



Andrew Plowright <plowright.andrew@gmail.com>

Fwd: Lech and Genek in Argentina

Catherine Plowright <cplowrit@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 2, 2024 at 5:01 AM

To: "C.E. Plowright" <ceplowright@gmail.com>, Andrew Plowright <plowright.andrew@gmail.com>, Isobel A Plowright <iap2118@columbia.edu>

Hello all. I am forwarding you this little interchange with Krzysztof Bystram since you were interested in Bystram history. I asked him again about Witold and Aleksander Swacinski who died in Auschwitz. Still no detail, except that Witold's wife, Irena Bystram, was active in the Warsaw uprising. Irena Bystram was my grandfather's sister--so only two generations ago--and already we know next to nothing about her life and her family. With much admiration for amateur and professional historians, luv, Mum.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Krzysztof BYSTRAM** <k.bystram@skynet.be>

Date: Sun, Sep 1, 2024 at 3:02 PM

Subject: Re: Lech and Genek in Argentina

To: Catherine Plowright <cplowrit@gmail.com>

Dear Catherine,

Thank you for your quick reply.

re. Irena Swacinska - I have a monograph of all Bystrams and von Bistram by my father dates Torun 1987 and read:

"... Irena, born in Bystrampol on 1894, died in Warsaw 15.2.1964, buried in Powazki cemetery (Warsaw). Was very active in the Uprising of Warsaw in 1944 as a liaison soldier of the National Army pseudonym "Misia". She was promoted to lieutenant. >Married to Witold Swacinski a barrister, died in Auschwitz. They got a son Aleksander, who also died in Auschwitz..."

Marek J. Minakowski ([Genealogy of the Descendants of the Great Sejm](#)) writes "... born in Bystrampol on 19.8.1895 died in Warsaw 15.2.1960 buried - [Warszawa, cm. Wojskowy na Powązkach, kwatera II B 28, rząd 6, miejsce 14](#), more details in <https://www.sejm-wielki.pl/b/2.818.152>, married Witold Swacinski in 1922 (this date seems correct)

Tomasz Lenczewski (Genealogie Rodów Utytulowanych w Polsce) - "...Irena was a second lieutenant, Irena and Witold married in 1924..."

I also found that their son Aleksander died in Auschwitz in 1941 or 1942 at the age of 18 or 19 years (but don't remember the source)

As you can see not all dates are the same and they need to be checked in once more.

re. Argentina - maybe Alex knows something?

All the best to you and your family,

Krzysztof

PS. On Tuesday we leave for Gdansk via Dresden (D) and Cracow but I should have access to internet. KB

On 30/08/2024 17:06, Catherine Plowright wrote:

Hello Krzysztof. Good to hear from you. I had just been thinking about you and Linda, and how the war in Ukraine had disrupted your lives. Hope all is well with you and your family in Belgium. Little Isabelle must be in kindergarten?

I only recently learned that Leszek had accompanied my grandmother to Argentina in 1948. I do not know why they ended up in Argentina, except that it was a popular destination for Poles [Polish Argentines - Wikipedia](#). I also do not know when and how Leszek ended up in the U.K. (my father and his brother were barely on speaking terms and I don't remember this ever coming up). My father was definitely in Canada by 1959, but again, I do not know when he first arrived. Sorry--I do wish I had been more interested in all this when my parents were still alive and could have answered these questions.

I am still mystified as to why I did not know of Witold Swacinski (husband of Irena Bystram, who was born in Bystrampol and was your grandfather's as well as my grandfather's sister?) and his son Aleksander who died in Auschwitz. I imagine that the memory of it is simply unspeakable. If ever you do find any more information on the Swacinskis, I would very much like to know. It seems an important piece of history.

Back to the present. I am happy to be retired and do not miss work at all. All our family is well (though two of them just got Covid again). Chris' health is so-so, which precludes any travel. All the best to you and all the Cornelis-Bystrams, Catherine.

On Fri, Aug 30, 2024 at 9:23 AM Krzysztof BYSTRAM <k.bystram@skynet.be> wrote:

Dear Catherine,

I restarted updating the family database and have some questions regarding your father's and Lech's episode in Argentina. Do you know when and how did they get there? How long did they stay there? where? why Argentina and not another country? when did they leave for Canada and for UK? etc etc?

Any detail will be appreciated.

How are you? How is Chris health? Do you enjoy your retirement (emeritat)? Any plans to visit your cousins in Belgium? You know you are very welcome.

Warm wishes,

Krzysztof