

PRESERVING  
OUR PAST  
SINCE 1988

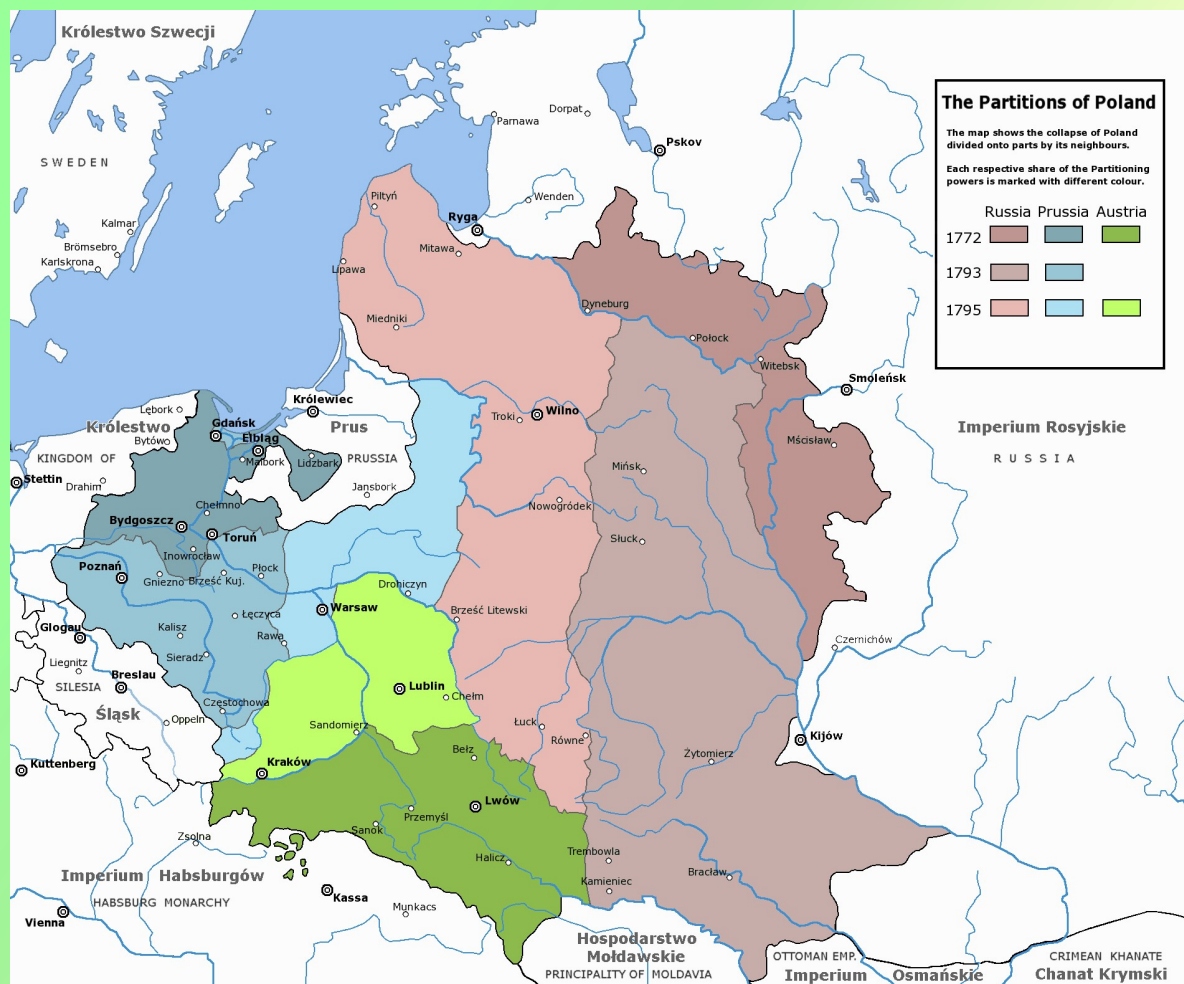
# SEARCHERS

NO. 86

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2021

ISSUE 1



**DNA and Polish History**

See Page 6 for the full story

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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  
**NOTE: Until further notice, all meetings are by ZOOM due to COVID19**

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](mailto:membership@pgsnys.org)**

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**PGSNYS website: [www.pgsnys.org](http://www.pgsnys.org)**

## 2021 PGSNYS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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**Roadshow** Dolores Ferguson  
**Program** vacant  
**Dziennik Project** Maureen Gleason  
& Charles Penasack

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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](mailto:denise.oliansky@gmail.com)

# PGSNYS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been one year since my first message to you as the new PGSNYS president. And in the time since, every one of us has felt the impact of life turned upside down.

While new ways to carry on have evolved – ZOOM has enabled our widespread membership to join together as never before – we look forward to meeting again in person and sharing all the new family genealogy knowledge gleaned during the months of available research time. Now, every day brings new hope for the return to 'normal' life.

Repeating my closing line of a year ago, our prayers and best wishes to every member of the extended PGSNYS family for good health and strength in these extraordinary times.

Sincerely, John A. Nowak

## POTPOURRI



### New PGSNYS Members

Bobby	Sulecki	Erie	PA
Ann	Murray	Glen Rock	NJ
Jennifer	Baginski	Stone Mountain	GA
John	Duslak	Chicago	IL
Edith	Jones	Storrs	CT
Edward	Bednarz	Buffalo	NY
Mary Ann	Latko-Groetsema	Fairfax	VA
Angela	Allen	East Aurora	NY
Barbara	Wetzel	Elma	NY
Helena	Trabulsi	Oakville	Ontario
Evangelista	Schmarder	Hamburg	NY

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Meeting schedule:** The upcoming 2021 PGSNYS meetings are May 6 and June 10, both of which will be research nights. For the foreseeable future, the ZOOM meeting format will continue. July is traditionally reserved for our PGSNYS picnic, but whether we have a picnic or a meeting is yet to be determined due to Covid.

The PGSNYS welcomes suggestions from its members for guest speakers and topics for research nights, as well as volunteers to do presentations and/or lead research night sessions. Please email [president@pgsnys.org](mailto:president@pgsnys.org) or [information@pgsnys.org](mailto:information@pgsnys.org) with your ideas. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the success of our educational purpose.

Contributions of articles for the *Searchers* are always needed for the three issues published each year. Please email [denise.oliansky@gmail.com](mailto:denise.oliansky@gmail.com) with your submission or to discuss your idea for an article.

## OPT-IN for Digital *Searchers*

**Reminder:** 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. You can receive only one version. If you choose to OPT-IN for the electronic version, please send an email to [denise.oliasky@gmail.com](mailto:denise.oliasky@gmail.com) at least a couple weeks prior to the next month of issue (April, August, December). 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. You only have to OPT-IN once, not before every issue. As long as you keep up your membership dues, you will continue to receive the newsletter. Thank you!

### SO MANY ANCESTORS, SO LITTLE TIME!

Your Ancestors	Year	Gen. #	Ancestors	% Same Name
<i>Your Birth Year</i>	1960	0		100.0000%
Parents	1935	1	2	50.0000%
Grandparents	1910	2	4	25.0000%
G.GP	1885	3	8	12.5000%
GG.GP	1860	4	16	6.2500%
GGG.GP	1835	5	32	3.1250%
G,GGG.GP	1810	6	64	1.5625%
GG,GGG.GP	1785	7	128	0.7813%
GGG,GGG.GP	1760	8	256	0.3906%
G,GGG,GGG.GP	1735	9	512	0.1953%
8G.GP	1710	10	1,024	0.0977%
9G.GP	1685	11	2,048	0.0488%
10G.GP	1660	12	4,096	0.0244%
11G.GP	1635	13	8,192	0.0122%
12G.GP	1610	14	16,384	0.0061%
13G.GP	1585	15	32,768	0.0031%
14G.GP	1560	16	65,536	0.0015%
15G.GP	1535	17	131,072	0.0008%
16G.GP	1510	18	262,144	0.0004%
17G.GP	1485	19	524,288	0.0002%
18G.GP	1460	20	1,048,576	0.0001%



## New Searchers

by Patricia Rooney

Since 1988, the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State has been a constant ‘work in progress.’ And why shouldn’t it be? Members are researching deceased ancestors, true. However, they are also investigating the lives and adventures of their ancestors. It is about life, not death.

When I joined the Society, sometime around 2008, my focus was learning how to understand and use forms, documents, newspapers, and different libraries. As time went by, the importance of using dry information to tell an interesting story became more intriguing. Attending genealogical conferences opened my imagination further to the way to weave a credible story. It taught me how to spin the cold data I had collected into an adventure my ancestors probably lived.

However, a funny thing happened on the way to my computer recently to write an article for the *Searchers*. My mind went blank. Yup, totally empty! A complete meltdown.

Was this because I was spending too much time indoors. Too much time surfing the Net? Facebook? Emails? Could it be that all we do now, and especially during this pandemic, is randomly think and think and think? We researchers need to stop daydreaming and start facing the challenge to create!

Writers write! Their dreams become reality stories! Writers hunt and gather to create adventures!

So here's a novel idea. How about some new writers for the *Searchers* newsletter? Yeah. Look in the mirror and say, “How about Y- O- U?” There are plenty of stories swimming in your brain. Stories that could solve a problem for a new genealogist struggling with dry data that needs an ‘aha moment’ story!

Even I have had such aha moments. Yeah, a former stay at home mom and retired teacher. Here's some background first about my adventures writing for the *Searchers* newsletter.

In May 2014, I had an amazing lead, with the help of several members of the Society, which gave me the courage to travel to Poland to see if I could locate my grandparents' birth homes. To my amazement and amusement, not only did I find the villages of my four grandparents, but I was introduced to relatives who I had no knowledge existed! You can read about that adventure in the *Searchers*, No. 66, Summer 2014, Issue 2, Page 4.

However, the biggest surprise came three years later in the autumn of 2017, when I met another family, my grandmother's siblings from her mother's second marriage. This family lived next door to the Rys family who lived in my grandmother's birth home, and who I met in 2014. Now I was meeting Jozef Drozdak, the head of the family, and a cousin to my mother. Jozef started crying as he hugged me.

My translator, Agata Kita, said to me, “Pat, he is crying tears of joy, not sadness. He always wondered why no one from America looked for us.” She told him for me, “But, I have been looking for you for forty years. No one knew where you were living, and they didn't want to tell me that. The only fact my grandmother Anna shared was that there used to be family living in



**Pat Rooney and Jozef Drozdak**

Limanowa.”

Jozef got up from his chair, and we went out onto the porch where he explained about his family and how house #69 became the house where my grandmother was born. From that point, we spent a special day with these relatives of my grandmother, Anna Kedron.

Sharing these stories in the *Searchers* was a way to relive them and save them for posterity. Yes, I keep encouraging people to write their family stories. Don't be surprised that telling your personal stories is like reading your diary out loud to your siblings, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. It gets downright scary! You will want to edit and edit and edit. Don't. Just do it. Write an article for the *Searchers* about interesting ancestors, about how you broke through a brick wall, or about a particular resource that was helpful to you. There are so many facts you already have that you can write about and create some interesting articles.

Once you've gotten your feet wet, there are many companies online through which you can self-publish a family history book. Give your book to your grandchildren when they start asking questions. Sit down with them and answer their questions as you share your past. You will become a real person in their eyes.

## DNA and Polish History

by Sandra Maciejewski Porter

*While each DNA testing company shows their results differently, Polish-American descendants who have tested DNA may wonder why the results do not indicate that they are 100% (or 50%, or 25%, etc.) Polish or Central/Eastern European. Poland's history may help explain some of the differences.*

Poland, the land of our ancestors, was invaded and claimed by other people throughout history.

In the 13th century, the Germanic Teutonic Knights conquered the lands inhabited by Old Prussians, the indigenous tribes that inhabited the region by the Baltic Sea. My father's ancestors came from Culmer Land.

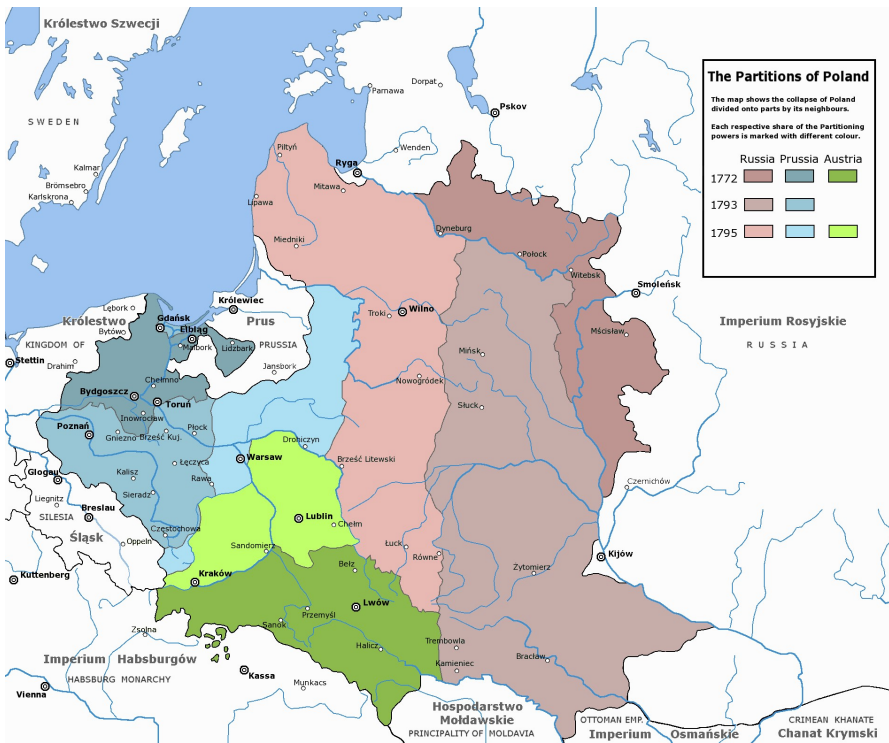
Most famously, there were incursions by Tatars in the 13th century (the Mongol Invasion) and Swedes in the 17th century (the Swedish Deluge).

Although Poland and Lithuania were united in 1386 with the marriage of the Polish Queen Jadwiga and Lithuania's Grand Duke Jogaila/Władysław II Jagiełło, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was officially established in 1569.

The Kingdom of Prussia, the Russian Empire, and Habsburg Austria took over pieces of



Prussia by the Baltic Sea about 1525



The Partitions of Poland

the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1772, 1793, and 1795.

When my ethnically Polish ancestors and their relatives came to America in the 1880s through the 1910s, their nationalities were listed as German, Russian, or Austrian.

**DNA Testing**

In 2015, I tested my DNA with Ancestry.com and uploaded the results to FamilyTreeDNA.com and MyHeritage.com. Although similar, their ethnicity estimates have been updated several times as companies revised their ethnicity groups and increased the reference populations they use for comparison. While ethnicity estimates are just that—estimates—they often reflect the history of the regions of our ancestors. Here is what I found.

**Ireland and British Isles**

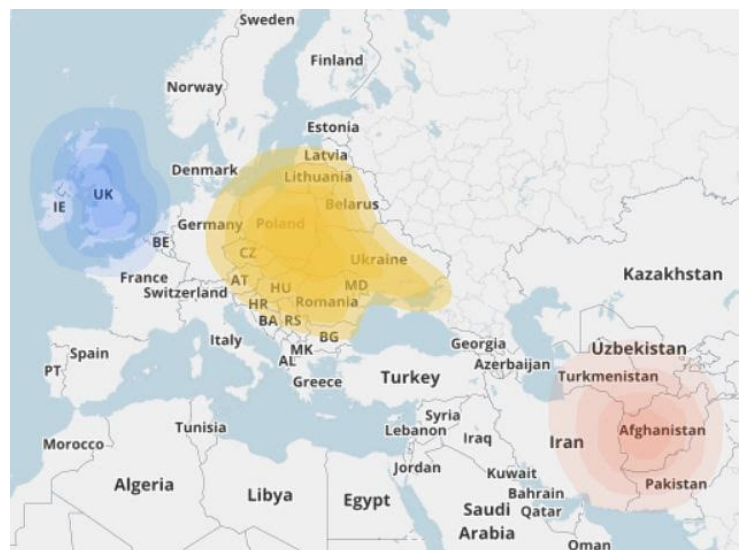
Much of Europe was colonized by Celtic people in ancient times. My 2016 DNA ethnicity estimates from Ancestry, Family Tree DNA, and MyHeritage all indicated that I had 6-14% DNA in common with current day occupants of Ireland. While this reported Irish ancestry gave me a new reason to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, further research showed many people of European descent have DNA connections with Ireland and the British Isles. Now some of it is considered background noise, and some DNA companies no longer report this Irish ancestry in their newer ethnicity estimates.

**Central Asia**

My 2016 ethnicity estimate from Family Tree DNA indicated that 3% of my ancestry was from Central Asia. This is most likely a result of Mongol invasions in 1241, 1259, and 1260, or possibly it was from later incursions from the Crimean Tatars, descendants of the Mongols. My mother said she was told that, in the old country, parents would look for almond shaped eyes in their children because of their Asian forebears.

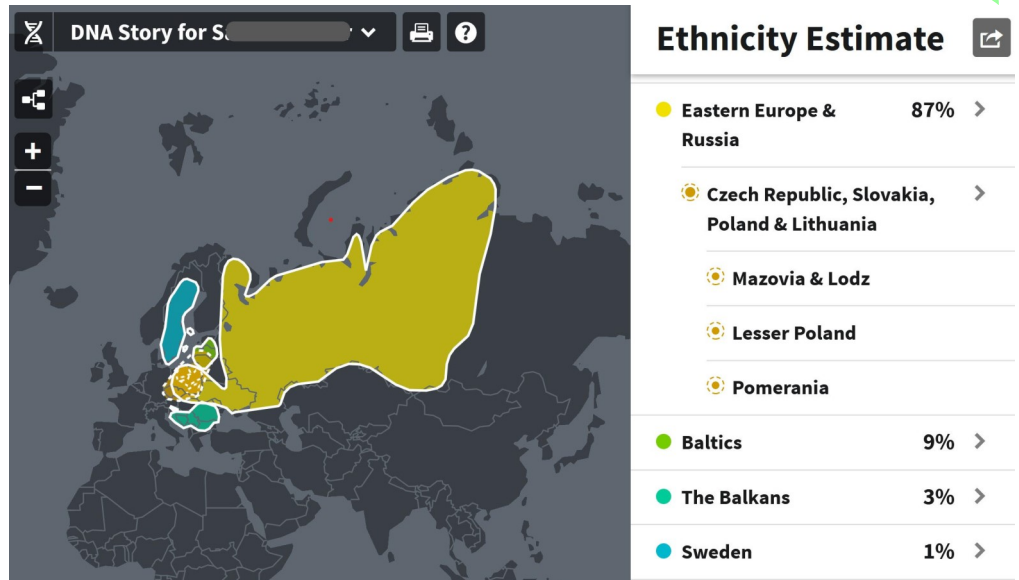
**Sweden**

In the fall of 2020, my revised ethnicity estimates from Ancestry.com included Swedish DNA. This small amount of DNA in common with people from Sweden is likely an artifact from DNA shared in 1655–1660 when Sweden invaded Poland. The invaders took Polish treasures



My 2016 Ethnicity Estimate, Family Tree DNA

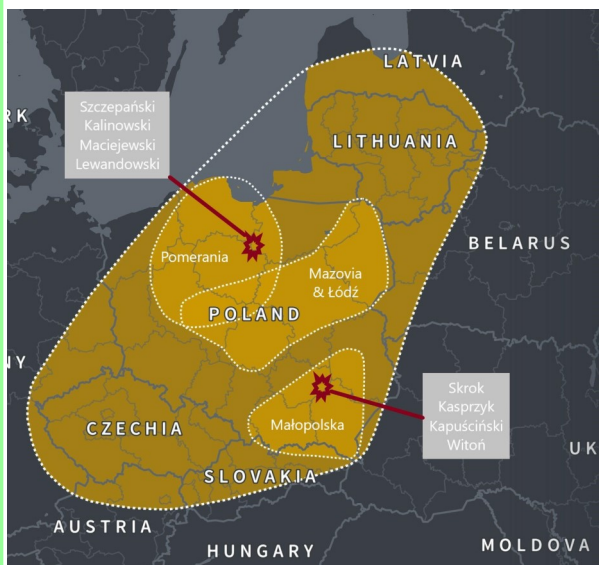
back to Sweden (many are still in Stockholm museums and private collections) and left DNA behind. It was called the Deluge (in Polish, *potop szwedzki*). Nobel prize winner Henryk Sienkiewicz wrote an historical novel about it called *Potop*, or *The Deluge* in English. When I visited Poland, I toured the ruins of the Krzyżtopór Castle located in the village of Ujazd, Iwaniska near Opatów. Although built approximately 1627-1647, Krzyżtopór was overrun by the Swedish invasion of 1655, a story told in James Michener’s historical novel, *Poland*.



My September 2020 Ethnicity Estimate, Ancestry DNA

### Ancestry Communities

Ancestry was able to identify more specific places within Poland where they thought my family was likely from as the historical regions Mazovia & Łódź, Lesser Poland, and Pomerania.



My 2020 Ancestry Communities, marked with ancestral names and places of origin

My father’s **Maciejewski, Lewandowski, Szczepański**, and **Kalinowski** ancestors came from the historical region Chełmno Land, known in Polish as *Ziemia Chełmińska*, and in German as Culmer Land or Kulmerland. (See first map, pg 6.) Through its fascinating history, this area was considered part of the larger regions of Mazovia, Pomerania, or Prussia. Today it is in the *Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship* (Kujawy-Pomerania Province) of north-central Poland.

My mother’s **Skrok, Kasprzyk, Kapuściński**, and **Witoń** ancestors came from the area near Sandomierz in what is now *Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship* (Holy Cross Province). This was part of the region that was historically known as *Małopolska*, or Lesser Poland.

### More Information from DNA Matches

Although the ethnicity estimates were interesting, I learned more about my ancestral families in making comparisons with my genetic matches. My DNA relatives and I share ances-

tors. Even if our connections were multiple generations back in the old country, we can share our research and find common places where our ancestors lived.

DNA testing helps to put Poland's history into our family stories.

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## Just My Thoughts by Dolores Szalaszny Konopa

During this past year many individuals have taken to doing family research for the very first time. Some may have had newspaper clippings of the passing of their family members or mementos of weddings, graduations, and other activities. These gave them a fairly good starting point. There were those who have only memories, or stories they were told, so they reach out to other family members for additional information. They likely found that not everyone is interested in things past or that their memories do not coincide with what others recall. So, when genealogical sites, such as Ancestry.com, offered a couple of weeks free, they decided to take the plunge. They were sometimes surprised to find there were others who had the same family names in their trees, but they did not know the person whose tree they stumbled upon. That is where I have met, so to speak, others who I had been researching on and off for a number of years.

At first I kept my trees private, since I really wasn't sure with whom I would come in contact. I also started off by keeping the trees of my different lines separate. As I kept researching, I soon discovered that individuals from my mother's family married other family members in my other trees. After a while it became confusing, so it was then that I decided to merge them all into one tree, and I found this made life easier for me. Shortly after that, I started to feel more comfortable about sharing my tree and took the leap to change my status from private to public, since only the deceased would be visible and the living not.

As a result of sharing my tree, I have gotten inquiries from others about how I am related to

them or their ancestors, and most times it is an easy answer. Other times, I have to ask for additional information, such as when they only provide a name and I have more than one person with that name in my tree. Once I have clarified which is the correct one, I am willing to provide the connection. Many times people are interested in how I obtained the information, or if I know more about the family and have stories to share. Most times, I don't have stories, since my tree has expanded through multiple marriages. I advise they may wish to contact someone more closely related to that line, especially if it is around the holidays, like Christmas. This is a method I have used for a few years, I would send a Christmas card and include a short note explaining I believe we may be related and include a small tree showing why I believe this, as well a stamped self-addressed envelope. This has been a good starting point for me in my research, although there are about three or four people who have not responded.

As to those who are curious about where I got my information, I advise them that my tree consists of my family, my husband's family, my half-sister's family, and my brother-in-law's family. I provide them with my research sites, which include not only Ancestry.com, but also the databases on PGSNYS.org, as well as [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), the Poznan Marriage Project ([poznan-project.psn.org](http://poznan-project.psn.org)) which indexes marriages from the German sector of Poland from 1800-1899, <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org>, [fultonhistory.com](http://fultonhistory.com), and [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). I tell them there are many other sites, including Polish databases such as <http://genealodzy.pl/> which, while I am not all that familiar with how to navigate them, they may wish to try.

I have, from time to time, been very kindly rewarded with information for my tree that others have found. I sometimes get questions about my thoughts, and they have shared theirs with me when I have questions. Of course, I thank them for these interactions. I also thank those who have contacted me when they think there is an error in my tree so I can make the correction or advise them as to where I obtained my information. Since it includes several lines of my family, my tree is quite large, so over the years many PGSNYS members and others have contacted me about surnames we have in common. It is always a treat to identify another cousin. Genealogy is an addictive hobby, but for me it has provided great joy.

## Dennis Konopa's Paternal Line by Dolores Szalaszny Konopa

The following provides what I know of my husband, Dennis Konopa's, paternal line, starting with his great-great-grandfather, Matthias Konopa. There are a lot of names and relationships listed here which I hope will be helpful to others. The names of direct line ancestors are bolded.

**1 Matthias Konopa, Dennis' great-great grandfather**, born abt 1821 Poland, married Magdalena Dzeusz (born abt 1823 Poland) in 1847 in Płonkowo, Poland. I believe he was the father of at least two sons, **Andreas** and Marcin. There is a possibility of two additional children born to Matthias Konopa: Marianna Konopa and Jacob Konopa.

**2 Andreas (Andrew) Konopa, Dennis' great-grandfather** (born abt 1849 Poland; died 1 Aug 1916 Buffalo, New York) married Franciszka (Frances) Malecka (born 27 Apr 1859 Posen, Poland; died 27 Nov 1930 Buffalo, New York) on 23 Nov 1873 Tuczno, Poland (LDS film #2119225), witnessed by Theophil Szybourio and Franc. Kaszuba. Andreas was

listed as a widower, so upon further research, I believe he was first married to a widow, Eva Skoniecznia (born abt 1845; died about 1873) in 1864 in Szadlowice, Poland. Unknown if Andreas and Eva had any children, but Andreas and Franciszka did have children, including:

**3** Marianna Konopa (born abt 1874 Poland); married Stephan Wesolowski (born abt 1844 Poland) on 26 Jul 1902 in Jaksice Poland, witnessed by Julian Hadzlik and Michael Rauciginski. It is unknown if they stayed in Poland or immigrated to the States.

**3 Jozef (Joseph) Konopa, Dennis' grandfather** (born 28 Jan 1877 Jaksice, Ironowclaw, Poland; died 12 Jun 1939 Buffalo, New York) married Katarzyna (Catherine) Skierkiewicz (born 11 Jun 1877 Ironowclaw Poland; died 2 Mar 1856 Buffalo, New York) in 1898 in Płonkowo, Poland. They had three children born in Poland and the other five here in the States. They arrived in New York, New York, on 30 Oct 1907 with two of their children aboard the *SS Kroonland*. They settled first in Masbeth, Queens, New York, relocating sometime after the 1910 Federal Census to Buffalo, New York. Their children were as follows:

**4** Bronislawa (Bertha) Konopa (born 15 Sep 1899 Ironowclaw, Poland; died 2 Dec 1959 Medina, New York). She married Joseph Stawicki (born 1887 Lapiosz, Poland; died 18 Jun 1949 Rochester, New York) on 4 Jan 1918 in Buffalo, New York. They eventually settled in Batavia, New York and had ten children.

**4** Stanislaw (Stanley) William Konopa (born 24 Mar 1902 Ironowclaw, Poland; died 31 Aug 1975 Buffalo, New York) married Martha M Fuks (born 5 Jul 1907; died 26 Feb 2000 Williamsville, New York) on 25 Nov 1925 in Buffalo, New York. They had three sons.

**4** Josepha Konopa (born 15 Sep 1903 Borkowo Poland); it is believed she died in Poland.

**4** Franciszka (Frances) Konopa (born 27 Dec 1907 Masbeth, New York; died 15 Oct 1927 Buffalo, New York).

**4** Zofia (Sophie) Konopa (born 2 Sep 1909 Masbeth, New York; died 1 Feb 1968 Buffalo, New York) married Waclaw (Walter) B Jarmusz (born 31 Aug 1908 Buffalo, New York; died 9 Nov 1977 Buffalo, New York) on 3 Feb 1931 in Buffalo, New York. They had four children.

**4** Boleslaus Konopa, also known as Benny (born 7 Dec 1913 Masbeth, New York; died 15 Jan 1932 Buffalo, New York).

**4 Franciscum Jozef (Frank Joseph) Konopa, Dennis' father** (born 25 Mar 1916 Elmhurst, New York; died 29 Aug 1961 Buffalo, New York) married Cecelia Kuzara (born 23 Jan 1913 Buffalo, New York; died 11 Dec 1977 Buffalo, New York) on 12 Sep 1936 in Buffalo, New York. They had **one son, Dennis Konopa** (my husband).

**4** Andrium (Andrew) Adalbert Konopa (born 1 Oct 1917 Masbeth, New York; died 3 Mar 1985 Depew, New York) married Florence Palasz (born 10 Dec 1917; died 27 Apr 1980) on 16 Sep 1939 in Depew, New York. They had three daughters.



**Frank Joseph & Cecelia (Kuzara) Konopa , September 12, 1936**

3 Adelbertus Konopa (born 21 Apr 1882; died 27 Apr 1882 Poland).

3 Josepha Konopa (born 20 Sep 1883 Borkowo, Poland; died 19 Jan 1909 Jaksice, Poland) married Michael L Glinski (born 12 Jul 1877 Slonsk, Poland; died 26 Aug 1959 Buffalo, New York) on 15 Sep 1901 in Jaksice, Poland. They had four children as follows:

4 Anna Glinska (born 22 Jul 1902 Liszkowo, Poland),

4 Zofia (Sophia) Glinska (born 4 Jun 1904 Rzelechy, Poland);

4 Bronislaw (Bernard) Glinski (born 14 Oct 1906 Topola, Poland) married Pauline Jabcuga (born 23 Jan 1907)

4 Constantius Glinski (born 7 Jul 1908 Jaksice, Ironowclaw, Poland).

After Josepha's death, Michael Glinski married her sister, Elzbieta (Elizabeth) Konopa (born 8 Nov 1888 Winohoclovice, Poland; died 30 May 1970 Buffalo, New York) on 4 Jul 1909 in Jaksice, Poland. Michael and Elizabeth arrived in New York, New York with four children (three from his marriage to Josepha and one from his union with Elizabeth), on 28 Dec 1911 aboard the *SS Rijndam*, traveling to join Michael's father, Jan (John) Glinski in Buffalo, New York. Elizabeth and Michael Glinski had nine children as follows:



**Michael Glinski and Elizabeth (Konopa), dark dress, with granddaughter, Patricia**

4 Pelagia Glinska (born 2 May 1910 Jaksice, Ironowclaw, Poland; died 20 Jan 1913 Elmherst, New York).

4 Maryanna Glinska (born 17 Mar 1912 Buffalo, New York; died 13 Feb 1993) married Roman Niezgodna (born 6 Dec 1901; died 26 Dec 1989 Buffalo, New York) on 14 Jun 1935 in Buffalo, New York.

4 Stanislaus (Stanley) Glinski (born 25 Mar 1913 Elmhurst, New York; died 7 Feb 1984 Buffalo, New York) married Florence Jean Cwiklinska (born 17 Sep 1918; died 13 May 1988) on 30 Dec 1939 in Buffalo, New York. They had five children.

4 Francis R Glinski (born 18 Nov 1915 Buffalo, New York; died 23 Jul 1976); married Josephine A Zientek (born 1 Aug 1921; died 4 Oct 1990 Niagara Falls, New York) on 23 Nov 1940 in Buffalo, New York.

4 Florianna (Florence) Elizabeth Glinska (born 8 Jan 1918 Buffalo, New York; died 15 Oct 1999 Buffalo, New York) married Andrew F Piotrowski (born 12 Oct 1917 Buffalo, New York; died 8 Jan 1968 Buffalo, New York).

4 Wladyslaw (Walter) L Glinski (born 3 Jul 1920 Buffalo, New York; died 25 Feb 1995 Buffalo, New York) married Helen M Kardas (born 29 Jun 1920 Buffalo, New York; died 5 Mar 2008) on 20 Jul 1945.

4 Dorothy Glinska (born 4 Jun 1927; died 8 Jan 2008) married Chester

Kania (born 20 Oct 1917; died 1 Feb 1997) on 20 Jul 1946 in Buffalo, New York.

4 Richard M Glinski (born 10 Oct 1929 Sloan, New York; died 3 Jul 2003 Enfield, CT)

4 Robert P Glinski (born 26 Apr 1936; died 20 Jun 1936) married Irene M Lewandowski.

3 Rozalia (Rose) Konopa (born 28 Jul 1886 Wonzyn Poland; died 13 Jul 1913 Elmhurst, New York) married Wincenty Wladyslaw (Vincent Walter) Duch (born 3 Jul 1884 Jaksice, Ironowclaw, Poland; died 27 Jul 1964 Elmhurst, New York) on 5 Jun 1909 in Jaksice, Poland. They arrived in New York, New York, United States on 21 Jun 1912 aboard the *SS Konigin Louise* going to join an uncle in Masbeth, New York. They had three sons, none of whom survived to adulthood.

4 Stanislaus Duch (born 1 May 1910; died 8 Sep 1910 Jaksice, Poland).

4 Johannes Duch (born 15 May 1911; died 15 May 1912 Jaksice, Poland).

4 Wladek Duch (born 18 Jun 1913 Emhurst, New York; died 24 Jun 1916).

3 Stanislaus Konopa (born 1 May 1891 Poland) married Constantia Dyrda (born 14 Oct 1887 Poland) on 2 Sep 1917.

3 Franciszek (Frank) Joseph Konopa (born 23 Apr 1896 Topola, Poland; died 2 Aug 1933 Richland, South Carolina) arrived in New York, New York on 28 Dec 1911 aboard the *SS Rijndam*, traveling with his sister Elizabeth (Konopa) Glinska and her family. His surname was misspelled by the military to Konope. He married Libenath Sarah Harvey (born 9 Jun 1894 Pacolet, South Carolina; died 4 Apr 1993 Pacolet, South Carolina) on 4 Nov 1921 in the Southside Baptist Church, Spartenburg, South Carolina under the surname 'Muller.' Unsure why, though his granddaughter thinks it has something to do with Frank being Catholic and Sarah was Baptist. After Frank's death, the family used the surname Muller. Frank's service records are under Konope.



**Frank Joseph Konope, aka Muller**

2 Marcin Konopa, another son of Matthias and possible brother of Andreas (born abt 1855 Poland) married Frances Bukowska in 1878 in Liszkowo, Poland (LDS film #2212093, #2-5). They had a least two daughters, Anna Konopa (no info) and Lucia (Lucy) Konopa (born 20 Nov 1880 Jaksice, Poland; died 1 Jun 1972 Buffalo, New York) who married Wincenty (Vincent) Poczciwinski (born 17 Jul 1880 Jaksice, Poland; died 14 Dec 1939 Buffalo, New York). I say Marcin was a possible brother to Andreas because, according to Dennis' cousin Dorothy (née Jarmusz) Ciszowska, Lucy was called Aunt, but it is not known if she was actually an aunt or an older cousin who was just referred to as Aunt.

The research continues...

## What Happened to Great-Granduncle Paul Sobota?

by Kathleen Kasprzak

Paul Sobota was the son of Andreas Sobota and his second wife, Catherine Karas. Paul was born on January 8, 1889 in Zawierzbie, Rzeszow, Galicya, Poland (Austria) and baptized on January 10, 1889. Paul arrived in America in 1905, when he was 16 years old. When he first arrived in Buffalo, Paul lived with his sister (my great-grandmother) Anna (Sobota), and her husband Boleslaus Grzywinski. Anna arrived in America in October 1903. Other Sobota siblings who immigrated to America were Frank, Caroline, Sophia, and a half-sister Antoinette. They all settled in Buffalo, New York.

In the 1910 Federal Census, Paul was 21 years old, single, and living at 169 Lathrop, the home of his brother Frank. Paul was working as a ‘molder’ in an iron factory, could read, write, and speak English, and had applied for citizenship.

In 1912, Paul was still living with Frank’s family, which was growing and space was getting tight at 169 Lathrop. Paul moved to 1176 Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga, in the area where the St. John Gualbert Church would be built. His sister Sophia moved in with him. Paul was still working as a molder, but would eventually open a grocery store on Walden Avenue. Paul was close to his family, including his half-sister Antoinette, who was a housekeeper at the Transfiguration Church Rectory. Fr. James Wojcik was the pastor at Transfiguration and became a family friend and mentor to Paul.

The 1915 New York State Census recorded Paul Sobota, 26, and Sophia, 22, his sister, living at 1292 Walden Avenue. Sophia kept house for her brother. Paul still worked as an iron molder, had been in America for nine years, and was listed as a citizen. Paul became a citizen on June 11, 1911 in Erie County Court.

My paper trail for Paul ended in 1915. I wanted to find out if Paul ever married or perhaps moved out of Buffalo or even returned to Poland. He was my ‘brick wall,’ and my search for what became of him took five years, just because I didn’t click on every category on the Ancestry.com menu!

A cousin who had started researching our family called me after seeing my research on Ancestry.com. We talked about our great-grandparents. One family story was that our great-grandfather Boleslaus Grzywinski, who owned a successful construction company, had built St. John Gualbert’s Church. Wanting a picture of the original wooden church, my cousin contacted the Rectory and asked if they could help. A very nice person suggested there might be a picture in the St. John Gualbert 90th Commemorative Anniversary album. They had books available for purchase, so my cousin and I made a field trip to the church and bought the album.

Sadly, there was no proof in the album that Boleslaus Grzywinski was one of the builders of the original church. However, there was information in the album about a Paul Sobota. Could this be great-granduncle Paul Sobota for whom I had been searching? I read these lines in the album, “(in 1916)...the Bishop directed before a parish is organized, a census be taken of the population in order to determine the exact number of Polish Catholics. Father Pitass was assisted by Pawel (Paul) Sobota, who would later die in France during World War I in General Haller’s Blue Army.” I ran to the computer to find information on Haller’s Army and to confirm that Paul

had been a member. I could not locate any information on Paul having served in Haller's Army. Well,

Form 1 REGISTRATION CARD		No. 66
1	Name in full <u>Paul Sobota</u>	Age in yrs. <u>28</u>
2	Home address <u>1176 Walden Ave. Cheektowaga N.Y.</u>	
3	Date of birth <u>Jan 9 1889</u>	
4	Are you (1) a native born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <u>Naturalized citizen</u>	
5	Where were you born? <u>Zawiezkie Galicia Austria</u>	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <u>grocer 12</u>	
8	By whom employed?	
9	Where employed? <u>1176 Walden Ave</u>	
10	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <u>none</u>	
11	Married or single (which)? <u>single</u> Race (specify which)? <u>Caucasian</u>	
12	What military service have you had? Rank _____ (branch) _____ (years) _____ (Nation or State) _____	
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? <u>no</u>	
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.		

### Paul Sobota's WWI Draft Registration

that was frustrating. I do not know why I never clicked on 'military service' in the Ancestry.com menu before that day. I just assumed Paul was too old to be drafted. After all, he was 26 in 1915. But, there he was. Paul Sobota completed a World War I Draft Registration card on June 15, 1917. He was 28, single, medium height and build, with blue eyes and brown hair, living at 1176 Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga, New York. Paul's occupation was grocer, and he was a naturalized citizen.

On Ancestry.com, in the New York Abstracts of World War I Military Service, I found a card for Paul Sobota. He was inducted in Hamburg, New York on September 8, 1917. Paul was born in 'Zawiezkie' Galicia Austria. Paul trained at Camp Dix in New Jersey. He served as a clerk from December 15, 1917 until March 18, 1918, when he became a Mess Sergeant. Paul was in Company L, 309th Infantry throughout his service until his death in France.

On Ancestry.com, I found a Transport List of Passengers heading to Europe during WW I. Paul was listed leaving for Europe from Brooklyn on the ship *Mentor* on May 19, 1918. Rev. James Wojcik of Springville, NY, friend, was to be notified in case of emergency.

Paul Sobota's unit fought at St. Mihiel, France, where he died in battle. He is buried in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery in Thiaucourt, France. I was saddened to learn of Paul's death. I wanted to find out how and where Paul had been killed in action.

I reached out to Edward Kornowski, a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State, to ask if the *Dziennik*, the Polish-language newspaper in Buffalo ever had any articles on soldiers from Buffalo's Polonia who died in WWI. Edward offered suggestions on research and also sent me an article he found on Paul Sobota. The article was from the *Buffalo Courier*, dated 1916, and gave information about the building of a church on Doat Street. The article listed the names of the building committee, among whom was Paul Sobota.

After reading an article in the *Am-Pol Eagle* about searching for burial information on relatives who were buried in Europe during WWI, I emailed the National Archives at College Park in Maryland. With the information I sent, including Paul Sobota's serial number, I received a copy of his Grave Burial Index card. Paul was buried three times, first near the place he died, then moved to a temporary grave on April 15, 1919, and finally interred in the St. Mihiel American Cemetery on June 6, 1922. Original information of Paul's death was sent to Fr. James Wojcik on February 8, 1919. Paul's brother Frank received information on Paul's final grave site.

I found Paul Sobota in an article in the July 9, 1916 *Buffalo Courier*, "Poles residing in the village of Forks organized a Citizens' Protective Club with 47 members"..."The club aims to promote the welfare of Poles residing in the village. The members will assist their countrymen in procuring citizenship papers." Paul Sobota was the President of the club.

I also found that Paul Sobota was a witness for my great-grandparents' marriage at Transfiguration Church in 1905, along with Helena Sobota. Helena is a complete mystery!

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