

Project Title	Wawolnica, Poland
Project Dates	June 17 - 22, 2018
Project Lead(s)	Steven Reece
Project Description	TMF provided technical support, direction, and assistance to Studnia Pamieci and Ogrodniczy Pamieci in the complete cleaning of the Wawolnica Jewish cemetery
Participants	TMF: Steven Reece SP/OP: Teresa Klimowicz, Jan Kutnik, Piotr and Agnieszka Serwuk, plus 4 to 5 additional Polish volunteers Local middle school pupils participated for one afternoon
Partic Info	Teresa Klimowicz of Studnia Pamieci coordinated the Polish volunteers and oversaw administratively the costs of the project. TMF provided matching funds of approximately 800\$.
Partners	Studnia Pamieci and Ogrodniczy Pamieci (OP is a sub-division of Studnia Pamieci that works in Jewish cemeteries).
Lodging	Hostel Krolewska (hostel near Old Town in Lublin) http://hostelkrolewska.pl/ http://hostelkrolewska.pl/en/home/
Transportation	TMF rented a small cargo van for tool transport; Steven and Marian (one of the Polish volunteers) drove daily from Lublin to Wawolnica (about a 35-minute drive)
Educational	Teresa Klimowicz and Pawel Sygowski presented an overview of the Jewish cemetery to pupils of local middle school Tour of Jewish locations in Wawolnica lead by Pawel Sygowski Two-night seminar on the Jewish cemetery and headstone traditions in Judaism led by Professor A. Trzeciński Daily evening debriefings

Cultural	Rededicated the Jewish cemetery on last day of work (Wednesday) by a local man reaffixing a Star of David to a memorial. Steven prayed a prayer of blessing and rededication
Meetings	Met with local middle school teachers and pupils
Meaningful Outcomes	Roughly 12 volunteers worked 3 days to completely clear the cemetery of undergrowth. Upon completion of the work, Teresa Klimowicz made two significant observations. Firstly, she pondered why or what kept a team of 30 in the previous year could not do the clearing that a team of 12 accomplished in the same amount of time. Essentially, we agreed that the work in the previous year had a different focus, which was to only clear areas, where matzevot were located. Secondly, she was impressed by the outcome, stating "Efekt wow!" She was impressed by the effectiveness of the work accomplished.
Unmet expectations?	None
Unexpected issues?	The planning of two mass grave commemorations on Thursday, following the close of the project on Wednesday, influenced the pace of the work. Steven had to oversee the work of the stonemason and work with Aleks on Wednesday to prepare the sites for the commemorations on Thursday.
What we learned	Teresa Klimowicz and Ogrodniczy Pamieci are developing into a competent group/organization who can effectively tackle Jewish cemetery projects in the Lublin region. In essence, our participation is supportive and instructional. Steven thinks that we are multiplying ourselves as an organization in them. Steven needs to learn Hebrew. This became apparent when Aleks entrusted Steven for two days to supervise the work of the stonemason. The stonemason for the first time had to read and inscribe Hebrew in the stone. Had it not been for the assistance of Marian Skwara, Steven would have been unable to oversee the work of preparing the two matzevot.

Pictures	https://photos.google.com/album/AF1QipNFXcUvuK1j0JyAr9nyucoSvbmV-dmCsDhE2hQ
Participant Feedback	

Narrative:

- This was the first Jewish cemetery project of the summer in which Steven worked without anyone else from TMF. Steven functioned primarily as the on the ground director of the project, while Teresa functioned as the administrator and coordinator of the Polish volunteers.
- Teresa organized the Polish volunteers via a grant from the Ministry of Culture and with the financial assistance of TMF. TMF contributed approximately 2,000 PLN or 550\$. She recruited about 12 volunteers.
- Steven believes that working with Teresa in this manner is a good model for developing Polish leadership and multiplying others to tackle the massive need alongside of caring for 1,200 plus Jewish cemeteries.
- Connecting local activists with Jewish descendants is a long-term solution and an emerging model for caring for the Jewish cemeteries of Poland. Essentially, this model is an expression of Jewish cultural stewardship.
- On the last day, Steven met a mother and daughter from the US who were descendants of the Jewish community in Wawolnica. The daughter has come across Steven and TMF in her research. She is pursuing a master's degree. She has not followed up with Steven, but it is important to point out that TMF is being discovered and recognized for the work that it is doing by the academic community.