

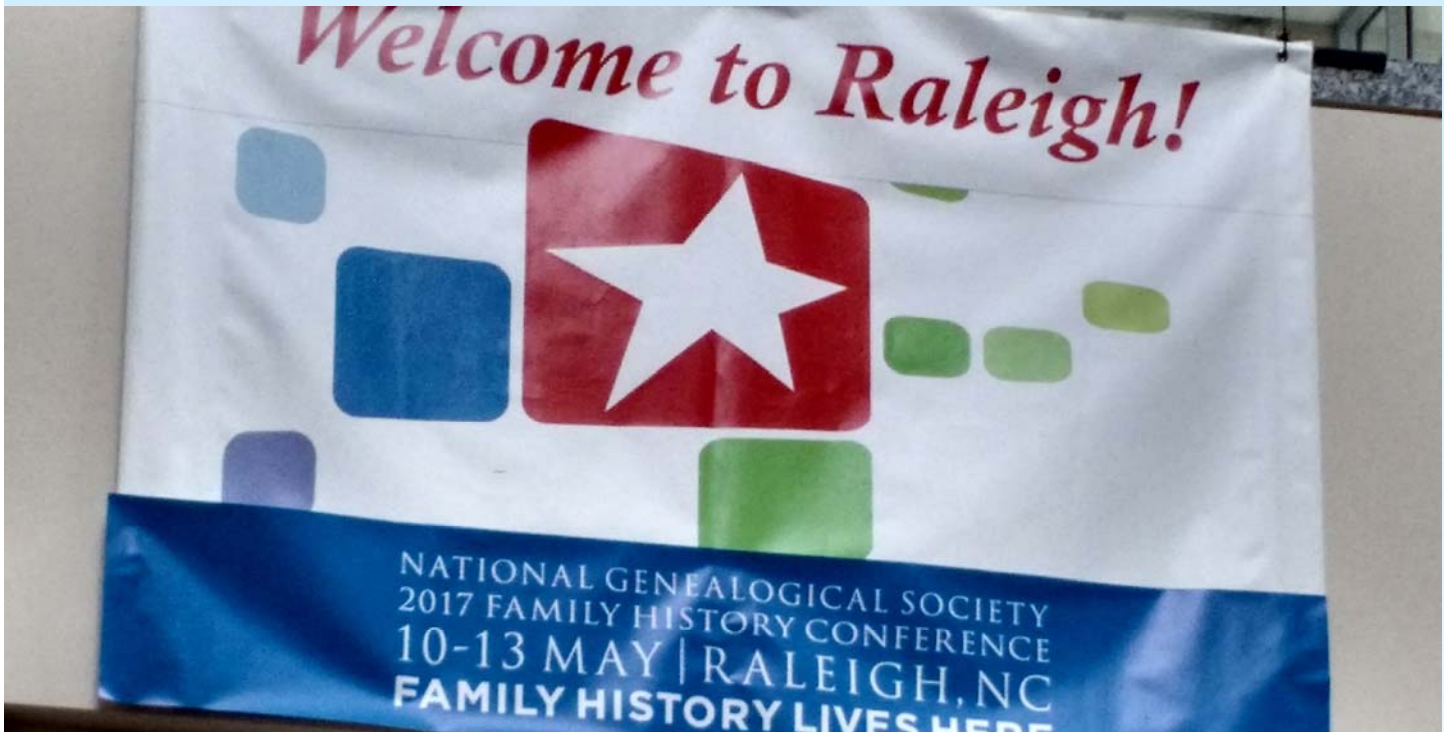
PRESERVING
OUR PAST
SINCE 1988

SEARCHERS

NO. 75

SUMMER

2017, ISSUE 2



NGS Conference: Things I Learned I Should Be Doing Better, Page 12

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PGSNYS: For Your Information	2	2017 NGS Conference: Things I Learned I Should Be Doing Better	12
President's Message & Potpourri	3	Genealogy Events Close to Home and Still to Come in 2017	15
Changing Names in America: From Maciejewski to Warner	4	Surname Index for this Issue	16
Using Church Records to Find My Great-Grandparents' Original Villages	10	PGSNYS at the 2017 Polish American Arts Festival (photo)	16

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

If you are a member, but not receiving E-mail from the PGSNYS mailing list, please send an E-mail to membership@pgsnys.org

2017 PGSNYS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PGSNYS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Nicole Pohancsek
Vice President: Sherry Sojka
Secretary: Denise Oliansky
Treasurer: Chuck Pyrak

Webmaster: Chuck Pyrak

PGSNYS TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Nowak
Maria Slomczewski
Charles Penasack
Pierre LaJoie
Sharon Voigt

Historian:

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Searchers Denise Oliansky
Library Laurel Keough
Media Maureen Gleason
Membership Donna Ciulis
Hospitality Rita Hider
Special Events Dolores Ferguson
& Patricia Rooney
Dziennik Project Maureen Gleason

Searchers is a publication
of the Polish Genealogical
Society of New York State,
ISSN #1528-672X
© 2017, Polish
Genealogical Society of
New York State,
All rights reserved.

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

It's crazy to think that we are more than half-way through the year. It seems like yesterday I had just begun my role as PGSNYS president. In these past 8 months, I have learned that what it really takes to run the PGSNYS are volunteers. You might not even notice all the work that goes on behind the scenes to make this Society run efficiently. There are people who set up the meetings, keep our library at Villa, manage our library collection at the downtown library, create, edit, and mail out the *Searchers* newsletters, provide refreshments for the meetings, create flyers, plan programming and events, write up meeting agendas and type up meeting Minutes, work on our website, run the roadshow, keep our computers up to date, look up *Dziennik* death notices, scan funeral cards, etc. I could keep going and going. It is amazing what efforts go into keeping this Society alive. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State. In September we celebrate 29 years as a Society!

In July I was able to do what I enjoy most, help other people with their genealogy at the Cheektowaga Polish Festival. The only way I can describe it is that it is like a Buffalo version of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' The stories people tell you about their families are amazing. I enjoy helping everyone -- from the people who don't even know who their Grandparents were, all the way to people who have done extensive research on their family. When I help other people with their genealogy it is my way of giving back to all the people who have helped me with my own family research. We are constantly in need of more volunteers, as we have a lot of different projects currently going on at the PGSNYS. Please email me (npohancsek@gmail.com) if you would like to give back to the Society in any way.

~Sincerely, Nicole Pohancsek

POTPOURRI

WITAMY! NEW PGSNYS MEMBERS

Marie Jusko
Blasdell, NY

Michael Mize
Hector, NY

Michelle Schroeder
Lancaster, NY

Tracy Rindone
Littlerock, WA

Susan Webster
West Seneca, NY

Babbidean Huber
Amherst, NY

Nancy Nowak
Lancaster, NY

Jeffrey Brylski
Peru, IL

Rob Mrowka
Franklinville, NY

Tristan Turk
Albany, NY

Karen Marciniak
Cheektowaga, NY

Sarah Iwanski
Guyton, GA

Michael Siwiec
Buffalo, NY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The dates for upcoming 2017 PGSNYS monthly membership meetings at 7 PM at Villa Maria College are Thursday, September 14, October 12, and November 9 in the cafeteria. There is no December meeting.

Saturday, September 9th from 11am to 3pm is the annual PGSNYS Genealogy Fair at St. Gabriel's Church on Clinton Street in Elma. At 1:00 is a presentation by Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz. Details on Page 15.

October 7th WNYGS and NYG&B Family History Conference at the Embassy Suites, 200 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY from 8:30am-4:30pm. An excellent local conference, and PGSNYS will have a table at the event. More information about the conference is on Page 15.

Changing names in America: from Maciejewski to Warner

by Sandra Maciejewski Porter

Polish names are sometimes a mouthful, difficult to pronounce and confusing for English speakers. An ethnic name would mark a person as different. As immigrants and their children tried to assimilate into American culture, many original ethnic names were modified or altered.

Name changes became a challenge in researching my own family history, when I learned that two of my grandfather's brothers and their offspring used the family name **Warner** instead of their birth name of **Maciejewski**. I recently asked several Warner descendants how their family name changed from Maciejewski to Warner, and they did not know. In the twenty-first century, some Warner descendants were not even aware that the ancestral family name had been Maciejewski!

My grandfather, **Antoni Maciejewski**, was just a baby in 1884 when he came to America with his parents, **Jan** and **Weronika Lewandowski Maciejewski**. The family lived on Townsend Street in Buffalo, and the births of **Konstanty**, **Wiktorya**, **Marya Magd.**, **Anna**, and **Ludwik** soon followed. While I did not find their original births recorded in civil records for the state of New York or the city of Buffalo, I found the children's baptismal records in the registers of St. Stanislaus RC Church in Buffalo, New York.¹

Entry	Year	Name
97	1885	Konstanty
147	1886	Wiktoria
497	1888	Marya Magdalena
582	1891	Anna
655	1894	Ludwik

Each baptism entry extended across two pages, put together below for conciseness. After the entry number in the book are the child's name, the date of baptism, the date of birth, the father's name and birthplace, the mother's name and birthplace, the child's sponsors (godparents), and the person who performed the sacrament.

The youngest son, **Ludwik Maciejewski**, used the name **Louis Warner** in the 1930s. While his name was **Louis Maciejewski** on his death certificate and gravestone when he died in 1938, his widow and sons continued to use the family name **Warner**.

and George W. Helon (Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1998), other diminutives for Konstanty are *Kost*, *Kostek*, and *Kostuś*.

One can imagine my great-uncle Konstanty being called “Kostka” or “Kostek” or a variation as a child. If the ‘k’ sound is not voiced, it would sound something like “Gustka” or “Gustek.” When he became older, he likely preferred it shortened to “Gust.” When he identified himself as *Gust*, people assumed it meant *Gustav*, as in the 1910 census, or *August*, as in other documents. There is more about the relationships between the names Constantine and Gus, and Gus and the Polish name August, in Mike Campbell’s “Behind the Name” database.³

339	Maciejewski Gustav	14 card.	9M 21	25M 1	1/17
	Mary Gustav	15	9M 22	22M 1	1/12

In 1913, when Konstanty and Mary’s son **Daniel Maciejewski** was born, he was given the middle initial **K**. presumably after his father’s first name. *Daniel* is a name that is the same in Polish and English. Daniel was a pretty baby. His picture was featured in the *Buffalo Courier* for the week ending September 28, 1913.⁴

509

CITY OF BUFFALO—BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS. 438

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF ERIE, **CERTIFICATE AND RECORD OF BIRTH,**

Name of Child *Daniel K. Maciejewski* (If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed)

Place of Birth *301 Mills St.*

SEX <i>M</i>	Twin, Triplet or other? (To be answered only in event of plural births)	Number in order of birth	Legitimate? <i>Yes</i>	DATE OF BIRTH <i>March 23 1913</i> (Month) (Day) (Year)
FATHER <i>Joseph Maciejewski</i> RESIDENCE <i>301 Mills St.</i>		MOTHER <i>Mary Paulson</i> RESIDENCE <i>287 Mills St.</i>		
AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <i>28</i> (Years)	COLOR OR RACE <i>White</i>	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <i>25</i> (Years)		
BIRTHPLACE <i>Buffalo N.Y.</i>	OCCUPATION <i>Stamper</i>			
Number of Children born to this mother (including present birth) <i>2</i>	Number of children of this mother now living <i>1</i>			

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive at *8:15* a.m. on the date *March 23 1913*.

(Signature) *Helene J. ...*

Dated *25 March 1913*

Address *211 Fillmore*

Filed *19*



301	Maciejewski	Kostanty	Head	W	M	30
"	"	Maria	Wife	W	F	27
"	"	Daniel	Son	W	M	2
"	"	Alojzy	Son	W	M	9

In the 1915 New York State census, **Konstanty** and **Maria** lived at 301 Mills Street with their sons **Daniel** and **Alojzy** (above). Unfortunately, Alojzy Maciejewski died in 1917, and was not included with **August** and **Mary J. Maciejewski** in the 1920 census (below).

567	Maciejewski	August	Head	2	W	M	34
		Mary J.	Wife		F	W	31
		Daniel	Son		W	M	6

The family moved to 116 Ivy Street between 1920 and 1925, and **Constanty/ Constantine** and **Mary J. Maciejewski** are listed at that address for the 1930 and 1940 censuses (below, respectively).

116	248	353	Maciejewski, Constanty	Head	0	5500	M	W	45	M	27
			Mary J.	Wife			F	W	42	M	22
			Daniel	Son			M	W	17	S	
			Kajdanz, Jadwiga	Mother-in-law			F	W	73	M	19

70	3756	70	Maciejewski, Constantine	Head	M	W	55	M	70	7	New York	Same house
			Mary J.	Wife	F	W	52	M	70	6	New York	Same house

While census records listed the family name as Maciejewski until 1940, 'Aug' Warner is identified at 116 Ivy Street in the Buffalo City Directories as early as 1926. **Aug C (Mary) Warner** is the entry in 1931 at the same address.

WARNER
 " Angeline M sten Gt Lakes Transit Corp r285 Peach
 " Arth clk h40 Crossman
 " Arth B pres White Wile & Warner r765 Lafayette av
 " Aug auto mech r116 Ivy
 " Aug lab h66 Kermit av

1926

Warner Abr L (Cofa J) real est 28 Church R810 h
 701 Auburn av
 " Albert wirewkr r501 Madison
 " Albert J (Olive M) asmlbr h24 Rustic pl
 " Alf R (Alice) driver r25 Heward av
 " Alice E r600 Linden av
 " Arth B pres White Wile & Warner h765 Lafayette av
 " Aug (Rosa) lab h66 Kermit av
 " Aug C (Mary) auto mech h116 Ivy
 " Bertha E (wid Matthias) r600 Linden av
 " Bertha T prs opr r285 Peach

1931

In 1940, **August Warner** made his name official, with a birth certificate signed by his mother **Veronica** (1848-1943). She was in her nineties, and lived on Briscoe with her daughter. While usually a midwife or physician signed birth certificates, no one could deny that his mother was present at her son's birth!

DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

District No. 1401
COUNTY OF ERIE
CITY OF BUFFALO

Registered No. _____

No. 173 Townsend Street St.; Ward _____
(If birth occurred in a hospital or institution give its NAME instead of street and number)

RESIDENCE OF MOTHER: No. 173 Townsend St., City or Village Buffalo State NY
(Post-office address)

County Erie Town (if residence is outside city or incorporated village) _____

Full Name of Child **AUGUST WARNER** { If child is not yet named make supplemental report.

3 Sex **male** If plural births { 4 Twin, triplet or other _____ 6 Premature _____ (Months of gestation) _____ 7 Date of birth **Feb 27 1885** (Month) (Day) (Year)

8 Full name FATHER **John Warner** 16 Full maiden name MOTHER **Veronica**

9 Color or race **white** Age at last birthday **42** (Years) 17 Color or race **white** 18 Age at last birthday **42** (Years)

11 Birthplace (city or town) (State or country) **Germany** 19 Birthplace (city or town) (State or country) **Germany**

12 Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, lawyer, bookkeeper, etc. **laborer** 20 Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as housekeeper, typist, nurse, clerk, etc. **housewife**

13 Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, sawmill, bank, etc. **streets** 21 Industry or business in which work was done, as own home, lawyer's office, silk mill, etc. **own home**

14 Date (month and year) last engaged in this work **April 1895** 15 Total time (years) spent in this work **17** 22 Date (month and year) last engaged in this work **July 1915** 23 Total time (years) spent in this work **35 y**

24 Number of children of this mother (at time of this birth and including this child): (a) Born alive and now living **3** (b) Born alive but now dead **2** (c) Stillborn **none**

25 What preventive for ophthalmia neonatorum did you use? **none** If none, state the reason therefor _____

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*

I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was born alive at **12** M., on the date above stated.

(Signed) **Veronica X Warner**
Dated **July 17, 1940** (Physician, midwife, father, etc.)
Address **76 Briscoe**
Filed **July 17, 1940**

*When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, mother, householder, etc., should make this return. A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth.
Given name added from a supplemental report

Interestingly, as his father began to use the first name **August** instead of **Konstanty**, **Daniel** used the middle initial **A** (for August) instead of **K** (for Konstanty). In the 1940 census, **Daniel A. Warner** is listed with his wife and infant son living with his in-laws in Kenmore, New York (below).

Allegany	No 78 0 7000 H	Chandler, Arthur G	Husband	M	W	67	M	No 4	New York	Same house
		Jane E	Wife	F	W	64	M	No 8	England	Same house
		Dorothy	Daughter	F	W	25	S	No H-4	New York	Same house
		Warner, Daniel A	in-law	M	W	27	M	No H-4	New York	Buffalo
		Doris H.	Daughter	F	W	25	M	No H-4	New York	Same house
	Daniel A Jr.	Grand Son	M	W	1	S	No H-4	New York		

August and **Mary Warner** also moved to Kenmore. Unfortunately, **Daniel Warner** died in 1954, at the age of forty-one. He had served in the United States Army at the end of World War II. His widow applied for a government grave marker,⁵ and it was shipped to **August Warner** at 85 La Salle Avenue in Kenmore.

Suspended FEB 4 1955 6B H/S 12/16 ORIGINAL

1. NAME OF DECEASED—LAST—FIRST—MIDDLE (Print or type) WARNER Daniel A.			APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER (See attached instructions. Complete and submit original and duplicate)		
2. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, Day, Year) <i>Induction And</i> 2-26-44 ✓		3. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, Day, Year) <i>HONORABLE</i> 12-11-45 ✓		12. EMBLEM (Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN (Latin Cross) <input type="checkbox"/> HEBREW (Star of David) <input type="checkbox"/> NONE	
4. SERVICE NO. 42 094 476 ✓		5. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NO.		13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT BRONZE MARKER	
6. STATE NY ✓		7. GRADE Tech. 4th Gr. ✓		8. MEDALS	
9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, AND DIVISION OR SHIP 446th Ord. Heavy Automotive Maint. Co. ✓			14. SHIP TO (Name and address of person who will transport stone or marker to cemetery) <i>August Warner</i> 85 LA SALLE AVE KENMORE, N.Y.		
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) 3-23-13 ✓		11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) 12-12-54 ✓		15. FREIGHT STATION <i>Black Rock Buffalo New York</i>	
DO NOT WRITE HERE			16. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Elmlawn, Tonawanda, N.Y.		
RECEIVED DEC 16 1954		17. I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE OR MARKER HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT SAME TO THE CEMETERY. SIGNATURE <i>OK</i> DATE			
VERIFIED 15 MAR 1955		18. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Print or type) Doris H. Warner - 16 Allegany Ave., Kenmore 17, N.Y.			
B/L NY 3922081		19. I certify this application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, soldiers of Union and Confederate Armies of the Civil War. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for properly placing the stone or marker at the grave at no expense to the Government.			
ORDERED H. E. FLETCHER CO., INC. WEST CHELMSFORD, MASS		SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>Doris Warner</i>		DATE 12-13-54	

DMG FORM 646 REPLACES OQMG FORM 623, 8 FEB 49 WHICH MAY BE USED IMPORTANT—Reverse Side Must Be Completed 16-11453-9 APP

AGREED (over) 23 Dec 54



August Warner died in 1958, and, like his son, was buried in Elmlawn Cemetery in Tonawanda, New York.

His sisters never married. They had occasionally used the last name **Mack** instead of **Maciejewski**, but their final resting places are alongside their mother at St. Stanislaus RC Cemetery in Cheektowaga, New York.⁶

REFERENCES FOR THIS ARTICLE:

1. St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr RC Church (Buffalo, New York), Baptism Register, FHL microfilm . Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.
2. <http://www.polishroots.org/Research/SurnameSearch/DNNArticleArticleView/tabid/353/smld/742/ArticleID/612/refTab/351/t/Kostka/Default.aspx>
3. <http://www.behindthename.com/name/constantine>, <http://www.behindthename.com/name/gus-2>, <http://www.behindthename.com/name/gus-1>, <http://www.behindthename.com/name/august>
4. [http://Fultonhistory.com/Newspapers 21\Buffalo NY Courier\Buffalo Ny Courier 1913\Buffalo Ny Courier 1913 - 6161.pdf](http://Fultonhistory.com/Newspapers%20Buffalo%20NY%20Courier/Bufallo%20Ny%20Courier%201913/Bufallo%20Ny%20Courier%201913-6161.pdf)
5. Applications for Headstones for U.S. Military Veterans, 1925-1941. Microfilm publication M1916, 134 rolls. ARC ID: 596118. Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Record Group 92. National Archives at Washington, D.C.
6. Findagrave.com, Created by: gravefinderStStans, Record added: Aug 14, 2013, Find A Grave Memorial# 115477820

Using Church Records to Find My Great-Grandparents' Original Villages

by Sandra Maciejewski Porter

My great-grandfather, **Jan Maciejewski**, died in Buffalo in 1896. I found his death record in the registers of St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church in Buffalo, New York. His birthplace was listed as Tylice, Borus., the Latinized name for Prussia. I conjectured in a *Searchers* article in 2015 that he was originally from Tylice in Lower Silesian Voivodeship (southwest Poland). It turned out to be the wrong place.

Returning to the St. Stanislaus Church records, I found the baptism records of the children of **Jan** and **Weronika Lewandowski Maciejewski** who were born in Buffalo between 1885 and 1894: **Konstanty, Wiktorya, Marya Magd., Anna, and Ludwik** (see Page 5 for a photo of the records).

Although I was clearly able to identify **Tylice** from the baptismal records as the birthplace of Jan or Weronika, **Nieżywieć** was a little harder to decipher. Looking at Google maps, I was able to find a location in which the two villages are in close proximity.



Wikipedia identifies **Tylice** as a village in the administrative district of Gmina Bobrowo, within Brodnica County, Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, in north-central Poland. It lies approximately 3 kilometres (2 mi) south-west of Bobrowo, 11 km (7 mi) west of Brodnica, and 50 km (31 mi) north-east of Toruń.

Nieżywieć is described as a village in the administrative district of Gmina Bobrowo, within Brodnica County, Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, in north-central Poland. It lies approximately 8 kilometres (5 mi) west of Bobrowo, 16 km (10 mi) west of Brodnica, and 45 km (28 mi) northeast of Toruń.

Previously the area was in the region of Toruń. (I toured Toruń during my trip to Poland in 2004, without knowing the proximity to my ancestors' place of origin.)

I had an idea when to look for their marriage record in Poland, because in the 1930 census (below), the widowed Veronica Maciejewski was living at 74 Briscoe Avenue in Buffalo with her daughter Anna. Veronica's age was listed as 79, and she said that her age at her first (and only) marriage was 18. Sixty-one years before 1930 was 1869.

74	214	243	Maciejewska, Veronica	Head-H	9000	R	W	F	W	74	Wid
			Anna	Daughter			V	F	W	38	S

I ordered the films from the LDS Library. The copy is very dark and difficult to read, but the marriage register from Kosciól św. Jana Ewangelisty (Church of St. John the Baptist) in the village of Nieżywieć shows the marriage of **Johann Maciejewski** and **Veronica Lewandowska** on 26 October 1869.



In 1869, this area was under German rule, and the church records are a mixture of Latin, Polish, and German. I can read little more than the names and some of the places, but all the first names are German: Johann instead of the Polish Jan, Veronica instead of the Polish Weronika. The last names are Polish: Maciejewski and Lewandowska.

In German, Nieżywieć was Niezywienc, and the nearby village of Tylice was Tillitz. They were in the Kries (district) of Strasburg (Polish Brodnica), in the Regierungsbezirk (administrative region) Marienwerder or Westpreußen (West Prussia).

After World War I, the country of Poland was re-established in the Treaty of Versailles. Poland was guaranteed a route to the sea. Most of the inhabitants of this area were Polish, so between the world wars this area was the Polish Corridor to the Baltic Sea and the Free City of Danzig (Gdańsk).

Over the years, the powiat of Brodnica has also been part of Pomerania and the Bydgoszcz Voivodeship. Since 1999, it is in Kujawsko-Pomorskie, the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship.

As usual in research, finding answers often leads to more questions. In the 1900 census, Veronica reported she had birthed fourteen children, with six still living. It makes me wonder what happened between their marriage in 1869 and the year 1884, which is when **Jan** and **Weronika Maciejewski** came to America with their infant son, my grandfather **Antoni Maciejewski**.

2017 National Genealogical Conference: Things I Learned I Should Be Doing Better

by Denise M Oliansky

This year, because a scheduled vacation precludes my going to the Federation of Genealogical Society Conference in Pittsburgh, PA at the end of August, I decided to attend my first National Genealogical Society Conference from May 10-13 in Raleigh, NC. I was anticipating it would be a much larger conference and have a ton more presentation options to choose from during each session throughout the four days. All told, more than 175 lectures and workshops were offered! To lessen the likelihood of getting overwhelmed, I decided to focus my choices to those topics that would help me improve my research process. The conference presentations were grouped into themes (or tracks), and I picked lectures relevant to my goal, including some from the Skill Building, Research Planning, and Organizing Research tracks, among others.

Well, my goodness, did I ever learn a lesson about what I need to be doing better!! Basically, my research process has been along these lines: collect, collect, collect; jot down notes on scraps of paper; save digital copies of lots of documents and photos; and (assuming I can find those scraps of paper) enter names, dates, and places into my Family Tree Maker software along with the digitalized documents and photos. What I have NOT been doing well at all, and certainly not in a consistent manner, is **using a research log, documenting all my sources, and documenting proof arguments and proof summaries** when there are discrepancies to be resolved in the information I find.

Especially fantastic about the lectures I attended on these topics was, not only did the speakers point out the importance of always doing these all-important steps, but they provided extremely practical and user-friendly tools for implementing these steps into my research process. While some speakers had created databases specific to these tasks, by far the easiest and most accessible (free) tool discussed was the Excel spreadsheet. With a few column headings, every one of these steps can be easily accomplished, resulting in an efficient, accurate, organized, and well-documented research summary. Information from the spreadsheet can then be easily entered into whatever genealogy software is being used or, if paper copies are preferred, downloaded into reports.

Since the conference, I have basically restarted my research on the Koralewski family, but this time I am going about it in a methodical and well-documented manner, using one spreadsheet to log my research questions, enter my findings, document my sources, and resolve discrepant information for each family unit (husband, wife, children) of the eight children of my immigrant great-grandparents, Marcellus and Antonina (Pulczynska) Koralewski.

My process has changed, and improved, a lot. I enter questions I want to answer on the research log part of the spreadsheet before I even go to a library or archive, or before I open

Ancestry.com or whatever online source I plan to use that day. Then I document on the spreadsheet, as I go along, every finding that answers a specific question, rather than waiting until I've collected a bunch of stuff and then try to organize it. At the same time I am entering on the spreadsheet, in proper style, every source as I use it, so I have a complete and accurate record of where I found each of those answers.

Table 1 is an example of one entry from my Koralewski Research spreadsheet. In real life these columns are all in one long line, but to fit here, I have broken the headings into three groups of columns. The first group addresses the research question (or proof point) that I wanted to answer that day (19 May 2017); namely, what was the death date of Walenty Koralewski? The second group of columns provides source documentation, and the third group of columns provides the result of the search and additional information, such as in the Notes column. If there had been a discrepancy in the date of death – for example, if one source reported 24 April 1929 and another reported 27 April 1929 – then under the Analysis column I would enter a Proof Argument in which I critically examine the two sources and then provide the date I choose to go with in the Proof Summary. An example of that is seen in Table 2, for a discrepancy that arose between Find A Grave and a newspaper article regarding the date of death of Walenty's second wife, Stefania/Stephanie. The proof argument and proof summary are provided, as well as some additional evidence in the last row that helps confirm she died on August 1, not July 30, 1957.

Having all of this information in one spreadsheet makes it so much easier to see at a glance which research questions have been answered and which ones still need to be investigated. Even more importantly, the spreadsheet shows how *thoroughly* each question has been answered. Each research question should be addressed by a **minimum** of two (preferably more) sources to provide adequate documentation that the answer is, in fact, correct. Having the proof arguments and proof summaries in the spreadsheet right along with all the other information on that question, easily identifies data discrepancies and clarifies why a specific answer has been chosen as correct.

Using this process, it has been amazing how much more information I have been able to add to my original Family Tree Maker file on this family, and how much more confidence I have in my conclusions! Having these spreadsheets will make writing my Koralewski family history incredibly straightforward. Most importantly, future generations and others who use my research will benefit greatly from this effort. Well-documented sources and proof arguments and summaries means they won't have to guess where the information came from or have to re-search for the same information in order to verify the accuracy of my findings. After all, isn't striving to leave for others the most complete, accurate, and cleanest research about one's family history a fundamental reason for why we engage in this crazy passion in the first place?

Table 1. Koralewski Family Research Log – Example of One Entry

Date of Search	Proof Point (research question)	Record Name	Repository	Record Type	Result
19-May-2017	What was the date of death of Walenty Koralewski?	Death of Walenty Koralewski	online	Find A Grave	positive

Table 1 continued on next page

Table 1 continued

Source Citation	Transcript Extract			Source Type	Clarity
Ancestry.com. <i>U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current</i> [accessed 19 May 2017]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.	DOD: 24 Apr 1929; Burial: St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Auburn, Cayuga County, NY, Plot: Section 26, Lot 79, Grave 2-NE; Born in Poland; Cause of death: Suicide-shot heart; Place of death: Owasco, NY; Cemetery listing published online by: Cayuga County NYGenWeb Project; Find A Grave Memorial #9147228			Derivative	Clear
Information	Evidence	Proven?	Analysis	Link	Notes
Secondary	Direct	Yes	Walter Koralewski died 24 Apr 1929	https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=9147228&ref=acom	Find-A-Grave listing Created by Lisa Vivirito, 21 Jul 2004; Original data: Find A Grave. Find A Grave. http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi .

Table 2. Example of a Proof Argument and Proof Summary (the 'Link' column is omitted)

Proven?	Analysis	Notes
No - there is a discrepancy between Find A Grave and newspapers	Stephania Koralewski died 30 Jul 1957	Listing created by Lisa Vivirito, 21 Jul 2004; Original data: <i>Find A Grave</i> . Find A Grave. http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi .
No - there is a discrepancy between Find A Grave and newspaper	Based on "admitted to hospital and died yesterday", Stephania Koralewski died 1 August 1957	Conflicting information between Find A Grave (secondary source) and this newspaper entry (primary source)
Yes	Proof Argument: Stephania/Stephanie Koralewski could not have died on 30 Jul 1957 (as stated in Find A Grave) if she was admitted to and died in the Auburn Memorial Hospital on August 1, 1957 (as documented by the newspaper article)	Proof Summary: Stephania/Stephanie Koralewski died on 1 August 1957
Yes	Corroborative evidence that Stephania/Stephanie Koralewski died on Thursday, August 1, 1957, not Tuesday, 30 Jul 1957	Post Standard listing of 'Deaths in Other Places: Auburn. (Thursday), Mrs. Stephanie J. Koralewski.'



Genealogy Events Close to Home and Still to Come in 2017

PGSNYS Genealogy Fair

When: September 9, 2017, 11am - 3pm

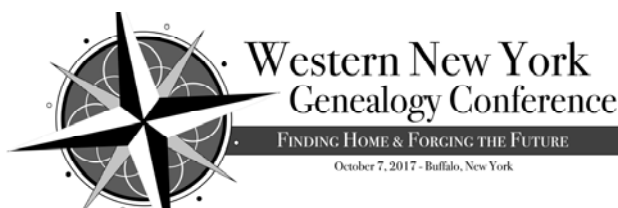
Location: St. Gabriel's RC Church Hall, 5271 Clinton Street, Elma, NY

Sponsor: Polish Genealogical Society of New York State

This is the ninth annual PGSNYS Genealogy Fair, and each year brings in more visitors from the community and more input by our members. At this free event, we have computers set up to help attendees with their genealogy questions, wonderful displays of family history research by PGSNYS members, information tables by other local genealogical societies, a guest speaker at 1pm, and refreshments throughout the event.

The presentation this year is 'Grandma Said She Was From Poznan: An Introduction to Polish Genealogy' by Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz, who joins us from Massachusetts. Julie volunteers as an administrator and regular contributor to the extremely popular and helpful Facebook group, "Polish Genealogy" and is a member of the PGSNYS.

For more information on the Genealogy Fair and Julie's presentation, visit www.pgsnys.org.



When: Saturday, October 7, 2017, 8:30am - 4:30pm

Location: Embassy Suites Buffalo, 200 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY

Sponsor: New York Genealogical & Biographical Society and Western New York Genealogical Society

This conference celebrates Western New York as a unique place of shared history and community. Designed for researchers of all experience levels, this day-long event will feature six presenters and seven programs. Conference participants will:

- Attend information, insightful, and engaging presentations that discuss research methods and strategies, statewide and regional resources, and local genealogical projects
- Network with other genealogists, historians, researchers, and genealogical society representatives
- Participate in optional (pre and post) conference tours in and around Buffalo (available for an extra cost).

For conference details and registration information, go to:

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events/western-new-york-genealogy-conference>

Surname Index for this Issue

Surname	Page(s)	Surname	Page(s)
Brylski	3	Oliansky	2, 12
Campbell	6	Penasack	2
Ciulis	2	Pohancsek	2, 3
Drabik	2	Porter	4, 10
Ferguson	2	Pyrak	2, 3
Gleason	2	Rindone	3
Helon	6	Rooney	2
Hider	2	Schroeder	3
Hoffman	4	Siwec	3
Huber	3	Slomczewski	2
Iwanski	3	Sojka	2
Jusko	3	Szczepankiewicz	3, 15
Keough	2, 12	Tolstoy	5
Koralewski	12-14	Turk	3
LaJoie	2	Voigt	2
Lewandowski	4, 10, 11	Warner	1, 4, 7-9
Maciejewski	1, 4-7, 9-11	Webster	3
Marciniak	3		
Mize	3		
Mrowka	3		
Nowak	2, 3		



The PGSNYS booth at the Polish American Arts Festival in Cheektowaga Town Park; July 14-16, 2017

SEARCHERS NEWSLETTER

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

P.O. Box 984

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE

PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS