

WERYŃSKI

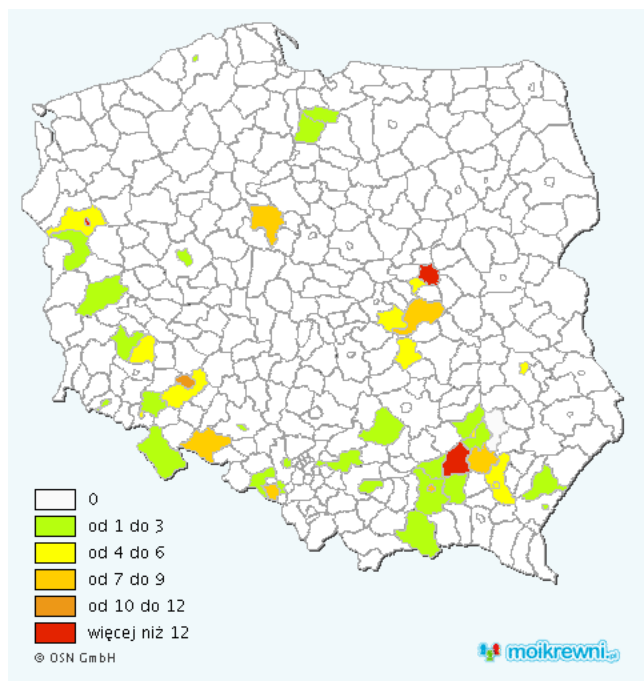
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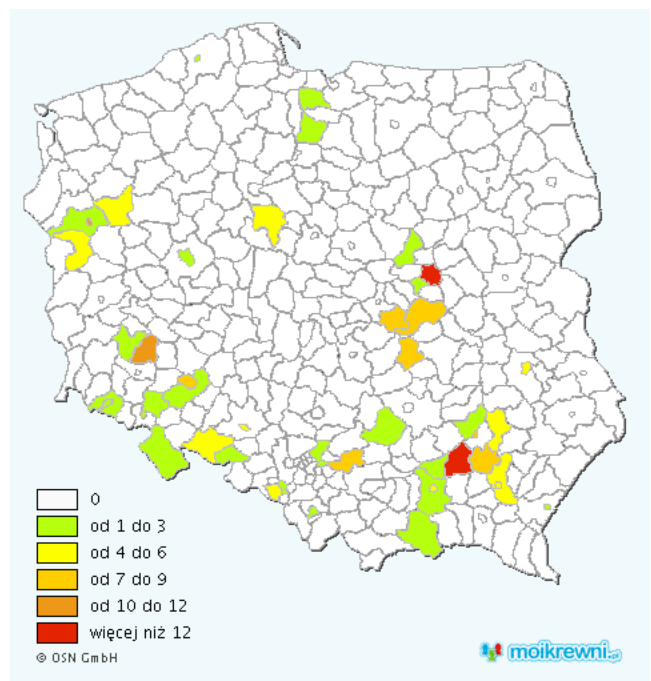
In Polish this name is spelled with an accent over the N. The masculine form, **Weryński**, is pronounced roughly "vair-INN-skee." The traditional feminine form, **Weryńska**, sounds more like "vair-INN-skah."

The data available at the Moikrewni Web site (<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/kompletny/wery%25C5%2584ski.html>) shows that as of 2002, 304 Polish citizens went by the masculine version of this name, *Weryński*, and 311 by the feminine version, *Weryńska* (<http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/kompletny/wery%25C5%2584ska.html>). The accompanying map (reproduced below) shows the name is scattered over much of Poland, with a particularly large number in the county of Mielec (113+115). The next largest numbers were in the county of Warsaw (22+21). This tells us that, as is so often the case, the surname is not so highly concentrated in one area as to provide a reliable clue where a Weryński family came from. Still, you can't help wondering if Mielec county, in Podkarpackie province, is an area worth a closer look.

Professor Rymut mentions this surname in his book *Nazwiska Polaków* [The Surnames of Poles], but it's one of the many names for which he could not pin down one specific derivation. He lumps it in under surnames from the root *War-*, which can be connected with the root seen in the verb *warzyć*, "to boil, brew." He says some names beginning *War-* might come from ancient Slavic given names beginning *Warci-* such as *Warcisław*, in which the first part means "turn, return." He also lists it under names from the root *Wer-* as in the feminine names *Wera* (= English *Vera*) and *Weronika* (= *Veronica*), or possibly some old Germanic masculine names beginning with *Wer-*. It's not hard to imagine *Weryński* as meaning "of the kin of Wera" or "one from the place of Wera," for instance. That would be consistent with the formation of numerous other Polish surnames.



Map showing the distribution of the feminine form **Weryńska** as of 2002.



Map showing the distribution of the masculine form **Weryński** as of 2002.

But there's a derivation that strikes me as particularly convincing: "one from Werynia." There is a village of some 1,500 people by that name in Kolbuszowa county of Podkarpackie province; and "one from Werynia" is certainly a plausible interpretation, especially since this surname is most common in an area not far from Werynia. I notice there is also a village called Podlesie Weryński a few kilometers east of Werynia. The name means "forest vicinity of Werynia," and it establishes that *Weryński* can be an adjectival form referring to Werynia.

This interpretation is not a certainty, by any means. One would have to trace the family history and establish that they came from that general area. If the family's roots were in, say, the Gdańsk area, "one from Werynia" is a lot harder to swallow. There are a couple of villages called Wery in north central Poland, and it's not impossible the name *Weryński* might refer to them. But given that the surname shows up most often in southeastern Poland, and there is a village named Werynia in southeastern Poland, the interpretation "one from Werynia" looks pretty good. It is possible families named *Weryński* living in other parts of Poland might have roots in the Werynia area, and moved elsewhere, thus giving rise to the name as a way of distinguishing them: "the people from Werynia."

As usual, the only way to answer any of these questions definitively is through research into the Weryński family history. Such research could establish where they came from and thus show whether a Werynia connection is plausible. I can't do that research for you. But if you trace the family's roots, I think there's a decent chance the surname does, indeed, refer to such a connection.