

## Membership Application

Print your name as desired for membership badge

Last Name:

First Name:

Spouse's Name:

Address:

City:

State: ZIP:

Phone:

Current E-mail:

Circle YES or NO for each of the following:

***I give PGS-CA permission to use in their publications:***

My Mailing Address YES/NO

My E-mail Address YES/NO

[We do not put personal information on our website]

### New Membership

Membership year is Jan 1—Dec 31

Fees received after Sept 30 apply to the following year's membership

Type of Membership	Fee
Individual/Family w/e-Bulletin	[ ] \$20.00
Sustaining: \$10 or more above member fee	[ ] \$_____
Poland Resident [e-Bulletin]	[ ] \$10.00
Foreign Resident [e-Bulletin]	[ ] \$20.00
Renewal	YES/NO

Please return this form with your check payable to PGS-CA

Paypal, contact Treasurer@PGSCA.org for info.

Tell us how you found out about PGS-CA:

- [ ] A friend or relative?
- [ ] PGS-CA website/Facebook page?
- [ ] LAFHL?
- [ ] Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Purpose

The Polish Genealogical Society of California, a non-profit organization, was established on July 17, 1989. Our purpose is to promote research of Polish family heritage, to help you research and record your family history, to collect and preserve records of our ancestors and to preserve historical and biographical material. PGS-CA provides a forum for members to learn how to research their ancestral lines.

Our Library Collection of research material is available at the Los Angeles Family History Library (LAFHL). Meetings and classes explore Polish history and expand our knowledge of research techniques.

## Publication

The e-Bulletin is published on a regular basis and is a forum for sharing information and exchanging research methods and techniques. Your personal stories are always welcome. Send us items of genealogical, historical or biographical interest.

## Surname Database

The Society has compiled a Surname Database from the names our members are researching. This data has been distributed to libraries, other genealogical societies and is available on our website.

## Society Meetings

General Meetings are held the fourth Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Los Angeles Family History Library, 10741 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA. Research assistance is available before meetings by appointment from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. For an appointment, e-mail Programs@PGSCA.org

General Meeting 1:00 PM  
Presentation 2:00 PM

# POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA



# POLSKIE TOWARZYSTWO GENEALOGICZNE W KALIFORNII

PO BOX 307  
Buena Park, CA 90621-0307

<http://pgsca.org/>

Surname Form **Polish Genealogical Society of California** (PGS-CA)- Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Please add the surnames and locations you are researching:

Surname	Wieś Polish Village	Powiat Polish County	Województwo Polish Province

### Why Genealogy?

Someone in your family had a dream. They left the land of their birth, crossed the Atlantic and settled in a country that promised freedom and opportunity. They brought with them the hope of a better life for their children and grandchildren. They also brought centuries of tradition along with customs practiced by their parents and grandparents. Throughout history foreign powers have tried to crush Poland. Centuries of wars and partitions could not kill the Polish spirit. That spirit came to America and is alive today in the customs we practice. See that it does not die. The gift of your heritage is something no one can take away. However, it is up to you to insure that your family heritage is preserved for future generations.

Genealogical research is the determination of who your ancestors were, and equally important what they did and what type of people they were. You may chose to start with one person (usually yourself) and work back in time to parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, etc. With each generation you move backward in time and double the number of surnames. Perhaps you would prefer to start with grandparents or great-grandparents and work forward in time to find their descendants. Much of this information is available (though not always easy to find) through public records. Some military records list items such as height, weight, color of hair and eyes, birth date and birthplace in addition to purely military information such as dates of enlistment and discharge, rank, pay, etc. Church, civil and census records, newspaper files, land records, and wills are but a few of the many sources that can be investigated. You need to have a systematic method of obtaining information, recording it in understandable form and filing support documentation. In any case, what you want to know about that person depends on you! Perhaps you want to know what they looked like, and no one living can tell you. Maybe it would be interesting to know if they served in the military were taxpayers, citizens, voters, homesteaders, business owners, factory workers, farmers or city dwellers, etc. You may already know some of the "vital statistics" (i.e., birth, marriage, death dates and the location of each event) for some of your ancestors. Do you know your grandmother's maiden name? Did she have any brothers or sisters?

Where do you stop? This is entirely up to you and may change with time and experience in research. Your goal may be membership in a patriotic or historical society, to establish your descendance from royalty, to determine your relationship to someone famous, determine the earliest migrant ancestor or write a family history. If you like mysteries, puzzles, learning about people and history, then genealogy is for you!