

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

PRESERVING
OUR PAST
SINCE 1988

SEARCHERS

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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

2020 PGSNYS OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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THE *SEARCHERS* NEWSLETTER

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

1st issue (Spring) - due March 1st for April mailing
2nd issue (Summer) - due July 1st for August mailing
3rd issue (Winter) - due November 1st for December mailing

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

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

PGSNYS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Most of 2020 has proven to be a challenge to the Society and, unfortunately, early 2021 is shaping up to be more of the same. The monthly membership meetings have been conducted mostly via Zoom, and the summer picnic and Christmas party were cancelled. Probably for at least the first quarter of the new year, meetings will continue to be on Zoom. The good news part of that story is that many of our distant members outside of Western New York are now able to participate in the meetings, and the feedback we have received has been very positive. This also means our distant members are now able to participate fully in the Society's leadership, as all future Board of Directors meetings will be via Zoom.

Sincerely, John A. Nowak



POTPOURRI

WITAMY! New PGSNYS Members

Susanne	Schank	Cheektowaga	NY
Cynthia	Degain	Virginia Beach	VA
Ruth	Susmarski	Des Plaines	IL
Heather	Edwards	Bremeton	WA
Craig	Kanalley	Amherst	NY
Matthew	Kessler	Lancaster	NY
Cecilia	Mikalac	Marlborough	MA
Christopher	Perry (Paryaski)	Hamburg	NY
Keith	Gemerek	Brooklyn	NY
John	Vitale	N Tonawanda	NY
David	Lodyga	Amherst	NY
Elizabeth	Gioia-Acres	Talent	OR
Lori	Jasper	Plymouth	MN
Therese	Harrison	Holmes Beach	FL

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting schedule: The upcoming 2021 PGSNYS meetings are January 6, February 10, and March 10 at 7 PM. For the foreseeable future, the Zoom meeting format will continue.

2021 Election Results:

The PGSNYS Nominating Committee presented the 2021 ballot of nominees for the 2021 Board of Directors. There were no contested positions, so one vote was cast by the Board secretary on 12/9/2020 to elect the new Board. The 2021 Board of Directors members are:

President: John Nowak

Vice President: Charles Penasack

Secretary: Denise Oliansky

Treasurer: Charles Pyrak

Trustees: Maureen Gleason, Denise Pisanczyn, Sandra Porter, Jean Vasiloff, Patricia Rooney

Message of Condolence

The PGSNYS offers sincere condolences to our member and frequent guest speaker, Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz, and her family for the loss of her mother, Elaine Roberts. May wonderful memories and the support of family and friends bring all of you comfort.

Elaine P. Roberts

October 22, 1944 - October 19, 2020

Obituary

Elaine R. Roberts of Burt, New York, lately of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully in her home in Shrewsbury on 19 October 2020 in her 76th year, after a brief illness.

She was born on 22 October 1944 in North Tonawanda, New York, the only child of Helen A. (nee Zazycki) and John F. Zielinski. She attended Mount St. Mary Academy and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English at D'Youville College, then married her husband, Harry W. Roberts, Jr., on 16 July 1966. They moved around the country while raising two daughters, living in Alabama, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Ohio before finally returning to Western New York in 1979, where they made their home until 2019.

Elaine was a devout Catholic and served as a lector for many years at St. Gregory the Great parish in Williamsville, New York. Although disabled at the age of 36 by a metabolic bone disorder, she had a lifelong love of learning and volunteered at Erie County Community College as a note-taker for students with disabilities. Elaine loved music, needlework, and books, especially British literature. She was a devoted daughter, wife, and mother, and an adoring grandmother, as well as a meticulous homemaker with a genius for organization.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Harry, daughters Anne Michele (Alan) Wight of England and Julie (Bruce) Szczepankiewicz of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and grandchildren, James and Jennifer Wight, and Matthew, Daniel, Jeremy, and Catherine Szczepankiewicz.

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 in the future, please send an email to denise.oliansky@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 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!



Things that Keep Me Excited About Genealogy

by Patricia Rooney

Usually people review their lives as the Old Year comes to an end and the New Year begins. So, living with all this health turbulence demands that we stay home and avoid people. Therefore, it nudged me to do some deep thinking earlier than usual this year.

Out with the OLD. Well, that's an understatement! It is more like throwing the baby out with the bath water. Boy, is that dangerous for a historian and/or genealogist! This should be done only after some of that deep thinking takes place first. Impulsive 'house cleaning' can lead to deep depression days later.

Joining a research organization like the Polish Genealogical Society of NYS is a great way to start. Like-minded members share places to find genealogical resources, we all hunt and gather, and may even travel to historical sites as a group. Except 2020 has suddenly changed our access to places we would normally visit to obtain documents. Instead of going to libraries and buildings we now must use online sources only. Talking to other researchers means chatting on Zoom, and instead of going to historical places in real time, now we do virtual tours online.

BUT. While some things became a challenge, new skills and ideas have developed. For me, it meant helping a recommended stranger build his family tree. The challenge was that I had to validate all the clues, especially family stories. An understanding of their history was needed, along with pictures to give me a glimpse of their personalities. It led me to read more newspapers and read documents more closely for clues as I developed a timeline. Yes, I had to investigate many branches to find answers concerning the bloodline of this family. I was amazed at what I was learning!

We all know the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How questions to be answered, right?

Well, I thought I had that covered concerning my family lines and my husband's. That was the belief of our son Robert, too. Consequently, he called to ask me to make a small chart for him. He called it Robert's Challenge. The challenge was for me to name the earliest ancestor of the immediate relatives who were the first to arrive to the United States. No extras, such as brothers and sisters of the earliest ancestor.

The challenge questions were Who was the first, Who was left behind, What did they bring, Where did they settle, Why did they leave their homeland, and How did they pay their way? A short story could be included, but not required.

Robert and I thought it was going to be easy since I had done almost twenty years' worth of extensive research on family histories for both sides of the family, Rooney and Filipiak. As for my Filipiak charts, it was simple, because it meant only four people. My parents were first generation Polish Americans. I thought it would be easy for the Rooney tree too -- until I checked closer and discovered some major blanks, especially for the in-laws. The earliest Rooney family ancestor arrived sometime around 1734 from England to Virginia, USA. There were few records available to answer some of the questions and was nearly impossible when it came to the in-law relative of the Dyke family who married a Rooney. This made for an interesting challenge. I enjoyed the hunt SO much that dinner rarely was served on time.

Interesting Stories

As the data gets collected, it hopefully enriches our understanding of why people immigrated, assimilated, and gradually lost their ancestral identity. As the past melts into the present, the people

who immigrated and stayed in America altered the country, similar to adding M & M's to cookie dough, making something new by mixing something familiar with something different.



**Grandpa Skura's house
in the 1800s**

What many of us don't see or realize is that the country that was left behind keeps changing too. For me, one example of that came from my Polish teacher from Saturday Polish School in Buffalo. She has been in Buffalo for about twelve years, struggled learning English, and returned each summer to Poland to visit her parents living there. Each year she notices changes in Poland.



Modern house in Limanova

But the real surprise came when she visited the Broadway Market in Buffalo recently. When she spoke Polish to people there who were speaking Polish, she couldn't understand them. Why? Because they were speaking the Polish their ancestors spoke when they immigrated in the 1900's, which they spoke to their children, who spoke it to their children. And guess what? The language was Americanized over the years! Since these people didn't visit Poland, their Polish didn't advance. Same with the customs and memories. By going to Polish Genealogy meetings, the culture and history stay alive and it is not unusual to hear someone exclaim, "So that's why my mother calls me by so many names!" Or, "What do you mean the Polka isn't a Polish dance?"

We Seek Them. Do They Seek Us?

It's much easier today with the benefits of the Internet to seek ancestral connections. There are libraries, organizations such as Ancestry, My Heritage, 23andme, FamilySearch, Societies like Polish Genealogical Society, and many more. Some are free and others charge a fee. More and more countries are opening their records; however, more and more privacy laws are being written, so listen to your relatives when they share their tales and get permission in writing to share them.



Also, there are struggles to obtain family information, especially about the living. So many have secrets that are held tight to their chest -- and should be to prevent shame and scandal to the living. Is it gossip? Is it truth? Is it needed? Check the local newspapers to find out if it is already public. Write the book. Make a scrapbook. Most of the family information is secretly published anyway. If you have family members who are skittish about you publishing a family history book, read carefully the publisher's privacy rules, or just publish it and put in your Will who will inherit it. Just do it.

Do relatives in Poland seek us out? Mostly in their hearts, because they have lost track of those who moved away. I was so surprised when I was greeted by cousins (I call them all cousins) with tears in their eyes and hugs that nearly broke a rib. My interpreters explained that the tears were falling from joy, not sadness! They thought no one cared about them. They were shocked when I told them that I was seeking them for almost forty years. The family at home lost

touch and/or lost addresses because of WWII. Some Polish family members didn't think any of us 'younger generation' even cared.

Well, it took a lot of talk and pictures to convince them who I was and why I came, but we did it! I have made three trips and have written many emails and joined Facebook to keep in touch. Google translate brings us even closer. Covid19 has delayed some planned trips, but we are determined to keep our connections strong and share how we all live. They are amazing pen-pals!



One never knows what one will learn during the next research session, family discussion, or Society meeting. All the discoveries, connections, and even the challenges, keep me excited about genealogy!

Transfiguration

A Poem by Bobby J. Sulecki

Editor's Note: We received this from Mr. Bobby Sulecki, a Polonia Historian from Erie, PA. Here is their link if you are interested <https://www.eriepoloniahistory.com>. Although he has never lived in Buffalo, Mr. Sulecki has a great love for the history of Buffalo's Polonia and for its churches. This is a poem he wrote when he was in the 8th grade, and he sent it to Bishop Grosz, the Pastor of St. Stanislaus at the time. We are pleased to share his poem with you.

My cross glimmers in the sky along with my brother
Polish churches, but no one seems to know
I am still here.

I was once beautiful, but now I am abandoned, and yet
no one seems to care.

People who walk or drive by me say, "When are they going to tear
that ugly place down!"

The people who break into me throw things
at my once beautiful windows; though my remaining windows still
shine with the pride of those who built me and who do still care!
"Och Jezu Moj," they just say as they slowly walk away.

As a tear rolls down my steeple, the treasures I had inside
have now been mostly taken away, but most of my murals are still
here representing a generation that is mostly gone now...

I can still hear Father Wojcik and all the other priests saying Mass
with pride and then I wonder, "Co to jest?" What really happened
to me anyway?

As it gets dark, I go to sleep and quietly say, "Dobranoc Sycamore
Street, maybe I will see you tomorrow...?"

Buffalo's Transfiguration Church

by Denise M. Oliansky

Author's Note: This article was published in the December 3, 2020 issue of the Am-Pol Eagle newspaper. Because of its timeliness to both the collapse of the former church's roof and Mr. Sulecki's poem on Page 7, I decided to share it here as well. The photo was provided by the Am-Pol Eagle with the article.

I had no idea until the past couple years that any of my Polish ancestors had ties to Transfiguration Church. I presumed they all were members of St. Stanislaus, St. Adalbert, or St. Luke parishes. When members of the PGSNYS, Nicole Pohancsek and Charles Penasack, digitized many of the church records from St. Stan's, St. Adalbert's, and Transfiguration, I was surprised to find a number of my mother's Koralewski and Gorski relatives had been married or buried from Transfiguration.

Of course that immediately piqued my curiosity about the long-abandoned church, so I delved into its history. Transfiguration parish was established on July 23, 1893. The St. Joseph's Society of St. Adalbert and Father Wojcik of Assumption parish approached Buffalo's Bishop Ryan about establishing a parish for the Polish community living in the Fillmore-Sycamore area. Upon the Bishop's approval, a wooden church and school were built at the corner of Stanislaus and Mills streets.

By 1896, the expanding parish had quickly out-grown the small church. Buffalo architect Carl Schmill was hired to build the existing red brick, Gothic Revival church with its 180-foot bell tower and room for 1,400 parishioners at 929 Sycamore (Sycamore and Mills streets). The new Transfiguration Church, was dedicated on July 5, 1897. As the area became more prosperous, a new 3-story school was built in 1914, designed by architect Wladyslaw Zawadzki.

In 1918, the parish celebrated its Silver Jubilee, although on a small scale due to the influenza pandemic. Transfiguration's Golden Jubilee in 1942 was also subdued due to the ongoing war in Europe.

After the war, Transfiguration parish continued to thrive throughout the 1950s and 60s, even as suburban flight was becoming noticeable in the area. Unfortunately, as more and more families were leaving the city for the suburbs, Transfiguration School was closed in 1985. In 1990, the parish council deemed the church building unsafe due to structural issues, and it was closed. Services were moved to the old school building. The Church of the Transfiguration, with membership down to about 50 people, closed as its final Mass was celebrated by Bishop Head on Aug. 22, 1993.

In the ensuing decades, as the church fell into decay, various owners and individuals proposed plans for its renovation and use, but nothing took root and only minimal repairs were made. In 2017, a glimmer of hope that the building would be saved emerged after its sale to Daniel Britt, who planned to transform it into a beer garden. In mid-2019, pictures of repair work began appearing on Facebook, reinforcing the anticipation that the church building would be saved. On Monday, Nov. 16, 2020, a shocking photo on Facebook showed that the roof and portions of the walls of the Transfiguration Church building had collapsed during the windstorm that raged on Sunday and Monday morning. The damage is extensive, once again bringing into question the future of the former church building.



**Transfiguration Church
roof collapse**

Even as someone who only recently learned of my family ties to Transfiguration, I was gut-wrenched to see that photo. I can only imagine how it affected those in Buffalo's Polonia who are former members of the church and attended the school. My heart goes out to them. Hopefully, when the debris is cleared and the state of what remains is assessed, Mr. Britt's plans will go forward, and the once magnificent building will regain its former glory in a new incarnation.

Online sources for article:

Church of the Transfiguration, Buffalo, NY,

<https://en.wikipedia.org>

Church of the Transfiguration (Buffalo) History,

<https://opacity.us/site128>

[_church_of_the_transfiguration_buffalo.htm](#)

Transfiguration Church Complex, Buffalo, NY,

www.poloniatrail.com

Transfiguration Parish, Facebook page,

<https://m.facebook.com/transfig.episcopal/>

Transfigured: The walls and roof of Transfiguration Church in

Buffalo collapse, <https://broadwayfillmorealive.org>, 17 Nov 2020

Faltynowski Family Came from Prussia!

by Sandra Maciejewski Porter

Although early American records indicated that the **Faltynowski** family origins were in the Russian-occupied part of Poland, further research with the assistance of the administrators and members of the *Polish Genealogy Facebook Group* identified their origins in West Prussia, the German-occupied partition of Poland.

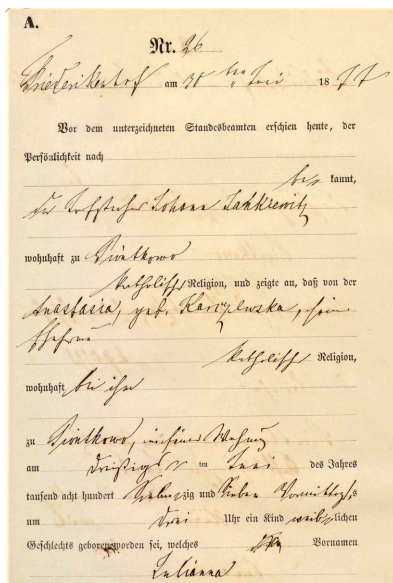
Their 1912 passenger manifest indicated that **Julianna Faltynowska** and her children **Bronisława**, **Wacław**, and **Julianna** were born in Pluskowęsy, which was Pluskowenz in German. They were going to their husband and father, **Alexander Faltynowski**, in Jersey City, New Jersey, and leaving behind **Julianna's** brother and the children's uncle, **Antoni Jankiewicz**, in Golub, Germany. Pluskowęsy is near Golub, and was in Briesen, West Prussia, but both the 1912 ship manifest and **Alexander Faltynowski's** 1917 WWI American draft registration reported the family was from the Russian partition, which made me think Pluskowęsy may have been incorrect.

I asked for assistance from the *Polish Genealogy Facebook Group*, asking if they agreed the place is Pluskowęsy. I asked where I might find the records in Poland. The Pluskowęsy church records for the years of their births were not digitized at Family Search in the Catholic parish register of baptisms, marriages and deaths in Pluskowenz or Pflugsdorf (Kr. Briesen), Westpreußen, Germany, now Pluskowęsy, Poland at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/229725>. I did not find scans at the Polish Archives online at szukajwarchiwach.pl, but that may have been my ineptness. I explained that other American records were not very helpful, because the family used different names in the United States. Not only was **Faltynowski** changed to **Fulton**, but **Bronisława** used the names **Alice** and **Blanche**, **Wacław** used **John**, and **Julianna** was listed as **Wanda** in the 1920

census in Jersey City. The children listed their parents as **Alexander Fulton** and **Julia Jankiewicz** on Social Security and marriage records.

I was open to whatever help I could get.

One researcher told me there looked to be two possibilities for Pluskowenz / Pluskowentz – one near Kowalewo Pomorskie/ Schönsee and another near Chełmża/ Culmsee, as identified by kartenmeister.com.



I thought the first was more likely. It was closer to Golub. Several **Faltynowski** descendants match me with DNA, and my great-grandparents came from Nieżywiec, not too far away. Kartenmeister.com said the Standesamt/Civil Registry was in Friederikenhof, which I could not find. The Meyers Gazetteer at www.meyersgaz.org had it as Friederikenhof, which Kartenmeister says is Frydrychowo, now in Wąbrzeźno County.

With this information, I searched the records of Frydrychowo in the State Archives in Toruń site, Genealogia w Archiwach, at www.genealogiawarchiwach.pl, and found the 1877 birth of **Julianna Jankiewicz** (picture to left), daughter of **Jan Jankiewicz** and **Anastazja Karczewska**.

Another researcher looked at the Geneteka database and found the index for the marriage of **Jan Jankiewicz** and **Anastazja Karczewska** in Pluskowęsy in 1869! (picture below)

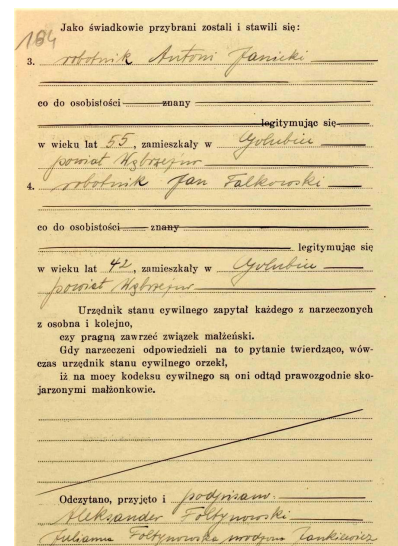
Urodzenia		Małżeństwa						
Pokaż 50 ▾ pozycji		Szukaj:						
Poprzednia 1 Następna								
Rok	Akt	Imię	Nazwisko	Rodzice	Imię	Nazwisko	Rodzice	Parafia
1869	1	Jan	Jankiewicz		Anastazja	Karczewska		Pluskowęsy

A group administrator shared a link from *Polish Wikipedia* for Piątkowo (powiat golubsko-dobrzyński), the small village near Pluskowęsy where the Friederikenhof record said Julian-na Jankiewicz had been born. Piątkowo is very close to Pluskowęsy, and also Zieleń, the village listed in the parents' marriage entry.

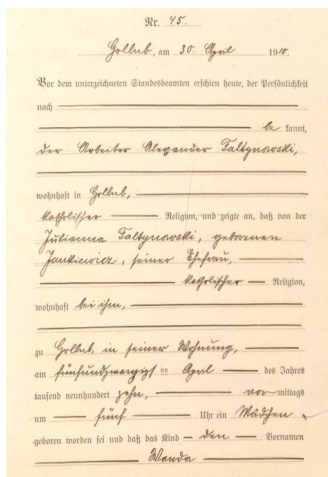
No marriage was listed for **Julianna Jankiewicz** and **Aleksander Faltynowski** in the Frydrychowo records.

But that's not all!

The same administrator of the *Polish Genealogy Facebook Group* found a copy of the marriage record for **Aleksander Faltynowski** and **Julianna Jankiewicz** in Golub 11 Nov 1901 (akt nr 14, skan 14). (picture to right)



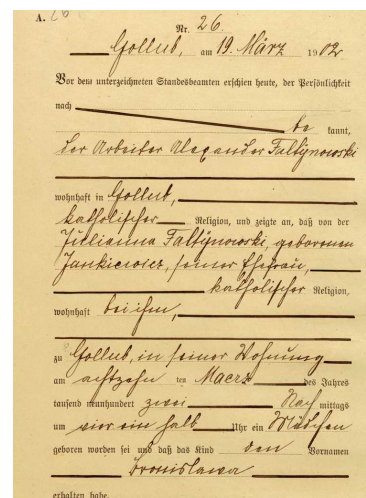
She found that their children were also born in Golub:



Bronisława ur. 18 Mar 1902, Golub (akt 26 skan 27) (picture to right)

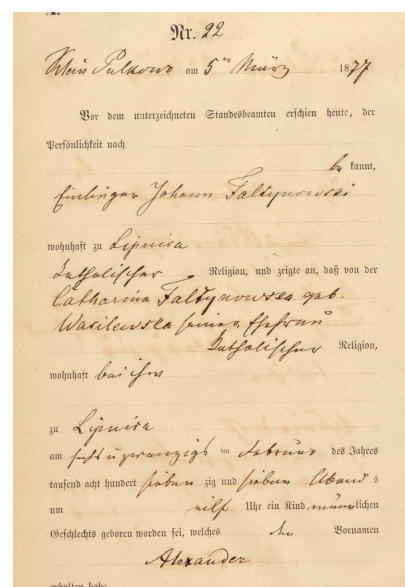
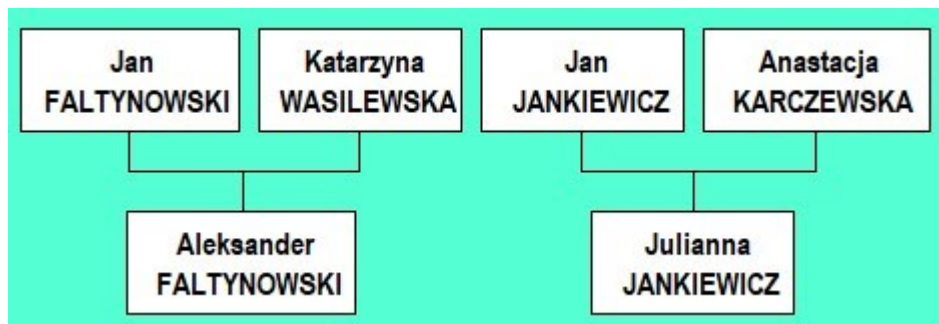
Wacław ur. 07 May 1903. Golub (akt 50 skan 51). In German, his name was Watzlaw.

Wanda ur. 25 Apr 1910. Golob (akt 45, skan 44). (picture to left)



She also found that **Aleksander Faltynowski** was born 26 Feb 1877 (picture to right) in Lipnica to **Jan Faltynowski** and **Katarzyna Wasilewska**. The birth was recorded 5 Mar 1877 in Klein Pulkowo (in Polish, Pulkowo Male). Today, Lipnica is a village in the administrative district of Gmina Dębowa Łąka, within Wąbrzeźno County, in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship.

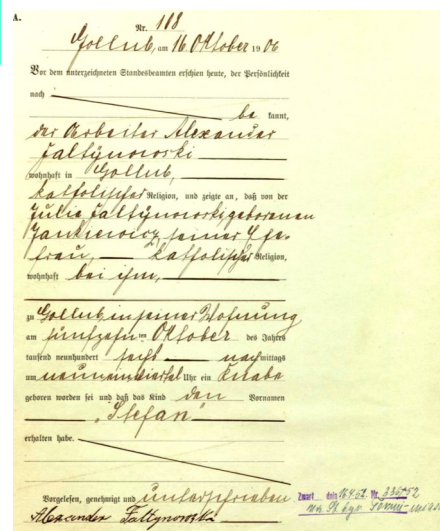
Wow! I was overwhelmed with their help! Not only did they support me in finding **Julianna**'s birth and parents' marriage, they also found **Julianna** and **Aleksander**'s marriage and the children's births in the town of Golub and **Aleksander**'s birth in Lipnica. (picture below)



The 1946 obituary listed for **Alexander Fulton** on Find-A-Grave reported he was survived by a son, **Stefan Fulton**, in Poland. I looked in the records and found **Stefan Faltynowski**'s birth record in Golub, 14 Oct 1906. (picture to right)

A Polish family tree on the MyHeritage website reported that **Stefan** married **Helena Zielińska**. The notation on his birth record reported that **Stefan** died in Poland on 16 Apr 1952.

I had not found what happened to **Aleksander** and **Julianna**'s American-born children, **Alexander** and **'Jennie'**, who were listed in the 1920 census in Jersey City, Hudson, New Jersey. My mother's sister was named **Janina** and was listed as **Jennie** in



an American census. Online research showed a German Ancestry family tree (Familienstammbaum) by a descendant of **Janina Faltynowska**, daughter of **Aleksander Faltynowski** and **Julianna Jankiewicz**, born 1 Mar 1918 in New Jersey. **Janina** married **Bernard Żywiecki** on 24 Apr 1938 in Kościół pw. św. Kosmy i Damiana at Okonin, Gruta, Grudziądz, now in Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Polska. (picture below) Her place of birth was identified as 'Ameryka.'

		1938					1938				
		Sponsi					Sponsae				
Uzasad	No	Dies	Nomen	Status	Dies	Nomen	Status	Dies	Nomen	Domicilium	
Gruta		Matrimonii	Cognomen	Parochia	nat. et bapt.	Cognomen	Parochia	nat. et bapt.	Cognomen	Domicilium	
Gruta	5	24	Żywiecki	invenis	24.15	Faltynowska	virgo	24.15	Jan Faltynowski	Okonin	
22.10.38		Aprilis	Bernard	Okonin	1908	Janina	Ameryka	1918	Moiry Lichocki	Grudziądz	
		24	Bernard	invenis	24.15	Żywiecka	virgo	24.15	Jan Kamiński	Okonin	

Some mysteries remain. It is not clear why the **Faltynowski** family originally identified as Russian in America. We do not know why their son **Stefan** did not emigrate with his mother and siblings in 1912, or who, other than **Janina**, may have returned to Poland. But we now know that the **Faltynowski** family came from West Prussia!

Sources

"Ancestry Passenger Lists," database, Ancestry (ancestry.com: accessed 2 February 2020), Julianna Faltynowska; citing Passenger Lists.

"FamilySearch Passenger Lists," database, FamilySearch (FamilySearch.com: accessed 21 June 2020), Julianna Faltynowska; citing Passenger Lists.

National Archives, "World War II Draft Registration Cards," database, Ancestry.com (: accessed 21 April 2020), John Fulton; citing J. C., Hudson, New Jersey, USA.

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“MyHeritage Family Trees,” database, MyHeritage (www.myheritage.com: accessed 21 June 2020), Marian Rybacki Web Site.

“Family Tree”, database, Ancestry.com (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 19 July 2020), “Eveline Nadine Zywiecki Familienstammbaum,” Janina Faltynowska; submitted by Eveline Nadine Zywiecki, [contact information for private use].

LDS Family History Library, “Okonin (Grudziądz),” database, Kościół rzymsko-katolicki. Parafja, Family Search (familysearch.com: accessed 19 July 2020), Janina Faltynowska, Bernard Żywiecki; citing Germany, Preußen, Westpreußen, Okonin (Kr. Graudenz) – Church records.

“Family Tree,” database, Ancestry.com, “Eveline Nadine Zywiecki Familienstammbaum,” Bernard Zywiecki.

Resources

- Polish Genealogy private Facebook Group, facebook.com
- Family Search, familysearch.org
- Polish Archival resources online, szukajwarchiwach.pl
- Google maps, maps.google.com
- Database Search Utility, kartenmeister.com
- Meyers Gazetteer, meyersgaz.org
- State Archives in Toruń, Genealogia w Archiwach, genealogiawarchiwach.pl
- Geneteka, geneteka.genealodzy.pl
- Polish Wikipedia, wikipedia.pl
- Find A Grave, findagrave.com
- MyHeritage, myheritage.com
- German Ancestry, ancestry.com (ancestry.de)

A variety of resources are needed to solve family puzzles. These were used to learn more about the Faltynowski family origins.



Tracking Ancestral Travel in America

by Denise M. Oliansky

Author's note: This article was published in the November 5, 2020 issue of the Am-Pol Eagle. I think it provides an interesting way to examine our ancestors lives. It is reproduced here verbatim, with the addition of the pictures. While not focused on Polish ancestors, per se, this is a beneficial exercise for all family lines.

We all have immigrant ancestors who traveled from other countries to America, some as early as the 1500s, some much more recently. There is a lot of information available about waves of immigration to the Americas and reasons why people chose to leave their homeland, whether it was looking for economic opportunity, to escape wars or foreign rule, hard times, etc. I have identified all my birth and adoptive family immigrants from Europe, so lately my interest has turned to tracking their travel and relocation within and between States here in America.

My adoptive family was entirely Polish and all came to America after 1880. With few exceptions, once they arrived in western New York from whichever port they landed (Baltimore or New York City), my immigrant ancestors and their families pretty much stayed put. Different family groups spread out to different areas, including Buffalo's East Side, Lackawanna, and even Auburn, but once established, they lived out their lives there or in nearby suburban communities, as did most of their children and grandchildren.

The immigrant ancestors in my birth family, on the other hand, arrived any time between 1600 and the early to mid-1800s. I guess because my birth family lines have been in America a very long time, it makes sense there would be more relocation as the west opened up throughout the country's history. But, it makes me wonder what prompted each of their moves, what were their motivations and expectations, what hardships they endured during travel and upon arrival to a new location, and how they fared in each of their new communities. Early travel itself must have been incredibly arduous with only horses and wagons to get them from place to place. Why put themselves through that? What did they hope to gain by moving someplace else?

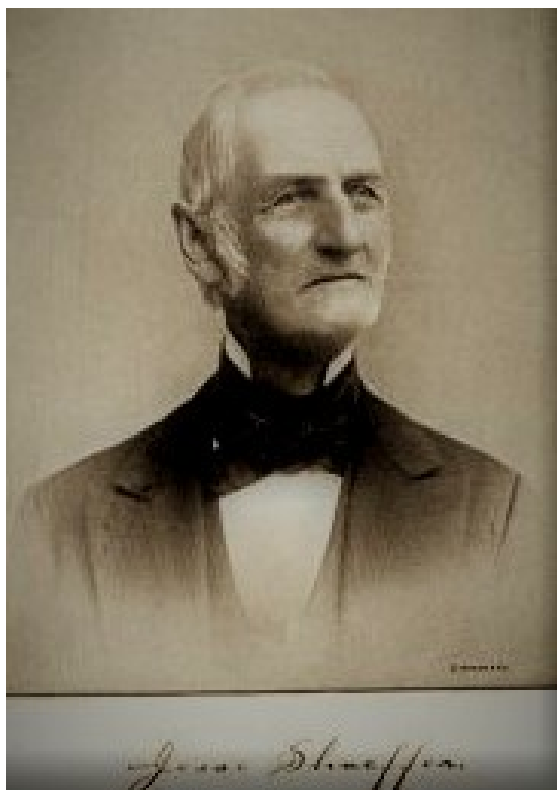
My Shaeffer (aka Shaffer) line immigrant ancestor, who arrived in 1749, started off in Berks County, Pennsylvania, but my direct line ancestors among his children and grandchildren moved to Dauphin County, then west to Centre County, and then further west to Jefferson County, all in Pennsylvania. More recent descendants left Pennsylvania altogether. My earliest Pendleton ancestor, who arrived in America in the early 1630s, long before the Shaeffers, moved quite frequently between Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Maine. Later direct line Pendleton ancestors made it to Pennsylvania as well. My Shaffer and Pendleton lines merged with the marriage of my third great-grandparents, Henry Shaffer and Phebe Pendleton in Brockwayville, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania.

This past weekend, to my delight, I discovered that collateral (not direct line) members of both my Shaeffer and Pendleton families moved to Niagara County, NY. On Friday, I drove to Lockport to the Shaeffer Cemetery on Dysinger Road to locate the grave of Samuel Shaeffer, a brother of Jacob, my fourth great-grandfather. Samuel was born in 1786 in Dauphin County PA, married Sarah Jones (born in 1788; died in 1848), and they had five children, one son and four

daughters. Samuel and his son Jesse moved from Dauphin County to Lockport in 1824. According to an entry about Jesse Shaeffer in *Landmarks of Niagara County New York* (Pool, 1897), Samuel was a farmer, and Jesse, who was twelve years old when they came to Lockport, attended the public school and worked on his father's farm. Samuel died in 1857 and is buried in the Shaeffer Cemetery, located on land he once owned. In 1835, Jesse became a clerk in the dry goods store of Rogers & Brown in Lockport. Ten years later he went into business for himself, building two large dry goods stores, one grocery, and four dwellings. In 1868, he built a large mercantile on Market Street.

On Saturday, I attended a presentation about the Erie Canal sponsored by the Western New York Genealogical Society. Realizing the proximity of Pendleton, NY to the canal and Lockport, it got me wondering if there was a connection to my Pendleton line. A little digging revealed that Sylvester Pendleton Clarke (1780-1854), a collateral descendant of my ninth great-grandfather, James Pendleton, left Rhode Island and traveled to New York. He purchased Grand Island from the local Native Americans, served as the self-proclaimed 'Governor' of Grand Island for a couple years, and then, hoping to cash in on the construction of the Erie Canal, purchased about 300 acres of land and built a large tavern/inn at the site where the canal was to meet Tonawanda Creek. The Town of Pendleton separated from Niagara on February 2, 1824 and was indeed named after my distant cousin, Sylvester Pendleton Clarke.

Tracking ancestors' travel to new locations and seeing when and where different family lines crossed and merged is a fascinating exercise. I have started a project to track the relocations of each of my ancestral lines. When relocations are identified, further research will inevitably answer some of the questions about why they moved and what effect that experience had on their lives. Having a mapped representation of my family lines throughout time and place will be very useful when it comes to writing about those segments of my family history.



Jesse Shaeffer



Sylvester Pendleton Clark



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