

## "My Story" With "Guardian Angels," Family Assistance & I'm Never Alone!!!

Behind every successful person, there are others who have assisted that individual to greater heights than they are capable of achieving by themselves. As we go into the next decade, I would like to pay my respects to each of my "Guardian Angels" for their contributions that have made it possible to reach "Impossible Dreams" by achieving family history goals beyond my expectations and capabilities. The purpose of recognizing my "Guardian Angels" is that all of you can have potential "Guardian Angels" to guide and assist you if you take the initiative and reach outside of yourselves! These individual(s) could be family or extended family members, ward consultants for Temple & Family History, stake consultants at the Jewell Bldg. Family History Center, Church family history missionaries at 1-866-406-1830 or elsewhere. Here's how I did it after 30+ years of doing genealogy basically by myself and for myself. My story accelerates at "warp speed" once I aligned my life with the Lord's will.

### Here's "My Story Amplified!"

**Meet Wallace Carroll** is one of my two spiritual advisers. Wallace Carroll presently the Assistant Director of the Nauvoo Family History Center in Nauvoo, Illinois. In 2008 when he was the Director at the Littleton Family History Center, he alerted me that there was another person submitting temple submissions for the same remote rural villages in Poland of my paternal ancestors. On the very last day of the old IGS submission program, he emphatically sent to me the Denver Temple with my batch of names and specifically to also seek out the submitter who had also been submitting temple work for the same village as well. As the only person of my extended family, this possibility of networking with someone else in my historic villages was intriguing. When submitting my batch of names at the temple, I learned of Karen Martin and immediately contacted her by phone the very next day and my family history pursuits have never been the same.



But this relationship with Wallace Carroll has continued to blossom ever since. For example, he inspired me to structure my genealogist, Tadeusz Pilat, to digitize entire historical collections in Poland for three of my maternal ancestry village churches where my ancestors originated from with continuous records of every birth, marriage and death for the past 250+ years. Then, to extract every record from Latin Church records using the Polish alphabet through the efforts of my son, Dallin, who created Excel macros to convert Excel spreadsheet file extractions into GEDCOM seamlessly and without any retyping and/or eliminate retyping errors. And then to reconvert the GEDCOM files submitted to the temple back to Excel files for submitting them to a FamilySearch beta team using algorithms for historical collections to eventually be posted in Family Tree at FamilySearch.org. In summary, every time since 2008 when my extraction project encountered challenges, Wallace was the individual who made the difference of succeeding and in going forward with the ambitious project. Or it would have stagnated and eventually leading to the termination of the project

**Meet Karen Martin:** Director of <http://www.lemkorusyn.org/>. Karen Martin is a pioneer to Lemko genealogy in the Galicia area of Poland, Ukraine and Slovakia. The Lemkos are a subculture of people residing in the Carpathian Mountains of the most southeastern part of Poland into Western Ukraine and the

northeast corner of Slovakia. Click on the link above to view the unique Eastern European genealogical services she offers for Lemkos. To my amazement, Karen had been doing extended family history research with the training of genealogists in Poland, donating computers and money to Polish priests and in traveling extensively to Eastern Poland in search of obtain all the records of their parishes. Her 10+ years of extensive research provided me the prototype to actively emulate in beginning my own Eastern European research. She and I are actually related by marriages in Snietnica, Poland hundreds of years ago numerous times. She encouraged me to duplicate her prototype with my maternal family lines of Slovak, Slovenia and Ukrainian family history. Had it not been for her, I would have never attempted to organize and establish an original research design in Eastern Europe. Because of Karen, I was now very much aware of the power of networking not only in Eastern Europe but here in the USA resulting that I established my own Polish extraction team in 2012 based on the 2009 digitized photos provided from me by Tadeusz Pilat. But it took me three years to figure out how to successfully create my own extraction team and programs. Initially, all the extractors came from the Littleton Family History Center where I started volunteering in 2009.



**Meet Tadeusz Pilat** who is a one-of-a-kind professional genealogist who lives in Poland. In fact, he is a miracle person in my life. He has two international certifications for professional genealogists. And one of the very few Polish genealogists who is a full-time genealogist. Tadeusz definitely has the gift of tongues when he converses with priests whenever they are rigid and stern and yet, convinces them to allow him to conduct his original research beyond all of their restrictions and limitations. Without him, there would not be any digitizations of my three maternal villages currently in the FamilySearch beta testing and consequently no extraction project. He is presently working for me in other areas of Poland as well as in the Czech Republic. Again, without his V.I.P. services, my original research would have been terminated 10+ years ago. Instead I have a bright future after 50 years of research to achieve even more additional research than I can ever have imagined previously. That's how much faith I have in his work, dedication and genealogical expertise.

In addition, Tadeusz taught Roslyn how to extractor Polish church records with his two training videos recorded in videoconferencing lessons on-line from Poland to Roslyn at <http://www.kuzmich4.com/Tadeusz/Trainin2b.mp4> <http://www.kuzmich4.com/Tadeusz/Training1b.mp4> Without this instruction which served as a model all of my extractors, none of the extractors would be accurate in their work.



**Meet President Ivan Majc** is my inspiration for retaining family memories that can be shared with future generations to come. He is not only is a 360° virtual panorama professional photographer, but has fellowshipped me ever since my first visit to Slovenia in 1996 with love, compassion and inspiration to research my family history. In 2012, he traveled with Roslyn, Tadeusz and I to all of my family history roots in Poland, Ukraine and Slovenia. There he took keepsake 360° virtual panorama photos of landscapes, homesteads, churches, cemeteries and more to provide me with the photographic memories that can be shared with my progenitors forever! Click [here](#) to view 38 of his pristine photos for my family roots memories. Click on a country and these virtual photos will literally dance for you. His wife is my Slovenian genealogist who has done meticulous work for me as well and together they are an incredible team for accomplishing family research in Slovenia and its neighboring countries as Sister Majc speaks all of those languages plus German. Here is an example of President Majc and I presenting a workshop at the 2011 RootsTech Conference with additional examples of his creative photographic skills including the Frankfurt, Germany Temple. Click [here](#) to view.



**Meet John Mears** is one of two spiritual advisers with my family history endeavors. He is retired now after having been the Temple Recorder for the Denver Temple for over 20 years. He first taught me on Sunday evenings at the Littleton Family History Center in 1998 to extract from the only two Church microfilms available from my paternal villages in Poland. I was a complete failure but that didn't stop me. Years later his associations have further sparked me with a landmark decision to pursue the extraction project as "fast as possible." In 2012, Roslyn and I were seated in Brother Mear's office at the Denver Temple discussing my recent increase in temple submissions. His statement to pursue the temple submissions for all of my entire villages was epic as it kindled my interest and commitment to family history forever as I renewed his statement into direct action and *soon thereafter I hired six extractors to increase in the productivity and progress to the extraction project as fast as possible and forever!!!*



Meet dear wife, **Roslyn Kuzmich**, who has endured me for nearly 48 years of marriage thus far. She could easily have a new car every year or a remodeled home with new furniture or professionally landscaped front and backyards and all of the above if it wasn't for my annual genealogical expenses. Her faith in this work goes far beyond any possible verbal or written description. She also referees the extractions regularly with my son Rhys, so each extraction is refereed twice before being submitted to the temples through FamilySearch and to the FamilySearch beta test project for algorithm testing for their historical collection project.



Meet my daughter, Reva Kuzmich Paget, who is the blog queen in our family who teaches me how to design blogs and Facebook. Without her V.I.P. tutoring, there would be no Facebook group for the Foothills Ward. My family history blog at [www.kuzmichgenealogy.blogspot.com](http://www.kuzmichgenealogy.blogspot.com) is another example of her influence.



Meet my son, **Dallin Kuzmich**, who programmed the extracted Excel files with Excel macros for connecting the extracted data directly to temple submission. This programming feat is a miracle in itself



since there are no professional programs available to handle this exchange of digital data between Excel files and GEDCOM files which is what the temple needs for submitting temple work. Equally important, there is never a need to ever retype any extracted data because of the elimination for data being retyped, but rather reconverted to a different file formatted in seconds without any typos ever occurring. All temple submissions comes from Dallin as he tabulates and finalizes the data and sends it on to FamilySearch.



Meet my son, **Rhys Kuzmich**, who is the head extractor who coordinates and maintains/communicates all digitization assignments with the extractors so the work gets accomplished correctly. And he also heads the refereeing process with Roslyn. And when completed, Dallin submits all the extracted work to one of my extraction team members whose sole responsibility is to submit the finalized extractions directly to FamilySearch for the temple submission processing.



Meet my son, **Quinn Kuzmich**, who is cyber security administrator who created and maintains a slick, private Cloud program so all work accomplished by extractors and refereed is saved automatically to the entire extraction team instantly and seamlessly so there are absolutely no data breeches every time someone saves their work on their home computer. It goes to every workstation in the Kuzmich Family Extraction Project as well as to the Cloud without failure or lost data.



## Closing Comments

Without the networking between “Guardian Angels and my entire family’s assistance, my genealogical endeavors would be insignificant at best. In short, I could have used any excuse for doing minimal efforts when the challenges were so obviously difficult if not impossible to pursue because of the “Iron Curtain” stigmatism. I had no foreign language skills for Eastern Europe to communicate. The Internet wasn’t available until the 1990’s as “Al Gore had not yet invented it.” As a public school educator, my finances did not realistically permit me to travel to Eastern Europe five times. Nor should I be able to hire professional genealogists in Eastern Europe whose hourly rates would deter most people ASAP especially when there’s no guarantee that success would ever occur. But again, my patriarchal blessing was very backbone for my interests in family history pursuits. I had faith in Jesus Christ even as a new member in 1970 when I began family history and my “Guardian Angels” were there when I desperately needed inspiration and I never hesitated to act with them when unique opportunities arose. When a once-in-life-time video conferencing subscription with GoToMeeting as a start-up company became available to me at ultra-bargain rates, I did not hesitate to purchase it and subsequent blessings matriculated as I was able to personally communicate better world-wide both in my career and genealogy.

And above all, the Gospel is true and when you align your life with it in all you ponder, pray and live it without hesitation, the Lord will be the supreme difference-maker if you take these initial steps first. For those who don’t quite have that commitment to genealogy yet, consider the learning more about the [Five Second Rule](#) by Mel Robbins as mentioned in parts 1 and 2 of “My Story” cited below because windows of “golden opportunities” can arrive and depart rather quickly. This system of behavior is simple but not necessarily easy to implement. In my situation having “Guardian Angels” and family assistance, I was fortunate to act based on my faith and love for my ancestors. My doctorate program also was a stimulating additive for me to pursue a course of excellence instead of needing the Five Second Rule. Here are the previous motivational “My Story” postings that I have posted thus far on this Facebook group. Hope their contents can indeed be inspirational you.

- [Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation for Creating Eternal Memories: Here’s My Story, Part 7](#) - *“Let’s connect rather than evaporate over time”*: or see December 21 posting
- [Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation for Creating Eternal Memories: Here’s My Story, Part 6](#) - *“Let’s connect rather than evaporate over time”*: or see December 15 posting
- [Need Motivation for 2020 Family History New Year Resolutions With a Head Start?!!!!](#): or see December 12 posting
- [Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation: Establishing a Sophisticated Family Extracting/Indexing Project](#): Here’s My Story, Part 5: or see December 10 posting
- [The Promised Blessings of Family History](#): or see December 7 posting
- [Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation: Here’s My Story, Part 4](#) or see December 6 posting
- [Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation: Here’s My Story, Part 3](#): or see December 2 posting
- [Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation: Here’s My Story, Part 2](#): or see November 30 posting
- [Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation: Here’s My Story, Part 1](#): or see November 29 posting
- [Power and Inspiration of Elijah](#): or see November 26 posting

Good luck!