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SEARCHERS

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Other databases: Pomorskie TG, Zabór pruski (Wielkie Księstwo Poznańskie), BASIA (WTG Gniazdo). O Genetecce Authors of indexes Indexing instructions

Check occurrence of last name

Search:

Provinces	Parish.	Registers	Entries
dolnośląskie	1	3	1.862
kujawsko-pomorskie	163	400	1.297.206
lubelskie	106	227	488.016
lubuskie	9	9	3.412
łódzkie	291	839	4.038.467
małopolskie	69	170	433.675
mazowieckie	426	1211	5.328.066
Warszawa	36	81	971.436
opolskie	25	56	11.595
podkarpackie	56	103	160.975
podlaskie	81	195	573.338
pomorskie	89	201	1.075.615
śląskie	50	106	437.983
świętokrzyskie	163	441	2.355.103
warmińsko-mazurskie	73	149	150.068
wielkopolskie	132	269	512.230
zachodniopomorskie	7	7	2.533
Ukraina	135	341	325.593
Białoruś	50	102	52.020
Litwa	22	42	163.995

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PGSNYS - FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**FOUNDED BY
MICHAEL
DRABIK**

**In May 2015, the
PGSNYS became a
not-for-profit
corporation in New
York State and also
received Federal
501(c)(3) tax status**

**Postal Address:
PGSNYS
P.O. Box 984
Cheektowaga, NY
14225**

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.

Annual dues are \$20 (\$30 Canada, \$35 other countries), and membership entitles you to
three issues of the *Searchers* and participation in the PGSNYS Yahoo Group.
As a new member you will receive an information packet to help you get started.
The expiration date of your membership is on the mailing label of the *Searchers* and
coincides with the anniversary date of when you joined the Society.

Please remit your membership dues by check or money order to:

PGSNYS
c/o Membership Chair
P.O. Box 984
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

**Please send any changes to your postal or E-mail address to PGSNYS at the above
address or E-mail: membership@pgsnys.org**

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THE SEARCHERS NEWSLETTER

For submissions to the Searchers newsletter, deadlines are as follows:

1st issue (Spring) - due March 1st for April mailing

2nd issue (Summer) - due July 1st for August mailing

3rd issue (Winter) - due November 1st for December mailing

Submissions to the *Searchers* (articles as MS Word doc; photos as .jpg)
should be sent via e-mail to: denise.oliansky@gmail.com

PGSNYS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

One of my favorite holiday movies is *White Christmas*, and one of my favorite parts of that movie is when Bing Crosby sings 'Counting My Blessings' to Rosemary Clooney. It reminds me to be grateful for the people, places, and memories that have blessed my life. Among these blessings are this amazing organization and each and every member, and especially those I have had the pleasure of getting to know while president these past three years. I am deeply grateful for the support you have given me and the enthusiasm with which you have approached our Society's mission and the events we participated in, especially during this past year. I am proud of the accomplishments of my tenure as president, but also know there is so much more we could be doing as a Society to provide more benefit to our members, local and distant, as well as to the general public, to assist them in researching their family histories. Our collaborations with other local Polish and genealogical societies and groups has increased our presence in the community and given us more opportunities to participate in events and to give presentations on Polish Genealogical Research. I greatly appreciate how many members took an active role in many of those events this year. It was truly inspiring. We have a great periodical in the *Searchers* and, as editor, I am gratified that we have members who regularly contribute articles. I encourage others to do so as well. If you have an idea, but are unsure of your writing ability, simply provide a draft and together we can work it into a great article. My thanks to the Board of Directors for their guidance and support in making 2016 a great year. Without the support of the Board and membership, this Society would not be possible. I would like to congratulate the newly elected Board for 2017, and in particular our new president, Nicole Pohancsek. My thanks to all those who have served as Board members, Committee Chairs, and volunteers during the past three years. We have much to look forward to in 2017 and beyond, and I am excited to share the journey with you. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and may God bless us, everyone! ~ Sincerely, Denise Oliansky

POTPOURRI

WITAMY! NEW PGSNYS MEMBERS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The dates for upcoming 2017 PGSNYS monthly membership meetings at 7 PM in the Villa Maria College cafeteria are Thursday, January 12, February 9, and March 9. **NOTE:** There is **no meeting on April 13** due to Villa campus closure for Holy Thursday.

Remember, you may renew your membership online through our website (pgsnys.org) using PayPal. If you are unsure about when your membership expires, check the mailing label on your *Searchers*.

Researching Polish Church and Civil Records Online

by Sandra Porter

When I first started researching my Polish family history in the early 1990s, I only wanted to document what my parents knew of the family in America. They knew hundreds of relatives of immediate and related families and had assorted papers, marriage invitations, and funeral prayer cards with names, places, and dates.

It was early days in personal computing, and I used a program called 'Brother's Keeper' to input names, dates, and places on my home computer. I made numerous printouts (on a dot-matrix printer) of family group sheets and graphic representations of family trees and postal mailed them to my parents and other relatives for updates and corrections. I had the use of a 'portable' computer from work that booted from a 5¼ inch floppy disk (Drive A:) and wrote to a 5¼ inch floppy disk (Drive B:). I took it with me to my parents' home in Buffalo, New York, where they were able to tell me things in person and correct my myriad mistakes in real-time.



In addition to the events they were sure about, I encouraged my parents to tell me stories about people and places. I told them they were clues, and gave me a start on things to verify, like city, county, state, and church records. I checked the original records myself when I could in Buffalo City Hall and the Erie County Courthouse. I asked for church and cemetery records. I researched federal census records at the National Archives office in Waltham, Massachusetts. I searched state microfilm records in Albany, New York. I ordered and viewed microfilm records at my local Rhode Island Family History Library at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). I found a lot of information in North America, including dates and locations of things that happened back in Poland.

But the records did not mention Poland! My great-grandfather's naturalization papers said he renounced his allegiance to the emperor of Germany. The names of places varied, and I found it difficult to read old hand-written records. My mother's parents came from Russia? It took me a while and a number of history books to figure out what was going on.

Pre-internet, I ordered Polish atlases and topographic maps to try to find the small villages that my ancestors had left to come to America. I even visited the Central Library in New York City to consult the *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich*. Warszawa: nakł. Filipa Sulimierskiego i Władysława Walewskiego, 1880-1914, the *Geographical Dictionary of the Polish Kingdom and other Slavic countries 1880-1914*. I was able to identify my grandmother's birthplace in Gnieszowice near Koprzywnica in the Sandomierz area of Poland and visited there in 2004. My grandfather's records had named Stodoły, so I drove through that village as well. I was satisfied with that.

A decade later, things have changed a great deal. *Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Pol-*

skiego i innych krajów słowiańskich is available online, and can be run through an online translator. It is not grammatically correct, but you can get the gist! Google has mapped out Poland, and you can find and virtually travel through the small villages that had been so elusive a decade previously. Wikipedia, in English and Polish, gives information on the little villages, their history and current status, at literally the touch of a button.

Best of all, **Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne**, the **Polish Genealogical Society**, has posted the records from many Polish churches and synagogues online at their *Genealodzy* website at <http://genealodzy.pl>. There are gaps in the records (not everything was recorded) and gaps in the indexes (not all records were indexed well). They are from Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish sources. One copy was kept in the parish or synagogue, and one was sent to the government. The original project was to put online the index at the back of the record books. If there were errors in the register indices, they merely looked more official online. Some volunteers are doing a second pass, re-indexing the original records.

Geneteka, the index database at <http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/index.php?lang=eng> is the best place to start. It shows a map of Poland with the boundaries of the current voivodeships (provinces) as they have been since 1999 (cover picture).



If you know the current province for an ancestral village, you can search the index of birth, marriage, and death records for the whole province, or a specific location. If you do not know the current province where your ancestors are from, you have two options:

Search the family name by clicking on upper left “Check occurrence of last name.”

- For a common Polish name like my father’s, **Maciejewski**, the results are not very useful, but it is easy to see where most people named **Skrok** (my mother’s family name) were found:

Check the occurrence of the name

Last name from year to year

Exact search

Provinces	Births	Deaths	Marriages
dolnośląskie			
kujawsko-pomorskie	1102	725	549
lubelskie	129	56	134
lubuskie	1		
łódzkie	5792	3018	2494
małopolskie	119	83	97
mazowieckie	4163	2451	2088
Warszawa	887	513	797
opolskie		2	1
podkarpackie	44	18	43
podlaskie	293	152	136
pomorskie	488	378	213
śląskie	73	63	35
świętokrzyskie	1808	1167	785
warmińsko-mazurskie	48	26	31
wielkopolskie	835	421	430
zachodniopomorskie			
Ukraina	159	68	42
Białoruś	188	87	65
Litwa	225	107	152
Rosja			
Total	16.354	9.335	8.092
			33.781

Check the occurrence of the name

Last name from year to year

Exact search

Provinces	Births	Deaths	Marriages
dolnośląskie			
kujawsko-pomorskie			
lubelskie	4	21	8
lubuskie			
łódzkie	1		
małopolskie			
mazowieckie	18	7	4
Warszawa	3		3
opolskie			
podkarpackie	31	1	
podlaskie			
pomorskie		2	
śląskie	1		1
świętokrzyskie	329	268	154
warmińsko-mazurskie			
wielkopolskie			
zachodniopomorskie			
Ukraina	1		
Białoruś			
Litwa			
Rosja			
Total	388	299	170
			857



You can also click on the church icon from the main page to “Search the Index of the Parishes/Records of Poland.” Only the first few letters of the city, town, or village are needed.

American records said that my grandmother, Agnieszka Kapuścińska, was born in 1895 in Gniesznowice, Koprzywnica, and my grandfather, Jan Skrok, was born in 1892 in Kaliszany, Wojciechowice.

- A search for my grandmother’s birth village of Gniesznowice does not come up, but a Wikipedia search for Gniesznowice shows that it is “a village in the administrative district of Gmina Koprzywnica, within Sandomierz County, Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, in south-central Poland.”
- A search for “Koprz” shows that in the locality (Miejscowość) there are two parishes (Wezwanie). Koprzywnica is currently in the province (Województwo) Świętokrzyskie, but it was formerly (*stare* means old) in the province Tarnobrzeskie, and the county (Powiat) is Sandomierski.

wyszukaj dokładnie search deeply

Parafia Wyszukaj

Parish [Type the first letter/s of the town] [Search]

Lp.	Miejscowosc	Wezwanie	Erygowana	Województwo	(stare)	Powiat	Wyznanie
1	Koprzywnica	MB Różańcowej	2000	świętokrzyskie	tarnobrzeskie	sandomierski	rzym-kat
2	Koprzywnica	św.Florigana	1185	świętokrzyskie	tarnobrzeskie	sandomierski	rzym-kat

Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne

One of the nice things about the Geneteka database is that it is forgiving of differences in gender and diacritical marks. Thus, a search of Kapuscinski births (urodzenia) in Koprzywnica shows a listing for **Agnieszka Kapuścińska** in 1895, entry 38 of that year (rok):

Wyszukaj w zasobach (świętokrzyskie)

Księga od roku do roku

Nazwiska Wyszukiwanie dokładne

[1]

Zindeksowane parafie w promieniu 15km: Goźlice, Klimontów (pow. sandomierski), Klonownica, Łoniów, Miechocin-Stale, Obrazów, Osiek, Osiek (synagoga), Sandomierz (par. Św.Pawła), Sulisławice, Wiązownica-Kolonia

Lata: 1810-77,79-1910, Katalog Zasobów Metrykalnych

Księga - Urodzenia (U)

L.p.	Rok	Akt	Imię Nazwisko	Imię ojca	Imię matki	Nazwisko matki	Parafia	Uwagi	Dodał
1	1895	38	Agnieszka Kapuścińska				Koprzywnica		
2	1900	257	Marianna Kapuścińska				Koprzywnica		
3	1897	249	Mikołaj Kapuścińska				Koprzywnica		
4	1893	7	Antoni Kapuściński				Koprzywnica		
5	1895	124	Jan Kapuściński				Koprzywnica		
6	1897	139	Jan Kapuściński				Koprzywnica		
7	1899	129	Jan Kapuściński				Koprzywnica		
8	1892	43	Józef Kapuściński				Koprzywnica		

[1]

Autorzy indeksów wybranej miejscowości: Wojciech_Liśkiewicz, Ciesielski_Marcin

A search of Kapuscinski marriages (małżeństwa) in Koprzywnica shows the marriage of **Agnieszka's** parents **Wincenty Kapuściński** and **Maryanna Witoń** in 1887 (entry 16). It is on line 15 below:

LJ

Zindeksowane parafie w promieniu 15km: Goźlice, Klimontów (pow. sandomierski), Klonownica, Łoniów, Miechocin-Stale, Obrazów, Osiek, Osiek (synagoga), Sandomierz (par. Św.Pawła), Sulisławice, Wiązownica-Kolonia

Lata: 1810-1910, Katalog Zasobów Metrykalnych

Księga - Małżeństwa (M)

Lp.	Rok	Akt	Imię Nazwisko	Naz. matki	Imię Nazwisko	Naz. matki	Parafia	Uwagi	Dodał
1	1858	54	Józef Bokwa		Magdalena Kapuścińska		Koprzywnica		
2	1851	15	Marcin Ciach		Jadwiga Kapuścińska		Koprzywnica		
3	1880	26	Mateusz Gach		Julianna Kapuścińska		Koprzywnica		
4	1894	18	Andrzej Kapuściński		Maryanna Śmich		Koprzywnica		
5	1832	18	Florian Kapuściński		Franciszka Bobniak		Koprzywnica		
6	1856	1	Grzegorz Kapuściński		Małgorzata Szczepaniak		Koprzywnica		
7	1837	1	Jan Kapuściński		Marianna Płaneta		Koprzywnica		
8	1883	35	Józef Kapuściński		Katarzyna Skrok		Koprzywnica		
9	1857	10	Kazimierz Kapuściński		Regina Witoń		Koprzywnica		
10	1871	15	Marcin Kapuściński		Katarzyna Mucha		Koprzywnica		
11	1862	28	Piotr Kapuściński		Teresa Kaczoroska		Koprzywnica		
12	1833	30	Stanisław Kapuściński		Jadwiga Kasińska		Koprzywnica		
13	1825	3	Stanisław Kapuściński		Marianna Sołtyczyzna		Koprzywnica		
14	1837	9	Szymon Kapuściński		Krystyna Siudak		Koprzywnica		
15	1887	16	Wincenty Kapuściński		Maryanna Witoń		Koprzywnica		
16	1851	8	Józef Kołacz		Agnieszka Kapuścińska		Koprzywnica		
17	1849	21	Marcin Marzec		Franciszka Kapuścińska		Koprzywnica		
18	1898	30	Andrzej Paruch		Katarzyna Kapuścińska		Koprzywnica		
19	1858	25	Wojciech Paruch		Maria Kapuścińska		Koprzywnica		
20	1863	38	Walenty Pękala		Marianna Kapuścińska		Koprzywnica		
21	1903	24	Tomasz Stańczak		Franciszka Kapuścińska		Koprzywnica		

Searching for the birth of **Jan Skrok** in Wojciechowice was even more successful. The indexer, **Tadeusz Łukaszek**, included the names of Jan's parents, **Wincenty Skrok** and **Marianna Kasprzyk** on line 17, year 1892, entry 68. Hovering over the dotted icon in the remarks column gives the date of birth: 1892-06-22, the place: Wojciechowice, and remarks: Kaliszany 1892.06.22.

Book - Births (B)

L.p.	Year	Act	Name Last name	Father's name	Mother's name	Mother's last name	Parish	Remarks	Author
1	1888	138	Łucja Brzozowska	Stanisław	Marianna	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
2	1892	96	Katarzyna Gagat	Wojciech	Franciszka	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
3	1889	71	Magdalena Gagat	Wojciech	Franciszka	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
4	1905	40	Helena Kęsy	Jan	Józefa	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
5	1903	18	Kazimierz Kęsy	Jan	Józefa	Skrok	Wojciechowice		
6	1902	40	Kazimierz Kęsy	Jan	Józefa	Skrok	Wojciechowice		
7	1891	37	Marianna Kwiatkowska	Szczepan	Marianna	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
8	1889	11	Katarzyna Różalska	Jan	Franciszka	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
9	1893	41	Franciszek Rzepka	Ignacy	Małgorzata	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
10	1890	95	Jan Rzepka	Ignacy	Marianna	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
11	1889	33	Józefa Rzepka	Ignacy	Małgorzata	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
12	1900	15	Julianna Rzepka	Ignacy	Małgorzata	Skrok	Wojciechowice		
13	1896	20	Władysław Rzepka	Ignacy	Małgorzata	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
14	1891	122	Aniela Skrok	Wojciech	Marianna	Piotrowska	Wojciechowice		SKAN
15	1891	65	Antonina Skrok	Wincenty	Marianna	Kasprzyk	Wojciechowice		SKAN
16	1905	121	Helena Skrok	Jan	Marianna	Kałuza	Wojciechowice		SKAN
17	1892	68	Jan Skrok	Wincenty	Marianna	Kasprzyk	Wojciechowice		SKAN
18	1889	46	Stanisław Skrok	Wincenty	Marianna	Kasprzyk	Wojciechowice		SKAN
19	1888	51	Stanisław Skrok	Wojciech	Marianna	Piotrowska	Wojciechowice		SKAN
20	1894	121	Stanisława Skrok	Wincenty	Marianna	Kasprzyk	Wojciechowice		SKAN
21	1896	129	Zofia Skrok	Wincenty	Marianna	Kasprzyk	Wojciechowice		SKAN
22	1888	139	Jan Walczak	Franciszek	Katarzyna	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN

We also can see that Jan had an older brother, **Stanisław**, born in 1889, an older sister, **Antonina**, born in 1891, and two younger sisters, **Stanisława**, born in 1894, and **Zofia**, born in 1896. Only **Jan** and **Stanisława** emigrated to Buffalo, so I did not know of the other three siblings. **Jan** and **Stanisława** had **Rzepka** cousins in western New York, children of **Ignacy** and **Małgorzata Rzepka**, and we can see here that **Małgorzata**'s birth name was **Skrok**. A click of the SKAN button on the right brought up the Metryki website with a scanned copy of the actual register pages!

Searching Skrok marriages in Wojciechowice was also rewarding. The marriage of **Jan**'s parents **Wincenty Skrok** and **Maryanna Kasprzyk** in 1887 (entry 2) is on line 18 below. The indexer included the names of the bride and groom's parents.

Wincenty Skrok's mother's birth name was listed as **Kopka** (but further research of the actual records show it to be **Kolek**). Hovering over the dotted icon showed **Wincenty**'s father's name, **Łukasz**, and his mother's name, **Katarzyna**.

Maryanna Kasprzyk's mother's birth name is listed as **Bartkiewicz**, and hovering over the dotted icon shows **Maryanna**'s father's name, **Jan**, and her mother's name, **Małgorzata**.

Hovering over the dotted icon in the remarks column gives the place: Wojciechowice, the date of the marriage: 1887-01-19, and remarks: Kaliszany 1887.01.19. Again, pressing the SKAN button opened the Metryki webpage with a scanned copy of the actual register pages!

Last name Exact search

[1]

Indexed parishes within 15 km: Ćmielów, Gierczyce, Jankowice Sandomierskie, Opatów, Ptkanów, Sobótka, Wszechświęte
Years: 1879-99, Katalog Zasobów Metrykalnych

Book - Marriages (M)

Lp.	Year	Act	Name Last name	Mother's last name	Name Last name	Mother's last name	Parish	Remarks	Author
1	1889	11	Wawrzyniec Baraban?	Nowacka	Teresa Gagat	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
2	1885	20	Stanisław Brzozowski	Okoniewska?	Marianna Skrok	Kolka?	Wojciechowice		SKAN
3	1896	8	Józef Grzegorz Chojnacki	Rejowska	Wiktoria Sewereńska	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
4	1890	23	Błażej Gagat	Skrok	Klara Dąbrowska	Szydłowska	Wojciechowice		SKAN
5	1899	6	Wincenty Gonkowski	Raczyńska	Zofia Sewereńska	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
6	1888	19	Stanisław Kęsy	Skrok	Anna Wójtowicz	Gołąb	Wojciechowice		SKAN
7	1881	21	Józef Kołodziej	Jagiełło?	Marianna Kęsy	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
8	1890	4	Kacper Michalski	Szwagierczak	Marcjanna Seweryńska	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
9	1898	34	Michał Pająk	Grudzień	Aniela Kwiatkowska	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
10	1888	36	Feliks Piotrowski	Piątek	Karolina Jarocho	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
11	1880	15	Jakub Piotrowski	P???	Helena Skrok	P???	Wojciechowice		SKAN
12	1884	16	Jan Przywara	Skrok	Marianna Kędziora	Salata	Wojciechowice		SKAN
13	1888	20	Jan Różalski	Orłowska	Franciszka Skrok	Łukasik	Wojciechowice		SKAN
14	1883	18	Ignacy Rzepka	Młynek?	Małgorzata Skrok	Kolek	Wojciechowice		SKAN
15	1887	38	Bonawentura Skrok	Kwiecień	Teresa Norowska	???	Wojciechowice		SKAN
16	1898	38	Jan Skrok	Lorent	Marianna Kałuża	Kędziora	Wojciechowice		SKAN
17	1887	34	Szczepan Skrok	Podeszwa?	Paulina Czyżeńska	Ptaszkiewicz	Wojciechowice		SKAN
18	1887	2	Wincenty Skrok	Kopka?	Marianna Kasprzyk	Bartkiewicz	Wojciechowice		SKAN
19	1899	33	Józef Szymański	Albinowska	Marianna Gagat	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN
20	1896	4	Jan Ziółkowski	Bezczowska	Franciszka Kwiatkowska	Skrok	Wojciechowice		SKAN

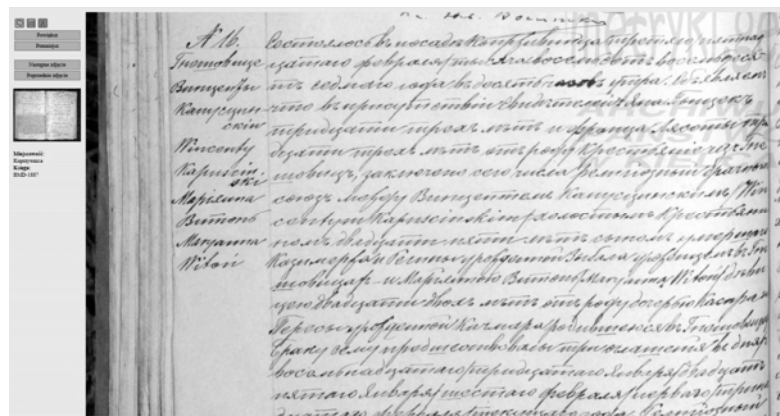
Metryki is another Polish database which allows you to see copies of the actual registers online at <http://metryki.genealodzy.pl/?lang=eng>. There are more indices posted online than scanned records, and the Polish Genealogical Society is posting more regularly. After clicking on a province, the counties (powiat) are listed, and you can see what records are available online. Urząd Stanu Cywilnego is the Registry Office. If both religious and civil records are available, they photograph whichever are in better condition.

After selecting a collection, a year, and type of record, the files (Pliki) of entry numbers become available. These are the files of marriage records from Koprzywnica in 1887:



Selecting the file opens the record, with options to scroll through or download the pages. In

1887, entry 16 was the marriage of **Wincenty Kapuściński** and **Maryanna Witoń**.



Polish nineteenth century records are often in the Napoleonic format and in the language and/or alphabet of the occupying government. That is why the 1887 records from the Sandomierz area are written in Cyrillic. Here the names in the margin and the text are also written using Roman letters. The wiki at https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland_Civil_Registration-Vital_Records

has background on the Napoleonic format.

If you are interested, here's a link to a short video of volunteers in Poland filming old baptism records: [3xe3xe3xe3&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xe3xe3xe3xe3).

I knew the names of my grandparents, and had seen their parents' names. Using the resources of the Polish Genealogical Society, I was able to verify the relationships, see the documents for myself, and reliably identify my great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents.

Try it yourself, and if you are able, please consider a donation to help keep the Polish Genealogical Society work going. They make it easy, just go to: <http://www.geneszukacz.genealodzy.pl/donate-eng>.

Member Moments

Some Tips from My Trip to Poland

by Arthur Thrun

I traveled from St. Louis to Toronto to Warsaw on Air Canada Rouge, which is the Canadian equivalent of a discount carrier. I am a retired Air Canada Regional Sales Manager, so I had the advantage of flying upfront where the seats are much more comfortable. However, one companion who sat in back did not have any complaints on the seating or the service in the rear of the plane.

With me were two of my friends who do genealogy, and we rented a Lexus van and put 1700 miles on the vehicle. One of the fellows bought a Garmin Polish GPS program (\$100), and we had no problems navigating throughout Poland. I used Hotels.com to book hotels and, since we had a vehicle to worry about, we made sure that parking was available. Since there were three of us, I tried to get accommodations that would put the three of us in one room. These are the places where we stayed while we were on the tourist portion of our trip:

In **Częstochowa** – the hotel Ibis Częstochowa was very clean, and the food was excellent. We stayed there one night and had 3 rooms for a total of \$143.



Dorothy's Restaurant

Krakow – Spatz Aparthotel – An excellent location for touring Old Krakow. We stayed two nights, one room, for \$229, which included a good breakfast. Parking was \$28 for the two days. There is an excellent restaurant within walking distance called Dorothy's, which is the best we experienced in Krakow, and a good dinner costs \$9-\$12.

Wagrowiec – Hotel Pietrak is a resort hotel on a lake. Good food, moderately priced. www.pietrak.pl

Koscierzyna area – Niedzwiadek Hotel and Spa is another resort hotel on a lake, also with excellent breakfast. We had a cabin which accommodated four of us (our translator joined us). www.hotelniedzwiadek.pl

We had a genealogist with us in Wagrowiec whom my companions have been using. He is very good because of his relationship with the Catholic Church. He has access to most dioceses, but concentrates in a specific area around Poznan. His name is Sebastian Bkochowiak (sebblo@wp.pl). Sebastian charges \$20 for the first hour, and after that it is \$15 per hour

and \$9 per document copy. Translation is a \$12 charge.

He was with us for three days working with the other two fellows, but he also did some work for me on my mother's side. He found me some records that were not available in the Poznan Project. His English is excellent, and he is very honest.

We had an excellent trip which was very successful for the three of us. I not only found a few facts on my ancestors, but also met other descendants who, on paper, have proven to be 3rd cousins. I first met Danka Thrun on Facebook and told her I would be coming to Poland. I did not have her address or phone number so, on a Saturday, my friends and I went to the local post office in her town, Koscierzyna, and there was a bulletin board on the wall with a note for anyone who needed insurance to call Danka. She works in the post office and sells insurance on the side. We called her number and went to the apartment house where she lives. We were not sure we had the right building, so we stopped a man walking on the dirt road who ended up being her father, and she came down. We went to the cemetery where she



Danka Thrun

showed us the graves of some of her family whom, when I saw the names, I immediately recognized as my ancestors. Danka speaks only Polish and Russian, so we had to use the interpreter. We continue to send messages through Facebook, but hers tend to be garbled using Google translator. Danka has brothers, so I hope one of them will do a Y- DNA test to prove positively that they are of my family. My grandfather left Koscierzyna in 1887, and to the best of my knowledge, no one in my family ever returned there.



Koscierzyna town square

Now all I have to do is find my great-grandfather. He got off the boat in 1887 with his two sons and was accepted by immigration, but that is the last record I have of him. His two sons ended up in Buffalo.

Donors to the Dziennik Digitization Project—Thank You!

- | | | |
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Update on the Grave Marker Project at St. Adalbert's Old Cemetery

By Edward Kornowski

Recently I visited St Adalbert's Cemetery on Dale Road to make some minor repairs to the replacement wooden cross of Michalina Buczkowska, 1898-1914, which is now located in the newer cemetery closest to Home Depot in Section C, Row 26, Grave 12. After two years of weather, there were a few places where the paint needed touching up. Thanks to a warm day, I was able to accomplish this in short order. The previous wooden cross stood for 100 years, and hopefully this new one will achieve the same longevity.

The replacement cross was made possible by generous donations from the Polish Community, which ultimately resulted in an overflow of funds that were ear-marked for other repair projects at the cemetery. I am happy to announce that, as a result, at least thirty other markers were repaired, and one child marker was completely replaced. The repaired markers were long-neglected and were selected based on preservation needs only.

Another project at the cemetery, during September 2014, involved searching for sunken markers. These were markers that for one reason or another sank into the soil by as much as eight inches and were no longer visible due to grass growing over them. Volunteers, including several members of the PGSNYS, used probes to locate these hidden markers. Afterwards, the cemetery staff uncovered them, but due to other obligations were not able to raise them at the time. As of this date, I am happy to report that we had located fifteen markers, nine of which had identifiable information, and most of them are now raised to ground level.

I sincerely thank the cemetery staff for their efforts, the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to these projects, and special thanks to everyone who donated money to this worthy endeavor.



Recipes from Dolores Konopa

Karen Gold's Grandmother's Pierogi Recipe

Dough:

5 cups sifted flour
1 tsp salt
1/4 lb. melted butter
1/2 cup milk
3 large eggs
8 oz. (1 cup) sour cream

Sift flour and salt into a large bowl. Add rest of ingredients. Mix into a soft dough until it's easy to handle. Knead on a floured surface for a few minutes. Cover and let dough rest about 15 minutes, more or less. Divide dough in half, and roll out thin. Keep other half covered. Cut circles with a large biscuit cutter. I use a teaspoon to place the filling on each round, slightly off-center. Moisten edges with water, fold over, and press edges together firmly. Drop pierogi into salted boiling water, turning them over while they are cooking. Lift out carefully with a slotted spoon, placing pierogis on a large cookie sheet to drain, cool, and dry.



Cheese filling:

1 1/2 lbs. farmers cheese (if using cottage cheese, drain using a coffee filter)
2 large eggs
salt & pepper to taste (I use cinnamon and/or nutmeg instead)

Mix together and keep refrigerated while not in use.

Sauerkraut Filling:

1 pkg. sauerkraut, drained (do not rinse)
1/2 lb. fresh mushrooms, diced
1 small onion, diced
salt & pepper to taste
4 to 8 tbsp. butter

Start with 4 tbsp. butter in sauté pan and melt on medium heat. Add onion and sauté until tender. Add mushrooms and sauté until tender. Chop sauerkraut roughly to break down any long pieces, then add to sauté pan. If mixture looks dry, add additional butter. Mix all ingredients together until incorporated and cooked, approximately 20 minutes. Remove from heat and cool before using in pierogi.

Chrusciki on next page...

Chrusciki (Bow Ties or Angel Wings)

6 egg yolks
 2 whole eggs
 pinch salt
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 1 jigger whiskey
 3 tablespoons melted butter
 2 cups flour, plus about 1/2 cup for kneading



Beat eggs, sugar, vanilla, whiskey, melted butter, and salt until fluffy. Add flour, mixing with a spoon until the sides of bowl are clean. Spread on floured board and knead about 10 minutes until it is not sticky. Divide dough into four parts. Take one part at a time and roll thin. Cut into strips, 1 x 2 1/2 inches. In each strip, make a small cut in the middle, put one end through, and pull.

Fry in deep fat. Makes about 7 dozen. These will keep. Store them in a roasting pan in a cool place.



My Research for My Family Line in America by Edward Prabucki

As I reached middle age, I had a passion for reading the biographies of historic rulers of ages past, including Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, Kings of Poland, and most of the presidents of the United States. Every biography revealed individuals who were passionate, some militaristic, some patriotic, and some self-serving. After decades of perusing and analyzing the lives of these historic rulers, I came to the conclusion that my father's family, and even more so my ancestors, were also historic – living in and surviving a millennia of violent times.

Therefore, I decided to pursue and obtain the residence of my father's relatives in the neighboring states of Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. In many of my father's discussions, mention was made of brief visits to Cleveland, Ohio by his cousins, Franciszek Prabucki and Alex Filipowicz, prior to WWI. They made train trips to Cleveland to visit Wladyslaw Prabucki, also our cousin. Needless to say, I continued on this path of research only to have it end in disappointment, as Wladyslaw volunteered for the Polish Blue Army in WWI and never returned to the United States. Other cousins in Ohio had either died or, for whatever reason, wouldn't correspond with me.

My dedication, my fondness to seek families with my surname, never ceased. I sought assistance from members of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State (PGSNYS) to

obtain the address of Prabucki families in Michigan. Michelle Prabucki from Saginaw, MI had gladly offered me her knowledge of her ancestors in Poland. Her records revealed her grandparents' arrival to America, but ended with no ability to connect her family line to mine. Another research disappointment, but I was still determined to research my family line in Pennsylvania.

I recalled my father's discussion of John and Ewa, with sons John Jr. and Walter Prabucki. Thanks to the PGSNYS, I obtained information on Prabuckis in Pittsburg, PA. My mail to Pittsburg was returned (return to sender – no forwarding address). John and Ewa passed away decades ago, and Walter Prabucki lost his life in WWII. His brother John Jr. passed away soon after without descendants. With this disappointment, I felt unequal to my task, fearing I had overreached myself.

Nevertheless, I continued, thanks to my ardent supporters. In due time, I obtained the address of P.F.C. William Prabucki of Erie, PA. After two attempts to correspond, William, who was handicapped by his service in the Korean War while a POW, informed me he had no knowledge of his ancestral family.

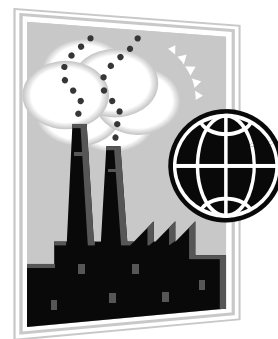
Once again, with the best intentions in my aims, in my research, and in my correspondence, I had reached a dead-end. However, my dedication to researching my family line will continue to infinity.



Creating a Family Timeline

by Denise Oliansky

With all the shows on TV recently about climate change and global warming, this morning as I walked into work, I found myself thinking about Earth Day and how, even though that annual event was created so many years ago, the message was basically the same as it is today – we need to take care of our planet before we totally mess it up beyond repair. And that thought reminded me that I actually participated in that very first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, as a 14-year old Girl Scout picking garbage out of creeks (or 'criks' as we called them) in our community. And that got me thinking about genealogy and timelines and how including details about our personal experience of important and timely events would probably make it a much more interesting read.



As genealogists we've been hearing about using timelines to organize a family's history for ages, but I think it could be more than just fitting our family events into an historical timeline that highlights what was going on in the world in any given year. While we may not be able to provide any details about how our ancestors were affected by events in their lives, we can certainly fill in the blanks about our own experience of historic events. How often do we wish that our ancestors had written down their personal perceptions of events surrounding them! How much more personal and real would historical events be for future generations – like those who could not have any true understanding of how powerful that first Earth Day was – to be able to read about what 3rd Great-Aunt Denise did to participate and what it meant to her to do so.

Anyway, all that thinking exhausted me, so I took a break to put thoughts to paper. I mean, really – it is a monumental task when you think about it. It's the quintessential walk down memory

lane! How many events make up our lives? Not just those in our personal lives, but also how we were affected by world events. Obviously we can't write about every event – mostly because it would get very boring, very quickly. But even thinking about those events that I remember vividly and which affected me the most – there's a lot! In 60+ years I've been witness to some amazing and wonderful and horrific things that have happened in this world, as well as memorable events in my life and that of my family.

So, perhaps a good place to start in our timeline would be to answer for future generations some of those big questions we have heard over the years and include our own perception of the events. For example, **Where were you when President Kennedy was shot?** *How can I forget sitting in the family room on November 22, 1963, watching my mother, who was standing not two feet from the black and white television, watching the screen and crying. I was only eight, but it is a vivid memory. I'm sure I understood what had happened, that our president had been shot, but what affected me most at the time was how it affected my mother.* **How did you feel as the first human walked on the moon on July 20, 1969?** *Incredible pride and awe at such a triumph! Really for the whole space program! – like those delicious moments of excitement and anxiety every time we waited for the return capsule from a manned spaceflight to appear in the sky and the relief we felt when it finally hit the water and the astronauts popped the hatch and emerged unscathed!* **Were you affected by any wars?** *For my generation it was Viet Nam. My age group was just a little too young to be involved, and at the time I didn't know anyone who served, but I was intrigued by the hippies and the peace rallies and proud to wear a bracelet for a soldier who was MIA/POW, and every day I read the papers when they ran the lists of soldiers who arrived home and was so happy when I saw his name.* **Where were you when the Challenger space shuttle blew up on January 28, 1986?** *I was working in Detroit. It was such a big event, because a civilian school teacher going along, so the TV was on in the conference room so we could watch. The news replayed the liftoff and explosion over and over again. It was unbelievable. You didn't want to believe it happened.* **Where were you the morning of September 11, 2001?** *I was in my car returning from a job interview in Ann Arbor, Michigan when I heard on the radio about the planes hitting the towers. I immediately called my parents in Buffalo because I had no idea how widespread the attack was, and I wanted to be sure they were safe. I was talking to my dad as the radio reported a third plane hit the Pentagon. Despite the many incredible acts of heroism in response to this tragedy, this event unsettled my faith in God and humanity, something I had to work through for weeks to come.*

These are just examples of events that impacted my own life. There have been so many world events, good and bad, that have affected us. For each of us there are those events that we will never forget and which we know impacted us in some permanent way. It's going to be different for each of us. When you are creating your timeline and writing your family history, bring some focus to those events that were most significant to you. Share in your writing what they meant to you. And not just world events – many things happen in our own lives and those of our family members that leave a profound impact. Putting flesh to the bare bones of names, places, and dates is what brings a family history to life. It makes our story more interesting to write and to read and, in the long run, provides future generations with at least a glimmer of what their ancestors experienced in their lives.



Donors to the PGSNYS Polish Dinner—Thank You!

RAFFLE:	Olive Tree	Polish Villa (Union Road)
TV - friend of PGSNYS	Salvatore's	Potts Deli
Marv Levy Plaque - Bases Loaded	Duffs	Bobby J's
Snow, Fall, & Italian Baskets - friend of PGSNYS	Kentucky Greg's	Russell's
DESSERTS:	French Pub	Paula's Donuts
Chrusciki Bakery	Altons (Transit Road)	Anderson's Frozen Custard
CHINESE AUCTION ITEMS:	Elaine's Flower Shoppe	Prima Oliva
Delta Sonic	Nickel Creek Cafe	Many thanks as well to all the PGSNYS Members who bought and sold dinner tickets and donated baskets and desserts!!
Market in the Square	Yia Yia's Chocolates	

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2016 PGSNYS Year in Review

2016 was a busy year for PGSNYS! Here are some of the events which we sponsored and in which we participated, the presentations we provided to other groups, and the presentations we enjoyed at our monthly meetings during this past year.

Presentations at PGSNYS Meetings:

February 11 - Nicole Pohancsek - Her Trip to Poland

April 14 - Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz - Locating Vital Records in Poland Using Online Resources (our largest meeting ever!)

June 9 - Denise Oliansky - How I Found My Birth Family

August 11 - Patricia Rooney - Transforming Your Family Tree into a Story Book

September 8 - Chuck Pyrak - How to Use the *Dziennik* Death Notices Database on the PGSNYS website

Presentations given by David Newman on Polish Genealogical Research:

March 5 - Mt. Calvary Cemetery Group

May 14 - Jamestown Family History Fest (LDS FHC, Jamestown, NY)

June 14 - Erie (PA) Genealogical Society

June 29 - Niagara County Genealogical Society

October 15 - Buffalo Family History Seminar (LDS FHC, Williamsville, NY)

October 19 - Polish Arts Club of Buffalo

PGSNYS Roadshow at Invited Events

July 16-17 - Polish American Arts Festival & Pulaski Parade, Cheektowaga Town Park

October 1 - Genealogy Fair, Erie (PA) Genealogical Society

October 30 - All Souls/Polish Ancestor Day, St. Stanislaus Cemetery

November 6 - PACWNY's Zupapalooza (Polish Soup Festival), Leonard Post, Cheektowaga

PGSNYS Events

July 9 - PGSNYS picnic

September 10 - PGSNYS Genealogy Fair, St. Gabriel's Church, Elma, NY

October 23 - PGSNYS Polish Dinner Fundraiser, Potts Deli and Grille

December 8 - PGSNYS Christmas Party



Pulaski Parade



Helping at Polish American Arts Festival



Candles at All Souls Event



Crowd at Zupapalooza



Erie PA Genealogy Fair



Polish Dinner Auction Items



Christmas Party



Working the Polish Dinner

2017 PGSNYS Board of Directors



Left to right: Denise Oliansky (Secretary), Sherry Sojka (Vice President), Maria Slomczewski (Trustee), Pierre LaJoie (Trustee), Nicole Pohancsek (President), Sharon Voigt (Trustee), and Chuck Pyrak (Treasurer). Missing from the photo: Trustees Elizabeth Nowak and Charles Penasack

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