

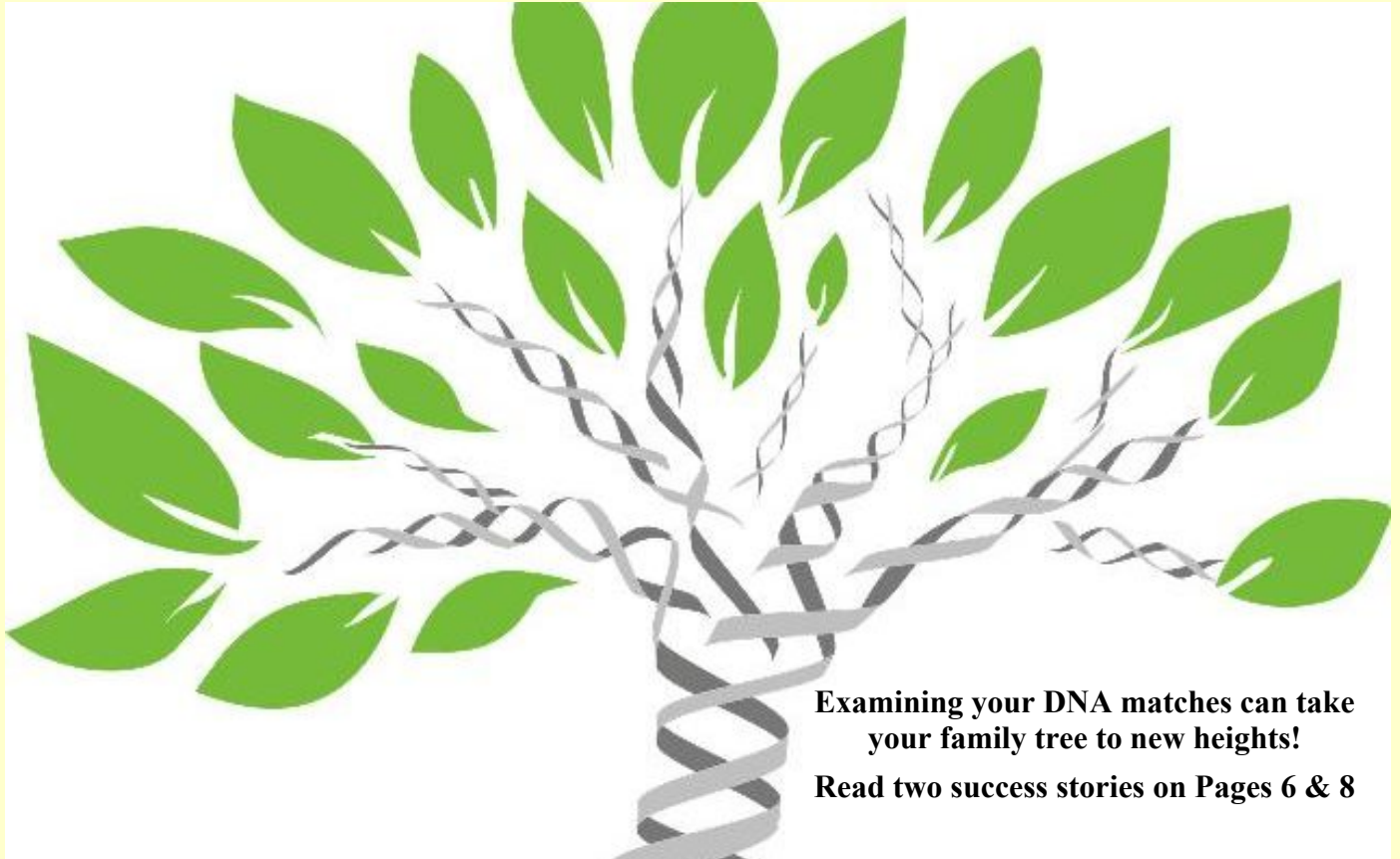
PRESERVING  
OUR PAST  
SINCE 1988

# SEARCHERS

NO. 78

SUMMER

2018, ISSUE 2



Examining your DNA matches can take your family tree to new heights!

Read two success stories on Pages 6 & 8

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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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@pgsnys.org)**

\*Exceptions: June, July, and August there is no meeting; December is the Christmas Party

## 2018 PGSNYS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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*Searchers* is a publication  
of the Polish Genealogical  
Society of New York State,  
ISSN #1528-672X

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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](mailto:denise.oliansky@gmail.com)

# PGSNYS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear PGSNYS Members,

As Summer turns to Fall splendor, my mind turns to having more time to work on my genealogy. Every weekend in the Summer seems to be filled with outdoor activities. As Fall rolls around, and my children go back to school, I have some free time to work on my genealogy.

An opportunity to help others with their research is at our PGSNYS Annual Genealogy Fair being held on Saturday, September 8th from 11-3 at St. Gabriel's Church on Clinton Street in Elma. This is the 10th year of this event, and it gets bigger every year. Our guest speaker is Rhonda Hoffman, presenting on 'Genealogy 101' at 1 PM.

A great free opportunity for brushing up on your own genealogy research skills is the annual workshop at the Family History Center at 1424 Maple Road in Williamsville on Saturday, October 20th. There is a vast array of 40 classes scheduled from 9 AM-3:35 PM, with subjects ranging from everything from Canadian Research to DNA. A class on Polish Genealogical Research, presented by PGSNYS, is from 1:25 pm-3:35 pm.

I hope to see you at both of these events!

Sincerely, Nicole Pohancsek

## POTPOURRI

### WITAMY! NEW PGSNYS MEMBERS

Mary Louise Hill, Buffalo, NY

Jerome Cichocki, Tonawanda, NY

Mary Ann Kendron, Buffalo, NY

Paulette Grobbel, Berlin Twp, MI

Dale Jachlewski, Los Angeles, CA

Thomas Krajewski, Boston, NY

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The dates for upcoming 2018 PGSNYS monthly membership meetings at 7 PM are Thursday, September 13, October 11, and November 8. Please note the following:

- The November 8th meeting will be held in the Villa Maria College Student Center, Building #6 on the Villa Campus Map, for which there is a link on our website ([www.pgsnys.org](http://www.pgsnys.org))
- There is no regular meeting on December 13th, as we hold our Christmas Party that evening
- Going forward: Villa Maria College administration has determined that meetings must end at 8:45, and there will be no meetings held in summer (June, July, and August)

## PGSNYS Member Feedback Online Survey

The current officers and trustees of the PGSNYS Board would appreciate your opinions and feedback. To that end, an online feedback survey has been constructed to poll our membership for feedback about various aspects of the Society.

Input from our members, volunteering, and enthusiasm really do help the Society reach its goals, continue to grow, and make resources and learning opportunities available to our members and the community.

To access and complete the survey, please use the link below. If you choose to remain anonymous, you need not complete the section requesting your contact information. Please complete the survey within a couple weeks of receiving this newsletter. Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XJXGTRS>



## REMINDER: Electronic *Searchers* OPT-IN

We encourage our members to OPT-IN for the electronic version of the *Searchers* to help PGSNYS save on the costs of printing and postage associated with the paper version. The electronic version will always be sent out the same day the print version is mailed.

If you would like to OPT-IN for the electronic version in the future, **please follow these instructions exactly:**

- You may receive either the print or electronic version, not both. You must continue to pay your annual membership dues to receive either version. To continue to receive the print version, no further action is needed on your part.
- The deadline to OPT-IN for the electronic version of the *Searchers* will always be the 15th of the month preceding the next issue, so that would be March 15th for April, July 15th for August, and November 15th for December.



- To OPT-IN, send an email to [denise.oliansky@gmail.com](mailto:denise.oliansky@gmail.com). Type SEARCHERS OPT-IN in the subject line of the email. This is important so your email will not be missed. In the body of the email, type your full name and the email address you want us to use to send you the electronic version of the newsletter. Then hit send. That's all you have to do. You will receive a confirmation email from the editor so you know your OPT-IN request for the electronic *Searchers* was received. Thank you!

## Contributors to the *Dziennik* Digitization Fund

There have been many contributions made by PGSNYS members and others to help fund the cost of the *Dziennik* Digitization Project. The PGSNYS Board would like to recognize those who have financially contributed to this effort, several of whom donated multiple times. Thank you!

Lynne Adamczyk	
Dr. Leonard Amborski	
Curtis Bajak	
James Borowczyk	In memory of Joseph & Mary Borowczyk and Joseph & Bernice Smolinski
Stanley H. Cieslar	
Kathleen F. Cortes (2 donations)	In memory of grandparents' marriage in 1915, mother's birth in 1914, father's birth 1918, and parents' marriage in 1939; In memory of Michael and Antonina Kopera
Kasia Dane (2)	In memory of Weronika (Lorenz) d. 1931 and Stanislaw Sypniewski d.1924; In memory of Seweryna Lorenz Heyza and Hippolyt Heyza
Dan Domino	
Mrs. Alice Drabik	
Karen Duffy	
Robert Garbacz	
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Marie D. Hausch (4)	
Ruth Jarmusz	
Christine Kahr (2)	In memory of grandparents and great-grandparents
Jim Kasper (2)	
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Frank Martin	
Mary Jane Masiulionis	
Robert Michalek	
Edward and Marcia Myszka	
Elizabeth Nowak	In memory of parents - Chester And Florence Nowak
Nancy B. Nowak	In memory of Brzezinski and Rybacki families
Barbara O'Shea	
Nicole Pohancsek	
David Przepiora	In memory of Edward Przepiora
Tracy Rindone	
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Ted Smardz (2)	
Arthur Thrun	
Drew & Marie-Cecile Tidwell (2)	In memory of Matthew C. Okoniewski; In memory of Dolores Majewski Gleason
Louise Tomczak	In memory of my ancestors
Sandra Trauscht	
Voorhees Family	
Dr. Julie Wieczkowski	
Frank Wierzbowski	In memory of Bogdan Wierzbowski, Polish 2nd Corps
Thomas and Mary Wnek	In memory of Joseph and Agnes Wnek

## Using DNA Matches to Successfully Identify My Birth Father's Family

by Denise M. Oliansky

DNA testing and use has become all the rage in recent years. We see ads for DNA kits in commercials, the news expounds its use in solving cold cases, and we see its benefit when people unjustly imprisoned for a crime are released. And certainly in the genealogy world there has been a huge wave of DNA testing to find out one's ethnic percentages and to determine from where one's ancestors originated. I did AncestryDNA for that purpose as well, and was very pleased when the ethnic percentages from my DNA confirmed the research findings I had derived for my birth family origins. In recent months however, I have found that my AncestryDNA results have become an incredible tool for helping me differentiate which DNA matches are from the maternal versus paternal lines of my birth family.

As toddlers, my full sister (same birth father and mother) and I were placed into foster care together and were eventually adopted together by our wonderful parents. From much research on my part, but ultimately through serendipity, we connected with our birth mother and six half-siblings from her other marriages in 2010. Our birth mother was married four times and had eight children: our oldest half-brother was from the first marriage; my full sister and I were from the second marriage; two half-brothers resulted from the third marriage; and a half-brother and two half-sisters resulted from her fourth marriage. Our birth mother's lines have been pretty thoroughly researched and coincide with the Irish/UK (her maternal line) and western European (her German paternal line) ethnic origins revealed by my and my full sister's DNA results. Our birth father's surname was Swedish in origin, which accounts for our high Scandinavian percentages. Our birth mother could (or would) not provide me any information about our birth father other than he had lived in Dubois, PA. Through further research, I recently identified who I thought might be his parents and grandparents, but it was speculative.


My full sister and I, and our half-brother from our birth mother's fourth marriage, have had our DNA tested by AncestryDNA. My sister and I matched as immediate family and our half-brother matched both of us as close family. When we examine our DNA matches, my sister and I match jointly with the same people on both sides of our birth family, but since our half-brother had a different father than we did, he matches jointly with us only on people from our birth mother's line. So, for example, when I get notified by AncestryDNA of a new match, I go to the site, and I look to see who this new person and I match with jointly. If both my full sister and my half-brother also match to the new person, then I know that the new match is from our birth mother's line. If only my full sister is a joint match, then I know that the new match is from our birth father's line.

Taking this further, say I have already identified a cousin match on my birth father's paternal line. If then a new cousin match comes up and only my sister and I (and not our half-brother) jointly match that person, then I know the new match also has to be on our birth father's

line. However, if the previously identified cousin match from my birth father's paternal line does not jointly match with this new cousin, then the new match must be a cousin on our birth father's maternal side! This is heady stuff! Right from the start I can now identify which branch of the family a new match comes from (birth father or birth mother) AND whether that new match is on the paternal or maternal side of that branch! Of course, this would not be possible if both my full sister and half-brother hadn't done the DNA test. Many thanks to them!

Figuring all this out about my DNA matches helped me verify that the people I believed were the parents and grandparents of my birth father were in fact correct. It was confirmed when I was notified of a new second cousin match who jointly matched only with me and my full sister, but not with my half-brother. I examined this new cousin's online tree, and it listed the same great-grandparents in his line that I had speculated were our paternal great-grandparents. I emailed this new cousin and, amazingly, he and much of my birth father's family still live in Du Bois, PA! Now that I had verified who his parents were, it also confirmed that a Social Security Application which I was pretty sure belonged to my birth father was in fact his, because it listed the names of the newly identified parents. Sadly, this meant that my birth father died in 1995 in Buffalo, NY.

The newly found cousin in Du Bois and I have shared a lot of information about my birth father's family, and I look forward to visiting him and other family members soon. However, as always, there is more to the story and more to figure out. He informed me that none of his currently living family members, including his grandfather, knew that my birth father's father had any children! They had no idea about the existence of my birth father or his sister. My research confirms they were in the family: my birth father's parents are listed in the 1930 census with his infant sister; my birth father was born in 1933; and both children are listed in the 1940 census living with their grandmother (my great-grandmother) in Du Bois, PA. I have the death certificate that reveals my birth father's father died very young, at age 29 in 1934, but I do not yet know what happened to their mother. I was told by this cousin that back in those days, Du Bois was a large Swedish community, where everybody came and went and lived many people to a house. Maybe as time went by, amidst all the chaos, it became unclear who the two children belonged to, and among now living family members they were unheard of altogether. Hard to believe, but I guess it's possible.

My hope is, through more cousin matches on AncestryDNA, I will find someone from the paternal or maternal side of my birth father's family who is aware of the existence of my birth father and his sister. I would also like to find out if my birth father remarried and had more children, which would mean more half-sibs for me and my full sister. So the research continues, and I am quite confident it is through DNA matches that I will find the answers I seek about my birth father. 

### Shared matches with 'rwjslj'

#### IMMEDIATE FAMILY

'My Full Sister'

Possible range: Immediate family - close family

Immediate Family

Confidence: Extremely High

No family tree

#### CLOSE FAMILY

'My Half-Brother'

Possible range: Close family - 1st cousins

Close Family

Confidence: Extremely High

1,573 people

**Joint matches with  
cousin on birth  
mother's side**

### Shared matches with 'brubrabea'

#### IMMEDIATE FAMILY

'My Full Sister'

Possible range: Immediate family - close family

Immediate Family

Confidence: Extremely High

No family tree

**Joint matches with cousin on birth father's side**

## Finding New Cousins with DNA Evidence

by Sandra Maciejewska Porter

I have always had a fondness for facts. I was baffled in 2006 when a new doctor first told me about ‘evidence-based’ medicine; I had previously assumed that all medical practice would be based on evidence. One of the graduate courses I took while studying information security computer science was in "Formal Methods" using mathematics and logic to evaluate the reliability and robustness of a design and form conclusions. I like facts.

In the past, and through most of my writing, family history decisions were based on the multidisciplinary benchmark of a "preponderance of evidence." If multiple reports support a cogent narrative, then they are worth repeating. If there are discrepancies, they are worth investigating. Often, by examining different sources, things can make sense.[1]

DNA results are but one tool in the family researcher's toolkit, but it is undoubtedly evidence-based!



Poland map marked with author's ancestral locations

In early 2018, I know almost two dozen people with whom I match with AncestryDNA, all descendants of my ancestors who immigrated to the United States either from **Marienwerder, West Prussia**, now **Kujawsko-Pomorskie** in north-central Poland, where my father's grandparents and father were born, or **Radom**, specifically the **Sandomierz** area of **Świętokrzyskie**, historically part of the Małopolska (Lesser Poland) region, where my mother's parents and grandparents were born.

Most of my known DNA matches are close family, first cousins, second cousins, or third cousins, sometimes removed by a generation or two. Since the estimate of relationships is based on the identified amount of DNA we share, a handful of matches are listed by Ancestry as fourth cousins, even though we are second or third cousins in our genealogical trees.

Since DNA can occasionally reveal links that were unsuspected, it has also brought up some surprises.

For example, I knew my grandfather **Antoni Maciejewski** had two brothers, **Konstanty** and **Ludwik**. I knew that their children, my father's cousins, had grown out of touch. I had heard stories about the rest of the family. I was delighted when I found a family tree online, and even more so in 2016 when my previously unknown second cousin coordinated a mini family reunion in Buffalo, New York, with several of Ludwik Maciejewski/Louis **Warner's** descendants. Some of us confirmed our genetic connection with DNA evidence.

I was contacted by a gentleman from Ontario when we matched on FamilyTreeDNA. Although we both had **Szczepański/Szczepanowski** names in our family trees, we found that our



Szczepański forebearers came from different areas. However, we could trace several of our lines to **Świętokrzyskie**. His experience encouraged me to continue researching Polish records. Although we never identified a most recent common ancestor (MRCA), we were able to ascertain that we both had **Zybała**, **Bokwa**, and **Sad(owa)** ancestors from Koprzywnica and the villages surrounding it.

Another genetic connection was made with a Canadian woman after we had connections on AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, and GEDmatch. She knew she had been adopted, and her birth parentage had become a concern when one of her children was born with a genetic heart condition. She knew the names of her birth parents, and began cold-calling from a phone book people with her birth mother's last name until she found a family with similar stories. With additional information, her daughter was successfully treated, and her son's risk was confirmed for proper treatment. Although we never discovered a most recent common ancestor (MRCA), we were able to ascertain that her father's parents, named **Drach** and **Wieczorek**, were from the villages of Świniary and Suchowola near Koprzywnica.

I heard from a DNA cousin with a **Kasprzyk** ancestor who had immigrated through Canada to Detroit and then to Buffalo from "Poland Oporto (sic) Russia." We exchanged newspaper clippings and he shared his findings of a researcher in Poland of his ancestors near Opatów in **Świętokrzyskie**.

Several second cousins and I were contacted by an AncestryDNA match who had been adopted as a baby. She knew her mother had been Polish, and asked her DNA matches if we could help in her search for her birth parents. I was able to share information about our likely ancestors from **West Prussia**, and their descendants who had immigrated to America, even if I could not give her specific information about her birth circumstances. They were clues, she said, and helped her pursue her search.

Another genetic match had posted a family tree with entirely different people living in the same town as several of my relatives. There is probably a story there.

I had more in common with one match on FamilyTreeDNA and GEDmatch than just our DNA. Although we were born elsewhere in different decades, we are both Cornell University graduates currently living in Rhode Island. We both have ancestors who lived in Prussia in the 1800s, although some of his **Jablonowski** ancestors moved to Höntrop, near Bochum, Germany, before immigrating to the United States.

Because two Polish siblings that I matched on FamilyTreeDNA and GEDmatch were also matches for one of my first cousins one generation removed, I had originally thought we were connected through my father's family. However, they were from the **Świętokrzyskie** area, where my mother's family had lived! It baffled me, until I realized that our genetic connection may be through both his parents, with his father my first cousin on my father's side, and his mother a distant relation of my mother's family. That also explains some other anomalies in our results. Even though his mother does not appear to be a DNA match to me, some of her matches are also matches to me, possibly through a long ago ancestor.

Chicago was a common destination for immigrants from Polish lands, so I have found some DNA (estimated) 4th cousins whose ancestors landed in Chicago. They identified their ancestors as **Kalinowski** or **Kaniecki**, from Prussia. Although it has been difficult to identify specifically our most recent common ancestors (MRCA), in several instances we were able to identify our common

ancestral villages and actually find their ancestors' baptism and marriage records in Szembruk and nearby places in West Prussia.

I am intrigued with two recent AncestryDNA matches from Long Island with ties back to Buffalo, New York. There is definitely a link, and I am looking forward to learning more about how to evaluate it when I attend the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh's course in Practical Genetic Genealogy with Blaine Bettinger at Daemen College in Amherst, New York, this summer.

DNA can confirm genetic relationships you've identified through research, find new connections, or cast doubt on identified ancestry. This has all happened in my experience with DNA testing. I have reached out to many DNA matches, and although not all have responded, I am curious about our common heritage. My grandson says we are all related some way. It's interesting to try to discover how, at least for our closer relations.

---

[1] Not all evidence is created equal. Professional genealogists apply five criteria in their "Genealogical Proof Standard":

- a reasonably exhaustive search
- complete and accurate source citations
- analysis and correlation of the collected information
- resolution of any conflicting evidence
- a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

Coming Soon!

Polish Genealogical Society  
of New York State

**2018**  
**10th Annual**



**Genealogy Fair**

**Saturday, September 8, 11 AM to 3 PM**

Family tree displays, surname look-ups,  
research assistance, refreshments!

Presentation at 1:00 PM  
'Genealogy 101'  
by Rhonda Hoffman

Guest Genealogical Societies  
include:  
Buffalo Irish (BIGS)  
Italian (IGSWNY)  
Western NY (WNYGS)  
and possibly others

**Fair Location:**  
St. Gabriel's Church  
5271 Clinton St., Elma, NY  
(east of Transit Rd.)  
in the Church Hall

# My Trip into the Depths of Time

by Edward Prabucki

At Senior Citizens' monthly meetings, I see history made alive by their verbal exchange of their memories of their youth that is often very clear, their minds sharp and vivid. After I listen to their youthful life, I in turn reveal many incidents of my youthful activities. Some people are reticent, for whatever reason, to reminisce about their youth, but I lived my youth of endless activity and discuss it proudly and, at times, emotionally. My story as a youth contains incidents during the Depression of the 1930s.

In 1930: As a youth, more often than not, we gathered in front of our residence on Woltz Avenue to play hopscotch on sidewalks or 'kick the stick' along the curb on the street.

In 1930: As I strolled down Broadway and Gibson with youths from Woltz, two of them walked into a Five and Ten Murphy Store and were attracted to a piece of sports paraphernalia, but lacked the means to pay for it. Thankfully, with the profits from my newspaper route, I covered the price of the item.

In 1931: As a student at Transfiguration Parochial School, we were sent home for lunch. After we ate, we returned crossing Sycamore Street and, carelessly I ran across between two parked cars and was struck lightly by a passing car and fell down, but fortunately was not bruised. I picked up and ran to the school.

In 1931: In 4<sup>th</sup> Grade I was schooled to receive First Holy Communion. I was very devoted in my faith and received Communion with the youths of my class.

In 1932: As a member of Boy Scout Troop #75 from Transfiguration school, I spent two weeks at Camp Scouthaven in Freedom, NY. While hiking in the forest we were hit by heavy rains. My mother was a member of the Mother's Club and held fundraisers to pay for this trip.

In 1933: With other youths from Woltz Avenue, we strolled to Humboldt Park where a music concert was held monthly by the City of Buffalo in the summer.

In 1933: While on summer vacation, in Humboldt Park we played Tarzan by climbing trees, and I was on a tree about 12 feet up and swung from a weak branch that split in two. As I gradually descended, hitting branches on the way down, I was bruised and needed a week to recuperate.

In 1933: In winter my Father escorted me to the Humboldt Park ice pond to enjoy ice skating races that featured the well-publicized Kit Klein, who represented the United States in the World Olympics.

In 1934: Eugene Stachowiak and I strolled to the docks of Michigan Street. Eugene dived in and swam and tried to convince me, but I refused to accompany him. Mother, when she heard of it, was shocked.

In 1934: Later that same month, my mother escorted us to Schiller Park swimming pool to let us splash in the pool, as she never trusted Eugene again. (Incidentally, Eugene Stachowiak, as a Serviceman, lost his life in WW2.)

In 1935: I passed my 8<sup>th</sup> Grade exams with excellent marks. My Grandparents, Michael and Jozefa Petyk, were proud of me. Commencement Exercises were held at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

In 1936: Local elections were held and youths of my age delivered political slingers for Charles Balicki, who resided at 315 Woltz Avenue. Charles Balicki won, and we received refreshments for our efforts.

In 1936: I entered High School and my brothers, Bernard and Brownie, took over my newspaper route as I tried my hand at sports.

In 1939: As a Junior in High School, I participated in Cross-Country race events. I was exceptional and received All-High Honors.

**First Five in Vocational Cross-Country Run:** Here are the five runners who led a field of 40 across the finish line in the Vocational cross-country run at Delaware Park yesterday. Left to right, Edward Prabucki of Burgard, fifth; Mike Ferrara of McKinley, fourth; Tom Sullivan of Seneca, third; Gene Ziombek of Burgard, second, and Curtis Taber of Burgard, individual champion. Taber broke both the vocational and academic records in pacing the Burgard squad to its first crown in five years.



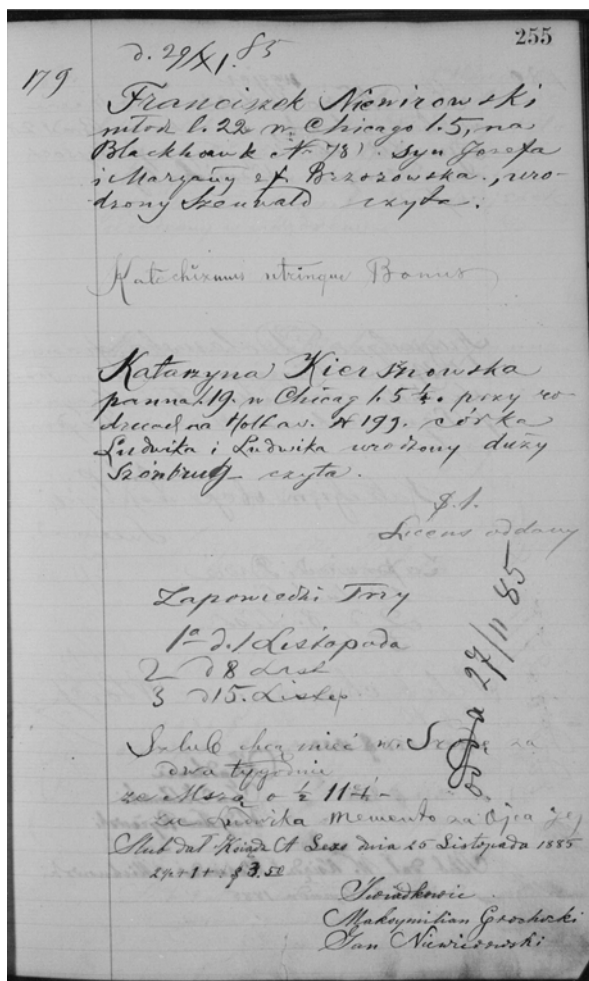
Far left: #23 Edward Prabucki (Burgard H.S.) among the top five runners in cross-country race



# Szennato, Szynnato? Szywałd, Groß Schönwalde!: Deciphering Polish/Prussian Place Names

by Sandra Maciejewska Porter

Church records were very helpful in researching the ancestors of two of my fourth cousin DNA matches from Ancestry.com. Their great-grandmother, **Katarzyna Kiersznowska Niewirowska** was born in *Groß Schönbrück/ Szembruk*, the same place that my great grandparents **Marcin Szczepański** and **Anna Kalinowska** were from!



It took a while longer to find the records for their great-grandfather **Franciszek Niewirowski** mostly because there is no place called *Szennato*.

The St. Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church marriage record for **Katarzyna Kiersznowska** and **Franciszek Niewirowski** in Chicago, Illinois, on 27 November 1885, was listed on Family Search ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)).

**Franciszek Niewirowski**, young man (Polish *młodzian*), 22 years old, has been in Chicago 1.5 years, and lives Blackhawk Street No. 78. He is the son (Polish *syn*) of **Józef** and **Maryanna Brzozowska**. He was born (Polish *urodzony*) at what reads like *Szennato*. (*Czytać* is the Polish verb “to read.”)

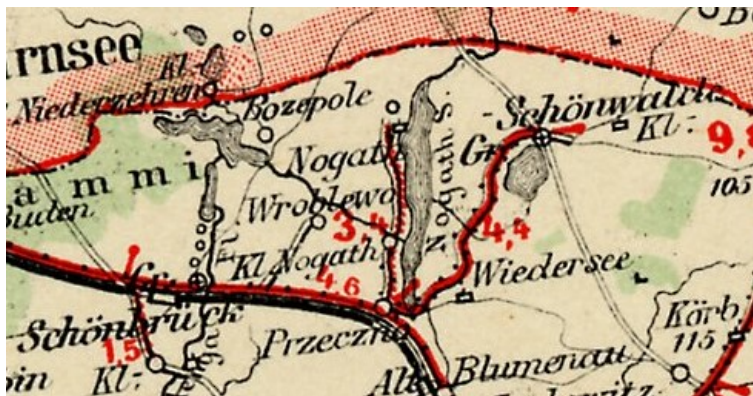
**Katarzyna Kiersznowska**, young woman (Polish *panna*), 19 years old, has been in Chicago (illegible) No. 199. She is the daughter (Polish *córka*) of **Ludwik** and **Ludwika**. Her place of birth is listed as *duży Szömburg*.

1885 Marriage Record, St. Stanislaus  
Kostka RC Church, Chicago, Illinois

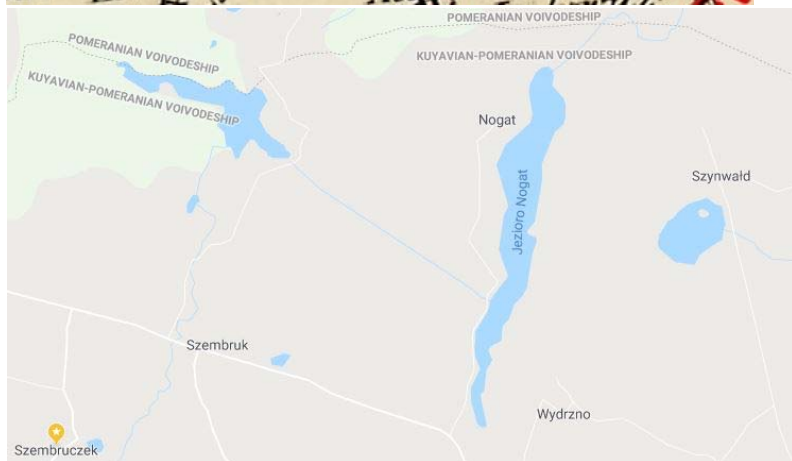
Aware of chain migration, I was looking for information about **Franciszek Niewirowski** while researching **Katarzyna Kiersznowska** and her mother **Ludwika Kalinowska** in the *Szembruk* church records.

In the *Szembruk* records, I found an 1875 entry for the death of **Elżbieta Trever**, a daughter of **Franz** and **Marianna Niewirowski**, which indicated there were **Niewirowski** family in the area. *Elżbieta* is Polish for *Elizabeth*. She died in *Garnseedorf*, which had a Lutheran, but no Catholic Church. (According to Wikipedia, it was across the nearby border, which remained German after

WWI.) I researched Kartenmeister.com, and saw that the Polish name was listed as Szlemno, which might have been very loosely recorded as Szennato. I also saw the associated Catholic parish was Groß Schönwalde in Kreis Graudenz. The border is visible in the old and new maps below.



Part of **Deutsch Eylau - 27** old German Map (Kartenmeister.com)



Contemporary Polish map (Google.com)

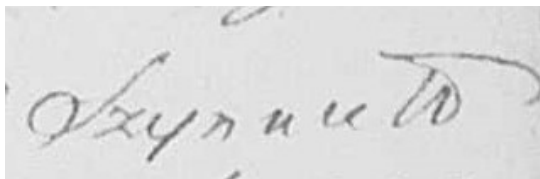
In Polish, Groß Schönwalde is called Szynwałd. In a straight line, it is about four miles from Szymbark. The Szynwałd church is Kościół Narodzenia Najświętszej Maryi Panny (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

The Szynwałd records were filmed by the Church of Latter Day Saints and are posted online at FamilySearch at Germany, Preußen, Westpreußen, Groß Schönwalde (Kr. Graudenz) - Church records / Poland, Bydgoszcz, Szynwałd (Grudziądz) - Church records.[1] I found **Franziszek Niewirowski's** baptism record for 26 Nov 1862.

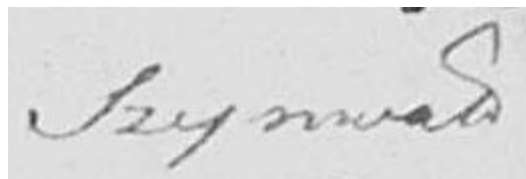
**1862 Birth Record, Franz Niewirowski, Szynwałd, West Prussia**

Geburt sind im Jahre (18 ) Ein- und zweihundert und						vom bis			
Jahr	Zahl der	Zahl	Zahl	Zahl	Namen, Stand	Namen, Stand	Wohort	Namen, Stand	Namen
der	geborenen	geborenen	geborenen	geborenen	der	der	der	der	der
geborenen	geborenen	geborenen	geborenen	geborenen	geborenen	geborenen	geborenen	geborenen	geborenen
1862	1	1	1	1	Franz Niewirowski, Sohn des Franz Niewirowski, geb. am 26. Nov. 1862.	Franz Niewirowski, Sohn des Franz Niewirowski, geb. am 26. Nov. 1862.	Szynwałd, Kreis Graudenz, Provinz Westpreußen.	Szynwałd, Kreis Graudenz, Provinz Westpreußen.	Szynwałd, Kreis Graudenz, Provinz Westpreußen.

However, while looking through the pages, I saw several entries that looked like *Szynnato*, so I thought that there might be a village with that spelling nearby.



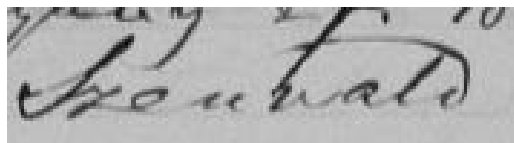
**Szynnato**



**Szynatto**

After looking in vain for a nearby village called *Szynnato*, I went back to the original record and saw that what I was reading as *Szynnato* was actually "nw," not "nn," (the W sounds like a V) the letter "l" (L with a line across it, pronounced like a W sound), not "t," and "d" with the squiggle over the letter going back to make a line over the "l", not "o." In short, it's *Szynwald* in cursive.

Going back to the Chicago marriage record, I could now read *Szenwald*. While it is not exactly *Szynwald*, it is close.



**Szenwald**

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### Notes

[1] When the church records were filmed in 1954, Szynwałd (Grudziądz) was in the Bydgoszcz province of Poland. During the German Occupation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was Provinz Westpreußen (West Prussia), or Prusy Zachodnie in Polish. After Poland was reunited in 1920, it was in the Pomeranian Province, and between 1975 and 1998, it was in the Toruń Province. Currently, Szynwałd is in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, or in Polish, województwo kujawsko-pomorskie.

### Sources

St. Stanislaus Kostka RC Church, Chicago, Illinois, Franciszek NIEWIEROWSKI and Katarzyna KIERZNOWSKA (Marriage), <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DR53-QPL?i=414&cc=1452409&cat=411138>

Szynwałd, Poland, Franciszek NIEWIEROWSKI (Birth), <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSZL-S95R-3?i=525&cat=295396>

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