POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

PRESERVING OUR PAST SINCE 1988

SEARCHERS

NO.84

SUMMER

2020

ISSUE 2



Summer Day in Warsaw's Old Town Square (© Denise Oliansky, August 2019)

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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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Cheryl Krajna

Historian:

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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 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**

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SEARCHERS

PGSNYS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While most everything else in our lives seems to be turned up-side-down these days, thanks to the hard work of our editor, Denise Oliansky, this issue of the *Searchers* is appearing on time. The monthly membership meeting of PGSNYS continue, but in a different format. And thanks to the Internet and Zoom, members who are located outside of the Western New York area have been able to participate in the monthly programs. Some for the first time ever! As our meeting location will be unavailable to us at least through the end of 2020, the monthly Zoom meeting format will continue. The *Dziennik* digitization project is continuing, although at a seemingly slower pace. And with the additional home time many of us have, genealogy search projects are making headway.

So, while many of the usual activities of our lives are in such turmoil, I am happy that PGSNYS is able to provide some form of normality.

Sincerely, John A. Nowak

POTPOURRI

WITAMY! New PGSNYS Members

Douglas	Lesinski	Silver Creek	NY
Summer	Lightfoot	Brooklyn	NY
Jeanine	Biniaszewski	Huber Heights	ОН
Leonard	Wayne	Rio Vista	CA
Kaska	Wloka	Charlottesville	VA
Pamela	Telis	Jacksonville	FL
Wayne	Hacholski	Orange	CA
Mark	Morey	Putney	VT
Frank	Schultz	Philadelphia	PA

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting schedule: The upcoming scheduled PGSNYS meetings are September 10, October 9, and November 12 at 7 PM. There are presentations scheduled for all three dates. Our usual meeting place in Bldg. B, 1 Erie BOCES, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca will likely not be available any of these months due to Covid-19. Our meetings will be on Zoom, which has worked out very well in recent months. The status of the PGSNYS Christmas Party in December is TBD. Visit our website at www.pgsnys.org for updates and details regarding meetings and events.

Searchers policy: There has been a policy change regarding the distribution of the *Searchers* newsletter. The former policy allowed those who were delinquent on their membership dues to continue receiving the newsletter for nine months beyond the delinquency. From this issue on, anyone who is a paid member any time during the four months between issues will receive the next newsletter. Anyone whose dues are delinquent, and who was not a paid member anytime during the four months prior to the next issue, will not receive the *Searchers* newsletter again until their membership dues are current.

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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!

Message of Condolence

The PGSNYS offers sincere condolences to our immediate past president and current secretary Nicole Pohancsek, her husband Eugene, and their family for the loss of her mother-in-law, Nancy Pohancsek. May wonderful memories and the support of family and friends bring all of you comfort at this sad time.



Nancy J. Pohancsek July 9, 1955 - July 15, 2020

POHANCSEK - Nancy J. (nee Sipowicz)

Of Cheektowaga, NY, entered into rest July 15, 2020. Beloved wife of 45 years to Eugene Pohancsek, Sr.; devoted mother to Eugene Jr. (Nicole), Kelli (Andrew Crawford) Thomas, and Melanie Pohancsek; cherished grandmother of Rylee, Bryce, Zofia and Kaelyn; sister of Cynthia (George) Mohney and late Donna (Richard) Cannici; also survived and loved by many relatives and friends. Nancy was retired from the Buffalo Board of Education after 28 years.

Planned Upcoming Events

PGSNYS Genealogy Fair

The PGSNYS is planning to hold its 12th annual Genealogy Fair on Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 10 AM to 3 PM in St. Gabriel's Church Hall at 5271 Clinton Street in Elma, NY. Please note, this is an hour earlier start time than in previous years. This event is open to the public and free of charge. There will be displays of genealogical research, tables set up to assist attendees with their family research, display tables



and research assistance from guest Societies and a guest speaker at 1:00 PM. This year's speaker is Jeanette Sheliga from the North Tonawanda Library Genealogy Group and the Niagara County Genealogical Society. Jeanette's topic is, 'A Tour of Ancestry.com' and will include searching strategies, how to add people to a tree, upload media, accept hints, and more.

Covid-19 precautions will be in place during the event. There will be no refreshments allowed this year. Face masks must be worn by everyone at all times. Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry and at each display table. Only one helper and one attendee will be allowed at each table at any time. Chair set up for the presentation will ensure social distancing.

In the event cancellation is necessary, it would be wise to check the www.pgsnys.org website in advance for updates about the Genealogy Fair.

Pulaski Day Parade

The General Pulaski Association will be holding the 82nd Annual Pulaski Day Parade on



Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. Due to Covid-19, this year the parade will be a motorcade of participating vehicles that will travel through several municipalities in Erie County. Each entrant vehicle in the parade will receive a free Polish Flag window flag upon registering the vehicle in advance (while supply lasts). The parade will start in the parking lot of the Eastern Hills Mall. The route is being determined. Strict NYS Covid-19 Guidelines will be followed, and all

participants are expected to do the same. There will be judges to award prizes for the best decorated vehicles. Check-in starts at 9:30 AM, and the parade starts at 11:00. For more information and to register your vehicle, go to www.generalpulaski.com.

Buffalo Family History Center Conference

To the best of our knowledge at this time, the annual Buffalo Family History Conference is planned for Saturday, October 17, 2020 at the Family History Center, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1424 Maple Road, Williamsville, MY. This is a full day of genealogy seminars starting at 9 AM. It is free of charge and open to the public. The PGSNYS presentation on Polish Genealogical Research is scheduled for 9 AM. Because there is a possibility this event might be cancelled, be sure to check the Buffalo Family History Center in Williamsville, New York Facebook page or call the FHC (716-688-2439) for information and updates.

Faltynowski Family: From Russia or Prussia? by Sandra Maciejewski Porter

When I first started looking at my DNA matches, I thought I had figured it out. My father's ancestral families came from *West Prussia*, the northern part of present-day Poland that was occupied by Germany in the 1800s. My mother's families came from *Congress Poland*, the east and central part of present-day Poland that was controlled by Russia in the 1800s. The Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth had been partitioned by the Kingdom of Prussia, the Russian Empire, and Habsburg Austria in the late 1700s.

Looking at my Ancestry DNA matches using the *Leeds method* of identifying family lines, I initially thought it would be easy.

Matches with ancestors from *Prussia* would match with my father's families. Matches with ancestors from *Russia* would match with my mother's families.

My DNA matches were confusing though. I was related to people whose ancestors came from Galicia, the southern part of Poland that was occupied by the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They lived south of the Wisła (Vistula) River from the Russian-occupied Sandomierz area where my mother's family had come. Then I learned that **Tomasz Witoń**, my great-great-grandfather, had been born in Chmielów, Nowa Dęba, Tarnobrzeg, about 1795. Polish Wikipedia says, "In the years 1772-1835 Chmielów, as a former royal village, was the property of the Austrian Treasury." I have roots in Galicia.

Something similar happened with my father's families. Although his ancestors came from places in West Prussia, a surprising number of DNA matches on my father's father's side of the family reported ancestors from Russian Poland.

The **Faltykowski** family was one of those. AncestryDNA showed **JW** and I shared 65 centiMorgans across three segments, and I shared 56 and 43 centiMorgans of DNA with each of her daughters. We had five shared matches from my father's **Maciejewski** family. Fifteen other shared DNA matches also had ancestors who reportedly came from Prussia or Russian occupied Poland.

I was able to find my DNA match's immigrant grandmother **Bronisława Faltynowska** on the ship Bülow from Bremen, Germany, arriving in New York City on 20 Dec 1912, with her siblings **Wacław** and **Julianna** and their mother **Julianna**. Their ethnicity was Polish, but their nationality was listed as Russian. They left behind **Julianna**'s brother and the children's uncle **Antoni**

Jankiewicz in Golub, Germany.

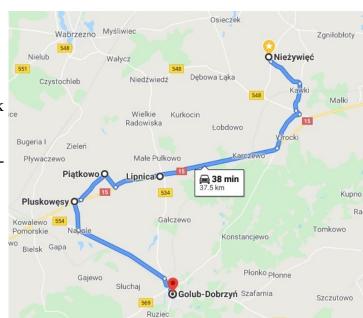
On the following page of the manifest, it said they were going to their husband and father **Aleksander Faltynowski** in Jersey City, New Jersey. Their place of birth was listed as Pluskowęsy, which was Pluskowenz in German.

The younger daughter was ill and was treated in the Immigrant Hospital at Ellis Island, but the family was admitted to the United States when she recovered.

Their last place of residence, Golub, was only about 10 miles from Nieżywięć, where my great-grandparents **Jan Maciejewski** and **Weronika Lewandowska** were married in 1869.

Golub was located north of the Drwęca River, while Dobrzyń was the town on the left bank of the Drwęca River. It is now Golub-Dobrzyń in Poland. The Polish people who lived in or near Golub or Dobrzyń would variously list their nationality, residence, or place of birth as either German, Polish, or Russian. As Wikipedia explains:

Golub: In the First Partition of Poland in 1772, Golub was annexed by the Kingdom of Prussia. From 1807-15 it belonged to the Duchy of Warsaw. It was assigned to the Duchy of Poznan in 1815, and in 1817 it was included in West Prussia. In 1871 it



was included in Imperial Germany and was subject to Germanisation.

Dobrzyń: In 1793 after the Second Partition of Poland, Dobrzyń was annexed by the Kingdom of Prussia. From 1807-15 it belonged to the Duchy of Warsaw. In 1815 it was included in the Kingdom of Poland in personal union with the Russian Empire.

In the second half of the 19th century the Kingdom of Poland was annexed by Russia.

In 1918, when he registered for the World War I draft, **Alexander Faltynowski** reported he was born in Russian Poland and was living at 29 Hudson Street in Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey.

Aleksander and Julianna's oldest daughter was Bronisława. Bronisława is a Polish name, and there is no English equivalent. In America, Bronisława adopted the names Alice and Blanche. In 1917, Bronisława's future husband, Thomas P. Moore, registered for the World War I draft living at 33 Hudson Street in Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey. According to the New York City indexed records, on 25 Mar 1919 Thomas Moore married "Alice B Fultonoskie" in Manhattan, New York.

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In 1920, **Alexander** and **Julia Faltynowski** and the rest of their family (and boarders) lived at 29 Hudson Street in Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey.

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They most likely would have attended Our Lady of Częstochowa Church in the Paulus Hook neighborhood, and their American-born children would probably have been baptized there.

Wacław used the name John and the surname Fulton in America. In 1930, John and Anna Fulton lived at 161 Van Vorst Street in Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey. In 1940, John and Anna Faltynowski lived at 248 York Street in Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey, with their sons John and Bernard.

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When **John Fulton** registered for the World War II draft in 1942, his birthplace was listed as Posnan, Poland.

I am not sure when **Julianna Faltynowski** died, or what happened to **Wanda**, **Alexander**, and **Jennie**, but some of the family moved to Norfolk, Norfolk, Virginia.

In 1930, **Thomas** and **Annice Moore** lived on Sewells Point Road in Norfolk with their two children, **Helen** and **George**, and **Thomas**' father, **Joseph Moore**. This census said **Annice** was born

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in Germany and spoke German. Perhaps she gave her name as **Alice**, and the census taker wrote **Annice** instead.

After the birth of their son Patrick in 1934, Blanche A. F. Moore divorced Thomas Patrick Moore in Virginia in 1939. In 1940, Blanch Moore and the children George, Ellen, and Patrick were living with her father Alexander Fulton at 331 Glenroie Avenue, Norfolk, Virginia.

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	Ellen D	Grandaughter	-+	F	W	15	S	40	HI	7	Tigicia	74
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PRESENT I	NAME Blan	che Alice	Finney	MAIDEN B	Lanche	Alice Ful	Lton
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Blanche Moore married James Marvin Finney in Norfolk, Virginia on 24 Dec 1940, and they divorced 27 Jan 1942. She then married **Frank Calo** 11 Nov 1942.

Mrs. Frank Calo was the informant when Alexander Fulton, AKA Alexander Faltynowski died 12 Jul 1946 in Norfolk, Nor-

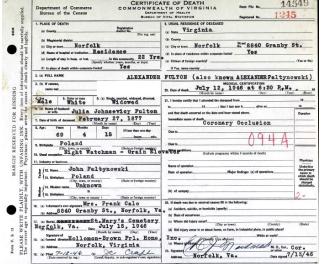
folk, Virginia.

Find-A-Grave listed an obituary from the *Virginian*

Pilot on 13 July 1946.

Alexander Fulton, 69, died at the residence, 8448 Granby Street, yesterday afternoon at 6:38 o'clock following a heart attack. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Frank Calo, of Norfolk; a son, Stefan Fulton, in Poland; five

grandchildren, John and Bernie





Fulton, of Jersey City, N. J.; George J. and Patrick J. Moore and Mrs. Gilbert Stephenson, all of Norfolk. Mr. Fulton was a native of Poland and had resided in Norfolk for the past 22 years. He was employed at the Norfolk Grain Elevator. The body will be taken from the Hollomon -Brown Funeral Home Monday morning to Holy Trinity Catholic Church for funeral service at 10 o'clock. Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Although the **Faltynowski** family records initially said they came from the Russian partition, evidence suggests that they actually came from Prussia, the German occupied part of Poland. Research in the old country will show where the **Fultonowski** and **Jankiewicz** families were from.

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The Elusive Susmarskis

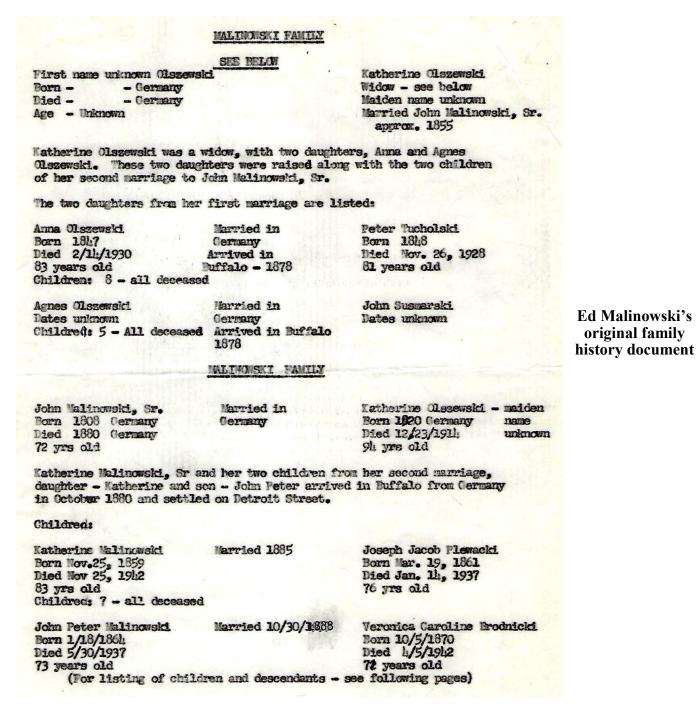
by Sharon Malachowski

I'd like to begin my story by telling you I am a 73-year old woman who, like many of the PGSNYS members I am sure, has been obsessed with family and relationships for as long as I can remember. I was born into a very large family. I am the oldest of nine children. My dad had three brothers, and my mom only had two sisters, but they both had lots and lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins. My paternal grandfather (Frank Chalupka) had eight siblings, and my paternal grandmother (Mary Laboch) was part of a blended family with two brothers, and five half-brothers. My maternal grandfather (Frank Malinowski) was one of 11 children, and my maternal grandmother (Stella Hojnicki) had 11 brothers and sisters.

Growing up, family was everything to my parents. If my mom and dad were not hosting Saturday cookouts or Sunday dinners, we were visiting one of our many, many aunts and uncles. I loved every minute of it. I remember when I was really young, while all my sisters and brothers were busy playing with their cousins, I would find myself gravitating to where the 'grownups' were gathering, and I would ask my mom endless questions about our relatives, such as, what are their names, who was married to whom, what children belonged to which couple, and were they my mom's relatives or my dad's? I was obsessed with learning it all. With two 'Grandpa Franks,' several 'Aunt Marys,' and more than one 'Uncle Barney,' trying to keep the family groups straight was a challenge. As I got older and more familiar with the extended family members I would just sit back out of the way and identify people in my head as they would come and go. "That's mom's Uncle Barney and he's married to Aunt Gustie and their children are Bernie, Ruthie," and on and on I would go.

I was particularly close to my maternal grandfather's youngest brother, Ed Malinowski. Uncle Ed never married and lived on a large farm in Lancaster, New York with his sister Fran, brother John, and nephew Joe. He raised hundreds of chickens and sold eggs on a very large scale from the farmhouse. I grew up on the east side of Buffalo and, being a 'city girl,' absolutely loved going to the farm and visiting with Uncle Ed in the country. In the summer, Uncle Ed would take turns letting several of my brothers or sisters and me stay with him for a weekend. We would go into the barns (he had four) and help gather the eggs from the uncaged chickens (which was not always easy) and then help wash, candle, and grade them before we put them in the appropriate cartons. Uncle Ed always seemed to have twenty to thirty little baby chicks in the house in a pen under a warming light right in the parlor. What a treat that was for us to see right in the house! Uncle Ed would tell us stories about my grandfather Frank (his older brother) getting into trouble when he was young, and he would bring out boxes and boxes of old photographs of his parents (my great-grandparents), my grandfather, and their brothers and sisters. I loved it all.

After I got married, I went to visit Uncle Ed with my husband one day, and Uncle Ed gave me a document he had typed up (yes, on a manual typewriter!); my first piece of actual family genealogy. It was everything he knew about his grandmother (who brought his dad to the United States from Poland), her two husbands, and information on several aunts, uncles,



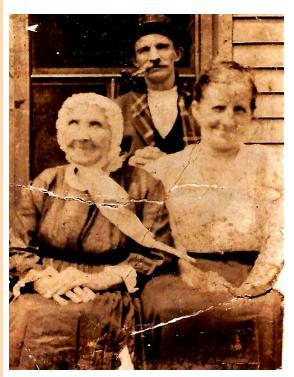
and cousins I had never met. He also had birth and marriage information for all his sisters and brothers. I treasured that paper.

As happens with all of us, time flies by and we get distracted with everyday life. It wasn't until many years after Uncle Ed had died that my grandson called me with questions about my dad for a school project and, to my complete disappointment, I had a hard time answering some of the questions. Although it was information I thought I had permanently stored in my head, I was now unsure of some of the answers. Not something I thought would ever happen to me.

After that conversation it became very clear to me that I needed to record all I knew now, before more of it faded from my mind. I remembered the paper Uncle Ed had given me about his family. I retrieved it from a box and decided I would start there and add to that branch of the family because

he had given me a good start. When I finished that, my plan was to move on to other family branches and put together a true family tree. Any genealogist reading this is laughing hysterically at how easy I just made that whole plan sound. After years and years of research, 'easy' is not a word anyone should use relating to family history.

Sometime around 2010-2011 I joined Ancestry.com, and I didn't have a clue about what I was doing. I was working kind of haphazardly at gathering information and was as far from organized as anyone could be. I saw an article in the newspaper about the Polish Genealogical



Katherine Pokrzywinska Malinowski, her son John Peter, and John's wife. Veronica Brodnicki

Society of New York and attended my first meeting at Villa Maria College to see what it was all about. Best decision of my life.

Uncle Ed told me my Great-Great-Grandmother Katherine Pokrzywinska first married a man in Poland named Olszewski (first name unknown), and they had two daughters. The oldest daughter was named Agnes. She married a man named John Susmarski, and they had five children. The younger daughter was named Anna, and she married Peter Tucholski, and they had eight children.

Mr. Olszewski died, and Katherine married a second time to a man named Walenty Malinowski, and they had a daughter Katherine and a son John Peter (my great-grandfather). Katherine, Walenty, and their two children came to the America from Poland in 1881 to join her two married daughters (from her first marriage) and their families who had immigrated earlier and settled in the city of Buffalo.

I decided my research would begin with Katherine's two married daughters since they were both in the U.S. With the knowledge gathered from PGSNY meetings, I had great success identifying and tracing Anna and Peter Tucholski and their children after they

arrived in America. I had no luck at all trying to find the older daughter, Agnes, and her husband, John Susmarski. No trace anywhere.

After an unsuccessful search for Susmarski obituaries in the *Dziennik* newspaper, Ed Kornowski (a PGSNYS member) told me he had contact information for a lady named Ruth Susmarski and suggested I try to reach out to her. I was so excited I emailed Ruth immediately. Ruth was so gracious and willing to help, but in comparing her Susmarski information and my Malinowski information we just could not make a connection. Ruth did have a relative named Michael Susmarski and, interestingly, his wife's name was Julia Malinowski. However, in the information Uncle Ed had given me years ago there was no mention of a Julia, and Ruth did not have any information on a John Susmarski in her family tree.

My collaboration with Ruth to find Agnes Olszewski, her husband John Susmarski, and their children began in 2012. Fast forward to 2019. Ruth and I kept in touch over the years and, as she was researching her relatives, she came across some information for my Tucholski family which she forwarded to me. We found it interesting that our relatives were living in the same area, but we just could not find a connection. Then it happened! Ruth was searching for marriage information for her relative Michael Susmarski and his wife Julia on LDS microfilm at her local library and she found the marriage record. That was very exciting for her, but, even more exciting was that the record showed Julia Malinowski's parents were Walenty Malinowski and Katherine Pokrzywinska, my great-great-Grandparents.

Uncle Ed's information was wrong. There had been three children born to Katherine and her second husband Walenty Malinowski. Two children had come to the U.S. with Walenty and Katherine, but Julia had been the oldest of their three children and was already married when the family immigrated. Julia and her husband Michael came to the U.S. at a later date. Julia was the Malinowski who married a Susmarski – not John Susmarski, but Michael Susmarski.

Ruth had a wealth of information for me about Michael and Julia. She knew Julia died in 1898 and Michael had remarried. She located Michael's gravesite at St. Stanislaus Cemetery. He was buried there with his second wife and a son from that marriage. However, Ruth did not know where Julia was buried, and she had been working on trying to find her with the help of another PGNSYS member, Charles Penasack. Charles felt certain, given the facts on the death certificate Ruth was able to obtain, that since Julia died in Lancaster in 1898, she must be buried in St. Mary of the Assumption Cemetery. Following Charles' hunch, Ruth was able to connect with a lady named Katherine White who has done extensive work at St. Mary's Cemetery, and she was able to find Julia's burial there. Ruth and I are so thankful for the hard work Katherine White put in going through the old cemetery records and uncovering that information. Another piece of the Susmarski/Malinowski puzzle was now in place.

Charles Penasack has also been awesome in locating records and burial information for some of Julia and Michael's children. After Julia died, Michael was not able to care for his children and they were separated and placed in various orphanages in the Buffalo area. Ruth has worked tirelessly to try to find out what became of the children after that.

It took seven years, but this connection never would have been made without the help of Ed Koronowski, who actually got the collaboration started, and the relentless work of Ruth Susmarski and Charles Penasack. I just wish Uncle Ed were still alive, so I could drive over to the farm, sit down at his table, and show him what we have been able to uncover. The typewritten pages he gave me have blossomed into a family tree of 371 people and 251 photographs and documents. With the right help brick walls do sometimes crack and fall.



Uncle Ed and Sharon

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