



Cecile Wendt Jensen, MA
Polonica Americana Research Institute
3535 Commerce Road
Orchard Lake, Michigan 48324
cjensen@orchardlakeschools.com
www.polishmission.com
248-683-0323

Advanced Polish Research

This lecture will cover finding your ancestors' parish and civil registration records in Poland while dispelling the myths that records were destroyed during the world wars and that language barriers make Polish research difficult. It will also give examples and suggestions on how to use advanced records, databases and archives.

Case Study

Preparing Eugenia Gorecki's World War II story for Genealogy Roadshow

In the spring of 2013 genealogists were abuzz — a new program *Genealogy Roadshow* had just been announced. And locally, we were excited that one episode was scheduled to be filmed in Detroit. Our region could certainly benefit from positive a program. Who would be included? Which stories did they want? Which ethnicities would be features?

As Director of the Polonica American Research Institute (PARI), it is part of my job to deliver on our goals which includes bringing this history to mainstream America. Too often, families shy away from starting their Polish lineage, fearing vital records were destroyed during the Word Wars and the language(s) make it too difficult. Being part of *Genealogy Roadshow* would certainly allow us to reach a broad audience and set the record straight.

The "elevator speech" ran something like this: *We are glad you are coming to Detroit! We have a story for you! It involves immigration, World War II, and the auto industry.* She was intrigued by our pitch.

We used our extensive Polish network to document Genia's story, including the help of *GenPol's* Tomasz Nitsch; Józef Taran; Professor Andrzej Nowakowski (*author of Sokół w Wadowicach w latach 1918-1949 – część II*); Marcin Witkowski, Historian at the Muzeum w Wadowicach; and visiting Archivist Paweł Pietrzyk, from Łódź, Poland.

In summary, we were able to identify the education institution in which her father was schooled, the significance of his small portraits, the resistances of the young members of Sokół, and the most likely event that resulted in his fatal beating at the hands of the German police.

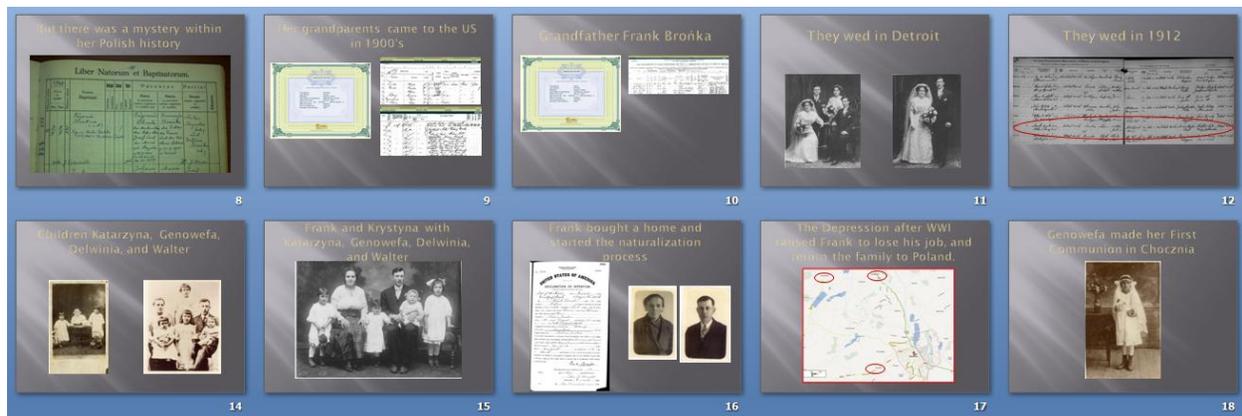
Our network in Poland spoke with pastors, museum curators, historians and provided documents and

translations to authenticate the research. Our efforts paid off.

Genia writes:

Ceil, thank you so much for "closing the door" on my father's past. In my youth I felt sorry for myself, not understanding why I'm not able to enjoy life with both parents. WWII marked every family in Europe, including mine. I have learned that my dad was involved in the underground group of young Polish men and lost his life in 1942. I'm so proud of my patriotic father!

—Eugenia K. Gorecki



Outline of Research

Foundation Documents – Have you completed your homework?

United States Records

United States Census

www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Census_Online_Genealogy_Records

World War I Draft Registration

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1968530>

Naturalization Documents

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Naturalization_Online_Genealogy_Records

Ship Manifests

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/US_Immigration_Passenger_Arrival_Records

Passport Application

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2185145>

Private Family Collections— Photos



Private Family Collections— Certificate

RZYMSKO-KATOLICKI
URZĄD PARAFIALNY
CHOCZNA, pow. Wadowice

SWIADECTWO ŚLUBU
(Testimonium matrimonii contracti)

Imię, nazwisko i zamieszkanie narzeczonego *Eugeniusz Okniński syn Józefa*
(Cognomen, nomen, domicilium sponsi)
& *Marii Hojba*

Dzień i miejsce urodzenia narzeczonego *dnia 17 lipca 1914 r. w Wadowicach*
(Dies et locus natiuitatis sponsi)

Imię, nazwisko i zamieszkanie narzeczonej *Genowefa Bronka córka Franciszka*
(Cognomen, nomen, domicilium sponsae)
& *Krzysztof Szlach*

Dzień i miejsce urodzenia narzeczonej *dnia 25 lipca 1915 r. w Choceni*
(Dies et locus natiuitatis sponsae)

Gdzie i kiedy małżeństwo zostało zawarte *w Choceni dnia 30 grudnia 1939*
(Matrimonium contractum est loco et die)

Świadkowie ślubu *Antoni Boguski i Józef Hadowski*
(Testes contracti matrimonii)

Zgodność z miejscowymi księgami parafialnymi potwierdza
Concordat cum libris metriculibus
Choczna dnia *3 września 1961* r.
(dies)

L.S.
Proboszcz – Perochus
M. Hanu Boguski



Digital Libraries in Poland - <http://fbc.pionier.net.pl/owoc/list-libs>

Facebook – Genealogy in Poland https://www.facebook.com/groups/Genealogy.in.Poland/?ref=br_tf

Archive of the victims of the Nazi and the Communist terror in Kraków 1939–1956

<http://www.krakowianie1939-56.mhk.pl/en/>

Muzeum w Wadowicach

<http://www.wck.wadowice.pl/Godzinny-otwarcia.143.0.html>

Genealogia Polska GENPOL <http://www.genpol.com/changelang-eng.html>

MapyWig <http://english.mapywig.org/news.php>

Geneteka baza Polskiego Towarzystwa Genealogicznego

<http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/>

Szukaj w Archiwach (Search the Archives)

<http://searcharchives.pl/>