



Heritage Seekers

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Family History Search: A Dream Come True!

By Maxine Maxwell

A lifelong dream became a reality for me in September 2016 with the opportunity to visit the ancestral villages of my paternal grandparents in Poland and Ukraine. From childhood, I have always had an interest in the 'old country', when I first started questioning my Grandfather. However, information was not readily forthcoming and I was lacking in the necessary interviewing skills at the time.

Preliminary Research

In 2001, I was welcomed into the Grande Prairie & District Branch of AGS and my 'genealogical' journey began. The other big influence was my becoming a member of the East European Genealogy Society in Winnipeg. This organization's focus was exactly in the places that reinforced and fine-tuned my quest. With the assistance of the Genies, EEGS correspondence and Brian Lenius' Gazetteer, I was able to locate the Greek Catholic parishes, and from the detailed EEGS maps, finally determine the exact location of my two paternal grandparents' villages.

Over the years, I had worked sporadically at compiling what I knew and felt pretty much ready to venture a visit to the old country. I came to learn very soon that I had overestimated the depth and completeness of my work and welcomed more than a little assistance from my travelling companions. Brian Lenius, charter member of East European Genealogy Society, was to be our organizer and guide for trip, as he had experience in finalizing research and organizing trips for others.

Lisa Haji Abbassi, an EEGS expert researcher, helped Brian and myself in the preparations. Lisa's Galician ancestors had emigrated from areas similar to my own, so we were a good fit. In fact, Lisa, through her persistence as always the consummate researcher, strongly suspects there is a connection between us through our Ignash lines.

On September 10, I met Brian and Lisa in the Winnipeg airport and then we were finally on our way to Warsaw, Poland!



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