



[CLIENT]
SzewczykINTRO1503 T15115
15 April 2015

Intro Research Summary

GOALS

The client's ultimate goals are to find out what happened to [LIVING] Szewczyk after the birth of her son [LIVING] on 15 August 1942, find the death certificates of her parents, and to identify the biological father of [LIVING].

Assess what is already known, perform some preliminary research, and determine if there are enough resources to continue researching the case.

PROGRESS

The most important DNA tests for adoptees to do are autosomal DNA tests. They need to test with all 3 of the major companies - 23andMe, AncestryDNA and Family Tree DNA. Dennis has tested with Family Tree DNA, but not the other two companies from what we can tell. The other two companies have much larger databases of tested individuals, which means a much higher chance of finding a "close cousin" match that will lead to the identification of the father. In unknown parentage searches it is **matching other individuals** in the databases that leads to answers regarding the parent. We then build family trees for the matches looking for cousins that would provide answers. It is critical to maximize all chances of finding a close cousin match by testing at all three companies. It is not the DNA that provides "answers" in unknown parentage, but these matches and their pedigrees or family trees.

The Y-DNA test often provides a biological surname (in about 30-40% of cases) but we must have the autosomal tests (23andMe, AncestryDNA) to really make progress in using DNA to identify unknown parents. Although Family Tree DNA advises male adoptees to test their Y-chromosome, there is not much that can be learned from this test alone.

Albert, Frances and Irene Szewczyk

Burial information was provided by the client for Albert and Frances Szewczyk. With the months and years of their burials, their death certificates should be available from Cook County, Illinois. Another attempt should be made to order them, which we could do during

a full research project with a power of attorney from the client, or if the client wishes to do this, forms and instructions are included below.¹

There was a Polish newspaper printed in Chicago called *Dziennik Zwiazkowy*. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has ten years of this newspaper available for perusal (1908-1917); but records after 1917 are needed to learn more about [LIVING].²

There was another Polish Newspaper printed in Chicago called *Dziennik Chicagoski*. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City does not have copies of this publication, but microfilm copies can be viewed at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago (1890-1971).³ If an obituary can be located for Albert, it might mention a married name for [LIVING] which would help discover more information about her. Because this microfilm has not been digitized, and these records are not available online or at the Family History Library, these newspapers would have to be studied on site in Chicago. The Polish Museum of America also has microfilm records of birth, marriage, and death records from the Polish community through 1915; but again, records are required from more recent dates to answer questions about Irene's later life.

One way to learn about [LIVING] is to find living relatives who knew her. She may have nieces or nephews who are still living.

Descendants of Charles Szewczyk

According to the 1930 census, [LIVING] Szewczyk had a brother named *Charles* born about 1916 in Illinois.⁴ The 1940 census dates match this information.⁵

A birth record was found for a Charles C. Szewczyk born 4 November 1915 in Chicago.⁶ His death record states that he died in Chicago Ridge, Cook County, Illinois on 18 January 2000.⁷

¹ "Death Certificates," *Cook County Clerk*, <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords/deathcertificates/Pages/default.aspx>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENTS 1a-b.

² *Family Search Wiki, Chicago Illinois*, https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Chicago,_Illinois, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 2.

³ *Polish Museum of America Website*, <http://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org/>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 3.

⁴ *1930 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule)*, Chicago, Cook, Illinois, Albert Szewczyk household, <http://ancestry.com>, subscription database, accessed April 2014. DOCUMENT 4.

⁵ *1940 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule)*, Chicago, Cook, Illinois, Albert Szewczyk household, <http://ancestry.com>, subscription database, accessed April 2014. DOCUMENT 5.

The Radaris database lists [LIVING] Szewczyk of Chicago Ridge as being related to a [LIVING] Szewczyk and [LIVING] Szewczyk.⁸ There is also a [LIVING] Szewczyk Masonry company in Chicago Ridge, Illinois.⁹

The White Pages can be checked for other Szewczyk listings in Chicago Ridge, Illinois. Facebook and other social media sites can be checked for likely matches. For example, there is a [LIVING] Szewczyk from Chicago who mentions an “Aunt [LIVING]” on a Facebook post.¹⁰

Descendants of Margaret (Minnie) Szewczyk

According to the death record for Margaret, [LIVING]'s sister, Margaret Szewczyk was married to Gregory Soria.¹¹ The 1940 Census shows them living in Chicago with three children: Richard (born about 1930), George (born about 1934), and Ruth (born about 1936).¹²

A Richard Soria born in Illinois in 1930 died at his home in Southwest Side, Chicago, Illinois in 2002.¹³ According to his obituary, he was survived by his wife, Margaret Soria, and his daughter Rosemary Soria Rizzo (wife of Louis Rizzo).¹⁴

⁶*Cook County, Illinois Birth Index* [database on-line], Charles C. Szewczyk, 4 November 1915, <http://ancestry.com>, subscription database, accessed April 2014. DOCUMENT 6.

⁷*U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014* [database on-line], Charles C. Szewczyk, 18 January 2000, <http://ancestry.com>, subscription database, accessed April 2014. DOCUMENT 7.

⁸*Radaris People Search Database*, Charles C. Szewczyk, <http://radaris.com/p/Charles/Szewczyk/>, accessed April 2014. DOCUMENT 8.

⁹*AMFIBI Business Directory*, Jack Szewczyk Masonry Listing, <http://jack-szewczyk-masonry.chicago-ridge.il.amfibi.company/us/c/10737866-jack-szewczyk-masonry>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 9.

¹⁰*Facebook.com*, Bob Szewczyk, Chicago, Illinois, <https://www.facebook.com/bob.szewczyk.5?fref=ts>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 10.

¹¹*Death Record of Margaret Szewczyk Soria*, Information provided by client. DOCUMENT 11.

¹²*1940 U.S. Federal Census* (Population Schedule), Chicago, Illinois, Gregory Soria household, <http://ancestry.com>, subscription database, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 12.

¹³*U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014* [database on-line], Richard Soria, 30 April 2002, <http://ancestry.com>, subscription database, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 13.

¹⁴*Richard Soria Obituary*, Chicago Tribune, 4 May 2002, http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2002-05-04/news/0205040229_1_basketball-circles-officials-day-job, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 14.

An online directory shows a [LIVING] Rizzo connected to a [LIVING]Rizzo living in Chicago.¹⁵

In the 1940 Census, Margaret Szewczyk Soria's son George is listed as being born about 1934. A birth record was found for a George Soria born 28 Oct 1933 in Chicago.¹⁶ The Robert J. Sheehy and Sons Funeral Home in Chicago lists George A. Soria as dying 27 September 2013 at age 79 (born about 1934). It lists his children as [LIVING], [LIVING], and [LIVING].¹⁷ George A. Soria's wife Grace passed away in 2014.¹⁸ Records indicate that George and Grace Soria had been living in Oak Forest, Illinois.¹⁹

There is a [LIVING] Soria of the right age, with a history of living in Oak Forest, still living in the Chicago area.²⁰ There is also a [LIVING] Soria still living who has been, or still is living in Oak Forest.²¹

There are at least four Polish parishes in the Chicago area—St. Stanislaus Kostka, Holy Trinity, St. John Cantius, and St. Juliana.²²

Polish parishes in Chicago can be contacted to determine whether any Szewczyks are still parishioners, and if so, whether they have a connection to Albert and Frances and are willing to open a dialogue. As of 2014, St. Juliana had a parishioner named [LIVING] Szewczyk.²³ This is unlikely to be the mother of [LIVING] (as she was born around 1920), but this could be a close relative, such as a daughter of [LIVING]'s brother Charles.

¹⁵*Whitepages.com Online Directory*, [http://www.whitepages.com/name/\[LIVING\]-Rizzo](http://www.whitepages.com/name/[LIVING]-Rizzo), accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 15.

¹⁶*Cook County, Illinois Birth Index, 1916-1935* [database on-line], George Soria, 29 October 1933, Chicago, Illinois, <http://ancestry.com>, subscription database, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 16.

¹⁷*Sheehy Funeral Home Database*, George A. Soria, 27 September 2013, <http://www.sheehyfh.com/obituaries/obituary-listings?obId=42772>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 17.

¹⁸*Sheehy and Sons Funeral Home Database*, Grace Soria, 14 April 2014, <http://m.sheehyfh.com/obituaries/details?id=97978>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 18.

¹⁹*Whitepages.com*, George Soria of Oak Forest, <http://www.whitepages.com/name/George-Soria/IL>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 19.

²⁰*People Finders Database*, [LIVING] Soria of Oak Forest, <http://www.peoplefinders.com/name/mike+soria/1-1155041366>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 20.

²¹*Whitepages.com*, [LIVING]Soria of Oak Forest, <http://www.whitepages.com/name/David-Soria/IL>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 21.

²²*Polish Genealogical Society Website*, <http://www.pgsa.org/database.php>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 22.

²³*St. Juliana Parish Web Site*, <http://www.stjuliana.org/images/bulletins/2014/20140518.pdf>, accessed April 2015. DOCUMENT 23.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Birth records for Albert and Frances Szewczyk can be ordered from Cook County, Illinois.
2. Attempts can be made to locate and contact the likely descendants of Charles Szewczyk, [LIVING]'s brother, from the Chicago Ridge area outlined above.
3. Attempts can be made to locate and contact the likely descendants of Margaret Szewczyk Soria, [LIVING]'s sister, from the Oak Forest and Southwest Side, Chicago areas outlined above.
4. Query letters can be sent to the historical Polish Parishes of Chicago listing the information being sought.
5. Using phone records and social media such as Facebook, efforts can be made to locate a Szewczyk or Soria family member who has memories of [LIVING] or knows someone who would.
6. We could help you follow up on all of these recommendations if you wish to order a full project.
7. Szewczyk means “shoemaker” in Polish.

BMP/cht

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