



SEARCHERS



Number 24

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

Winter 1999

PRESERVING OUR PAST SINCE 1988

WHAT WAS GREAT-GRANDMA'S MAIDEN NAME?

by Keith A. Kaszubik

Generally, people doing genealogical research on their family are more inclined to favor research of their father's roots and the name of his paternal ancestors only (the same name all the way back). Researchers sometimes ignore their maternal lines even though they are just as important in terms of blood relationship. This may be attributed to the historically stronger patriarchal family ties of our ancestor's culture.

Isn't that ironic when we think of how unfortunately, some children today don't even know who their fathers are, but we can always be sure

of who our mother is - or can we? (I pity the genealogists of the future!). The paradox is that while some men don't even know what their mother's maiden name is, it is usually women who are more inclined to remember

Researchers sometimes ignore their maternal lines even though they are just as important in terms of blood relationship.

family history. I would hope that you respect your dear mother and give her equal time in regard to her roots as well.

The purpose of this article is to show how numerous surnames have been applied to our mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, etc. I will explain how my own great-grandmother, Marianna Knopik, had at least four different maiden names recorded for herself.



Marianna Knopik Kaszubowski

1.) Her actual maiden name. The word "nee" is French meaning "born." In Polish we say "z domu" which means "from home." This is the surname that a woman was born with and used before she was married.

Even a maternal uncle's name may not be the same as his sister's, as we shall see. My great-grandmother, Marianna Knopik, was born in 1864 at Krosewo, Poland, a daughter to Franciszek Knopik and Weronika nee Lipinska. She married Franciszek Kaszubowski in 1885 at Wiele, Poland, and emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1886.

2.) Her mother's maiden name. On the 1891 baptismal record for my granduncle, Jozef Kaszubowski,

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The PGSNYS meets the second Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria College cafeteria,
240 Pine Ridge Road, Cheektowaga, New York,
at 7:00 p.m.

Membership Dues... A reminder from the Treasurer:

Dues are \$15.00 for the year. This entitles you to 3 editions of the Searchers. New members receive an information package to help them get started. Annual membership dues are to be received by your expiration date and will be listed in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label. Please refer to this date when paying dues the following year.

Please notify us of any change of address.

For submission to the Searchers Newsletter, deadlines are as follows:

Spring Edition - April 15th for June mailing

Summer Edition - June 15th for August mailing

Winter Edition - October 15th for December mailing

Submissions to the Searchers can be made by postal mail (c/o **Searcher Editor**) or via e-mail to **editor@pgsnys.org**

Mail

Due to the large amount of mail received, please take note when writing us for assistance: The PGSNYS will answer ONLY correspondence that includes a self-addressed, stamped reply envelope. All correspondence should be directed to:

The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State

299 Barnard Street

Buffalo, New York 14206

If you wish to contact one of our committees, please write the committee name on the front of the envelope.

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All meeting cancellations due to bad weather will be announced on News Radio 930, AM WBEN

Please Visit The Polish Genealogical Society Of New York State's Web Site: www.pgsnys.org

Editors Note: Please take notice that we are now back on track with the Issue #'s. Our past two editions were labeled incorrectly. Issue #21 for Fall of 1998 should have been labeled as Spring 1999, #22 with cover title "Area Poles Recall '17 Freedom War". Issue #23 for Summer of 1999 begins with cover article "Dziennikarstwo Polonijne w Buffalo. We apologise for any inconvenience.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN MY LAST MESSAGE FOR 1999 WITH AN APOLOGY. THE PGSNYS CURRENTLY HAS OVER 100 MEMBERS. ALMOST HALF RESIDE OUTSIDE THE WESTERN NEW YORK AREA. THE ONLY

COMMUNICATION OUTSIDE MEMBERSHIP HAS RECEIVED IS THROUGH E-MAIL, POSTAL CORRESPONDENCE AND OUR NEWSLETTER "SEARCHERS".

THE LAST FEW SEARCHER ISSUES HAVE BEEN LATE. I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS. THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR OUR ONLY PUBLICATION TO BE CONSISTENTLY LATE ALL THE TIME. THIS LATE ARRIVAL OF THE SEARCHERS WILL CEASE. I'LL BE WORKING WITH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND EDITOR TO ENSURE EACH OF THE 3 ISSUES THAT ARE PROMISED, ARE DELIVERED ON TIME.

WE HAVE A GREAT POLISH GENEALOGICAL

PERIODICAL I ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO SUBMIT ARTICLES. ALSO WHY NOT SUBMIT A FAMILY SEARCH ARTICLE. THIS IS ABOUT A 100 WORD SYNOPSIS OF WHAT SURNAMES YOU'RE RESEARCHING. PLEASE CHECK OUT THE FAMILY SEARCH SECTION IN THIS ISSUE SUBMITTED BY VIRGINIA FELCHAK HILL, TO SEE WHAT IT'S ABOUT.

THREE OF THE FIVE GOALS I MADE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. WE PUBLISHED OUR *Surname Index*, IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS BY KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY, WITH MEETING REMINDERS BEING SENT TO ALL LOCAL MEMBERS, AND MEETING MINUTES BEING E-MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS WITH INTERNET ADDRESSES.

AND FINALLY, WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS IN ESTABLISHING A *Western New York Genealogical Council*. WE'VE MET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, AFRICAN DIASPORA OF BUFFALO, ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, AND JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF BUFFALO. ALL SOCIETIES AGREE WE NEED SOME TYPE OF COUNCIL. WE HAVEN'T FORMED OFFICIALLY BUT ARE MAKING PROGRESS

TOWARDS THAT GOAL

OUR SOCIETY WAS ALSO BUSY WITH THE *Dziennik dla Wszystkich Indexing Project* (SEE THE *DZIENNIK* UPDATE IN THIS ISSUE). WE'VE INDEXED ABOUT 13,000 SURNAMES DURING 1999. WE HOPE TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT BY THE END OF 2001.

THANKS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, WELCOME COMMITTEE AND THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP FOR MAKING 1999 SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT THE

SUPPORT OF MANY, THIS SOCIETY WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2000, AND THANK EVERYONE FOR VOTING ME AS YOUR PRESIDENT FOR A SECOND TERM. THIS YEAR THERE ARE THREE GOALS:

1.) UPDATE THE NEW



What Was Great-Grandma's Maiden Name?

(con't from page 1)

at St. Stanislaus Church in Buffalo, N.Y., is recorded his mother's maiden name, as Marianna Lipinska. Actually this was Jozef's maternal grandmother's surname. I can imagine the scenario being that the priest asked Marianna what the mother's maiden name was, and she gave him *her* mother's maiden name instead (assuming then that the priest already knew my great-grandmother's given name). This mistake in the parish records further proved who my great-great-grandmother, Weronika *nee* Lipinska, was after I explored the parish records from Poland looking for the baptismal record for my Marianna. In another instance Marianna's uncle, Wojciech Knopik, had his wife, Rozalia Somionka's, maiden name recorded as Worzala (later proved to be the maiden name of Wojciech's mother) on a baptismal record for their child in 1864 at Wiele, Poland. I can only assume that the priest asked for the mother's maiden name and Wojciech answered with "Worzala." The confusing possibilities are somewhat numerous.

3.) Her mother's married name[s].

The 1964 death certificate for my grandfather, Michal Kaszubowski, shows his mother's maiden name as Marianna Kuczkowska. Further research revealed that Marianna's mother, Weronika *nee* Lipinska, was first married to Franciszek Knopik in 1862 and then to Michal Kuczkowski in 1876 after Franciszek died. But this was long before they emigrated from Poland. The only maternal uncle the Kaszubowski children ever knew in Buffalo was Maksymilian

Kuczkowski. (Marianna's half-brother from the second marriage).

4.) Transposed surname with husband's.

A family story was that my grandfather had two brothers who died as infants out of the total of 13 children. In the parish records from St. Stanislaus Church, I found a Leon Knopik born in 1888 to Franciszek Knopik and Marianna Kaszubowska. This mistake may have been attributed to the fact that Marianna's father's name was Franciszek Knopik, and her husband's name was Franciszek too. The burial record listed the surnames correctly and quickly solved the puzzle.

And there are other examples of how the mother's maiden name can be questionable including, but not limited to: spelling variations and inflections, woman with the same name as her husband before marriage (not as rare as one would think), illegitimate daughter later legitimized or not, adopted daughter, legal name changes and the use of only one surname from a compound nobility surname (e.g. Kłopotek -or- Glowczewski from Kłopotek-Glowczewski, ultimately the Kłopotek family from Glowczewice in Pomorze [by-name versus adjectival name]). Not to mention that a woman usually will bear her married name longer in life than her maiden name.

Always be on the look out for such anomalies in your genealogical research. Too often do researchers limit themselves to their direct ancestors, never expanding out to the clues hidden in their collateral relationships. It is necessary to document all possible maiden names. Necessity is the mother of invention.

Name Search



Member and non member researchers wishing to submit surnames for this page are asked to send submissions to the Searchers Committee.

To submit listings for publication, please send your name and address, the surnames your researching and location if known. Please keep limit to- six surnames of research. Non members please include \$3.00

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Ilkow, Holubowski, Gorski, Koszuta, Drabik, Kurgan, Lagowski

DZIENNIK DLA WSZYSTKICH

PGSNYS Dziennik Project Update

By Edward William Kornowski,
Dziennik Project Director

"Dziennik dla Wszystkich", also known as "Everybody's Daily" has been a virtual goldmine for Polish genealogical researchers in the Buffalo area. This Polish language newspaper existed from 1911 to 1957. Until recently, its vast collection of stories and pictures of Buffalo's "Polonia" sat silently on microfilm, in the cabinet drawers of local libraries.

Beginning in April 1999, members of our Society began to prepare an index of death notices, found as paid display advertisements in the Dziennik. To date we have completed twenty-one years, and have an additional twenty-seven random months completed. The total listings are now at 13,000 names and growing monthly.

The death notices are very useful to researchers, because some list the location where the deceased was born, but most just say Poland. Sometimes the notice gives the age or number of years the person lived in America. Usually it will list the person's spouse, children, and siblings, etc. The death notices are written in Polish. Some of our volunteers speak and read Polish very well, others like myself have enrolled in Polish courses or used Polish dictionaries to translate the precious information we've discovered. I have found that the more Polish I learn, the longer it takes me to copy the

names from the paper. I get slower and slower, as I attempt to read some of the fascinating stories of Buffalo's Polonia. Just seeing the advertisements of local merchants causes me to imagine what my ancestors' daily lives were like way back when.

There are some humorous stories as well. In this paper, sometime in the Thirties, there was a column called the "Birthday Club". People would fill out a coupon, stating their birth date. Then the paper would print a list each day of persons who were born on that day. They would select four names to receive free tickets for the theater. I usually look through these lists to see if I recognize any surnames. In one case I noticed a familiar name, a fellow who passed away two days before he had won the free tickets! They were mailed to his house.

This project has been very rewarding for us as a society. We have been able to help many people locate information about their ancestors. It has taken us back in time, to help resurrect the memories of our long forgotten ancestors.

I would like to share with you the Death Notice of "Aleksander Walkiewicz". Mr. Walkiewicz had

the honor of being the 13,000th entry into our growing database. He is not related to any of our volunteers or myself. He is just one of the forgotten residents of Polonia. I can't help wonder about his story. Who was he, where was he born, where did he work, does anyone remember him? Perhaps someone will tell his and the many others stories someday.

SEPT 4, 1928



D. O. M.

W niedzielę, dnia 2-go września, o godzinie 2-iej po południu, polegnął śc. z tym światem, opatrzony św. Sakramentami

Śp. Aleksander Walkiewicz

Pogrzeb odbędzie się w środę, dnia 5-go września, o godzinie 5:30-rano, z domu śc. przy ul. 17 Edge Park ul. do kościoła św. Floryana o 10-iej rano, a potem na cmentarz św. Stanisława B. M.

Na smutny ten obrządek zapraszają krewnych i znajomych, w smutku pogrzebani.

MARYA WALKIEWICZ, żona;
Eugenia, córka; Ludwik Walkiewicz, brat.

FRANK (E. Orłowski) Pogrzebowy
1476 Broadway - 564 Clinton Ul.

For a free lookup of up to *five surnames*, send a request via postmail to our PGSNYS address, please include a *Self Addressed Stamped Envelope* or email to:
Dziennik@PGSNYS.org
Or to volunteer contact Ed at:
EKornowski@Aol.Com

BUFFALO, A CITY OF POLISH IMMIGRANTS

by Virginia Felchak Hill

The Port of New York welcomed the largest number of immigrants. Many Polish immigrants who eventually settled in Texas came through the Port of New York. Some lived in Buffalo and other northern cities before establishing their permanent homes in the south.

While reading the latest issue of Searchers, two articles had me visualizing my ancestors' lifestyle in Buffalo. The article by Michael Drabik titled "The Dean" brought my thoughts to the baptisms of my maternal grandmother, Mary Krolczyk, Uncle Steve and Aunt Stella Feliczak since they were all baptized by Fr. Pitass.

After reading Edward Prabucki's "Sentimental Journey" my mind was whirling with questions. How was the immigrant life in Buffalo in the 1880s? As parishioners of St. Stanislaus, where did my ancestors live? Where was grandfather employed between 1881-1885? Why did they leave Buffalo and move to Texas? Are records available in Buffalo that would give me the answers to some of my questions?

Maternal grandmother: Three of my grandparents were born in Prussian Poland, while Mary Krolczyk, my maternal grandmother, was born 18 Mar 1881 in Buffalo; baptized at St. Stanislaus 20 Mar 1881. Her godparents were: Ludwik Linda and Josefa Fietel. I believe that grandmother also had some brothers baptized in Buffalo. Mary's parents were John Krolczyk and Helena Sikorska who immigrated to the United States from Slawno, Gniezno, Poznan, Poland after the birth of their first born, Henry in 1879. All of my ancestors were from Prussian Poland.

This Krolczyk family would later settle in a very small rural community of

Chappell Hill located in southeast Texas. The St. Stanislaus Church records in Chappell Hill, Texas show that 98% of its parishioners were of Polish descent and the other 2% were migrant Hispanic workers. The marriage records are particularly helpful because they give home villages in Poland and also birth localities in the United States for the bride and groom.

Mary Krolczyk married Stanislaus Kaminski 24 Nov 1897 in Chappell Hill,



Unknown Cousin Feliczak



Texas. Stanislaus was the son of John Kaminski and Ursula Slachetka from

Mokronosy, Wagrowiec, Poznan, Poland. The church for Mokronosy is located in Srebrna Gora.

Paternal grandparents: Kazimierz Feliczak and Barbara Kajdasz boarded the SS Victoria in London England; arrived in New York on 21 Apr 1881 with their first born Mary who was only four months old. Two months after their arrival Mary died 9 Jun 1881. I'm sure there is no marker for her grave since her parents were immigrants. Are there any records available today which would designate the site of her burial?

My paternal grandfather, Kazimierz Feliczak was born 1 Feb 1853 in Bieganowo, Sroda, Poznan, Poland to John Feliczak and Johanna Oleyniczak; baptized 2 Feb 1853 in Krerowo. His godparents were: Matheus Oleyniczak and Francisca Pindras. Kazimierz's father, John, (my great grandfather) was baptized with the surname of Kulawych in 1803; married under the surname of Felik in 1828; and his death was recorded with the surname of Feliczak. All three events were recorded in Krerowo, Poland. Why was the surname changed from Kulawych to Felik in Poland? The Felik surname first appeared in the records in 1810; then Felik was changed to Feliczak in the 1840s. In the 1940s the surname of Feliczak was changed to Felchak in Texas.

Kazimierz Feliczak's wife Barbara Kajdasz, my paternal grandmother was born 11 Nov 1857 in Zrenica, Sroda, Poznan Poland and baptized 15 Nov 1857 in Sroda, Poznan, Poland. Her godparents were: Jacobus Mackowiak and Josepha Kajdasz.

(con't on next page)

Barbara was the daughter of Antonius Kajdasz and Marianna Halaska. Barbara's parents died within six months after her departure.

Antonius and Marianna Kajdasz died in September and October of 1881 at the age of 50 and 51.

My Feliczak grandparents lived in Buffalo for the birth of two children, (1881-1885). Stephanus Feliczak born 26 Aug 1882; baptized 3 Sep 1882 at St. Stanislaus. His godparents: Andrzej Ruzicki and Anna Stellmach.

Stanislawa Feliczak born 28 Apr 1884; baptized 4 May 1884 at St. Stanislaus. Her godparents: Wojciech Kasprzyk and Agnes Nowak.

The family then moved to Texas and grandfather appeared on the 1886 Tax Rolls of Washington County, Texas. Their son, Stephanus married Annie



Kazimierz Feliczak and Wife Barbara nee Kajdysz. Taken at Winklemann Studio in Brenham, Tx. Date unknown. Taken before Oct 1918 Their first child died in Buffalo and second and third child born in Buffalo.

Kopczynski in Brenham, Texas. Their daughter, Stanislawa married Stephan

Konieczny 25 Oct 1905 in Chappell Hill, Texas.

My grandmother, Barbara Kajdasz Feliczak had seven siblings of which three died as infants in Poland. The surviving Kajdasz siblings were Elizabeth, Franciscus, John and Ewa. Ewa Kajdasz married Stanley Wisniewski on 20 Jan 1892 in Brenham, Texas; she died 2 Sep 1900 in Brenham at the age of thirty. Oral history tells us that Barbara Kajdasz Feliczak wanted to visit her sister in Buffalo in the 1930s.

These sisters had not seen one another in over 40 years. I believe that this sister would be Elizabeth Kajdasz, however I do not know her married name. My uncle convinced grandmother that the trip was not feasible at her age. Therefore the sisters never saw each other after my grandparents moved to Texas.

Barbara Kajdasz Feliczak (my grandmother) died 27 Jan 1942 at the age of eighty five in Texas. Her obituary showed a surviving brother, John Kajdasz, living in Buffalo, New York. My Daddy always said that Grandma's family stayed in Buffalo. In fact I have a photo Daddy received from a cousin in Buffalo. The photo was taken at a studio, however there is no identification. I have not established contact with the descendants of Elizabeth, Frank or John Kajdasz. *If anyone reading this article can get me in touch with their descendants, please contact an officer of the PGSNYS or e-mail me at : vhillt@swbell.net*

In viewing the marriage records of St. Stanislaus, Chappell Hill, Texas, there are other families who stopped in Buffalo before moving to Texas. John Bugaj and Francisca Jarocinska had three children born in Buffalo.

Joseph Bugaj baptized 14 Feb 1895; married Cecelia Sprenger 15 Oct 1919 in Chappell Hill.

Helena Bugaj baptized 21 Mar 1892 in Buffalo; married Adalbertus Kominczak, 5 Oct 1910 in Chappell Hill.

Stanislaus Bugaj baptized 25 Apr 1896 at

St. Joannes in Buffalo; married Hedwigis Sprenger 15 Oct 1916 in Chappell Hill. The Sprenger family also lived in Buffalo before moving to Texas. John Sprenger and Maria Kotyras had three children born in Buffalo.

Stanislava Sprenger baptized 10 Apr 1892; married Leon Gorski 5 Nov 1913 in Chappell Hill.

Anna Sprenger baptized 13 Jul 1893 at St. Adalbert's Buffalo; married Adalbertus Kominczak 13 Jan 1919 in Chappell Hill.

Hedwigis Sprenger baptized 18 Sep 1896 at St. Rosari in Buffalo; married 25 Oct 1916 to Stanislaus Bugaj in Chappell Hill.

Peter Kmiec born 25 Jun 1855 in Laskowo, Poznan, Poland married Anna Brandt in Poland. Their son, Szymon was born in Buffalo. In 1906 Szymon married Ewa Kotyras in Chappell Hill, Texas. Peter Kmiec also applied for his citizenship in Buffalo prior to moving to Texas.

While this is just a small sampling of one Polish rural community in Texas, how many other Polish immigrants lived in Buffalo before making establishing their permanent homes in another state. Why did they leave Buffalo? Did they travel by train or take coastal steamers to their final destination?

I had the opportunity to visit Buffalo in 1994 for the Polish American Congress Convention. Polish President Lech Walesa was a Honored Guest Speaker at the convention. Saturday afternoon I took time away from the convention to visit a first cousin. The last time I saw Casimira Wisnoski was seventeen years ago at her mother's funeral. Aunt Mary Feliczak Michalak's funeral was in Texas October of 1977.

(con't on page 12)

Genealogical Twists in the 21st Century

by Michael Drabik

Recently I was looking over some news clippings sent to me by my sister, who lives in the Fort Lauderdale area of Florida. The two articles of particular interest to me were genealogical in nature. One dealt with the changing face of the American Family and the second addressed the government's interest or contribution to the study of family history.

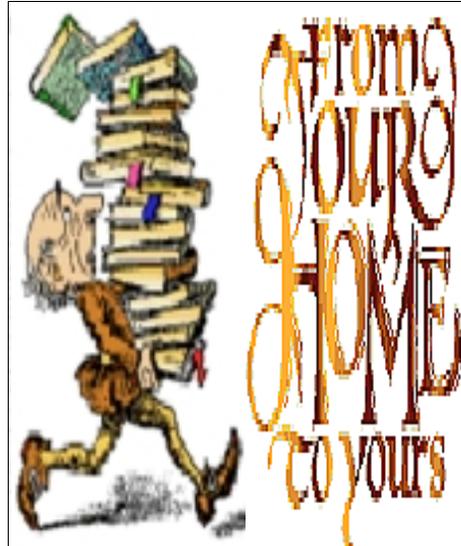
As we all are aware, the family structure that once was a stable institution has been changing tremendously over the past two generations. The "Ozzie and Harriet" or "Leave It To Beaver" TV families some of us grew up knowing or experienced are rapidly disappearing. Due to economic conditions and the change in socially accepted behavior, the American Family is not what it was 50 years ago. Moms for the most part are not home cooking, baking and cleaning, in fact they are out in the work force, and in some instances earning more than their spouses or significant others. The United States has one of the highest divorce rates in the advanced modern world. Households headed by a father, who is the natural father of the children in his care, with his legally married wife, who is the birth mother of these children are becoming harder to find in the fabric of society.

Step, adopted, and foster children born out of wedlock are not uncommon or something people find unusual. Common law marriages, cohabitation and same sex couples raising children has produced a generation of kids asking where do they fit or belong. The article contained a sample illustration of an individual's family tree based on these new social behavioral changes, interesting !!

The other issue touched upon the great wealth of information that you can obtain at the various levels of government. Information contained in birth, death and marriage records, the importance of census data, land and probate court records were given as sources of genealogical reference. All these documents contain important material for a person researching his family's history. Each immigrant group came to this country and made its impression on the greatness of our country. Immigration and Naturalization records along with ship manifests can also shed very important light on the history of your family in the US and provide a starting point to follow

Due to economic conditions and the change in socially accepted behavior, the American Family is not what it was 50 years ago.

that thread overseas. The National Endowment for the Humanities has embarked on a marvelous project entitled, "My History is America's History", which enables each one of us to record his or her family history. Schools are encouraged to work family history into their school's curricula. The NEH has developed a "Toolbox of Resources" to help you learn how to preserve your personal family history. A free guidebook can be downloaded from www.myhistory.org on the web or by writing the Superintendent of Documents, Pueblo, Co. 81009 and enclose a check for \$3.75 for shipping and handling. The "My History" resource book is in limited supply. Most public libraries should have a copy available.



A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED THE PGSNYS WITHIN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

JAMES C. LONG, CLARENCE, NY

WENDY BENTKOSKI, VALENCIA, CA

CHESTER J. DANIELS, ROCHESTER, NY

LANA ZACK, SIMSONVILLE, SC

ALFRED H. KARNEY, OLEAN, NY

NORBERT A. ZIELINSKI, CHEEKTOWAGA, NY

CONNIE KESSLER, DETROIT, MI

VERONICA SCULLY, LAKE RON KON KOMA, NY

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ESTHER BRUDZ, DARIEN CENTER, NY

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ROBERT KILMER, FARMINGTON, NY

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ALLYN W. GEMEREK, URBANNA, VA

LINDA GOULD, WEST SENECA, NY

ARTHUR J. DOMINO, DEPEW, NY

PATRICIA REWES, JAMESTOWN, NY

ESTHER H. PALERMO, NAPLES, FL

Polish Immigration In The U.S.

By *Julitta Grocholska*

(Editor's note: This is a scholarly work about Polish immigration by Julitta Grocholska, wife of Michal Grocholski, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago. Although it focuses particularly on immigration from southern Poland to the Chicago metropolitan area, much of it is applicable to any place Poles have settled in America. Originally published by National-Louis University in Nowy Sacz, Poland, this is its second publication in the United States)

This is Part 2 of a 4 part Series taken from the Straz

First Wave of Immigrants

As America was transforming from an agricultural to an industrial and urban society, the need for manpower drastically increased. America opened its doors to all those who wanted to join its great experiment. In the big wave of immigrants mostly from Southern, Central and Eastern Europe, were also Poles. Polish immigrants who came to the U.S. before 1890 were mostly from Prussian controlled areas in northwest Poland. Later on, the majority were the peasants from the overpopulated southern territories, and the unemployed workers from factories and mines.

The first big flow of Polish immigrants led by a Franciscan, Father Leopold Moczygemba, arrived in Texas in the 1850s. In 1854 they founded the Polish village of Panna Maria in Karnes county and one year later another village called Bandera. This group of immigrants consisted of 300 Upper Silesian peasants expecting to find a job on the huge cotton plantations. Panna Maria was the biggest pure Polish colony in Texas. Then, the following Polish villages were established: St. Hedwig (1856),

Dobrowolski, Kosciusko, Cestochova (1873), Warsaw, Pulaski and others.

Afterwards, other Polish settlers were visible in other states. Father Franciszek Bolek in his publication (Bolek, 1930), mentioned 33 states where the towns and villages were settled by Poles; the greatest number in the State of Illinois (15 towns and villages and 2 counties). In Illinois was also situated one of the oldest Polish villages in the United States, Sandusky, in Alexander county. It was established in the 18th century by an American pioneer of Polish ancestry, Sadowski. [Editor's Note: The reference here may actually be to Sandusky, located in Ohio.] Most of these towns

Father Franciszek Bolek in his publication (Bolek, 1930), mentioned 33 states where the towns and villages were settled by Poles.

and villages have changed their names. So, nowadays it is difficult to recognize their Polish background. The number of Polish immigrants in the early 1860s was estimated at about 30,000; thirty years later at about 500,000.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the peak decade of immigration were the years 1901-1910. At that time about 8.7 million people arrived in the United States. The culmination of this immigration was in the years of the great economic depression at the end of the 1920s, which affected most of the European countries and the United States, as well. These newcomers were highly motivated to go abroad. They searched for acceptable conditions to live and earn money. Eighty percent of all Polish immigrants in that time were people from rural areas without any

industrial experience. They usually obtained jobs as unskilled, low paid workers in various branches of industry. They founded many fraternal organizations, built churches, organized parochial schools, publication of newspapers, etc. All these activities had similar goals; to offer first aid to new immigrants; to act as a protective shield against all sorts of abuses and discrimination; to make new immigrants feel more at home by sharing the same language and cultural heritage. But apart from these practical purposes, the overriding reason for the formation of most of the organizations was to maintain a national identity and to work for the restoration of a "Free Poland" (Zachariaszewicz, 1978).

Before the end of World War I, when Poland did not exist as an independent country, Polish immigrants were sometimes registered as Prussian, Austrian or Russian citizens. So, it was not easy to give an exact number of Polish immigrants in that time.

[Look For Part 3 of 4: Polish Immigration in the U.S. : Second Wave of Immigrants (1939-1959) in the next edition of Searchers]

Announcement!!

The NYS Archives and Records Administration will be discontinuing its service of answering mail-in requests for searches of its vital records index. Citing "loss of the staff who performed the searches" as the reason for the cutback, effective February 15, 00. Researchers will have to visit the State Archives or the Nat. Archives regional branch in NY City to view the indexes. Only requests postmarked through the 15th will be accepted. For more inf. visit the State Archives page at: www.sara.nysed.gov/new/mailinrequ.htm

(Please see pg. 19 for more info.)

Russian, German, and Austrian Ancestors in Poland

by Raymond S. Wright III, Ph.D., AG

Ancestry Magazine, Nov/Dec 1997, Volume 15, Number 6

Why do many Austrian, Russian, and German emigrants to America identify home towns that are in Poland? The answer is that Poland has been both an autonomous state and a collection of provinces under German, Austrian, and Russian rule. Norman Davies, author of "God's Playground: A History of Poland" (2 vols., New York: Columbia University Press, 1982) suggests that today's Republic of Poland is not the successor to previous versions of a Polish state. Each incarnation of Poland was unique in its boundaries and in the makeup of its society.

The nation of Poland traces its origins to the Slavic tribes living between the Oder and Vistula rivers on the northern European plain that stretches from the Atlantic in the west to the Ural Mountains in the east.

In 1563, through the union of the kingdoms of Poland and Lithuania, the authority of the Polish crown extended to an area that included all of modern Poland, Lithuania, White Russia, and Ukraine. And yet, by 1795, Poland had ceased to exist as a nation.

Divide and Conquer

In the last half of the eighteenth century, Polish nobles, seeking to fortify their power, vetoed any attempt by a king to establish a strong central authority. Poland's neighbors, seeing her weakness and fearing that one or the other of them might gain an advantage by taking over Poland, decided to divide it among them.

The partitions of 1772, 1793, and 1795 left northern and western Poland to the Prussians (West Prussia, Posen, and Mazovia), southern Poland to the Austrians (Galicia and Lodomeria), and eastern Poland to Russia (including Lithuania, White Russia, and Eastern Ukraine). Twelve years later, in 1807, Napoleon nullified the partitions by establishing the Grand Duchy of Poland. After Napoleon's defeat, the Treaty of Vienna (1815) restored Posen to Prussia and Galicia to Austria. Most of the Russian partition was returned to Russia.

At the Congress of Vienna the central region of Poland, with Warsaw, was created as a kingdom, popularly known

Norman Davies suggests that today's Republic of Poland is not the successor to previous versions of a Polish state. Each incarnation of Poland was unique in its boundaries and in the makeup of its society.

as the Congress Kingdom of Poland. The Emperor of Russia was made the king of this new kingdom. Continual uprisings by the Polish against the Russians led to complete incorporation of Congress Poland into the Russian Empire by 1874.

The city of Cracow and its environs, in northeastern Galicia, was not returned to Austria by the Treaty of Vienna. Instead, the treaty gave the area autonomy as the Republic of Cracow. It remained the only independent part of Poland until 1846.

A peasant uprising against landowners in 1846 invited Austrian intervention, and the Republic of Cracow was annexed to Austrian Galicia that year.

United at Last

Until the end of the First World War, Poland remained an idea rather than a nation. Then, from 1918 to 1921, wars and plebiscites produced a new Polish republic in control of virtually all of the regions that were lost to Russia and Austria in the partitions. This republic also included the former German-ruled areas of Posen, northern Silesia, and a corridor to the Baltic Sea that cut a swath through what had been the western borderland of West Prussia.

The Republic of Poland's life was a short one. On 27 December 1939, Poland capitulated to German invaders; the Germans divided their spoils with their Soviet allies, who had invaded Poland from the east. By 1945, the tables had turned, and the Germans surrendered Poland to the Soviets, who were now in league with the United States, Britain, and France. The stage was set for the birth of a new Poland.

Ukraine, White Russia, all of Lithuania, and the northern half of East Prussia were excluded from the new Peoples' Republic of Poland. Its northern border extended to the Baltic and its southern border to the Carpathian Mountains which divided Czechoslovakia from Poland. Poland's western border followed the Neisse River north to its confluence with the Oder River, continuing north along the Oder and then north-northeast to Swinemunde (Swinoujście) on the Baltic coast. Poland's southeastern border intersected the boundary with Slovakia

(con't on next page)

where the San River originates in the Carpathian Mountains.

The Polish border allowed a line north to the Bug River and then paralleled the river on its northward course. Then, at the city of Brest, the borderline wandered in a northern direction another 160 miles before turning west to end in the Baltic Sea near the Polish city of Braniewo.

These boundaries have endured to the present day, although the Peoples' Republic of Poland has not.

As the Soviet Empire collapsed, the Soviet-supported government in Warsaw also dissolved. The Republic of Poland was born in 1989. Today Poland is led by a popularly-elected government and is eager to assume its place in the community of independent nations.

Records Recovered

During the first years after the Second World War, non-Polish minorities fled Poland, leaving it a nation whose citizens were almost all Polish-unlike any of the Polands of the past. As the inhabitants of post-war Poland cleared away the rubble of their destroyed cities, they discovered that many of the records created by past rulers of Poland had survived the war.

A national system of state archives was established to preserve and organize these records. Archives were established in capital cities and in other cities in each wojewodztwo (province). These state archives were (and still are) administered by the National Directorate of State Archives in Warsaw.

Each provincial archives office gathered and preserved the historical records created within the area now encompassed by the provincial boundaries. All records older than one hundred years were to be turned over to these archives. Most civil agencies complied, but churches were reluctant to participate, preferring to keep their records or turn them over to central church archives.

While identifying records, archivists

discovered gaps in record series. At first it was supposed that these records had been destroyed or lost. As communication with archivists in neighboring nations improved, however, they discovered that many records had been taken out of Poland during the post-war exodus of non-Poles to neighboring countries. Consequently, family historians must sometimes seek ancestral records in several locations.

During the Second World War Poland fell first under German control and then, at the end of the war, under Soviet authority. Records relating to the war years, as well as alienated records from earlier periods of history, may be found in German, Russian, White Russian, and Ukrainian archives today.

The archives in these countries are managed by central archives administrations, the addresses of which can be found in these publications: *"The World of Learning"* (London: Europa Publications, 1948-) and Ernest Thode's

As the inhabitants of post-war Poland cleared away the rubble of their destroyed cities, they discovered that many of the records created by past rulers of Poland had survived the war.

"The German Genealogist's Address Book" (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997).

Provincial Archives

Each province in Poland is named after its capital city. Each of these capitals houses a state archives which preserve records from the area covered by the province.

Some of the records are housed in branch archives at several locations in the province. The map shows these provincial capitals. Researchers will find records for ancestral hometowns, or at least directions about where they are, by communicating with archives staff in

provincial capitals near their forebears' towns of origin.

Rather than guess which archives to contact, family historians can also write to the *National Directorate of State Archives in Warsaw*. For many years, this office has coordinated all inquiries from genealogical researchers. The archives' staff in Warsaw will direct researchers' letters to the appropriate archives. The address for the headquarters of the Polish state archives is *Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych, skr. poczt. 1005, ul. Długa 6, 00-950 Warsaw, Poland*.

Until recently, family historians wanting to use archival resources in Poland were required to obtain written permission from the office of the National Director of State Archives in Warsaw. Today, the directors in provincial state archives have authority to grant access to the sources in their archives.

Family historians should write to request permission to visit the archives well in advance of visiting Poland.

Church Records

Today, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, United, and Protestant churches in Poland generally preserve records at the parish level, although some are in central church archives. To learn where parish records are, a letter to the archdiocese or diocese for the area is necessary. Addresses can be sought in the publications noted above, or through a researcher's nearest Polish consulate or embassy. Genealogists who would like a directory of all government and church archives in Poland can order the following publication from the address given above: ***"Archiwa w Polsce. Informator Adresowy"*** (Warszawa: Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych, 1994)

The library has a large collection of

(con't on page 12)

Russian, German, and Austrian Ancestors in Poland

(con't from page 11)

church records from Poland. These records can be found using the locality search option in the Family History Library Catalog.

The records are described in the catalog under the applicable Polish, German, and Russian names for each locality.

Austrian, German, or Russian?

Which regions in Poland were parts of Germany, Russia, or Austria?

The Austrian Empire's share of the partitions of Poland was the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria (1773-1809), which was pared down to the Kingdom of Galicia (1815-1918) at the Congress of Vienna.

Today Galicia is divided between Poland and Ukraine. Poland's southern provinces cover this former Austrian region. The capital cities of each province are Bielsko-Biala, Krakow, Nowy Sacz, Tarnow, Tarnobrzeg, Rzeszow, Krosno, Przemysl, and Zamosc.

The Russian Empire ruled most of central and eastern Poland from the partitions of Poland to 1918. Following is a list of the provincial capitals in former Russian-ruled areas of Poland: Suwalki, Bialystok, Lomza, Ostroleka, Ciechanow, Plock, Konin, Warszawa, Siedlce, Biala Podlaska, Chelm, Lublin, Radom, Skierniewice, Lodz, Sieradz, Kalisz, Czestochowa, and Kielce.

These are the capitals of Polish provinces formerly in Prussian territories (the German versions of the names are in parentheses): Katowice (Kattowitz), Opole (Oppeln), Walbrzych (Waldenburg), Wroclaw (Breslau), Legnica (Legnitz), Jelenia Gora (Hirschberg), Zielona Gora (Grunberg), Leszno, Poznan (Posen), Gorzow Wielopolski (Landsberg), Szczecin (Stettin), Pila (Schneidemuhl), Koszalin (Koslin), Slupsk (Stolp), Gdansk

(Danzig), Elblag (Elbing), Bydgoszcz (Bromberg), Torun (Thorn), and Olsztyn (Allenstein).

Note that the eastern part of the modern Polish province of Suwalki was in the Prussian province of East Prussia (Ost Preussen) and that the northern half of East Prussia is today the province of Kaliningrad, belonging to Russia.

Understanding why German, Austrian, and Russian ancestors came to America from towns now in Poland will help researchers discover where ancestors' records may be found today.

Genealogists should visit their local libraries, especially college libraries, to search for atlases of the German, Austrian, and Russian empires published before 1918. The maps contained in these books will aid efforts to locate exactly where ancestors' home towns were.

German, Austrian, and Russian gazetteers from this same time period will

The Russian Empire ruled most of central and eastern Poland from the partitions of Poland to 1918.

describe smaller communities and help simplify the search for towns in atlases.

Raymond S. Wright III is a professor at Brigham Young University, where he teaches genealogical research methods, European family history, and German and Latin paleography. He writes regularly for a variety of genealogy publications and gives conference lectures. Professor Wright is the author of "The Genealogist's Handbook" (Chicago: American Library Association, 1995).



BUFFALO, A CITY OF POLISH IMMIGRANTS

(con't from page 7)

After calling several numbers I located Casimira's number. I didn't know if Casimira would remember me by my married name, so after giving my name I asked Casimira if she knew who I was. She said, "Yes, you're Uncle John's daughter." She never dreamed that I was in Buffalo. Then I told her I was in Buffalo. Casimira started crying and so did I. Casimira gave me directions to her house and I caught a taxi.

We had a wonderful short visit. Shortly after my arrival Casimira retrieved a copy of Zgoda dated 1 Jan 1990 from her closet. She showed me the article with my photo where I was honored with the "Heritage Award" by the Polish American Congress. I was surprised! That is how Casimira remembered my married name. After work, Gene, Casimira's son, came by for a visit and drove me back to the hotel.

On Sunday I attended Mass at the beautiful church of St. Stanislaus. Arriving on the chartered bus we saw the huge crowds and security for President Walesa's visit. I was in the foyer of the church when I met Michael Drabik and we had a short visit. It was a wonderful visit, but too short.

I hope to return to Buffalo for a longer visit and take a sentimental journey thru the old parts of Buffalo just as Ed Prabucki did. However, I would need a local person to show me all of the sights.

Both of my parents were born in Texas, and although I am a pure TEXAN, Buffalo has a special place in my heart since three of my grandparents once called Buffalo home. We need to keep those memories alive and in print for future generations.

Parafia Sw. Stanislaw a Kostki Rochester, New York

by Michael Drabik

This past summer, the parish of St. Stanislaus Kostka in Rochester, New York observed a very special occasion in its history. Ninety years ago the present church structure was dedicated by the bishop of that diocese.

The Gothic red brick building measures 166 feet in length and is 90 feet wide at the transepts with a distinctive spire rising 102 feet above the main entrance of the church. The spire is domed in copper and is in the typical Eastern European style with gargoyles to serve as rain spouts. St. Stan's interior is equally impressive, displaying a wealth of religious decorations upon its walls, ornate stained glass windows, and a beautifully carved high altar. The entire church reflects the reverence and devotion the early parishioners had for their church. With age comes deterioration. Presently, the church is holding a major fund raiser to collect a half million dollars for NEEDED repairs. A few years ago, the parish completed successfully a major restoration project. The repair and re-glazing of 46 windows created by the Tyrolean Glass Works of Innsbruck, Austria. The final cost amounted to \$120,000., a marvelous accomplishment.

Rochester in the late 1800s was a sizable city, ranking 25th in the country. In 1890, the population of the city was 70% foreign stock, with an existing 100 churches representing the diversity of the city's multi-ethnic population. The first Poles arriving to Rochester in the mid 1880s found work mainly in the shoe and clothing industries, which employed about 1/3 of the city's residents. These early arrivals came from German speaking territories of old Poland, thus they settled amongst the German population and attended their

churches. St. Michael's parish with Fr. Pascalar as pastor took note of their numbers and encouraged them to organize themselves into a religious society affiliated with one of the national fraternals. He also invited Polish speaking priests from Buffalo to attend to the Poles at the holiday season. The Bishop of Rochester, the enlightened Bernard McQuaid, also noticed their numbers growing; he was one of only a few bishops in the country who did not interfere in the ethnic church. He maintained that the first loyalty of the new immigrants should be to their adopted land, but did not fear the downfall of the US church because of their numbers.

In 1888, the Society of St. Casimir had

The spire is domed in copper and is in the typical Eastern European style with gargoyles to serve as rain spouts.

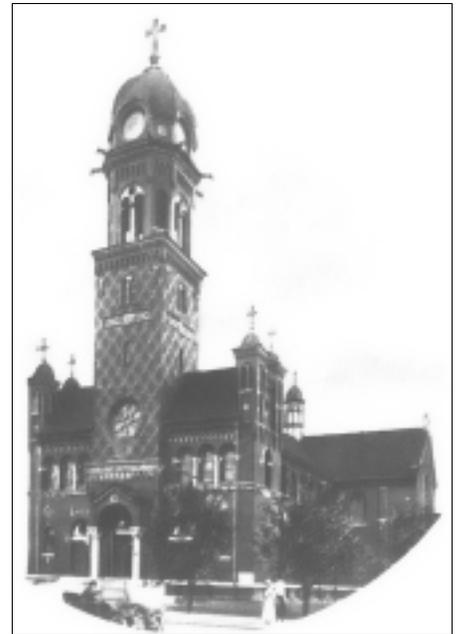
gathered monies to purchase land for its own church. With the permission of the Bishop and assistance of Fr. Pascalar and Fr. Teofil Kozlowski of Buffalo, the Society continued to gather funds toward the building of a church. Some of the members of the Society and newly organized parish were not satisfied with the location of the future church and at a meeting in 1890, voted to sell the property in favor of land further away from the city's hustle and bustle, in an undeveloped section of the city along Hudson Street. Ground breaking took place and in August 1890 the cornerstone was blessed by the Bishop and witnessed by Fr. Jan Pitass of Buffalo.

Still, St. Stanislaus had no Polish speaking priest to serve as pastor. The Bishop through negotiation with the Archbishop of Poznan, Florian Stablewski, arranged for a cleric .

Stablewski had in mind a young seminarian named Teofil Szadzinski, who was studying at the Louvain in Belgium. Szadzinski was dispatched to Rochester in August 1890, arriving just days after the cornerstone for the church was blessed.

The Bishop's promise to the Poles was that he would supply them with a priest before the church was completed and thus it came to pass. Szadzinski was ordained in Rochester a month later by Bishop McQuaid and would serve as the pastor of St. Stanislaus until his untimely death in 1909, weeks before his new Gothic church was dedicated.

Anyone wishing to contribute can send a



check to:

*Built Upon Faith
St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish
34 St. Stanislaus St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14621*



POTPOURRI



Bulletin From the Desk of Our Secretary

FLORENCE WITUL STATES THAT, THERE WILL BE NO VILLA MARIA LAWN FETE FOR 2000 DUE TO A GRANT RECEIVED BY THE COLLEGE. PGSNYS WILL NOT HAVE TO HOLD A BOOTH FOR THIS YEAR.

(For new members, the PGSNYS volunteers at a booth for the College's annual lawn fete to help raise funds for the college, in exchange for the kindness Felician Nuns have given to the society by letting us hold our monthly meetings at their facility)

Conference

UPGS 2000 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE "Polish Genealogy in the Next Century"

THE UNITED POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES HAS ANNOUNCED ITS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE UPGS 2000. IT WILL BE HELD IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH AT THE BEST WESTERN PLAZA HOTEL, ON MAY 5-8, 2000. THE CONFERENCE OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE WORLD'S LARGEST COLLECTION OF GENEALOGICAL MATERIAL AND HAVE ACCESS TO EXPERT POLISH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHERS. THEY WILL ALSO HAVE ON-SITE TRANSLATIONS AND THE PRESENTATION OF PROVEN RESEARCH TECHNIQUES. THE MORMON FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY HAS U.S. RECORDS THAT INCLUDE SHIP PASSENGER LISTS, NATURALIZATION RECORDS, CENSUS RECORDS, WORLD WAR I AND II DRAFT REGISTRATION RECORDS, BIRTH,

MARRIAGE, DEATH, CIVIL AND CHURCH RECORDS FROM MANY CITIES. IN ADDITION, CHURCH AND CIVIL RECORDS FROM POLAND ARE AVAILABLE

For more information contact:
PAUL LIPINSKI,
CHAIRMAN

UPGS 2000
5319 VIA DEL VALLE
TORRANCE, CA 90505-6239
PHONE: 310-378-0877
FAX: 310-378-6598
E-MAIL: PAUL.LIPINSKI@ACM.ORG

Election of Officers

Congratulations TO THE NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE PGSNYS FOR THE YEAR 2000. NEW OFFICERS ARE LISTED ON PAGE 2 OF THE SEARCHERS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR DIRECTION IN THE NEW YEAR.

Sophie Knab

SOPHIE KNAB, AUTHOR OF "Polish Customs, Traditions and Folklore", "Polish Herbs, Flowers & Folk Medicine" AND "Polish Weddings Customs & Traditions" HAS WRITTEN YET ANOTHER BOOK. THIS ONE IS ENTITLED "Polish First Names" AND IS DUE TO BE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2000. SOPHIE HAS AGREED TO DISCUSS HER BOOK AND HOLD A BOOK SIGNING AFTER IT'S RELEASE. WE HOPE TO HAVE HER AS GUEST SPEAKER AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MEETING. WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED.

Forest Lawn Cemetery Tour

MEMBER WAYNE MERTZ AT A MEETING IN 1999 MENTIONED HE WENT ON A NICE TOUR OF FOREST LAWN CEMETERY IN BUFFALO. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE PGSNYS AS A GROUP GO ON THIS TOUR IN 2000. WE PLAN ON TAKING THIS TOUR IN MAY OR JUNE OF THIS YEAR. WE'LL KEEP YOU APPRISED. ALSO, KUDOS TO WAYNE MERTZ AND HIS COMPANIES GOERGEN-MACKWIRTH CO, INC AND WEST METAL WORKS INC FOR THEIR GENEROSITY IN DONATING THE PGSNYS CALENDARS THAT WENT OUT TO MEMBERSHIP FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR. WE REALLY APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO!

Pre-Publication Announcement

In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents Volume One: Polish by Jonathan D. Shea & William F. Hoffman

TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THIS FIRST OF SEVERAL VOLUMES THAT DEALS WITH POLISH DOCUMENTS AND WILL CONSIST OF

OVER 300 PAGES, WITH A PROJECTED RETAIL PRICE OF \$30-\$35 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE).

FEATURES WILL INCLUDE: ANALYSIS AND TRANSLATION OF OVER 60 POLISH LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS FROM AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN SOURCES, INCLUDING BIRTH, DEATH, AND MARRIAGE RECORDS; GAZETTEER ENTRIES; REVISION LISTS; OBITUARIES; POPULATION REGISTERS;

Polish Immigrant Built America's Most Significant Bridges

Straz (Scranton, Pa.)
September 1999

The American Polish Engineering Association has been issuing an annual tribute to enlighten the public about the achievements of Polish American Pioneers in Engineering and Science for the past 20 years. Our Polonia has received permission from the APEA to reprint these biographical sketches.

Ralph Modjeski, internationally famous Polish bridge engineer, was born Rudolphe Modrzejewski in Krakow, Poland, on January 27, 1861, simplifying his name after arriving in the United States. He died June 26, 1940, in California.

He was the only child of Gustav Sinnmayer Modrzejewski, a theatrical producer, and the famous Shakespearean actress, Helena Opid Modrzejewska. She also simplified her name after coming to the U.S. to Helena Modjeska. She was godmother to Lionel Barrymore, late stage and movie star.

Modjeski came to the United States in 1876 with his mother and stepfather, Charles Bozenta Chlapowski, and became a naturalized citizen in 1887.

It was said he tended to be a reserved person and did not easily make close friends. His fame came as a pioneer of large, efficient bridge construction.

Modjeski received his early education in Krakow, Poland. Although determined to be a civil engineer, music also had a

strong appeal for him. He took extensive training with the famous Polish pianist Casimir Hoffman, and for a time considered a concert career. Throughout his life, he practiced the piano daily.

By 1878, he decided in favor of an engineering career, and after preparatory work in Paris, he entered the famous Ecole des Ponts et Chaussees, from which he graduated in 1885 with the degree of civil engineer. He graduated at the head of his class, with honors, Modjeski first began his engineering practice under George S. Morrison, the leading bridge engineer of the day. Morrison was known as the "father of American bridge building."

His first major assignment was for a seven-span railroad and highway bridge over the Mississippi River at Rock

In 1893, Modjeski opened his own engineering office in Chicago. This was the beginning of a career in bridge building which has few equals. The major bridges he was connected with - either as designer or consultant - numbered more than 50.

His first major assignment was for a seven-span railroad and highway bridge over the Mississippi River at Rock Island, Illinois. Later, he built a double-track railway bridge over the Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois in partnership with Alfred Noble.

For 10 years, he was chief engineer of bridges for the Oregon Trunk Railway Company. During this time, he built a most spectacular 340-foot two-hinged arch spanning the Crooked River at a

height of 350 feet.

Some other bridges Modjeski built include:

- Broadway Bridge across the Willamette River, Portland, Oregon, a double-track electric railway and highway structure with bascule span.
- Concrete-arch Cherry Street Bridge, Toledo, Ohio.
- Harahan Bridge across the Mississippi, Memphis, Tennessee.
- Metropolis Bridge, over the Ohio River, at Metropolis, Illinois. Modjeski worked on this bridge with C.H. Cartledge. The bridge contained several innovations: it involved a record-breaking simple truss span of 720 feet and four other spans exceeding 555 feet each. An alloy silicon steel, instead of the usual "structural grade" carbon steel, was used for the first time in the U.S.

- Delaware River Bridge, between Philadelphia and Camden, NJ, a suspension bridge with a main span longer than any yet built. This was Modjeski's biggest bridge and probably most important, because the engineering was mainly his own and the details were worked out in conjunction with architect Paul P. Cret.

In 1923, Modjeski took Frank M. Masters and Clement E. Chase into partnership with him. After Chase died in 1933, he was replaced by Montgomery B. Case. They were associated with Modjeski in many of his later bridges, including:

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Polish Immigrant Built America's Most Significant Bridges

(con't from page 13)

- A highway bridge across the Delaware between Tacony, Pennsylvania and Palmyra, NJ.

- The Ambassador Bridge between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. This was the longest bridge (1850) feet) built to that date in 1929.

- A railroad bridge for the Texas & Pacific Railway in Louisiana.

- A cantilever bridge over the Ohio River at Louisville.

In partnership with Daniel E. Moran, Modjeski's firm built the Mid-Hudson Bridge at Poughkeepsie, New York. It was a suspension highway bridge.

He built the Pulaski Skyway, and was the chief engineer of General Goethal at the building of the Panama Canal. He also built the bridge at Niagara Falls, New York, and was a member of the commission of the reconstruction of the Quebec Bridge over the St. Lawrence River.

His last project was the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge - the longest bridge in the world. He was chairman of the board of the consulting engineers from 1931 until his death. For this bridge, he developed the idea of a central concrete tower to serve as anchor between the two suspension spans.

In addition to the bridges on which he actively was involved, Modjeski also had a number of projects which he was associated as adviser or consultant. Among these were the Manhattan and Triborough suspension bridges in New York.

He was retained in 1916 to report on the feasibility of the vehicular tunnel under the Hudson River.

Ralph Modjeski was one of the most remarkable bridge builders in history.

Many young engineers grew up under his tutelage, most notably, J.B. Strauss, designer of the Golden Gate Bridge on San Francisco Bay.

by  David



Newman

The Polish Genealogical Society of Texas (PGST) has a well developed website. Whenever I visit, I'm always finding new things of interest. It's easy to navigate to anything the site has to offer. Hat's Off to the Webmaster! This review will discuss the highlights found on the PGST Web Site.

Home Page

Great introduction page. Just the right amount of information to whet my appetite.

Site Map

Site maps make getting to other parts of the site less of a chore. This site

map is no different. However, I didn't seem to need the site map since I found everything I needed by using the navigational bar on the left of most of the pages that is maintained.

About PGST

Everything you wanted to know about the society and more.

Membership

Excellent membership application.

Calendar

Up-to-date calendar of events. The only thing I'd add is a map of how to get to the meeting place.

Publications

Polish Footprints is currently publishing a series of articles on the Southern Polish ancestral villages of PGST members. This series includes photographs of the villages, travel experiences by photographer James Derheim and information on the villages from Słownik Geograficzny.

The following villages have been highlighted in recent issues: Biecz, Chorkowka, Debica, Fryszak, Jablonica, Januszkowice, Jaslo, Jaworze, Kamienica, Latoszyn, Lipnica Dolna, Lipnica Gorna, Lubla, Pilzno, Przybowka, Siedliska Bogusz, Slawecin, Zrecin. These article can be read on-line including pictures.

Databases

Member Surnames: Their Surname database can be searched on-line. Searches can be by Surname, Polish village, Polish Powiat or County Seat, Polish Wojewodztwo or Province. Or all surnames that settled in a particular U.S. city, all

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Web Review

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surnames that settled in a particular U.S. county, and all surnames that are being researched by a PGST member.

It took me a few minutes to find out how to use the "all surnames that are being researched by a PGST member". All surname index searches except by PGST member ID, will yield the member ID of the person researching that surname. Clicking on the member ID will pop up a new message window allowing you to send a message directly to that member. If you take that member ID and enter it into the "all surnames that are being researched by a PGST member" it will give you all the surnames, being researched by the member. A great feature!

Names Mentioned in Our Periodicals

Another cool database is being able to search for surnames listed in their periodicals. This quickens the pace to find Polish-Texas ancestors and is a great genealogical tool.

Polish Texans

An article discussing the two waves of Polish immigration into Texas.

Member Web Pages

A place for links to members of the PGST.

Genealogy Resources

Links to genealogical resources.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Texas has put allot of effort into developing its site. I recommend it highly if you're researching your Polish Roots.

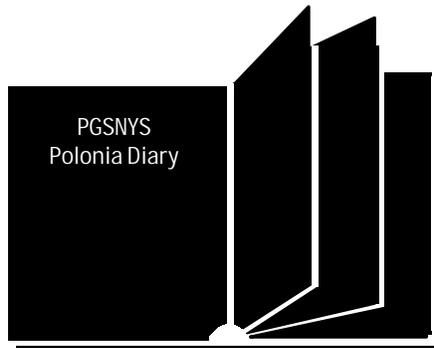
The PGST web site can be found at <http://www.pgst.org>

Stay tuned for the next "Web

Review" when I review "The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan" web site.

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The following is an excerpt from a personal



diary of the Prabucki Family, that member Ed Prabucki, living in Buffalo, NY at the time, has among his many family heirlooms.

Forever Burned in Family History

This is a Personal story taken from a diary that centered on events of February 3rd in the year of 1942, -- a very brisk, blustery day amassing some light snow, --very similar to any wintry day in any gathered year.

Employed at a Defense Plant on Elmwood Ave., -up at 6:00 A.M., -picked up at Walden and East Parade,-arrived at plant by 7:00 A. M., -sat on bench prior to starting time to read he morning Courier-Express,-the War news did not reveal optimistic reports of the War as the U.S. army on Bataan and the British Army in No. Africa were retreating on all War fronts.

After a Productive day at the plant,--satisfied of my part,-arrived home to be sent on errands by mother,--these were the times very ominous for my mother due to the obvious fear all her sons will be in the service,-as we were very family oriented due to our faith but much more due to the War.

After our sumptuous meal,-inclined to stay home as neighborhood activity was at a minimum, staying in our kitchen to place our ears to stories father gathered through the many generations passed by word of mouth from one ancestor to another and finally came down to him. Stories that are now frozen in time.

That evening it centered on Jozef,-as he lived or should it be said existed in the first partition of Poland,-his life bereft of a Polish nation,--burdened by Russian intrusions,--married in poverty of those times that voided any elaborate wedding reception. In time, Jozef fathered six children in an atmosphere of fear,-fraught with many doubts and pessimistic of the future.

Father continued after a cup of coffee,--two of his youthful sons left for Warsaw in 1830,--over the news there is a need for young Poles to assist in a protest against Russian Policies. Needless to say, the distaste for Russia was so profound that little persuasion was needed to convince Jozef's two sons to help out in the promising revolt against Russian intrusions, Sadly, --Jozef's two sons were never to be heard of again--lost to family history.

As father stopped momentarily,--he glanced at the Kitchen clock,-- the time revealed 9:00 P.M.,-ahh time for bed he said, --left us in suspense,-- but promised to continue this story at some future evening.





Polish Army In France Casualty List

The Polish Army in France was recruited primarily from resident aliens of the United States and Canada during the period from October 1917 through March 1919. Many of their recruitment papers have been located, but little was known until now of what happened to men who were sent to France between February 1918 and the Armistice of November 11th.

Recently, 1085 index cards were located in the archives of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. No one knows when they were created, nor by whom. They appear to have been written by two different individuals, and most likely were transcribed from original sources. Judging by the ink and paper stock, this process was done decades ago.

The information is judged to be accurate and reliable, but additional supporting documentation will be required as materials are continually being unearthed. Most cards will list a surname, first name, a soldier's number (unknown

reference at this point in time, but some guess that it is a soldier's number issued by the French army. These numbers do not match the recruiting numbers found on the A, B, or C forms.), a status of condition, a regiment or company, rank, and some additional information. A number of cards have limited information, others have more. No card has all of the information which is possible.

For cards which list an individual as being killed, a date and place of death is usually listed, as well as the next of kin. For those in a hospital, the location/city of the hospital is usually listed. For those being discharged, there are usually medical reasons for the discharge. Unfortunately, there are no guarantees of the amount of information available, but a copy of the card with translation will be provided.

To request a photocopy of a casualty card, please follow these directions.

A check or money order for \$5 US must be made out to the **Polish Museum of America**. Checks made out

to any other name will be returned.

Send your correspondence to:

Dr. Paul S. Valasek
2643 W. 51st Street
Chicago, Il. 60632-1559
Paval56@aol.com

Any additional information or questions on soldiers of the Polish Army in France, aka the Blue Army, named for their French issued blue uniforms, or Haller's Army, named for General Jozef Haller, their commanding officer, may be sent to the above address.

Data compiled by Dr. Paul S. Valasek

Or search the index by visiting:

http://www.polishroots.com/hallers_casualty.asp



Obtaining New York State Records for Genealogy Purposes

Birth certificates for genealogy use are available if the certificate has been on file for at least 75 years and the person whose name is on the birth certificate is known to be dead. Death Certificates for genealogy use are available if the certificate has been on file for at least 50 years. Marriage certificates for genealogy use are available if the certificate has been on file for at least 50 years and the bride and groom are both known to be deceased. The time periods are waived if the applicant is a descendant or has been designated to act on behalf of a descendant of the person whose record is being requested. A descendent is a person in the direct line of descent (child or grandchild, not niece, nephew or cousin).

The New York State Department of Health provides copies of certificates for genealogy use for births, deaths, or marriages that took place in New York State outside of the five boroughs of New York City (**except for births occurring in Queens and Richmond counties for the years 1881 through 1897**). Records on file date back to 1881 for births and marriages and 1880 for deaths, EXCEPT for records filed in Albany, Buffalo and Yonkers prior to 1914. Applications for records prior to 1914 for these cities must be made directly to the local office.

You may also send your request directly to the local registrar or town clerk of the place where the birth or death occurred or where the marriage certificate was issued. An index to genealogy records is available for searching at the State Archives, located at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Contact 518-474-8955 for more information about using this index.

Fill the request form available on this web server, in text or pdf format, or send us a letter including the name or names of the person on the record; the date or year of the birth, death or marriage; the place where the event occurred; and the names of the parents. If you are not sure of the year, you may ask us to search more than 3 years, but the fee will be higher.

The standard fee for a genealogy copy is \$11; this includes both a copy of the certificate and a search of our files for up to three years. If we can find no certificate for the event, you will receive a "No Record Certification" form.

When more than 3 years must be searched, the fees are:

4 to 10 years -- \$21;	31 to 40 years -- \$51;	61 to 70 years -- \$81;
11 to 20 years -- \$31;	41 to 50 years -- \$61;	71 to 80 years -- \$91
21 to 30 years -- \$41	51 to 60 years \$71	

Mail your letter and your check to:

New York State Department of Health
Vital Records Section
Empire State Plaza
Albany New York 12237-0023

All certificate copies for genealogy purposes will be clearly marked with the statement "For Genealogical Purposes Only."

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**NOTE:** Due to changes made by the New York State Archives discontinuing its mail search service for the microfiche indexes to vital records (birth, marriage, and death certificates) in New York State outside of New York City which cost you, as a researcher only \$5.00 per search, you now must pay the above charges.

Thank you NEW YORK STATE...

# Do You Know Who You Are? Does Your Country Know? Does Your Country Care??

## Census Asks Ancestry Of Only 1 in 6 Persons

**T**he ancestry question in the census to be taken permits people to identify groups not listed in the race and Hispanic origin questions, such as POLISH. *Ancestry is asked only on the long form*, the longer questionnaire that goes out to one in six households. The Census Bureau claims that this sample is large enough to produce reliable information for all but the smallest areas. Both public and private organizations use race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry information to find areas where groups may need special services and to plan and implement education, housing, health, and other programs that

address these needs. For example, a school system might use this information to design cultural activities that reflect the diversity in their community; or a business could use it to select the mix of merchandise it will sell in a new store. Everyone who answers the census is asked about race and Hispanic origin because this information is needed for areas as small as neighborhoods and city blocks. The Hispanic origin question must be answered by everyone, but those who are not of Hispanic origin are asked to mark the box "NO, not Spanish/Hispanic?Latino."

*Ancestry refers to an individual's nationality, lineage, or the country in which the individual or the individual's parents or ancestors were born before their arrival in the United States.*

Polish is one example of ancestry. The ancestry question is open-ended, allowing respondents to write in their lineage or ancestry, only on the long form.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share individual records with others, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, housing authorities, police, and the military. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The law works, evidenced by the fact that millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990's without any breach of trust.

*( This article was taken from the Straz Newspaper from January 20th, 2000)*

**We urge all our membership and those descendants of Polish Ancestry to fill out the census and to identify yourself as Polish. If using the short form census, check the box for OTHER, and identify yourself as POLISH.**

**SEARCHERS NEWSLETTER**  
 POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF New York State  
 299 BARNARD STREET  
 BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14206  
 RETURN REQUESTED

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE

NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS