POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

PRESERVING OUR PAST SINCE 1988

SEARCHERS

NO.83 SPRING 2020 ISSUE 1



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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 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

Postal Address: PGSNYS P.O. Box 984 Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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

2020 PGSNYS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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THE SEARCHERS NEWSLETTER

For submissions to the <u>Searchers</u> newsletter, deadlines are as follows:

1st issue (Spring) - due March 1st for April mailing2nd issue (Summer) - due July 1st for August mailing3rd 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

It has been quite a challenge to write this, my first message as the new PGSNYS president. The term began with another location move for our monthly membership meetings. We hope we have now found a permanent home at the Erie 1 BOCES Center in West Seneca. Their spacious meeting rooms, coupled with extensive audiovisual support resources, promise to provide the perfect meeting setting no matter what the program may be. Yet, it may be some time before we will be able to take advantage of those facilities.

Today the impact and isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic is felt in every aspect of daily life. As we pursue our personal genealogical research in a time of enforced home presence, we may gain an appreciation of the peril faced by our ancestors a hundred years ago. Whether still in the turmoil of a newly reunified Poland, or establishing a new life in America, our family members experienced the uncertainty caused by the world-wide Spanish influenza pandemic. We are the proof that they survived and flourished.

As it would fall on Holy Thursday, we had already planned to not hold a membership meeting in April. At this time the prospect for the resumption of a normal schedule is unclear. The website (PGSNYS.org) will have all the latest information on our plans.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to every member of the extended PGSNYS family for good health and strength in these extraordinary times.

Sincerely, John A. Nowak

POTPOURRI

WITAMY! New PGSNYS Members

Paul	Varda	Gilbert	Arizona
Jan	Dyleloski	East Aurora	New York
James & Shirley	Voigt	East Amherst	New York
Killian	Apollinaris	Hamburg	New York
Rodney & Deborah	Staszak	Buffalo	New York
Lew	Noworyta	Orchard Park	New York
Judi	Floyd	Sarasota	Florida

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The upcoming scheduled PGSNYS meetings are: May 14. June 11, and August 13 at 7 PM in Bldg B, 1 Erie BOCES, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca. Presentations are scheduled for each meeting. There is no regular meeting in July.

NOTE: With the ongoing coronavirus situation, the decision to have or cancel our meeting will be made on a month-to-month basis. Watch for emails and visit our website at www.pgsnys.org for updates and details. We hope to see you soon.

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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. 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

The PGSNYS mourns the passing in recent months of two of its long-time members. Richard Zielinski and Walter Kloc were members nearly since the inception of the Society, and both generously served on the Board of Directors, on committees, and in various roles throughout the years. They are missed and will be long remembered.

ZIELINSKI, Richard A. (Obituary)

"Of Buffalo, entered into rest March 4, 2020. Dear brother of Melanie (James) Cotter and Steve (Narda) Zielinski; loving uncle of Denise and Vanessa; cherished great-uncle of Cali, Easton, and Tatum; also survived by many cousins. No prior visitation. A memorial service to be held at a later date. Arrangements made by LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME (Northtown Chapel). Online condolences at www.lombardofuneralhome.com."

Richard was a former president of the PGSNYS, was recently installed as a trustee of the Polish Arts Club, and was a member of the Cheektowaga Historical Association.



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KLOC, Walter (Obituary)

1917 - 2020 (102 years of age)

"Of Snyder, entered into rest on February 3, 2020. Beloved husband of 72 years to Virginia (nee Kaczanowski) Kloc; devoted father of Gerald (Susan) Kloc, William Kloc, Francine (Gary) Bauchan and Dennis (Katherine) Kloc; cherished grandfather of ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; loving son of the late George and Techla Kloc; dear brother of five siblings; also survived by loving nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends may visit the LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME (Snyder Chapel), 4614 Main St. (near Harlem Rd.) Snyder on Friday (February 7, 2020) from 6-8 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Christ the King Church, 30 Lamarck Dr. (corner of Main St.), Snyder, on Saturday (February 8, 2020) at 9:30 AM. Please assemble at church.

Mr. Kloc was a veteran of the US Air Force."

Walter was the 1991 President of PGSNYS and a trustee on the Board from 1998-2014. His was a familiar face at the annual Polish Arts Festival working the PGSNYS table nearly every July. But Walter was best-known among PGSNYS members as "the map man" and over the decades helped countless people find their ancestoral villages using his collection of old and new Poland maps. He could find any village, town, powiat in Poland. He also assisted with coat-of-arms research.

Walter was an avid golfer, and in the summer we would jokingly wonder whether he would turn up to our PGSNYS meetings or be off golfing somewhere. He had the distinction of being our oldest (in age) member. On August 20, 2017, at Christ the King Church in Snyder,



Walter

and Virginia renewed their vows on the 70th Anniversary of their wedding. At the September 2017 PGSNYS meeting, the PGSNYS celebrated his 100th birthday with cake and decorations and the very best wishes of his fellow members.

As highlighted from the 2/7/2020 Buffalo News:

"Walter Kloc, of Snyder, a World War II bombardier and retired automotive engineer, died Feb. 3 in Buffalo Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He was 102.

Born in Chicago, one of six children, he attended high school in Case City, Mich., and majored in in-

dustrial engineering at Central Michigan University. He enlisted in the Army Air Forces after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, hoping to become a pilot.

"I was put on a waiting list because they did not have enough aircrafts and airfields," he told Buffalo News reporter Lou Michel in 2017. "After three months of waiting, I decided to get a job and went to



work for General Motors as a student engineer in Detroit."

After four months at GM, he was accepted into the Army's pilot training program, only to discover after his primary training that the Army needed bombardiers and navigators, not pilots.

He did so well as a bombardier that he was promoted to bombardier squadron leader, then went to a base in Columbia, S.C., where he taught crews how to drop bombs.

After the war, he resumed his work as a student engineer for GM in Detroit. In 1952, as a full-fledged engineer, he was transferred to the General Motors engine plant in the Town of To-nawanda, NY. He retired as senior engineer in 1985.

Walter was a member of the PGSNYS, scoutmaster of a Boy Scout troop, and a member of the American Chestnut Foundation. He was a lifelong bowler and golfer. He continued golfing until last year."

When Walter served as a pilot and bombardier in the Army during WWII, the U.S. Air Force had yet to be created. In May 2019, at 101, Walter flew to Colorado to commission his grandson, Joseph Kloc, at the culmination of his Air Force Academy graduation ceremony. It was likely one of the last times a WWII vet would take part in such an honor.

"This is what it's all about ... Walter received a standing ovation, and everyone in the room was gifted with a memory they'll never forget," Air Force officials wrote in a Facebook post alongside photos of the grandfather and grandson sharing the special moments.

You lived a long, wonderful, interesting life, Walter. The members of the PGSNYS are honored to have known you, and will miss you always.



Walter Kloc commissions his grandson, Joseph Kloc in the U.S. Air Force in May 2019. Also present was William Kloc, Walter's son and Joseph's father.

A very special moment for a grandfather and his grandson.



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Where's Mary?

by Dolores Szalasny Konopa

When I first started to do research on my father's family, I was very much surprised to find that what my father had always told me was very true. He really did have "cousins by the dozens."

Most were easy to connect with and share information. But my grandfather's younger sister, Mary, was not that easy. I don't even know if my father knew anything about her or her family. At least he never spoke of her.

After finding information about the Szalasny/Salasny families from death notices, and connecting the dots from that information, I decided to check out baptismal records, wondering if there was more information there. I started with my father's and saw that his sponsors were Wojciech Bzibziak and Katarzyna Hadrych. So, I decided to check if anyone else had Wojciech as a sponsor. Researching other baptisms, I came across Maryanna Bzibziak as the sponsor for some of my father's cousins. At that time, I did not know if they were family or friends of the family.

I finally found my grandfather's name on a Baltimore Passenger list, though it was badly transcribed as Tanats Szalazsnik, going to Buffalo NY to his brother, Valenty Szalasny. What also caught my eye was that another couple was also going to Buffalo to a brother, Valenty Szalasny. Their names were Wojciech and Marya Zibzak (Bzibziak), so that established they were family.

Reviewing the census, I knew they had a couple of children, Mary and Walter, according to the

MARRIAGE LICENSES William A. Meyer, Jr., Eggertsville Mildred M. Nuskay, No. 281 Stevens. Oscar Russell, No. 298 Cedar -Rosa L. Brown, No. 222 Cedar, Walter Pfister, No. 693 Eagle -Caroline Loster, No. 372 Madison. Earl A. Denton, No. 349 Walden --Marguerite E. Ryan, No. 349 Walden. Frank B. Stamke, Chicago, Ill,-Esther H. Johnson, No. 238 Columbus. Irving E Brewster, No. 385 Vermont-Florence E. Wildrick, No. 385

Vermont. Richard E. Johnson, South Bend,

Ind .- Bertha M. Gilson, South Bend, Ind. Albert Altwell, Peoria, Ill .-- Louisa

Stocks, Peoria, Ill.

Joseph Klug, No. 163 Wendel-Au-gusta Krieger, No. 18 Boone. Charles Emerick, No. 221 Bristol -Addie M. Murphy, No. 549 Eagle.

Oswald R. White, No. 897 West-Juliette B. Duval, No. 133 Lexington.

Errol E. Williams, St. Louis, Mo. -Mary E. Magavern, No. 679 Richmond.

Joseph Dybash, No. 72 Townsend Marian Bziziak, No. 506 Peckham.

1905 and 1910 censuses. Then nothing for Mary. She seemed to disappear after the 1910 census, and the cousins I was in contact with didn't know anything about her or her family. I found Wojciech in the 1915 census, but his wife was listed as Ann and four children, Walter, Mary, Lottie and August. Was this another Wojciech or did he remarry? Or was Mary's name notated wrong in the census? Also, was their oldest daughter Mary's birth information wrong on the earlier census and Walter was the oldest? Or did she die? Marry? So many questions to which no one in the family knew the answers. Wojciech was still in the 1920 and 1925 census, then Ann was listed in the 1930 census as a widow.

At the downtown Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, I decided to look at various films, including records from St. John Kanty and early editions of the Buffalo newspapers. It was at this time I found that Marya Szalasny Bzibziak had died in 1912, her son Walter died in 1919, and her husband, Wojciech Bzibziak died in 1929. But there was nothing about her daughter, Mary.

As time went on, I found out that Wojciech's son, August Bzibziak had married my mother's cousin, Bertha Sikorska Trybalski. Also, that the Mary and Lottie listed in the 1915 census were Ann's children from her first husband. But still no Mary Bzibziak.

Finally, in 2017, a light bulb went off! Did Mary live with another family member after Wojciech's marriage to Ann? So, I

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looked back to my grandfather's siblings in the 1915 census to see if there was a boarder or other family mention for Mary Bzibziak. However, it was in the 1920 census that I found her, recorded as Mary Janik, niece to Frank and Anna Janik. I think the census taker may have just assumed that

Mary was a "Janik" since she was a niece, and never verified her surname. To further confirm it was actually Mary Bzibziak, when I found the marriage license posting for her and her first husband, Jozef Dybas, the address listed for her was her aunt Anna (Szalasny) Janik's home on Peckham Street.

She married Jozef Dybas (1891-1934) in 1924, and they had a son, Richard Dybas (1925-2018). Jozef passed away in 1934. Mary then married Stanislaus F Wisniewski (1910-1974) and their daughter, Christine, was born in 1937. Mary died in October 1979 in Tonawanda, New York. Her final resting place is with her second husband Stanley Wisniewski. [The other couple on the grave marker, Krasinski, is likely Stanley's sister and her husband.]



I tried to connect with both of Mary's children without success, but her grandson, Doug, and I have been in touch. I also sent out letters to various Bzibziak family members in the Buffalo area without getting any response. But maybe someday a grandchild may reach out to see if there is any connection to my Wojciech and theirs. I can only hope.



Szczęśliwa Wiosna - Happy Spring!

Stanisław/Stanley Kiec in Buffalo, NY

by Sandra Maciejewski Porter

The book *First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins & Meanings*, by George W. Helon and William "Fred" Hoffman, has this entry for the name **Stanisław.**

Stanisław (& 826,229), Stanis (5), Stanislaus (5), Slavic masc. compound name < roots stani-, "become" + -sław, "fame, glory, renown," thus meaning "may he become glorious, famous" [M]. This has always been an extremely popular name in Poland, although recently its popularity has diminished slightly, and it is more common in rural areas than urban. Its popularity is probably associated with two Polish saints named Stanisław: St. Stanisław Szczepanowski, bishop of Kraków (ca. 1030-1079), according to tradition murdered by King Bolesław Śmiały (the Bold); and St. Stanisław Kostka († 1568), patron saint of the young [KI]. There are many nicknames and dim. formed from Stanisław, including Stach, Stas, Staszek, and these in turn have generated many surnames and place names. - Dim.: Staś, Staszek; Cz. Stanislav, Eng. Stanislaus, 🕸 Stanley, Latin Stanislaus, Fr. Stanislas, Germ. Stanislaus, Stenzel, Hung. Szaniszló, Lith. Stanislovas, Stanys, Stasys, Stasius, Stonys, Russ. Станислая [Stanisláv], Ukr. Станіслав, Стасій, Стась [Stanisla Aug, 13 Nov (St. Stanisław Kostka).

Stanisław, First Names of the Polish Commonwealth: Origins & Meanings, by George W. Helon and William "Fred" Hoffman (1998)

Polish diminutives for **Stanisław** include **Stach**, **Stan**, **Stańko**, **Staś**, **Stasio**, **Stasiu**, **Stasiek**, and **Staszek**. While the Anglicized and Latinized version is **Stanislaus**, in America he might also be called by the English name **Stanley**.

Based on federal and state censuses, Buffalo city directories, and other records, there were at least five men named **Stanisław**, **Stanislaus**, or **Stanley Kiec** in Buffalo, Erie, New York, in the early to mid 1900s.

Two of the men were immigrants named Stanisław Kiec who gave their sons the same

name. The other Stanisław Kiec was the son of Adam Kiec and Stanisława Skrok.



Men named Stanisław Kiec in Buffalo, New York

Stanley and Barbara Kiec

In 1930, **Stanley** and **Barbara Kiec** lived at 142 Townsend Street in Buffalo, Erie, New York.

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1930, Stanley and Barbara Kiec, 142 Townsend Street in Buffalo, Erie, New York.

Stanisław Kiec, son of **Wojciech Kiec** and **Marianna Gierczak**, was born 22 October 1890 in Dobrocice and baptized at Malice Kościelne, Opatów, Radom, in Russian occupied Poland. He died on 31 Oct 1959 at the age of 69 in Buffalo and was buried at St. Stanislaus RC Cemetery in Cheektowaga, Erie, New York.

Stanisław KIEC and **Barbara ZALEWSKA** were married about 1910. **Barbara** was born on 6 Dec 1894 in Radom, Russian Poland. She died on 8 Nov 1939 at the age of 44 in Buffalo and was buried at St. Stanislaus RC Cemetery in Cheektowaga, Erie, New York.

Stanisław KIEC and Barbara ZALEWSKA had the following children:

- Stanisław J. KIEC, born 3 Feb 1913; married Adela Karolina SŁOWIK, 6 Nov 1937, Buffalo, Erie, New York; he died 22 Feb 1979, West Seneca, Erie, New York.
- Stefan KIEC, born 25 Dec 1914, New York; married Clara R. NOGALSKA; he died 13 Jul 1992, Buffalo, Erie, New York.
- Genowefa KIEC, born 4 Aug 1917, Buffalo, Erie, New York; married Bronisław KUBICKI, 16 Oct 1937, New York; she died Mar 1987, Buffalo, Erie, New York.

Adam and Stella Kiec

Adam and Stella Kiec lived at 60 Townsend Street in Buffalo, Erie, New York, in 1930.

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1930, Adam and Stella Kiec, 60 Townsend Street in Buffalo, Erie, New York

Adam Kiec was born on 8 Nov 1892 in Dobrocice, and baptized at Kościół Matki Bożej Wniebowziętej in Malice Kościelne. He came to the United States in 1913 and returned to Poland about 1920. He left 9 Oct 1923 on the ship Estonia from Gdansk, which was then called Danzig, and returned to Buffalo, where his wife and children joined him in 1929.

Adam KIEC and Stanisława SKROK, daughter of Wincenty SKROK and Maryanna KASPRZYK, were married on 31 Aug 1914 in Buffalo, Erie, New York. Stanisława died 18 Nov 1938 and Adam died 18 May 1947. They were buried at St. Stanislaus RC Cemetery in Cheek-towaga, Erie, New York.

Adam KIEC and Stanisława SKROK had the following children:

- Jan A. KIEC, born 22 Jun 1915, Buffalo, Erie, New York; married Pelagia A. RZEPKA, 28 Sep 1940, Buffalo, Erie, New York; he died 10 Jul 1960, Eden, Erie, New York.
- Helena E. KIEC, born 27 Oct 1916, Buffalo, Erie, New York; married Józef A. GOŃ, 9 Jul 1935, Buffalo, Erie, New York; she died 5 Feb 2001, Cheektowaga, Erie, New York.
- Stanisław KIEC, born 3 Sep 1918, Buffalo, Erie, New York; married Adele A. WINI-ARCZYK, 17 Jul 1944, Gulfport, Harrison, Mississippi; he died 25 Nov 1992, Buffalo, Erie, New York.
- Wacław KIEC, born 12 Aug 1920, Sosnowiec, Polska; married Florence M. GERLING; he died 31 Aug 1968, Buffalo, Erie, New York.
- Stefania KIEC, born 17 Feb 1923, Sosnowiec, Polska; married Mitchell Michael COR-AL; she died 9 Jun 1995, Lakeland, Polk, Florida.
- Eugeniusz Józef KIEC, born 17 Mar 1931, Buffalo, Erie, New York; married Phyllis MACCARONE; married Jane HAMILTON, 22 Apr 1973, Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada; married Kay Louise SYLOR, 4 Jul 1989, Clark, Nevada; he died 28 Apr 2004, East Amherst, Erie, New York.
- Adam KIEC and Agnieszka KAPUŚCIŃSKA SKROK were married on 6 Feb 1943 in Buffalo, Erie, New York.

Stanislaus and Angeline Kiec

In 1930, **Stanislaus** and **Angeline Kiec** lived at 273 Strauss Street in Buffalo New York. They later moved to Depew, Erie, New York.

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1930, Stanislaus and Angeline Kiec, 273 Strauss Street in Buffalo New York

Stanisław Kiec, son of **Józef Kiec** and **Teofila Dudek**, was born on 27 Apr 1893 in Brzezie, Opatów, and baptized in Ptkanów, Opatów, near Sandomierz, in the Radom province of Russian occupied Poland. This is now in the Świętokrzyskie province of Poland. **Stanisław** immigrated to America in 1912.

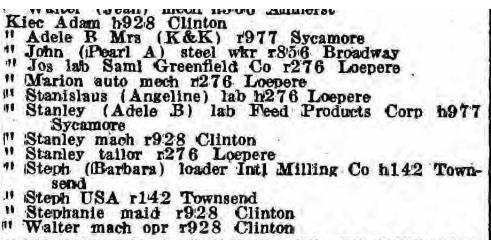
Stanisław KIEC and Aniela DZIĄBAK were married on 19 Oct 1915 in Buffalo, Erie, New York. **Aniela** was also known as **Angeline Kiec**. Stanley died 1 Jun 1975 and Angeline 1 Aug 1989. They were both buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, Erie County, New York.

Stanisław KIEC and Aniela DZIĄBAK had the following children:

- Józef Stanisław KIEC, born 20 Nov 1917, Buffalo, Erie, New York; married Adele Theresa ODWAZNA; he died 15 Feb 1989.
- Irena KIEC, born 14 Dec 1918, New York; married Edmund BIELAK, 8 Oct 1938, Buffalo, Erie, New York; she died Feb 1991.
- Marian Edward KIEC, born 4 Feb 1920, New York; married Rozalia Katarzyna NOSAL, 11 Aug 1945, Buffalo, Erie, New York; he died 13 Oct 2006, Cheektowaga, Erie, New York.
- Stanisław Edward KIEC Jr., born 29 Oct 1923, Buffalo, Erie, New York; married Elinor Alberta BENZ, 7 Jun 1947, Buffalo, Erie, New York; married Donna Lucille ORREN, 23 Nov 1955; he died 19 Feb 2005, Danville, Montour, Pennsylvania.
- Marya G. KIEC, born 2 Feb 1926, New York; married John J. SKOWRON, 26 Jun 1946, Buffalo, Erie, New York; she died 4 Dec 2010, West Seneca, Erie, New York.

Stanisław/Stanley Kiec Timeline in Buffalo, New York

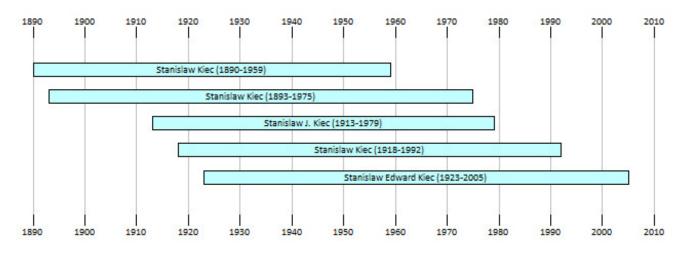
In the 1941 Buffalo city directory, there were four men named **Stanislaus** or **Stanley Kiec**, although it appears that the entry at 142 Townsend should also be for **Stanley (Barbara)**.



Kiec entries in 1941 Buffalo, New York city directory

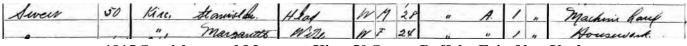
Here is a timeline of men named Stanisław/Stanley Kiec in Buffalo, New York.

Stanislaw/Stanley Kiec in Buffalo, New York



Timeline of men named Stanisław/Stanley Kiec in Buffalo, New York

There was another **Stanisław Kiec**, with a wife **Margarett**, at 50 Sweet in the 1915 Buffalo New York State census. His given age was 28, which would put his date of birth about 1887. He was identified as being from the Austrian partition of Poland. I did not definitively find either of them in any other records, so they remain a mystery.



1915 Stanislaus and Margaret Kiec, 50 Sweet, Buffalo, Erie, New York

I consulted many personal, civil, church, and online records to try to make sense of these **Kiec** families in Buffalo. It was challenging with so many people with the same or similar names **–Stanisław, Stanislaus, Stanley, Stanisława, Adela, Aniela, Angeline**–in English, Polish, Latin, and Russian (in the old country). Because the number of sources used is so extensive, the following is an abbreviated list.

Sources

- Ancestry Passenger Lists." Database. Ancestry. <u>Ancestry.com</u>: 2019.
- "Find a Grave." Database. Find a Grave. <u>Findagrave.com</u>: 2018.
- "Genbaza." Database. Polish Genealogical Society. Genealodzy. <u>Metryki.GenBaza.pl</u>: 2019.
- Buffalo Commercial. Buffalo, New York, 19 February 1918.
- Buffalo Courier Express. Buffalo, New York, 19 January 1919.
- Buffalo Courier. Buffalo, New York, 11 October 1914.
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Collect Your Thoughts While Social Distancing

by Denise M Oliansky

Note: This article is based on a similar one written by me for the <u>Am-Pol Eagle</u>, April 2, 2020 issue. <i>It's content is timely, so I am sharing it again here.

Life has suddenly become a lot slower for many Americans. While the coronavirus pandemic is in full surge, many of us are now sheltering in place, working remotely, and/or social distancing to keep ourselves and our families safe. There are many people, especially medical personnel, EMS workers, first responders, truckers, grocery store staff, utilities workers, and others, who are putting themselves at risk to provide necessary services and provisions for all of us. To them we owe a huge debt of gratitude and thanks.

For many of us, snug in our abodes, time has slowed, and we have some extra time on our hands. We may be working remotely or homeschooling our children, but we don't have to drive to and from work, everything seems less hurried -- less hustle and bustle and more minute to minute. We have time to reflect on what is happening around us and how we, our family, our community, our country, and our world are being impacted by this health and economic crisis.

We should take this opportunity to write down our thoughts about this time in our history for the future generations of our families. Think about it. Unless over 102 years old, no one on Earth has lived through anything like this since 1918, when the Spanish Influenza pandemic wreaked havoc across the globe. There have been other epidemics (swine flu, H1N1, etc.), but none were of a massive global scale like this coronavirus. We have the opportunity to record for posterity our personal experience with this pandemic. Jotting down daily thoughts and experiences in a journal or diary throughout the duration of this difficult, but unique, time in our lives will make very interesting reading for those who come after us.

Visit our website (<u>www.pgsnys.org</u>) and Facebook page for meeting updates and a lot of information to help you with your family history research. We always suggest starting your family history with yourself, and there is a great post on our Facebook page that lists 50 questions to help you write your personal history. What a great way to fill those hours of social distancing. Take care, stay in, be well. This too shall pass.



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