. You don't need to have participated in one of our first calls to join us. All members are welcome!

If you know someone who might be interested in our networking calls but is not a PGS-MN member, please encourage them to join. It's only \$25 per calendar year and the variety of resources we offer is terrific!

PGS-MN Networking Group calls will be scheduled during the same months we have program meetings (March, April, May, Sept, Oct & Nov) unless a group decides to meet more or less frequently. We are on break for the summer and Zoom calls will resume in September.

We are considering the creation of PGS-MN Networking groups for:
Duluth/NE Minnesota and St. Paul.

If you're interested in either of these two groups or a group covering a different area, please let me know. We are also looking for facilitators for the newer groups and a brief training is provided. Feel free to email me at pgsminnesota@gmail.com for more information.

Karen Brill, Membership Chair & Networking Groups Leader

PGS-MN Membership Survey—Kay Freund

PGS-MN Membership Survey

In early July, PGS-MN members will be receiving an email request to complete a membership survey.

The email that you will receive requesting completion of the PGS-MN membership survey will come from the PGS-MN gmail account (pgsminnesota@gmail.com) and will have a banner reflecting "Google Forms". There will be a short introduction about the survey from the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota.

After the introduction, there will be a link to click on that says, "FILL OUT FORM".

As a reward for completing the survey, we will be having a drawing for free memberships to PGS-MN for the year 2025. Depending on how many members respond to the survey, there could be up to four free memberships given out in the drawing. Please note that when you provide your contact information for the drawing, it will not be associated with responses you provide to the survey questions. The tool (Google Forms) we are using for the survey tabulates responses in an anonymous fashion.

We communicate with members by three basic methods – our website, newsletters and hybrid program meetings. To ascertain the effectiveness of these methods, we will be asking for input from our members through this survey. We request that you take time to ponder the questions and complete the survey. Some questions will allow you to select multiple items (check all that apply), some will allow for a yes or no response and most importantly, there are questions that allow for you to write an open-ended response.

The last question in the survey addresses Volunteer Opportunities. As a non-profit organization, run by volunteers, we are always looking for people to step forward and help with various tasks to make the organization as beneficial as possible for our members. Volunteer opportunities involve various levels of time:

- * One-time event of a few hours
- * Help staff our booth at an Ethnic Event
- * Sharing short stories, pictures or recipes for the Website
- * Writing a short Newsletter article
- * An ongoing commitment throughout the year that requires a minimal time commitment
- * Serving on a committee

A more involved commitment

- * Doing a presentation at one of our program meetings
- * Being a committee chair
- * Board position

If you want to explore more about volunteer opportunities, go to the PGSMN.ORG website and click on the "Volunteer / Support" link under "MEMBERSHIP" on the menu bar at the top of the screen.

When you provide your contact information for the Volunteer Opportunities question in the survey, someone will follow up with you to further discuss how you can help our organization. Like providing your contact information for the free membership drawing, providing your contact information for the Volunteer Opportunities, your name will not be associated with response to the other questions in the survey, all responses will be accumulated in an anonymous fashion.

If you have any questions about the upcoming PGS-MN membership survey, please send an email to pgsminnesota@gmail.com with "Survey Question" in the subject line.

Please take time to respond to the PGS-MN membership survey as it will help our organization best serve its members as they pursue their Polish genealogical research.

Smok's Corner—Marie Przynski

Recently on NPR Radio, the author Lew Hawkins was interviewed about his genealogical journey, and the use of DNA to discover relatives. He explained that he was researching his family history and seeking to clarify and clear up the family mysteries, myths and the fallacies.

Mr. Hawkins further explained that uncovering and then telling your story can be the most empowering. How each discovery leads to a new historical pathway. He believes that understanding your ancestors life events exposes the underpinnings of our makeup, and help us to understand some of the decisions that we make.

When examining his DNA results, it changed his understanding of events and upbringing in his own life. Following his explanation, I recognize my own DNA research has altered my understanding of my own family upbringing, and the cultures mores handed down through the family line. Mr. Hawkins also stated that it was important that we understand what was happening in society, as this would have myriad definite impact on beliefs, and explain why our ancestors made the decisions they did. He explained that genealogy is not just recording the date of birth and the date of death, but filling in and flushing out all the dots in between, exploring the history that shaped their actions, and in passing this down, how it shapes your actions of today. Tracing the actions and finding the root causes that impacts how and what we believe about our families, how we were raised and what we were socialized to believe.

"Sometimes genealogy research is slow and tedious, but the rewards from discovery are all worthwhile."

A few short weeks ago, Poland celebrated "Cultural Activist Day." This is a festival day dedicated to all those that engage in cultural and social activities to promote art, traditions and cultural values. Cultural activists play an important role in social life by creating and transmitting valuable artistic content, engaging others in various ways, and preserving cultural heritage. As I look at the volunteers and members of PGS-MN, I am thankful for your inspiration, helping me to continue my family research, and helping to bring Polish beauty and cultural awareness to our membership.

This cultural sharing weaves together Polish heritage, traditions, language, ideas, beliefs, customs, art, rituals, and more, shaping our collective Polish identity and influencing our daily lives.

Calendar

July

1—Dog's Day in Poland

4—Happy Independence Day—let the fireworks begin!

7—Bowlus Fun Day, 10 am—4 pm. Come visit the PGS-MN table. Parade, great food, events. <https://www.cityofbowlus.com/Local/Attractions/BowlusFunDays>.

7—PGSMN Monthly Meeting/Program—"My Grandfather's Story" - Marge Runnakko.

13—Polish Fest— Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Minneapolis. 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

20—Festival at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Little Falls, MN

27—Royalton Platte River Day, 10 am—4 pm.
<https://cityofroyaltonmn.gov/?SEC=D70742CD-0B4B-4C75-970A-AFEAF2182483&DE=04D109B0-66D1-4CF0-A266-1F751766C65D>

28—Local History explored—St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Gnesen Township, MN. Various speakers.

August

1—National Warsaw Uprising Remembrance Day. A minute of silence is given.

3-4—Slavic Festival—St. Louis Park—Special guest Author and Chef Anna Hurning from "Polish Your Kitchen". www.slavicexperience.com.

11—Polish Ambassador Trip to Minneapolis

15—Armed Forces Day in Poland

22 through 9/2—MN State Fair. PGSMN will be at the MGS booth. Various times.

24—PACIM Family Picnic at Vadnais-Sucker Lake Regional Park, Pavilion #1. See www.pacim.org for details.

24—KCIPM—History Lecture Series—Kashubian Poets, Morrison Annex, Winona, 5-7 pm

31—Day of Solidarity and Freedom in Poland

September

1—Anniversary of the start of WWII in Poland 1939—Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

12-14 Holy Cross Annual Fall Festival, NE Minneapolis

21st—Sister Cities, the Polish Consulate of Chicago and PACIM dedication ceremony of monument for Sgt. Walter Shimshock (Władysław Szymczak). US and Polish officials will be in attendance.

09:00 am—Laying of the wreaths, 01:00 pm Dedication ceremony at Huset Park, Columbia Heights.

04:30 pm - Remembrance service at Holy Cross Church, Minneapolis, in honor of B-17 crews shot down in Poland.

October

5—PGSMN Monthly Meeting/Program—“Kashubians” by Joe Hughes. (Hybrid meeting)

6—Smacze Jablka Apple Fest, KCIPM, Winona—check out website for additional details. www.Polishmuseumwinona.org.

14—Teacher’s Day in Poland

21-26 KCIPM Haunted Halloween Bash. Visit and support KCIPM Student Ambassador Program. See www.polishmuseumwinona.org for additional details.

Polish Cuisine

Polish Gzik— Twarog or Cottage Cheese Dip

This tangy, creamy dairy product is incredibly versatile ingredient, showing up in all kinds of dishes, from soups, breads, potatoes, toast, or straight from the spoon. It can be found in almost every Polish home. Gzik is popular all over Poland, with regional variations as how its eaten. Most homes serve it on bread.

Usually made with twarog (Polish farmer’s cheese), small curd cottage cheese is a great substitute. With some radishes, chives, Greek yogurt or sour cream and seasoned with salt and pepper, it can be made very quickly. The consistency doesn’t need to be smooth.

Kim Severson, New York Times, in her recipe for gzik explains that not all cottage cheese is created equal. She recommends that to get as close as possible to gzik’s smooth texture, by mashing up small curd cottage cheese with a fork and adding Greek yogurt or sour cream for extra creaminess. Once the base is prepared, add finely chopped radishes, chives, with salt and pepper to taste.

This is not a bland or mild dip as the radishes and chives lend tasty flavors, especially if you also use Greek yogurt or sour cream to your base.

Typically spread on rye bread, it can also be used as a topping for potatoes, whether baked, boiled, mashed or fried.

And then there’s crackers. Gzik is regularly jazzed up with boiled eggs, garlic, smoked mackerel and onion, miscellaneous vegetable, honey, etc. whatever your tastebuds seek. What a great way to make the most of that awkwardly small amount of cottage cheese left in the tub.



Photo—Gzik with potatoes—Taste Atlas



Photo—Gzik on rye—Daily Meal

Family Members Die of Tuberculosis—Connie Waldherr

This is a story about Sophia (Kaminski) Kaliszewski. Sophia immigrated from Poland in 1920 when she was 20 years old and married in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1921. She had four children and passed away from Tuberculosis at the age of 33 while being treated at the Glen Lake Sanatorium in Hennepin County, Minnesota.



A little background on Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis has been a highly contagious bacterial infectious disease throughout civilization spread primarily through the air via phlegm or sputum during a cough or sneeze (Minneapolis, Minnesota passed an ordinance against indiscriminate and careless spitting and made spitting a misdemeanor with a fine of five dollars). At one point between 1800 and 1810, tuberculosis was considered the most deadly killer in human history, killing one in seven. Around 1916, it was the leading cause of death in the world. It was also known as consumption and wasting sickness. For many years, tuberculosis carried a stigma of poverty or uncleanness but medical evidence proved not the case with most patients, as the highly contagious bacterial infectious disease did not discriminate.

Minnesota Sanatorium

For many years Tuberculosis was a major public health threat in Minnesota, which led to legislation authorizing a system of sanatoriums. Publicly funded Glen Lake Sanatorium operated as a Hennepin County tuberculosis hospital from 1916 to 1961 (more than 15,000 people sought a cure at Glen Lake Sanatorium). It treated patients suffering from the highly contagious disease with fresh air, rest, and sunshine (the absurdity of sleeping outside year-round had been eliminated) and good food. (The Glen Lake Sanatorium was converted to a nursing home in 1961, and the buildings demolished in 1993. The Glen Lake Golf Course now occupies the site.)

Sophia Committed to Sanatorium

Doctors did not all agree on how to diagnose Tuberculosis (although the Mantoux test eventually proved effective in diagnosis). So, it's difficult to know when Sophia first contacted Tuberculosis and how long she may have had it before a head nurse for the Minneapolis health department officially committed her as a public health case to the Glen Lake Sanatorium in the Minnetonka Township of Minnesota on January 25, 1933. The facility was about twenty miles from her family home in Northeast Minneapolis where she was living with her husband, four children and her mother-in-law. When admitted, Sophia was 32 and had an advanced stage of Tuberculosis. She was 5 feet 1-1/2 inches tall and weighed 112 pounds. And on that Wednesday, January 25, she presumably held her children for the last time; Joseph 9, Frances 8, Edward 1 year 10 months, and Henrietta 8 months old.

Typical Days in the Sanatorium

She would have spent her days in a ward on the first floor with other women and accommodated with an iron bed and a plain enameled metal bedstand, both easy to disinfect. Because sanitation was crucial, her soiled folded gauze and paper napkins were burned. (Disposable tissue that was soft and came in a dispenser was not available until the mid-1930s.) We don't know how Sophia would have spent her days in the sanatorium. Most patients didn't always feel seriously ill or in pain, and had to endure long blocks of inactivity and boredom. In fact, all patients started with intensive bed rest, which meant lying completely flat to achieve maximum idleness. Patients could read or feed themselves only with their physician's permission.

Was Sophia able to see her family during the 129 days she spent in the Sanatorium? Patients could have three or four visitors for 10 minutes each and contact with their children was actively prevented; children could not be hugged or touched but had to stay six feet away from their parents. It was also a long drive from their home on Madison Street in Minneapolis to Sanatorium, twenty miles one way and during the winter months, depending on road conditions, travel may have been a challenge.

Baby Henrietta Dies of Tuberculosis

Baby Henrietta also had Tuberculosis during the time Sophia was committed. A month and a half after Sophia entered the Sanatorium, 10-month-old Henrietta, passed away in the Minneapolis General Hospital of Tuberculosis and Meningitis, always fatal in children at that time. The Glen Lake Sanatorium had a Children's Building to care for babies but Henrietta was not admitted along with her mother. Henrietta was buried in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Cemetery, Fridley, Minnesota. Because Sophia was so ill, and contagious, it can be assumed that she was unable to attend her daughter's funeral.



Family of Seven

Perhaps it's amazing that only Sophia and baby Henrietta contracted the highly contagious disease. Her husband, the other three children and Sophia's mother-in-law were spared the terrible disease, even with the family of seven living together. Her husband also escaped contracting Tuberculosis during his time in the World War I military service as thousands of soldiers were infected with Tuberculosis during the war.

Sophia lived three months longer than her baby daughter and passed away from Tuberculosis in June 1933, at the age of 33. The visitation was held at the family home and services were held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church in Northeast Minneapolis. She was also buried at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National

When Sophia died, Joseph was 10, Frances 8, and Edward 2. Frances' 9th birthday was one week after her mother's death and we can't imagine how that birthday was celebrated. Sophia's mother-in-law (age 72 in 1933) continued to care for the children for the next five years until her death. Sophia's husband continued to work for the W. S. Nott Company in Northeast Minneapolis.

Sophia was my maternal grandmother. I wish I had known her.

I want to give credit to a book that helped me understand what Grandmother Sophia and the family were going through: *Interrupted Lives; The History of Tuberculosis in Minnesota and Glen Lake Sanatorium* by Mary Krugerud, published by North Star Press of St. Cloud, Inc., St. Cloud, Minnesota, in 2017.

Missing Branches

Szukam cię — I'm looking for you



PGS-MN is excited that you have joined or renewed your membership in the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota (PGS-MN). 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.pgsmn.org website.

Loerzel, Joseph; jaloerzel@gmail.com, - researching **Tober** from Pomerania;
Pawlowski from Pomerania, **Goyke** from Pomerania and **Abrams** from Pomerania.

Wazlawik, Angela; wazangie76@gmail.com—researching **Marsolek / Marszolek** from Opole, Popielow / settled in Independence, WI

Wolf, Christine, Eden Prairie, MN

Pueschner, Gordon & Beata, Eagan, MN

Pellowski, Bette, Milwaukee, WI



With heavy hearts and great sadness, PGS-MN learned that PGS-MN Member Albert (Al) Kowalczyk has passed away (June 13, 2024). Al will be remembered for his quick smile, dedication to service, curiosity for "All things Polish," and his boundless energy in the many volunteer efforts, his commitment and dedication to the various organizations. Truly a great loss.

Missing Branches on PGS-MN Website

A section of the PGS-MN website that some of you may not be familiar with is "Missing Branches." It is a database of family surnames that PGS-MN members have submitted, and includes where those family members came from in Poland, as well as where they settled in Minnesota.

Missing Branches is under the Members Only tab on the PGS-MN website, so you will need to enter the password to view it (contact us at pgsminnesota@gmail.com if you forgot the password and we will send it to you).

Enter any of your family surnames in the Search Box and you will see if other PGS-MN members also have the same surname in their family tree. If so, you can contact that member through the email address that they provided to learn more information. If you click on the Surname column, you will see the information sorted by the surnames that have been submitted, and you can view them all, in alphabetical order. You can also click on the PGS-MN member name to find out other surnames he/she has listed.

Additionally, if you scroll down the page, you will see "Another Way to Look at Missing Branches Information." There you will see a spreadsheet that lists surnames, in alphabetical order, listed by area of Minnesota where they settled and the current Voivodeship where they came from in Poland (as well as the village, if the PGS-MN member provided that information). The value of this listing is to potentially see groups of Poles who came over together or settled in the same area, thus learning more about the Polish communities (perhaps neighbors of your ancestors!).

You will also see if a listed ancestor also settled in another state in the United States. The spreadsheet is color-coded by area of Minnesota and area of Poland that we have outlined in From Poland to Minnesota. Then, if you want to find out more about those areas, you can go to the From Poland to Minnesota section of the website.

If you haven't done so already, we invite you to submit your family surnames, where they came from in Poland and where they settled in Minnesota. It is helpful if you can be as specific as possible with the names of the towns or villages. The more members who submit information, the more we can all learn more about what ancestors PGS-MN members have in common, as well as where they came from and settled. This will also be of help to the Networking Groups that have recently formed.

If you are interested in submitting your ancestors names to Missing Branches, send your information to pgsminnesota@gmail.com.

Missing Branches information submitted by Paula Colwell



Off the Beaten Path— Szczecin - Marie Przynski

A major seaport in West Pomerania is Szczecin. Its beginnings occurred with rich trading endeavors on the Baltic Sea, predominantly in the Middle ages. Passing from country to country for hundreds of years, from Dukes of Pomerania, Sweden, the Prussian empire, Germany, Russia and returning to Poland after WWII.

The 20th century brought in the majestic embankment, but also incurred the subterranean tunnels, museums, and an extraordinary concert hall.

Castle of Pomeranian Dukes

A 14th century edifice, it received its current exterior in the 1570s. With the Peace of Westphalia, it became the seat of the Swedish governor, and then returned to Poland in the early 1800s.

Many architectural features were lost during Prussian rule. However, with the use of engravings (1653), Poland restored it after WWII. The interior hosts a museum, with many restored state rooms and apartments, and the recovery of many artefacts. Throughout the year there are numerous exhibitions, commemorating the various historical periods involving the castle.



Szczecin Philharmonic

Quite different from other cultural venues, it has received many architectural awards. This translucent, white glass building puts forth an icy glow at night, and has become a modern symbol for the city. The main chamber will host 1000 listeners, and maintains many performances of the Szczecin Philharmonic Orchestra.



Wały Chrobrego (Chrobry Embankment)

Rising over 65 ft from the Oder River, this monumental embankment is more than a third of a mile. It follows medieval fortifications, and holds several solemn edifices above the grand stairways and terraces. A favorite choice to wander by the Oder at sunset and later. From here you can watch the vast panorama of the Odra River and the harbor.



Photos—
Pomeranian Dukes' Castle—Mark Milligan (2020) / Archaeology
Philharmonic Hall, Szczecin—Mark McDonald (2015) / The Irish Times
Chrobry Embankment—Jana z Kolna (2015) Szczecin, Poland

Stare Miasto (Old Town)

Completely razed during WWII, restoration of the oldest quarter didn't occur until 1994, with efforts mainly in the Rynek (Old Market Square) and are being built according to original City plans. This area is directly below the Dukes' Castle. The colorful cobblestone invites you to view the Baroque gabled townhouses, and the reconstructed town hall (which houses a historical City museum and its history.)



A short distance away, is a commemorative stone near the Cathedral Basilica of St. James the Apostle with the inscription "Kashubian Griffin. On this land, from around the 6th century, Kashubians lived for several hundred years. The Year of Griffin 2014"



Szczecin Cathedral



One of the largest places of worship in Poland, the Szczecin Cathedral holds 10,000 people. Originally built in the 1100s, suffering storm damage (1456) and then damaged in the Scanian War in 1677, the current design is from the end of the 19th century. Even this exterior was damaged in WWII, and restoration is still ongoing.

Recovered fragments of destroyed altars have been reused and are now part of a triptych (1981). Some of the fragments have been dated to the 1400s. In the various chapels are paintings, altarpieces, sculptures and

architectural fragments from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Szczecin Underground

During bombing raids in WWII, the residents of Szczecin took refuge in various tunnels underneath the city. These tunnels were built inside the 19th Century catacombs.

Dropping over five levels, nearly 60 feet, they extend for almost one and a half miles. The city converted the tunnels into a nuclear bunker, and it was finally decommissioned in 1990. Currently there are various tours through the tunnels, with historical artifacts and information regarding the various periods.



Photos

Stare Miasto Szczecin (2015) — [Hans Christian Davidsen](http://hcdavidsen.jimdo.com) / <http://hcdavidsen.jimdo.com>

Kashubian Griffin stone, near Basilica of St. James in Szczecin—WikiCommons

Szczecin Cathedral—RossHelen / Mad Crazy Tourist

Szczecin Underground—Tripadvisor

Park Kasprowicza

Szczecin main park covers more than 67 acres, and is also connected to the neighboring Rose and Botanical Gardens. Planted with rare and exotic trees, and in a valley that slopes to Rusalka Lake (created more than 300 years ago when the Osówka Stream was dammed.)

The amphitheatre in the park can seat 4,500 and stages concerts in summer, while the most imposing monument rises to more than 22 metres and is topped with three eagles to commemorate the rehabilitation of Szczecin after the Second World War.



Różanka Rose Garden

The Rose Garden had fallen into repair, but it has been reclaimed. This five acre plot was first planted in 1928 for the World Gardening Exhibition and remained unscathed during WWII. However, under Communist rule, the garden declined.

In 2000, with the help of 1930s photographs, the beauty and splendor were restored. The gardens host 99 varieties (over 9000 roses) and also hosts apple, hombeam, maple, chestnut and Serbian spruce trees, in keeping with the original design. During the summer, the park is host to a variety of concerts.



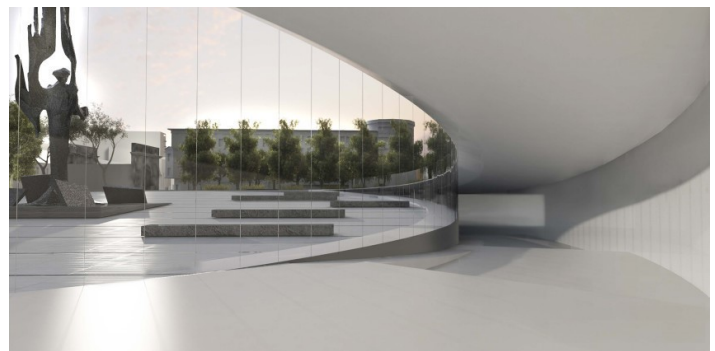
National Museum

Like the Smithsonian Museums, the National Museum in Szczecin extends across six different locations. Founded in 1945, you can find nautical collections, ethnography exhibitions, as well as the Old Art Gallery, and also liturgical art has been obtained. Special mention of the 15th century St. John's Polyptych, with sculpted and painted elements is displayed.



"Upheavals" Dialogue Centre

Another part of the National Museum is the "Upheavals" exhibition which portrays Szczecin and Western Pomerania's contemporary history. Open in 2016 and explores key events in the area and of Poland for the last 70 years. Located partially underground, its important to note that its located on Solidarity Square, where in 1970 the first shots were fired against anti-communist protesters, killing 45. The Center includes several interactive displays and exhibits to highlight his time.



PhotosJan Kasprowicz Park in Szczecin, 2020
Rose Garden (2019) - 090527_rg05_020.jpg
National Museum, Main Building—Touropia
Upheavals Dialogue CentrePrzelomy—S3NS Architektura—Igor Kazmierczak

Museum of Technology and Transport

Szczecin is a bike and car manufacturing center for most of the 20th Century. An old tram depot was converted to a Transport museum (2006), and is one of the largest in the country. Transportation exhibits include an array of Polish-built transportation methods. Among the cars and trucks are models like the FDO Warszawa, FSC Żuk, ZSD Nysa, Star 25, Syrena, Mikrus, but also a Polski Fiat 125p and 126p, which were manufactured during communist times under a licence agreement from the Italian brand. Want to be a tram engineer, enjoy the Konstal 105Na tram simulator.



Tram Line 0

This tram line is like taking a tour bus, and passes sites like the Harbour Gate, Anchor Monument, Diet's Palace, Żeromski Park, Grunwaldzki Square and Pomorzany (communist era housing estates from the 1970s and 80s). After completing a loop, the tour finishes on Ulica by the Oder, a short walk from the station..

Central Cemetery

This cemetery is the largest cemetery in Poland and the third largest in Europe. It exudes serenity and holds a fascination for visitors. More than a century old, and covering 425 acres. The cemetery is a national monument.

Located within the cemetery is the striking Pomnik Braterstwa Broni (Monument of Brothers in Arms), a military memorial from 1967 with two elements shaped like the wings the Polish hussars used to wear.



Photo
Cmentarz Centralny, Szczecin—Kwiecien / Polish Wikipedia
Monument to Brotherhood in Arms, Central Cemetery—Andrzej Krainicki Jr / Wyborcza.pl Szczecin
Central Cemetery (2017) - Ralf Roletschek / Roletschek.at



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Newsletter issues from 1993 to today that withstand the test of time! Great stories, articles, and genealogy tips for you to use today! We mail our newsletters quarterly for spring, summer, fall and winter issues. Prior issues can be located in the Member's Section on the PGS-MN website.

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PGS-MN members have shared their Polish family recipes with others.

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Search the Catholic Church Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis index for your ancestors (if applicable) from the 19th century to 1940.

Let the fun begin! Don't miss out on a single moment locating your ancestors and



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- * Support PGS-MN
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 - Expand your Polishness
 - Make a difference



Photo—Assisi & Montefalco / Tempestuous Culinary

Czerwone maki na Monte Cassino (Red Poppies on Monte Cassino) is one of the best-known Polish military songs of World War II. It was composed during the Battle of Monte Cassino, on the eve of the Polish Army's capture of the German stronghold.

Red poppies, which bloomed over night, became one more symbol of bravery and sacrifice - a tribute of alive ones, whom for love of freedom died for freedom of people." (Felix Konarski)



Photo—Polish Wikipedia

The Błędów Desert is Central Europe's largest accumulation of loose sand in an area away from any sea, deposited thousands of years ago by a melting glacier. It occupies an area roughly 12 square miles.

Originally a forested area, industrial activity were undertaken, they were clearcut to support mining and metal working activity.

Polish mythology explains that the desert was created by the Devil, who wanted to bury the nearby Oikusz silver mine in sand.

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