



Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

Volume #32, Issue #4
Winter 2024

The Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota

**Annual Meeting
January 25th, 2025
1:00 pm CST**

Minnesota Genealogical Society
Mississippi Room #100
1385 Mendota Heights Road
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Light refreshments will be served

Please renew your membership today

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 started to grow, and we continue to dedicate ourselves to managing expenses. The membership fee remains at \$25 annually.

Further information at www.pgsmn.org or at the PGS-MN 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
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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 / TBD
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

President's Letter

I invite you to attend our 2025 Annual Meeting, is either in person or on-line. It will be held on January 25, 2025, 1:00 pm, at the MGS Library Mississippi Room—an official invitation will be sent closer to that date. The business portion of this meeting will include the election of two Directors and the President position.

PGS-MN is branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society. We enjoy and derive our nonprofit status through our relationship with the Minnesota Genealogical Society. PGS-MN must take on a different organizational structure, before December 31, 2026.

It will no longer be possible to operate as an MGS Branch Organization. We will determine in the next two years this new structure.

We plan to remain at the MGS/Hoffman Library for the next two years. MGS's lease for the space at Mendota Heights expires on 12/31/27. Thus, in addition to choosing a new structure, we will need to be prepared for MGS's decision about their future space, and react accordingly.

We miss the annual meetings of old, held at the Gasthof in NE Minneapolis, which were such pleasant social affairs. The advent of Covid, and ensuing prevalence of on-line meetings has changed our world, but has made us much more accessible to all members.

We hope to see you in January.

Terry Kita, 12/09/24

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Geneteka Index Updates

New Geneteka indexes updates. You can find assistance with the two-letter province abbreviations online, for instance, at

<http://hitchwiki.org/pl/Szablon:Wojew%C3%B3dztwa_Polski.

Note that UK is Ukraine and BR is Belarus.

- Geneteka – <https://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/news.php>
- Lubgens – <https://registry.lubgens.eu/news.php>
- PomGenBase – <http://www.ptg.gda.pl/>
- Projekt Warmia – <https://projektwarmia.pl/wyszukiwarka/>
- Pomerania, Świętogen, FBPGG – <https://metryki.genbaza.pl/>
- Geneo JZI – <https://jzi.org.pl/en/wyszukiwarka/>
- Projekt Podlasie – <https://indeksy.projektpodlasie.pl/>
- Skanoteka – <https://skanoteka.genealodzy.pl/>
- BASIA – <http://www.basia.famula.pl/en/>
- ProjektKurpie.pl – https://www.facebook.com/groups/911193693151386/?multi_permalinks=925845281686227¬if_id=1635624612444071¬if_t=group_activity&ref=notif or <https://tinyurl.com/4bbxu492>

Polish Roots E-zine now available

The latest issue of Gen Dobry!, the e-zine of PolishRoots® is now available. You can find this and previous issues here:

<https://www.polishroots.org/GenDobry?PageId=60>

Also, the Facebook group Polish Genealogy has made the PDF available via this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/5f425zn7>

PERIODICAL SOURCE INDEX : A UNIQUE RESEARCH TOO

PERSI is the premier subject index for genealogy and local history periodicals and is produced by the staff of the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library.



The valuable resource provides more than 3.1 million citations to readily-available periodical sources. You can search names, locations, keywords, and record types.

Visit <https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/> to get started.

Note—When you find something of interest, you can search the MGS online catalog to see if they own the particular journal desired.

Minnesota Genealogical Society

TIME SHIFT IN 2025

There will be a change in hours of service coming to the Minnesota Genealogy Center and Hoffman Research Library in January 2025. We will still be open four days each week, when we have volunteers available to assist researchers.

- **Monday** 10 am to 6 pm (currently 4 pm)
- **Wednesday** 10 am to 4 pm (no change)
- **Thursday** 10 am to 6 pm (currently 8 pm)
- **Saturday** 10 am to 4pm (no change)



MGS - Beginning Genealogy Drop-In Class
29 Dec 2024, 1:00 PM 4:00 PM (CST) - last class for 2024

Are you just beginning your family history journey? Come and stop by the Minnesota Genealogy Center for a presentation on researching your family history, some time for questions and answers, and a tour of the library. These events are open to everyone. Membership in the Minnesota Genealogical Society is not required.

See www.mngs.org in their classes section for further details. Registration is not required, just walk in. Everyone is welcome.

First Names of the Polish—Lithuanian Commonwealth Origins and Meanings

First Names of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth: Origins and Meanings
by William F. Hoffman and George Helon

Like surnames, first names have their variants, translations, equivalents, linguistic and phonetic renderings that can puzzle genealogists. Learning their meanings and variations can serve as an important family history tool.

This is a revision of a printed book by the same authors published by the Polish Genealogical Society of America in 1998 under the title First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins & Meanings.

In terms of content, the PDF is roughly 95% the same as the print version. A few typos have been corrected, and some material has been updated. Some people do prefer e-books, because they're portable, cheaper, and easy to search. They're the ones who might want to consider getting the PDF.

It's US\$10 and can be ordered with PayPal from Language & Lineage Press:

<https://lanline.com/books/first-names-of-the-polish-commonwealth-origins-meanings/>

Calendar

January

- 01**— Sylwester Day (New Year's Day) in Poland
- 06**— Święto Trzech Króli (*Trzech Króli*) - (Feast of the Epiphany)
- 21**— Dzień Babcia (Grandmother's Day)
- 22**— Dzień Dziadek (Grandfather's Day)
- 25**— PGS-MN Annual Meeting, 1:00 pm, MGS Bldg, Mississippi Room, Mendota Heights, MN—see www.pgsmn.org for additional details



February

- 22**— PACIM Bal Karnawalowy 2025— 6 pm, Midland Hills Country Club, Roseville. See www.pacim.org for additional details.
- 27**— Shrove Thursday—In Poland, paczki is consumed to your heart's content.



March

- 01**— PGS-MN Program—Jay Biedny: "Self Book Publishing"
- 04**— Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras —US
- 05**— Ash Wednesday
- 20**— Spring Equinox—Marzana Celebration



PGS-MN Fall Programming Recap

Our 2024 programs are now finished. We had some great topics/speakers and we are currently working on the programs for 2025.

We remind you that most of the programs since 2020 have been recorded and placed on our website. You can watch them at your convenience in the Members Only section if you missed any of the live presentations. Check them out!

<https://pgsmn.org/members/program-meetings-archive/>

The topics and speakers this fall were:

September 7, 2024

My Grandfather, John Polenik, and His Story

Marge Runnako gave an interesting presentation on how she uncovered details about her grandfather from many unusual sources.

October 5, 2024

Kashubian Poles in Minnesota

Joe Hughes provided insight into some of the towns across Minnesota where Kashubians settled and what motivated them to immigrate there.

November 2, 2024

A Joint Program with the Pommern Regional Group of MN

Finding My Ancestral Village of Zblewo/Hochstüebblau

Kay Freund provided a practical approach to outline the steps she took to find her ancestor's village of origin - a great guide for anyone researching their Polish family.

Land Records: A Substitute for Church, Civil and Census Records

Chris DeWuske presented a thorough look at unique land records in Germany and Poland, with an emphasis on land and mortgage registers, recess acts, and leases.

Did you miss a program meeting?

Several meetings are available to PGS-MN members (in the "**members only**" section of the PGS-MN website - **www.pgsmn.org**).

Various meetings such as

- * Mieszko to Millennium: Tracing Religion
- * Personal genealogical journeys from members (Larson, Runnako)
- * Preserving your photos and documents
- * Prussian partition - Resources for genealogists
- * Where did your Polish-born ancestors settle in Minnesota
- * Who are the Lemkos of Poland and many, many more.

Become a member, and enjoy the various videos, and also discover the members only section and which also has other enticing sections, from food recipes, research information, etc. **Check out the website—www.pgsmn.org.**

Polish Cuisine—Halushki

"Food is not rational. Food is culture, habit, craving and identity." - Anthony Bourdain

Easy and Quick Halushki by Laura Burger Pozdoi / www.Allrecipes.com



Prep Time: 10 mins
Cook Time: 20 mins

Ingredients

- 1 pound bacon
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 (16 oz.) package egg noodles
- 1 head cabbage, sliced
- salt and ground black pepper to taste

Directions

1. Snip bacon into small pieces with a scissors and cook in a large skillet over medium heat until crisp, stirring often, about 10 minutes. Cook and stir onion with bacon until translucent, about 5 more minutes; set bacon and onion aside, leaving drippings in the skillet.
2. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Cook egg noodles in the boiling water, stirring occasionally until cooked through but firm to the bite, about 5 minutes. Drain.
3. Transfer bacon and onion mixture with drippings into the pot used to cook the noodles and cook and stir cabbage until coated with drippings. Cover pot and cook until cabbage is tender, 10 to 12 minutes, stirring occasionally. Gently stir in noodles and season to taste with salt and black pepper.

Enjoy this easy and quick Polish dish containing bacon, fried cabbage and egg noodles.



The first written Pierogi recipe comes from the Compendium Ferculorum, a book published in 1682. These Pierogi were filled with kidneys, veal fat, greens and nutmeg.

@polartaus

SAVE THE DATE!

**18th Annual North Star
Genealogy Conference**

24-25 October 2025

**Eagan Community Center
Eagan, MN**

Who are the Kociewie Poles - Paula Colwell

My ancestry is totally Polish and at least 75% of that is Kashubian. I have not been able to work on my family history much since getting involved with the PGS-MN website but occasionally, I come across something that brings me back to my own family research.

In the Winter 2022 and the Spring 2023 issues of the PGS-MN newsletter, Kay Freund wrote about her family from Zblewo (Starogard County) and Dzierżążno (Tczew County) in northern Poland. I remembered that one branch of my family attended St. Michael the Archangel church in Zblewo (built in 1879-1880), and my sister and I visited the church and cemetery on a trip to Poland in 2018. The church is an important presence in the village and it is depicted on the Zblewo coat of arms. Kay's articles gave me the motivation to go back into that branch of my family to study the area more. I had always thought Zblewo is in Kashubia, but I learned through my recent research that it is not. Instead, I found that people there are part of another ethnic group called the "Kociewie".

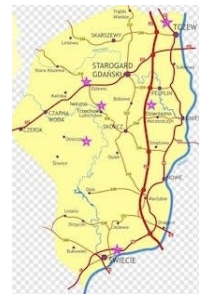
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Kociewie is a Polish-Pomeranian tribe who are primarily Roman Catholic. The Kociewie area is located in an ethnocultural region of the eastern part of the Tuchola Forest (a pine forest). It is adjacent to Kashubia, but with a whole different culture and language. In addition to woods, the area has an abundance of lakes.

The Kociewie area occupies almost all of the entire Starogard Powiat (County), as well as part of the Kwidzyn Powiat, both of which are in the present Pomeranian Voivodeship. A smaller part of the Kociewie area crosses into the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship. The Kociewie cultural capital is Starogard Gdansk and the biggest Kociewie town is Tczew. Other major towns include Świecie, Pelplin, Gniew, and Nowe.



Kay indicates that her family came from the villages of Zblewo, Dzierżążno, and Swiecie in the Kociewie region. The villages where my family lived include Trzechowo, Iwiczno, and Tczew.



The first recorded mention of "Kociewie" dates to 1807. The Słownik Geograficzny translation from 1895 indicates that the name "Kowiecie" likely comes from the numerous swamps and marshes surrounding the mountains. The soil was described as being fertile and the area was primarily an agricultural area - crops included wheat, rye, barley, oats, peas and turnips.

KOCIEWIE TRADITIONAL CLOTHING

Kociewie is known for its traditional embroidery featuring flower, wheat, and poppy seed patterns (with some similarity to Kashubian embroidery, but still has its own "look"). The region also has distinctive lace designs used in traditional clothing. The Słownik Geograficzny translation on Kociewie indicates that the women were known to wear a long silk scarf wrapped around their head with two artificially interwoven knots protruding towards the face.

The traditional Kociewie women's costume consists of: bodice made of red or blue velvet, lined with cotton and decorated with a white velvet insert, hand-embroidered blouse, hand-embroidered cotton apron with lace, and plain wool skirt.

Kociewie men's traditional costume consists of: cotton-lined woolen vest, dark-colored trousers, white linen shirt with gathered sleeves, and matiejówka (fiddler) hat.

KOCIEWIE CUISINE

The food of Kociewie historically has been characterized by hearty, high-calorie dishes that often feature ingredients sourced from the fertile lands and rivers of the region. Influenced by German culinary traditions, dishes were based on vegetables, fruits, forest products, and fish.

Meat was traditionally reserved for festivals.

Common foods are:

Parzybroda (cabbage soup), which is also common in the Poznan area

Golce (potato noodles typically served with sauerkraut and mushrooms)

Szandar (a dish made from smashed potatoes baked with bacon)

Szpajza (a dessert resembling lemon marshmallow)

Marinated herring (often prepared with goat's milk and onions)

The Kociewie region is home to one of Poland's most famous vodka distilleries – the Sobieski vodka distillery – which is located in the regional capital of Starogard Gdański.

KOCIEWIE LANGUAGE

The Kociewie are also known for their specific dialect, which has a vowel system that is similar to other Polish dialects. The Kociewian language is considered quite different from the Kashubian language and is considered to be closer to Kuyavian than Kashubian. Some scholars even consider it to be a variant of the Kuyavian language. Due to its location, it also shares features with the Masovian dialect.

MORE ABOUT THE KOCIEWIE CULTURE

The Museum of the Kociewian Lands, located in Starogard Gdański, has a display of historical and ethnographic exhibits related to the region. It also has a research library and hosts educational and cultural events.

The Center of Kociewian Culture (Centrum Kultury Kociewskiej), located in Lalkowy, focuses on the industrial and agricultural heritage of the region.

The Museum of the History of the Polish Peasant Movement (Muzeum Historii Polskiego Ruchu Ludowego) in Piaseczno houses a collection of agricultural artifacts from the Kociewie region.

International Kociewie Day is an annual celebration that takes place on February 10th each year. The date is commemorated as the first known mention of Kociewie in the historical records.

- * Nowe, Świecie County, in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, holds an annual Kociewian Day.
- * The Festival of Kociewie takes place every year in Tczew, Tczew County, in the Pomeranian Voivodeship.

We will soon be adding information about the Kociewie Poles in the "From Poland to MN" section of the PGS-MN website. I would be interested to know if other PGS-MN members have ancestors from this area!

Locating Your Ancestor's Parish

Polish Origins and the Polish Genealogy Academy have created a video on YouTube.com. The video gives a few hints and tools to use in your research that will help determine to which parish the village of your ancestors once belonged. Parish (Roman-Catholic, Greek-Catholic, Lutheran and others) records are one of the most important sources in genealogy research.

<https://youtu.be/yFDfJZFNUXY>

The Importance of Reaching Out — Kay Freund

The Importance of Reaching Out to Others and Documenting our Findings

As detailed in my two earlier articles on searching the Polish ancestry of my Korcal family (Winter 2022 and Spring 2023 PGS-MN Newsletters), I shared the importance of reaching out to others to help me with my genealogy research journey for my Korcal ancestors.

DOCUMENTING STORIES FROM ANCESTORS

Knowing that my ancestors were 'story-tellers', it was important for me to reach out to relatives to gather stories and document those stories for other family members to enjoy. Growing up in southwestern Minnesota in a small rural community (Wilno in Lincoln County), many of the people living there were relatives of mine. The extended families would get together on a regular basis and part of those family gatherings was devoted to storytelling about the past.

One story shared by relatives was about my great-aunt Tillie. She and her husband Theodore were married in 1909 and lived on a farm in Royal Township, near their parents and siblings. Over the next nineteen years, they had nine children, which was quite common in this rural area for large families.

Farming was hard work and supporting a large family was a challenge in years when the crops were not as plentiful. In 1920 when Prohibition began in the United States, many farm families found ways to supplement their income through distilling moonshine. Theodore and Tillie were one of those families that partook in this practice. Family stories passed down told that Theodore was arrested for making moonshine. This left Tillie caring for the children and tending the farm. Having access to a still and the grain, Tillie continued to make moonshine. The way she 'advertised' that she had moonshine to sell was quite unique - she would hang a white dish towel on the clothesline so people passing by could see it. I have done a fair amount of research but have not yet found Theodore's arrest record. As moonshining was a federal offense, my research focused on federal prison records, mainly at Leavenworth, Kansas but I had no luck in finding anything. However, I did find an St. Cloud Times article on Newspapers.com from December 1938 (five years after Prohibition ended) where Theodore and Tillie were charged by a Federal Grand Jury in St. Paul with four counts of selling untaxed liquor! More research is to be done on this story, so my winter project will be heading to the Gale Family Library at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul to view microfilm records for the local town newspapers from the 1920's.

KEY TAKEAWAY: To corroborate stories like this that were passed down in your family, spend some time researching the history of what was going on in the community, the state, or the country. If your ancestors lived in smaller towns/cities, be sure to check the small-town newspapers as they reported the news (gossip) about residents in detail. Add the information you find to the story to make your family history come to life.

I think back to all the letters my mother and aunts wrote to and received from relatives that moved

LABELING OLD PICTURES (NAMES, DATES AND EVENTS)

I think back to all the letters my mother and aunts wrote to and received from relatives that moved away from the local community. In rural southwestern Minnesota, not everyone had a telephone until the 1960's and if they did 'long-distance' calls were expensive, so writing letters was the only way they kept in contact with the family.

My great-uncle, Frank Korcal, moved to Pierson, Michigan around 1920. Based on the old letters I have read through and pictures I looked at, the Minnesota and Michigan families kept in touch with each other, including traveling across the miles to visit and attend special events. After the passing of my mother's generation, contact with the Michigan relatives was lost for a number of years. Recently, I connected with my cousin, Michael Korcal through Ancestry.com as we shared a common family tree. I sent Michael the articles I wrote for the PGS-MN Newsletters on my Korcal family research, which he thoroughly enjoyed. When I mentioned to him that I did not have a picture of our great-grandparents, he said he had a picture and would send it to me. Much to my surprise, I received a flash drive filled with pictures of the Korcal family that were labeled (names, dates, events), covering the time period from 1899 to 1997 – nearly a hundred years! What a treasure I received. It was from Michael's pictures that I finally was able to see a picture of my great-grandparents (Johann and Rosalie Korcal) taken in 1909 when their son Frank Korcal (my great-uncle) was married.

KEY TAKEAWAY: Old family pictures are a great treasure, but if we don't know who is in the picture, when it was taken or what the event was, so much of our family history is lost.

Make time to sit down with relatives and identify who are in the pictures, along with when the picture was taken (was it a special event) and where was the picture taken. If you are one of the older remaining family members, document as much as you know about the old pictures that you have of family members. Also, rekindle the communication with distant relatives. They may be able to help you label the pictures you have and likely also have pictures to share with you.

FAMILY MEMBERS THAT ENTERED INTO RELIGIOUS LIFE

My great-aunt Catherine Korcal and her husband Michael Parulski had twelve children, eight daughters and 4 sons. Of those eight daughters, six of them entered the convent and became nuns. Old family stories shared down the generations said the farm family could not support twelve children, so when the girls got to their young teens, they were sent off to the convent. The three oldest daughters went to the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania, Ohio. The next two daughters, along with the youngest daughter went to the Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato, Minnesota. It happens that I have a friend that is from the Sisters of Notre Dame, originally from Mankato. She was able to find obituary records for of the relatives that belonged to the Sisters of Notre Dame. What a wonderful addition these are to the Korcal family history.

KEY TAKEAWAY: The 'Religious Orders', whether for nuns, priests or brothers, have records on the individuals that belonged to their order. If you are in doubt as to where to find the records, reach out to the Catholic Dioceses where individual served in parishes or where the convent/motherhouse your family member belonged to.

PGS-MN RESOURCES – NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES and PROGRAM MEETING ARCHIVES

In the introductory paragraph I referenced the two earlier articles that I wrote for the PGS-MN Newsletters on the research process I undertook for my Korcal ancestors.

On the PGSMN.ORG website, you can find all the old newsletters going back to 1993! To find these newsletters, on the menu bar at the top of the webpage, go to the far right and hover your cursor over "MEMBERS ONLY". Seven selections will be listed below, one of them being "NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES". Just click on the link to see a listing of all the newsletters. If you know which newsletter you want to read, merely click on the issue. However, if you just know an article you want to read but are not sure of which issues the article was published in, an indexing of articles has been done for you in the "FROM POLAND TO MINNESOTA" section. To find my two articles select the "MINNESOTA" box on the "FROM POLAND TO MINNESOTA" homepage. Scroll down to "LINCOLN COUNTY" and click on the link. This page has a number of links for doing genealogy research for the county. About half way down the page is a summary of Newsletter Articles, listing the issue, the page number and the title/author of the article. Just click on the issue and scroll down to the page that was listed in the index.



Another great resource on the PGS-MN website is the "PROGRAM MEETING ARCHIVES". Starting in 2020, we began recording the program meetings for members to view at their convenience. To find these recordings, go to the PGSMN.ORG website and look to the far right on the menu bar for the "MEMBERS ONLY" link. Hover your cursor over this and then select "PROGRAM MEETING ARCHIVES" in the drop-down menu, then select the year you want to see the listing of program meetings.

Listed in the 2024 Program Meeting Archives, you will find my November 2nd program meeting presentation of "Discovering My Ancestral Village of Zblewo/Hochstueblau". This presentation goes through a detailed process of how I used various resources to find the ancestral village in Poland for my great-grandfather, Johann Korcal.

MY WINTER CHALLENGE FOR EACH OF YOU

With winter here in Minnesota and time indoors, I encourage each of you to take time to document the stories your ancestors passed down to you and to work on labeling old pictures you have of your family.

Be sure to reach out to relatives to engage them in the process. It would be great if you could share your stories and pictures with other PGS-MN members. We welcome short articles for our newsletter and to be posted on our website. Just drop an email to pgsminnesota@gmail.com. We can provide assistance in editing articles (as short as a few sentences to as long as a few pages in length).

Zofia Stryjeńska – Marie Przynski

Zofia Stryjeńska (née **Lubańska**) was a visual artist—painter, graphic designer, illustrator, stage designer, and a representative of art deco. She was well-known Polish female artist of the interwar period.

In 1911 she was admitted to the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich; she registered as her brother, Tadeusz Lubański, dressing as a boy, as women were not allowed. After a year, she returned to Kraków, where she worked on painting and literature. Her first artistic success came in 1912, when the Kraków Society of Friends of Fine Art included 18 of her watercolor illustrations in its "Polish Fables" exhibition.

In May 1913, Jerzy Warchałowski, art critic of the Polish Magazine "Time", discussed Sophia Lubański extensively, making her well known and helped to launch her career.

In 1916 Zofia married Karol Stryjeński, an architect. They had three children. They divorced in 1927. After the divorce, she moved to Warsaw. In the first half of the 1930s she was a forgotten artist. Stryjeńska did not want recognition, but she desperately needed money. Only in 1938 did she receive several orders from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including one for a kilim for the Emperor of Japan Hirohito. She took part in the interior decoration of the Polish passenger ships "Batory" and "Pilsudski" and the interior decoration of Wedel's Café (Warsaw). Her artwork began to sell again.

Zofia spent the second world war in Kraków. In the beginning of 1945 when the Russians took over the city, instituting a communist regime, she decided to leave Poland, and went to Geneva. She tried to go to the U.S., seeking help from the Kosciuszko Foundation; however, the Board of the Foundation rejected her. She lived very modestly in Geneva, helped by her children. She remained emotionally connected with Poland and the Polish culture, and Switzerland remained a foreign country to her. She died on 28 February 1976 in Geneva at the age of 84 and was buried in the local Chêne-Bourg cemetery.

Zofia was nicknamed "her royal highness, the princess of Polish art" in "Literary News". In 1930 the government gave her its highest award, Polonia Restituta. In 1936 the Polish Academy of Literature awarded her the Gold Academic Wreath for her contribution to Polish art in general. After the second world war, she refused to join the communist-run Polish Writers' Union. Therefore, official policy was to ignore her as an artist and systematically call her insignificant. Yet, the government widely reproduced her art without paying her royalties. She did not complain about the missed income, but deplored the low quality of the reproductions. In 1974, the US-based Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation presented her an award. Only in 1989 was she recognized again as a great Polish artist. In 1991, Maria Gronska presented her work in a monograph. In 2008, the National Museum in Kraków organized a great retrospective exhibition of the work of Stryjeńska. In 2011, Stryjeńska was the subject of a 2-zloty Polish commemorative coin.



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.

Streit, Nathan; streitnathan@yahoo.com—researching **Benkowski** / Holdingford, MN, **Symanitz** / Holdingford, MN, **Choreck** / Holdingford, MN, **Kociemba** / Holdingford, MN

Horn, Ashley; Ashleyrshom@gmail.com—researching **Benkowski**, and **Symanitz**

Warns, Tricia; triciawarns@gmail.com—researching **Wojszko, Turecki**, from Rostotly, just south of Bialystok / Settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, **Swiderski, Nowaczyk** from Ostrowaz, just north of Konin /first to Niagara Falls, then Milwaukee, WI.

Burmeister, Lila; lilajsb@gmail.com - researching **Rudnick**/Wyczechy Poland/Iowa

Breza, Tim; tbreza@luminet.net—researching **Rogala** from Wiele/Settled in Winona, **Breza** from Stutz/Settled in Winona

Lojek, Don; dwlojek7@gmail.com—researching **Sosnowski** from Warsaw/Settled in Central NY, **Lojek** from Stavachowice/Settled in Niagara Falls, NY

Baumgardt, Tiffany; tbaumgardt1@charter.net—researching **Bartosik** from Jaworzno/ Settled in Adair County, MO.

Sobotta, Mike; Sobottam35@gmail.com—researching **Sobotta, Pierzina, Sura** .
Bautch and **Kamla**

Mahling, Claire; cmahling@hotmail.com—researching **Rudnicki** from Krakow/Settled in Twin Cities and Central MN

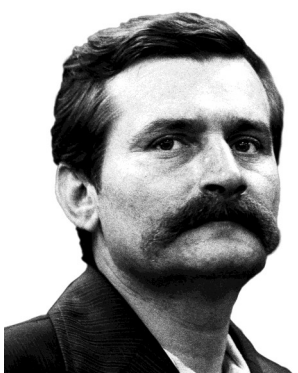
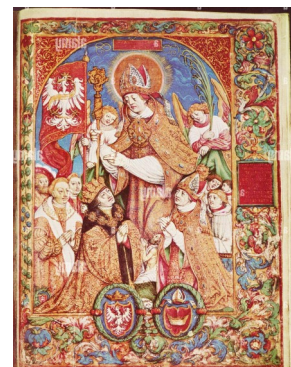
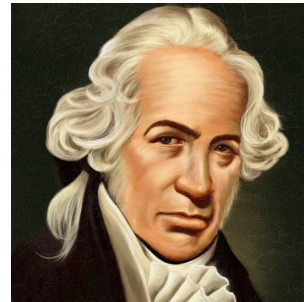
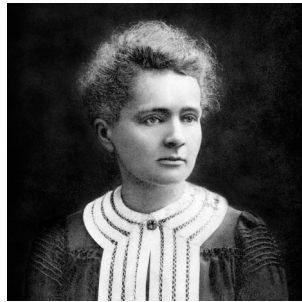
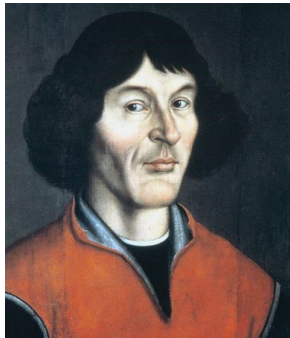
Zuk, Logan & Anna; amffarms@outlook.com—researching **Zuk/** Settled in Kettle River and Sturgeon Lake, MN , **Wojtysiak/**Settled in Kettle River and Sturgeon Lake, MN

PGS-MN Networking Groups

Networking Group Calls: The PGS-MN Networking Group Zoom calls started in April 2024 and have been very successful. We have groups covering NE Minneapolis/Anoka County, Central MN and SE Minnesota. Between the three groups, we have about 25 members participating and we have six calls per year. Next spring, plans are in the works to add a Duluth group.

Come and be a part of the discussion. Additional information about the networking groups is located on the PGS-MN webpage—see www.pgsmn.org.

Famous Poles—How many do you know?



See page 18

Famous Polish—How Many do you know?

Row 1

- 1384—Jadwiga—first female monarch of the Kingdom of Poland
- 1514—Nicolaus Copernicus—Discovered that Earth revolves around the sun.
- 1830—Fryderyk Chopin—invented “instrumental ballade”, and a master pianist.
- 1746—Andrzej Tadeusz Kosciuszko—hero, engineer, statesman, and military leader.

Row 2

- 1776—Kazimierz Michal Pulaski—key figure in George Washington’s army and is credited with being “the father of the American cavalry.”
- 1903—Maria Sklodowska Curie—recipient of two Nobel prizes. She discovered radium and polonium for use in radiation in medicine.
- 1709—Daniel Fahrenheit—invented temperature scale (“Fahrenheit scale”).
- 1930—Saint Maria Faustyna Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament, known for the Divine Mercy apparition; canonized April 2000.

Row 3

- 1940—General Stanislaw Haller— Commander of Blue Army, joined in the defeat of the Soviets in 1920.
- 1929—Popeye —based on Polish male (Stanley Feigl) living in Illinois and Ohio.
- 1939—General Wladyslaw Sikorski—commander in chief of the Polish Army and Prime Minister of the Polish government in exile (World War II).
- 1978—Miroslaw Hermaszewski—First Pole in space.

Row 4

- 1978—Pope John Paul II—first non-Italian pontiff since 1523, and second longest serving Pope (26 years).
- 1987—Jozef Jerzy Kukucka—second man to climb all fourteen eight-thousanders’ mountains in the world.
- 1944—Wojtek —Polish soldier bear with the Polish Army at Monte Cassino.
- 1541—Stanislaw Samostrzelnik—first Polish-born saint.

Row 5

- 1990—Lech Walesa—in 1980, became the leader of Solidarity (Solidarnosc) and the first democratically-elected President of Poland since 1926.
- 2020—Robert Lewandowski—captain of the Polish National soccer team. He was named the Best FIFA men’s soccer player for 2020 and 2021.
- 2021—Walter and Wayne Gretzky—Walter is the father of Wayne, who has been described as an NHL “hockey legend.”



PAHA Newsletter is now digital!

PAHA Newsletters appear twice a year. The Newsletter brings up-to-date information on PAHA activities, the history of the Polish diaspora, including family history of emigrants scattered around the work.

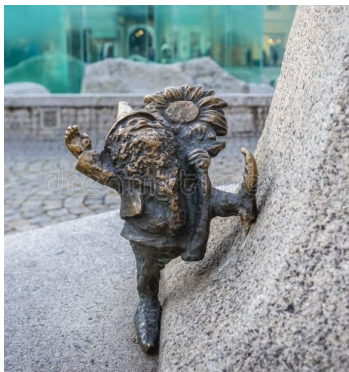
Digital newsletter and previous newsletters can be found at <https://polishamericanstudies.org/text/14/paha-newsletter.html>

The Dwarves of Wroclaw — Marie Przynski

When visiting Wroclaw, one is always entertained by the Dwarves/Gnomes that grace the various walkway throughout the city. There are over 600 currently and are considered a major tourist attraction. Visitors can easily obtain a map of their locations and spend the day visiting the various figures. A great time to visit is in September, during the annual Dwarves' Festival.

The original monument was placed on Swidnicka Street in commemoration of the "Orange Alternative," a Polish anti-communist movement, and was its symbol in 2001. Subsequently in 2010, the ruling mayor highlighted the figures and unveiled a plaque of the Dwarves museum. It is, of course, knee-high on a tenement wall near the Market Square.

The figures have been scattered through the city, or in nearby suburban areas. The various figures have backstories to go with them, such as two disabled dwarves, "The Deaf-Mute" and the "Blind." All of these are part of the Wroclaw Without Barriers campaign, drawing attention to their mission. Other figures include "Marzenka" - based on the logo of the Mam Marzenie charity, "Andrzej and Tomcio" - sailor dwarves with broken mirror, "Aviator" - dwarf flying a small airplane, "Bank Gnome" - dwarf withdrawing money from a mini-ATM at a bank, "Basia the Dwarf" - dwarf holding a heart outside a cardiology clinic, "Bookseller Dwarf"- dwarf holding a book outside of a library, "Dad and Newborn Dwarf" - dad dwarf proudly watching crib with newborn dwarf son, "Dialogomir the Dwarf" - dwarf relaxing in a recliner watching TV, "Mr. and Mrs. Dwarf" - newlywed dwarves outside the Wrocław Civil Registry Office and hundreds more. Truly Wroclaw is a fun city to visit with the dwarves.



Spring Rituals — Marzanna

For a long time, people have tried to invoke spring in various ways. One of the most popular in Poland included: drowning an effigy called Marzanna, walking around the village with a grove, i.e. a decorated green pine branch, or baking a cake in the shape of a stork's feet. Pine poles called *maje* (*Mays*) were traditionally displayed much later – on Zielone Świątki [Green Week – 7th week leading up to the Pentecost] in May. Forfeits were often placed at the top of the pole, and young men who wanted to impress the maidens would climb to get them.

In Poland, and many other Slavic countries, the first day of Spring is heralded by Mazanna events celebrating the death of winter and the renewal of life (spring). In this predominantly Catholic country, Marzanna is a pagan celebration that has endured throughout the centuries. It celebrates the death of winter and the welcome of the rebirth of spring. This is a folk custom that has been documented since the time of Mieszko I, and it is thought that it was originally to destroy or burn out pagan beliefs upon accepting Christianity. There are others that believe that this tradition occurred later and was a response to the "black plaque" and the hope that burning her would take away the curse.

The Polish Marzanna is an old Slavic goddess of winter, plague and death. Fearing her lingering icy grasp, to protect yourself and ensure the arrival of spring, you would participate in this witch burning.

An effigy was created (usually of straw, wrapped in linen), which was then "tortured", then marched through the village, being dunked in every water barrel and puddle on the way. In the early evening, the villagers would gather at the river, set the effigy ablaze, and then toss it into the river. Often, the effigy is burned with herbs to rid the community of winter's woes, and then thrown into the waterway (lake or river) to drown these ills. An associated custom "Galik" is to decorate a pine tree with flowers, beads, and bits of colored ribbon to be carried by the young girls of the village, symbolizing spring, or renewal of life.

The superstitions are that you can't touch Marzanna once she's in the water, you can't look back, and if you fall on the way home, disaster awaits, usually some form of sickness or plague. This festivity is just one of the many ways Poles stay in touch with their ancient heritage and have fun with superstitions and festive traditions.

Welcome to Spring



2025 PGS-MN Program Schedule

PGS-MN continues to offer informative, useful and interesting topics, and have developed the following programs for your enjoyment.

All programs will be held at the Minnesota Genealogical Center, 1385 Mendota Heights Road, Mendota Heights, MN; the Mississippi Room, #100, unless otherwise noted.

March 1, 2025 — Jay Biedny—Self Book Publishing

April 9, 2025 (Wednesday) - Research at the Gale Library, Minnesota Historical Society, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN

May 3, 2025 - Tom Losinski, Laura Hunter, et al.—Travel to Poland

September 6, 2025 - Colleen Zenk - Family Research

October 4, 2025 - Gordon Pueschner - Poland: Partition through World War I

November 1, 2025 - Jim Warzonek, Alicia Byzewski—Immigration Between Countries

PGS-MN Membership Renewal Information

Hello PGS-MN Member – Thanks for your membership in the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota. It's that time again! Time to renew your annual membership for 2025.

Each year, we work hard to provide you with quality membership benefits at a reasonable price. We are pleased to share that, once again, our membership dues are staying at \$25 per calendar year.

To renew your membership, just go to the PGS-MN website (www.pgsmn.org), go to the membership section, and then to the "Join/Renew" area. Choose either the PayPal or Credit/Debit Card option. **There is no need to fill out an application form unless your contact information has changed.** If you prefer, you can fill out the form located on page 22 of this newsletter and mail it.

<https://pgsmn.org/membership-2/membership/>

We would love to have you join us for another year of great fun and learning! With your renewal, you'll keep receiving our wonderful quarterly newsletter, access to the MGS Hoffman Research Library, six program meetings per year, access to networking group Zoom calls and more! Don't miss out on what we have to offer by **renewing by December 31st.**

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks very much for your interest in the Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota.

Karen Brill, Membership Chair
651-485-5008 cell



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 _____

<p><u>The best way to contact me is by:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> cell # <input type="checkbox"/> home # <input type="checkbox"/> work # <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail</p> <p>Best day(s): <input type="checkbox"/> Anyday <input type="checkbox"/> Sun. <input type="checkbox"/> Mon. <input type="checkbox"/> Tues. <input type="checkbox"/> Wed. <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs. <input type="checkbox"/> Fri. <input type="checkbox"/> Sat.</p> <p>Best time(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Anytime <input type="checkbox"/> Morning (9AM to noon) <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoons (1 to 4PM) <input type="checkbox"/> Evenings (6 to 9 PM)</p>

PGS-MN is curious—how did you learn about the organization (friend, website, Facebook, membership form, event, etc. _____

Membership cost is \$25 for one calendar year (ending December 31st). Membership includes admittance to six free programs, subscription to the quarterly PGS-MN newsletter, free access to the Minnesota Genealogical Society Hoffman Research Library in Mendota Heights and access to the PGS-MN member only content on **www.pgsmn.org**.

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

Mail form and check to : **PGS-MN Membership**
 P.O. Box 291
 Amery, WI 54001-0291

Complete the form, and mail to above. You can also make payment online at **www.pgsmn.org**. Thank you.

Membership Benefits

Check out these online exclusive subjects:

From Poland to Minnesota

Our all-encompassing genealogical resource for everyone searching their family roots in Minnesota and Poland. It can be fun to explore the areas of Minnesota where our Polish ancestors settled. You can begin with all of Minnesota, or choose from seven regions to start your journey. If you want to focus on Poland, you have exciting paths to discover!

Missing Branches

Over 600+ Surnames and growing! See if you may be related to other PGS-MN members!

Newsletter

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.

Polish Family Food History

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

Polish White Eagle Association Files

See if your ancestors had life insurance through the PWEA and hopefully discover new details!

Program Meeting Archives

View prior quality Program Meetings to help you with your genealogy journey!

Archdiocese Indexed marriage and Burial Records

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

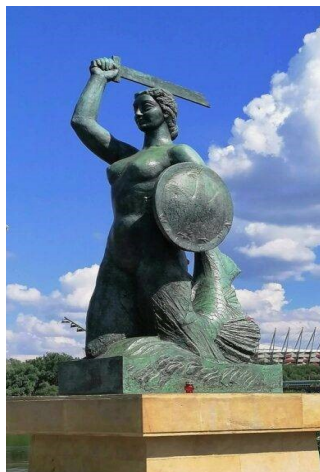
Let the fun begin! Don't miss out on a single moment locating your ancestors and learning more about their struggles and joys.



BE A PGS-MN VOLUNTEER

- * Support PGS-MN
- * Outreach and Connect with others
 - Expand your Polishness
 - Make a difference

Did you know that various PGS-MN members participated in Polish festivals and Polish church events again this past summer and fall in an effort to recruit new members. Several new members joined due to our community outreach and also our presence on Facebook. Consider volunteering and spread the word about PGS-MN.



The Warsaw Mermaid statue is one of the city's most cherished monuments, having stood on the banks of the Vistula since its unveiling in June 1939. Created by sculptor Ludwika Nitschowa, the statue was inspired by Krystyna Kraheńska, a young ethnography student at the University of Warsaw. Kraheńska, who later became a hero in the Warsaw Uprising during World War II, posed for the statue in a kneeling position, holding a sword in her right hand.

Photo/Info Poland-24.com



Kulig (sleigh rides) is an old Polish winter tradition dating back to the days of the [szlachta](#) (nobility). A cavalcade of horse-pulled sleighs and sleds went from one manor house to another, entertained everywhere with hearty meals followed by dancing. The tradition faded, but now it held for special occasions, and making a comeback.

The PGS-MN 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.

Please renew your membership today!