

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

PRESERVING
OUR PAST
SINCE 1988

SEARCHERS

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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 PayPal on our website or mail a 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

*Exceptions: NO MEETING in June, July, and August; December is the Christmas Party

2018 PGSNYS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PGSNYS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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 PGSNYS Members,

As 2018 draws to an end, visions of the 1950 Federal Census seem closer (it will be released in 2022). What can we do now to prepare ourselves for its release?

- Gather the addresses where your relatives lived in 1950. This can be helpful if their name was not transcribed correctly.
- Gather the names that you want to look up. Every census has new information about your relatives. You can learn a little bit more information about your family with each census. Just because you have found your relative on a previous census, do not skip looking for them in the 1950 census.
- Study the 1950 Federal Census questions, so you become familiar with them. They can be found at <https://www.census.gov>.

The PGSNYS is very grateful to everyone who helped out in any way this past year. Without our members pitching in, the Society could not exist. Thank you, and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely, Nicole Pohancsek

POTPOURRI

WITAMY! NEW PGSNYS MEMBERS

Michael Andrzejewski, Kennesaw, GA

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Wanda Chomicka, Williamsville, NY

Andrew Golebiowski, Cheektowaga, NY

Darlene Naparstek, Alexandria, VA

Cheryl Krajna, Cheektowaga, NY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2019 PGSNYS monthly membership meeting dates are Thursday, January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, and May 9, September 12, October 10, and November 14, from 7:00 to 8:45 PM in the Villa Maria College cafeteria, except as indicated below.

- The May 9, 2019 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)
- There will be no meetings at Villa in the summer months (June, July, and August) or in December (the annual member and guest Christmas Party will be held off-site on December 12)

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. Type SEARCHERS OPT-IN in the subject line of the email. This is important to ensure 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!

A Gift of Polish Church Records

PGSNYS member, Arthur Thrun, a former Buffalonian now living in Arizona, has graciously donated to the Society scans of some church records he obtained from Poland. In his correspondence to the Society, Art included some background information about how he got them, and this is shared here based on his account. The PGSNYS greatly appreciates Art's generosity and hopes that members will benefit from the content of the scans.

The films were made available through Stanley Frymark. In May of this year, Art stayed in Stanley's guesthouse, called Zaborski, in the town of Kashubia, just outside of Lesno. Stanley served as their guide and translator, as his English is excellent and he knows the area very well. If anyone is interested, Stanley's website is www.Zaborski.biz, and his email address is Zaborski@web.de. The establishment is off the beaten track with dirt roads, but Art said they enjoyed their stay and Stanley is a good cook.

Art heard about Stanley from a priest who runs the Polish Museum in Winona, MN when he was visiting there last year. After Art's first visit to Poland, when he found out that he is a Kashub, he wanted to experience the lifestyle and did so on his second trip in May of 2018.

Stanley is spending much of his time bringing back the language and customs of the Kashubs. He has written a dictionary and does speaking engagements all over the world about the Kashubian lifestyle. He told Art and his friend about how he spent time photographing records from several dioceses and offered to provide them at a discounted price since Art and his friend were interested in purchasing quite a few films from him.

Stanley also gave them the book, *Life and Adventures of Remus*, by Aleksander Majkowski. It is a novel written in the Kashubian language in 1938, but translated by Blanche Krbechek of Detroit, and Stanley had much to do with that. The novel takes place in the last half of the nineteenth century in the area of Koscierzyna. Art reported it is a very enjoyable book to read about the Kashubian way of life at that time. He knows it is available at the Polish Museum in Winona, MN, but since it is published in Gdansk, Poland, he doesn't know if it is available anywhere else.

Art has donated to the PGSNYS the Koscierzyna and Bytow films he purchased from Stanley. His friend purchased films from Brusy, and perhaps at a later date, Art will be able to donate those as well. Art included a description of the types and years of the scans, and these will be posted on the PGSNYS website under our database descriptions. Basically, the scans provide Chrzty (births), Zgony (deaths), and Sluby (marriages) for the Catholic and Evangelical/Lutheran Diecezja (Dioceses) of Bydgoszcz, Gdansk, Koszalin, and Pelplin. Below is a small segment of the record description from the Diocese of Bydgoszcz.

Bądecz chrzty-śluby-zgony 1936-1939 i 1945-1949 1 CD
Białośliwie chrzty-zgony 1922-1949 i śluby 1922-1945 1 CD
Bługowo chrzty-śluby 1870-1939 i 1945-1949, zgony 1850-1939 i 1945-1950 2 CD
Bydgoszcz (po Jezuicki) chrzty-zgony 1909-1924 i śluby 1909-1925 2 CD
Bydgoszcz MB Nieustającej Pomocy chrzty 1920-1952, śluby 1920-1946, zgony 1920-1968 7,25 GB ≈ 12 CD
Bydgoszcz Najświętszego Serca PJ chrzty-śluby 1920-1948, zgony 1920-1952 10,5 GB ≈ 17 CD
Bydgoszcz NMP Królowe Pokoju (garnizonowy) chrzty-zgony 1940-1980, śluby 1939-1980 1 CD
Bydgoszcz św. Antoniego chrzty 1932-1947, śluby 1933-1961, zgony 1933-1963 2,74 GB ≈ 5 CD
Bydgoszcz św. Marcina i Mikołaja chrzty 1874-1924 i 1932-1955, indeks chrztów 1901-1974, śluby 1881-1958, zgony 1880-1958 28,1 GB ≈ 44 CD
Bydgoszcz Św. Trójcy chrzty 1920-1947, śluby-zgony 1920-1952 10,5 GB ≈ 17 CD
Bydgoszcz św. Wincentego a Paulo chrzty-zgony 1924-1941 i 1945-1946, śluby 1924-1941 i 1945-1950 3,02 GB ≈ 6 CD
Chomętowo zgony 1917-1949 1 CD
Dąbrówka Nowa chrzty 1893-1948, indeks chrztów 1917-1952, śluby 1898-1937, zgony 1881-1944 i 1946-1948 3 CD
Glesno chrzty 1894-1950 i 1954-1955, śluby 1930-1950, zgony 1905-1950 2 CD
Gromadno chrzty 1877-1941 i 1945-1946, śluby 1887-1939 i 1945-1950, zgony 1885-1939 i 1945-1950 3 CD
Kosztowo chrzty 1880-1895, 1907-1949 i 1957-1959, śluby 1880-1901, 1932-1939 i 1948-1949, zgony 1880-1949, duplikaty: chrzty 1840-1848, chrzty-śluby-zgony 1868-1874 2 CD
Krajenka chrzty-sluby-zgony 1823-1874 foto z mikrofilmu AP Koszalin
Krostkowo chrzty 1883-1948, duplikaty: chrzty 1868-1872, śluby 1840-1856, zgony 1840-1868 2 CD
Łabiszyn chrzty 1722-1760 i 1762-1947, ślub 1762-1952, zgony 1806-1952 6,81 GB ≈ 11 CD
Łabiszyn bierzmowanie 1869-1922, indeksy: chrztów 1826-1889 i 1843-1889, duplikaty: chrzty-śluby-zgony 1826-1874 z lukami 2 CD
Łabiszyn K1 chrzty 1722-1800
Łobżenica chrzty-zgony 1869-1948, śluby 1869-1947 4,51 GB ≈ 7 CD
Miasteczko Krajeńskie chrzty 1918-1949, śluby 1936-1945, zgony 1937-1949 2 CD
Morzewo chrzty 1891-1940 1 CD
Mrocza chrzty 1904-1947 i 1889-1897 uzup., śluby 1929-1950 3 CD
Nakło św. Stanisława chrzty-śluby-zgony 1926-1949 2,81 GB ≈ 5 CD
Nakło św. Wawrzyńca chrzty 1905-1945, śluby 1900-1950, zgony 1926-1949 4,47 GB ≈ 7 CD

“Cabbage” Patch Kids: Kapusta/Kapuściński DNA Cousins

by Sandra Maciejewska Porter

I find genetic connections fascinating. They are clues, like anything else, and need research and documentation. I recently reached out to a DNA match on Ancestry.com. Although we were only distantly related, with 9.6 centimorgans shared across 1 DNA segment, we both had the **Kapuscinski** name in our family trees and ties to Buffalo, New York. I wanted to learn if we shared common ancestors, or could identify a place where our common ancestors had been.

His ancestors were also identified as **Kapusta**. Although I knew that **Kapusta** and **Kapuściński** had the same root word, this was the first family I had seen using both versions of the name.

Kapus- {e} < kapusta, cabbage [R]; Kapuściak (504), Kapuścik (753), Kapuściński (5422), Kapuśniak (1338, or < kapuśniak, cabbage soup [R]), Kapusta (7847), Kapustka (840)
Kap. Ifyl < kosa, kapuściński

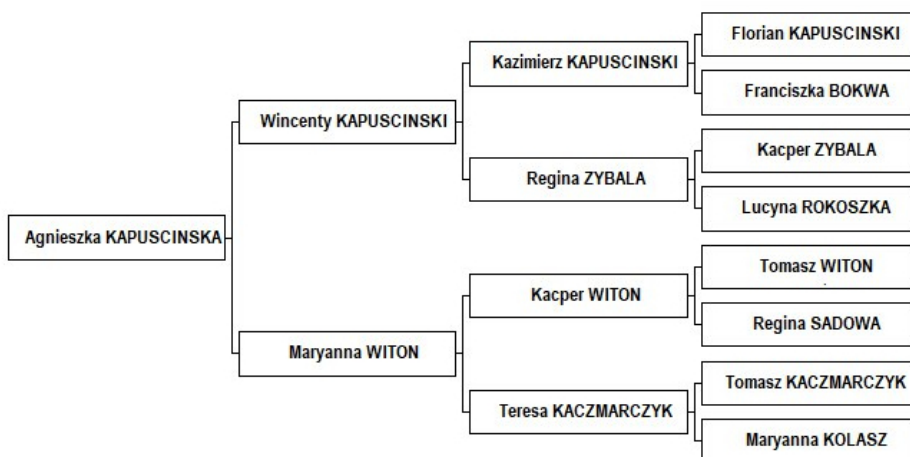
Entry from William F.
 “Fred” Hoffman’s
*Polish Surnames: Origins
 and Meanings, 2001*

It was not surprising that there could be different versions of the same Polish name. The Polish language changes words to indicate gender, number, and case. For example,

- the -ski ending indicates an adjective, for possession or affiliation
- -ska is the feminine form of the adjective
- -owski/-owska indicates the place of
- -owa is the ending used for a wife’s name
- -ówna is an unmarried daughter, etc.

So the same root name can have various endings, depending how it is used by a Polish speaker. For more about Polish names, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_name.

Ancestors of Agnieszka
 Kapuścińska



My grandmother **Agnieszka Kapuścińska** was born in February 1895 in Gnieszowice, Koprzywnica, near Sandomierz in Russian Poland. Now it is in the Świętokrzyskie province of Poland. Her sister **Maryanna** had come to the United States in 1912, and paid for her sister's ticket the following year. **Maryanna** married **Grzegorz Matyka** in 1915, and **Agnieszka** married **Jan Skrok** in 1917. While I had previously identified my grandmother's ancestors, and had been able to trace the sisters, I did not know of any other relatives named **Kapuściński** in Buffalo, New York.

However, I found **Casimir** and **Mary Kapuscinski** in Buffalo, New York, in the 1930 United States Federal Census, at 73 Gibson Street.

No	Sex	Age	Mar	Place of Birth
1	M	36	2	Poland
2	F	33	18	Poland
3	M	14	3	Ohio
4	F	12	5	Ohio
5	F	11	5	Ohio
6	M	8	3	Ohio
7	M	3	5	New York
8	F	1	5	New York

1930 Federal Census entry (Kapuszcinski)

In 1940, **Casimir** and **Mary Kapusta** were at 37 Lombard Street, in Buffalo, New York.

No	Sex	Age	Mar	Place of Birth
1	M	45	1	Poland
2	F	42	0	Poland
3	M	24	5	Ohio
4	F	22	5	Ohio
5	F	21	5	Ohio
6	M	18	5	Ohio
7	M	13	5	New York
8	M	8	5	New York
9	F	6	5	New York

1940 Federal Census entry (Kapusta)

The older children had been born in Ohio, which made me look for information there. I found the 15 Oct 1928 marriage record for **Kazimir Kapusta** and **Mary Staron**, born **Obora**. Both had been previously married, and had been divorced, in Cleveland, Ohio.

APPLICATION NO. 237390		FILED AND MARRIAGE LICENSE ISSUED		September 15	19 28
Name	Kazimir Kapusta	Name	Mary Staron		
Age	35	Age	31		
Residence	3476 E. 76th St.	Residence	3472 E. 76th St.		
Place of Birth	Poland	Place of Birth	Poland		
Occupation	Molder	Occupation	Housework		
Father's Name	John	Father's Name	Wojciech Obora		
Mother's Maiden Name	Katharine Sikora	Mother's Maiden Name	Mary Pesh		
Number of times previously married	Once	Number of times previously married	Once		
Div. in Cleve.	O 228624	Married Name	Staron		
		Div. in Cleve.	O 278451		
Marriage to be solemnized by <i>M. J. Penty</i> , J.P. Warrensville, O		License issued by <i>A. F. Kotowski</i>		Deputy Clerk	
Consent of	Filed 19	Consent of	Filed	19	
THE STATE OF OHIO, } ss.		RETURN			
CUYAHOGA COUNTY. }		I CERTIFY, That on the 15th day of September 19 28, Mr. Kazimir Kapusta			
		and Miss Mrs. Mary Staron were by me legally joined in marriage.			
M. J. Penty, J. P.					

1928 Marriage Record, Kazimir Kapusta and Mary Staron, Warrensville, Ohio

In the 1920 census record, **Casimer Kapusta** was a lodger in the home of **Walenty** and **Mary Starol** [sic] at 3472 East 76th Street in Cleveland, Ohio.

236	Starow, Walenty	Head	M	W	23	M	1913	OH
	Starow, Victoria	Wife	F	W	22	M	1913	OH
	Starow, Stefan	Son	M	W	4 1/2	S		
	Starow, Marita	Daughter	F	W	2 1/2	S		
	Starow, Catherine	Daughter	F	W	7 1/2	S		
	Kapusta-Casimeo	Roomer	M	W	23	S	1913	PC 1917

1920 Federal Census, (Starow and Kapusta)

Walenty Staron married Victoria Falkowska in Shaker Heights, Ohio, on 23 Oct 1928. His naturalization record in 1944 identified his children and previous residence in Sandomierz, Poland.

(8) I have 6 children; and the name, sex, date and place of birth, and present place of residence of each of said children who is living, are as follows:
Jean (f) June 18, 1934; Loretta (f) Sept. 29, 1939; Kazemira (f) 4/8/1919;
Czeslaw (M) 10/15/21; Martha (f) July 29, 1917; Steven (M) Dec. 29, 1915. All
born in Cleveland, Ohio. Jean and Loretta now residing in Cleveland, Ohio. Others
residing at--unknown.

(9) My last place of foreign residence was Sandomierz, Poland
(City or town) (County, district, province, or state) (Country)

(10) I emigrated to the United States from Antwerp,
(City or town)

1944 Walenty Staron Naturalization Petition

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Maryanna Obora’s children with Walenty Staron were:

- Szczepan (1915-1982)
- Marta (1917-2005)
- Kazimiera (1919-2018)
- Czeslaw (1921-1945)

The children of Kazimierz Kapusta and Maryanna Obora born in Buffalo, New York, were:

- Edward Jerome (1927-2007)
- Alfred (1929-1932)
- Richard J. (1931-)
- Genevieve/Jean (1933-2017)

Genevieve/Jean’s grandson was my DNA match, so I wanted to see if we could find where in Poland his great-grandparents had been born and if there were any links to my identified ancestors. We exchanged information on his other grandparents, but I was most interested in his Kapusta and Obora lines from Russian Poland.

Kazimierz’ 1918 draft registration identified him as a “frendley alien” born in 1894 in “Bialobozie, Kelecska, Russia.” (Already, spelling is suspect.) Because I knew where my Kapuściński ancestors were from in the former Kielce province, it helped me to find Białoborze.

Wikipedia says “Białoborze is a village in the administrative district of Gmina Stopnica, within Busko County, Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, in south-central Poland. It lies approximately 3 kilometres (2 mi) north-east of Stopnica, 18 km (11 mi) east of Busko-Zdrój, and 55 km (34 mi) south-east of the regional capital Kielce.”

REGISTRATION CARD No. 70
 Name: Kazimierz Kapusta Age: 23
 No. 3470 876 (C) CLEVELAND (OH)
 Date of birth: March 4 1894
 What is your present intention (specify which): Frendley Alien
 Where born: Bialobozie, Kelecska, Russia
 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? Russia
 What is your present trade, occupation, or profession? Cleveland Hardware Co.
 If you have completed: 8-79-23
 Have you a father, mother, or guardian over 18, or a sister or brother under 18, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? No
 Married or single? single Race (specify which): Caucasian
 What military service have you had? Rank: None
 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? No
 I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.
 Signature: Kazimierz Kapusta

A search on the Geneteka database for **Kazimierz Kapusta** in the Świętokrzyskie province showed that **Kazimierz Kapusta** was born in 1894 in Białoborze to **Jan Kapusta** and **Katarzyna Sikora**, which matched the information on his marriage record. He was baptized (entry #66, according to the Geneteka index) at Kościół św. Apostołów Piotra i Pawła in Stopnica, not far from the area near Sandomierz where my **Kapuściński** ancestors were found. The Polish records were indexed, but I did not find the records themselves online.

From Geneteka, I could see **Jan Kapusta** and **Katarzyna Sikora** had these children in Białoborze. Unfortunately, the first boy, named Jan, died in 1891.

1891	41	Jan Kapusta
1892	53	Apolonia Kapusta
1894	66	Kazimierz Kapusta
1896	121	Jan Kapusta

Further research on Geneteka showed that:

- **Jan Kapusta** and **Katarzyna Sikora** were married in Stopnica (Skrobaczów) 1889.08.14.
- **Jan Kapusta** was the son of **Walenty Kapusta** and **Apolonia Lech**.
- **Katarzyna Sikora** was the daughter of **Wojciech Sikora** and **Agnieszka Pawłowska**.

Jan Kapusta, son of **Walenty Kapusta** and **Apolonia Lech**, died in 1897 (Stopnica entry 63) in Białoborze. On 1899.08.24, **Katarzyna Kapusta** (born **Sikora**) married **Andrzej Jaros** (**Jaros**), the son of **Ignacy Jaros** and **Antonina Włoch**.



Maryanna Obora immigrated on 17 Feb 1913 to New York, New York, United States, on the ship **Campania** from Liverpool, England, with a final destination of Cleveland, Ohio. Her place of birth was listed as **Dziesławice** in Russian Poland.

Wikipedia says “**Dziesławice** is a village in the administrative district of **Gmina Stopnica**, within **Busko County**, **Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship**, in south-central Poland.” Often immigrants who were married in the new country had previously known each other or each other’s families in the old country, as was the case here. Again, Geneteka was useful.

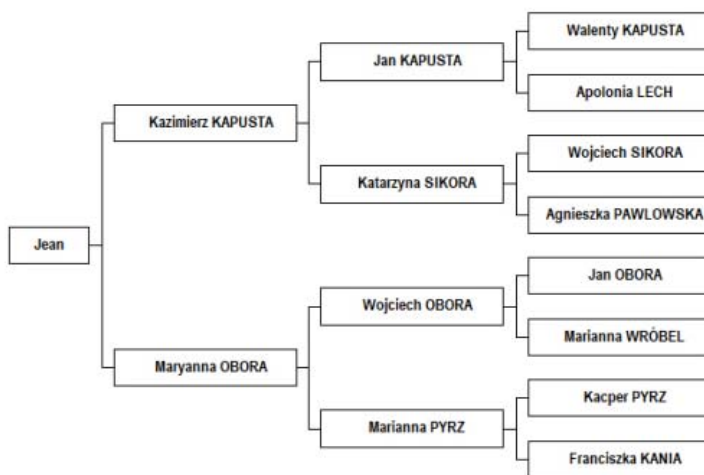
Marianna Obora was born in 1896 in **Dziesławice** to **Wojciech Obora** and **Marianna Pyrz**. Again, this was very close to the information on her marriage record. She was baptized (entry #256, according to the Geneteka index) at Kościół św. Apostołów Piotra i Pawła in Stopnica. As before, the Polish records were indexed, but I did not find the records themselves online.

From Geneteka, I could see **Wojciech Obora** and **Marianna Pyrz** had these children in **Dziesławice**. Sadly, the records say that **Stanisław** [sic] died in 1900 and **Antoni** in 1905.

1896	256	Marianna
1899	121	Stanisława
1904	11	Antoni
1906	102	Stanisława
1908	60	Józefa

Further research on Geneteka showed that:

- **Wojciech Obora** and **Marianna Pyrz** were married in Stopnica (Falęcín – Dzieszławice) on 15 May 1895.
- **Wojciech Obora** was the son of **Jan Obora** and **Marianna Wróbel**.
- **Marianna Pyrz** was the daughter of **Kacper Pyrz** and **Franciszka Kania**.



Ancestors of Genevieve/ Jean Kapuscinski

Our DNA connection is very small, and we do not have any common matches, so I was not surprised my DNA match and I did not find common ancestors in a few generations. But our forebears came from the same region, and I was able to put my prior experience with Geneteka to good use in identifying the ancestors of one of the grandmothers of my DNA match. Even genetically distant cousins can collaborate and share information to help one another find out more about their ancestors!

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2019 PGSNYS Board of Directors

The Election for the 2019 PGSNYS Board of Directors was held on November 8, 2018. The current Directors and two trustees agreed to run again, whereas three trustees declined. Two members accepted nomination. With no competing candidates, the Board secretary cast one vote for the slate. **There remains a fifth trustee position to be filled, so please consider volunteering to serve.** If you are interested, please notify Nicole Pohancsek or any Board member.

Your PGSNYS Board of Directors for 2019 is as follows:

Nicole Pohancsek, president
Maureen Gleason, vice president
Charles Penasack, treasurer
Denise Oliansky, secretary

Dolores Ferguson, trustee
Sharon Voigt, trustee
Louise Tomczak, trustee
John Nowak, trustee

**From all of us to all of our members
Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!**

Tomasz Nogowski - A First Settler from Buffalo to North Dakota

Shared by Dolores Konopa

PGSNYS member, Dolores Konopa, came across this document while answering an inquiry from someone in her family tree on Ancestry.com. The person sharing this document on Ancestry.com wanted to illustrate how families from Buffalo, NY moved to southeastern North Dakota and grew a community there. The Polish version was written in 1907, and found originally from the website of the Polish American Liturgical Center at Orchard Lake, Michigan. The translation was provided by the man who posted it on Ancestry.com. Even though the article is about Nogowski, in Buffalo's Saint Stanislaus marriage records, the surname was originally Nagowski. Thomas was married in Poland; his brothers Peter and Frank were married at St. Stanislaus. The family members who migrated to North Dakota changed their surname to Nogowski, while those who stayed in Buffalo retained the Nagowski spelling.

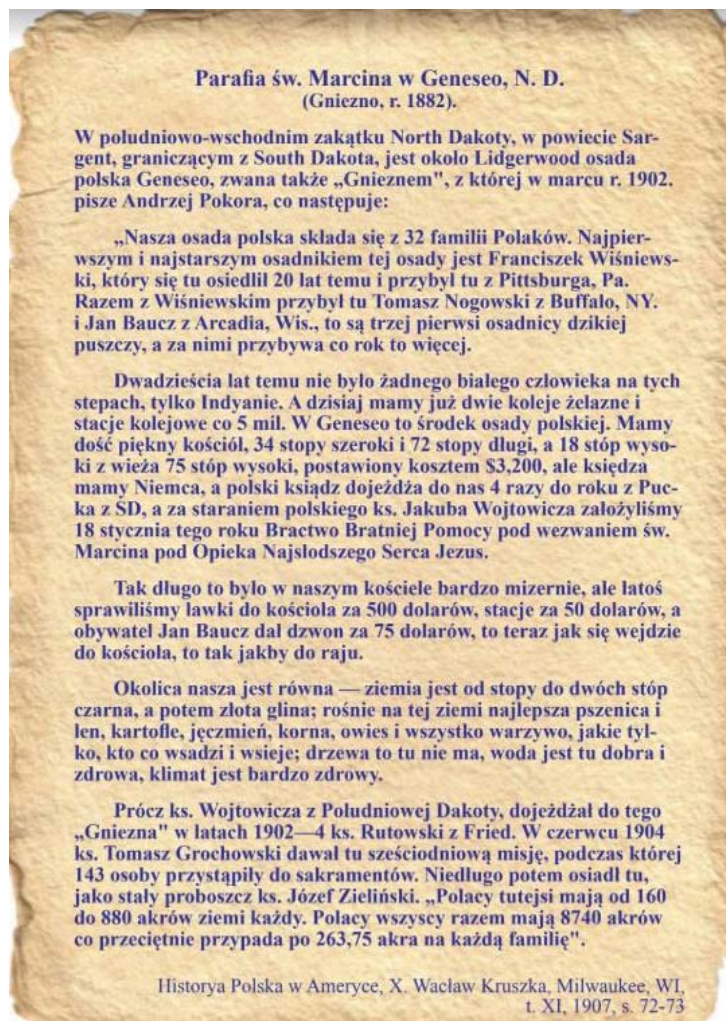
To the right is the original document, and below is the verbatim (uncorrected) translation provided on Ancestry.com.

Translation

In the south-eastern corner of North Dakota, in the district of Sargent, bordering South Dakota, is around Lidgerwood settlement Polish Geneseo, also known as "Gniezno" founded in March 1902. Andrzej Pokora writes as follows:

Our Polish settlement consists of 32 families of Poles. The first and oldest settler of this settlement is Franciszek Wiśniewski, who settled here 20 years ago and came here from Pittsburgh, Pa. Tomasz Nogowski from Buffalo, NY, and Jan Baucz from Arcadia, Wis., arrived here with Wisniewski, these are the first three wild settlers the forest, and it comes every year more.

Twenty years ago there was no white man for these steppes, only Indians. And today we have two iron railroads and train



stations every 5 miles. In Geneseo is the center of the Polish settlement. We have quite a beautiful church, 34 feet wide and 72 feet long, and 18 feet high with a 75-foot high tower, placed at a cost of \$3,200. For a priest we have a German, and a Polish priest comes to us four times a year from Pucka from SD, and from the efforts of the Polish priest Jakub Wojtowicz on January 18 this year, the Brotherhood of Brothers Help dedicated to Saint Marcin under the care of the Sweetest Heart Jesus.

It has been so poor in our church for so long, but this year we made pews for the church for \$500, stations for \$50, and citizen Jan Baucz gave the bell for \$75, now he comes in to church, it's kind of like paradise.

Our surroundings are unequaled - the earth is from a foot to two feet black and then gold clay; the best wheat is growing on this earth flax, potatoes, barley, korna, oats and all vegetables, which who, what he puts in and gets into; there is no tree here, the water is good here and healthy, the climate is very healthy.

Besides priest Wojtowicz from South Dakota, he came to this "Gniezno" in the years 1902-4, Father Rutowski from Fried. In June 1904 Fr. Tomasz Grochowski gave here a six-day mission during which 143 people joined the sacraments. Soon after, he settled here, as a permanent priest of Fr. Józef Zieliński. "The local Poles have from 160 up to 880 acres of land each. Poles all together have 8,740 acres which on average amounts to 263.75 acres for each family."

To the right is Tomasz Nogowski's grave marker, translated "Here lies the late Tomasz (Thomas) Nogowski, born 19 September 1842, died 19 September 1907. He asks for health, Mary" (ref. to the mother of Jesus).



2018 PGSNYS Year in Review

Membership Meeting Presentations:

- ◆ February 8 - Nicole Pohancsek provided an excellent demonstration of how to break down brick walls with examples of research questions provided in advance by members
- ◆ March 8 – Patricia Rooney presented about her 2017 trip to Poland for a wedding
- ◆ April 12 – Sharon Voigt presented on her trip to Poland and ancestral towns
- ◆ June 14 - Edward Reilly III presented: The Impact of Polish Immigration on the Civic and Religious Identity of the United States
- ◆ October 11 - Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz presented: Finding Uncle Frank: Confirming the Identity of a Polish-American Soldier Buried Under the Wrong Name

PGSNYS Representation at Community Events:

- ◆ Numerous Polish Happy Hours throughout the year
- ◆ July 20 - 22: Polish Arts Festival and Pulaski Parade
- ◆ September 8: 10th Annual PGSNYS Genealogy Fair at St. Gabriel's Church; Presentation by Rhonda Hoffman 'Genealogy 101'
- ◆ September 9: Pulaski Dinner
- ◆ October 20: Buffalo Family History Fair, Finding Your Roots - PGSNYS presentation 'Polish Genealogical Research'
- ◆ October 27: 100th Anniversary of Polish Independence Gala and Ball
- ◆ November 4: All Souls/Polish Ancestry Day, St. Stanislaus Cemetery

Other PGSNYS Events:

- ◆ December 13: Christmas Party for members and guests



Top 3: Polish Arts Festival and Pulaski Parade
Bottom 3: PGSNYS Genealogy Fair





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