

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

PRESERVING  
OUR PAST  
SINCE 1988

# SEARCHERS

NO. 81

SUMMER

2019, ISSUE 2

St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Church  
Elma, NY



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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\* at the  
Museum of disABILITY, 3826 Main St, Buffalo, NY  
at 7:00 PM

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](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: NO MEETING in July (picnic) or December (Christmas Party)

## 2019 PGSNYS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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**President:** Nicole Pohancsek  
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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,

In the beginning of July, the first batches of the Buffalo *Dziennik* newspaper were uploaded to the NY State Historic Newspapers website. This includes the editions from January 17, 1911 through July 11, 1941. You can search them for FREE at:

<http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn83045091/>

We are in the process of sending the second batch of images to Pottsdam to be indexed soon. Once the 1941-1957 images are indexed, they will be added to the New York State Historic Newspapers website.

Fifteen years ago, a couple of our members had a dream to be able to search a *Dziennik* death notice index at our meetings. They spent countless hours at the library indexing the death notices, and that index is available at the PGSNYS.org website. With adding the OCR searchable newspapers online at NY State Historic Newspapers, you can search the entire *Dziennik* newspaper, not just the death notices.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen! We are still working on scanning some *Dziennik* editions that were not originally microfilmed. We have located some of the missing editions in Chicago.

Sincerely, Nicole Pohancsek

## POTPOURRI

### ★ANNOUNCEMENTS★

**NEW MEETING PLACE!** After 27 years meeting at Villa Maria College, the PGSNYS had to cut ties when the college decided to charge us \$250 to meet in the cafeteria each month for two hours, with summers off. After an extensive search that included churches, libraries, colleges, and Polish and social halls, the PGSNYS has found a new home for our monthly membership meetings! The other locations either charged too much, could not guarantee us the 2nd Thursday of each month, or did not have Wifi, which we require for database searches during our meetings.

The **Museum of disABILITY**, located at 3826 Main St, Buffalo, NY, has welcomed us and



provides a great space, complete with lots of tables, chairs, a screen, and a projector. We will continue to meet the 2nd Thursday of each month (except July and December) at 7 PM, and refreshments will be served. The remaining meetings in 2019 are September 12, October 10, and November 14. In lieu of a meeting in December, we will have our annual Christmas Party at a location TBD.

We look forward to seeing you in our new meeting venue!

## 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 choose to OPT-IN for the electronic version in the future, **please follow these instructions exactly:**

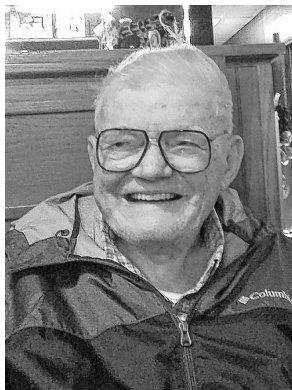
- You may receive either the print or electronic version, not both. You must continue to pay your annual membership dues to receive either version. To continue to receive the print version, no further action is needed on your part.
- The deadline to OPT-IN for the electronic version of the *Searchers* 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 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!



## In Memorium: Edward Prabucki



**Editors Note:** *The PGSNYS will never be the same without Edward Prabucki in our ranks. Ed was a very longtime member who was loved by all. He will be remembered as a passionate devotee of his family research and history in general. Ed lived to see his 98th birthday, and there was much he shared with us about the changing times throughout his long life. An infallibly kind, intelligent, and gentle soul. Our deepest condolences to his children and family. Rest in peace with your departed loved ones and many ancestors, Eddie. We miss you.*



**PRABUCKI - Edward R.** June 14, 2019, of West Seneca, NY. Beloved husband of the late Rita R. (nee Podlas) Prabucki; dearest father of Margaret Dunn, Michael, James, Bernard (Darcy), Mary Jane Cutrona, Karin (Robert) Adams and the late Edward, Jr. (Carol) and late Mark Prabucki; fond grandfather of 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren; brother of the late Sophie Kozlowski, Bernard and Bronislaus Prabucki. Visitation Friday 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the PAUL A. KLOC BLOSSOM CHAPELS, INC., 4680 Clinton St., (corner Borden Rd.) West Seneca 668-5666, where a Funeral will be held Saturday morning 8:15 AM and from St. Gabriel Church at 9 AM. Friends are invited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Polish Genealogy Society and St. Gabriels Senior Citizens group in memory of Edward.



This picture was on display at Eddie's wake, and his daughter, Karin, very kindly sent it to us on request. It's a wonderful picture of him with his parents and siblings when he was just a youngster. From left to right are: Edward Prabucki, Bernard "Ben" Prabucki, John Prabucki, Bronislaus Prabucki, Mary Petyk Prabucki, and Sophie Prabucki Kozlowski.



# Language Challenges in Family History Research

by Sandra Maciejewska Porter

I never had an ear for languages. Polish was my parents' first language, so they regularly spoke Polish to each other while I was growing up. I could make out some of what they were saying about me and my sisters, but I never learned to speak it. As a child, I thought that all parents had a language that only adults used. They spoke English with us when they wanted us to understand.

I studied Latin in high school. Since no one living spoke Latin, I was able to approach it as a coding problem, with noun declensions and verb conjugations. I took several semesters of French in high school and college, and I studied some German in college. As an adult, I took extension courses in Polish before taking a tour of the country in 2004. I never became fluent in any of them.

Although I did not appreciate it at the time, this language exposure has helped a lot with my family history research. My ancestors were Roman Catholic, so many church records are in Latin. They spoke Polish, so knowing about declensions and cases have been very helpful in deciphering names of people and places.



My father's ancestors were from the West Prussian part of Poland that was occupied by the Germans in the 1800s, so many official records were written in Latin, German, and Polish. Not only were they written in different languages, they were often written in different languages at the same time! The equivalent of the English name John could be written as Jan (Polish), Johann (German), Joannes or Johannes (Latin) in different places on the same page. Column headings and forms were often in the Fraktur font.

My mother's family was from the Russian occupied area of Poland near Sandomierz. The nineteenth century records there were in the wordy Napoleonic format. Some records were written entirely in Polish, while others were in Russian (Cyrillic), often with the names repeated with Roman letters. Since all the records were handwritten, there were variations in the legibility and even the quality of the ink that was used.

One day my grandson sat with me as I was perusing old records, and he asked me how I could read them. I was taken aback, until I realized that his is a generation of devices. While he learned his letters in preschool and he learned to print in kindergarten, his reading is often on a screen and his writing is mostly on a keypad. Cursive writing was only a small part of his third grade curriculum. While he can make out the words in script, it does not come naturally to him. While it has never been easy, deciphering old records may be becoming more of an arcane art.



## Family Ties to St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Church

by Casey T. Jakubowski

*Editors Note: This article is timely in that the 11th Annual PGSNYS Genealogy Fair is coming up on Saturday, September 14, 2019. St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows RCC has been the gracious host and supporter of our event these many years, and it is interesting to learn about two of the founding members of the parish.*

I recently found out that my Great-Grandparents, Stanislaus Chowaniec and Mary Czapla Chowaniec were founders of St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows RCC in Elma, NY. They, along with Mr. Jacob Rogacki, Tony Galusjy, Mr. Wilczak, John Mary, Anna Galuski, Mrs. Pruski, and Mr. Pruski founded the church to worship God and do so in a way that was in keeping with the Polish culture.

Both endured the strenuous journey to America.

Born in Wadiwince, Poland in the late 1800s, to Jarek and his wife, Stanislaus was the oldest child and only boy. The Chowaniecs had at least one other child, a daughter. Stanislaus immigrated to Chicago, then went to work in Texas in the cattle business. However, he did not like the stockyard work and instead hoped to be a blacksmith.

Mary was born in Rzeszow, Poland in the late 1800s. She was born to Franciszek Czapla and Josepha Borovic. She had two brothers and two sisters. She immigrated to St. Louis, MO to assist a cousin, but later moved to Buffalo.

Stanislaus had moved to Buffalo, NY and lived near the Broadway Market when he met Mary. He worked as a Blacksmith at the Lackawanna Construction Company #1.

Stanislaus and Mary were married April 12, 1921 at Assumption Church in Black Rock. They settled in Buffalo on Oneida Street. The marriage was fruitful, and the family grew with the births of Joseph, Frank, Stanley, Norbert, Charlotte, Genevieve (my Grandmother), and Teresa.

The family outgrew the Oneida Street house and, in 1921, the family acquired a farm on Blossom Road in Elma, NY. In 1925, Stanislaus and Mary helped found St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows RCC.

Mary helped Stanislaus on the farm by tending to vegetables and raising chickens. As part of her efforts, the eggs were sold at the Broadway market, and the money was hers to spend and use.

Some of the crops from the farm also went to the Broadway market, as the area was a hub for produce on the East Side of Buffalo. The family had chickens, horses, fruit trees, and grain crops on the property.

The Chowaniec family contributed to the United States' World War II effort, with Frank, Stanley, and Norbert all serving. Norbert's service in Alaska led him to marry Annabelle and start a family in that frontier state.



Stanley and Mary's Wedding



After the war, their son Stanley introduced his sister Genevieve to Alfred Jakubowski, whom she married. He worked on the New York Central Rail Road. Alfred was the son of Andrew Jakubowski of Lancaster and formerly Cheektowaga, NY. The Jakubowski family has ties to St. Josaphat Church in Cheektowaga. They immigrated to America from the Poznan region of Poland.

Charlotte worked at Buffalo Wireworks as an administrative assistant.

Teresa met and married Chester Stando, also a World War II Vet. With his untimely death, Teresa continued to work at Trico, where she rose in ranks in the engineering department as an Administrative Assistant to Mr. Oshei and Mr. Wolff. After the Trico company moved to Brownsville Texas, Teresa moved to the Oshei Foundation as an administrative specialist. After her professional retirement, Teresa continues service to the church as a member of the Resurrection Choir and is a member of several Senior Citizens' groups.

When Stanislaus retired from active farming, he divided the property up between his surviving children. Having lost Mary in 1969, he wanted to ensure the family was provided for. The family remained close, with Alfred and Genevieve Jakubowski living on the northern end of the property in a house Alfred built. Charlotte lived with her father.

Teresa and Chester had built a house a bit south, and once Stanislaus retired, he moved in with them. At the southern end of the property Frank and Lee built their home. With Norbert in Alaska and Stanley in Depew, the family would unite for Wigilia and Easter.

The Chowaniec-Czapla family still stays in touch with distant cousins in Poland, many of whom still live in the Wadowince and Rzeszow regions.

The family in America stretches from Albany, NY in the east to Alaska in the west, with most of the family still living the Greater Buffalo area.

Stanley and Mary's legacy is not limited to the strong family they lovingly raised. Now their Great-Great-Grandchildren are learning Polish history, traditions, and customs.

With the 95th Anniversary of St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows RCC approaching, it is important to remember the key founding families of that great parish. I am proud to have two of those founders in my family tree.



**Celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary with Stanley and Mary**

**Back row, left to right:  
Charlotte, Stanley, Frank, Norbert,  
Genevieve (Jean)**

**Front row, left to right:  
Teresa, Mary, Stanley**



**Polish Genealogical Society  
of New York State**

**2019  
11th Annual**



# **Genealogy Fair**

**Saturday, September 14, 11 AM to 3 PM**

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

**Presentation at 1:00 PM**

**Nancy Koester**

**“Introduction to DNA”**

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

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

# Kajdasz Family Came from Posen

by Sandra Maciejewski Porter

Marya Kajdasz, the future wife of **Konstanty Maciejewski/August Warner**, was just one month old when she made the overseas journey with her parents **Andrzej** and **Jadwiga Kajdasz** and brothers **Marcin** and **Ludwik** on the S.S. Elbe from Bremen and Southampton to New York in 1888, with a final destination of Buffalo, Erie, New York.

Castle Garden had a record of the family's landing in New York on 2 May 1888.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SEX	ARRIVAL DATE	PLACE OF LAST RESIDENCE
KAIDAS	ANDRA.	36	M	2 May 1888	SCHRODA
KAIDAS	HEDW.	30	F	2 May 1888	SCHRODA
KAIDAS	LUDWIG	3	M	2 May 1888	SCHRODA
KAIDAS	MARIE	1 m	F	2 May 1888	SCHRODA
KAIDAS	MARTIN	7	M	2 May 1888	SCHRODA

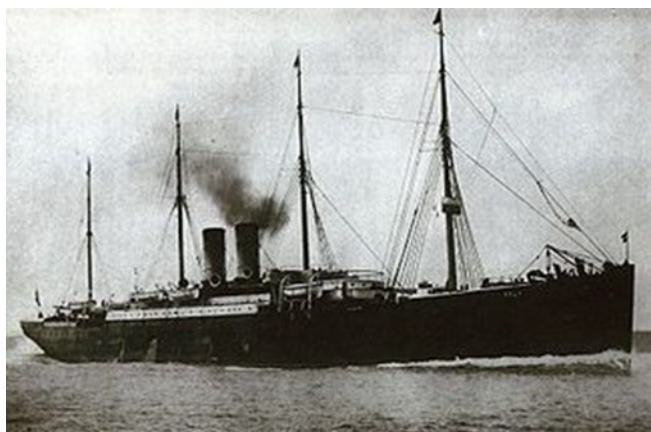
This is the Castle Garden search results specifically for Marie Kaidas (Kajdasz):

MARIE KAIDAS			
FIRST NAME	MARIE	RELATIVE LEFT BEHIND	
LAST NAME	KAIDAS	NAME OF RELATIVE LEFT BEHIND	
OCCUPATION	INFANT	ADDRESS OF RELATIVE LEFT BEHIND	
AGE	1 months	TICKET	
SEX	Female	PAID BY	Self
LITERACY	Unknown	IN THE US BEFORE	Unknown
SHIP	ELBE	IN THE US WHEN	
ARRIVED	2 May 1888	IN THE US WHERE	
COUNTRY	GERMANY	GOING TO SOMEONE IN THE US	Unknown
PORT OF DEPARTURE	BREMEN & SOUTHAMPT	RELATIONSHIP TO THAT SOMEONE IN THE US	
PLACE OF LAST RESIDENCE	SCHRODA	NAME OF RELATIVE IN THE US	
PROVINCE OF LAST RESIDENCE	UNKNOWN		
CITY OR VILLAGE OF DESTINATION	BUFFALO	ADDRESS OF RELATIVE IN THE US	
PLAN	Unknown	CITY OF RELATIVE IN THE US	
PASSAGE	Unknown	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	GERMANY
MONEY		PLACE OF BIRTH	

The **Kaidas (Kajdasz)** family members were on the ship's passenger list.

NAME	AGE	SEX	RELATION	PLACE OF ORIGIN	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE OF ARRIVAL	DATE OF DEPARTURE	DATE OF ARRIVAL	DATE OF DEPARTURE	DATE OF ARRIVAL	DATE OF DEPARTURE
1. Andrzej Kajdasz	24	M	Head	Schroda, Prussia	Schroda, Prussia	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24
2. Jadwiga Kajdasz	20	F	Wife	Schroda, Prussia	Schroda, Prussia	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24
3. Marcin Kajdasz	7	M	Son	Schroda, Prussia	Schroda, Prussia	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24
4. Ludwik Kajdasz	5	M	Son	Schroda, Prussia	Schroda, Prussia	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24	Aug 24

Although the **Kajdasz** family was Polish, they came from Prussia, the part of Poland that was occupied by Germany at that time. They were likely to have spoken both Polish and some German. Because they left from Germany, their names were listed in German in the ship's manifest. **Andrzej** was **Andreas**, **Jadwiga** was **Hedwig**, **Marcin** was **Martin**, **Ludwik** was **Ludwig**, and **Marya** was **Marie**.



SS Elbe (1881), postcard

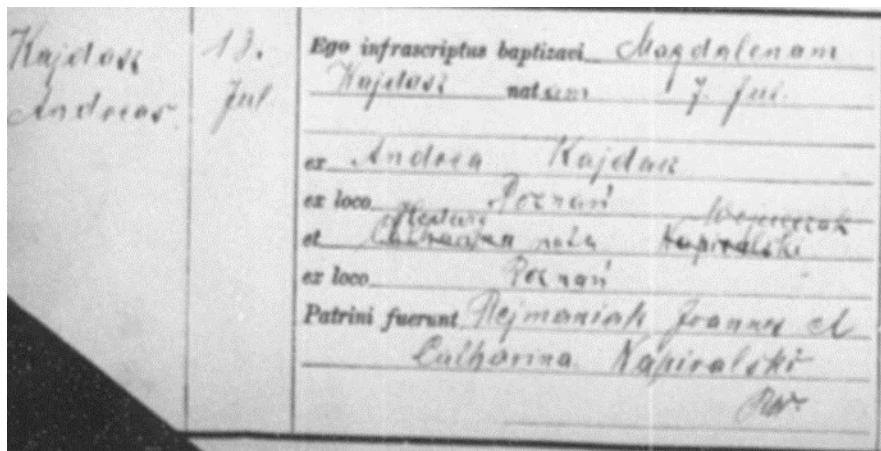
The manifest said the family had come from Schroda, which was a kreis (district) of the Prussian province of Posen in the 19th Century.

After Andrzej and Jadwiga Kajdasz arrived in Buffalo in 1888, the family grew. In 1900, the census showed the family was living at 51 Sobieski Street in Buffalo, Erie, New York. **Marcin/Martin** had married and was living nearby with his wife **Rozalia**. The older children were listed with English names, and **Marya** was listed with the name **Julia**. In later years, her name was usually listed as **Mary J.**, so **Julia** is likely her middle name. Another boy, **Franciszek**, was born 1 August 1900.

51	224	Kajdasz, Andrzej	Head	W m	Mar 1853	47	on 24	Germany
		— Jadwiga	Wife	W f	Sept. 1856	43	on 24	Germany
		— Marcin	Son	W m	Aug. 1883	16	S	Germany
		— Julia	Daughter	W f	Mar 1887	13	S	Germany
		— Magdalena	Daughter	W f	July 1889	10	S	New York
		— Rosie	Daughter	W f	July 1891	8	S	New York
		— Leo	Son	W m	Oct 1893	7	S	New York
		— Belagis	Daughter	W f	Feb. 1898	2	S	New York



**Andrzej and Jadwiga's daughter Magdalena** was baptized in 1890 at St. Adalbert Basilica at 212 Stanislaus Street in Buffalo, Erie, New York. Her parents were listed as **Andrea Kajdasz** and **Hedwig Wojcieczak**.



**Magdalena's** baptism record said that **Andrzej** and **Jadwiga** were from Poznań. A search at the Poznań Marriage Project found their 1876 marriage in both church and civil records. These matched their immigration records, which reported that they had come from Schroda.

### Exact matches

Catholic parish **Madre [Mondre]**  
entry 7 / 1876

- Andreas Kajdasz** (23 years old) 100%  
father: Jacobus , mother: Marianna Walkowiak
- Hedvigis Wojcieszak** (20 years old)  
father: Martinus

Civil registry **Środa Wielkopolska [Schroda]**  
entry L-28 / 1876

- Andreas Kajdasz** (born 1853) 100%  
father: Jacob Kajdasz , mother: Marie Walkowiak
- Hedwig Wojcieszak** (born 1857)  
father: Martin Wojcieszak , mother: Dorothea Wawrzynkiewicz

**Andrzej Kajdasz and  
Jadwiga Wojcieszak,  
1876 Poznan Project  
results**

Wikipedia says that “Mądre is a village in the administrative district of Gmina Zaniemyśl, within Środa Wielkopolska County, Greater Poland Voivodeship, in west-central Poland. It lies approximately 7 kilometres (4 mi) east of Zaniemyśl, 8 km (5 mi) south of Środa Wielkopolska, and 36 km (22 mi) south-east of the regional capital Poznań.” The church in Mądre is Kościół Rzymskokatolicki Pw. św. Jadwigi Śląskiej, St. Hedwig of Silesia. Mądre is the Polish word for “wise.”

**Mądre, Środa  
Wielkopolska**



Later, **Andrzej** and **Jadwiga** joined the Polish National Church. When they died in 1917 and 1934, they were interred in the Holy Mother of the Rosary Polish National Parish Cemetery in Cheektowaga, Erie, New York.

A search of the Poznan Marriage Project for **Andrzej**'s parents, **Jakub Kajdasz** and **Marianna Walkowiak**, shows that they were married in 1844 in Środa Wielkopolska, and his father's name was **Tomasz**.



**Jakub** and **Marianna**'s marriage was indexed in Geneteka, which said they were married 10 November 1844. The old church in Środa is Parafia Kolegiacka Wniebowzięcia Najświętszej Marii Panny, Collegiate parish church Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The word Środa means "Wednesday" in Polish.



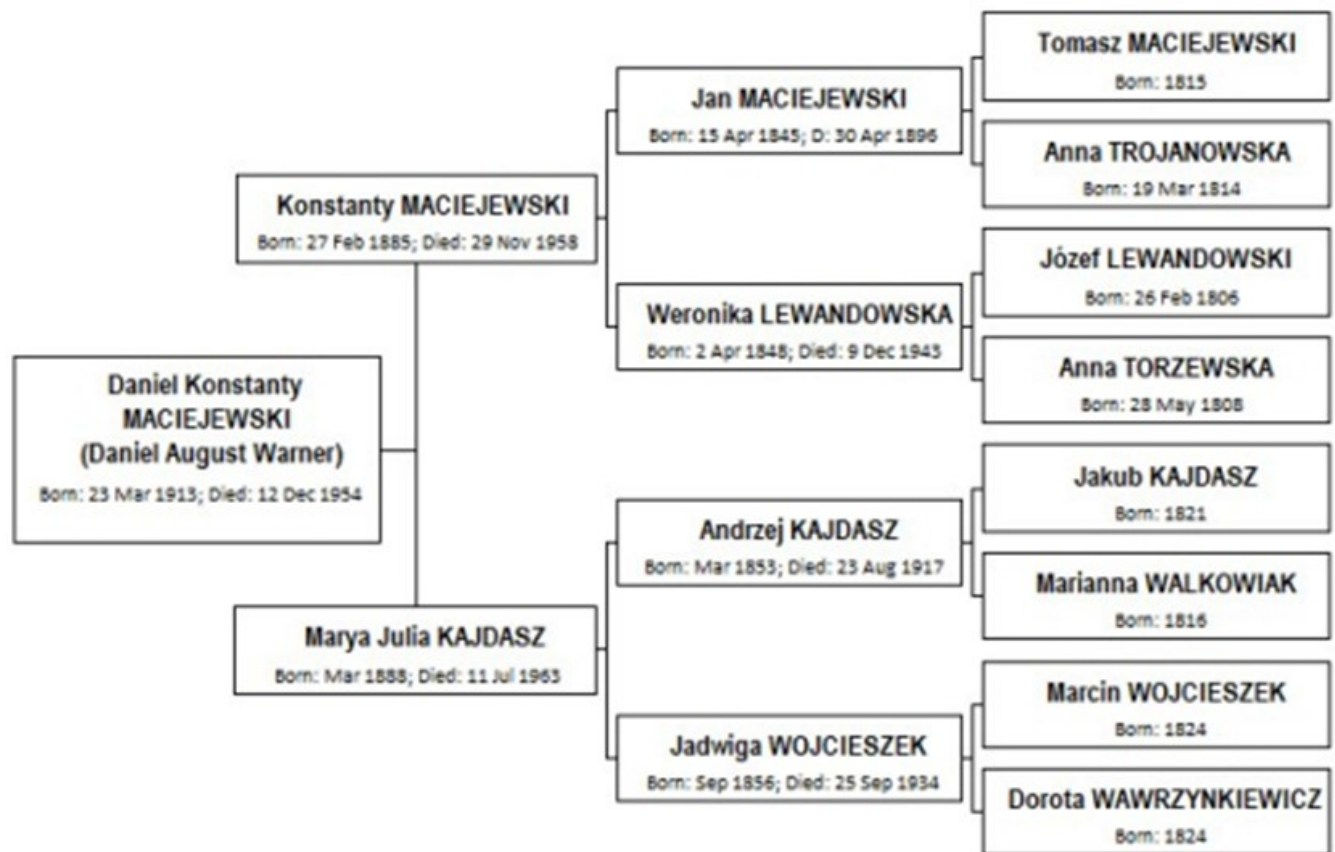
Środa Wielkopolska Collegiate church and marketplace

**Jadwiga**'s parents were also found at the Poznań Marriage Project. **Marcin Wojcieszek** and **Dorota Wawrzynkiewicz** were married in Koźmin in 1849.



Wikipedia says "Koźmin Wielkopolski (German: *Koschmin*) is a town in Krotoszyn County, Greater Poland Voivodeship, Poland, with 6,678 inhabitants according to the 2010 census." The Roman Catholic church in Koźmin is Kościół pw. św. Wawrzyńca, St. Lawrence. Described as dating from 999, it has undergone many changes through the centuries.

While I have not yet located the original records, this indexed information fills in some names in the ancestry tree of **Marya**'s son **Daniel** with **Konstanty Maciejewski**. **Konstanty** was also known as **August Warner**.



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St. Adalbert’s Basilica Complex, Buffalo, NY, Polonia Trail, Western New York, Polish-American Congress WNY, <http://poloniatrail.com/location/st-adalberts-basilica-complex/>

Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral Polish National Catholic Church Complex, Polish-American



Congress WNY, <http://poloniatrail.com/location/holy-mother-of-the-rosary-cathedral-polish-national-catholic-church/>

Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 13 October 2018), memorial page for Andrzej Kajdasz (30 Nov 1859–23 Aug 1917), Find A Grave Memorial no. 115361906, citing Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish Cemetery, Cheektowaga, Erie County, New York, USA ; Maintained by Dakota (contributor 48202698)

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