

Polish Genealogy

Bob Tatalovich

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Much Help Available

FamilySearch Wiki

FamilySearch has a large collection of records, which are digitized & online

Family History Guide

Polish Specialist (Terri Cieslak) at Grange Family History Center each Tuesday 8:30 to 3:30

Poles have made great strides in digitizing & indexing their records. Available in English.

Some immigrants chose to Americanize their Polish name.

What Religion Did your Ancestor Practice?

Many were Roman Catholic

Poland didn't exist 1795-1918

Partitioned by Prussia, Austria & Russia

Most Important

Village or town of origin

1900 Census Poland (Ger)(Aus)(Rus)

US documents can help:

American Church records

Draft cards in WWI & WWII

Passenger list, especially later ones

Naturalization records

Once you have a place name,  
the Next Step is locating that place?

Gazetteers can help

Austrian

<https://www.geshergalicia.org/galician-townlocator/>

Russian Geographical dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic countries

Prussian Kartenmeister & Meyers Gazetteer

FamilySearch Search > Catalog > Place

There have been major efforts by Poles to index Polish records of birth, marriage, and death.

Example--Geneteka

<https://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/index.php?lang=pol>

Use the Interactive Map from the Wiki  
Drill Down to Province

Pomerania—Online Databases Pomeranian  
Genealogical Association

Facebook Polish Genealogy Group

<https://sites.google.com/view/polishgenealogygroup/home>

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Two starting places:

Family Search WIKI--Poland Genealogy--

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Poland\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Poland_Genealogy)

The Family History Guide--<https://thefhguide.com/project-9-poland.html>

Both have much information on how to research, with many links to sources and webinars.

Terri Cieslak, a Polish specialist, volunteers at the Family History Center in Hales Corners on Tuesdays from 8:30 to 3:30. She will provide one-on-one help with your research. Terri's recommendations for finding records:

- 1) Geneteka link is <https://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/index.php?lang=pol> This Polish website has about 50 million vital records, indexed by a person's name and the province from which they came. (Also there is a great Youtube video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRCapwMt-vw> .)
- 2) Try the FamilySearch catalog, focused on the place name of the person's parish.
- 3) Polish Genealogy Facebook Group—  
<https://sites.google.com/view/polishgenealogygroup/home> . This site is accessible even if you are not a Facebook user, and has much in the areas titled Collections and Databases. You can contact them to join the group. One of the perks is the opportunity to post a document requesting a translation or a clarification of a record. Nothing like amateurs eager to try their hand with their newfound skill.