



# Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

JUL. / SEP. 2013 VOL. 22 No. 3

## **A Polish Presidential Assassin: The Story of Leon F. Czolgosz**

By Trina Goss Galauner

As President William McKinley reached out to shake the hand of a 27 year old, unemployed, first generation, single, Polish laborer named Fred Neiman (AKA Leon Czolgosz), the man shot the President twice in the stomach with a revolver allegedly concealed under a handkerchief draped over his hand. And that was the culmination of Leon Czolgosz's troubled life. In despair, he felt he was helping his fellow Americans fight against the hypocrisy of the Republican government. In his words he "killed the President because he was the enemy of the good people - the good working people."



Leon Czolgosz in 1898

Leon's story starts far before his natural birth. His father and mother (Pawel "Paul" Czolgosz and Maryanna Nowak) were married in Strzelce, Poland in 1867. Paul had been born in Góra, Znin and Maryanna in Zalesie near Pakosc. Paul Czolgosz was one of the youngest of 13 children born to August Czolgosz and Franciszka Zielinska. Though he was a farmer in Poznan, Paul was attracted by the promises of fortune as a laborer in the U.S. His older brother, Wojciech, had left home in 1872 and settled in Michigan. Wojciech wrote home about the abundance of jobs in Detroit. In the late winter of 1872, Paul left his wife and three small children in Poland and went to join his brother. He arrived (listed as Paul Czajkowski) aboard the SS Franklin on January 2, 1873 and set out for Michigan. Once he established himself in Detroit, he sent for his family to join him. Six months later, Maryanna, with her three children, Wladyslaw, Franciszek and Jozef, would embark on the SS Victoria bound for New York. They would arrive in New York on July 23, 1873 and make their way to Detroit, MI.

Since the 1850s, Poles from the Poznan region had been settling in Detroit. In 1872, they established their own Roman Catholic parish church called St. Albertus. The area around St. Albertus became known as "Poletown". Paul took up residence at a brick tenement house at 141 Benton St. and took a job with the city as a sewer worker. Maryanna took in laundry to help support the family. There are conflicting stories as to the date of Leon's birth. However, according to the St. Albertus Centennial book, an 1874 church book entry at St. Albertus shows "Czolkowski, Leon, son of Paul Czolkowski and Marianna Wowak, born May 28 in Detroit".

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### Welcome

If you are not already a member of the PGSGC and would like to become one and receive this quarterly newsletter (cost is \$24.00 per year), please contact Membership Chairman, Ron Kraine, at [ronkraine@aol.com](mailto:ronkraine@aol.com) for more information.





## Letter from the President

Hi and welcome back after your summer vacation. Hopefully you had an enjoyable one and are ready to get back into the swing of meetings and doing some genealogy work.

I don't know about you but it seems that the older I get the faster time flies by! But now that I think about it, I used to say the same thing back in the 1940s and 1950s when in school and summer vacations came around. Time is a precious commodity but many of us don't realize that until we're out of it. Share that time with family (and friends), be they young or old, because unfortunately we don't get the opportunity to experience "do overs".

Do the younger members of your family a favor by exposing them to genealogy. Give them a copy of your family tree, copies of old photos (with ID's on the reverse), or bring them to one of our meetings. Give them a chance to ask older relatives questions now while they can get firsthand answers. Another good icebreaker would be to ask them if they have any idea where their grandparents or great-grandparents were born. Have a map of Poland and/or Europe ready to show them with the locations marked on them. Nowadays with many children having multi cultural backgrounds, they may not even know where Poland is on a map of Europe!

In any event, I hope to see many of you at the September 3rd meeting.

John F. Szuch



2nd Lt. John F. Szuch and his helicopter at Camp Perry, OH. in September, 1961. A great summer as I got to fly VIP's in and out of Camp Perry in support of the National Rifle Matches. In addition, I got a chance to fly over to Cleveland one day and circled over my house on E. 116th and Avon. I got to wave to my Grandparents and Mother as they came out to see me.

### Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

c/o St. Mary's PNC Church

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[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/)



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## Applying for Lineage Society Membership—Part 2

By Patricia Bakaitis

I am working on getting together the necessary documentation for the applications to the Cuyahoga County Centurion Lineage Society. I decided to have our whole family apply for membership. I had hoped to get all of the documentation gathered and the applications submitted by December 31, 2012. I had obtained most of the documents but there were a few I was unable to obtain. Rather than rush and maybe incorrectly fill out, cite, or miss something, I decided to wait until 2013 to complete the project.

As it turns out, there are several things that will take a little more time to complete before I can send in the applications. The application forms are: (1) The application form, (2) a Pedigree Chart, (3) and Ascent Chart, and (4) a Documentation List.

While filling out the application form, I found I needed to get everyone's signature. I now will need to send the form to my daughter for her signature, as she lives out of state. In addition, before I mail in the applications, everyone needs to become a member of one of the sponsoring genealogy groups. I filled out the Pedigree Chart and the Ascent Chart. I also have to research how to correctly submit the paperwork needed by my children for both of their ancestors who are eligible for membership. This is because the lineage is the same until it reaches their grandparents. It sound like I do not have to write everything in the second Ascent Chart but just submit the additional data where it branches off to the other family members. I will write out the Document List. I have about 15-20 documents for each application and have them numbered starting with the applicant's birth certificate as #1.

Most of my data, or proof, is considered primary evidence such as vital statistics, government records and church records. Other data is considered secondary evidence such as newspaper clippings or letters. One example of secondary evidence is a letter that is in my possession which was written by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. This was used as proof of my father's birth, for the Social Security Departement. It states his name as it appears on the 1910 census. He also had reversed his given first and middle names from Harold Augustus to Augustus Harold. This letter gives reference to him as Augustus H. and states he is listed in the census as Harold, the son of T. E. and Harriet Wilson. I hope this will prove that he was known by both these names. I have another pice of secondary evidence, a notice that was put into a legal newspaper. My mother-in-law's famiy had decided to shorten the name Przybyszewski to Pryber to make it easier to pronounce. There is a copy of the notice in a legal newspaper. I have been unable to find any legal documents to use as primary evidence of the name change and hope this secondary evidence will suffice as proof.

The documents I had already collected needed to be cited so I concentrated on doing so. I used a handout, which I received at a workshop, that showed several examples on how to cite documents. I hope I have correctly completed the task. As I collect the remaining documents it should be easier to write the citations.

I found there are a few documents written in Polish and one in Latin. One was translated but the others need to be done. I have someone who is willing to help me with this task. I will ask that all the papers be translated because the translator needs to sign (and date) the translations stating that this is a "true translation". This had not been done by the person who gave me the papers.

The last two things I will do is write the name and address of the applicant on the back of each document and chart and make copies of all the papers so I know what I submitted in case I have to correct anything.


So I will write one more time and let you know how I fared on my quest. Hopefully, I am following the rules and will be done soon.



## Descriptive Book of Thieves, 1920....Cecil A. Petrovski

By Trina Goss Galauner

NO.	20483
NAME	Cecil A. Petrovski
ALIAS	John Crisby - Cabbage
RESIDENCE	1647 E. 38th St
AGE	19
HEIGHT	5' 8 3/4
WEIGHT	135
COMPLEXION	Light
EYES	L. Yellow Blue
HAIR	Red Chestnut
WHERE BORN	Russia
DECENT	Polish
OCCUPATION	Laborer
CRIMINALITY	
CHARGE	Assault to Rob
DATE OF ARREST	Nov 23-1920
ARRESTED BY	
REMARKS	Name as #20482



Arrest record of Cecil A. Petrovski from Cleveland Police Department's Descriptive Book of Thieves

The Descriptive Book of Thieves was compiled by the Cleveland Police Criminal Investigation Bureau as a crime fighting tool. The books were used by the police and the victims of a crime to try and identify the perpetrator. One lucky Polish man named Cecil A. Petrovski (Piotrowski) found himself an entry in the 1920 book.

Petrovski AKA John Crisby or "Cabbage" was arrested on November 23, 1920 and charged with assault to rob. He and a friend named Louis F. Hueber allegedly assaulted a man with a black jack with the intent to rob him. What reason could this young 19-year old have to rob? Let's dig into his family history.

Cecil is the son of Stephen Piotrowski and Stanislawa Piekarski and lives at 1647 E. 38th St. He also lives with 3 siblings, Helen, 19, Katherine, 13 and Pauline, 8. His actual birth name is Czeslaw and he was born in Moszich, Plock, Poland July 12, 1902. He immigrated to the U.S. via the SS Moltke on October 2, 1908 with his mother and 2 sisters, Helena and Kasmira. They went to their father, Stephen, in Pittsburgh. Soon after, they moved to Ohio.

Previous to Cecil's arrest, his sister Helen had just been married July 19, 1920 to Christian Sherbinski. Strangely, she would later marry Sherbinski again on February 26, 1925. Records indicate

they had both been married once before. It appears they possibly divorced and remarried each other a second time. Cecil's father died of myocarditis due to an asthmatic condition in March 1930.

It appears Cecil didn't spend much if any time in prison. He completed 2 years of high school and became a skilled metal worker and heat treater. Cecil obtained a job at Cleveland Pneumatic and in 1942 he was enlisted in the U.S. Army and became a Warrant Officer due to his skills. He died unexpectedly of natural causes after acute bronchitis on July 16, 1944. He spent 10 days in the Warrensville Infirmary before he died. He was just 42 years old. His sister, Helen Sherbinski, would die of colon cancer in March 1951 and his mother, Stella, would die of heart failure in August 1951.

So despite Cecil's early thieving, it appears he became a hard-working member of society. Perhaps he ran around with the wrong crowd or his poor family was having a hard time making ends meet in 1920 so he resorted to theft. We will never know the exact reason.



Pages from the Descriptive Book of Thieves on display at the Cleveland Police Museum

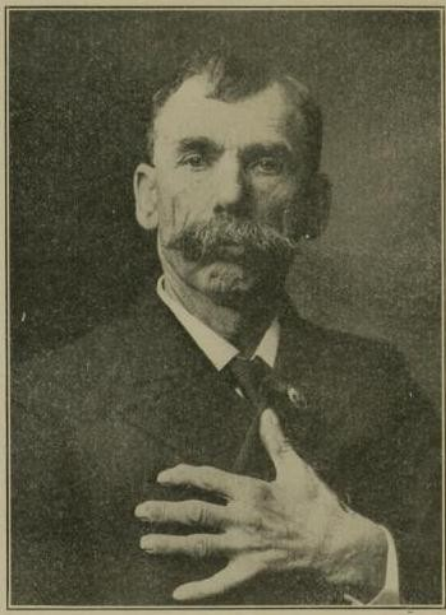


*A Polish Presidential Assassin continued from page 1.....*

In 1874, Paul moved the family to Rogers City, MI where a new settlement had begun but the politics and violence in Rogers City forced him to move to Alpena about six months later. In Alpena, Paul obtained work on the docks shipping lumber and worked for Gilchrist Lumber Mill. Accustomed to farming, Paul bought a farm in Posen, MI and the family seemed to bounce back and forth between Posen and Alpena. Paul was able to purchase some land and build a house on Sable Street in Alpena. Children Celia, Jacob and John were born there. Leon went to Polish parochial school in Alpena (likely St. Bernard's Parish) then later attended public school. He was considered a high achiever.

Back at the farm in Posen, Michael was born and then Victoria. But tragedy would strike the Czolgosz family when Leon's mother dies shortly after the birth of Victoria in 1883. With so many young children, Paul likely enlisted the help of his brother Wojciech (also a farmer living in Posen, MI) until he was able to find another wife. Then in 1886, he married his 2nd wife, Katrin Metzfaltr (or Marfold) in Alpena. Intent on pursuing the American dream, Paul hears of work at the Philadelphia Diamond Chemical Works and uproots his family and moves to Natrona, PA in 1886. Leon doesn't continue his schooling and takes a job at a glass factory in Natrona presumably to help support the family. But the family would

only be in Natrona for a year and nine months. Paul decides to move again and this time it's to Cleveland, OH.



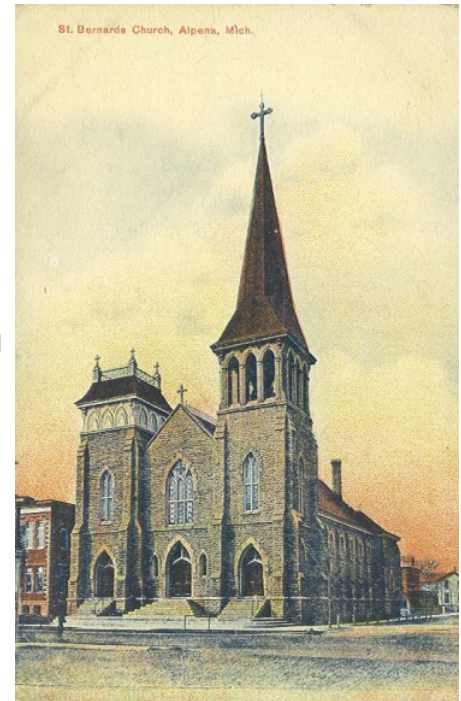
Paul Czolgosz about 1902

In 1892, Paul bought a house and lot on the corner of Tod and Third Ave. and eventually opened a saloon. In the meantime, Leon took a job at the Newburg Wire Mill as a wirewinder. He and his brother, Waldeck, were laid off during the strike in 1893 and this greatly affected him. The brothers turned to their church but found no solace. Leon applied for rehire at the mills under the alias Fred C. Neiman and was hired. At this time, Leon's beliefs began to change and he lost his faith. His fellow workers elected him to The Order of the Knights of the Golden Eagle Society, a fraternal organization established in 1873 in Baltimore that provided assistance for its members in finding employment, as well as relief during sickness or death and provisions for widows. It was a social group with high moral and patriotic standards and anti Catholic. Leon also sought out Socialist friends. Paul had allowed an organization called the Polish Socialist Labor party or "Sila" to hold meetings in the hall upstairs from his bar. Leon, along with his brother-in-law Waldeck Bandowski, decided to join the organization which had about 13 members including activist Anton Zwolinski. Zwolinski's socialistic teachings seemed to lean toward anarchism. Bandowski also served as secretary to the organization.

Paul attended some meetings but was not interested in the politics. However, Leon was very intrigued.

Paul's saloon was a losing proposition so he closed it down about eight months later. He then went back to work as a laborer and a year later, with the help of Councilman Springborn, orchestrated a trade of the property in order to buy a farm in Orange Township. Leon remained in the city and continued at the wire mill.

In 1895, Albert Dreyer took ownership of the bar on Tod and Third. Leon spent a lot of time at Dreyer's bar and could usually be found there sitting alone in a corner reading newspapers. He had little care for what went on around him once refusing to defend his younger brother who had gotten into a fight outside the saloon. People that knew him thought he



Postcard of St. Bernard's Church in Alpena



was a strange character, dull and unintelligent. On the contrary, Leon was well liked at his job at the mill, earned a respectable wage and even attended night school at Union Street School for a few months.

But in 1898, Leon suffered a mental breakdown of which the exact details are unknown. He suddenly quit his job at the mill citing poor health. He was plagued by "catarrhal" which is inflammation of the mucous membranes in one of the airways or cavities of the body. He had a chronic cough with phlegm and was often extremely tired. His symptoms were typical of respiratory illness. He consulted several physicians and received multiple types of treatment including pills and elixirs. Apparently, Leon also used some type of breathing apparatus or inhaler.

Leon applied for disability benefits from the Golden Eagle Society and took up residence at his family's farm which Paul had now sold to Leon and his brothers, Waldeck, Jacob and John. Leon spent his days reading, eating and sleeping. His step-mother would nag him to help out around the farm but Leon refused and they often fought. Leon felt he needed to get away.

On May 5, 1901, anarchist Emma Goldman came to Cleveland and delivered a speech at Memorial Hall regarding "The Modern Phases of Anarchism" and "The Cause and Effect of Vice". Leon attended and was deeply moved by her words. Plus, the Socialist organization he belonged to fell apart and Leon was looking for a place to belong. He began to seek out anarchist groups.

During the summer of 1901, Leon asked his family for cash for his share of the farm and said he was going out west for his health. In reality, Leon was going to Chicago to meet Emma Goldman. From there he would come back to Cleveland, then travel to Buffalo and back to Cleveland again, to Chicago and then finally back to Buffalo in late August. All along the way he would meet with anarchists, listen to anarchist speeches and read anarchist literature. While in Chicago, he read about the Pan American Exposition to be held in Buffalo and that President McKinley would be there.



Revolver used by Leon and the burned handkerchief that concealed it

Arriving in Buffalo on August 31st, Leon took up residence in the Polish home of John Nowak. For the next few days, he came and went and the family assumed he was a visitor to the fair. The day before the President was to arrive in Buffalo, Leon made up his mind. As people were gathering and chatting about the arrival of the President and the great leader that he was, Leon was haunted by thoughts of Emma Goldman's words "under the galling yoke of government.....it is impossible for the individual to work out his own career as he could wish.....some men were so constituted that they were unable to stand idly by and see the wrongs that were being endured by their fellow mortals." Leon viewed himself as the hero in her words. That day he walked into Walbridge's Hardware Store on Main Street in Buffalo and purchased a .32-caliber Iver Johnson revolver.

On September 5th as the President arrived, Leon thought to shoot him then but did not find the right opportunity. Then on September 6th, President McKinley was to greet the public at the Temple of Music. Here Leon would complete his task.

Leon's mental state at the time he shot the president was of hopelessness. He was bothered by the current labor environment in America, the labor strikes and unfair treatment of workers, upset by the American government's actions in the Phillipine Islands and burdened by ill health where he did not think he had long to live. In his despair, he felt he needed to do something to help the American people.

When the news came out that Leon Czolgosz had shot the President and he was of Polish decent, it sent a ripple through Polish American communities especially of Cleveland and Detroit. Poles in both cities adamantly denounced his act. There was even a delegate assigned to prove Leon was not of Polish descent but Russian. To his family, Leon brought shame and



embarrassment. His family showed very little emotion toward Leon and his fate. When his father, brother Waldeck and youngest sister Victoria went to visit him in prison in Buffalo they pleaded with him to know who coerced him into doing this terrible thing. Leon staunchly insisted it was his own idea and he acted alone. With that they left him. Leon would suffer the consequences of his deed.

Signed confession of Leon Czolgosz

Leon's trial lasted only eight and a half hours and he had virtually no defense as there wasn't a lawyer willing to take his case. In his confession Leon said "I killed President McKinley because I done my duty. I didn't believe that one man should have so much service and another man should have none."

Just before his execution, Leon's brother Waldeck and brother-in-law, Bandowski, visited him one last time. Again, Waldeck tried to press him as to who put him up to the deed. Leon insisted there was no one.

On October 29, 1901, Leon was put to death in the electric chair. His last words were "I killed the President for the good of the laboring people, the good people. I am not sorry for my crime but I am sorry I can't see my father."

#### Notes:

Many sources and family members claim Mary immigrated in May 1873 and was pregnant with Leon when she arrived. However, her passenger arrival record date of July 23, 1873 and the church baptismal record for Leon in May 1874 prove that information false.

Interestingly, St. Bernard's parish in Alpena was founded in 1866 and the first stone structure was built in 1880. In 1883, the parish split and the Poles from the congregation formed St. Mary's parish. Leon likely went to school at St. Bernard's but possibly switched over to St. Mary's or reverted to public school after the division. Church school records of that time are very scant and no record of Leon attending parochial school has ever been found.

Family stories reported in newspapers and interviews often conflict as to where the family lived and when they lived there. It seems that Paul may have kept dual residences in the country on the farm and in the city both in Michigan and in Ohio. He may have worked in the city during the winter months when the farm was dormant. City directories show different addresses the family lived at but they may have only been renters.

The subject of Leon's mental status throughout his life and at the time he shot the President has been studied extensively. An autopsy of his brain showed no outward signs of mental disease as it was known in 1901. Leon's family claims his mother's sister, Anna, went insane. And Leon's maternal grandmother died at a young age of a blood disease. Likely, Leon's mental state was a product of the environment he was raised in and the societal pressures he endured.

The Czolgosz surname was misspelled many different ways in newspapers, vital records, documents and census records which include but are not limited to Czolgasz, Czolcholski, Chowgotch, Chaugufski, Chogush, Czolkowski, Chandgas, Czolgas, Czaikowski, Zarrgush and Zolzowski.

#### **FURTHER READING**

*Detroit's Oldest Polish Parish: St. Albertus 1872-1973 Centennial*

*The Manner of Man That Kills* by Lloyd Vernon Briggs

*The President and the Assassin* by Scott Miller

*The Mental Status of Czolgosz, the assassin of President McKinley* by Walter Channing

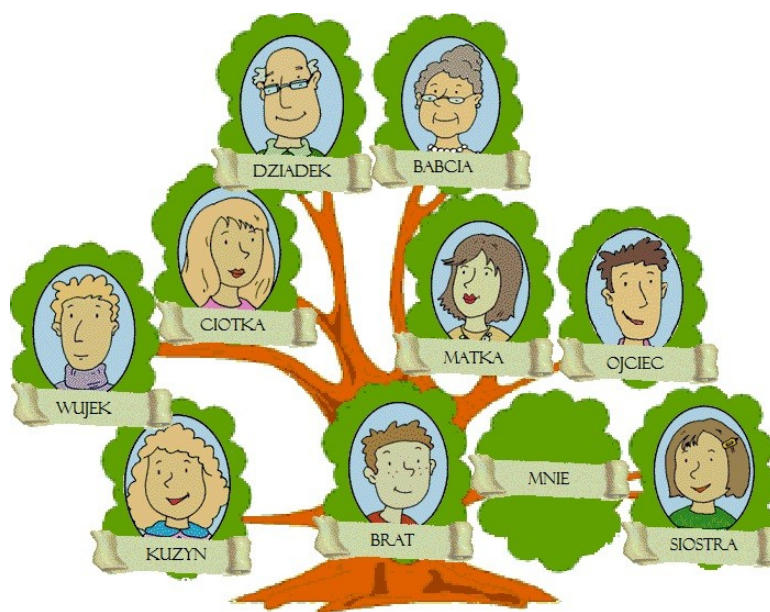


## Who Owns My Family Tree?

By Trina Goss Galauner

Whether you call yourself a genealogist or a family historian, you've undoubtedly spent countless hours and hundreds of dollars collecting, disseminating, printing, and possibly publishing your family tree. The question arises, "Who Owns My Family Tree?" I've run across a few family members and some genealogists that are very protective of the research they have done. Relatives are sometimes reluctant to share information that could be embarrassing to the family. They don't want to be known as the family gossip. Genealogists that have spent time and money researching their family are reluctant to share their data in fear that others will take credit for all their hard work and possibly publish and make money off their toil.

In this age of internet technology, vital statistics have become more accessible than ever. Familysearch.org and Ancestry.com are two of the largest genealogical databases in the world where you can access actual images from vital records.



I recently "googled" my young son's name on the internet and was surprised to see his name on Ancestry.com. What was more alarming was that his parents names (myself and my husband) were also listed. I called Ancestry.com and had them immediately remove him from their database. They explained that someone had submitted a tree in which our names were included and that is why this happened. I explained that we are all "living" and that information should never be published online without consent. To this day, I still do not know who submitted our names and how "living" persons could even show up on Ancestry.com. I usually don't give out information regarding my children to researchers. My guess is someone had pulled the names of my children and myself from my father's obituary a few years back. While obituaries are a valuable resource to a genealogist, people should take care to keep private all information regarding living persons, especially children.

I once spoke with a family historian that had done years of research on his family. He was reluctant to share his family tree with me because he had shared it previously with another researcher and that researcher had published his entire tree on the internet and had not properly cited all the data (and did not give any credit to him for the information received). So here lies the question...if this researcher had verified all the data herself (whether looking up records on free sites such as Familysearch.org or going to archives and libraries), should she be obligated to cite her source as this family historian since she has done the research herself?

Many times we add parts of other people's family trees into our own. We share pieces of information with others in order to help each other further in their research. Sometimes we realize that another person has done the exact same research that we have done and we've each collected census records, naturalization records, death records, etc. which are free to the public to view. So, again, who owns this family data?

My conclusion is (and it is only my opinion) that any "public" record available to a genealogist for research does not belong exclusively to any one person who has discovered it. If a researcher has been given another's family tree, he must only cite the person he received it from if he has NOT personally verified it through "public" records. However, any personal family stories that have been obtained from an aunt, uncle, cousin, or even another researcher, should acknowledge the source since there would be no possible way to verify the story unless it is in print such as in a newspaper or you witnessed it yourself.

So do I own my Family Tree? Let's just say I'm part of a "Joint Venture".





## PGSGC Family Tree

By John F. Szuch

Member Stanley Kawecki is now a resident of the Athenian Assisted Living facility which is located at 12799 Doula Lane in North Royalton. It is located south of Sprague Rd. off W. 130th. The phone number is 440-877-1900.

Hanna Pryer, wife of member Len Pryer, is currently in a Hospice facility.

On sadder notes, we lost long time member Ed Zelek. He passed away on July 29th at the age of 85. Not only was Ed a faithful member of our organization, he was also a long time active member of the Knights of Columbus and the Pulaski Post #30 of the PLAV. He had quite the reputation for playing taps at various military functions and also at our meeting once! I will miss his kind words to me after meetings.



Edna Braun

We also lost 95 year old Edna Braun, wife of 66 years of long time member Norm Braun. She also passed away in late July. Edna occasionally attended meetings with Norm, and also attended some of our Christmas parties.

Our prayers to those that are ill, and our condolences and prayers to members who have recently lost love ones.

On a positive note, the family of recently deceased member Helen Palshook had requested that friends and relatives send donations to the PGSGC in her memory. I am happy to say that to date we have received a total of \$495 in donations! Our thanks to Helen's family for the thoughtful gesture.

Please email me with any family news happenings such as marriages, births, or awards or achievements of your family members.

Thanks.  
John F. Szuch



Ed Zelek

## Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

September: Lucia Dominak, Member, *Digging for Our Family Roots in Poland, Part 2*

October: Norman Lewicki, *Putting It All Together: Writing A Book of Your Family's (Polish) History*

November: Rebecca McFarland, Euclid Public Library – *The Golden Age of Shopping in Cleveland* RESCHEDULED

December: Christmas Party



### Cleveland's Polonia: Warszawa

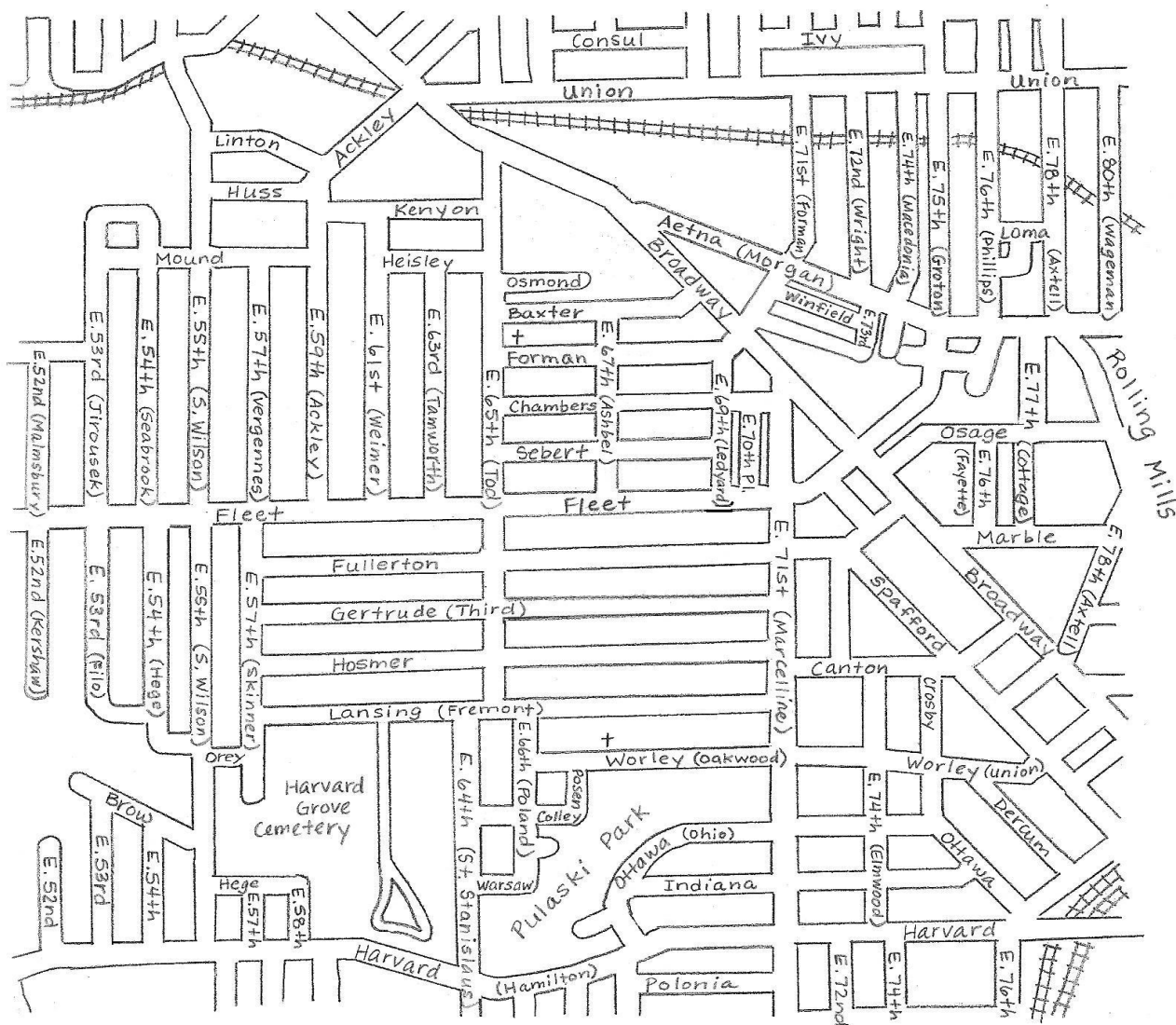


Illustration by Trina Goss Galauner

The Polish "Warszawa" neighborhood has its beginnings with the settlement of Newburgh, founded by James Kingsbury and his family in 1799. Other settlers from New England arrived and established mills. A main coach road was developed that eventually would become Broadway Avenue and in 1814 the area was organized and named Newburgh Township.

In the 1840s, the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad was built through the township and in 1857 Jones & Co. established an iron rolling mill which eventually became the Cleveland Rolling Mill Co. With the increase in industrial employment, Welsh and Irish immigrants settled in the area and eventually Poles.

Slowly, parts of Newburgh Township were annexed by the city of Cleveland. By 1873, the heart of Newburgh became part of Cleveland. That same year, the Polish St. Stanislaus parish was established for the growing number of Polish immigrants to the area.

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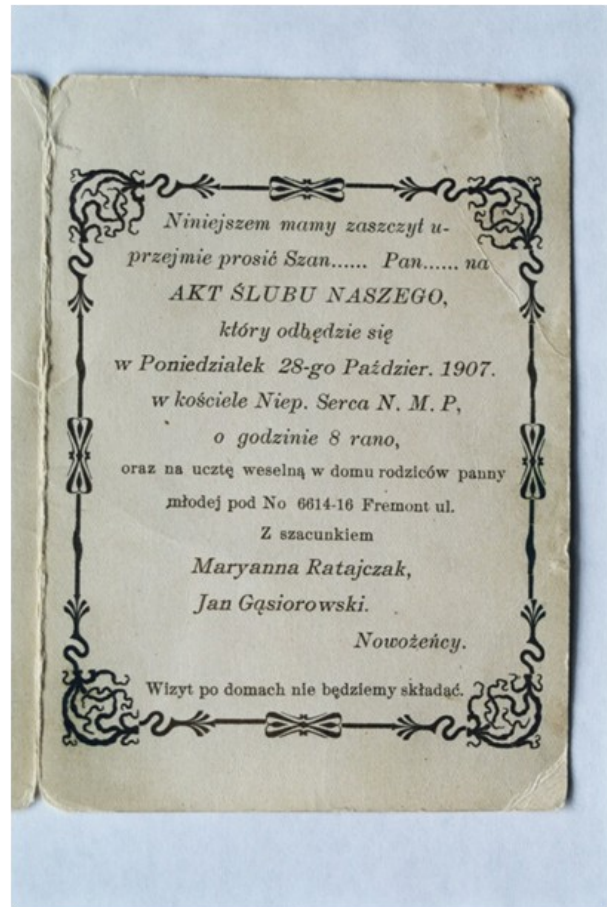
*Cleveland's Polonia: Warszawa continued from page 10.....*

The Turner Worsted Mill was established in 1878 thus attracting even more Polish immigrants and in 1880 a young Polish entrepreneur named Michal Kniola arrived to work in the Cleveland Rolling Mills. He would be instrumental in the growth of the Warszawa neighborhood.

In 1881, St. Stanislaus parish erected a wooden church and school at Tod (E. 65th St.) and Forman, the church's location today. Fr. Anton Kolaszewski was installed as pastor. The church had such a large and supportive Polish congregation that by 1891 a marvelous brick church building was built to replace the wooden church.

The neighborhood became known as Warszawa and is considered the largest of the original Polish settlements in Cleveland. Today it is part of "Slavic Village".

## Polish Family Heirlooms



This is the wedding invitation for my great grandparents wedding on October 28, 1907. It was found among some very old photographs in an old box at my grandmother's house several years ago.

If you would like to share a photo of a rare family treasure, please email a photo and short description to the editor, Trina Galauner, at [galauner@yahoo.com](mailto:galauner@yahoo.com).

The Polish Genealogical  
Society of Greater Cleveland  
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**Polish Genealogical Society of  
Greater Cleveland**

PGSGC  
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**Please submit all correspondence to:  
PGSGC Newsletter  
c/o the return address above**

### About Us

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from September through June. They are held in the parish hall of St. Mary's PNC Church. St. Mary's is located on the corner of Broadview Rd. and Wexford Ave. in Parma, Ohio. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and are usually over before 9:30 PM. There is ample parking in the parish parking lot. The entrance is on Marietta Ave. Membership dues are \$2.00 per month through January, then \$24.00 per year.

At many of our meetings, we have guest speakers who address the group on subjects in which we have an interest. The subjects may include genealogical matters, Polish history, heritage and traditions. When we do not have a guest speaker, we have "**Show and Tell**" nights when fellow members discuss their genealogical problems, ask for advice from anyone with a similar problem, tell us of their discoveries, or let us know what they've learned about their ancestors.

Our group maintains a library which is a popular resource our members enjoy. It contains various books, maps, pamphlets and newsletters from other genealogical groups. Materials can be borrowed from the library for a period of one month. We employ the honor system with regard to borrowing of books and other related materials.

We also keep a surname research list. This list includes the surnames of our ancestors which our active members are researching. In the past, members have discovered that they were investigating names that other members were also researching.

We publish a quarterly twelve page newsletter entitled, *Our Polish Ancestors*. Articles for the newsletter are selected that are of interest to our membership. Many are based on materials gathered from the many fine research facilities in and around the Greater Cleveland area, such as: The Cleveland Public Library, The Western Reserve Historical Society, The Cuyahoga County Archives, The Family History Centers and the many Polish-American churches in this part of northern Ohio. Articles written by our membership are always welcome.