



# TREE LEAVES

## THREE LAKES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

• October 2024

Fall is a beautiful time to visit the cemeteries and former residences of your ancestors. Begin by tracking down the locations through your genealogy research, then consider a road trip.

Begin your research online. The US Census began recording street addresses in 1880. City directories can provide a more granular view of when your ancestors move into and away from a specific address. Check the county clerk's website to see if they have a searchable database for real estate transfers. You can use Google Maps to see a current image of that address. You may even find interior pictures and information on the age and size of the home on Zillow.com. Keep in mind that some cities have renumbered houses and renamed streets over time. Do you have an old picture to compare?

Although you can find out much about your ancestors' former residences online, there is a special feeling of connection gained by visiting the location yourself. Consider driving by the house (or its former location) to see what the neighborhood is like today. If you are particularly bold, take a friend with you and knock on the door – Who lives there now? What do you think has changed since your ancestors lived there? What landmarks remain from their time period? Does the local library hold maps, yearbooks, or other resources that cannot be found online?

If you can locate your family's former residence, perhaps there were other family members living nearby. Although people were able to travel great distances, families tended to live near their each other for support. Farmers may have been tied to land handed down through several generations. As you investigate your ancestors' residence, check the records for others nearby with the same surname. Gathering information on collateral family members can help you break through brick walls in your direct family line.

People often lived, died, and were buried within the same community. You can investigate these locations as well. The burial location is often included on death certificates and church burial records. If you don't have access to these sources, try a Google Maps search for cemeteries near your ancestor's residence. Many headstones are recorded on the

FindaGrave.com and BillionGraves.com websites. Look for the cemetery office or sexton if you need a burial lookup or information on where a grave is located.

A visit to the cemetery may reveal new clues. Is there a cluster of related graves? Perhaps you can read details from the headstone that are not shown online. Take along your camera and note-taking supplies, as well as gloves and tools for clearing away weeds and overgrowth. Headstone rubbings and cleaning may cause damage, so investigate whether and how these activities may be done before you go. Most importantly, enjoy the sense of connection with your ancestors.

## **A Bountiful July Picnic**

Weather was perfect for our annual July picnic. If you weren't able to attend, you missed a fine feast and fellowship event! Please remember to email your picnic 'recipe stories' to Barb so that they can be included in our society's cookbook binder. Please start planning ahead for your recipe story to accompany the dish you share for our holiday gathering in December! If it is an old family recipe, please include a photo of the person the recipe is attributed to along with their birth and death information. Marilee will be putting together a binder this winter that will be kept in our meeting room for all members to access.



## **Three Lakes Genealogical Society Elections**

Many thanks to the board members who served us in 2024. Our bylaws provide for a change in two of the four offices each year; in even numbered years we elect a new president and secretary, in odd numbered years we elect a new vice-president and treasurer. These are two-year positions and officers may serve up to two consecutive terms in an office.

Nancy Bailey was first elected to the office of president in 2020 and served us for two terms. We appreciate her dedication and the many hours she has given to keeping us motivated and growing our organization. She will now shift to the position of immediate past president and have more time to dedicate to her work with the Daughters of the American Revolution. She answered the call because she "felt it was her turn." Hopefully, this serves as inspiration to others who might also help to keep our organization active. Mari Lynn Garbowicz and Beth Jacobson heeded the call and will serve as co-presidents for the next two years.

Barb Fligel has been serving as secretary since 2022 when the position became vacant mid-term. Her note-taking and emails have kept us informed and on track. We are grateful that she accepted the nomination and was elected to continue serving as our secretary for the next two years.

Mary Ellyn Williams has served us faithfully as treasurer since her election in 2023. Unfortunately, she will not be able to complete the second year of her term. We wish Mary Ellyn the best as she heads back to Indiana to be with her family. We appreciate Dori Olsen stepping up to fill the remainder of the term in this office.

As we move into our next year as a genealogical society, the board also asks each of you to consider how you might help to support our organization. There are many opportunities to get involved, whether you join a committee or volunteer for one of the many services we provide. We can all learn and grow when we work together. Perhaps you will feel it is 'your turn,' too!

## **October is Family History Month**

The National Genealogical Society is excited to support you in celebrating October as Family History Month with a few ways to explore, preserve, and share unique stories and memories from your family. NGS's website has free PDF downloads with steps and ideas to make three common family history projects manageable and successful. The focus is 'Scan. Record. Write.' The underlined titles below are clickable links (hover your mouse over the title and hold down the 'control' key then click the mouse) for those reading our electronic newsletter. If you are reading a paper version, go to <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/family-history-month/> Use these downloadable PDFs yourself and share them to inspire your friends and family:

- [Scanning and Labeling Family Photos](#): Dive into these handy tips to preserve and digitize your family's visual history.
- [Recording Family Memories and Stories](#): Get guidance to plan and record interviews and capture meaningful conversations.
- [Writing and Sharing Family Stories](#): Embark on a creative journey and tell your family's cherished tales with these prompts and ideas.

For even more tips and tools, visit the [NGS Free Resources page](#) at <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/> for helpful tips, instructional articles, links, an online course, and downloadable/printable charts and worksheets.

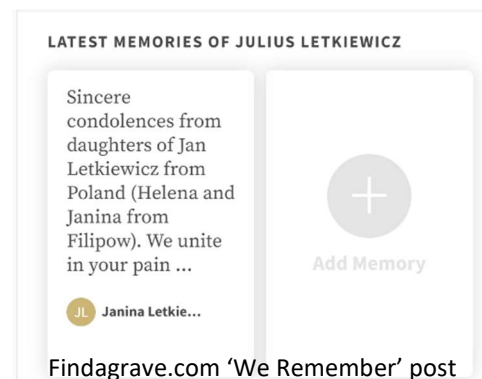
## **Members Helping Members**

In the spirit of our 'Members Helping Members' program, where people ask and receive help with their genealogical research, we are using our newsletter to share information on common surnames of this area, celebrate research breakthroughs of our members, and ask genealogy questions that others might be able help with. This month, TLGS member, Noreen Rossa, shares her unexpected story of success. She was investigating people in an old photo

album and adding their photos to the memorials on the Findagrave.com website when she found something unexpected.

### The Unexpected...

Would you follow up on a message on a Findagrave memorial? The message Noreen found said, "Sincere condolences from daughters of Jan Letkiewicz from Poland (Helena and Janina from Filipow). We unite in your pain. Our dad had siblings Julian and Aleksander Letkiewicz. They were sons of Rozalia and Jozef Letkiewicz. Julian and Aleksander emigrated to Milwaukee before I World War. Jan stayed in Poland (Filipow). Me and my sister were looking for the graves of our family. "



Noreen's grandfather Julius' memorial listed his date of death as 1964 at age 70. His daughter died in 1984 at age 67. Her mother-in-law would now be 107, so how could this be? But Julius did come from Filipow, and his parents were Josef and Rozalia... Noreen was suspicious of giving out personal info and being scammed!

To make a long story short, Janina sent Noreen a Milwaukee wedding photo with two of Noreen's husband's brothers in the wedding party, as well as pictures of his grandfather and great Uncle! Some other bits of info relieved Noreen's anxiety, and she has been emailing and sharing pictures with Janina for over a year! Janina also sent her information about a woman in Mesa, AZ who came to visit her in



Photo Noreen received from her mother-in-law's cousin in Bialystok, Poland of her husband's Uncle Jerome's wedding that occurred in Milwaukee WI in the 1950s. His two brothers are on the left, Gerald & Leroy Rossa.

Poland. Noreen met with her in Mesa and learned she was a descendent of her mother in law's first cousin, a niece of Julius', Apollonia, who also came to Milwaukee.

In addition, Noreen had not been on Ancestry in a very long time but ran across a message from a man in Warsaw looking for an Anna Springer in Posnan, Poland. Anna's info was from Catholic records. Noreen's paternal GGMother immigrated from that area, so she responded and said she had a GGGM named Anna von Sprenger who was from that area. He didn't respond for over a month, but eventually said he had been busy with work. When they compared notes – Noreen's Anna was the one he was looking for! He was a descendent of Noreen's GGGM's youngest brother, Jan, and gave her information on the Springer family who remained in the Pomerania area when her GGGParents moved to the Poznan area. Noreen now has a new lead for a brick wall she was facing!

So, the suggestion to fellow members from Noreen is to follow up on those messages from others, but, be careful! Don't put any information on the internet that you don't want people to know. Maybe, set up an email address that isn't connected to your other profiles or activities – use it just for genealogy communication. Ask a few questions to verify their story before giving out your family history information. You want to protect yourself from potential hackers trying to gather your personal information, but message systems and message boards can be excellent tools.

Have you considered using the 'Add Memories' on Findagrave to reach out to other family members? Do you check the 'condolences' posted to online obituaries? You may find connections to your extended family and their FAN (friends, allies, neighbors) club to break down brick walls.

Perhaps you've made a breakthrough in your research and could share how you went about it? Or, do you have a genealogy question or problem you'd like to ask? What local surnames would you like featured in future editions of this newsletter? Please send your suggestions for this column to Dottie Winger at [dwinger67@yahoo.com](mailto:dwinger67@yahoo.com).

## Genealogy Tips

Use the following tips to break down your genealogy brick walls; they come from the FindMyPast.com blog posted on 2 May 2023 by Niall Cullen at <https://www.findmypast.com/blog/help/family-history-brick-walls>



**Tip #1: Build up the bigger picture.** Research other connected lines of your family tree. Your elusive ancestor's stories will often be intertwined with their siblings and extended family members. Discovering their records is often key to getting further. And don't stop at family. Friends, colleagues, and neighbors can help to piece together the puzzle too. As you branch out, you'll want to figure out how everyone is related. In genealogy circles, this is often called FAN (Friends and Neighbors) research.



**Tip #2: Brush up on social history.** It's always worth researching anything that can add context to the world your ancestors lived in. After all, your family history is part of wider history. If your relative served in a war, what battles did they encounter? How did industrialization affect the way they made a living? Newspapers, legal documents, and directories are particularly useful for setting the scene.



**Tip #3: Browse rather than search.** If you're getting nowhere searching a specific record set, consider browsing through its pages. Names might be misspelled or incorrectly indexed and can only be found by browsing through the collection. Type 'browse' into Findmypast's list of all record sets to see an extensive collection of browsable record sets. You'll still be able to hone in on a year range but this way, you won't miss anything leafing through the entire collection, page-by-page.



## TLGS 2024 Meeting Schedule

Monthly Society meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month from 1 – 3 p.m. We meet at the Demmer Library in the Maple Room, but you can attend virtually. A Zoom link will be sent in advance of each meeting. Upcoming programs for 2024 are:



- September 23 – Rails North: The Story of Three Lakes Wisconsin by Dr. Yahr
- October 28 – Members Helping Members roundtables – Computers 101 theme
- November – no meeting/program due to Thanksgiving
- December 9 – Annual Christmas Party planned by Beth Jacobson and Mari Lynn Garbowicz
- January 27 – Do you have an artificial brick wall?

### These TLGS programs are also available at the Demmer Library

- **TLGS Book Club** – Each month TLGS recommends a genealogy-based book for at-home reading. The books are available at the Demmer Memorial Library (DML) in Three Lakes, Walter E. Olson Memorial Library (OML) in Eagle River, Overdrive/Libby, and Amazon.com and/or Kindle. Be sure to check the libraries first. The books can be ordered through interlibrary loan if they do not have a locally available copy. The library can also help you set up Overdrive/Libby for e-book and audiobook borrowing. Contact Nancy Bailey with suggested reading for the Book Club.
  - October – *Annie's Ghosts: a Journey into a Family Secret* by Steve Luxenberg at DML (interlibrary), OML (interlibrary), and Amazon
  - November – *The Forgotten Garden: a Novel* by Kate Morton at DML, OML, and Amazon
  - December – Read your Favorite Holiday Book!
- **Ask Your TLGS Genealogist** – is a drop-in program available on Thursday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. in the Local History Room at the Demmer Library. TLGS genealogists can provide beginners and family historians with one-on-one support, offer suggestions and demonstrate resources that can give new direction to research. If Thursday afternoon is not convenient, email [familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org](mailto:familyhistory@demmerlibrary.org) to ask a question or to set up a time with one of our genealogists.
- **TLGS Beginning Genealogy Class** – running January through April on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at 9:30am–12:30pm in the Maple room. This 8-session course explains, demonstrates, and provides practice in doing basic genealogy research. The revised format allows more time for practice and application of concepts. Contact Dottie Winger for details or to sign up at [dwinger67@yahoo.com](mailto:dwinger67@yahoo.com)

# The Three Lakes Genealogical Society

The Three Lakes Genealogical Society provides meetings and programs of genealogical interest as well as instruction in genealogical procedures. We also collect, preserve, and share genealogical data found in the Three Lakes, Oneida County, Wisconsin area.

## Board:

### Co-Presidents:

Beth Jacobson

Mari Lynn Garbowicz

### Vice-President:

Dottie Winger

### Secretary:

Barb Fligel

### Treasurer:

Dori Olsen

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Nancy Bailey

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Mari Lynn Garbowicz

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## Program Committee:

Dottie Winger, Barb Fligel, Brenda Wolfe

## Computer Web Coordinator:

Les Anderson

## Newsletter Editor:

Dottie Winger

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**We Are Three Lakes: <http://3lgs.org/TNG/>**

