Discovery Plan

GOALS

- Create a research plan to 1) locate World War I records for the client's grandfather, John Boykiw, who was born in 1886 in Horodenka, Stanislaopolis, Poland, and 2) determine if he had any siblings.
- The client's long-term goal, outside the scope of this research plan, is to extend the Boykiw surname line.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to the client, her grandfather, John Bojko/Bojkiw, was born in 1886 in Poland to Peter Boykiw. John sailed to Canada in 1897 as an 11-year-old child. He later returned to Poland, but returned to Canada in 1910 with an older brother and an older adult woman, Katazyna, presumed to be his mother.

The client did not provide other passenger lists or immigration details for this man. However, a family copy of a marriage record was provided, which was created and certified on 4 March 1927. It indicated that Joannes (the Latin form of John) Bojkiw married Helena Luczycka on 10 June 1911 at St. Nicolai Greek Catholic Church in Serafince, Horodenka, Stanislopolis, Poland. Both the bride and the groom were residents of Serafince as well. John’s parents were listed as Petri Bojkiw and Basilina Regath. Helena's parents were Josephi Luczyck and Basilina Buczowksa. Since this was an actual historical record in possession of the client’s family since 1927, it was clear that the information was reasonably accurate. Initially, this appeared to suggest that the Katazyna from the passenger list was not John’s mother. However, it was later discovered that the family information in those passenger lists was full of small errors.

The client provided a 1927 passenger list for Helena and six children arriving in Canada. It showed that they were joining husband and father, Iwan Bojkiw, in Glandon, Alberta, Canada. Strangely, this passenger list claimed that their closest relative in Poland was

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Helena’s father, “Mr. Mykola Bojkiw,” from “Gluszow, Horodenko.” This town was also provided as their last residence, but spelled “Cluszkow.” The name did not match either Helena’s or John’s father. Furthermore, the last residence was in the correct county, Horodenka, but the town did not match the one found on their marriage record as the location of their marriage or their residences.

![Hlushkiv and Serafynts, both located in Horodenka, Ivano-Frankivs'k, Ukraine. Courtesy of http://maps.google.com.](image)

Although there was no town named “Gluszow” or “Cluszkow” in Horodenka, Ukraine, this map demonstrates that the town now called Hlushkiv is less than five kilometers away from Serafynts (historically known as Serafińce). Thus, the hometown information in Helena’s passenger list appeared to be reasonably accurate after all.

However, John Bojkiw’s marriage record had listed his father as Petri Bojkiw, but the passenger list called him Mykola Boykiw. The reason for this difference is unclear, but the marriage record is more likely to have been accurate than the passenger list.

The client had attached a record to Petri Boykiw from a Slovakia birth and baptism database suggesting that he was baptized in Slovakia in 1886. This record could not have been for the ancestor since he was fathering children in the 1880s and because the towns shown on the map above never fell within the borders of Slovakia. Serafińce was originally part of Galicia in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Later it became part of Poland, but most recently it can be found in the region of Ivano-Frankivs’k, Ukraine.

**RESEARCH PLAN**

**Passenger Lists**
The client indicated that John Bojkiw had traveled from Poland to Canada in 1897 and 1910. He also must have gone back to Poland at least one more time, since John was in Poland by 1911 in order to marry his wife, Helena. However, by the time she traveled to Canada in 1927, her passenger list indicated that her husband had already arrived before her. So he must have traveled from Poland to Canada prior to 1927.

Step 1: Search for John Bojkiw’s passenger list(s).
Passenger lists for Canada from 1865 to 1935 are available at Ancestry.com, a subscription website.²

WWI Military Records from Poland

Military records are extremely difficult to locate for soldiers in Europe. You must typically know exactly which military unit your ancestor served in to locate any such records. Since these ancestral families were farmers and John Bojkiw ultimately emigrated, it is clear that he was not an officer. Thus, his entries in muster rolls, conscription lists, and draft registers would contain very few details.

The Family History Library has records for soldiers in the Austro-Hungarian Empire from the earliest years through 1869. These are the only records that have been microfilmed. The records are arranged by regiment or unit and time period.

Foundation books of Polish soldiers after 1869 have been turned over to the Polish government. These later records are in Polish military archives and are not accessible for use by genealogical researchers.

Military records can be of great genealogical value but are not generally practical for research. They are difficult to access, organized poorly, and not indexed. Other sources, such as church records and civil registration, are more accessible and contain much of the same information.³

Due to the difficulty in using these records, it is not recommended to pursue John’s military service records from Poland. However, if the client is determined to pursue these records, it will be necessary to send a Legacy Tree Genealogists onsite researcher to learn the following:

Step 2: Learn which military regiment(s) recruited soldiers from the Horodenka area during World War I and locate the repository for these records.
This may require contacting the local Civil Registry Office, town historians, and/or the nearest military archive.

Step 3: Visit the archive and search page by page through the military files from the Horodenka area.
As discussed, these records are not indexed or well-organized. This will be a time-consuming process if it is even possible to access the records.

St. Nicolai Greek Catholic Church Records

The ancestral Bojkiw and Luczyck families attended the St. Nicolai Greek Catholic Church in Serafińce, Horodenka, Stanisławów, Poland (now in Ukraine). The Family History Library (FHL) holds microfilmed copies of the church records from Serafińce. The available records from this parish were recorded in a combination of Latin, Ukrainian and Russian. The table below shows the available years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>1873-1925</td>
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<td>2205380 Item 5</td>
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</table>

Step 4: Obtain a copy of the 1911 Marriage of Joannes Bojkiw and Helena Luczycka.
The family copy of this record has been extremely valuable, but due to its age and condition some information has been lost. Obtaining a copy of the original record will reveal those missing details and allow the research to move forward smoothly.

Step 5: Search the Baptism Records.
The baptism records should include John Bojkiw (circa 1886-1888) and his siblings. It should also include the baptisms of Helena Luczycka (circa 1890) and her siblings. Each of these records should be obtained and translated into English to organize complete families and to learn as much as possible about each of these ancestral lines. This research will confirm the correct names for the parents of John and Helena.

Step 6: Search the Marriage Records.
Once the correct parents have been identified, the marriage records should be searched for John’s parents, assuming they were married after 1873. Marriage records for Helena’s parents should also be obtained if possible.

Step 7: Search the Baptism Records.
After the marriages for both sets of parents have been obtained it will be important to locate their baptisms and those of their siblings. This will reveal important details about
the next generation (John’s and Helena’s grandparents) as well as provide the names of other family members who may show up as witnesses and godparents in these records.

Step 8: Search the Burial Records.
Use the information from the other records that were found to identify the deaths of earlier ancestors. Again, these records may reveal the identities of John and Helena’s great-grandparents and earlier family members.

CONCLUSION

While the military record research is formidable, it may still be possible to locate some record of John Bojkiw’s military service in Poland. Our Polish researchers do phenomenal work, and if the records can be obtained, they will definitely be able to accomplish this goal.

Research in the Greek Catholic Church records at the Family History Library is a gold mine of opportunities for learning more about these ancestors and their lives in Poland.

We are excited to begin work on these recommendations and look forward to working with you to accomplish your research goals.

MJG/cea
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