

Victoria (Wasik) Wegrecki

Married to Bartholomew Wegrecki

Goal: to find birth location and record in Poland

1. Victoria filed for US Naturalization in Chicago, Illinois. This record (screen image from Ancestry.com) is chocked full of great genealogical detail!
 - Birth place listed as Nowitark, Poland on 13 May 1889
 - Lists date of arrival in US as 14 Sep 1913 on Konigin Luise at the port of New York (Ellis Island)
 - Marriage in 1912 – look for married name of Wegecka on passenger manifest

Illinois, U.S., Federal Naturalization Records, 1856-1991 for Victoria Wegrecki
District Court, Northern District, Chicago Division, Illinois > Petitions For Naturalization, V. 353, No. 63551-63800, 1928

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the District Court of the United States, Northern District of Illinois:

The petition of MRS. VICTORIA WEGRECKI, hereby filed, respectfully sheweth:

First. My place of residence is 4547 S. Lincoln St., Chicago, Illinois.
(Give number and street)

Second. My occupation is Dishwasher

Third. I was born on the 13th day of May, anno Domini 1 889 at Nowitark, Poland

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from Bremen, Germany, on or about the 1st day of September, anno Domini 1 913, and arrived in the United States, at the port of New York, on the 14th day of September, anno Domini 1 913, on the vessel Konigin Luise

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the OMITTED PURSUANT TO THE ACT OF SEPTEMBER 22, 1922, anno Domini 1 913

Sixth. I am married. My husband's name is Bartholmy, he was born on the 24th day of August, anno Domini 1 880 at Poland, and now resides at with me, Chicago, Illinois.
(Give number and street)

I have 5 children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:
Married January 7, 1912

Husband admitted June 2nd 1924 in Circuit Court, Chicago, Ill.

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2. Next, find the passenger manifest Victoria listed on her naturalization paperwork. New York Passenger Manifests can be found on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org or at Ellis Island's website.
3. When searching for her, her name will most likely be spelled with a Polish spelling:
 - a. Wiktorina or Wiktorya instead of Victoria
 - b. Wegrecka instead of Wegrecki
4. On 15 Sep 1913 on the SS Konigin Luise, Wiktorya Wegrecka along with her infant son, arrived at Ellis Island. She is listed as Austrian, with her nationality as Polish. This tells us that she is from Galicia.

On the manifest, her last residence is listed as Staflary or Szaflary and she is going to her husband in Chicago.

The manifest also lists she previously was in the US from 1910-1912. Remember from the naturalization paperwork that she was married in 1912? Another clue would be to look for her marriage record in Chicago.

New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957 for Wiktorya Wegrecka

9	Family Name	Given Name	Yrs. Mos.	Sex	Calling or Occupation	Nationality (Country of which citizen or subject)	Place or People	Country	City or Town	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came.
	Sorbut	Karimiera	39	M	laborer	Russian	Polish	Galicia	Gorlice	wife: Wiktorya Sorbut,
	Koimba	Michael	34	M		Austrian	Ruthenian	"	Krynica	wife: Sabina Koimba,
	Wegrecka	Wiktorya	28	F	wife	"	"	"	Staflary	mother: Katarzyna Wegrecka,
		Bolubaw	24	M	child	"	"	"	"	grandmother:
										mother: Marianna Sazon,

- Go to a Gazetteer and try to locate a village named Staflary or Szaflary (or something similar sounding) that was located in Galicia.

For Galician Gazetteers:

- Galician Gazetteer by Brian J. Lenus, available at the Hoffman Research Library in Mendota Heights
- Gesher's Galicia's Galician Town Locator, available online at:

<https://www.geshergalicia.org/galician-town-locator/>

(Gesher Galicia is a non-profit devoted to researching the Jewish ancestors of Galicia but many of their resources are invaluable to individuals researching other religions within Galicia.)

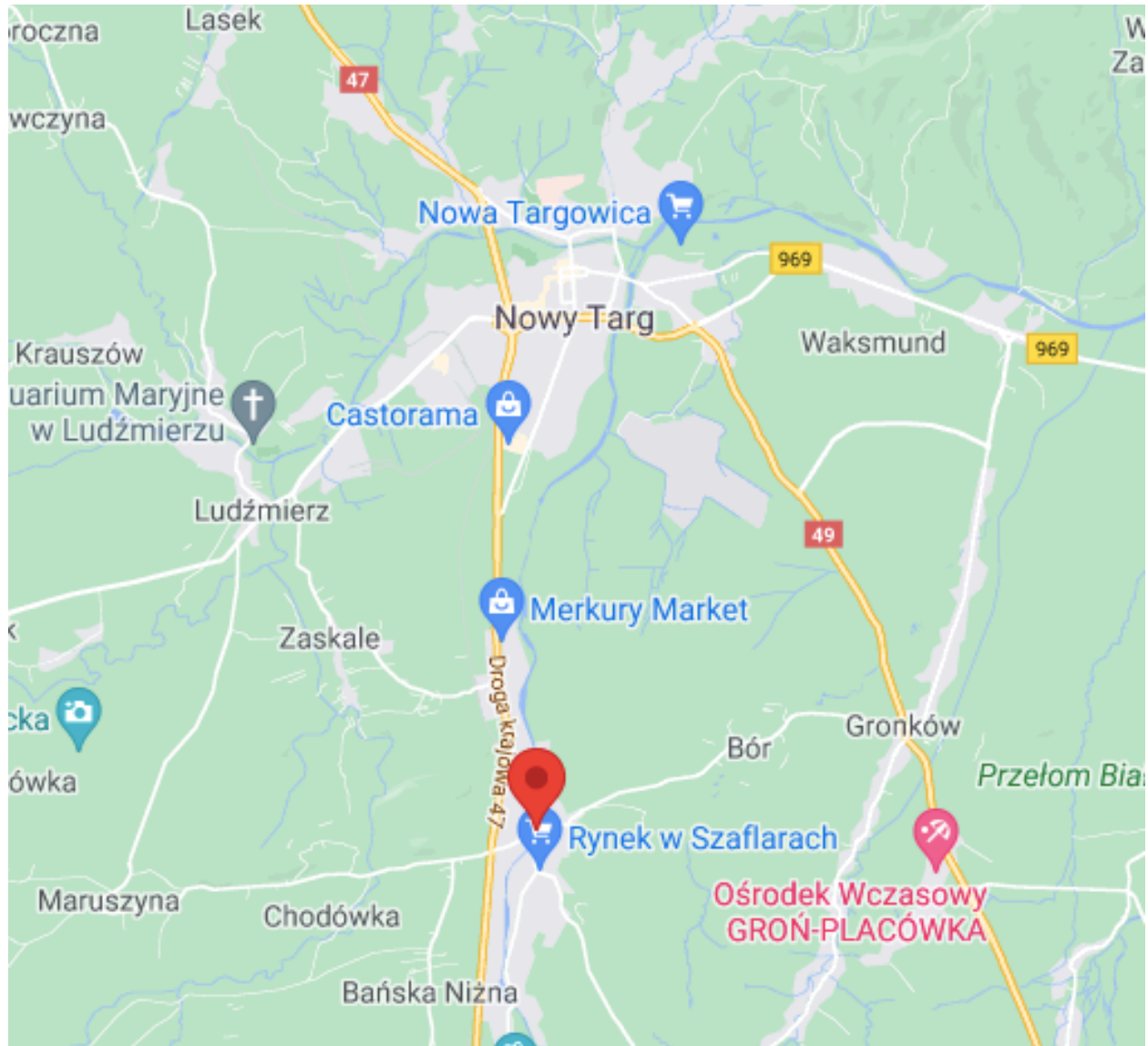
- Using Gesher Galicia's Town Locator, there is a town named Szaflary and the Roman Catholic Center (main parish) is listed as Szaflary. There is no town named Staflary.

And... it's just south of Nowy Targ (which sounds like Nowitark, which is what Victoria listed as her birth place on the naturalization record).

Galician Town Locator

Scroll down to view ALL the towns in Galicia, Austria in the year 1900, including their judicial and administrative districts, and the location of the Jewish, Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic congregations or parishes for that year.

Galician Town	Administrative District	Judicial District	Roman Catholic Center	Jewish Center	Greek Catholic Center
Szaflary	Neumarkt (Nowy Targ)	Neumarkt	Szaflary	Neumarkt	Szlachtowa
Szafrannow	Mielce	Radomysl	Czermin	Radomysl	--



Location of Szaflary (red marker) in relation to Nowy Targ

7. The next step is to see if any records exist online.

a. Geneteka – any indexed records?

As of January 2022, the only records that are indexed are Births (U) 1776-1845.

b. Family Search

Using Family Search's catalog, typing in "Szaflary" as a place shows us that Family Search does have births for 1845 available but it is restricted to being at a Family History Library. Additionally, Victoria was born about 1889, so this record doesn't help.

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[Poland, Kraków, Nowy Targ \(powiat\), Szaflary - Church records](#)

[Austria, Galizien, Szaflary - Church records](#)

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Akta urodzeń 1845	Family History Library	International B1 Floor Film	998662 Item 13	8022010	

c. Szukaj w Archiwach (Search the Archives provided by the State Archives of Poland)

Searching the State Archives for the parish center name of "Szaflary" show us that there ARE records available but they are not scanned online.

This entry shows us that the record collection is named "Civil Records of the Roman Catholic Parish of Szaflary" and in this collection, available at the National Archives in Kraków, there are:
Births, 1890-1915

Marriages, 1890-1930
Deaths, 1890-1930

This record set is NOT available online (it would say “Scans” to the right of “List of Units”) and if you wanted to review the records, you would need to visit the Archive in Poland, hire someone to visit for you, or contact the Archive to see if they will research for you (for a fee).

Akta stanu cywilnego Parafii Rzymskokatolickiej w Szaflarach			
Reference code 29/3555/0	Number of series 3	Number of scans 0	Archives Archiwum Narodowe w Krakowie
Description	Series (3)	List of units (13)	
Number	Name	Border dates	Number of scans
1	Akta urodzeń	1890 - 1915	0
2	Akta małżeństw	1890 - 1930	0
3	Akta zgonów	1890 - 1930	0

With Victoria being born about 1889, her birth record may or may not be in these records. Many times Polish immigrants were born years earlier or later than when they actually were, so it's best to always consider a few years before and after the estimated birth date.

d. Archdiocesan Archives

The parishes themselves in the 18th-20th centuries were required to send copies of the vital record books to the local Archdiocese. For the village of Szaflary, it was sent to the Archdiocese in Kraków.

The Archives at the Kraków Archdiocese has graciously listed all record books and years that are in their possession. For the village and parish of Szaflary, they have records from the 1880s, which would most likely contain Victoria's birth record.

The Archdiocese does not make the records available online; you would either need to hire a genealogist to travel to Kraków or plan a trip yourself.

ARCHIDIECEZJA
KRAKOWSKA

| ARCHIWUM

O NAS

ZASÓB

I UDOSTĘPNIANIE

STRONA GŁÓWNA / SPIS KOPII KSIĄG METRYKALNYCH / Szaflary

Szaflary

Parafia: Szaflary

Chrzty: 1610 – 1680, 1822 – 1832, 1837 – 1844, 1846 – 1847, 1871 – 1889
Śluby: 1610 – 1675, 1822 – 1832, 1837 – 1847, 1871 – 1889
Zgony: 1822 – 1832, 1837 – 1847, 1871 – 1889

(chrzty = baptisms, śluby = marriages, zgony = deaths)

8. None of the records for Szaflary are scanned or available online, and Geneteka only lists an index for 1845 and 1761-1781. The next steps:
- Plan a trip to Poland to visit the Archives (both National and Archdiocesan)
 - Hire a genealogist in Poland to visit the Archives for you
 - Alternatively, you can email the National Archives in Kraków to see if they would do research for you (the fee is generally more economical than hiring a genealogist but is limited)

I would expect with about 95% certainty that Victoria was born in or near the village of Szaflary, Poland, near Nowy Targ. However, nothing can be confirmed until records are obtained from Poland.

Bonus!

Let's find Victoria and Bartholomew's marriage record.

1. The Polish Genealogical Society of America has a Chicago marriage index on their website. This index will tell us what church they were married in.
<https://pgsa.org/marriage-index-for-polish-parishes-in-chicago-through-1915/>
2. Searching for surname "Wegrecki", the entry for Bart Wegrecki and Victoria Wasik appears.

Marriage Records - Chicago Churches

Groom Surname	Wegrecki
Groom Given Name	Bart
Bride Surname	Wasik
Bride Given Name	Victoria
Marriage Date	1-7-1912
Item	5
Page	26

CHURCH DATA

Name	Sacred Heart
City	Chicago
State	IL

They were married at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Chicago, IL.

3. The Chicago Catholic Church records were microfilmed by Family Search and are available to view for free (you need to have a free login).
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1452409?collectionNameFilter=true>

Here is Bart and Victoria's marriage record from Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 7 Jan 1912:

Film # 004284819

Source Box Attach to Family Tree

Image 650 of 854

Print Download Tools

3.	7 ^a Jan.	Walsan Adam	Walsan Joseph	Lyorkata Stanislaw
		Kubacka Bronislawa	Andrzejak Victor	Kieldyk Stanislaw
4.	7 ^a Jan.	Węgrecki Bartholomew	Węgrecki Joannes	Garon Stanislaw
		Wasik Victoria	Radoń Bronislawa	Logas Victor
			Wasik Joannes Dob. 4	

Victoria's parents are listed as Jan Wąsik and Katarzyna.

Bartholomew's parents are listed as Jan Węgrecki and Bronisława Radoń.

It does not give the location of birth for either of them, unfortunately.