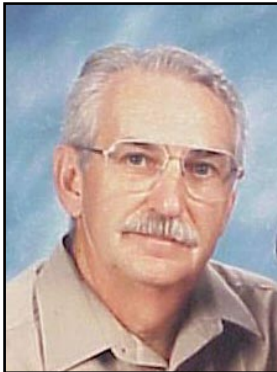


Finding 4 needles in a 38-million-sized Polish haystack

[A nine year journey to locate my Polish family gone astray]

Edward F. Rozyłowicz
February 2009



Edward F. Rozyłowicz ... born 1939, in Zimna Woda, Poland (near present-day L'viv, Ukraine). Ed's heritage has deep roots in Galicia (Galizien, Halich), once a de facto autonomous province of the crownland of Austria-Hungary, and Bukowina (Bukovina), a historical region on the northern slopes of the northeastern Carpathian Mountains and the adjoining plains currently split between Romania and Ukraine. Ed has links, dating back to the 1780s, to ancestral villages of Weißenberg (Białagóra, Bilahora), Stryj, Kalush (Kalush), Czerniowice (Chernovits, Cernauti), Targowica (Torhovytsia), Stanisławów (Ivano-Frankvis'k), Ottynja, Kolomyja (Kolomyia), Gródek Jagielloński (Horodok), Lemberg (Lwów, L'viv), Münchenthal (Muzyłowice, Muzhylovychi), Ebenau (Stodulki), Rudne, Suceava (Suczawa), and Zimna Woda (Zymna Woda). At start of WWII, Ed was raised during the German and Russian/Ukrainian occupation of Poland (see note below). After cessation of hostilities, Ed's family immigrated to the United States in 1949 by way of Czechoslovakia and Germany. Ed secured his US citizenship in 1960. His education includes B.S.E.E., M.B.A, and Ph.D. degrees. Blissfully retired and an avid photographer, Ed is married to Dolores (Ochab) and resides in Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA.

Note: Because of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, a non-aggression treaty between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on 1 September 1939, Poland was invaded by Germany from the west and on 17 September 1939 by Russia's Red Army from the east. Zimna Woda (Cold Water) (Lwow region), Poland was occupied by the German Wehrmacht and handed over to the Russian Red Army on 22 September 1939. Ed's sister, Christine, was born in Zimna Woda in February 1941 and was issued a Ukrainian birth certificate. In June 1941, Germany invaded Russia (Operation Barbarossa) and Zimna Woda was again occupied by the German Wehrmacht within a month. The Russian counteroffensive (late 1942 – mid 1944) recaptured Zimna Woda. On Germany's retreat, Ed's father was forcibly conscripted by the German State Railway (Deutsche Reichsbahn) and the family was relocated to Eger and Tirschnitz (present day Cheb) in western Sudetenland (part of Czechoslovakia annexed by Germany in October 1938.) By mid-1945, defeat of the German Wehrmacht allowed the Rozyłowicz family to seek asylum in Allied-controlled Czechoslovakia followed by an internment in an Allied Displaced Persons camp (Camp Durzyn) in Wildflecken, Germany.

It may be said that at times it is far easier to find a deceased ancestor than it is to find a misplaced living relative. Archived church books, historical documents, civil records, and such usually lead to a successful discovery of an ancestor if some clues are available, such as a region, village, city, town, or even the church parish. Nevertheless, it would be a false assumption to believe that any descendant of those long gone families remains in those ancestral places. Over time, people disperse due to events such as conflict, economic hardships, forced relocation, national resettlement, or changing political borders. One's family relations may be scattered throughout the civilized world ... typically in nearby regions but most often in faraway places. Therefore, how does one go about finding those 'lost' family relations or even if they exist?

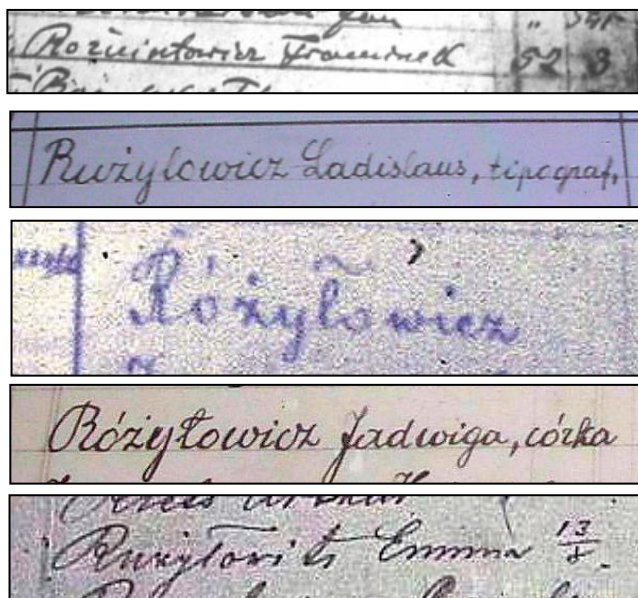
No doubt, there are many amateur and professional genealogists that face this dilemma, in their quest to complete a family tree by locating family "branches" still living today. I am one of those individuals that is making this journey ... trying to locate missing relations. A frustrating odyssey that has consumed my time and energy for nine long arduous years. In my heart and my conviction I know, I just know, that somewhere out there is an individual that is blood-related to me ... living a normal life, unaware of me - their relation. Moreover, I am equally convinced that that particular individual is most likely thinking ... "am I the only descendant living today ... have I no other family somewhere in the world?"

My narrative ... my story ... deals with that quest with a most remarkable ending. As I said earlier, it took a journey of nine years but I was able to answer that question with a resounding, "Yes, I have family elsewhere." I found them through determination and perseverance, some luck, but mainly tenacious hard work. I would like to share with you my journey, and my efforts, so that perhaps it may offer some encouragement to others that, although finding a "lost" family is not easy, it certainly is not hopeless.

My story begins with the most basic of questions ... what is my true ancestral surname and what does that name mean? My own experiences in compiling an ancestral tree started in the year 2000, later in life than when most people make that effort, but nonetheless a driven effort to connect with my past. For the sake of simplicity, this story will deal only with my family surname of Rozyłowicz and its many variations uncovered in my ancestral research.

Our Polish family name of Różyłowicz, anglicized to Rozyłowicz, is the only name that is known (and used) by everyone in our immediate family. However, in my research I have uncovered so many variations (spellings) of our Różyłowicz surname that there was some concern if an uncovered individual actually belonged to our line or was totally unrelated. Were the variations not so dissimilar but actual legitimate spellings based on phonetic declarations? We uncovered our surnames as Ruzylewicz, Rużyłowicz, Różyłowicz, Rożuiłowicz, and even a Rożyłowitz. Some examples are shown on the right.

Were all of these individuals from the same family lineage or unrelated? Above all, what is the meaning of our Różyłowicz surname?



To attend to these questions in year-2000 I contacted a well-known and respected author on the subject of Polish Surnames – William F. Hoffman, author of *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*. Mr. Hoffman is a member of the *Polish Genealogical Society of America*, Chicago, Illinois and the editor of the PGSA's "Rodziny" Journal, (*rodziny* means *families*). Mr. Hoffmann responded to my query with a detailed and comprehensive examination that answered my questions.

For one, Mr. Hoffman clarified many points (some of which I already anticipated) by stating ... *"The spelling variations are entirely normal and to be expected. Name spellings did not become at all standard in Poland until the last century, especially the last 60 years. Based on the data I found, I would think the "standard" spelling of the name would be ROZYLOWICZ with an accent over the first O, a dot over the first Z, and a slash through the L. To represent these letters on-line (Internet) I use O~, Z*, and L~ respectively, so that the name would be RO~Z*YL~OWICZ (Ed: Różyłowicz). It would be pronounced "roo-zhih-WOE-vich." Since Polish U and the accented O are pronounced the same, they were often used interchangeably in spelling -- the spelling in records was often phonetic. So as I say, the variations you mention all are reasonable and very much the sort of thing you would expect to find.*

*Ro~z*yl~owicz means "son of Ro~z*yl~o," a name derived from the Polish word for "rose." The Polish suffix -owicz, which corresponds to the -ovich seen in other Slavic languages, simply means "son of," so the surname means "son of Ro~z*yl~o." Polish name expert Prof. Kazimierz Rymut mentions this name in his book "Nazwiska Polakow" [The Surnames of Poles], listing it under the many surnames deriving from Polish "ro~z*a", "rose," also used as a feminine name much as we use the name Rose.*

*None of my sources give any more info on Ro~z*yl~o, and the most we can say is that it must have begun as a nickname for one perceived by others as somehow connected with roses (or a woman named Rose). Perhaps he grew roses, lived in an area where there were many roses, used rose fragrance as a perfume. It might even refer to one who had *erisypelas*, which was often called "ro~z*a", "the Rose."*

With this reassurance that spelling variations were the norm, I was satisfied that the discovered ancestors were, in all probability, directly related to me. As such, I could proceed with nearly 100% assurance. However, there was a comment that Mr. Hoffman included in his response that had me somewhat excited. His added comment was ... *"as of 1990, according to the best data available the Słownik nazwisk wspolczesnie w Polsce uzywanych [Directory of Surnames in Current Use in Poland], which covers about 94% of the population of Poland, there were only three Polish citizens named Ro~z*I~owicz (Ed: Różyłowicz). They lived somewhere in the province of Zielona Gora (see map on right). Unfortunately, I do not have access to further details such as first names or addresses, so I cannot tell you how to find that information. Zielona Gora is a long way from Ukraine and it is quite likely the family used to live in eastern Poland or western Ukraine but was caught up in the forced relocation of millions from east to west after World War II (Operation Vistula)."*



Zielona Gora in western Poland. Western Ukraine (Galicia) denoted by "star." Map source: PGSA Bulletin, Winter 2000

Mr. Hoffam further stated ... *"The odd part is, there were 386 Poles named **Ro-z*yl-o** in 1990, with the largest numbers living in southeastern Poland. Why this name should be so much more common than **Ro-z*yl-owicz** I cannot say. I hope perhaps the Workshop in Krakow will answer and shed light on this. Incidentally, in the July 2000 issue of the Polish-American Journal, the PAJ Answerman suggested one can find individuals or families "by contacting the one office in Poland that has on file the addresses of all people currently living in Poland: Centralne Biuro Adresowe, ul. Kazimierzowska 60, 02-543 Warsaw, POLAND." I have no idea whether this works or not, I have never tried it. But I thought it worth passing on, in case it might help you connect with those **Ro-z*yl-owicz**es living in Zielona Gora province."*

As Mr. Hoffman's suggestion was the most viable of alternatives at our disposal, we took his advice and wrote a letter to the *Centralne Biuro* making the request for detailed information on these Różyłowicz's. Unfortunately, no response was ever received from them. Our thinking at the time was ... that because a decade before Poland declared its independence from the Soviet Union as a satellite state, there was that implied Polish mentality of secrecy and confidentiality. Coming from the USA, perhaps they thought ... *"why do you need this information?"* Nonetheless, we concluded that this method was at that time fruitless and abandoned this approach. We were still stuck with no leads.

To continue my story ... in October 2000, the Internet was coming into its own. I pressed on by employing the various "search engines" in my methodology. One should remember that in that time-period the Internet was a godsend of information technology but still immature, undergoing a slow maturation as more and more people, institutions, etc. made use of its power to spread and publicize their messages, albeit data. So I began our Internet search by using <http://www.google.com> ... I searched for Rozyłowicz using the anglicized version. At the start of my search, I received (among others) the following matches:

[The Rozyłowicz Family](#)

Oct 1, 2000 ... Edward and Dolores **Rozyłowicz** of Las Cruces, New Mexico. News, events, photo albums, and genealogy.
www.rozyłowicz.com/ - 28k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

Of course, that was my web site. I also received a few other matches that were for other family members ... military academies, secondary schools, corporate positions, and technical publications. However, what surprised me were the following "matches" (reconstructed) ...

[Assistant Laurentiu Rozyłowicz - Universitatea din Bucuresti](#)

Assistant Laurentiu **Rozyłowicz** ... Home > Studies > Faculties > Faculty of Geography > Department Of Regional Geography > Assistant Laurentiu **Rozyłowicz** ...
www.unibuc.ro/en/cd_laurozyłowicz_en - 15k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Laurențiu Rozyłowicz « Centre for Environmental Research and ...](#)

Maria Patroescu, Ilie Chincea, Laurentiu **Rozyłowicz**, Carmen Sorescu (Eds), 2000, Padurile de pin negru de Banat Sit NATURA 2000, Ed. Brumar, Timisoara ...
ccmesi.wordpress.com/staff/laurentiu-rozyłowicz/ - 20k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

This was intriguing ... a Rozyłowicz with a Latin name (*Laurentiu* means *Lawrence*). As if by coincidence, my grandnephew Thomas also found this "match" and contacted me in the hope for an explanation. To make this matter more bizarre, I received almost within the same week an e-mail through my web site from

this "Laurentiu" individual asking for access to the password-protected genealogy pages (restricted to family.) Thus began a 2-month exchange of messages with the intent of discovering just with whom I was dealing with. To get to the heart of the family association, Laurentiu sent me a message mentioning his grandfather's name - Leon. My reply ... *"you mentioned that your grandfather was Leon Rozyłowicz, born in Bukovina. We know that there is a Leo Rozyłowicz in our family. Leo was born on April 4, 1908 in Chernowitz (Bukovina). There is a remote possibility that Leon and Leo may be one and the same."*

Laurentiu wrote back ... *"my grandfather was Leo Rozyłowicz. He was born in 4 April 1908 in Cernauti - Chernowitz - Bucovina (in Romanian language). He died in 1971 in Bucharest. We do not have any document (my father supposes that it is lost in war, because Bucovina is now in Ukraine, ex USSR administration). The only document is the birth certificate (is a reconstruction made in 1940 by the Romanian administration) and death certificate. In birth certificate is mentioned the name of the parents: Ioannes and Antonia. The complete name mentioned in certificate is "Rozyłowicz Leo-Guilhelmus."*

My response to Laurentiu followed ... *"would you believe ... you are my first cousin, once removed! Yes, it confirms that our two families are related: Leo Rozyłowicz was my uncle; he is one of fourteen (14) children born to John (Ioannes) Rozyłowicz and Antonina Koscinska. Marian Rozyłowicz, Leo's brother, was my father. The one bit of information that sealed this confirmation is that you wrote that Leo's middle name as Guilhelmus. That precise same name appears in our archived records. Guilhelmus is Latin for Wilhelm, which is the same as William in English."*

The family association was therefore:

▼ Common Ancestor		
John	Marian	Edward
Leo	brother	nephew
Romeo	uncle	first cousin
Laurentiu	g-uncle	first cousin, once removed

Chart source: Galizien German Descendants, Newsletter #22, April 2000, page 17



Uncle Leo Rozyłowicz

The summation of my story so far is that through the Internet I found a direct descendant in Romania. How simple could that be? Further communiqués added more to my family tree: Leo Rozyłowicz (left, 1955) and Leo's wife Vasilica (right, 1959). In 2001, I made a trip to Bucharest, Romania to meet my first cousin Romeo (wife Ioana, Laurentiu and sister Georgeta) and another first cousin Aurelia and husband Nicu. I also used that opportunity to take a side trip to Chernovichi and L'viv, Ukraine to visit the state archives for additional research into family (but that is another long story in itself.)

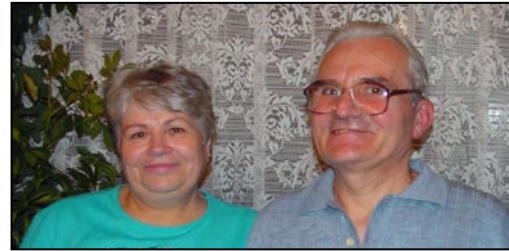


Leo Rozyłowicz and Vasilica

My Romanian connection:



First cousin Romeo (far right), Ioana, Laurentiu, Georgeta



First cousin Aurelia and Nicu. Aurelia's resemblance to my sister Christine was astonishing..

Sadly, cousin Romeo passed away in 2005. We were fortunate to find him and privileged to meet him.

The Romanian discovery was serendipity: unexpected but rewarding. In fact, this discovery added immensely to my understanding of the Rozyłowicz family's heritage. I initially thought that my father Marian was a Romanian, but as it turned out, he was born an Austrian. I wrote about this predicament in an article entitled *Misconceptions about Nationality Commonly Encountered in Birth and Marriage Documents* published in the journal *East European Genealogist*, Vol. 9, No. 4, Summer 2001. Therefore, it was no great surprise that I discovered a family still in Romania.

Uncovering one family however, the story does not end here. Knowing what Mr. Hoffman revealed to me, re: variations in my surname spelling PLUS the mention of a community (or province) of Zielona Gora, I continued a tenacious, methodical, and systematic search of the Internet for more Rozyłowicz's in their various spellings. Nothing! No other Rozyłowicz was uncovered. Not that I expected anything different: but the hope was there. As to Zielona Gora ... well, that was a dead-end in itself. There were no Zielona Gora telephone white-pages for that province or any link to community resources. I was satisfied with the family I found so far but I was certain that other eluded us.

Over the next few years, I made more concerted and meticulous efforts to locate a Rozyłowicz in Zielona Gora ... considering that the Internet was maturing and the content becoming more expansive. Still nothing. My methodology was lacking something but I was uncertain of what.

Then, came January 2009. I was becoming very frustrated at my apparent lack of success. I had to go in a new direction. Inspired ...I had an epiphany of sorts and changed my tactics. Instead of searching under the anglicized names of Zielona Gora and Rozyłowicz, I thought I would try my search using the proper Polish names of Zielona Góra and Różyłowicz. However, there is a problem here. The standard USA keyboard, The 104-key PC English QWERTY keyboard, does not have the requisite characters common to the Polish language text, i.e., ó, ż, ł, etc. Polish keyboards use the same QWERTY layout but include keyboard shortcuts, which we do not have in the USA. Therefore, I had to find an alternate means to create my search text of *Zielona Góra* and *Różyłowicz*. The answer laid in a word processor. A word processor allows for insertion of symbols (ó, ż, ł) in lieu of standard text. Once my search words (*Góra*, *Różyłowicz*) were created in Microsoft®Word®, I copied the new text into my search engines and proceeded from there ... hoping for better luck. My first search on www.google.com (search engine) using the Polish versions of place and my name I got a "match" (in fact, the only match) ... I struck gold ...

1. [nasza-klasa.pl: Liceum Ogólnokształcące](#)

- [[Translate this page](#)]

Krystyna **Różyłowicz**. Napisz wiadomość Pokaż znajomych. (0). Pokaż profil. Aleksandra Jędraszek Nowa Sól/Zielona Góra. Napisz wiadomość Pokaż znajomych ...

[nasza-klasa.pl/school/26940?selection_type=d&begin_year=1921&end_year=1975](#) - 25k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

I was amazed ... there is girl/woman with my family name on a site [nasza-klas.pl](#), apparently a social network site for Polish school classmates (*nasza-klasa* means *our-class*). Going to the site, I discovered (of course) that it is all Polish. With an English/Polish dictionary in hand (my Polish language skills are at best conversational and *słaby*, i.e., weak) I managed to explore the entire site ... but to no avail; could not locate a Krystyna Różyłowicz. School #26940 (from link) from period 1921 to 2007 included 314 class groups and I went through every single class (took entire weekend) but no Różyłowicz. I was uncertain if Krystyna was an older woman, perhaps a teacher, or a young woman who either graduated or was still in class. If she is listed in a search result, she must be there somewhere. However, where?

OK, I am close ... time to step back and think this thing over. There is a Różyłowicz in Zielona Góra, that is a fact: [www.google.com](#) makes that clear. There must be another way to find her ... perhaps somewhere else on [nasza-klas.pl](#) or at another similar site. By now, my creative juices are running wild. If I used the Polish version of Zielona Góra – Różyłowicz on an English [www.google.com](#) search engine would I be equally successful using the same spelling on Polish-only search engines. That would be my next tactic.

However, are there any Polish-language search engines? You bet ... most of them are listed when one logs on to <http://www.searchenginecolossus.com/Poland.html>. The list is extensive, and I employed virtually all of them in my search ... but two particular Polish search sites returned “matches,” many “matches.” Those sites were <http://google.pl/> and <http://szukacz.pl/> (*szukacz* means *search*)....

GOOGLE	Polski	Gain access to Poland's websites and Google's general database! [pajak] (Mountainview, Kalifornia, Stany Zjednoczone)
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SZUKACZ	Polski	Poland and world search! [pajak] (<i>Warszawa, Mazowieckie</i>)
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Clicking on the [www.google.pl](#) link and entering Zielona Góra Różyłowicz I received this result ...

[nasza-klasa.pl: Klasa J 2004 - 2007](#)

Anna Staszkiwicz. Radzyń/Sława/ Zielona Góra ... Ostatnio do klasy dołączyli: Sabrina Stanulonis i Marta **Rużyłowicz**. ...

[nasza-klasa.pl/school/26940/74](#) - 63k - [Kopia](#) - [Podobne strony](#)

WOW ... another Różyłowicz in Zielona Góra, but with a different spelling ... Rużyłowicz. Is Marta Rużyłowicz related to Krystyna Różyłowicz since they are both located in Zielona Góra? I would say yes based on what Mr. Hoffman stated, i.e., naming variations.

Clicking on the [www.szukacz.pl](#) site and entering Zielona Góra Różyłowicz I received this result ...

Liceum Ogólnokształcące w Nowej Soli

[...] 64 . Katarzyna Matras 4,55 . Marta Różyłowicz 4,42 . Kalendarium . Wrzesień 2007 . Pn [...]

URL: 81.168.225.78/index.php?go=100&arch=38&stycz06=4 - arch. 2007-09-27 - 25 kB -

[Kopia z archiwum](#)

Result is for another Marta but spelled with our familiar Różyłowicz, although a different town. It has to be the same Marta. It has to be a family member ... of that I am almost certain. However, how to find out? I went back to the *nasza-klasa.pl* site using the link for Marta from the www.google.pl site, i.e., *nasza-klasa.pl/school/26940/74* and retried my search.

There she was ... Marta Rużyłowicz ... picture and profile. However, is she family? One way to find out. The *nasza-klasa.pl* site allows registered members to view another member's profile. Perhaps Marta had an e-mail link. I registered as a member (no problem) ... accessed Marta's profile and noticed that all of her profiles were "ukryty" (hidden), except her e-mail link. I composed a brief message, including my contact particulars, describing my search and asked if she could send me anything to begin an exploration into that possibility.

The next day I received a response ... *"Hi, I send you some pictures, I will write to you tomorrow because I'm so busy now. Thank You for Your letter!"* An acknowledgment, even in English ... a good beginning ... so I will just wait.

In the interim, I opened the images she sent us: of herself, of her sister Krystyna (the other girl on *nasza-klasa.pl* and living in Zielona Góra), of her parents wedding, and pictures of her grandparents (below). The images of her grandparents were intriguing ... more so because of how she labeled her images (see text box below each image.) The names seemed familiar to me: Stefan and Weronika. I would look them up later.



my father's grandfather (Stefan Rużyłowicz, from Stanisławów, plac Targowica).jpg



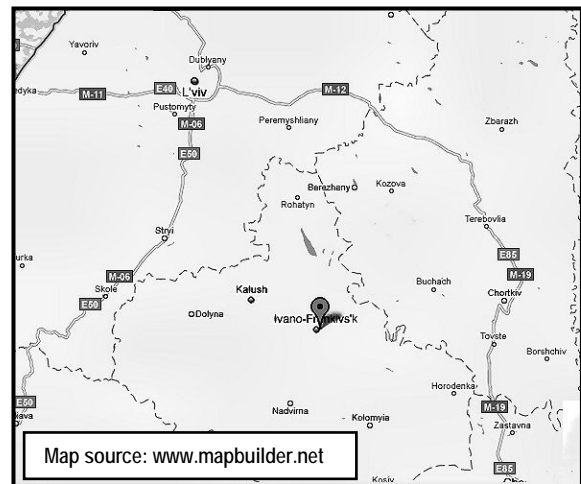
my father's grandmother (Weronika Rużyłowicz, from Stanisławów, plac Targowica).jpg

Marta also included two images that are relevant to the Rozyłowicz family:



The *Identitätskarte's* (identity cards) for Stefan Rużyłowicz (left) and Weronika Rużyłowicz indicate that both were linked to the Austrian State Railroad (Oesterreichische Staatsbahnen.) Not having an Austrian/English dictionary, I could only surmise that Stefan was employed by the railroad and Weronika was granted rail privileges as a spouse. What is of interest is that my grandfather John Rozyłowicz was also a railroad engineer working out of Chernowitz. Perhaps there is a family connection here.

The place – *Stanislawów*, I recall that name from somewhere but could not place it immediately. I pulled out my map of Poland and tried to locate *Stanislawów* ... there were five places in present-day Poland with that name but not one of them seemed logical. All tiny hamlets: not even villages. However, "*plac Targowica*" ... that rang a bell. *Plac* means *place*. Referring to my copy of *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*, published by Brian J. Lenius (founding member of *The East European Genealogical Society*, Winnipeg, Canada), it all became clear. *Targowica* is a community in the judicial district of *Ottynia* near the larger city of *Stanislawów* in the judicial district of *Stanislawów*. Today *Stanislawów* is known as *Ivano-Frankivs'k* (map right), in Western Ukraine, southeast of L'viv (once called *Lemberg* then *Lwow*). The geographic region that includes *Ottynia*, *Stryj*, *Kalusz*, *Kolomyja*, *Chernowitz*, *Targowica* comprises my ancestral family's home range. Is it possible that Marta is related me in a direct way? Checking my family tree, my grandfather John did have a brother named Stefan who was married to a Veronica. The family link was heart stopping. I could not wait until I received further news from Marta.



Targowica, *Torhovytsia* in Ukrainian ... we paid a visit to that hamlet in 2001, in our search for Rozyłowicz ancestors. It is a pastoral village, virtually unchanged over the decades (panoramic view below.)



We offer these additional views from this village:



Orthodox Church



Church gate - Torgovytsia



Torgovytsia cemetery

To continue my story ... the news came the next day. Marta wrote ... *"Thank you for contacting me, how did you manage to find me on nasza-klasa? I am sending a short family story. My ancestors come from Stanisławow (western borderland of Ukraine), they lived at 9, Targowicki Square. In 1941 my grandmother was resettled in Kozuchow (30 kilometres from Zielona Gora), in today's Lubuskie. She arrived with two daughters - Felicja and Henryka. Henryka was a spinster, Felicja had a son - Tomasz, who is my father. My great grandmother was called Weronika Janowicz, my great grandfather - Stefan Ruzyłowicz (son of Cyryl Ruzyłowicz and Elizabeth Kreinmeyer). Currently there are only four people in Poland called Ruzyłowicz: it is I, my mother Danuta, my father Tomasz and my younger sister - Krystyna. I am a student of pedagogy/social work and it is my second year. I am 20, my sister is 18, and in April is finishing high school. My parents are environmentalists. My father has been seeking for family contacts abroad for a long time now. We know for sure that his aunt immigrated to Vancouver (Canada) in the seventies, but we failed to find her."*

No sooner did I reach the point where I read ... *"son of Cyryl Ruzyłowicz and Elizabeth Kreinmeyer"* I had my answer. Cyryl and Elizabeth are my paternal great-grandparents. I found one of my living relatives ... my cousin. Of course, what could I do ... I wrote back, saying ... *"I am pleased to tell you that you are my ... **2nd cousin.**"* I attached a chart that clearly showed her relationship to me:

▼ Common Ancestor			
Cyrill	John R.	Marian	Edward (me)
Stefan R.	brother / sister	nephew / niece	g-nephew / g-niece
Felicja	uncle / aunt	first cousin	first cousin once removed
Tomasz	g-uncle / g-aunt	first cousin once removed	second cousin
Marta (you)	gg-uncle / gg-aunt	first cousin twice removed	second cousin once removed

Chart source: Galizien German Descendants, Newsletter #22, April 2000, page 17

Presenting my newfound Polish family:

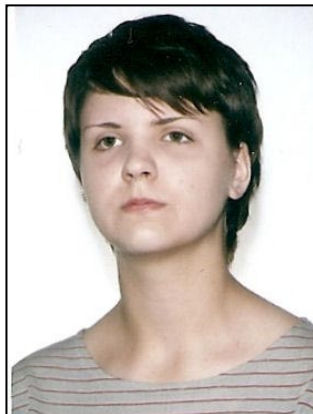


▲ Grand Uncle Stefan and Weronica Rużyłowicz (treasured portraits)



▲ 2nd cousin Tomasz and Danuta - civil wedding, 1987

Tomasz and Danuta 2009 ▶



▲ 2nd cousins, once removed: sisters - Marta (l) and Krystyna (r)

My long search has ended ... one journey successful. One "branch" of my family discovered.

I have located those missing four needles in a 38-million-sized Polish haystack.

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Summing up ... here are a few salient points to reinforce what my journey of search revealed. I was extremely fortunate to find missing family in Romania early on using the Internet. It was fortuitous that cousin Laurentiu (now Dr. Laurentiu) was established in the academic community (*University of Bucharest, Center for Environmental Research and Impact Studies*) as well as a published researcher in EU-funded projects. An unexpected result of following Mr. Hoffman's directive on Polish naming conventions.

However, I found nothing on my year-2000 web search on the Rozyłowicz (Różyłowicz) name (at least the name as linked to Zielona Góra) because no one in my Polish family was in a position to leave a mark on the web. The two sisters (Marta and Krystyna) were quite young ... 10-12 years of age. Far too young to be part of any class group. Social networks like *nasza-klasa* probably did not exist. Their parents, as environmentalists, were not yet well established in their field of work (today they are listed on many Polish web sites as participants in their chosen fields.) Because of the maturation of the web, all of these omissions have been rectified ... the name Różyłowicz (or Rużyłowicz) is well established, but only when you know where and how to look. In the time-period from 2000 to 2009 many changes occurred, changes that fostered a greater potential for discovery of surnames, especially if those individuals expose themselves to the world of cyberspace.

One other fact should be mentioned. In her response, Marta wrote that ... *"In 1941 my grandmother was resettled in Kozuchow."* This corroborates what Mr. Hoffman wrote to us in 2000 ... *"Zielona Gora is a long way from Ukraine, and it's quite likely the family used to live in eastern Poland or western Ukraine but was caught up in the forced relocation of millions from east to west after World War II (Operation Vistula)."*

So, all of the facts come together ... a family is found (actually three families), facts are corroborated, details confirmed and one long nine-year journey has been completed. Now a new episode of discovery waits ... a melding of families, separated by great distances, exchanging of personal family histories and a hoped for face-to-face meeting in Poland is in store. There is so much more that awaits the discovery that future exchanges of messages are eagerly anticipated. Nevertheless, for the time being I delight in the images received from my newfound cousins: my granduncle Stefan and his wife Veronica finally meet my grandfather John and his wife Antonina. Oh yes ... as mentioned earlier, my grandfather John was a locomotive driver for the Austrian railroad. It is highly probable that he and Stefan worked for the same branch of the State Railroad. How coincidental can this discovery be?

If ever there is a point to this story, it is this: the search for lost or misplaced kindred is a long and demanding journey. Whether that search is successful or not depends on many factors, foremost being tenaciousness and perseverance but also the uncanny ability to discover innovative and novel methods or tools in that search. What methods did not work in the past may work today ... advances in information are ever evolving. My own conviction told me that somewhere in Eastern Europe is my residual family ... time has proven me correct.

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[Welcome to the Global Rozyłowicz Family](#)

- 2001 - Romeo^(†), Ioana, Laurentiu, Georgeta **Rozyłowicz**..... Bucharest, Romania
- Aurelia (Rozyłowicz), Nicu Cristescu Bucharest, Romania
- 2009 - Tomasz, Danuta, Marta, Krystyna **Rużyłowicz** Kozuchów, Poland