

We All Need “Guardian Angels” for Family History Assistance & You’ll be Never Alone: Networking Secrets and What’s Your Story (You Can Do It)?!

Behind every successful person, there are others who have assisted that individual to greater heights than they are capable of achieving by themselves. 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 mortal expectations and capabilities since 1970. The purpose of recognizing my “Guardian Angels” is that all of you can have find potential “Guardian Angels” to guide and assist you if you take the initiative and reach outside of yourselves! These individual(s) could be 1) family or extended family members, 2) ward consultants for Temple & Family History, 3) stake consultants at your local stake FamilySearch Center or in my case at the Jewell Bldg. , or 4) Church family history missionaries at 1-866-406-1830 (available 8 to 8 pm daily except Monday till 6 pm and Sunday from 3 to 8 pm MDT). Here’s how I did it after 30+ years of doing genealogy basically all by myself along with others since 1970. My story accelerates at “warp speed” once I aligned my life with the Lord’s will and started networking with others near and far. Learning from others is the key issue here.

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 2007 when he was the Director at the Littleton Family History Center, he alerted me that there was another person submitting temple submissions from 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 to 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 doing family history research, this possibility of networking with someone else in my historic villages was intriguing. When submitting my batch of names at the temple, at the Denver 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 Polish genealogist, Tadeusz Pilat, to digitize entire historical village collections in Poland and now for the Czech Republic 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 files for genealogy software apps seamlessly, without any errors and without having to do any retyping to eliminate any possible 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 2007 when my extraction project encountered challenges, Wallace was the individual who made the difference of succeeding and in going forward with this ambitious project. Or it would have stagnated and eventually leading to the termination of the project



Meet Karen Martin: Former 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. Unfortunately, she took down the previous website which would identify specific surnames in specific Lemko Rusyn villages. 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 with 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 Polish genealogist 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 FamilySearch Center where I started volunteering on a weekly basis 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 as a professional genealogist with two international certifications in genealogy: MLS, AG®. 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 unfriendly 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 54 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. Resulting that I am now creating a family history legacy project for future generations to continue after my passing to the next life.



In addition, Tadeusz taught my wife, Roslyn, how to extractor Polish church records with his two training videos recorded in videoconferencing lessons on-line from Poland to Roslyn at <https://youtu.be/F1luUujc6H0> and <https://youtu.be/4Lh0qqFSRA0>. Without this instruction which served as a model all of my team extractors, none of the extractors would be accurate in their work. Incidentally, Tadeusz was a genealogist for Karen Martin who she trained.

Meet President Ivan Majc who is my inspiration for retaining family memories in photography as a photo journalist that can be shared with future generations to come. He is not only a 360° virtual panorama professional photographer, but has fellowshiped 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 at https://kuzmich.com/KUZMICH%20360VP_SLO_POL_UKR/Kuzmich_Genealogy_Europe_Ancestors.html 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 his wife, Rosana Majc speaks all of those neighboring languages plus German. Here is an example of President Majc and I presenting a workshop at the very first **2011 RootsTech Conference** in Salt Lake City, Utah with additional examples of his creative photographic skills including the Kiev, Ukraine Temple. Click here to view at <https://foothills-family-history.org/>,

https://www.fotocommunity.com/user_photos/1556015 and
<https://www.kuzmich.com/Salt%20Lake%20City%20Virtual%20Panorama.pdf>.



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 establish the Kuzmich Family Extraction project as fast as possible and forever!!!*



Meet Roslyn Kuzmich, my wife who has endured me for 52+ 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 ever being submitted to the temples through FamilySearch and to the FamilySearch beta test project for algorithm testing for their historical collection project.



Meet Reva Kuzmich Paget, my daughter who is the social media 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 at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/358696091448653> and for my personal account at <https://www.facebook.com/john.j.kuzmich>. My family history blog at www.kuzmichgenealogy.blogspot.com is another example of her influence.



Meet Dallin Kuzmich, my son 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 ever being retyped, but

rather reconverted to a different digital file format in seconds without any typos ever occurring. All temple submissions come from Dallin as he tabulates and finalizes the data and sends it on to FamilySearch.



Meet Rhys Kuzmich, my son 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. He also is teaching my grandchildren how to extract digital church records in Poland.



Meet Quinn Kuzmich, my son 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 breaches 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.



Meet Rebecca Fields, my niece who is an Ancestry.com expert. With her expertise, she found relatives on Ancestry through DNA relationships along with common surnames and localities which has expanded my family tree considerably beyond all of my digital records discussed previously. What was so important is that she questioned some of the research like the “Perry Mason TV” show with Raymond Burr and has edited some of my family history documents for my various genealogical websites for more clarity and accuracy.



Meet Stephen Corey Hixson, last by not the least who both manages and created the Foothills Family History website with its URL located at, for those who don't have a Facebook account. It is followed by 171 people in China to Poland and Slovenia, covering 16 different time zones. Since some of my colleagues don't have Facebook accounts, I became aware of the need to create a second website with a user-friendly table of contents to hosting most of my Facebook postings at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/358696091448653>. Resulting that it is easy to peruse the 900+ postings since May 29, 2019 via a creative table of contents at <https://foothills-family-history.org/alphabetical-view> and <https://foothills-family-history.org/archive> totally independent of one being required to have a Facebook account with no easy table of contents search engine to use. Corey is a webmaster by profession as well as creating training support to benefit students and staff in education and community settings through his unique capacity to combine religiosity with science, encouraging people to grow by striving to connect with

a larger cultural plan. He is able to articulate goals that can be built into schools and industrial training systems that help people to be more productive and successful



I. Closing Comments

Without the networking between the “Guardian Angeles and my entire family’s assistance, my genealogical endeavors would be insignificant at best because each one of them has significantly motivated and encouraged to press forward particularly when challenges came up. . 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 when I started genealogical pursuits in 1970. I had no foreign language skills for Eastern Europe to communicate. The Internet wasn’t available to until the 1990’s as “Al Gore claimed that it was not yet invented it.” As a public school educator, my finances did not realistically permit me to travel to Eastern Europe five times with my entire family. 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 the 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 was available to me 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 especially with my family members living coast-to-coast from Colorado.

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 editorial contents can indeed be inspirational for you.

- [Everyone can do something positive with their family history](#): Don’t Become Discouraged Because. . . Part 2: or see January 28, 2021
- [Everyone can do something positive with their family history](#): Don’t Become Discouraged Because. . . Part 1 or see January 27, 2021 posting
- [Here’s a Dynamic Plan To Jump- Start Your Family History Pursuits](#): or see Mayh 26, 2020 posting
- [Don’t Procrastinate Your “Golden” Family History Opportunities](#): or see March 29, 2020 posting
- [Essential Therapy from the Coronavirus Situation on a “Good Hair” Day!](#): or see March 27, 2020 posting
- ["My Story" With “Guarding Angels,” Family Assistance & I’m Never Alone, Part 8!!!!](#): or see January 2, 2020 posting
- [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

Good luck with your family history pursuits and above all, don't hesitate to ever network with others because through the efforts of others, it is possible to achieve the "Impossible Dream" for learning more about your ancestors even if you don't have all the answers. Networking with others can indeed be a difference-maker as no single person knows everything but together miracles can occur!!! So start expanding your friends and networking associates/colleagues to better utilize your extended efforts as best you can. It doesn't hurt to dream and network with others who are familiar with your issues. We are all mortal and imperfect and networking worked for so successfully since 1970 when my immediate family did not openly share their family roots with so I was an absolute beginner in 1970. If I can do it, so can you. Forward March my fellow Facebook Group followers!!! Believe it or not, my networking has involved all of my children and a good number of grandchildren with extracting who also have visited their roots in Eastern Europe which helps create a strong bonding relationship with our ancestral roots.

To view the formatting of text and images better, suggest you go to <http://www.kuzmich.com/Facebook/Guardian Angels.pdf>. Click on images for a larger view. Note: all links will now work perfectly as well from this previous link.