# Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation: Establishing a Sophisticated Family Extracting/Indexing Project: Here's My Story, Part 5

After 40 years of actively pursuing genealogy, the next decade was an explosion of success in obtaining both temple and original family history findings. Consequently, it will take two postings to cover the 2010-2019 decade. However it did not happen automatically. In 2010, I had the complete digitization's of all church record of three adjacent villages in southern Poland for my maternal ancestors, but I was unable to use them. Extracting this enormous amount of material was unreasonable for me to accomplish based on my personal experiences and limitations of previously extracting Polish microfilms in 1998. From 2010 to 2012, I was frustrated that the Lord had provided me with a "golden opportunity of a life-time" to further research my Polish ancestors without undertaking expensive travel to Eastern Europe but with no easy means of extracting these digitizations accurately or in quantity. For these two years, my aspirations were in a stalemate which was frustrating to me after 40 years of actively conducting original family history. Literally, "I had my cake visible to me but I could not eat or taste it!"

#### Three 2012 Miracles: Preparations for Vast Amounts of Temple and Family History Extractions

Initially I hired a local genealogist shortly after receiving the digitizations in March 2010 but she did not have the facility to extract any better than me which was slow and unproductive. In 2012, three miracles occurred that changed the destiny of my genealogical pursuits eternally forever!

- The first miracle occurred when the director of the Littleton Family History Center encouraged me to extract all the digitized images in a linear approach because I had three adjacent villages with all of their baptismal, marriage and death records to use which could result in a thorough extended family tree by extracting all records to more fully identify all of my ancestors. However, this represented a "enormous" project that would seemingly take a lifetime of effort to complete. The second approach was the easier route of searching these records for only direct ancestors in a pedigree, vertical approach. The linear approach was what I wanted to do since the Lord had provide me with such a treasure-chest of data to extract, but I needed two other miracles before I could ever initiate such a plan. And these miracles arrived in short order once I made the decision to pursue the linear approach.
- The second miracle occurred when Roslyn and I were in Eastern Europe in May 2012 on our fifth family history trip. Our Polish genealogist taught us over a GoToMeeting videoconferencing session which I recorded as a video tutorial with "authentic" examples of how to extract old Polish church records from Latin and in distinguishing the expanded Polish alphabet to notate the extractions accurately. It was literally a step-by-step cook's tour of how to extract old church records in Latin even when manuscripts with poor legibility were encountered along the extended Polish alphabet characters which was especially cumbersome when dealing with unfamiliar Polish surnames. Roslyn was willing to self-teach herself Latin and when combined with these two Polish church record video tutorials, we were almost ready to extract/index these three extensive digitization collections. But I needed a team of American extractors who were willing to learn Latin and the Polish alphabet as well as working for fees I could afford and who were willing to work for a decade or longer! By my commitment to hire the extractors for an extended period of time with the commitment to sustain it was my first step. Hopefully this plan was sound but could I find the right personnel willing to learn Latin and the Polish alphabet to work at fees which I could afford and sustain them for years to come? This question was difficult to answer as initially I could not find willing extractors.
- The third miracle was provided from the same shift of consultants at the Littleton Family History
  Center consultants I was volunteering with. They respected my plan which made it possible to
  pursue my impossible dream of extracting these three Polish villages. Here's how it happened.
  Shortly before Roslyn and I left to teach in China for the 2012-2013 school year as part of the

Brigham Young University China Teachers Program, one of these consultants from Littleton Family History Center was hired to be an extractor who was willing to engage in extracting these massive amounts of records. Between Roslyn's tutoring this first extractor along with these two video tutorials of my Polish genealogist I had recorded, I officially had a team of one person! Below are two outstanding "how to" video tutorials that simplified how to extract (index) all the fields found in Polish Catholic records.

- 1. <a href="http://www.kuzmich4.com/Tadeusz/Training2b.mp4">http://www.kuzmich4.com/Tadeusz/Training2b.mp4</a> Extraction tutorial part 1 with Roslyn and Tadeusz
- 2. <a href="http://www.kuzmich4.com/Tadeusz/Training1b.mp4">http://www.kuzmich4.com/Tadeusz/Training1b.mp4</a> Extraction tutorial part 2 with Roslyn and Tadeusz

#### Technology to the Rescue of Organizing And Creating da Digital Extraction Project

Extracting efficiently requires an assembly line of procedures and people to make it work. The extractors were required to notate every word in every Church record into an Excel spreadsheet. Then two sets of referees were check each extracted record twice for accuracy and make necessary corrections. Then the finalized extractions needed to be inputted in GEDCOM files for submitting to FamilySearch. Fortunately, my family was very technology oriented in that my youngest son was able to design an Excel macro conversion program that would allow the extractors to type in their extractions in an Excel spreadsheet and he in turn could convert them to a GEDCOM file 100% accurate within just seconds. The result was I could take all of the extractions and could submit them to FamilySearch with the extractions typing just once since the data would never need to be retyped into a GEDCOM file for temple submission. This ensured the accuracy of entering the original extractions and in the refereeing process. My wife and my oldest son were willing to be the refereeing team that would go over all extractions twice to make sure that the original extractions were accurate and/or make corrections. My second son created a secure private cloud system with all extraction work being saved on the extractor's computer which was also automatically saved over the cloud to both my wife's, my and my oldest son computer. Thus, no data could be lost once it was saved on the extractor's computer and it was also transferred simultaneously to everybody on my extraction team seamlessly. One other benefit, all data saved would never write over a previously saved extraction. This feature is very important when working with multiple extractors living and working independently across the country in three different time zones spanning the USA.

When I returned from China in July 2013, I was very fortunate to hire more consultants from the Littleton Family History Center who were not only willing to extract but one of these consultants became my official submitter for all temple records to FamilySearch so within a year of hiring my first extractor, I was able to set up a team of six extractors. Resulting in a sophisticated hierarchy of extracting, refereeing, converting all Excel file data to GEDCOM files, maintaining a secure cloud system along with tech support on all team member computers and a submitter who would be totally responsible for submitting all approved work to FamilySearch in a timely manner every week and every month for years to come. The result was I had established an assembly line of doing extractions, finalizing and submitting all data for temple submission which processed everything through an ingenious, private cloud system. Resulting that no data was ever lost over time and always up-to-date regardless of who was extracting/refereeing/submitting the data. Needless to say I was thrilled that I was doing something with which the Lord had given me in 2010 and now I had a dedicated team accomplishing in a timely manner.

### 2015: Decision Time To Expand the Original Extraction and Avoid Copyright Issues

There was another dream that was again initiated by the same director of the Littleton family history Center. Since the extraction program was running smoothly, he suggested in 2015 that I should contact people at the RootsTech 2016 conference to find out if FamilySearch might be interested in guiding this project for submitting our finalized village submissions for possible posting online to help other people with their genealogical endeavors who had the same family roots in my three villages. At the 2016 RootsTech conference, I did meet with a beta testing team from FamilySearch who were very interested with the work

that I was doing. The reason being that I was extracting every record which gave autonomy to their beta testing in which they were using algorithms to put historical collections into a hierarchy order but only when all records were available and digitized. Their beta testing using algorithms allows computers to put individual records into families or more specifically, extended families over multiple generations. When I met with this beta testing team from FamilySearch, they wholeheartedly accepted the procedures that I had been using to extract and welcomed my extractions for future beta testing and eventual posting on the family tree as historical collections at FamilySearch. But this was only possible because I had originally signed a contract with the Catholic Church saying that I had permission to digitize their images. Had I not gotten a formal contract in writing, for our Church would not have accepted any of my extractions to be used. Important to note, the Church record images all belong to the Catholic Church and they have the copyrights but the digital data extractions all belong to me as recorded in my Excel files. One additional thing my youngest son did that was very slick was he also created an Excel macro conversion program to take all the data that was submitted to FamilySearch which is in GEDCOM file format and later reconverted the GEDCOM files back to Excel for the beta testing team at FamilySearch to continue using them in their algorithm testing along with additional temple submission information I added. So through my family's assistance, I had established not only a good extraction project but it also qualified to be used as part of the beta testing with the FamilySearch beta testing team. Since then I've learned that the church is specializing on extracting entire historical collections around the world and using them with their beta testing options through algorithms. Note: I was using cutting-edge genealogical research only because of the people who I was networking with. Namely, from the Littleton family history Center, my children implementing technology advancements along with a very dedicated team of extractors, professional genealogists in Poland and Slovenia and lastly but not last, a wife who supported my innovative efforts for 50+ years now.

## Closing Comments: The Kuzmich Family Extraction Program Successfully Implemented!

Naturally there were some rough edges in making everything work my family extraction project implemented in 2012 but when I met with the family search beta testing team in 2016, we had the bugs worked out and the work is now progressing well in time so that all of the people in these three villages through their baptismal, marriage and death records will be available at some future date to the general public as historical collections on FamilySearch's family tree. They will be displayed in Excel files and the images that the Catholic Church owns will remain unpublished so there is no violation of copyright. But the digital data will be readily available to the general public. While the original photos are copyrighted and can never displayed or published, all extractions identify where the records were photographed along with specific Church books and pages so in the future, others can verify my extraction project's accuracy and authenticity.

Again and again, if there's a magical story to share with you, it is my patriarchal blessing which provided both short and long-term hope for accomplishing both temple and original family history research. Through this divine source of inspiration, I was exercising my efforts efficiently and persistently over time by networking with people who were more experienced and smarter than me! And over time, this due process has accelerated rapidly in which I can never deny the influence of "Spirit of Elijah" and its companionship especially whenever difficult challenges occurred. Resulting that I never lost faith or hope in my dreams for establishing a spiritual family heritage for my children and their future generations.

In the next posting I will share some fantastic multimedia collections that I was obtaining at the very same time I was establishing my extraction program since 2012 to better document my family history heritage since most of my grandchildren and future generations might never take the opportunity to travel to Eastern Europe. It is a photographic extravaganza to say the least with web presentations featuring photos, videos and historical documents. Since I am the youngest person of my generations by many years, all of my personal family history stories and encounters are mainly unknown to my children and even to Roslyn because most of my extended were deceased by the time I met Roslyn. To share my family history's

multimedia among the living is what makes part 6 so special. And now through this Facebook group, I am able to share to even more of my temple and family history experiences and knowledge so conveniently with others.