

## Do I need genealogy?

# Wrocław - my city four generations

Wrocław - I was born here and grew up in the same place, my mum sang me to sleep here. I did the same my children, grandchildren and grand-grand-daughter here.



My family roots are on other side of Poland, in Subcarpathian voivodeship though. My parents were born in Błazowa. They came to Wrocław just after World War II, in 1946. Poverty and scarcity made them to leave for better life conditions. Many years they didn't believe they'd stay long. They've always been ready to go. The journey from Błazowa was great unknown and adventure for such a young married couple. They had dreams, which slowly became true, so they stayed there till very end. They found apartment and jobs in destroyed Wrocław as well as they got education and profession. It was not easy for them at the beginning, but living conditions were better by a great extent. They were both half-orphans and they helped their mothers as much as they could. They didn't always make good decisions, as for example, with taking deserted apartment. They settled in south Wrocław - Krzyki. Despite district being terrible destructed, there were villas nicely developed and equipped, they have chosen an apartment in large block of flats for twenty families, where other Poles settled. Among other families, there were few from Błazowa there. They brought each other and helped themselves to adapt. They didn't seat back and did



nothing. They joined other emigrants from other parts of Poland to clean up the city. Pictures from that times shows war damages, current state for comparison. Responding to my question, why they didn't choose bigger apartment, they replied it was for safety. They wanted to be among their people. I think they didn't have high needs and never believed they'd stay forever. Wrocław was fully re-populated by emigrants from east around 1958. Mentioned villas were inhabited by university professors, doctors and other educated people. My parents visited their homeland as often as they could. They was taking us there for few days during holidays. Subcarpathian landscape charmed us. Only the we had a chance to meet further family. I started to visit Błazowa, Kąkolówka nad Dynów almost every year after I got married. My husband also was attracted by this corner of the world. We discovered something new every time in Rzeszów region. We



usually started family holidays at Baltic sea, then we drove entire Poland to get to Subcarpathian region and then back to Wrocław. These journeys made land of my ancestors very close to me. I had 2 homelands already then. Wrocław and Rzeszów. You can find a lot of information and reach many corners of the world in the internet age. And this way I started to look for information about my ancestors. I found genealogical information prepared by Jacek Kulasa. As a fellow teacher I contacted Jacek. He gave me many valuable hints and news and he joined my branch of the family to "Korzenie i skrzydła" tree, which he administer. This way he inspired me to get interested in genealogy and thanks to him I learned about my ancestors. We found we have common relatives. During this search I met many wonderful people connected to this land. I made friends too. I encourage everybody to experience beautiful adventure of getting to know your roots and finding information about your ancestors' lives to be able to pass it to next generations and save it from oblivion.

Halina Walczak

# The story of Czesław Machowski - part 1

The invasion of Poland in 1939 was carried out by Germany, the Soviet Union and a small Slovak contingent. The German invasion began on 1st September one week after the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. The Soviet Red Army's invasion of Eastern Poland commenced on 17th September in accordance with a secret protocol in the Pact. The campaign ended on 6th October with Germany and the Soviet Union dividing and annexing the whole of Poland.

Both major occupying forces were hostile to the existence of sovereign Poland, her culture and the Polish people. About 6m people (over 20% of the population) died between 1939 and 1945 as a result of the occupation, a great number at the hands of the Soviets who many people believe were even more barbaric than the Nazis. Russia had not signed any international convention on the rules of war and captured Polish combatants were, therefore, denied the status of prisoners of war and many died. One of the greatest atrocities committed by the Soviets became known as the Katyn Massacre. This was a series of executions carried out by the Soviet secret service in the Russian Katyn forest where it is estimated 22,000 Polish people died (8,000 military officers, 6,000 police and the rest civilians). The Nazi government announced the discovery of the graves in 1943 but for years

the Russian government denied any involvement, blaming the Germans.

From February 1940 through to the first half of 1941 the Soviets deported more than 1.2m. people from Poland, most in four mass deportations. It is estimated that 0.76m deportees died, including a large number of children who comprised about a third of the deported population.

After Poland was defeated in 1939 the Polish Government in exile organized a fighting force in France comprising of about approximately 80,000 men. Their units were subordinate to the French army. In June 1941 under the code name Operation Barbarossa Germany invaded Russia. Stalin then began to seek help from nations opposing Germany and an agreement between the Soviet Union and the Polish government in exile was signed to render each other aid and support of all kinds in the war against Germany. Under this agreement the Soviet Government granted amnesty to all Polish citizens detained on Soviet territory either as prisoners of war or other grounds. It is estimated that 83,000 men were then recruited into the Polish army making a highly valued contribution to the Allied war effort, notably in the costly battle on Italian soil for Monte Cassino in 1944.

Czesław Machowski was born in 1926 in Troszaniec. The family lived there till 1937. Then they moved to Straszów where the Sister (Viktoria) and brother (Florian) also lived. They moved to Straszów for a better living.

In 1940 the Machowski family lived in Straszów a tiny hamlet in what was then Eastern Poland but is now part of the Ukraine. The head of the family Alexander was a carpenter (making barrels and windows) and ran his own farm. It was a mixed farm with a few horses and cows and the crops grown included beetroot, sweet corn and corn. Alexander was married to Aniela and there were six children in the family, 3 boys and 3 girls, ranging in ages from 2 to 13. Czes was the oldest child (born 1926) and also living in the house was his maternal grandmother.

After the outbreak of war Alexander continued with his civilian life but the Polish army gave him a gun and about 500 rounds of ammunition. He stored the gun in the cow shed and the ammunition was kept in a chimney. The Russians visited and asked if there were any weapons in the house and Alexander said no. A search by the Russians failed to find anything.



Czeslaw Machowski 17Sept-1945 Born 1926 Osowica

At 5 p.m. on the 10th February the Russians came knocking again. Two armed soldiers were at the front door and they announced the family had 30 minutes to get together all the food and clothes they would need for a long journey. This was a shock and totally unexpected by the family. Missing from the Machowski family was Alexander who was away working. When the Russians returned the bewildered Machowski children were aware of the danger of the situation from the demeanour of their mother. The Russians collected up everybody in the house, in addition to people in the adjoining houses, and took them off to a

hall about 2km away in Ziabki where there was a railway station. They were kept in the hall until midnight when they were herded into rail cattle trucks pending departure for an unknown destination. Departure was delayed until the next morning as there were a lot of people missing from the families who had been rounded up.

Kristina Schulz

## Do I need genealogy?

**Genealogy - family - knowledge about family is needed by every person, only not everyone is aware of its meaning. Those who respond positively know how important it is. But those who give a negative answer don't know how much they lose. I would like to address both of them below, based on my own experience and examples. It is obvious that history in the broadest sense consists of the history of families, because families create the history.**

The family can be compared to a chain of links where each member is a link. To the chain we can attach links of other branches. This is how we create a family tree. Unfortunately, each broken link breaks the ties with the previous ones.

The wealth of knowledge about ancestors is precisely genealogy, which we gain in our search. The greatness belongs if our ancestors recorded this knowledge and passed it on to us. However, it is rare for this to happen to us and therefore we need to search for broken links in the genealogical chain. I can say with all responsibility that having met our ancestors, we are incredibly enriching not only ourselves, but also all the genealogical branches in the links. We don't even realize what a wealth of information genealogy brings. What I've learned from my genealogy about my family is surprising. It doesn't matter if the ancestors were simple people or great, but they were and lived. In turn, I, being a family member, benefit from their heritage.

When searching for ancestors, I express my gratitude to them that I am alive and who I am, because I owe them genes and health. As long as they are in the memory of their posterity they will continue to live, because we live as long as we exist in memory.

Is it necessary to fulfil such an important duty in human life? Not only necessary for me, but indispensable. I have the satisfaction of being who I am and I have not become a broken link in the chain of knowledge about ancestors. It's just hard to imagine how much I need it. It doesn't even matter what the posterity after me will do with the knowledge they've given them. My ideals include families that have a family tradition from generation to generation, sustaining the course of family

events including genealogy.

In today's world, genealogical research is very easy. On the Internet forums we can find a lot of indexed parish books in Poland and abroad. We can get genealogical data from Mormons from microfilms all over the world. There's more and more of that information. We



don't have to go through offices and parishes for data. However, it is best to use your own resources if you have them, of course. A way to get help in the genealogical search is to unite in genealogical societies, where members help each other. To create family trees, we can use many online programs, and we can use our own ideas.

By searching we can find not only long ago deceased members of the family, but also those living in Poland and abroad. I'll give my own example. My father's sister, many years before the First World War, emigrated from the Austrian partition for work to the USA, where she married a Polish emigrant like her. From her marriage of many children, a lot of generations have come into being and grown up, many of whose members are also already dead. Their descendants do not know the Polish language, but thanks to the Internet, they not only know about me and my family in Poland, but they also read what I publish on the Internet using a translator. This is happening despite the disappearance of personal contacts. I think that many of them know that its roots are in Poland, which strengthens their bond with the homeland of their ancestors. What do I get out of it? An additional satisfaction.

The fact that genealogy strengthens family ties is undisputable. Another example is family reunions. This is a difficult task, because it requires a lot of sacrifices from the organizers. However, the benefits of personal contacts with other family members living even in distant countries are enormous. Often taken to the reunion children, to their old age remember playing with

other children of the family years ago. By exchanging contacts, adults strengthen their own ties and resume lost contacts.

People poor in knowledge are negative about the need for genealogy and cut off their links to families. I hear from the young, I still have time, I'm not going to take care of it. In my own family I have a lot of people expressing this view. I advise them to make their own thoughts as soon as possible. Time passes quickly and even a young man looking back will find that his life has run out and cannot be repeated. We won't even look around, and a grandson will come and ask us about our ancestors. Is it better to stand helplessly in front of your grandson or to stay ahead of the questions? The answer comes to mind.

I realize I've failed to achieve much. However, I wish to express my gratitude to Providence for what it has allowed me to do. I did the will of Providence and gave everything I remembered to the story cards. I lived my life as I could and was allowed to, because my life came true in difficult times. My ancestors didn't have an easy life either, as can be found in my stories. I encourage you to write your own memories, and that they also enrich, I answer yes.

If anyone is convinced by my above words and starts the adventure with genealogy, I will remain with one more satisfaction.

Teofil Lenartowicz

## *My relationship with Błazowa*

I wonder how many of us are somehow related to Błazowa. And I'm not talking about being born in this corner of Poland, but about any family roots reaching back here. It's because those roots I am now with your group and this is due to Halinka Walczak, thank you (I hope you won't be upset with me for using your name). She answered my „call”, asking for any information regarding my ancestors. And what happened? We found three ancestors in common, at least for now, because we are still looking. And house No. 75 in Błazowa became our link. Moreover, on my family searching path I meet just friendly and helpful souls (another of them is Ania Kocój-Twardowska (sorry Ania)), who helped me through the process associated with DNA testing. She is also my „cousin” - associated with Błazowszczyzna. Who's next?

Personally, half of my family comes from Błazowa (and the surrounding area). My dad was born here, and my grandparents lived here. My dad's family lived in Błazowa since at least the 17th century. I managed to explore the topic that far back for now. I've spent a lot of great moments here as a child and a teenager, and I often look back to those great years. It is here and in the surrounding villages that I am looking for my ancestors. And it turns out there are quite a few of them. I

must admit that I am lucky because Błazowa has a register office where I keep coming back with the persistence of maniac. The path I've chosen is not always what I expected, but consistency, stubbornness and patience are slowly delivering results. And I can't wait to come back there again. But my efforts are not only focused there.

Recently, my eyes turned to the cemetery in Błazowa. And it became the centre of my attention. The first thing

was to find the grave of my great-grandparents, and that's how it started. I found the grave and got so fascinated about searching for more, that I found a lot more family related graves. My biggest, unexpected discovery is the grave of my 2nd- great great-grandmother who died in 1920. I took pictures of almost half of the oldest part of the cemetery. Unfortunately, I was too late for some of my research. The old part of the cemetery is being demolished – being forgotten and neglected for a long time. It's a shame, but what's done is done. I only hope people like me, searching for the ancestors can gather their information in time, before it's lost forever.

That's exactly why I started working with the local magazine Kurier Błażowski and on this website we are

placing photos with a slight description of what's been captured ([www.biblioteka.blazowa.net](http://www.biblioteka.blazowa.net)). I have also sent some of the identified photos to Jacek, our administrator, who puts them in our family tree. It would be nice for you to look there, because we need your help to capture every detail. And as you need to find someone is please let me know, I will try to meet the challenge. This year the plan is as such; finish photographing Błażowa and move to Kąkolówka (next village) from which my 2nd great great grandmother comes. That's how I am planning to start and we'll see where it takes me.

Anna Renata Krawiec

## *Every season of life have its own rhythms.*

**Maturity too. We tend to slow down a bit and everyday things which had been limiting views to issues and responsibilities important right here and right now, start to be less important from day to day. We start looking differently, with more distance, with alternative angle, we put attention to other details and order.**

It is especially true if we're thinking about past. Emptiness is more and more painful. Lack of loved ones, who drifted apart around the world or simply passed away. We start to realize we are here just a moment and our measure of success, prosperity or career have strict and obvious boundaries.

It is not just that. And not kind of sentimentality connected to regret that everything passes. It is more severe. It is memory and questions about source of all this persistence which we believe is important in our lives.

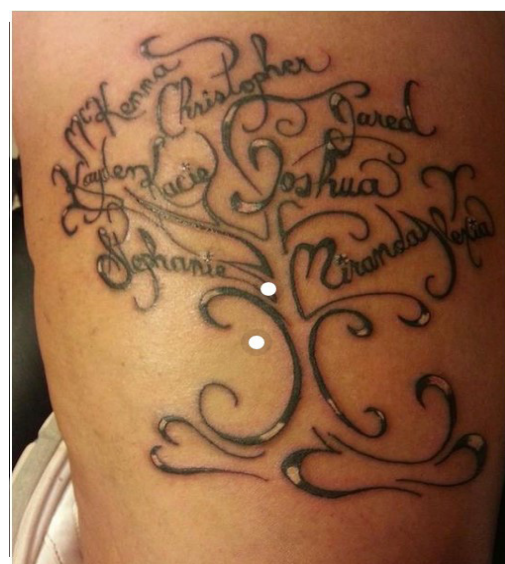
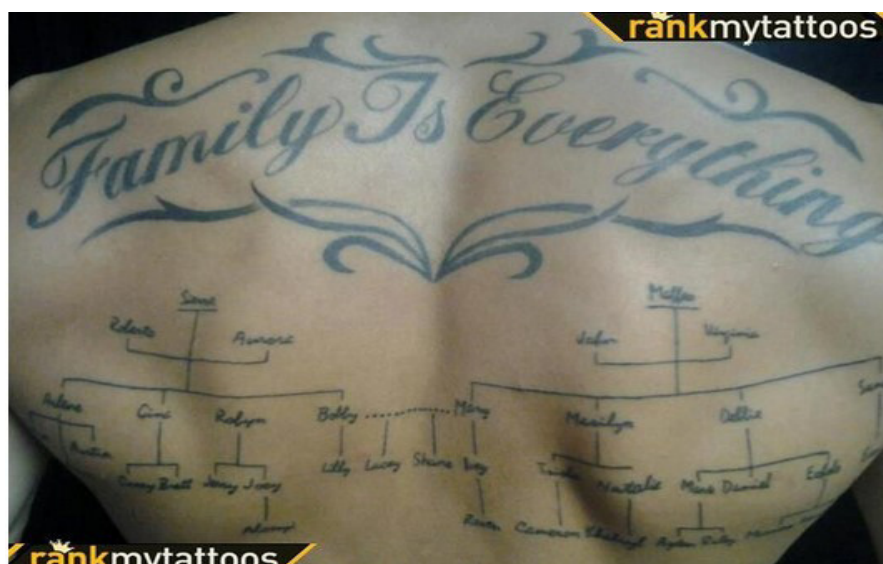
We start looking intensively then. Some of us become experts in archives, affinities, history of our ancestors. Family genealogies, hours and days spent in archives, filling missing links, time knots with names,

faces and days is extremely important. That's the thing which make us actors in this game with constantly flowing time.

And this is, Ladies and Gentlemen, what we're going to do in the writings of this magazine. Arguments against nothingness – right on its Edge, on its territory – with knowledge it is worth finding sparks of old life, old feelings, passion and hope even in this what already passed. Sparks of existence of people close to us. Their blood flows in our veins...

We invite you to participate in this unhurried gathering of voices and facts, traces of old existence.

Mariusz Kalandyck



# Calendar

## January

**01/06/1931**

Kazimiera Szczęch (nee Pajda), a soldier of WEDETA, a member of the Home Army was born.

**01/06/2014**

Józef Ziajka passed away by education. He was a geographer, teacher of the Complex of Economic Schools in Łańcut and the Technical School of Agricultural Mechanization. He worked as an entrepreneur and belonged to the Congregation of Entrepreneurs of the Łańcut Region. Traveling, passionate about PTTK and the Polish Geographical Society. In the years 2010-2014 he worked in the City Council of Łańcut.

**01/09/1928**

Konstanty Kulasa was born - a longtime teacher of mathematics at Mielec schools. From 1970, he was the deputy director of the 1st High School S. Konarski in Mielec, and from 1983 a school counselor. He contributed to the development of the school and its didactic and educational successes. He was awarded, among others OOP Knight's Cross and in the 1972/1973 school year with the Award of the Minister of Education and Upbringing for outstanding didactic and educational achievements. He died on November 7, 1988. He is buried at the municipal cemetery in Mielec.

**01/20/2003**

Kazimierz Gawęcki died. In 1933 he started agricultural studies at the University of Poznań. After liberating the city, he started working at the university. He was employed at the Department of General Animal Breeding. In 1948 he obtained a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University and Polytechnic in Wrocław. In 1954 he became an associate professor and in 1967 a full professor. In 1985 he retired. Many years of extensive scientific, didactic and organizational activity of Professor Kazimierz Gawęcki has been twice honored with the title of doctor honoris causa of the Agricultural University in Poznań and the Agricultural University in Wrocław.

**01/31/1909**

Stanisław Garbarczyk was born. Soldier of the „Łódź” Army in the Polish defensive war in 1939. He fell in defense of the homeland on September 4-5, 1939.

## February

**09/02/1932**

Piotr Kazana was born. He traded in animals. To this end, he built market stables in Mielec. He was involved in social activities for the city. In the years 1916-1919 he was the president of the „Sokol” Gymnastic Society and financially supported him. In 1919, he was elected to the Commune Council and was entrusted with the function of an assessor in the Commune Authority. He died on February 9, 1932. He was buried in the parish cemetery in Mielec.

**02/17/1943**

Natalia Gołuchowska (born Małkiewicz) died in the German Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

**02/20/1912**

Stanisław Bałda was born, a member of WEDETA, a soldier of the Home Army.

**02/26/1926**

Czesław Pajda, a member of WEDETA, a soldier of the Home Army was born.



# Poetry of Marta Hanus



Sanocka - kołysanka od siedmiu boleści

cichym deszczem noc się skrada  
ciepłym deszczem pachnie w domu  
parapety sen obsiada  
po kryjomu, po kryjomu...

aksamitnym nietoperzem  
złotą bajką, srebrnym cieniem  
nocka swojej brany strzeże  
przed złudzeniem, przed zwątpieniem

na marzeniach dzień upływa  
wielkoskrzydłym samolotem  
złorzeczenia deszczem zmywa  
gdzieś - na potem. komuś - potem

zapominaj swe tęsknoty  
(wróć rano jak bumerang)  
zdejmij księżyc z żywopłotu  
choć dzisiaj, choć na teraz...

Wariatka

ja nie wiem  
czy chciała gnać ku ziemi  
czy zbiec przed chłodem niebieskiej jesieni  
nie powiem  
jak fałdy sukni płyną  
po schodach bielszych od boskiej dziedziny  
nie zgadnę  
czy skryta w muszli małża  
czy wewnątrz duszy drży skulona na dnie

śledzę ja wzrokiem  
gdy zawieszona na bólu obłokiem  
chwytam palcami  
płaszczkę brzeg tego co włada światami  
błaga o więcej  
i wznosi oczy w modlitwie nieświętej  
a potem potem  
gaśnie w poświęceniu uniesiona złotej

Maria Magdalena potem

Skąd słabość do ziarenka piasku?  
Jego niewątpliwe zalety oceniam z pełzającej perspektywy.

Czy przez odbite w num ślady Twoich stóp?  
Czy przez odcisk palców żłobiących kontury  
rodzących się dopiero myśli?  
Czy raczej przez pamięć o bólu od uderzeń nierzuconych kamieni?

We wszechświecie ziarenka - mój świat zamknięty niewielki.  
Przyłgnął do Twojej dłoni, tak zyskał sens.  
Co istniało dotąd w zawieszeniu, teraz jest. Trwa.  
Oddycha.

Wiatr...

Błogosławiony, w kim zagości.

Jego myśl błyskawicą przecina ciemności niemyślane.

Jego dłoń kształci to, co nie znalazło dotąd formy.

On przyjacielem geniuszy i powiernikiem szaleńców.

Pijany przestrzeni,

zachłyśnięty wolnością, w pędzie gubi skarby,

by przycichnąć przy ziemi i szukać.

Zbierać.

Gromadzić.

Z innych źródeł wysysać.

Zakochanym płacze włosy i dłonie,

podrywa ze snu niespełnione tęsknoty.

Rządzi natchnieniem poetów i intuicją odkrywców,

pasją naukowców i ręką lutników.

W czwartym dniu stworzony, pragnie być równy aniołom,

bo jak one posiadał sztukę latania i przenikania dusz.

Czekam wiatru,

wyglądam oknem,

nasłuchuję...



# I have an idea



Jacek Kulasa  
e-mail: [jkulasa@mybigfamily.pl](mailto:jkulasa@mybigfamily.pl)  
www: <http://mybigfamily.pl>  
fb: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mojafamilja/>