

PRESERVING
OUR PAST
SINCE 1988

SEARCHERS

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WINTER

2019, ISSUE 3



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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
Erie 1 BOCES, Bldg B, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY at 7:00 PM

Annual dues are \$20 (\$30 Canada, \$35 other countries), and membership entitles you to three issues of the *Searchers* per year. New members 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 July (picnic) or December (Christmas Party)

PGSNYS website: www.pgsnys.org

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THE SEARCHERS NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

Submissions to the *Searchers* (articles as MS Word doc; photos as .jpg) should be sent via

E-mail directly to: denise.oliansky@gmail.com

PGSNYS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As 2019 winds down and I take a look back at the three years I was President of PGSNYS, I can't believe all that we have accomplished, the great presentations we had, and the new people I have met. It's been a great three years, but now it's time for someone else to take over as President. I look forward to John Nowak as our 2020 PGSNYS President. I know he will bring new ideas as our Society moves into its 32nd year.

Happy Holidays and Wesolych Świąt!

Sincerely, Nicole Pohancsek

POTPOURRI

WITAMY! New PGSNYS Members

(since April 1, 2019)



Candy	Maupin	Depew	New York
David	McManaman	Orchard Park	New York
Darlene	Napora	Hamburg	New York
Jeanette	Sheliga	Lockport	New York
Marie	Urbanski	Buffalo	New York
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Greg	Rabb	Jamestown	New York
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Christine	Kraffert	Henderson	Nevada
Pamela	Mathis	Holland	New York
Paul	Murawski	Lancaster	New York
Barbara	Uhl	Cheektowaga	New York

ANNOUNCEMENT: On page 5 of this issue is an article about GEDmatch and its use in Genetic Genealogy. On December 9th, it was announced that GEDmatch has been sold to Verogen, a forensic genomics firm that caters to law enforcement. According to Verogen, whether users opted in or out of police searches on GEDmatch would be respected by the company. Just be aware of this change in ownership and stay informed about their use of DNA information if you are thinking about uploading your raw DNA data to GEDmatch, particularly if you do not want it used in investigations.

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.oliensky@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!

SEARCHERS CORRECTIONS



Corrections to Issue 81, Summer 2019:

Wiczak in the Surname Index should be Wilczak.

The *Searchers* editor is mortified that the wrong church was used for the cover photo. It was also St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, but **not** the one in Elma, NY! It is located in Marlboro, New Jersey! Deepest apologies for the mix-up. Here is an accurate photo of St. Gabriel's in Elma.



GEDmatch and Genetic Genealogy

by Nicole Pohancsek

There is a new science that is using DNA to help catch criminals and solve missing persons cases. It is called Genetic Genealogy and CeCe Moore and a company called Parabon are using DNA from a website called GEDmatch to help solve these cases.

Have you taken an AncestryDNA or 23 and Me DNA test and wondered if there was anywhere else to post your DNA results? There is a website called GEDmatch (gedmatch.com) where you can upload the DNA you have taken from any of the other sites (like AncestryDNA or 23 and Me). Since DNA results can be uploaded from any site, it is a great tool to see if you are related to someone who didn't use a DNA test from the same company that you did.

Why has Parabon Nanolabs, CeCe Moore, and GEDmatch been in the news so much lately? In 2018 Parabon cracked open a long mystery case of the Golden Gate Killer using Genetic Genealogy. Since then, they have caught rapists and killers and solved missing person cases. They have also helped clear innocent people convicted of crimes they did not commit. You might have seen CeCe Moore on TV shows, such as Finding Your Roots, 60 Minutes, and the Dr. Oz show, talking about cases she has helped solve using Genetic Genealogy.

What is Genetic Genealogy? Genetic Genealogy uses autosomal DNA to connect a specific (allegedly) criminal DNA sample to the DNA of close relatives they find in the GEDmatch database. The Genetic Genealogist then uses the close matches to build a family tree for the rapist, killer, Jane Doe, or missing person. They use tools such as newspapers, obituaries, birth records, death records, etc. to build the family tree, much like we do when researching our family members.

Some people are afraid to take AncestryDNA or 23 and Me tests because they do not want their DNA to be used by the police. Testing companies like AncestryDNA and 23 and Me do not share your DNA results. You must upload your raw DNA to GEDmatch for it to be used by law enforcement. Even with GEDmatch, you need to OPT IN for law enforcement searches. Earlier this year, everyone in GEDmatch was changed to OPT OUT of law enforcement using your DNA, so if you want to allow it, you must log in and select YES to OPT IN. If you log in to your GEDmatch account, you can tell if you opted in because there will be a police shield next to your kit.

Every day there seems to be another cold case solved by Genetic Genealogy. Parabon has solved over 55 cold cases, most of them unsolved for decades. The people who committed these rapes and murders walked free for many years. They were able to live their lives without anyone knowing their heinous past. Until Genetic Genealogy, many Jane and John Does were buried without their families knowing what happened to their loved ones. If you have taken a DNA test and have not uploaded your kit to GEDmatch, please consider doing so, and OPT IN to allow it to be used by law enforcement. You might just help solve a crime. Your DNA could be the missing link they need to close a cold case.



On the Road Again! PGSNYS Visits PGSCTNE

by Jim Ciulis

On Friday October 18, 2019 the Polish Genealogy Society of Connecticut and the Northeast (PGSCTNE) held its a Genealogy Conference at the Institute of Technology, Business, and Development, Downtown Campus near Hartford.



Our group, which included PGSNYS President Nicole and her husband Gene Pohancsek, and members John Cyna, my wife Donna, and myself, made the 6-hour trip from Buffalo, NY to Connecticut. Nicole, Gene, and John set up the PGSNYS Roadshow and were visited by many people who had a connection to the Buffalo/Western NY area. I wouldn't be surprised to see our membership grow based on the information provided to those visiting the PGSNYS table at the conference.

Featured speakers at the conference were:

Blaine Bettinger, The Genetic Genealogist; Matthew Bielawa, PGSCTNE Vice President and Jonathan Shea, PGSCTNE President; Dr. Mieczylaw B.B. Biskupski, Endowed Chair, Polish and Polish American Studies at Central Connecticut State University; Daniel Bucko, Professional Genealogist in Krakow, Poland; Thomas Sadauskas (from Virginia); and Maureen Taylor, Photo Detective. Their lectures covered a wide range of new and different ways to research your ancestors and break down brick walls.

There were over 144 people at the conference, and we all learned from the speakers and each other.

This conference was not only a chance to gain information on genealogy, but for Gene and Nicole to again meet up with Daniel Bucko, since their trip to Poland a few years back. If you were lucky enough to be at the PGSNYS meeting when Nicole shared with us her experience traveling in Poland, you heard that Daniel worked to connect them to their ancestors. His role as their Polish translator, his knowledge and research skills, and his knowledge of the laws and how to work the system, was worth so much more than they could express. For John Cyna, Donna, and myself (all of whom received many family records from Daniel in the past), it was our first time meeting him in person. His presentations were very informative, providing us new ideas to research our family roots and help us build our story. It was very apparent at the conference that Daniel has helped many Polish Americans to discover their family roots in Poland.

In closing, the conference was an opportunity to hear and meet genealogy experts who provided ways to break down walls and lead us closer to our ancestors. If an opportunity similar to this experience were to present itself to you in the future, I would highly recommend participating. Sometimes we forget that we are not just looking for data, but we are trying to turn that data into our story. The people you meet, the things you learn, and just those small little tips shared by the presenters and the attendees will help you in your research, and if you are lucky, will lead you on a path to breaking through your brick walls. ❧



Exciting News for Adoptees

by Denise M. Oliansky



On November 14, 2019, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law a Bill which passed in the New York State Assembly on June 20, 2019, and in the previous week by the State Senate. Beginning January 15, 2020, this new law grants adoptees who are 18 and older full access to their original birth certificate. This is a long time coming for those of us who are adopted. Various groups have tried to get similar legislation passed since the early 1990s, but it has taken decades to provide New York State adult adoptees the right to obtain a document that should legally belong to them.

This law makes New York the tenth state that allows adoptees unrestricted access to their original birth certificate. Up until this point, in New York State an adoptee's birth certificate was sealed forever once an adoption was filed, to protect the privacy rights of the biological parents. The only way to unseal the records was to petition the courts and all parties, including biological parents, who had to consent for the information to be released. Not an easy task in any way, and one which seldom secured the desired result.

As an adoptee, I am very excited by this news. One might think it shouldn't matter since I have already identified both of my birth parents through my research, DNA, and a health dose of serendipity. One might think it shouldn't matter because I had wonderful adoptive parents, and I should be satisfied with that. But it does matter. It matters, because just like everyone else, adoptees want to know where they came from. It is something I wondered about every year when we celebrated the anniversary of the day my adoptive parents brought me and my sister home. The desire to know ignited my research endeavors and made it worth the 30+ years it took to find the answers.

As delighted as I am about this news, I am not blind to the repercussions this is likely to have. I expect there will be thousands of adoptees who choose to acquire this newly available document, for any number of reasons. I think we must be prepared for a lengthy backlog of requests. Many who obtain their birth certificate will not take it any further; they just want to know more about themselves and where they came from. But a good proportion of those who get their original birth certificate may want to attempt contact with their biological parents or find out if they have siblings. Many biological parents considered the adoption a closed door; something they wouldn't have to think about again. Those with that mindset are likely concerned and not necessarily happy about the possibility of their adult offspring suddenly showing up at their front door. Any adoptee thinking about contacting their birth family should be aware of that and prepare themselves for possible disappointment. It is not something to jump into lightly. On the other hand, there will be those biological parents who had little or no choice when it came to giving their child up for adoption, and they may embrace reconciliation. There could be many heartwarming reunions in the future for NYS adoptees.

Whether or not they intend to contact their biological parents, those adoptees who enjoy genealogy, and who obtain their original birth certificate, will have a huge added benefit – a whole new family to research! It has been a wonderful adventure learning about my bloodlines and the historical framework of my genetic ancestry, in addition to the research I've done on my adoptive family.

I look forward to January 15, 2020. For me it's all about knowing what time I was born! My birth mother couldn't remember when I asked her. Congratulations to all adoptees out there on this momentous piece of New York State legislation. Use the information wisely and cautiously and celebrate finally being able to answer the most fundamental question of your life.

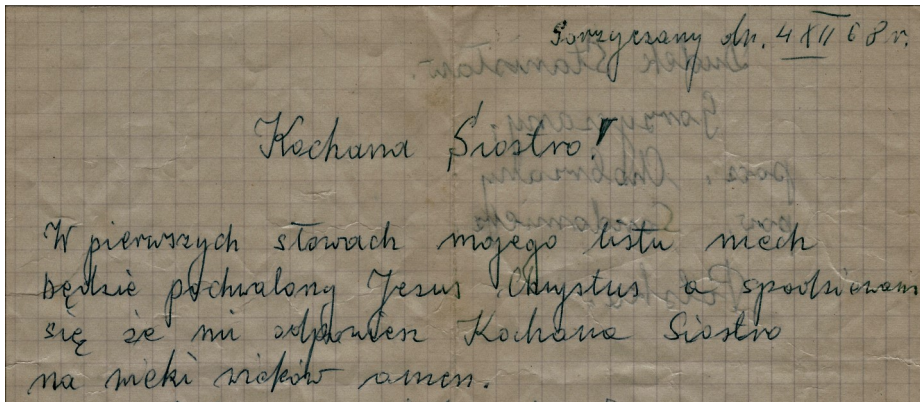
Józefa Kapuścińska Dudek Stayed in the Old Country

by Sandra Maciejewski Porter

At a family event in the 1960s, I remember my grandmother **Agnieszka Kapuścińska Skrok Kiec** and her sister **Maryanna Kapuścińska Mastykarz**, both old women, arguing in Polish. When I asked my mother what they were arguing about, she told me that **Maryanna** had wanted another sister to come to America and had paid for her passage. She was still angry that younger sister **Agnieszka** had come instead. My mother thought that the other sister did not want to leave the old country, and rather than waste the ticket, their mother had sent **Agnieszka** to America.

This story helped me identify the sisters' arrivals in America. **Maryanna Kapuścińska** came to Buffalo in 1912. She had wanted her sister **Józefa** to join her, and she had paid for **Józefa's** ticket. In looking through the records, I found a ship manifest for **Józefa Kapuścińska** in 1913, but no ship manifest for **Agnieszka**.

In 1968 my grandmother had received a letter from her sister **Józefa Dudek** in Chobrzany, Poland, so we knew **Józefa** stayed in Poland and had married. Even my rudimentary Polish could translate the salutation of "Kochana Siostro!" as "Dear Sister!" She wrote about her son **Stasiu** (nickname for **Stanisław**) who had married twice and had two children and her son **Wotek** (nickname for **Wojciech**) who was also married twice and had two children.



Segment of the 1968 letter to **Agnieszka Kapuścińska Skrok Kiec** from her sister **Józefa Dudek** in Poland

I was able to verify my grandmother **Agnieszka's** 1895 birth during a visit to Poland in

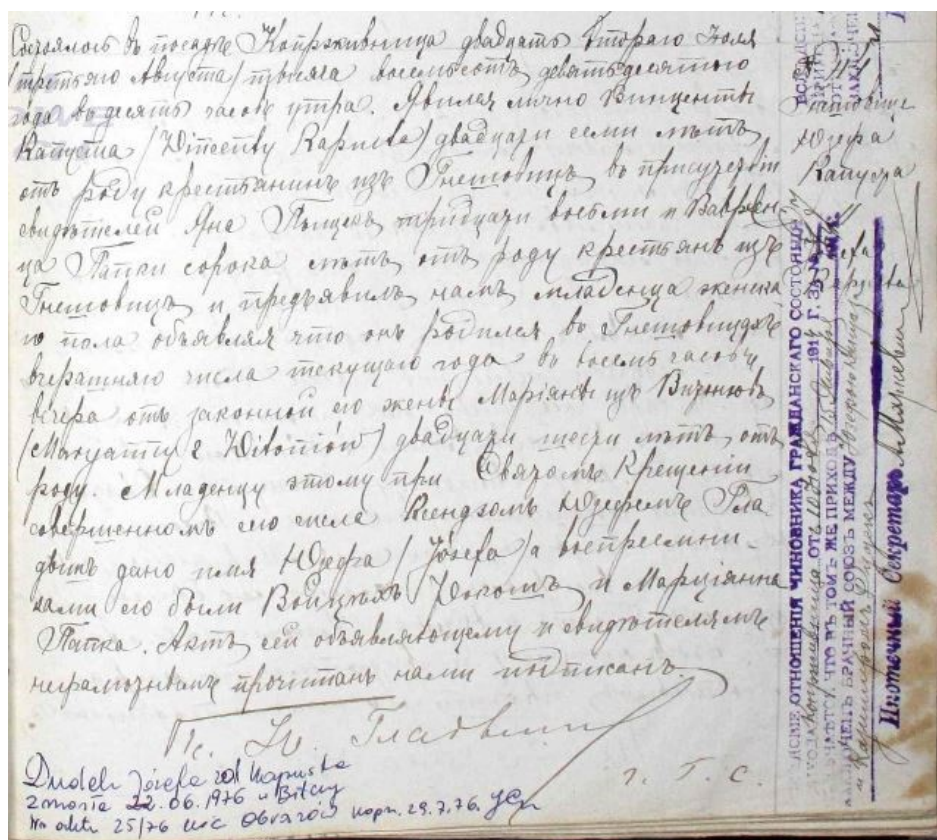
2004. I found her sister **Maryanna's** 1888 birth record in the index and online records in 2015. However, I was puzzled because I did not find **Józefa's** birth record indexed with her siblings in Gnieszowice, Koprzywnica, near Sandomierz.

Kapusta – Kapuścińska

The roots of Polish names are used with different suffixes. I had found some DNA cousin's ancestors who had used both **Kapusta** and **Kapuściński** as surnames, and I wrote about these "Cabbage Patch Kids: Kapusta/ Kapuściński DNA Cousins" in the Winter 2018 issue of the PGSNYS Searchers. These name variations happened with my own family, as well!

Józefa Kapuścińska's birth on 2 August 1890 was especially hard to find. Not only was the **Kapusta** form listed, the top of the K in **Kapusta** was closed, making her father's name written in Roman letters look like "**Wincenty Rapusta.**" Accordingly, the birth was indexed as "**Józefa Rapusta.**" Her mother was correctly identified as **Maryanna Witoń.**

JÓZEFA KAPUSTA
birth record and
translation



Gnieszowice, Józefa Kapusta

This occurred in the settlement of Koprzywnica on July 22 / August 3, 1890 at seven o'clock in the morning. Wincenty Kapusta appeared in person, twenty seven years of age, a peasant from Gnieszowice, and in the presence of witnesses Jan Pyszczyk, thirty eight, and Wawrzyniec Palka, forty years of age, both peasants from Gnieszowice, he presented to us an infant of the female sex stating that that the baby was born yesterday in Gnieszowice at eight o'clock in the evening of his lawful wife Marianna née Witoń, twenty six years of age. At Holy Baptism administered on this day by Reverend Józef Gładysz this child was given the name of Józefa and the godparents were Wojciech Rokosz and Marcjanna Palka. This document was read aloud to the declarant and illiterate witnesses and was signed by us alone.

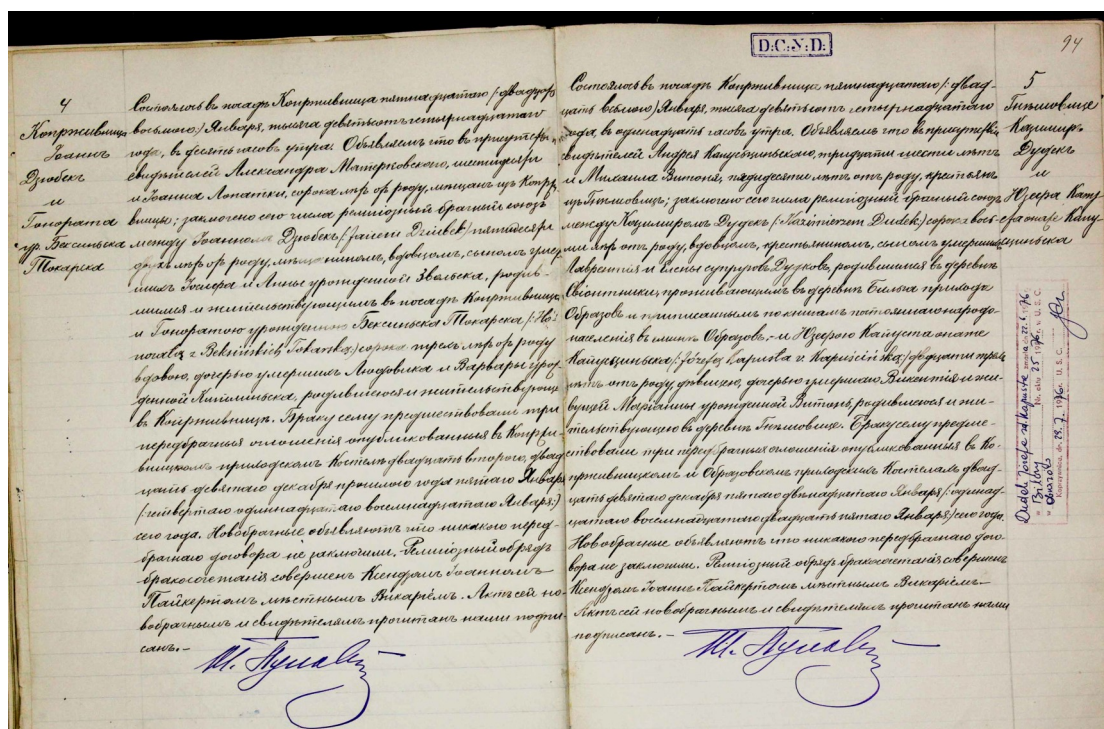
J. Gładysz

While the notation at the bottom of the page refers to her death, the stamped entry in the margin of the birth record refers to **Józefa's** 1914 marriage to **Kazimierz Dudek** in Koprzywnica. **Kazimierz** was the widower of **Marianna Kapusta Dudek**, the daughter of **Jan Kapusta** and **Wiktorya Miczak** of Bilcza, Sandomierz.

In accordance with the proclamation made on July 10, 1914 by a civil servant of the Koprzywnica parish, the following note is made: marital union was contracted in this parish on January 15, 1914 between Józefa Kapusta and Kazimierz Dudek.

Registry clerk A. Markiewicz

**Kazimierz
Dudek and
Józefa
Kapusta aka
Kapuścińska
marriage
record and
translation**



5, Gnieszowice, Kazimierz Dudek and Józefa Kapusta aka Kapuścińska

This occurred in the settlement of Koprzywnica on the fifteenth / twenty second of January 1914 at eleven o'clock in the morning. We declare that in the presence of witnesses, Andrzej Kapuściński, thirty six years of age, and Michał Witoń, fifty years of age, peasants from Gnieszowice; on this day a religious marital union was contracted between Kazimierz Dudek, forty eight years of age, widower, a peasant, son of Wawrzyniec and Helena Dudek, born in the village of Świątniki, residing in the village of Bilcza in the parish of Obrazów, – and Józefa Kapusta aka Kapuścińska twenty three years of age, unmarried, daughter of late Wincent and still living Marianna nee Witoń, born and residing in the village of Gnieszowice.

This marriage was preceded by three readings of the bans proclaimed in the parish churches of Koprzywnica and Obrazów on the twenty ninth of December, the fifth and twelfth of January: the eleventh, eighteenth and twenty fifth of January of the current year. The newlyweds declare that they did not conclude a prenuptial agreement.

The religious marriage ceremony was performed by Reverend Jan Pajkert, local vicar. This document was read aloud to the newlyweds and witnesses and signed by us.

Stamp in the margin:

Józefa Kapusta née Dudek died on June 22, 1976 in Bilcza. Act no. 25/1976 issued by the Civil Registry Office of Obrazów. Koprzywnica, 29.7. 1976. Civil Registry Office [signature].

Józefa's birth record also had the notation that **Józefa Dudek** died 22 June 1976 in Bilcza, Obrazów, Sandomierz, Świętokrzyskie, Poland.

Józefa Dudek née Kapusta died on July 22, 1976 in Bilcza. Act no. 25/76 [issued by] Civil Registry Office in Obrazów. Koprz.[ywnica] 29.7.76 [signature]

In addition to the sons mentioned in **Józefa**'s letter I also found an indexed birth record for **Józefa Dudek**, daughter of **Kazimierz Dudek** and **Józefa Kapuścińska** in Bilcza, Obrazów, on 6 Nov 1914.

Sources

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- Towarzystwa Genealogicznego Polski, Birth, 1890 114 Koprzywnica, Józefa Rapusta; digital images, Towarzystwa Genealogicznego Centralnej Polski (<http://metryki.genealodzy.pl>) : accessed 29 May 2019). <http://metryki.genealodzy.pl/metryka.php?ar=7&zs=0158d&sy=1890&kt=1&plik=111-114.jpg>
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- Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne, "Geneteka, Metryki," database, Polish Genealogical Society, *Genealodzy* (genealodzy.pl: accessed 25 July 2019), 1863 18 Kazimierz Dudek Wawrzyniec Helena Gospoś Obrazów Świątniki; citing church records or Urząd Stanu Cywilnego (Civil Registry Office).
- Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne, "Geneteka, Metryki," database, Polish Genealogical Society, *Genealodzy* (genealodzy.pl: accessed 25 July 2019), 1890 11 Kazimierz Dudek Wawrzyniec, Helena Gospoś Marianna Kapusta Jan, Wiktoria Mietek Obrazów, Bilcza; citing church records or Urząd Stanu Cywilnego (Civil Registry Office).
- Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne, "Geneteka, Metryki," database, Polish Genealogical Society, *Genealodzy* (genealodzy.pl: accessed 26 May 2019), 1914 143 Józefa Dudek Kazimierz Józefa Kapuścińska Obrazów Bilcza; citing church records or Urząd Stanu Cywilnego (Civil Registry Office).

Tomasz Wroński Returned to Poland!

by Sandra Maciejewski Porter

“Somebody told me.”

When I stated researching family history in the 1990s, I only wanted to capture what my parents knew. I expanded the mandate to include their siblings and cousins, and a few cousins once removed, and perhaps some second cousins. So I asked questions of family members about the people they knew, and I wrote down and shared with them what they said. For the most part, it was accurate.

Years later, I would look at some record, and wonder “Who told me that?” That happened with **Tomasz Wroński**. In my records, I had a note that he died in 1969, in Poland. While it seemed unlikely, I had not documented a source for the event. Was it true?

Looking at the facts more closely, I saw that **Tomasz** immigrated to America in 1910, and brought his family to Buffalo, New York, in 1912. They had more children, and raised their family. Two of his American born children married relatives of my mother’s parents, so I wrote about “Wroński Relatives.”

Then I found evidence that **Tomasz** and his wife separated by 1953, and that **Julia Wrońska** died 11 Nov 1963 in Buffalo, New York. What happened to **Tomasz**? The last record I found in Buffalo was in 1956, when he was 83 years old. Yet, I did not find a death record for him in Buffalo, in New York, or in the United States! Perhaps he did go to Poland and died in 1969, as I had been told.

Thomas Wronski applied for a Social Security number in February 1937, listing his father’s name as **Marcin Wronski** and his mother’s name as **Maryanna Znojek**. His date of birth, 28 Dec 1873, matched those of other American records.

Name: Thomas Wronski

Gender: Male

Race: White

Birth Date: 28 Dec 1873

Birth Place: Hancien Woje, Poland

Father: Marcin Wronski

Mother: Maryanna Znojek

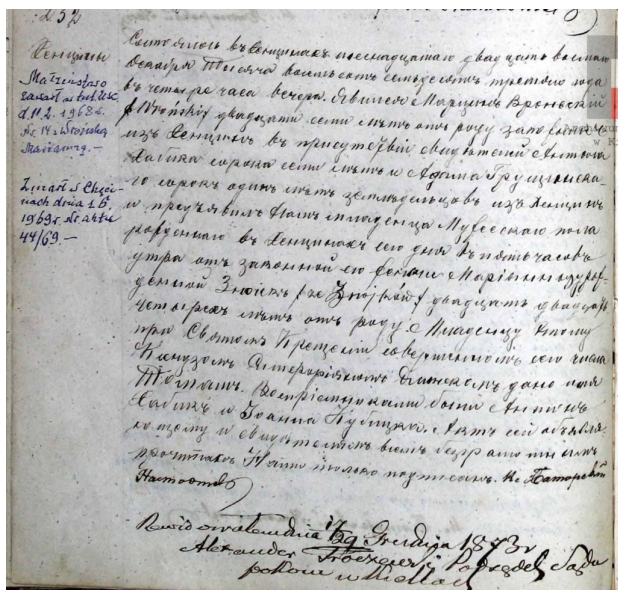
SSN: 713056088

Notes: Feb 1937: Name listed as THOMAS WRONSKI

1937 Thomas Wronski U. S. Social Security abstract

On **Thomas**’ Social Security application, his birth place was listed as “Hancien Woje, Poland.” When **Tomasz** immigrated in 1910, his place of birth was listed as Checina. On his brother’s ship manifest, both **Władisław Wroński** and **Karolina Znojek** listed Hentschina as their place of birth. I thought it might actually be Chęciny. In Polish, the “Ch” is sounded as h, the “ę” is a nasal en sound, while the “c” sounds like the end of cats. The letter “i” is the long e sound, while “y” sounds more like a short e. It sounds a bit like “hentchina,” actually. Now,

Chęciny is a town in Kielce County, Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship, Poland.



1873 birth, Tomasz Wroński,
Chęciny, Kielce

Many of the records from Chęciny have been indexed by the Polish Genealogical Society, Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne, in their Geneteka database at *Genealodzy*, geneteka.genealodzy.pl. When I searched, I found a birth record for **Tomasz Wroński** that had been indexed by volunteer **Edward Jabłoński**. Not only was the year right, the number of the birth showed it to be near the end of the year.

1873 232 Tomasz Wroński Chęciny Chęciny

I found a copy of the image on the website GenBaza / AP_Kielce / Kielce / Chęciny / 1873_072 / _k_182503.jpg.

In 1873, this area was under Russian rule, so the records were required to be written in Russian or the Cyrillic alphabet. While I can pick out some letters and words, I do not read Cyrillic, so another researcher confirmed **Tomasz Wroński**'s name, his date of birth, 28 Dec 1873, and his parents' names and ages—**Marcin** 27, **Marjanna Znojek** 24.

The Polish notes in the margin indicate that he married **Marianna Wrońska** in Chęciny on 11 Feb 1967, and **Tomasz Wroński** died in Chęciny, Kielce, Poland, on 1 June 1969, at the age of 96.

As I had been told.

Recently, a grandson of Thomas Wronski corroborated:

"It was 1964 or 1965 that my grandfather returned to Poland. I remember getting on the train at the Buffalo terminal to say goodbye. I was told I would never see him again. While in Poland, he married a 46 year old woman with a deformed arm. I believe he was 92 at the time of the marriage. She took care of him. When he died, they sent pictures of him in the casket, presumably to prove he was dead. There were some legal problems trying to settle his estate because it had to be split equally with his children and this woman. If I remember correctly, she signed away her portion."

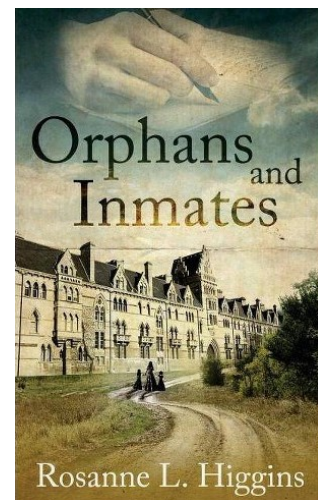
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2019 PGSNYS Year in Review

PGSNYS Monthly Meeting Presentations & Activities:

- January 10: Nicole Pohancsek, PGSNYS 'Getting Started Guide'
- February 14: 'Genealogy speed dating' exercise to learn about other members' surname interests
- March 14: Julie Szczepankiewicz, The ABCs of DNA
- April 11: Nicole Pohancsek, Polish Program presented at the September 2018 Family History Center Genealogy Fair
- May 9: Rosanne Higgins, Erie County Poorhouse Cemetery Project
- August 8: Denise Oliansky, DNA Matches Reveal the Outcome of My Birth Father's Life
- September 12: Tom Zawadski, Photos of Trip to Poland
- October 10: Dr. Andrew Kier Wise, Dr. Francis Fronczak's Public Service at Home and Abroad
- November 14: William Borucki, Making a Christmas Star



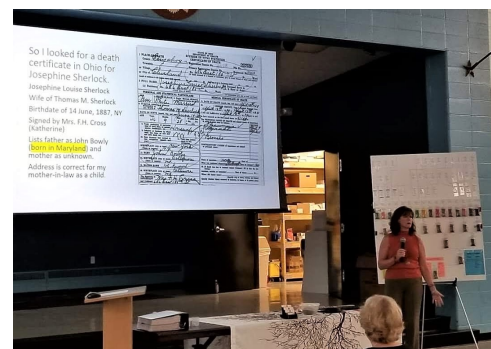
**Book by presenter
Rosanne Higgins**

PGSNYS Roadshows:

- July 19-21: Table at Cheektowaga Polish American Arts Festival
- October 19: Table and David Newman presentation on Polish Genealogical Research at the Buffalo New York Family History Fair
- October 18-20: Table at PGSCNE Conference in Connecticut
- November 2: Table at the All Souls/Ancestor Day, St. Stanislaus Cemetery

PGSNYS Events:

- July 20: PGSNYS picnic, Cheektowaga Town Park
- July 19: Denise Oliansky, 60 Million Congress, participated on the Business and Culture Panel (genealogy and research/travel opportunities with Poland)
- September 14: 11th Annual PGSNYS Genealogy Fair, St. Gabriel's Church; Guest Speaker: Nancy Koester, Introduction to DNA



**Nancy Koester presentation
PGSNYS Genealogy Fair**

- October 21: Nicole Pohancsek held a member Meet & Greet with Daniel Bucko, genealogist from Poland, at the Adam Mickiewicz Library
- December 12: PGSNYS Christmas Party, Polish Falcons Depew

PGSNYS Losses this Year:

Sadly, the PGSNYS lost three long-time and very dear members in 2019. They remain in our memories and in our hearts.

Frank Wilczak – January 6, 2019

Frank Martin – February 27, 2019

Edward Prabucki – June 14, 2019

Other News in 2019:

In 2019, PGSNYS also had to relocate its monthly meeting place after 27 years at Villa Maria College. A new contract could not be negotiated due to Villa's changing policies. After an extensive three-month search, in August, PGSNYS began meeting at the Museum of disABILITY History at 3826 Main Street. Due to scheduling issues there, PGSNYS will start the new year in a new location at Erie 1 BOCES, Bldg B, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY.

A review of the PGSNYS Bylaws began in March, with the final revisions being unanimously approved by members present at the November 14, 2019 meeting.

2020 PGSNYS Board of Directors

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Vice President	Maureen Gleason
Secretary	Nicole Pohancsek
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SEARCHERS NEWSLETTER

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

P.O. Box 984

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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