

# The Pajewski/Page Story

## Table Of Contents

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<i>Introduction .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Prelude .....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Reader Tips .....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Origins .....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>The Pajewski Branch.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Origins of Our Pajewski Family.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>How to Pronounce Pajewski.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Was Our Family Name Pajewski .....</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>The Gainowski Branch.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Origins of Our Gainowski Family .....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>How to Pronounce Gainowski.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Where in Germany Were They From .....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Were They Germans or Poles.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Our Families in America .....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Martin and Veronica Nicolai Chapters.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>The Martin and Veronica Nicolai Family .....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Michael and Helen Pajewski Chapters.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>The Michael and Helen Pajewski Family.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Frank and Augustine Pajewski Chapters.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>The Frank and Augustine Pajewski Family .....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Other Pajewski Chapters .....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>The Unidentified Pajewski Family.....</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>John and Anna Pajewski Chapters .....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>The John and Anna Pajewski Family.....</i>	<i>28</i>

<i>Name Change Documents</i> .....	33
<i>Joseph and Rosalia Gainowski Chapters</i> .....	38
<i>The Joseph and Rosalia Gainowski Family</i> .....	38
<i>Related Families</i> .....	41
<i>The Pastwa, Abend, and Soenke Families</i> .....	41
<i>Closing</i> .....	45
<i>Why They Came</i> .....	45
<i>Bibliography</i> .....	47
<i>Acknowledgements</i> .....	48
<i>Appendices</i> .....	49
<i>Letters</i> .....	49
<i>Elizabeth M. Jordan's Letter to Dave Jordan - Dec. 29, 1977</i> .....	49
<i>Elizabeth M. Jordan's Letter to Dave Jordan - Feb 12, 1979</i> .....	51
<i>Associated Documents</i> .....	52
<i>Additional Stories</i> .....	52
<i>Pajewski/Page Records Collections</i> .....	53
<i>Additional Letters</i> .....	54
<i>Memorabilia</i> .....	55

# Introduction

As follows is The Pajewski/Page Story, a compilation of what I have learned over three decades about the history of my Jordan family line. It is a long and complicated story but one I am sure you will enjoy.

This *Introduction* provides some background and housekeeping for this and related documents along with the relationship with the associated web pages.

For ease of use, the above [Table of Contents](#) includes active links along with a simplified genealogy chart to assist in selecting items of interest. Merely touch the line or page number to move to a section of interest.

In order to help preserve our Pajewski family history and to make that history more widely available, [Our Pajewski/Page Family Web Pages](#) was created in the early years of the 21st century.

While quite successful in its goals, it became clear with the passage of time, that a web site with many hundreds of pages was not easy to print or to electronically download. Thus in the later part of the first decade of the 21st century, I began to compile various categories of information such as *Pajewski/Page Family Addresses*, *Pajewski/Page Family Census Records*, *Pajewski/Page Genealogy Source Records*, and *the Pajewski/Page Stories* into pdf documents.

Such pdf files will make it easier to download files for preservation on our many computers and they will also allow much easier printing of pages and for studied analysis as desired. As part of this effort, a [Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads](#) web page was created. From this page, all currently available pdf's from [Our Pajewski/Page Family Web Pages](#) and out [Our Gainowski Family Web Pages](#) can be accessed.

You are encouraged to download the various Pajewski/Page and Gainowski pdf files, not only for your own study but to also help preserve for future generations hard to obtain data and information about our common Pajewski, Gainowski and Jordan origins and history. Files are updated every once in a while, and checking about once a year is a reasonable frequency. Version dates are shown at the beginning of the [Table of Contents](#).

## File Information

Master File Name: Stories\_Pajewski

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 7/6/2002

Modified: 09/16/2002, 05/29/2003, 10/10/2007, 11/26/2009, 12/10/2012, 10/11/2017

## Contact

If you wish to comment, add information or just say hello, please contact [Dave Jordan](#) at [djgenealogy@me.com](mailto:djgenealogy@me.com).

## What's New

Going forward it is intended to briefly describe what major items were added since the last version of this document.

1. 10/11/2014: Miscellaneous format updates.
2. 12/10/2012: Primarily formatting changes and fixes of a few typo's along with some reorganization and rewording of various text.

## File Connections

As follows are other files that connect with *The Pajewski/Page Story*. All are available at [Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *The Pajewski/Page Story*  
File: Stories\_Pajewski.pdf  
Summary: *The Pajewski/Page Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Pajewski/Page family and our Gainowski family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.
2. *Recollections of the Pajewskis/Pages*  
File: Recollections\_Pajewski.pdf  
Summary: *Recollections of the Pajewskis/Pages* provides a collection of short anecdotes and memories of our Pajewski/Page family.
3. *Historical Pajewski/Page Family Addresses*  
File: Addresses\_Pajewski\_Historical.pdf  
Summary: Contains chronological address listings for various families in the Pajewski/Page/Gainowski line.  
Linkages: John Pajewski married Anna Gainowski; their daughter Elizabeth Marie Pajewski married Herbert Arthur Jordan. Also contains addresses for Joseph and Rosalia Gainowski.
4. *Pajewski/Page Census Records*  
File: Addresses\_Pajewski\_Historical.pdf  
Summary: Contains census transcriptions for various families in the Pajewski/Page/Gainowski line.  
Linkages: John Pajewski married Anna Gainowski; their daughter Elizabeth Marie Pajewski married Herbert Arthur Jordan. Also contains census records for Joseph and Rosalia Gainowski.
5. *The Jordan Story*  
File: Stories\_Jordan.pdf  
Summary: *The Jordan Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Jordan family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.

## Prelude

In September 1977, I wrote *The Story of John and Anna Page*. Since that time, much new information has been found. In addition other stories about other branches of the Page family have become available. With the creation of [Our Pajewski/Page Family Web Pages](#), I have decided to update and expand the various stories into a larger framework. The resulting, *The Pajewski/Page Story*, is a collection of short stories about different chapters and branches in the lives of descendants of Paul and Anna Pajewski. With time, others may contribute their own stories leading to a growing work on the origins and history of the Page family.

One of the confusions in our story is that the family's original name in Germany was not *Page* but *Pajewski*. The family used Pajewski when they first came to America but as the decades went by they began using Page. It is not certain why, but perhaps they wanted to blend in or got tired of people mispronouncing their name. They appear to have started the change informally in the early 1900s. And by 1926, the John and Anna Pajewski family formally made the legal change to Page. By the 1970s when I began to research the Page family history, I found the families only always used the name *Page* when referring to their ancestors and the previous name was not mentioned or even hinted that there was a change. Eventually I was able to determine it was Pajewski.

To tie these names together I have used a slash between them for various titles such as *The Pajewski/Page Story* and *Our Pajewski/Page Family Web Pages*. Within the text however, sometimes they will be referred to Pajewskis and at others times Pages as to what fits the context.

*The Pajewski/Page Story* is divided into five major parts.

1. The first *Origins* focuses on early roots in Germany. It provides in-depth information about our Pajewski and Gainowski families who resided for many years in West Prussia, Germany.
2. The second part *Our Families in America* provides in-depth information about our Pajewski, Nicolai and Gainowski families who resided for many years in Chicago.
3. The third part *Closing* wraps up with some overall thoughts, a bibliography of suggested reading, and acknowledgements.
4. The fourth part is an *Appendix* which contains transcriptions of letters to various relatives seeking information about the Jordans.
5. The fifth part is a listing of *Associated Documents* that are related to *The Pajewski/Page Story* which exist as separate documents. These include detailed address data, census data, and genealogy records, voyage records, historical family letters, and other stories or articles.

While readers may wish to initially focus on stories in their branch, for those interested in every nugget of information on the life and times, you

may wish to read the other stories to gain additional insights and find connections between them.

## Reader Tips

*The Pajewski/Page Story* has been placed on *Our Pajewski/Page Family Web Pages* and *The Gainowski Story* has been placed on *Our Gainowski Family Web Pages* for easy distribution and updates.

The home address for *Our Pajewski/Page Family Web Pages* is:  
<http://www.jordanstuff.net/ourhistory/Pajewski/index.html>

The home address for *Our Gainowski Family Web Pages* is:  
<http://www.jordanstuff.net/ourhistory/Gainowski/index.html>

### Frequency of Updates

Current stories may occasionally be updated with new information and a date tag will show the latest date of the various stories. As new stories become available they will be added. Readers may wish to check the *What's New* page to easily identify when material has been added.

### Printing

After being available for many years on-line, it was recognized that it was difficult to print the html version of our various family history web pages. To improve this situation, various sections of the html web version our family history are being made available as pdf files. These downloadable pdf files will allow preservation of our family history on our personal computers and will also allow better printing of various stories and genealogy data. Related Information

### Related Information

While it's possible to just read *The Pajewski/Page Story*, there is much companion information contained in the Topics Section on *Our Pajewski/Page Family Web Pages*. Topics include: *Address Data, Census Data, Family Overview Pages, Family Charts, Genealogy Source Records and Photos*.

### Connections

Many readers will most likely be offspring of one of the Pajewski/Page, Nicolai, or Gainowski families. It may be helpful to consult *Our Pajewski/Page Family Overview* page or *Our Gainowski Family Overview* page to figure out which family you are from and to learn some of the names and relationships. My purpose was not to create a detailed genealogy of all the offspring, so you may need to do a little research to first work your way back to a couple of original families. If you can't figure it out, drop me a line and I may be able to get you onto the right family.

The key families included in *The Pajewski/Page Story* are:

1. **The Paul Pajewski and Elizabeth Drosdowski Family:**  
Paul and Elizabeth's children are Michael (1854), Franz (1862) and Johann (1865). Their current offspring number in the hundreds. In addition, Faronica (1849) is the daughter of Elizabeth Drosdowski and a previous husband

2. **The Michael and Helen Pajewski (Page) Family:** Michael and Helen's children are Elizabeth (1888), Otto (1890), Sophia (1891), Paul (1893), Clara (1894), and Frank (1898).
3. **The Franz (Frank) and Augustine Pajewski (Page) Family:**  
Frank and Augustine's children are Anna (1890), Rosalia (1892), Helen (1894), Antonio (1898), John and Eddie.
4. **The Johann (John) and Anna Pajewski (Page) Family:**  
John and Anna's children are George (1894), Elizabeth (1895), Wilhelm (1897), Anna Rosalia (1900), Edward (1902), Frederick (1904), Anna (1905), and John (1907).
5. **Unknown Michigan Pajewski Family:** Another son or daughter of Paul and Anna Pajewski immigrated to Michigan. There is some evidence that his name was Andrew.

In addition, there is an additional Elizabeth Drosdowski descendant family via her first husband, whose surname was Rhode.

The Drosdowski descendant families included are:

6. **The Martin and Faronica (Veronica) Nicolai Family:**  
Martin and Veronica's children are Anna (1881-82), Bertha (1882-83), Minnie (1883), Elizabeth (1885), Mary (1889), and Martin (1891).

The key families included in *The Gainowski Story* are:

1. **The Joseph and Rosalia Gainowski Family:** Joseph and Rosalia's children are Anna (1871), John (1875), Rose (1879), Mary (1884), Jacob (1886), Helena (Lillian) (1888), James and Julia.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)



# Origins

## The Pajewski Branch

### Origins of Our Pajewski Family

#### **Our Earliest Known Pajewski Family**

The earliest Pajewski known at this time is Paul Pajewski, father of Michael, Franz, and Johann Pajewski. Pajewski is pronounced , pronounced *Payefskie*. Paul Pajewski married Elizabeth Drosdowski Rhode in Germany, probably West Prussia in the early 1850s after her first husband died. Paul and his wife Elizabeth were probably born between 1825 and 1835.

Paul and Elizabeth had at least three children. Michael was born 12 Sep 1854; Franz was born 12 Mar 1862; and Johann (John) was born in 1865. However, there is some recollection that there was another daughter who settled in Michigan, and there may have been another son named Andrew.

Michael, Franz, and Johann also had another sister and her name was Faronica (Veronica). She was born in 1849 and she married Martin Nicolai. When discussing the Pajewski research with my grandmother, Elizabeth Jordan, she recalled that Veronica was a half-sister and that she thought her maiden name was not Pajewski, but sounded similar to Rode, subsequently found to be Rhode. If so, this suggests that Faronica, Michael, Franz, and Johann had the same mother, Elizabeth Drosdowski, but that Faronica had a different father. Thus it is likely that Elizabeth married Paul Pajewski a year or so before the birth of Michael in September 1854.

John Pajewski said that he was orphaned when he was 7 years old. Thus both of his parents must have died by about 1872. It is not known how Paul and Elizabeth died. However, the Franco-Prussian Wars were going on around 1871 and 1872 and it is possible that Paul and Anna were affected in some way.

At the time of their deaths about 1872, Michael was 18, Franz 10, and half sister Faronica 23. If Johann was seven and put in an orphanage, Franz probably went with him. Michael and Faronica must have kept in touch since the four reconnected in Chicago in the late 1880s.

#### **Summary**

Elizabeth Drosdowski was born about 1825, probably around Marienburg, West Prussia. Her first husband's surname was Rhode and they had at least one child, Faronica in 1849. Elizabeth's husband died a few years later and Elizabeth then married Paul Pajewski. Paul and Anna had at least three children Michael (1854), Franz (1862), and Johann (1865). By 1872 both Paul and Elizabeth had died. Some of the younger children were then put in orphanages. After the youngsters were grown, one by one they left West Prussia and settled in the United States.

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## How to Pronounce Pajewski

All the offspring of John and Anna Page are through their daughters, so there isn't anyone in our known extended family named Page or Pajewski. In fact it took a number of years to discover that their previous name was Pajewski. It is possible there are some Pajewski or Page offspring of John's brothers Michael and Frank but we don't know any at this time.

I first began to suspect that the sound of the name Pajewski was very different than the way it was written when reviewing some early records. A couple of examples will illustrate. Our Michael Pajewski was written as Michael Payewsky by the 1900 Census taker. And our John Pajewski was written as John Pajevoski for the 1910 Census. While at first I thought it was a mistake, I began to realize that what the census taker wrote was what they were hearing or thought they heard from our ancestors.

To obtain more information on the sound of Pajewski, I contacted Annemarie G. Pajewski, Ph.D. of the Languages Department at Mesa Community College in Mesa, Arizona. Not only was she a language professor of German but her name was Pajewski.

Her explanation is as follows:

Phonetically in English, *Pajewski* is *P-a-y-e-f-s-k-ee*. The sounds are as follows:

- p, f, s, k is like the English p, f, s, k
- “a” as in “father”
- “j” as in “you”
- “e” as in “energy”
- “w” is pronounced as an “f”
- “i” as in English “in”.

The German spelling was “Pajevski” in which the “v” is an “f” like in “Vater” (father). When you try to pronounce the consonant cluster “ws”, while pronouncing it, it automatically turns into an “fs”. Try it. Thus phonetically *Pajewski* is pronounced as *Payefskiee*.

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## Was Our Family Name Pajewski

*The Pajewski/Page Story* presents the family history of the Pajewski (pronounced *Payefskée*) brothers, Michael, Frank and John. Michael was born in 1854, Franz in 1862 and Johann in 1865. They were all born in Germany. It is thought their father was Paul Pajewski and their mother was Elizabeth Drosdowski.

In the 1880s, all three Pajewski boys along with their half sister, Veronica and her husband immigrated to America and eventually all settled in Chicago. After they were in America a while, perhaps shortly after 1900, it is thought the three Pajewski brothers and their families began to informally use *Page* as their surname instead of *Pajewski*. However, it was not until 1926, that John Pajewski had his family's name formally changed in Superior Court to *Page*. The other brothers or their families may have formally changed their names also.

So what's the problem? Why would I ask the question if we were really Pajewskis? The problem is a quote in my genealogy notes from a conversation in the late-1970s with my Grandmother Elizabeth M. Jordan. My notes state, "Veronica's maiden name was not Pajewski but something like Rode, later found to be Rhode. She thinks the "ski" name was from adopted parents." In my dad's interview notes with her on family history, he wrote that the sister was a half-sister. Both my dad and my grandmother also stated that John Page said he was orphaned at age seven in Germany.

While I have taken the information about Veronica as a half sister with a different last name at face value and hypothesized two marriages for her mother as a result, I did not react to her statement that the Pajewski name was from adopted parents.

As I think back now, whenever my Dad or I had asked her about the former name, she was reluctant to talk about it and implied that she was always a *Page*. She had to know though that the Pajewski name is on her marriage application and marriage license. And of course there is the court documentation in 1926 for the formal name change and all the entries in the Chicago Directories, and all the baptismal records. I just figured she didn't want to talk about it. However, as I reexamine her statement "She thinks the "ski" name was from adopted parents." it got me wondering if maybe I wasn't listening and she was trying to tell us something we were missing.

Let's work through this and see if it's possible that our ancestors in this line could be named other than the Pajewski. To begin, there is significant evidence that the three brothers (Michael, Frank and John) used the name Pajewski from their arrival in Chicago in the mid-1880s until the 1920s. And it is known that John Pajewski is the same as our John Page because of the 1926 name change document.

To look at this issue in more detail, let's look at the records already collected. Frank Pajewskis and John Pajewski parents names were listed for their respective marriages in the St. Augustine Marriage Register.

These marriage records clearly state that Paul Pajewski is their father and Elizabeth Drosdowski is their mother.

There is only one other record so far that showed the father's name. This was on Michael Pajewski's 1923 Death Certificate and it was shown as Paul Pajewski. On this same document "Don't Know" was the entry for his mother's name. Michael's wife Helen provided the information, and thus it is possible she did not know.

On Frank Pajewski's 1917 Death Certificate, the entry was "Don't Know" for the name of both his father and mother. Frank's wife Augustine provided the information.

There is also only one other record so far that shows that the mother's name and that was on John Page's 1951 Death Certificate. It was shown as Anna Schmidt and "Don't Know" was the entry for his father's name. The informant was a person in Hospital Records but it was either John himself or John's son Eddie Page who provided the information. It does seem a little unusual that John and his son could provide a mother's maiden name but not the name of the father. Stranger still is a new name, Anna Schmidt that never came up before.

It was from this data that I posited that the parents of Michael, Frank and John were Paul Pajewski and Elizabeth Drosdowski, and that Ann Schmidt was a total error. Furthermore, since Veronica was a half sister with a maiden name said to be other than Pajewski and because she was born before Michael Pajewski (she 1849 and he in 1854), I concluded that she had a different father than the boys, but the same mother. And thus I posited that Elizabeth Drosdowski married a Rhode and became Elizabeth Rhode and then married Paul Pajewski and became Elizabeth Pajewski.

If one accepts Grandma Jordan's remembrance that the boys were adopted or had an adopted name then one needs to assume that there were three husbands of Elizabeth Drosdowski to make it work. The first husband would be the father of Veronica. The second husband the father of Michael, Frank and John. And the third husband would be Paul Pajewski. Given that there is only a ten-year age difference between John and Michael it is conceivable that all the boys were young enough that they adopted the hypothetical 3rd husband's name. While this might seem a stretch it is pretty similar to what happened to the Jordan family in England about the same timeframe. In that case, the older boys who were teenagers in the 1880s took on the surname (Jordan) of the man their mother married after the death of their father. Thus it is possible that the three boys (Michael, Franz and Johann) took on the Pajewski name with a presumed 3rd husband for Elizabeth and continued with it. If Johann was orphaned at age seven then it implies that Paul and Anna both died by about 1872.

If the name was adopted it may well explain their interest in using Page instead of Pajewski. For example, years later when they tried to sort out their origins from the little each knew, they may have concluded that given the difficulty in the spelling and pronunciation of Pajewski and that it wasn't their name to begin with, then they just went with a simpler

name. A key assumption in this scenario is three husbands in a short time for Elizabeth Drosdowski. While it seems a lot, it is possible given shorter life spans, disease and wars.

So what's the answer? At this time, The Pajewski/Page Story and supporting data presume Paul Pajewski and Elizabeth Drosdowski are the parents of Michael, Frank, and John and that Elizabeth and a 1st husband named Rhode are the parents of Veronica. However, a doubt has been raised and we'll need to push back a little further to clear this up.

How could we confirm the historic name? The key definitive records needed are the baptismal and birth records for Veronica, Michael, Frank and John. If found hopefully they will reveal their parents names. So far we have one town name, the birthplace for John in Melencz near Marienburg, Prussia. Someday this would be a good place to start. Hopefully the rest were born in the same general area. In addition it would be good to methodically search the records in the USA to see if there are more hints about the name and the towns in Germany where they were from. These searches include the St. Mary Cemetery, obituaries, church records for St. Boniface and St. Augustine and the passenger records for arrival into the United States.

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# The Gainowski Branch

## Origins of Our Gainowski Family

### Our Earliest Known Gainowski Family

The earliest Gainowski, phonetically Geinofskee, known at this time is Joseph Gainowski. Joseph was born March 1846 in Germany, probably West Prussia. Joseph married Rosalina Wogervodka about 1867-68, possibly 7 July 1867 in Gnojau, West Prussia, Germany. Later variants of her surname include Wogervodka, Wogerwood, Weierwood, Waywood, and Wiwot. Rosalina was born 2 Feb 1847 in Germany, probably West Prussia.

Joseph and Rosa Gainowski had at least 8 children. They were Anna born 3 Dec 1871; John born November 1875, Rose born April 1879; Mary born June 1884; Jacob born October 1886; Helena (Lillian) born April 1888, James and Julia. It is thought all were born in Germany, except Lillian who was born in Illinois. The family left Germany in late-1886 or early- 1887 and eventually settled in Chicago where they spent the rest of their lives.

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## How to Pronounce Gainowski

During the investigation of our Gainowski origins, an evolution of the spelling of their name was found. From their arrival around 1886 to about 1900 the name was generally spelled as *Gainowski*. However around the turn of the century, a few variants began appearing. For example, Anna Gainowski used *Ganowsky* on her 1893 Marriage Record to John Pajewski. Then in the 1896 Chicago Directory Joseph Gainowski was shown as *Geinewski*. Later the 1900 Census taker spelled the name as *Geinosky* and in the 1902 Chicago Directory Joseph Gainowski was shown as *Geinovski*. Years later, their children recorded Geinosky on their tombstone.

Similar to what was learned about about pronouncing *Pajewski* as *Payefskiee*. It is believed *Gainowski* was pronounced *Geinofskiee* with the “ein” sound the same as the German number one (“ein”).

Thus it appears the Gainowski family varied the spelling to attain the correct pronunciation. This is in contrast to the Page/Pajewski family who changed their surname completely.

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## Where in Germany Were They From

Many records have been searched trying to determine where in Germany the Pajewski and Gainowski families were from but so far there are only four records that reveal origin information within Germany.

One of these was *Fred Pajewski's 1924 Death Record*. On this record, Fred's father John Pajewski stated that both he and his wife Anna Gainowski were born in *Danzig, Germany*.

A second record providing location information was John Pajewski's *1926 Name Change Petition*. On this petition, John stated that he and his wife Anna were both born in *West Prussia*. Danzig was a city within West Prussia so these two records are consistent.

A third record is *John and Anna Pajewski's 1920 Census Record*. This record indicates that they and their parents were all born in *West Prussia*.

A fourth record is *John and Anna Pajewski's 1930 Census Record*. This record actually states the town where they were born.

For John, his town of birth is stated to be *Melencz, Germany*. And for Anna, her town of birth is stated to be *Muntou, Germany*.

In addition, the International Genealogical Index (IGI) indicates that Joseph Gainowski and Rosa Wogervodka were married 7 February 1847 in *Gnojau, West Prussia*.

All three of these locations, Melencz, Muntou, and Gnojua are very small towns and within a few miles of each other and slightly to the west of Marienburg, now Malbork, in northern Poland, but then in West Prussia. Marienburg (Malbork) is about 30 southeast of Danzig (Gdnask). Most likely they stated in this country they were from Danzig because it was recognizable; the same way we say we are from Chicago, even though we might live in the suburbs.

Other location information about the origins of our families are:

1. a g-granddaughter of the Soenke family indicated that the Soenkes were from *Marienburg*.
2. a g-grandson of Martin and Veronica Nicolai indicated that Martin and Veronica were married in Dortmund. Dortmund is about 30 miles south of present day Munster, Germany. Dortmund is in the western part of Germany and quite far from the area around former Danzig in West Prussia. However, Veronica was likely born in the same area as the other Pajewski's, thought to be around Marienburg.

The Gainowski, Nicolai, Pajewski, Soenke, Abend, and Pastwa families lived very near each other in Chicago at the turn of the 19th century. There were many marriages and sponsorship at each other's baptisms and weddings. Thus, it is possible that they all came from the same general area in Germany and either knew each other there or became friends here when they realized they were from the same area. That area appears to be the environs of *Marienburg, West Prussia*.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

## Were They Germans or Poles

In the beginning of my research, I was told that the Pages were German. My dad and grandmother told me they spoke German, sang German songs and had German customs. My dad told me though that they had changed their surname to Page from something else. In searching back through the records, I came across their original name, Pajewski, which they pronounced as *Payefskie*. It was a name my grandmother and her Anne sister didn't want to talk about, something part of their past. In fact when I brought it up, my grandmother suggested that "that other name" was her father's adopted name. However, as I dug into it, I found that her father John, his brother Michael and Frank used the Pajewski name from when they arrived in the 1880s until around the 1920s when they started using Page. And the Pajewski name is on all their marriage records and baptismal records, including my grandmother's. In addition, I found that my g-grandmother's name before she married John Pajewski was Anna Gainowski. Going back another generation I found that John Pajewski's mother's maiden name was [Elizabeth] *Drosdowski* and Anna's Gainowski's mother's maiden name was [Rosa] *Wogenvodka*.

I also found that Veronica, the Pajewski brother's half-sister's maiden name was Rhode and that she and the boys had a common mother, Elizabeth Drosdowski. Thus Elizabeth Drosdowski married a Rhode and then Paul Pajewski after her first husband died.

I also found that Michael Pajewski came over with a Pastwa family and eventually married a Pastwa and Frank Pajewski married into the Abend family and Veronica Rhode married Martin Nicolai.

What nationality were these families with Polish and German sounding names? John Pajewski's parents, Paul Pajewski and Elizabeth Drosdowski appear to have Polish names as do Anna Gainowski's father, Joseph Gainowski. But while the name appears to be Polish, the family claimed they were from Germany, they spoke German, sought out German Catholic parishes in Chicago, and were proud of their Germany heritage. How can this be explained?

While I hoped for a simple explanation, the more I looked into this the more complicated it got. Here is what I found.

1. First, I found that John Pajewski and Anna Gainowski were from around Marienburg, which is about 30 miles southeast of Danzig area in West Prussia. Marienburg is now Malbork and Danzig is now Gdansk and both are located in Poland. In particular John Pajewski is believed to have been born in *Melencz*, now Miloradz; Anna is believed to have been born in *Muntau*, now Matowy Wielkie; and Anna's parents Joseph and Rosa Gainowski are believed to have been married in *Gnojau*, now Gnojewo. Melencz, Muntau, and Gnojewo are all in the old District of Marienburg and all are within an approximate 5-mile circle.
2. Next I found that Prussia extended across all of Poland and well into what is now Russia. There was a great re-

arrangement of the people living there after WWI and WWII, but what is of more interest to us is what happened before 1900.

3. At the time when our families lived there, there was no Poland, but there were of course Polish people living in Prussia. Thus the records of the people living there for the 1800s all indicated they lived in Germany, although that is not Germany now.
4. Next I found that Danzig, now Gdansk, has a long history of being invaded and controlled by outsiders. Danzig was Polish since 1466, but fell to the Russians in 1734. It then became a free city in 1772 but passed to the Prussians in 1793. It was made a free city by Napoleon from 1807-1814 but then reverted to Prussia. Thus in the 1800s, the area was controlled and administered by Germany and the predominant language and customs appear to be German.
5. With further reading I came to understand that Danzig was a place where peoples from all over the world came to live and do business. I'm not sure it was exactly like the concept of Brooklyn where successive waves of immigrants settled, but there appears to be an aspect to Danzig as a free city where people of many nationalities lived.
6. Then in my reading of the parish history of St. Boniface and St. Augustine, two German parishes the Pajewski's were part of in Chicago in the late nineteenth-century; I came across the term *Kashubes*, or German speaking Poles. These were parish immigrants from Prussian dominated Poland.
7. Further researched indicated that many Kashubes were from an area about 30 miles south of Danzig, an area that both the Pajewski and Gainowski families appear to be either from. or nearby

So at this point, things are a little less confusing, but still quite confused. We have several families (Pajewski, Gainowski, and Drosdowski) with Polish sounding names but who spoke German and felt they were German culturally. In addition while they had Polish names and had adopted German culture, they were intermarrying with partners with German or Russian sounding names such as Wogenvodka, Rhode, Nicolai, Pastwa, and Abend. Given their presumed origins around Danzig, it is possible that they were *Kashubes*, or German speaking Poles, but this is not certain.

In summary, the answer to the question, were they Germans or Poles is complicated. Culturally our family was Germany and as far as we know not one of them spoke Polish, felt a Polish affinity, or talked about their Polish culture. In fact, for them it was probably natural, since there was no Poland at the time. On the other hand, some of the family lines such as Pajewski, Gainowski, and Drosdowski were probably Slavic peoples native to the land and culture that was traditionally Poland. However,

there appears to be much mingling of the peoples in Prussia (German, Polish, Russian, and numerous others), especially in the Danzig area, such that by blood our families appear to be a mixture of German and Polish, and possibly Russian before they immigrated to the United States.

An explanation for why these families with Polish sounding names culturally were German could be that by the time of their birth in the 1860s and 70s, the area had been Prussian for so long that the schools, the towns, and orientation were German and families that had been Polish had basically been assimilated. I am not certain of this but it is not so different from what happens to children of foreign-born parents in the United States. The kids just take on the identity of the United States, not the old country and generally within a single generation.

With time we'll learn more about this fascinating chapter in our families history as we confirm their towns of birth and firm up the names and origins of their parents. But until then there is much to dwell on, as it appears that our ancestors were not simply German, but instead a combination of historic German and Polish peoples and probably others by both blood and culture.

#### **File Information**

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

# Our Families in America

## Martin and Veronica Nicolai Chapters

### The Martin and Veronica Nicolai Family

Faronica Nicolai was born in December 1849 in Germany. Her mother is thought to be Elizabeth Drosdowski and her father's surname is unknown but thought to be *Rhode*. Very little is known about her childhood in Germany. Her father died shortly after she was born and her mother then married Paul Pajewski. Faronica's mother then had at least three sons and perhaps another son or daughter with Paul Pajewski. The known sons were Michael (1854), Franz (1862), and Johann (1865). Possibly the other sons name was Andrew. The name and age of the daughter is unknown. By 1872, when Faronica was in her young twenties, her mother and stepfather had died.

Faronica married Martin Nicolai about 1874 in Germany. A g-grandson of Martin and Veronica suggests the marriage took place in Dortmund, Germany as per a record found in the IGI. Martin was a year younger than Veronica and was born in November 1850 in Germany. Martin and Faronica had at least two children in Prussia. These were Anna, born 1881-82 and Bertha, born 1882-83.

In the summer of 1882, Faronica's half brother, Michael Pajewski immigrated to the United States. Perhaps he wrote her about the opportunities and that he was happy there. So in 1883, Martin and Faronica, both in their young 30s, decided to immigrate. In June, they purchased a rail ticket to take their family of four from Prussia, near Danzig to Antwerp, Belgium. In Belgium, they purchased a fare on the *Nederland* and sailed for New York. They arrived 23 June 1883 at Castle Garden on the southern end of Manhattan. Young Anna was one, Bertha was an infant and Faronica was 6 months pregnant.

After being processed at Castle Garden and getting their money exchanged, they purchased a ferry ticket from Manhattan to the New Jersey to find a train to the Midwest. Their intended destination was Michigan, which was probably the location of Faronica's half brother, Michael Pajewski. Perhaps work was slow in Michigan or Mike was ready to move on, but the Nicolais only stayed a short time. And by September the Nicolai family had moved to Wisconsin where their daughter Minnie was born in September 1883.

The Nicolai children are: Anna born 1881-82 in Prussia, Bertha born 1882-83 in Prussia, Minnie born in September 1883 in Wisconsin, Elizabeth born in October 1885 in Illinois, Mary born in June 1889 in Illinois and Martin born in December 1891 in Illinois.

The Nicolai family only stayed in Wisconsin a few years and by 1885, they had moved to Chicago. In 1900 they lived at 5041 Justine and in 1910 they lived at 1510 W. 51st in Chicago. These addresses are in the same neighborhood as her half-brothers Michael, Frank, and John Pajewski. For the 1900 Census, Martin and Veronica Nicolai lived at the

same house address as Matthew and Mary Abend. Years earlier, Veronica's half-brother Michael married Augustine Abend. Martin and Veronica were also godparents to a number of the children in the Pajewski, Abend, Pastwa, and Soenke families. These linkages suggest that the Pajewski, Gainowski, Abend, and Pastwa families knew each other in the old country or became close friends after their arrival in Chicago in the 1880s. At the same Nicolai 5041 Justine address in 1900 was the John Ruinkaretz family. This is a new family name but perhaps it is also part of an extended group of close immigrant friends that stuck together.

As follows is a transcript of a late-1977 obituary for Martin M. Nicolei, Martin and Veronica Nicolai's son born in December 1891. In the late 1800s, the spelling in the records was usually *Nicolai* or *Nicolay*, but in the early 1900s appears to have been changed to *Nicolei*. This obituary indicates the married names of Martin's three sisters.

The obituary is as follows:

#### NICOLEI

Martin M. Nicolei, beloved husband of Alice Nicolei, nee Stamp, and the late Mary Muth Nicolei; loving father of Joseph (Ellen), Raymond (Rita) and the late Harold Nicolei; dear grandfather of 10 and great-grandfather of 10; fond brother of the late brother of Minnie Becker, Elizabeth Link and Mary Russell. Funeral Monday, 9:15 a.m., from Blake-Lamb Funeral Home 4727 W. 103rd St. Oak Lawn, to St Augustine Church, 10 a.m. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. Member of St. Augustine Benevolent Society and St. Augustine Council, No. 1419, K. of C. Visitation after 5 p.m. Saturday.

#### **File Information**

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# Michael and Helen Pajewski Chapters

## The Michael and Helen Pajewski Family

Michael Pajewski was born in September 12, 1854 in Germany. His mother was Elizabeth Drosdowski and his father was Paul Pajewski. Very little is known about his childhood in Germany. His mother married Paul shortly after her first husband died in the early 1850s. Paul had a younger half-sister Faronica born in 1849 and later two brothers Franz (1862) and Johann (1865). There was also a Pajewski sister and possibly a brother Andrew. Michael's mother and father both died about 1872 when Michael was about age 18. My grandmother Elizabeth recalls seeing a picture of Michael and his younger brother Franz in German Army uniforms, suggesting they were both in the Prussian Army.

In the spring of 1882, Michael Pajewski, then a peddler in Prussia decided to immigrate to the United States. In May, he purchased a rail ticket to take him from Prussia, near Danzig to Amsterdam. In Amsterdam, he purchased a fare on the *Nemesis* and sailed for New York. He arrived 31 May 1882 at Castle Garden on the southern end of Manhattan. He was 27.

After being processed at Castle Garden and getting his money exchanged, he took a ferry ticket from Manhattan to the New Jersey to find a train to the Midwest. There is some evidence that he went to Michigan the first year, but he ultimately wound up in Chicago by 1883 if not 1882. It is believe that he settled on the near north side south of Division Street.

On the *Nemesis Manifest* above Michael Pajewski's were P. Pastna, farmer age 40, R. Pastna, female, age 20 and J. Pastna, female, age 18. It is thought that *Pastna* is actually *Pastwa*.

On May 15, 1886, Michael at age 31 married Helen Pastwa age 19 at St. Boniface Parish at the corner of Cornell and Noble in Chicago. Thus it could be that Michael traveled from Prussia with one branch of the Pastwa family and later married P. Pastwa's niece.

The Pajewski, the Gainowski, the Abend, and the Pastwa families all first settled on the near north side near St. Boniface parish and then moved south in the late 1880s to St. Augustine Parish at 50th and Laflin. The first identifiable Chicago Directory address for Michael is in 1887 at 71 Wade Street on the north side; his occupation is carpenter. He moved south to the south side of Chicago by 1888 and by 1891 Michael and family has moved to 5027 Justine.

Michael and Helen had six children. They were Elizabeth (Lizzi) born January 1888, Otto born Feb 1890, Sophia (Emma) born Aug 1891, Paul born March 1893, Clara born December 1894, and Frank born September 1898. All were born in Illinois, most likely Chicago, except Frank who was born in Michigan. The Michigan birth appears unusual especially since Michael and Helen lived at 1329 W. 49th Place in Chicago from 1894 until 1909. Perhaps they were visiting his Michigan sister when Frank was born in 1898.



Michael died 14 May 1923 in Chicago at age 68 of chronic myocarditis.  
He is buried at St. Mary Cemetery in Evergreen Park, Illinois.

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

# Frank and Augustine Pajewski Chapters

## The Frank and Augustine Pajewski Family

Franz Pajewski was born in March 15, 1862 in Germany. His mother was Elizabeth Drosdowski and his father was Paul Pajewski. Very little is known about his childhood in Germany. His mother married Paul shortly after her first husband died in the early 1850s. Paul had a younger half-sister Faronica born in 1849 and later two brothers Franz (1862) and Johann (1865). There was also a Pajewski sister and possibly a brother Andrew. Michael's mother and father both died about 1872 when Frank was about age 10. It is possible Frank also spent time in the orphanage with his younger brother John.

My grandmother Elizabeth recalls seeing a picture of Michael and his younger brother Franz in German Army uniforms, suggesting they were both in the Prussian Army.

Michael left Germany in 1884 when he was in his young 20s. This was two years after his brother Michael and a year after his half sister Veronica and husband Martin left for America. It is possible that he arrived 15 Mar 1884 on the *Donau*, but without confirming evidence it is unclear that this is our Frank Pajewski. By 1885 he had settled on the near north side and in 1887 he was living with his newly married brother, Michael and his wife at 71 Wade Street. By the 1888, though he had moved to the south side of Chicago and on November 3, 1888, Frank at age 26 married Augustine (Justina) Abend at St. Augustine at 50th Laflin in Chicago. By 1894, Frank and his family have moved to 4854 Laflin where they continue to live until 1914.

Frank and Augustine had at least five children. They were Annie born January 1890, Rosalia born January 1892, Helen (Lena) born January 1894, Antonio (Tony) born November 1898, John and Eddie.

Frank died 18 Apr 1917 in Chicago at age 55 in Chicago of pulmonary tuberculosis, which he had for four years. He is buried at St. Mary Cemetery in Evergreen Park.

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## Other Pajewski Chapters

### The Unidentified Pajewski Family

Based on the recollections of my grandmother Elizabeth, there was a Pajewski sister who lived in Michigan. Her mother was Elizabeth Drosdowski and her father was Paul Pajewski. She had an older half-sister Faronica (1849), and three brothers Michael (1854), Franz (1862) and Johann (1865). Her mother and father both died about 1872.

In the 1890s, the only Pajewskis in the Chicago Directory were Frank, Michael and John and all were thought to be our family. However, on 14 Apr 1894, a Frank Pajewski was baptized in St. Augustine Church in Chicago. He was the son of Andrew Pajewski and Anna Meier. St. Augustine is the same parish that our Frank, Michael and John resided in. It is unclear who this Andrew Pajewski is. But the coincidence of no other Chicago Pajewskis, St. Augustine, and a son named Frank appear to strongly suggest a relation with our family line. Perhaps Andrew is a brother from Michigan and there was not just a sister but also a brother in Michigan.

There are a number of possible links along the way to a Michigan presence for the family.

1. The first is that John Pajewski is known to have initially worked in Michigan, either Bay City or Saginaw as a lumberjack when he first arrived in America. Thus it is possible that he stayed with Andrew or a sister or even possibly that they traveled with them to America.
2. A second link is that Martin and Veronica Nicolai's ship manifest record for 1883 indicate they were headed for Michigan.
3. A third link is that Michael and Helen Pajewski's son Frank was born in Michigan in September 1898. This birthplace is unusual for Michael and Helen's child since they were long inhabitants of Chicago and they returned to their Chicago home shortly thereafter. One possibility is that Michael and Helen were staying with Andrew or the hypothesized sister and reciprocating Andrew's 1894 visit to Chicago.

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# John and Anna Pajewski Chapters

## The John and Anna Pajewski Family

### Johann Pajewski

Johann Pajewski was born in 1865 in Melencz, West Prussia, Germany. Melencz was just a few miles to the west of Marienburg. He did not know the exact month and day but he picked January 1st. His mother was Elizabeth Drosdowski and his father was Paul Pajewski. Very little is known about his childhood in Germany. His mother married Paul shortly after her first husband died in the early 1850s. Paul had a younger half-sister Faronica born in 1849 and later two brothers Franz (1862) and Johann (1865). There was also a Pajewski sister and possibly a brother Andrew.

Johann's mother and father both died about 1872 when young Johann was about age 7. The family recalls him saying he was in an orphanage. While he may have been in an orphanage, he must have stayed in touch with his brothers and sisters since they all reunited in the United States.

Johann left Germany for the United States in 1885 when he was about 20 years old. He arrived in New York on 9 May 1885 on the *Belgenland* from Antwerp, presumably arriving in Antwerp by taking the train from the Marienburg area of West Prussia or possibly by ship from Bremen. This was three years after his brother Michael, two years after his half-sister Veronica and her husband Martin, and a year after his brother Franz. My dad, recalls his grandfather telling him that he landed in New York and someone put a bunch of pencils in his hand and told him to sell them to make a little money. According to the *Belgenland* manifest he was headed for Chicago. This may have been for only a short time as the family also recalls that John went to Michigan to work as a lumberjack. This was thought to be in either in Bay City or Saginaw.

Based on an *October 1892 Voter Registration List*, John Pajewski lived with his brother Frank at 4854 S. Laflin in Chicago in October 1892. The same record indicates that he had lived in that precinct for 4 months and Cook 4 years in Cook County and 4 years in Illinois. Thus it appears that after his arrival in the USA he was elsewhere, probably Michigan for about 3 years until 1888.

But also around 1888, brother Michael and his family moved to the Chicago south side St. Augustine Parish, a new expanding German language parish near the Chicago Stockyards where there were plenty of work opportunities and probably cheaper land. Also in November 1888 brother Frank was married at St. Augustine's in 1888. Thus both of John Pajewski's brothers had moved to the South Side by 1888.

Thus around 1888 John Pajewski moved to Chicago and probably lived on the north side of Chicago in the St. Boniface Parish, an area where his brothers had lived for a several years but were about to move away. There is just a little data to back up the hypothesis that John did not settle in the south side neighborhood with his brother right away. First is an 1890 Chicago Directory entry for him at 354 N Carpenter which was in

the vicinity of the St. Boniface Parish. Second is the *Voter Registration List* which indicates that John did not live in proximity to his brothers before mid-1892.

Thus it appears that John stayed on the north side until about June of 1892 at which time he moved in with his brother Frank at 4854 Laffin in the south side St. Augustine Parish. It is postulated that he stayed up north four more years because he had a job there and also because it is believed that is where the Gainowski family and their daughter Anna lived. Perhaps he met Anna there or perhaps he knew the family before they each left West Prussia. It also appears the Gainowski family moved to the St. Augustine parish about 1892-3.

Of some confusion in the Chicago Directory data is that there is a John Pajewski, shoemaker, at 155 W. Division in 1887. This John Pajewski, shoemaker is shown at this address and profession for every year from 1887 to 1893 and then once again in 1900. The occupation of shoemaker is unusual for our John Pajewski and it is now believed that this was a different John Pajewski, though the name is quite uncommon.

Shortly after our John Pajewski moved to the south side of Chicago in 1892, he and his brother Frank completed their citizenship requirements. Frank became a citizen on 23 Sep 1892 and John became a citizen the following day on 24 Sep 1892. They both registered to vote on 18 Oct 1892 and they both voted in the November 1892 election, which was won by Grover Cleveland.

On 7 Feb 1893, John Pajewski and his fiancé Anna Gainowski were the marriage witnesses at St. Augustine for Matthew Abend and Maria Schneidoroski. Matthew Abend was the brother of Augustine Abend who had married John's brother Michael in 1888.

Shortly thereafter, on 29 Apr 1893, John, age 28 married Anna Gainowski, age 21 at St. Augustine Church. John then moved in with his in-laws at 1540 W. 49th Place.

### **Anna Gainowski**

Anna Gainowski was born 3 Dec 1871 in Muntau, West Prussia, Germany. Muntau was just a few miles to the west of Marienburg.. She was the daughter of Joseph and Rosalina Gainowski. Very little is known about her childhood in Germany. Her father was born in March 1846 and her mother Rosalina Wogervodka was born 7 Feb 1847. Joseph and Rosa were married about 1868 in Germany. There were 8 children: Anna (1871), John (1875), Rose (1879), Mary (1884), Jacob (1886), Helena (Lillian) (1888), James and Julia. The Gainowski family came to America in 1886/1887, first settling in a poor area in Boston. They did not like it there so they moved to Chicago. It is believed they first settled on the near north side of Chicago in St. Boniface Parish at the corner of Cornell and Noble. Later they also moved with the Pajewski, Pastwa, and Abend families to the St. Augustine Parish on the south side of Chicago. Anna married John Pajewski on 29 Apr 1893. He was 28 and she was 21. Most likely they had known each other from the old neighborhood and St. Boniface parish church in which they had both lived for about 5

years. In our photo collection, there is a copy of their engagement and wedding photograph.

### **Their Married Life**

John and Anna had 8 children. They were George Michael born 11 Jul 1894, Elizabeth Marie born 8 Dec 1895, Wilhelm Martin born 5 Feb 1897, Anna Rosalia born 28 Jul 1900, Edward Joseph born 3 Mar 1902, Frederick Joseph born 20 Mar 1904, Anna born 16 Aug 1905, and John Jr. born 11 Jan 1907.

John and Anna lived at 1540 W. 49th Place, the same address as her parents, from the time of their marriage in 1893 until 1906 when they moved to 6037 Hermitage. In 1899 though, John and Anna lived at 1329 W. 49th Street, which was the long time home of John's brother Michael. Michael was not shown at this address for either 1898 or 1899. This was somewhat of a mystery until the 1900 Census for Michael and Helen revealed that their son Frank was born in Michigan. Thus it appears that Michael and Helen may have lent their home to John and Anna about 1898/1899 while they went to Michigan, possibly for an extended stay with their Michigan sister and/or brother. John and Anna have not been found in the 1900 Census so possibly they took a turn and went to Michigan also. They did however return to Chicago by mid-year 1900 as their daughter Anna Rosalia was born in 28 Jul 1900 in Chicago.

Shortly after his marriage, John gave up his job as a shoemaker. This was probably a result of his moving to the south side of Chicago near the stockyards where there was a rapidly growing community. Both his brothers, Michael and Frank were carpenters and they probably brought their younger brother into the trade. John's first entry as a carpenter was 1895 and except for a few odd years he essentially continued with this profession for the rest of his life. One unusual entry in the 1900 Directory entry for John showed him back at 157 W. Division as a shoemaker. All I can suggest is that for some reason, carpenter jobs were unavailable and he went back to his old job for a while.

I am sure John and Anna were very happy in 1906 when they finally got their own home at 6037 Hermitage. Thirteen years living in the same building as the in-laws is a long time. John was then 41 and Anna 34 and they had 7 children. On 11 Jan 1907 their 8th child, John Jr. was born. There must have been a problem since he was baptized the same day with only one sponsor, Veronica Nicolai. John Jr. lived 14 months and died on 5 April 1908 of obstruction of the bowels.

John and Anna lived at 6037 Hermitage from 1906 through 1912. They then moved to 5950 Laflin. They stayed there through 1920, possibly 1924. By 1924 they had moved to 6204 Fairfield and lived there through at least 1930, possibly through 1938. Throughout these years, John continued to work as a carpenter.

On 26 Dec 1926, John Pajewski had his name formally changed to Page. This was done in the Superior Court of Cook County in Chicago. It appears that he and his family had informally used Page for years but had finally decided to make it official. The names were changed for John, his

wife and the adult children who were still living at home. These were sons George, William and Edward and daughter Anna. No reason was given but they may have wished to blend in with an easier name to say and spell and may have tired of the constant confusion of saying *Payefskée* and spelling it as *Pajewski* and explaining they were German and not Polish.

Anna Page died on 12 Apr 1950 at Little Company of Mary Hospital, Chicago, Illinois at age 78. Her final place of residence was 2542 W. 79th Place in Chicago. Her cause of death was cardiac failure and contributory causes were a 30 years old thyroid disease, and 4 days of bronchopneumonia.

John Page died the next year on 4 Feb 1951 at Little Company of Mary Hospital, Chicago, Illinois at age 86. His place of residence was also 2542 W. 79th Place in Chicago. His cause of death was uremia but he had chronic nephritis for 10 years and arteriosclerosis. They are both buried at St. Mary Cemetery. A picture of the gravestone is shown in the *John and Anna Pajewski/Page Photo Collection*.

Both John and Anna had their funeral masses at St. Thomas Moore and both stayed with their son, Eddie, at 2542 W. 79th Place in their last years.

My dad said John Pajewski attended my baptism and he regretted not taking a picture of me with my great-grandfather.

### **The Children**

John and Anna Page's Children were:

1. **George Pajewski:** George Pajewski was born 11 Jul 1894 at 1540 W. 49th Street, Chicago. George was a carpenter and probably worked with his dad. He married Maria Murphy 5 Sep 1936 at the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Chicago. He was 42 years old. He retired to Lakeland, Florida, possibly to a home for retired carpenters. There are no descendants.
2. **Elizabeth Pajewski:** Elizabeth Pajewski was born 8 Dec 1895 at 1540 W. 49th Street, Chicago, Illinois. Elizabeth married Herbert Arthur Jordan on 21 August 1918 at St. Raphael in Chicago. Their story is told in the *Herbert and Elizabeth Jordan Chapters of The Jordan Story*. John Pajewski/Page brought Herbert into his construction business and at one time it was called the *J/P Construction Business*. They put basements under already existing houses. John taught Herbert carpentry skills and later in life Herb started his own home contractor business. Elizabeth and Herbert had three children. Elizabeth died 9 Jul 1987 in California at age 91. The living descendants number over twenty.
3. **William Pajewski:** William Pajewski was born 5 Feb 1897 at 1540 W. 49th Street, Chicago, Illinois. William was a carpenter and probably worked with his dad. It is believed that he never married. He retired to Lincoln, Illinois, possibly to a home for retired carpenters. There are no descendants.

4. **Anna Rosa Pajewski:** Anna Rosa Pajewski, later known as Rose was born 28 Jul 1900 at 1540 W. 49th Street, Chicago, Illinois. She married Charles Grotske on 6 Nov 1923 at St. Raphael in Chicago. She was 23. They had 4 children. She died about May 1972 in Chicago at about age 72.
5. **Edward Pajewski:** Edward Pajewski was born 3 Mar 1902 at 1540 W. 49th Street, Chicago, Illinois. He was also a carpenter. He married Dorothy D' Elia on 10 May 1956 at St. Mary of Carmel in Chicago at age 54. He died 24 Sep 1962 in Chicago at age 60 and is buried at St. Mary Cemetery. There are no descendants.
6. **Frederick Pajewski:** Fred Pajewski was born 20 Mar 1904 at 1540 W. 49th Street, Chicago, Illinois. He was a young man of 20 when he fell off a building on 10 Sep 1924. He was working with his father when the accident happened.
7. **Anna Pajewski:** Anna Pajewski was born 6 Aug 1905 at 1540 W. 49th Street, Chicago, Illinois. She married Harry Ulrich 28 Apr 1928 at St. Rita Parish in Chicago. They had two children. She died 20 June 1985 at age 79.
8. **John Pajewski:** John Pajewski was born 11 Jan 1907 at 6037 South Hermitage Street, Chicago, Illinois. He died 5 Apr 1908 in Chicago at age 14 months.

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## Name Change Documents

The following documents document the formal name change from Pajewski to Page for the John and Anna Pajewski family. The change was granted on 10 Dec 1926.

There are four documents:

1. The 21 October 1926 Petition
2. The 10 December 1926 Decree
3. The 5th November 1926 Publisher's Certificate
4. The Newspaper Notice entered for three consecutive weeks from 21 Oct 1926

### Petition

Filed: Oct. 21, 1926

No: 447334

STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF COOK

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COOK COUNTY

November Term, 1926

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF SAID COURT:

Your petitioner, JOHN PAJEWSKI, respectfully shows that he is a resident of the State of Illinois, and has resided in Cook County in said state for more than six months prior to filing this petition; that he desires to change his name according to the provisions of the Statute in such case made and provided, and he now, in that behalf, respectfully shows:

That he now bears the name of JOHN PAJEWSKI and is known and called by that name; that he desires to assume the name of JOHN PAGE, by which he may be hereafter known and called.

That the place of his nativity is *West Prussia, Germany* and his age is *63* years; that he has resided in the State of Illinois for *thirty five years* last past; that he has given notice of this, his intended application, by publication in the Corporation Reporter, a newspaper published in Cook County, of general circulation, for three successive weeks, a copy of which published notice, with the certificate of the publisher thereof is hereto annexed and made a part of this petition.

That he also wishes to include his wife, ANNA PAJEWSKI, who was born *December 3rd, 1871* at *West Prussia, Germany*, and to whom he was married in *1893* at *Chicago, Illinois*; and that he wishes to include his son, GEORGE PAJEWSKI, age thirty three years; his son WILLIAM PAJEWSKI, aged twenty four years; and his son EDWARD PAJEWSKI, aged twenty three years, all bachelors; and his daughter, ANNA PAJEWSKI, aged twenty one years, spinster; all of which children live with JOHN PAJEWSKI and ANNA PAJEWSKI, their parents.

WHEREFORE, your petitioner prays, the premises being considered, that his name, the name of his wife and the name of his children be changed from its present form to PAGE, as provided by the Statute, and they hereafter be known and called by the last aforesaid name, and that he have such other or further relief in the premises, as to this Honorable Court shall seem meet, according to law.

And your petitioner will ever pray, etc.

*John Pajewski*  
Petitioner

*Joseph B. Hermes*  
Attorney for Petitioner

#### STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF COOK

JOHN M. HENIFF, being duly sworn on oath, says that he is acquainted with JOHN PAJEWSKI, the petitioner in said cause, who has signed the said petition, his wife, ANNA PAJEWSKI, his son GEORGE PAJEWSKI, his son, WILLIAM PAJEWSKI, his son EDWARD PAJEWSKI and his daughter, ANNA PAJEWSKI; that he has read the foregoing petition and knows the contents thereof, and that the same, and the matters and things stated are true.

*John M. Heinz*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of October, A. D. 1926

#### **Comments**

1. The document states that John and Anna Pajewski were born in West Prussia, Germany.
2. The document states that Anna Pajewski was born 3 Dec 1871.
3. The document states that John was 63 years old, which suggests a year of birth of 1863. This is 2 years earlier than other data indicates.
4. The document states that John Pajewski resided in Illinois for 35 years, which suggests he came to Illinois in 1890. This is two years later than other data indicates.

## Decree

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
COUNTY OF COOK

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF COOK COUNTY December Term, A. D. 1926

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
PETITION OF JOHN PAJEWSKI  
For  
CHANGE OF NAME  
John Page

#### DECREE

This cause having come on to be heard upon the petition filed herein and upon the motion of petitioner's solicitor, and the court having read the said petition, together with the affidavit appended hereto, and the certificate of publication filed herein, and it appearing that previous notice of the intended applications for a change of name was given by publishing a notice thereof in the National Corporation Reporter, a newspaper of general circulation published in the county wherein the said petitioner resides, said publication having been made for three consecutive weeks, the first insertion of which was at least six weeks prior to the first day of the December term of this court, the said notice being signed by the said petitioner and setting forth the term of this court at which the said petitioner was to be filed, together with the name sought to be assumed, and the court, being fully advised in the premises, doth find:

That all the material facts alleged in said petition are true; that the said petitioner is a resident of the State of Illinois and has resided therein continuously for a period of at least six months next preceding the December term of this court; that the condition mentioned and specified in an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled, "an Act to Revise the Law in Relation to Names" approved February 25, 1874, have been complied with; that this court has jurisdiction of the person and of the subject matter hereof; and that no reason appears why the prayer in said petition contained should not be granted.

It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed that the said petitioner's name be, and the same is, hereby changed from JOHN PAJEWSKI to JOHN PAGE and that of his wife from ANNA PAJEWSKI to ANNA PAGE; it is further ordered that the petitioner include in this petition his bachelor sons and spinster daughter who are all living with him; that their names be respectively changed from GEORGE PAJEWSKI to GEORGE PAGE, WILLIAM PAJEWSKI to WILLIAM PAGE, EDWARD PAJEWSKI to EDWARD PAGE, and ANNA PAJEWSKI to ANNA PAGE, by which last mentioned names they shall be hereafter known and called.

JUDGE  
ENTERED: DECEMBER 10, 1926

## **PUBLISHER'S CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify That the notice, a true copy of which is hereto annexed, was published in the National Corporation Reporter, a secular newspaper in general circulation, published weekly in the City of Chicago, Cook County, and State of Illinois, by THE UNITED STATES CORPORATION BUREAU, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Illinois, three times, once each week, for three successively; that the date of the first publication was the 21st day of October A. D. 1926, and the date of the last publication was the 4th day of November A. D. 1926, said paper being authorized by law as the proper medium for the publication of legal notices in said county, by virtue of "An Act to revised the law in relation to notices," approved Feb. 13, A. D. 1874, in force July 1, A. D. 1874, and declared a legal publication by the Supreme Court of Illinois in Maass v. Hess, Vol. 140, Ill. Repts., p.576: (also 3 Nat. Corp. rep., p. 383), and said The National Corporation Reporter has been regularly published for more than six (6) months prior to the fist (1st) publication of the annexed notice.

In Testimony Whereof, THE UNITED STATES CORPORATION BUREAU, the Publisher of the said The National Corporation Reporter has caused this certificate of publication to be signed by one of its officers, an authorized agent, and the corporate seal thereof to be affixed this 5th day of November A. D. 1926.

The United States Corporation Bureau

President

Fee \$9.90

Received Payment

## Newspaper Notice

Joseph B. Hermes, Att'y, 616, 160  
North La Salle Street  
State of Illinois, County of Cook

Public notice is hereby given that we have filed our petition, Gen. No. 447334, and at the December term of the Superior Court of Cook County, Illinois, to be held at the Court House in the City of Chicago, County of Cook and State of Illinois, commencing on the first Monday of December, A. D. 1926, we will make application to said Court to have our names changed from John Pajewski, Anna Pajewski, and George Pajewski, William Pajewski, Edward Pajewski, and Anna Pajewski, to John Page, Anna Page, and George Page, William Page, Edward Page, and Anna Page, respectively, pursuant to the Statute in such case made and provided. Dated Chicago, Illinois, October 21st, A. D. 1926.

JOHN PAJEWSKI,  
ANNA PAJEWSKI, and  
GEORGE PAJEWSKI,  
WILLIAM PAJEWSKI,  
EDWARD PAJEWSKI, and  
ANNA PAJEWSKI,

By John Pajewski, their father, Petitioners.  
Joseph B. Hermes, Att'y

### File Information

Master File Name: Stories\_Pajewski  
Author: Dave Jordan  
Initial Web Publication Date: about 2003  
Modified: 12/10/2012  
Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

# Joseph and Rosalia Gainowski Chapters

## The Joseph and Rosalia Gainowski Family

Joseph Gainowski was born in March 1846 in Germany. Very little is known about his years in Germany as neither his father's or mother's name are known. Joseph married Rosalina Wogervodka about 1867-68, possibly 7 July 1867 in Gnojau, West Prussia, Germany. Rosalina was born 2 Feb 1847 in Germany. Her father's name was Joseph and her mother's name was Rosa.

Rosalia Gainowski's maiden name of *Wogervodka*, possibly *Wagervodka* was found on her daughter Anna Gainowski's 1893 entry in the St. Augustine Marriage Register to John Pajewski. Other variants found were:

1. *Wogerwood* from her daughter Julia Gainowski's 1898 entry in the St. Augustine Marriage Register to Michael Pastwa,
2. *Weierwood* from her son John Gainowski's 1902 entry in the St. Augustine Marriage Register to Rosa Karaschefski,
3. *Waywood* from Rosalia Gainowski's 1933 Death Certificate, and
4. *Wiwot* from Anna Pajewski's 1950 Death Certificate.

Joseph and Rosalia's known children are Anna born 3 Dec 1871, John born Nov 1875, Rose born Apr 1879, Mary born June 1884, Jacob born Oct 1886, Helena (Lillian) born Apr 1888, James and Julia. All except Lillian were born in Germany.

According to the 1900 Census, the Gainowski family arrived in the USA in late 1886. Their daughter Anna who was born December 3, 1871 said she came over when she was 15 thus this matches pretty well with a late-1886 or an early 1887 arrival.

Family recollections suggest the reasons they left Germany were a potato famine and a job reference in Chicago by Joseph's uncle or great-uncle. It was also recalled that they first came to Boston, stayed in a poor section, didn't like it and then moved to Chicago. In 1886, Joseph was 40 and Rosa 39.

In Chicago, they initially settled on the near north side probably in St. Boniface parish, which was located at the corner of Cornell and Noble. The first clear Chicago Directory listing for Joseph is 1889 at 526 Elston. This is thought to be the same neighborhood as the Pajewski, Abend, and Pastwa families. It was in this neighborhood that their daughter Anna most likely met her husband John Pajewski.

By 1893 Joseph and Rosa and the children had moved to the south side of Chicago to a new home at 1540 W. 49th Place. This was in the St. Augustine parish, which was located at 50th and Laflin. It was also the same neighborhood that the Pajewski families and others were moving to. It was an area called *Back of the Yards* and the area provided plenty of job opportunities because of the Chicago Stockyards.

In April 1893, Joseph and Rosa's daughter married John Pajewski. John then moved into his in-laws home at 1540 W. 49th Place. John and Anna stayed at this location for thirteen years until 1906, although they probably were on a different floor, or at least I hope they were given the number of children in both families. Joseph and Rosa continued to stay after John and Anna moved out 1906.

Joseph Gainowski died on 8 Jan 1909 in the trimming room of the Mince Meat Department of Morris and Company. He was 62. He was buried at St. Mary Cemetery.

It is not known whether Rose stayed on at their home of 16 years or moved in with one of her children. The next trace of her is in 1928 at 5038 S. Marshfield. Rose died 22 Apr 1933 at 5130 S. Bishop in Chicago at age 86. She is buried in St. Mary Cemetery. Both she and Joseph have a beautiful granite marker. See the *Joseph and Rosa Gainowski Photo Collection*.

### The Children

Joseph and Rosa Gainowski's children were:

1. **Anna Gainowski:** Anna Gainowski married John Pajewski. Their story is told in the [John and Anna Pajewski Chapters](#).
2. **John Gainowski:** John Gainowski was employed as a Truck Wheeler in 1900. He married Rosa Karaschefska 29 Jan 1902 at St. Augustine church at age 26.
3. **Rose Gainowski:** Rose Gainowski was employed as a can wrapper in 1900, probably at the stockyards. Rose married Frederick Hegerich. No other information known.
4. **Mary Gainowski:** Mary Gainowski was employed as a can wrapper in 1900, probably at the stockyards. Mary married a Lynch, first name unknown. She died in Sept 1938 at age 54. She is buried at St. Mary Cemetery.
5. **Jacob Gainowski:** Jacob Gainowski married Amelia (Millie) Martin.
6. **Helena Gainowski:** Also known as Lillian Gainowski, she married August Rose. She had 8 children. They were Wilbur, Rita, Edward, Anthony, Ralph, Russell, Lorraine, and Lersey. She died in 30 November 1970 at age 82.
7. **James Gainowski:** James Gainowski married Elizabeth.
8. **Julia Gainowski:** Julia Gainowski married Michael Pastwa on 20 Sep 1898 at St. Augustine. Michael Pastwa died on 18 Mar 1911 at age 38. She then married a Goedert and they lived on a farm in Wheatstone Indiana. The *Joseph and Rosa Gainowski Photo Collection* includes photos taken at the Wheatstone farm.

### File Information

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)



## Related Families

### The Pastwa, Abend, and Soenke Families

The Pajewski, Gainowski and Nicolai families in America are intertwined with the Abend, Pastwa and Soenke families. Not only did all these families live near each other in both the St. Boniface and St. Augustine parishes, but they are also buried near each other in at St. Mary Cemetery in Evergreen Park. Examination of the records shows these families married into each other's families and that they were baptismal sponsors and marriage witnesses for each other.

Except for the 31 May 1882 *Nemesis Manifest* that showed Michael Pajewski and three members of the Pastwa family, there is no evidence to date that the families knew each other in West Prussia. However, the frequent marriages between the Pastwa, Abend, Pajewski, and Gainowski families suggests they were probably from the same general region and probably did know each other in the old country.

As follows is a listing of the relationships and interconnections found to date.

#### The Pastwa Family

On 31 May 1882, Michael Pajewski arrived in New York on the *Nemesis* with P. Pastna, a farmer, age 40, R. Pastna, female age 20 and J. Pastna, female age 18. It is believed the transcriber of the record read *Pastna* instead of *Pastva* from the handwriting. Four years later, Michael Pajewski married Helen Pastwa on 15 May 1886 in Chicago. And on 20 September 1898, Michael Pastwa married Julia Gainowski in Chicago. Julia was the sister of Anna Gainowski who had married John Pajewski on 29 Apr 1893 in Chicago.

Using other information extracted from cemetery tombstones, census records, baptismal sponsors, and marriage witnesses and notes from others, the following chart for the Pastwa family has been constructed. There may be errors but it is a start in the understanding of relationships among the various families.

#### Unknown Pastwa Parent Family

1. Michael Pastwa and Ann Hellmeister
  - a. Helen Pastwa (1866-19xx) married Michael Pajewski (1854-1923) on 15 May 1886
  - b. John Pastwa married Maria Lubowski on 15 May 1888
  - c. Anna Pastwa
  - d. Rosalia Pastwa
2. John Pastwa (1832-1907) and Elizabeth Soenke (1841-1909)
  - a. Michael Pastwa (1873-1911) married Julia Gainowski on 20 Sep 1898
  - b. Joseph Pastwa

### **The Abend Family**

In 1884, Frank Pajewski arrived in Chicago and four years later, he married Augustine Abend on 3 Nov 1888 in Chicago. And on 20 Sep 1898, Michael Pastwa married Julia Gainowski in Chicago. Julia was the sister of Anna Gainowski who had married John Pajewski on 29 Apr 1893 in Chicago.

Using other information extracted from cemetery tombstones, census records, baptismal sponsors, and marriage witnesses and notes from others, the following chart for the Abend family has been constructed. There may be errors but it is a start in the understanding of relationships among the various families.

### **Michael Abend (1822-1893) and Helen Schultz Family**

1. Martin Abend (1852-1915) and Rosalie (1863)
2. Augustine Abend (1863- 19xx) married Frank Pajewski (1862-1917) on 3 Nov 1888 in Chicago
3. Annie Abend (1866-1926) married Jacob Soenke (1861-1930) on 22 Oct 1885 in Chicago
4. Matthew Abend married Maria Schneidoroski on 7 Feb 1893 in Chicago

### **The Soenke Family**

For the 1900 Census, Joseph and Rosa Gainowski were living in the same building as Frank and Elizabeth Soenke. And for the 1920 Census, Jacob and Ann Soenke were living in the same building as John Gainowski and family. John Gainowski is a presumed son of Joseph and Rosa Gainowski

Using other information extracted from cemetery tombstones, census records, baptismal sponsors, and marriage witnesses and notes from others, the following chart for the Soenke family has been constructed. There may be errors but it is a start in the understanding of relationships among the various families.

### **Unknown Soenke Parent Family**

1. Elizabeth Soenke (1841-1909) and John Pastwa (1832- 1907)
  - a. Michael Pastwa (1873-1911) married Julia Gainowski on 20 Sep 1898
  - b. Joseph Pastwa
2. Frank Soenke (1854-19xx) married Elizabeth (surname unknown) in 1886 in Chicago
3. Jacob Soenke (1861-1930) married Annie Abend (1866-1926) on 22 Oct 1885 in Chicago

It is presumed Elizabeth, Frank and Jacob are siblings, but it is not certain. It is likely the Soenke Parent Family stayed in Germany.

## **Marriage Witnesses**

Some Marriage Witnesses among the families were:

1. For Michael Pajewski's and Helen Pastwa's 15 May 1886 wedding:  
Frank Pajewski, Jacob Bruschkowski, Anna Pastwa, Rosalia Pastwa were witnesses.
2. For John Pastwa's and Anna Luboski's 15 May 1888 wedding:  
Frank Pajewski and Anna Pastwa were witnesses.
3. For Matthew Abend's and Maria Schneidoroski's 7 Feb 1893 wedding:  
John Pajewski and Anna Gainowski were witnesses
4. For John Pajewski's and Anna Gainowski's 29 Apr 1893 wedding;  
Michael Pastwa and Julia Gainowski were witnesses.
5. For Michael Pastwa's and Julia Gainowski's 20 Sep 1898 wedding;  
Rosalia Gainowski and Joseph Pastwa were witnesses.
6. For John Gainowski's and Rosa Karaschefski's 29 Jan 1902 Wedding:  
Jac. Soenke, Carl Karaschefski, Helena Wittkowski, and Maria Jainowski were witnesses. Jac. is thought to be Jacob.

## **Baptismal Sponsors**

Some Baptismal Sponsors among the families were:

1. Martin Nicolai and Veronica Rhode Family
  - a. For Mary Veronica Nicolay (13 Jun 1889), Frank and Augustine Pajewski were the sponsors.
  - b. For Martin Nicolai (4 Dec 1891), Martin Abend and Rosa Abend were the sponsors.
2. Michael Pajewski and Helen Pastwa Family
  - a. For Elizabeth (Lizzie) Ann Paiefski (12 Jan 1888), John Pastwa and Anna Pastwa were the sponsors.
  - b. For Paul Pajewski (29 Mar 1893), Martin Nicolai and Veronica Nicolai were the sponsors.
  - c. For Clara Anna Pajewski (30 Dec 1894), Frank Pajewski and Helen Pastwa were the sponsors.
3. Frank Pajewski and Augustine Abend Family
  - a. For Ann Mary Pajewski (11 Jan 1890), Jacob Sonke and Anna Sonke (nee Abend) were the sponsors.
  - b. For Rosalie Frances Pajewski (27 Jan 1892), Martin Abend and Rosalia Abend were the sponsors.

- c. Helen (Lena) Veronica Pajewski (4 Jan 1894), Martin Nicolay and Veronica were the sponsors.
4. John Pajewski and Anna Gainowski Family
- a. For George Michael Pajewski (11 Jul 1894), Michael Pastwa and Juliana Gainowski were the sponsors.
  - b. For Elizabeth Marie Pajewski (8 Dec 1895), John Pastwa and Elizabeth Pastwa were the sponsors.
  - c. For Wilhelm Martin Pajewski (5 Feb 1897), Joseph Gainowski and Rosalia Gainowski were the sponsors.
  - d. For Anna Rosalia Pajewski (28 Jul 1900), Joseph Gainowski and Rosalia Gainowski were the sponsors.
  - e. For Edward Joseph Pajewski (3 Mar 1902), Martin Nicolai and Veronica Nicolai were the sponsors.
  - f. For Frederick Joseph Pajewski (20 Mar 1904), Frederick Hegerich and Mary Gainowski were the sponsors.
  - g. For Anna Pajewski (16 Aug 1905), James Gainowsky and Elizabeth Gainowsky were the sponsors.
  - h. For John Pajewski (11 Jan 1907), Veronica Nicolai was the sponsor.

Dates shown are birth dates. Spelling is as in the source record and may vary from actual at the time.

### **Summary**

Thus there was considerable intermarriage and friendship between the Abend, Gainowski, Nicolai, Pajewski, Pastwa and Soenke families at the turn of the 19th century. It is highly likely that they knew each other before they settled in Chicago in the 1880s. Research in West Prussia should include looking for all these family names as there appear to be many connections.

### **File Information**

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Author: Dave Jordan  
Initial Web Publication Date: 6/1/2003  
Modified: 12/10/2012  
Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

# Closing

## Why They Came

Americans are a nation of immigrants and occasionally we wonder who were my immigrant ancestors, where did they come from and why did they come. If you are in our Pajewski, Nicolai or Gainowski lines, a review of *Our Pajewski/Page Family Web Pages* or *Our Gainowski Family Web Pages* can narrow down who your immigrant ancestors were and where they were from. The question *Why Did They Come?* is a little harder since generally the answers aren't written down. Helping our plight, though, is that people generally don't move from place to place without a lot of thought and the reasons they move tend to be just a few. Below is the information that has been collected for our Pajewski, Nicolai and Gainowski families.

1. **Michael Pajewski:** Michael Pajewski arrived 31 May 1882 in New York on the *Nemesis* from Amsterdam. Michael was 27 at the time. His mother and father had died about 1872. It appears he traveled with a branch of the Pastwa family, and after a few years he married Helen Pastwa who arrived in 1885. It is not known if Michael had friends or other relatives in the United States already or if he was the family pioneer. But thus far, it was through him and some of the Pastwa family that all the rest followed. At the time, employment opportunities were weak in Prussia and there was a population abundance. It was this environment that caused a massive migration from northeast Germany in the 1880s and our Michael Pajewski, the Pastwas and the rest of the Pajewskis were part of it.
2. **Martin and Veronica Nicolai:** This family came arrived 23 June 1883 in New York on the *Nedeland* from Antwerp, about a year after her half-brother Michael arrived in the USA. Veronica's father died in the early 1850s and her mother died about 1872. Martin and Veronica were in their young 30s when they arrived with their two daughters Annie and Bertha. Veronica was also 6 months pregnant. Their intended destination was Michigan, where it is hypothesized that her brother Michael Pajewski was at the time. It is likely, Michael had written her about life and opportunities for work in the United States.
3. **Frank Pajewski:** Frank Pajewski immigrated in 1884, possibly on 15 March 1884 on the *Donau*; he was about 22 at the time. His mother and father had died about 1872. It is believed that his brother, Michael and half sister Veronica relayed the many opportunities in Michigan, Wisconsin and Chicago..
4. **John Pajewski:** Johann left Germany for the United States in 1885 when he was about 20 years old. It is believed he arrived in New York on 9 May 1885 on the *Belgenland* from Bremen, Germany. His mother and father had died about 1872. My grandmother Elizabeth recalled that he came to avoid the draft in Germany. According to the ship manifest he was headed for Chicago where his brothers Mike, Frank and half sister Veronica were. This may have been for only a

short time as the family also recalls that John went to Michigan to work as a lumberjack. This was either in Bay City or Saginaw. Around 1888, he joined his brothers and half sister in Chicago. It is possible he linked up with a sister or brother that already lived in Michigan.

5. **Joseph and Rosa Gainowski:** Joseph and Rosa and their family arrived in 1886 or early 1887. My grandmother Elizabeth thought they were farmers in Germany and that the crop had failed prompting them to come. She also recalled that Joseph had an uncle, possibly great-uncle already in Chicago that would vouch for him for employment. However, the Gainowski family immigrated first to Boston. They lived in a poor area and didn't like it. After a short while, they decided to live in Chicago. Joseph worked in the Chicago Stockyards and lived nearby.

In summary, it appears that brother Michael Pajewski and some of the Pastwa clan were the first to leave Germany. Most likely they had friends or other relatives here already as usually one doesn't pull up stakes without knowing someone on the other end. Their arrival and letters home likely prompted Martin and Veronica Nicolai to immigrate the following year, and then Frank and John Pajewski in succeeding years.

Joseph and Rosa Gainowski had an established family of seven including a number of young teenagers when they emigrated. Joseph possibly had relatives in the Chicago area who told him of opportunities. He likely came for regular work and opportunities for the children.

For all, there were economic hardships in Germany and for the older boys the military draft.

It is not known if the Gainowski family knew the Pajewski family in Germany but it does appear they lived in the same general vicinity.

### **File Information**

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Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 7/6/2003

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Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

## Bibliography

As follows is a bibliography identifying a few books that provide background about the life and times of our Pajewski and Gainowski ancestors.

1. [\*A Short Polish and Kashubian History\*](#) by Vincent Paul Drewa, Vancouver, B. C. There appear to be similarities with our Pajewski and Gainowski ancestors though it is not known if they were Kashubian.
2. Also see Wikipedia, key word: Kashubians

### File Information

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Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 12/10/2012

Modified:

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)

## Acknowledgements

Many people were instrumental in providing research, stories, recollections, letters, memorabilia, and enthusiasm for *The Pajewski/Page Story*. Without their efforts, we would not have such a comprehensive story. In particular, I would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their contributions.

1. I wish to thank Elizabeth M. Jordan (nee Pajewski/Page) and Anna Ulrich (nee Pajewski/Page) for their review of my 1977 *John and Anna Page Story*.
2. I wish to thank Claudia Jordan for her 1977 documentation of a family history discussion by Elizabeth M. Jordan and Anna Ulrich. The discussion provided wonderful family anecdotes that would have been lost without Claudia's note taking and follow-up letter.
3. I wish to thank my grandmother, Elizabeth M. Jordan for her letters to me about family remembrances.
4. I wish to thank my dad, Edward Jordan for collecting family history information from his mother.
5. I wish to thank my cousin, Ray Ulrich for his comments on *The Pajewski/Page Story*.
6. I wish to thank Sandy Evans for her input about the Soenke family, in particular he input that the Soenke's were from Marienburg. This information narrowed the area of investigation for the various families as it appears they were from the same general area.
7. I wish to thank Bob Geinosky for his input on Jacob and Amelia Gainowski
8. I wish to thank Dan Nicoiei for his input on Martin and Veronica Nicoiei.

### File Information

Master File Name: Stories\_Pajewski

Author: Dave Jordan

Initial Web Publication Date: 7/6/2003

Modified: 10/21/2005, 12/10/2012

Contact: [Dave Jordan](#)



# Appendices

## Letters

### Elizabeth M. Jordan's Letter to Dave Jordan - Dec. 29, 1977

Elizabeth Jordan sent this letter to Dave Jordan. Elizabeth's parents were John and Anna Page. Dave is her grandson.

December 29, 1977

Dear Dave and Beez,

Received your xmas card and letter and money. Thanks so much, meant to write sooner but the holidays were to much. I am fighting a cold right now.

Went to Pat's house last night. They have a beautiful new home, mountains all over, we had a turkey dinner.

You are asking for information about my parents. They spoke good english, my mother's was a little broken, good Americans, my father always voted. They were not very tall, both had dark brown hair, and both were slim. Mom died of an outward goiter, and my father died of old age, he had a bad heart I guess.

He didn't know his birthday. He celebrated it on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> we always had a party, friends and relatives came over, and lot had instruments. My father played the violin, he tried to show me how to dance the two step when I was about 10 or 11 years old.

I saw at my cousin's house, pictures of my Dad's two brothers in Germany uniforms. My dad left Germany when he was 19 years old, as he did not want to be in the army. He had two sisters here one in Michigan where he worked in the woods I guess cutting down trees.

As for food I do not know the kinds of food they liked or disliked, I never payed attention.

Oh yes on my Dad's birthday they always had a 1/4 barrel of beer.

I'm seeing double will quit now.

Love Grandma

#### Notes

1. Grandma Elizabeth Jordan sent this letter in response to a request for information about her family for my genealogy project. Elizabeth M. Jordan is David's grandmother.
2. The cousins she refers to would be the family of Michael and Frank Page Pajewski, brothers of her father. Of her father's two sisters, Veronica Nicolei was one. Nicolei was her married name. Later

Grandma told me she was a half sister. No other information has been obtained about the sister that lived in Michigan, although it suggests that when John came over, he stayed with her in Michigan when he worked as a lumberjack before moving to Chicago.

3. Spelling is as in the original letter. There are minor punctuation improvements.
- 4.

## Elizabeth M. Jordan's Letter to Dave Jordan - Feb 12, 1979

This a letter from Elizabeth Jordan to Dave Jordan. Elizabeth's parents were John and Anna Page. Dave is her grandson.

Feb 12, 1979

Dear Dave and Beez!

Just a few lines to thank you for the roots, I got in the mail the other day, it sure was exciting, uncle Chuck called me Saturday, I sure was surprised to hear his voice, I am glad he is feeling better. He told me he and aunt Francis had pictures of them, grandma Steward holding each one on her lap, but I forgot to ask, where the location of that place was. I hope they write you and thank you for all that trouble. I bet it cost a lot of money so let me know if I could help a little.

Went out to see Pat yesterday, there all fine, and Tim will be back here in June, he will be working. I guess he is happy about that, I don't think he cares much for that cold weather.

About my roots with all the ski names, I don't know them. I think one of them is my grandmother.

All for now

God Bless you

Love from

Grandma

PS. Hope you both feeling well.

### Notes

1. Grandma Elizabeth Jordan sent this letter in response to one of the early stories I put together about the Jordans. Elizabeth M. Jordan is David's grandmother.
2. Uncle Chuck is Chuck Jordan (see his letter to me about the Jordans and Knowles). Francis is Francis Hollingshead, formerly Francis Jordan. Grandma Steward is the grandmother of Herbert Arthur, Charles, Francis, Art and Edward Jordan. Her name was Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan.
3. It is unknown who has the pictures taken with Grandma Steward.
4. Elizabeth's grandmother's name on her mother's side was Gainowski.
5. Spelling is as in the original letter. There are minor punctuation improvements.

## Associated Documents

There are a number of additional documents on [Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads](#) that are available or will be shortly as pdf documents. These are listed as follows to provide an inventory.

### Additional Stories

To date there is only one companion story to *The Pajewski/Page Story* that is published separately on [Our Pajewski/Page Family Web Pages](#) but collected together at [Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads](#).

These stories and articles are available at [Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *The Pajewski/Page Story*  
File: Stories\_Pajewski.pdf  
Summary: *The Pajewski/Page Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Pajewski/Page family and our Gainowski family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.
2. *Recollections of the Pajewskis/Pages*  
File: Recollections\_Pajewski.pdf  
Summary: *Recollections of the Pajewskis/Pages* provides a collection of short anecdotes and memories of our Pajewski/Page family.
3. *The Jordan Story*  
File: Stories\_Jordan.pdf  
Summary: *The Jordan Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Jordan family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.

## Pajewski/Page Records Collections

To discover our Pajewski and Gainowski family history, much research took place and many documents were obtained. The following documents include transcriptions, organized listings, and occasionally scans of original documents that helped to define our history and develop the various stories.

Each document in its own way provides a next level of detail about what they were doing and when and where. As an example, the *Historical Pajewski/Page Family Addresses* might at first glance appear to be an uninteresting document, but perusal of the chronological addresses for each individual provides a fascinating look at where they were, what jobs they held, and how their lives changed and improved as time went along.

These documents are available at [Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *Historical Pajewski/Page Family Addresses*  
File: Addresses\_Pajewski\_Historical.pdf  
Summary: Contains chronological address listings for various families in the Pajewski/Page/Gainowski line.  
Linkages: John Pajewski married Anna Gainowski; their daughter Elizabeth Marie Pajewski married Herbert Arthur Jordan. Also contains addresses for Joseph and Rosalia Gainowski.
2. *Pajewski/Page Census Records*  
File: Addresses\_Pajewski\_Historical.pdf  
Summary: Contains census transcriptions for various families in the Pajewski/Page/Gainowski line.  
Linkages: John Pajewski married Anna Gainowski; their daughter Elizabeth Marie Pajewski married Herbert Arthur Jordan. Also contains census records for Joseph and Rosalia Gainowski.

## Additional Letters

Within the Appendix section of *The Pajewski/Page Story* there are two transcribed letters. This section contains a listing of additional letters which are available as downloadable pdf files at *Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads*.

### PDF Downloads

These letters are available at [Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. None at this time. Check back in future years.

# Memorabilia

This section contains a listing of various memorabilia which are available as downloadable pdf files at *Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads*.

## PDF Downloads

The following memorabilia items are available at [\*Pajewski/Page and Gainowski PDF Downloads\*](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. None at this time. Check back in future years.