

We of the Neibaur family have understandably placed much of our attention on the life of Alexander Neibaur—our great progenitor who was raised as an Orthodox Jew, and his wife Ellen, who courageously followed him when he found and embraced the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 2013-14, under the leadership of Grant and Barbara Neibaur and their immediate family, we learned much more—not only about Alexander, but his parents; Joseph and Rebekah Neubauer. Among other things, we discovered, from the vital records office in Koblenz, Germany, that the spelling of the family name Alexander adopted (and which we have carried forward) is the Yiddish derivation of Neubauer—and before moving on—we found at least two “Neibaurs” whose names, along with pages of testimony, were submitted to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem as being among those who were murdered in the Holocaust. In the Yad Vashem registry are pages and pages of Holocaust victims bearing our traditional family-name of “Neubauer”. May we remember them all... and never forget!

In 2015, employing the research skills of Justyna Hrabka—a Polish national, we were able to locate the cemeteries where Joseph and Rebekah and others of their children (Alexander’s siblings) are buried. Both cemeteries had been desecrated and virtually destroyed by the nazis (I refuse to use a capital letter in referring to them). Because Joseph died several years after Rebekah, he is buried near Zelona Gora, in southwest Poland. Rebekah died in Kargowa, which at one time was part of eastern Germany, now western Poland.

Following the sketchy leads of others, Justyna was able to locate the area where the cemetery would have been—a tangled, wooded area surrounded by farm fields just 2 kilometers outside Kargowa. Not long afterward She, along with MB Neibaur (the son of Bruce and Lila Neibaur and nephew of Grant and Barbara Neibaur) and their mutual friend, Peter Naguschewski, entered the woods and found remnants of the desecrated gravestones of the Jewish Cemetery.

Early in 2017, the organization in Poland which works to find lost Jewish Cemeteries and mass graves, confirmed this place to be what we believed it was and we now know that somewhere under the ground within those woods, are the graves of Rebekah Neubauer and others of the family.

An effort is now underway to confirm the borders of the Cemetery and to ultimately build a fence around it and place a simple, stone monument at its entrance. It will inform those who go there, in generations to come, that the efforts and financial contributions of the American posterity of Joseph and Rebekah Neubauer, working in concert with the Jewish Community of Poland, has rescued this sacred place from the actions of evil men, the effects of nature... and the loss of memory.

Shalom!