



Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

OCT. / DEC. 2013 VOL. 22 No. 4

Little Children That Would Sing to Jesus (The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Cleveland)

By Trina Goss Galauner

I've been told that my great grandmother ate an orange every day of her life until she died at age 92 in 1985. And there was a very good reason she believed in getting her daily vitamin C. She was a survivor of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic also called the "Spanish Flu".

The flu appeared to get its start in U.S. Army barracks and quickly spread to east coast cities and then trickled into small towns and other metropolitan areas as it moved west. Influenza was not unknown to people at this time. Every year there were cases of influenza that resulted in death. But pneumonia was the leading cause of death every year from 1915 until 1918. The strange thing about the flu was that as a virus it opened the doors to bacterial infections such as strep and pneumonia which in an era before antibiotics were almost impossible to arrest.

In Cleveland, the flu didn't show its ugly face until early October. Due to the influx of new influenza cases at the City Hospital, workers were told not to report to their jobs if they were feeling ill as to not spread the illness. Businesses were told to refuse entrance to people with flu symptoms.

With new influenza cases multiplying each day, Cleveland Mayor Harry Davis announced the closing of all theaters, dance halls, night schools, churches and Sunday schools at the close of the weekend on October 14th until further notice. Approximately 12,500 school children didn't show up for school on Monday morning which prompted the closure of all public and private schools. It was difficult to tell how many children were sick with the flu and how many were just kept home. So in cooperation with the city health commissioner, Cleveland School Medical Director Dr. L. W. Childs directed 3,500 teachers to survey the health of absent school children by visiting their homes. The result was there were only 1,200 school aged children currently sick from influenza. So the health commissioner planned to re-open school the following Monday but when reports of several hundred more cases of students developing influenza came in, he decided to keep the schools closed.

By early November there were fewer new cases of influenza being reported so public gathering bans were lifted and schools reopened on November 13th. As a whole, the worst was over but for some it had just begun.



Inside this issue:

<i>Little Children That Would Sing to Jesus</i>	1
<i>Letter from the President</i>	2
<i>What Was My Polish Ancestor Really Like?</i>	4
<i>Faith, Trust and a Gamble</i>	5
<i>Testimony of Baptism</i>	6
<i>Cleveland's Polonia: Berea's Polish Village and West View "Widolki"</i>	7
<i>PGSGC Family Tree</i>	9
<i>The Telesz Family of Jasienica Rosielna</i>	10

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 for more information.



.....continued on page 6

ALL CITY SCHOOLS SHUT AFTER TODAY

Poolrooms, Bowling Alleys, Cabarets Also Added to Flu Closing Order.

Public Weddings Tabooed, Too, as Epidemic Grows Faster.

Every public, parochial and private school in the city, and all public libraries and art museums, will close their doors for an indefinite period after today's sessions. In pursuance of an order issued yesterday by Health Commissioner H. L. Rockwood, as the Spanish influenza epidemic kept spreading.

At the same time, he extended the ban against public gatherings, to pool rooms, bowling alleys and cabarets which must not open this morning.

In addition, he pointed out that a further increase in the number of cases will necessitate additional restrictions covering all places where persons congregate.



Letter from the President

Have you ever stopped to think why you got interested in doing your family genealogy? The obvious answer is that you wanted to learn more about your ancestors and where they came from, or possibly why they came?

Growing up in the same house with my grandparents, those questions didn't really cross my mind. Of course, I knew the obvious answer was that they were from Poland as Polish and English were spoken in the house. But why they came and exactly where in Poland they were from, I didn't know. It wasn't until the late 1950s, while as a Senior at John Carroll University, that as a result of a sociology class assignment I was forced into genealogy! The assignment was to do a family tree. Living with my Polish maternal grandparents made that part somewhat easy, but they could only give me the basic answers that I needed. But it was a start. Remember, in 1959 you didn't have personal computers to look up information, nor was there the volume of information available at your finger tips as there is today.

My paternal side of the family, which is Hungarian, was a problem. My parents divorced when I was 14 months old and my mother severed all ties with my father and his side of the family! All I had was my grandparents names and that they were born in Hungary.

I finished the report and filed it away until the 1990s when I had an opportunity to dig it out. My wife Marlene and I attended the St. John Cantius Polish Festival and they had a Polish heritage display in one of the school rooms being overseen by Ed Mendyka. Although the main theme of the displays had to do with "Cantius" school photos and memorabilia, Ed had set up a small genealogy display with a sign up sheet for a new Polish genealogy group he was forming. My grandparents had all passed away, but I still had that family tree report to use as a starting point. After Ed's first term as President he decided to step down and endorsed me as President. As they say, the rest is history as 21 years later I am still President!

Another genealogy motivator might be the hope that you will dig up a personal link to some famous Polish hero. In my personal case, Casimir Pulaski was (and still is) my hero. I had hopes that maybe, while doing my research, I would find some link back to him. Unfortunately, it has never happened. I did, however, discover two Polish heroes in my family tree, John Malicki and Bronislawa Czaplicka, my maternal grandparents! Had they not ventured across the Atlantic Ocean in 1910 and 1911, I would not have had this opportunity to be your President.

Whatever your personal motivation was to be a genealogist, I think you will all agree it has been rewarding in more ways than one. To spread that wealth around, I encourage you all to bring a Polish friend or relative to a future meeting to expose them to the fun and rewards of being a genealogist. Also, don't forget the social aspect of our organization.

John F. Szuch

Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

c/o St. Mary's PNC Church

1901 Wexford Ave.

Parma, Ohio 44134

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/



Officers:

President:	John F. Szuch	105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, Ohio 44273	(330) 769-4603	pulaskipro@aol.com
Vice President:	Ron Kraine	9810 Greenhaven Pkwy., Brecksville, Ohio 44141	(440) 838-5743	ronkraine@aol.com
Treasurer:	Ben Kman	170 Bellus Rd., Hinckley, Ohio 44233	(216) 469-9670	
Secretary:	Sonia Chapnick	7897 Gildersleeve Circle, Kirtland, Ohio 44094	(440) 256-8392	



NOTICE....Your membership expires on December 31, 2013.
Don't forget to renew your membership by mailing
payment to Ben Kman at the address shown below....



**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Applicant Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date: _____ Referred By: _____

Member Surname

**LIST OTHER SURNAMEN WHICH
APPEAR IN YOUR FAMILY
RESEARCH TO DATE:**

**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF
GREATER CLEVELAND** is an organization dedicated
to encouraging interest in collecting, preserving and
sharing genealogical information. We invite anyone to
join who is interested in tracing their family history.
Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, (Sept.
thru June) at St. Mary's PNC Church parish hall,
5375 Broadview Rd., Parma, Ohio at 7:30 PM.

Programs Include: Speakers, Member Participation and
Social Hour. **"Our Polish Ancestors"** is our 12-page
newsletter, published quarterly.

Your completed MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION will be
filed with the Membership Chairman upon payment of
your annual dues, which is still only \$24.00 per year.
Make check payable to "Polish Genealogical Society
of Greater Cleveland" and mail it to : Treasurer Ben
Kman, 170 Bellus Rd., Hinckley, Ohio 44233.

USE REVERSE SIDE IF NEEDED



What Was My Polish Ancestor Really Like?

By Trina Goss Galauner

Part of doing genealogical research is not just knowing your great grandfather's name and where he was born. It's getting to know the person that he was and what part of you was just like him. Now this sounds like an impossible feat. But it really isn't as hard as you think. Maybe we can't really know our ancestors on a personal basis but we can get a feeling of how they lived and what influenced their decisions in life by researching history.

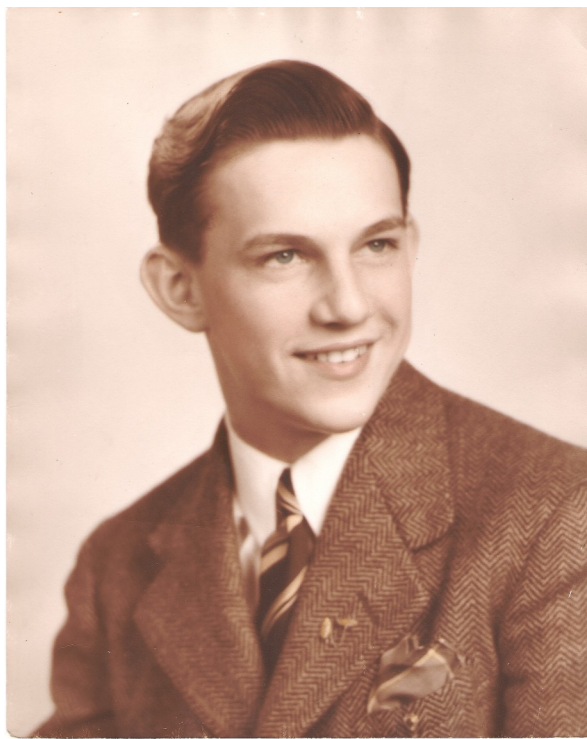
My Dad's uncle Edward was a soldier who died in combat during World War 2. All I know of him is through photos and some verbal history. My Dad was young at the time Edward died but he told me that Edward was killed in a land mine explosion and he remembered a memorial they had for him and then later an actual funeral and burial.

With only this information, I could not really formulate an idea of who Edward was. I was fortunate to have a copy of his high school yearbook, so I started to read and find out what Edward's extracurricular activities were in school. In his yearbook were several certificates of award that he served on the Attendance Checker Committee of the student government at East Tech High School. He also had several perfect attendance awards. Interestingly, my father also had perfect attendance in high school. Also, within this same yearbook, was a certificate that Edward had been a Cleveland Press Carrier. Inside was also the 67th Annual Commencement Exercises Program of 1942 for East Tech High School. In there Edward is listed as having perfect attendance for three years. He is also listed under "machine shop" so I know what he had planned as a career. He was missing from the list of National Honor Society students. The yearbook lists him also as usher, Artisan Hi-Y member and Study Hall Chairman. Missing is any involvement in school sports.

So I've gathered that Edward was an average student with a great work ethic and possibly a little shy as he was not overly involved in school activities. Since I knew he died in the war and that he was in the U.S. Army, I was able to find his name and some information at www.wwiimemorial.com. He is listed as Private First Class serving with Company B, 117th Infantry, 30th Division in the European Theater in Rhineland and that he was missing in action on 18 November 1944.

I sent away for his military records and received very little as these records were destroyed in a fire. It listed his decorations as European-African-Middle Eastern Medal with one bronze star, a World War 2 Victory Medal and World War 2 Lapel Service. He served from 10 June 1943 to 18 November 1944. So I know that he was only home for one year after he graduated before he went to war.

At the Cleveland Public Library Obituary site, Edward's obituary indicates he was killed at Mariondorf. I could not locate a Mariondorf on a map. So I started to scan the internet for websites on World War 2 and the U.S. Army in Europe around November 1944 and also information on the 30th Division. I found some history of the Huertgen Forest and an offensive going on there around that time. It was indicated that winter came early to Western Germany in 1944 and there was a heavy snow in mid November. I left a post regarding Mariondorf at a Huertgen Forest website and soon after received a nice email from a gentleman from Germany researching the Huertgen Forest. He indicated that Mariondorf was actually Mariadorf, a suburb of Alsdorf, just a few miles northeast of Aachen and northwest of the Huertgen Forest. This town was in the 2nd line of the Siegfried line. Not knowing what the Siegfried line was, I had to "google" it and find out. The Siegfried



Senior picture of Edward S. Moniak in 1942

....continued on page 11



Faith, Trust and a Gamble: How Third Federal Savings and Loan Emerged from the Great Depression

By Trina Goss Galauner

Awhile back I came across a book entitled "Memories" by Gerome Rita Stefanski. Gerome, nee Rutkowski, was the wife of Ben S. Stefanski and co-founder of the Third Federal Savings and Loan Association of Cleveland. As I read I found that I could not put the book down. While the story was one of the personal life of Ben and Gerome, it also dictated quite a vivid history of what it was like to be a banker in Cleveland from the Depression to modern day. Written in Gerome's point of view, she details the struggle their business endured to regain the economic confidence of the Polish neighborhood during and after the stock market crash of 1929. Their story is one of not only personal business success but also the restoration of hope to an immigrant neighborhood.

Gerome came from a modest background but with the support of her mother and ecclesiastic brother, obtained a fine secondary education that was extremely rare for a first generation American female of immigrant parents.

Ben was the son of Walenty Stefanski and Anastasia Czarniak. He was the youngest of his family and also had three step-brothers of the surname, Ratajczak, from his mother's first marriage. Ben's mother was a wise investor. She managed to own many rental properties which she purchased with her hard earned money early in her life. These rental properties and wise investing would leave her wealthy by the time she died.

Ben worked in banking early on in his life. When he met Gerome in 1930, he had recently completed a trip to Poland with a friend, the summer just before the stock market crash. He was now unemployed but not broke. He had a great understanding of finance and economy. He also was somewhat of a gambler. When he met Gerome, he already knew he wanted to start his own savings and loan. He just needed to regain the confidence of a neighborhood shattered by unemployment and foreclosure.

There were many political alliances that needed to be made for the success of the Stefanski's new business. And along the way they learned who their real friends were. The Depression made many people insane (quite literally). The stress of financial collapse was too much for many. Gerome details how one man invested \$10 in their bank early on. He was quite nervous about the money he deposited in their bank. After a short time, he apologized to Ben Stefanski but said he must withdraw his \$10 because he just was too afraid to leave it in a bank. During President Franklin D. Roosevelt's many fireside chats, he pleaded with the American public not to panic. Ben Stefanski pleaded with his Polish neighbors to trust him and his bank and deposit their money. He then took bold steps and wrote mortgage loans for people, taking a chance on many who were just getting back on their feet. His gamble paid off and his business prospered.

As we worry today about where the economy is going, I like to think there are lessons we can learn from the Great Depression of the past. Reading this book, I now have a better idea of what my Polish relatives were going through during that time. If we can only apply the hard-working ethic and thriftiness of our ancestors to our current economic situation, maybe we will glide through our new economic difficulties a little more smoothly and calmly. They say everything comes full circle, what comes up must go down, etc. It's all just a cycle. If the early immigrant Poles of Cleveland survived it back then, so can we today.

Unidentified Family Photos

This is a first communion photo that belonged to Nettie Kowalski that is unidentified. If you can identify this boy, please contact Trina Galauner at Galauner@yahoo.com. If anyone has any old unidentified family photos, please email the scanned image in .jpg format to Trina for possible posting in a future newsletter.





Little Children That Would Sing to Jesus continued from page 1.....

The story I was told about my great grandmother's experience with the Spanish flu was that it first appeared in her household in the middle of November 1918. At that time, she was a young mother with two sons, ages 6 years and 18 months. Little Teddy came home from school one Monday with a fever. That day at Sacred Heart of Jesus school, he had been practicing his songs for a school Christmas pageant. Teddy became severely ill within hours and Dr. Smigel was called. But there wasn't much that could be done. Teddy's condition worsened throughout the following day. His fever did not subside, his cough worsened and his breathing became labored. He was in and out of consciousness due to the high fever. The following evening, during a conscious moment, Teddy told his mother that he was going to "sing to Jesus tonight". Little Teddy passed away later that night. From the onset of illness, he lived only 3 days. My great grandmother had become severely ill while caring for Teddy and was so ill that she didn't know he had passed away and could not attend his funeral. Teddy's baby brother, Harry, would become sick a day later and would struggle to fight the flu for the next three weeks. My great grandmother recovered but Harry would die from bronchopneumonia just before Christmas. My grandmother tells me as a child her mother would take her in the stroller daily, even in the winter, to visit the graves of Teddy and Harry at Calvary Cemetery.

Over 23,000 Cleveland residents became sick from influenza between late September and the end of the year in 1918 and over 3,600 people died that fall from the flu or the pneumonia that resulted from it. My great grandmother, who was 27 years old at the time, was one of the lucky survivors because an estimated 27% of all adults her age that contracted the flu died from it. Of the deaths during those months, at least 300 were school aged children. Little Teddy and Harry are now forever singing to Jesus.

* Statistical data in this article obtained from the City of Cleveland, Ohio Division of Health Statistical Records Years 1916-1924 and from articles in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Testimony of Baptism

When Polish immigrants were to be married in the U.S. at a Roman Catholic church, the future couple needed to provide proof that they were baptized. The soon to be married immigrant needed to send a letter to his or her parish back in their hometown in Poland asking for a certificate proving the sacrament was made. This is an example of the Testimony of Baptism that was sent from Samokleski in 1911 just a week before the wedding of Franciszek and Agata (Byczek) Mliczek.

Imperium Austriae
 Regnum Galiciae
 Districtus *Jasto*

Nrus *113*
 Decanatus: *Smigolenski*
 Parochia: *Samokleski*

Testimonium ortus et baptismi.

Officium parochiale ecclesiae rit. lat. in *Samokleski* omnibus et singulis, quorum interest aut interesse poterit, praesentibus testatur, in libro metrices baptisatorum pro *hago Samokleski* destinato, tomo *II*, pag. *176* Nr. ser. *2* sequentia reperiri
 Anno Domini Millesimo ~~ducingentesimo nonagesimo secundo~~
 hoc est: *1892* die *nona / 9 /* mensis *Januarii*
 nata sub Nro domus *57*, et die sequenti ab *ARD*
Joanne Jayko Curato baptisata est:

Nomen baptisati	Religio	Sexus	Thorus	PARENTES		Patrini	Adnotatio
				Pater	Mater		
<i>Agatha</i>	<i>catol. rit. lat.</i>	<i>femina</i>	<i>legitima</i>	<i>Franciscus Byczek agr. filius Joannis Byczek et illa, Mariannae pto Bogumilski antla</i>	<i>Mariamna filia Thomae Swandzik et Josepha Franciscae p. uxor Bozarakowski rutae</i>	<i>Petrus Branyx et Josepha Josephi Kirilinski</i>	<i>agr. agr.</i>

Obstetrix: *n. ex. Agnes Sobotowska*

In quorum fidem hisce litteris sigillo ecclesiae munitis manu propria subscribo.
 SAMOKLESKI
Samokleski die *10 Septembris* 1911
J. Mliczek



Cleveland's Polonia: Berea's Polish Village and West View "Widolki"

BEREA POLISH VILLAGE

CA. 1896

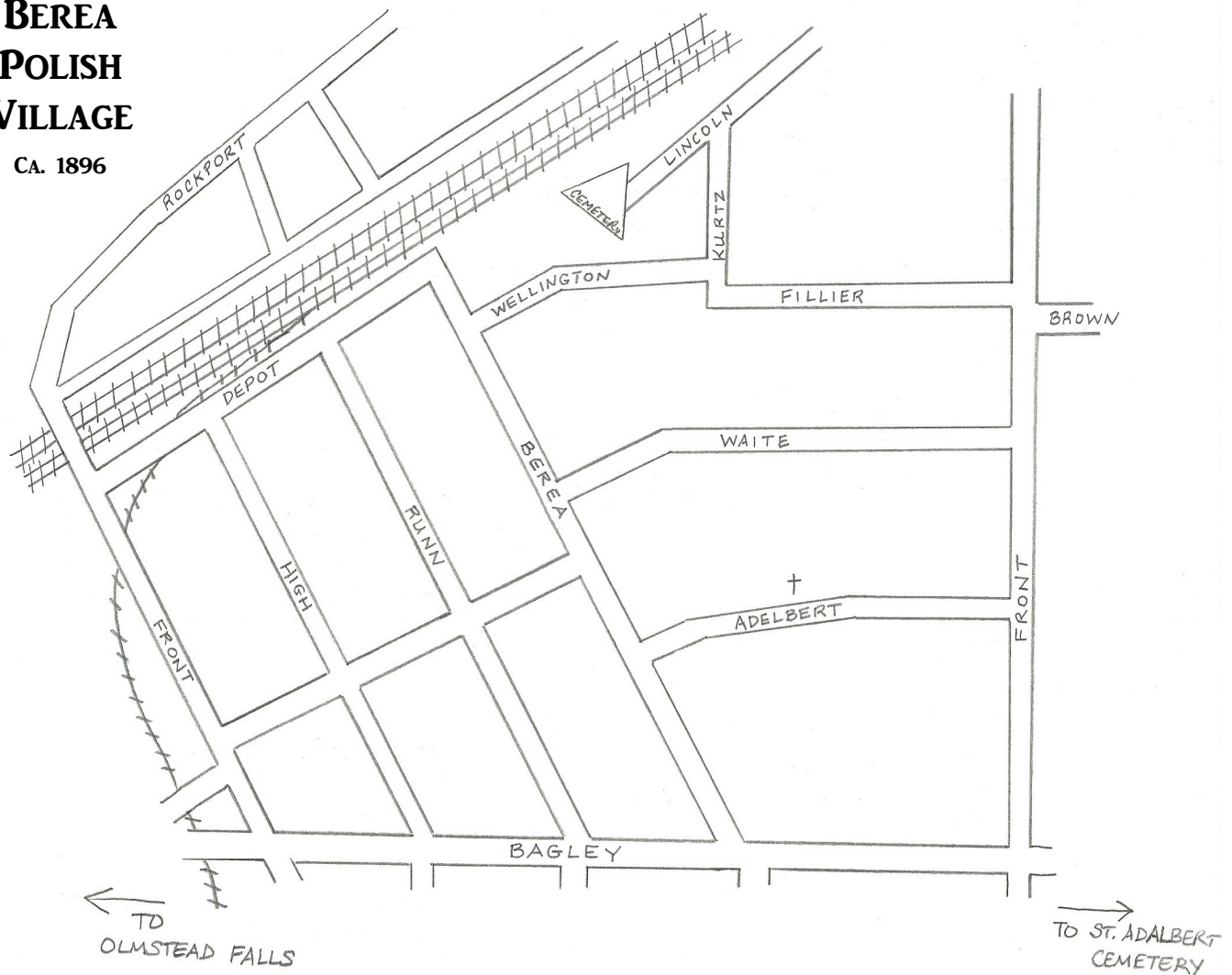


Illustration by Trina Galauner

Berea was originally part of the Township of Middleburgh. The first settler of Middleburgh was Jared Hickox who came from Connecticut in 1809 to start a homestead in the Western Reserve. Later, Ephraim Vaughn came with his sons and settled in the present day area of downtown Berea and started a saw mill and grist mill. But it would be John Baldwin's settlement and discovery of sandstone in 1842 that would eventually draw Polish immigrants to Berea.

John Baldwin realized that sandstone made a good grinding stone and began manufacturing and selling grindstones. Eventually, the business drew other entrepreneurs to the area to mine the stone that was also an ideal building material. This led to the establishment of many small quarry outfits along the Rocky River. Berea sandstone or "Berea grit" as it was called would become world renown.

As the quarrying business grew, it attracted immigrant laborers from Ireland, Scotland and England who were needed to quarry the sandstone. Eventually, German and then Polish immigrants moved into the area. The Polish immigrants established a settlement on the north side of Berea. The first Pole to settle in Berea was Jerome Mucha who came in 1865.



The Poles in Berea were predominantly Roman Catholic and first worshipped at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church on Front Street.

When the West View quarry was established in 1870, Polish immigrants began to settle around it. They called their neighborhood "Widolki". This settlement was located just west of Berea near the intersection of Sprague and Columbia Roads. These immigrants had small farms that were mostly maintained by the women and children while the men worked in the stone quarries.

By 1873, there were about 100 Polish families in Berea and they wished for their own church. They petitioned the Bishop and were granted permission to form St. Adalbert's Parish. Land on what is now Adelbert Street was purchased from John Nau in 1874. The church was completed and dedicated in September of 1875. Although St. Adalbert's in Berea was a distance, this did not deter the devout Poles of West View from attending church. They would travel mainly by foot along the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroad tracks to attend mass.

Polish immigration to Berea and West View continued well into the 20th century as the quarrying industry was booming and workers were needed. Many men died from "stone cutter's consumption" when the fine dust generated by the cutting of the stone would fill their lungs and lead to respiratory disease.

Subsequent generations of Poles moved out of the West View area and into Cleveland to work in heavy industry. By the 1940s, the sandstone industry declined but the established Polish neighborhood in Berea remained.

WEST VIEW

CA. 1896

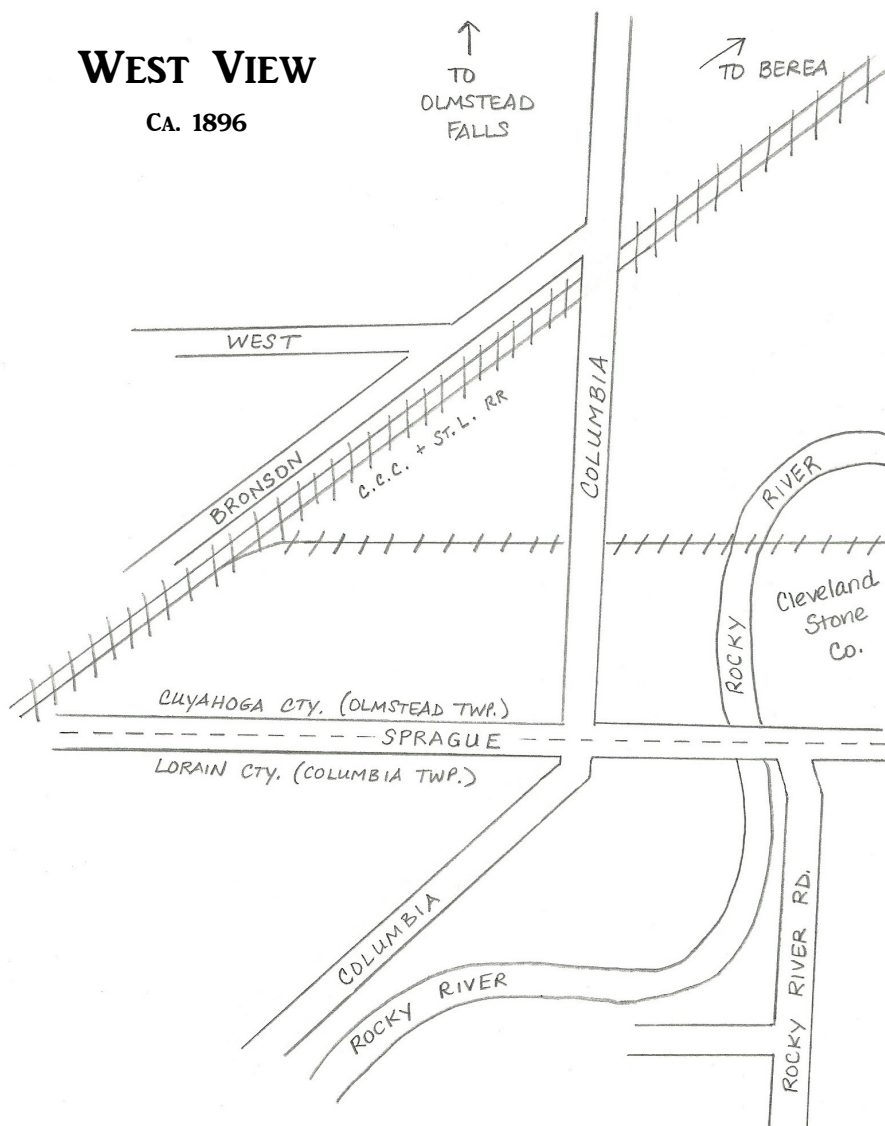


Illustration by Trina Galauner

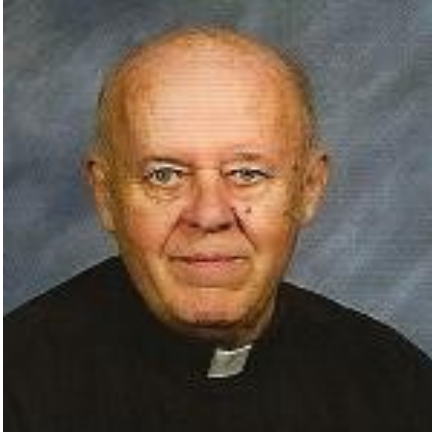
Raised in Goosetown

For those that are Facebook users, there is a Facebook Group called "Raised in Goosetown". Members of the group post all kinds of interesting memories and photos regarding life in the Krakowa or "Goosetown" neighborhood of Cleveland. Residents of "Goosetown" lived in the vicinity south of Harvard Avenue along Marcelline (now E. 71st Street) down to Grant Avenue.



PGSGC Family Tree

By John F. Szuch

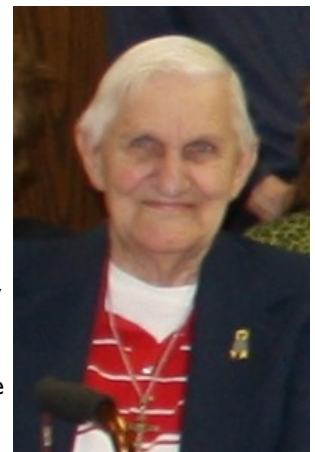


Fr. Ralph Bodziony courtesy of the Diocese of Cleveland

As was the case in the first installment of this column, we have some sad news to report. When this group was first formed in the early 1990s, it was in big thanks to Father Ralph Bodziony, at that time the Pastor of St. John Cantius Parish in the Tremont area of Cleveland. It was with his permission that Ed Mendyka set up a table at the Cantius Polish Festival to solicit people to join a new Polish genealogical society he was starting. He also gave us our first home for meetings, the cafeteria in the recreation building. That was our home for quite a few years until Father Ralph retired in 1990 and our meeting location was changed to our current one.

I had some personal ties to Father Ralph as we were both graduates from Benedictine High School. Also, he was an assistant at my home parish of Our Lady of Czestochowa on E. 142nd and Harvard. It was there in Spring 1963 that he baptized my daughter, Valerie.

Sadly, Father Ralph, who was born on November 10, 1929, passed away on August 21, 2013.



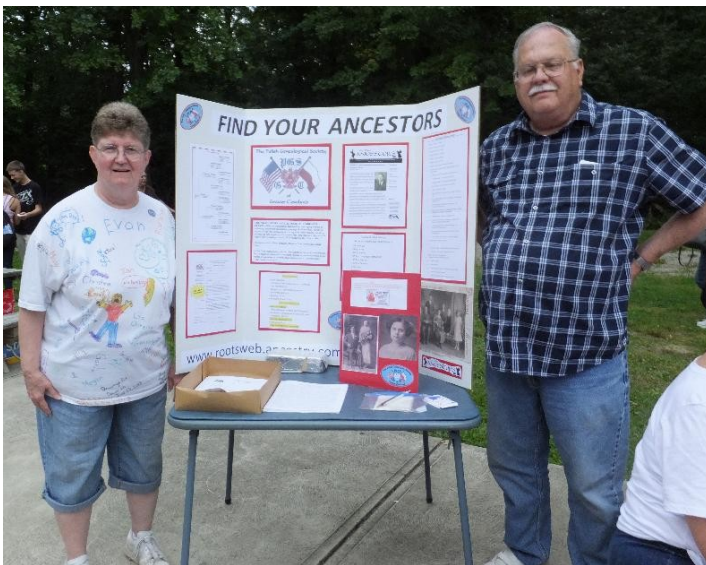
Stanley Kawecki at our 20th Anniversary Party

Also on another sad note, one of our newer members, Stanley Kawecki, passed away on September 12, 2013 at the age of 92. Stan enjoyed coming to the meetings with the Palshook family and loved the Christmas Parties.

Please remember them in your prayers and also remember our members who are having health issues.

Members Pat & Fred Baikitis recently represented the PGSGC at the St. Casimir's Alumni picnic. Pat made a nice eye appealing display board which attracted a lot of attention. They also had some hand outs for interested people.

Please email me at pulaskipro@aol.com with some family news such as anniversaries, weddings, births, military service, etc. for future issues.



Pat and Fred Baikitis representing us at the St. Casimir's Alumni picnic

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

Jan: Members – *What Was Your Most Memorable Genealogical Find; Where Did You Find It; and When Did You Find It?*

Feb: Carol Stafinski, Member – *Polish Studies at Cleveland State University*



The Telesz Famly of Jasienica Rosielna

By Trina Goss Galauner

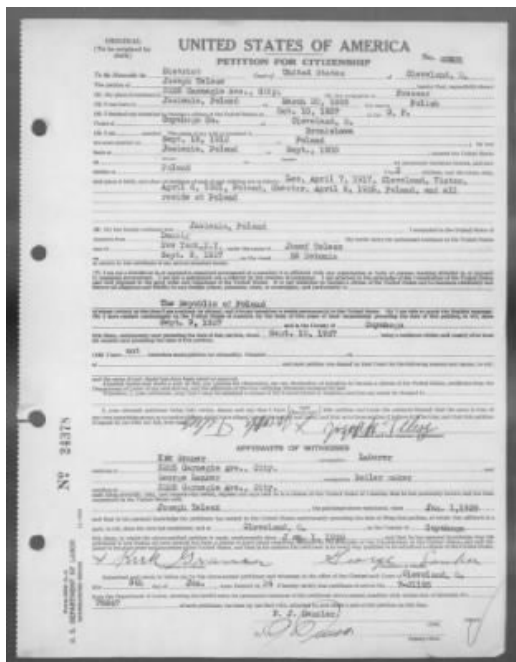
Jasienica Rosielna is the name of the small village in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains in southeastern Poland where Rev. Msgr. Leo Telesz's ancestry originates. Josef Telesz (age 26) and Bronislawa Szarek (age 16) were married in Jasienica Rosielna at the church of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception on September 18, 1912. A year later, on September 27, 1913, Josef embarked on the Rijndam from the port of Rotterdam, Holland with his 14 year old cousin, Stanislaw Telesz bound for New York and eventually New Castle, Pennsylvania where he would stay with his aunt, Agata Telesz.



Church of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception in Jasienica Rosielna

It appears Josef spent some time away from his young bride in Poland. From New Castle, he made his way to Cleveland

where he established a dry cleaning business called Junction Dry Cleaning on Superior Avenue. At that point, in 1916, he sent for his wife, Bronislawa. She arrived in New York aboard the Ryndam on June 13, 1916. They settled in a home on E. 35th Street and it wasn't long before the arrival of their first son, Leon, born April 7, 1917. Josef operated Junction Dry Cleaning for about 3 years and then when the first World War had ended and his homeland became part of Poland again, he decided to sell his business and buy a farm back home.



1927 Petition for Citizenship of Josef Telesz

Residing in Humniska, Leo was joined by two brothers, Viktor born in 1921 and Czeslaw born in 1925. Josef returned to the U.S. in 1927 and applied for citizenship while his family remained in Poland. He worked for many dry cleaning businesses and travelled back and forth between Cleveland and Poland.

The boys all graduated from "Gimnazjum", the only public high school in the county of Brzozow. Leo continued studies to become a Catholic priest. He was ordained in the diocese of Przemysl on September 10, 1939 and due to the outbreak of World War 2 he immediately went into hiding secretly serving as a priest. After the war, in 1947, he returned to the U.S. and in 1948 was assigned to Transfiguration Catholic Church. Fr. Leo also served at St. Casimir, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Lorain, St. Hyacinth's, St. John Cantius and Sacred Heart of Jesus parishes. Leo's mother and brother, Czeslaw, eventually immigrated to the U.S. and became naturalized citizens. The Teleszes settled at a home on Francis Avenue.

In 1973, Fr. Leo was appointed pastor of St. Casimir's. After Leo's mother died in 1971, his father came to live with him at the rectory. In 1979, Josef returned to his farm in Poland where he preferred to spend the winter months. While there he suffered a stroke and was unable to return to the U.S. He died at his farm in Poland November 20, 1979 at the age of 93.

On September 27, 1988 Monsignor Leo Telesz was named Prelate of Honor with the title of Reverend Monsignor. He retired in 2009 at the closing of St. Casimir's parish and spent the remainder of his life living in his parent's old house in the St. Hyacinth's neighborhood. He died at the Holy Family Home on March 27, 2013, just shy of his 96th birthday.

* Information obtained for this article was found at the Telesz Family Home Page and other online resources such as the Cleveland Plain Dealer archives, Fold3 History & Genealogy Archives, FamilySearch.org and Wikimedia.



Erin Einhorn's "*The Pages In Between*"

By Trina Goss Galauner

Recently, I was in the history section at my local library and came across a book called "*The Pages In Between*" by Erin Einhorn. Reading the inside flap, I was interested when I saw the words "Poland" and "genealogy". So I signed it out and took it home thinking it could be a really good read. When I started to browse the pages, I found it was about the Holocaust and Polish Jews. Maybe not exactly my type of genealogy but certainly it looked to be a very interesting account a woman's genealogical journey to the home where her mother was hidden from the Nazis during World War II. Her mother was a young Jewish baby who was hidden away and raised by Polish Catholics. Erin feels a certain indebtedness to the descendants of the family who made it possible for her mother to survive the war. Though her mother never wanted to really talk about her past, claiming she didn't remember much, Erin is intrigued to uncover her roots. Along the way she is embroiled in a property struggle that spans generations. She learns what Communism did to the Polish people after the war and how it affected their views about Americans.

In one part of the story, Erin reads a letter written by the woman in Poland that had hidden and raised her mother during the war. The letter was to Erin's grandfather in the U.S. asking him to send them a Chevrolet because certainly Americans are so rich that they can send a Chevrolet. In my own family, I had a great aunt that sent money back to Poland to relatives all her life. They would ask her to send Levis blue jeans, only Levis brand, because they figured my great aunt could surely afford the designer brand.

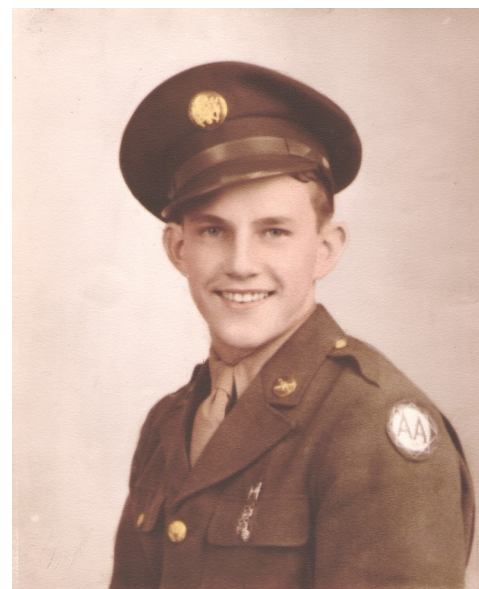
Erin's story involves 2 families who cared for her mother while her grandfather was in a concentration camp and then later as he tried to get his life back together as a survivor after the war. Her journey is also one of self-discovery of her roots and her love of her family. Along the way, she learns about the Polish people and the relationships between Jews and Catholics before the war, after the war and in the present day. Through excitement then sorrow, anger and eventually contentment, she realizes resolving past issues isn't always easy and changing people's prejudices isn't always possible. In the end, even though she doesn't uncover all the mysteries, she learns enough to bring her inner peace.

What Was My Polish Ancestor Really Like? continued from page 4....

line was a line of bunkers and tank traps built by Germany for war purposes. My new online friend, researched a history book he had regarding the 30th Infantry Division and found Edward's name in the dead roster at the back of the book. He told me this November offensive was fighting in the vicinity of Mariadorf and Warden toward the Roer River. From his research, he believed Edward must have stepped on a shoe mine planted by the Germans. Shoe mines were made of wood so that they couldn't be located with a metal detector.

Online, I was then able to find accounts of the offensive around Mariadorf with some photos of the destruction in the area. I could now picture what Edward was seeing as he walked through this small German village. Later, I found an account regarding the 9th Army in Mariadorf, Germany on 18 November 1944 giving me the details of the minefield and the casualties. I now could imagine, the cold, the snow, the surprise mine explosion and the nature of the casualty. He was only 20 years old. Had he not died, he would have been in the Battle of the Bulge.

All of these things helped me to better understand my great uncle Edward and the kind of person he was. He had not been married so has no descendents but he will not be forgotten by my family.



Pfc. Edward S. Moniak 1943

The Polish Genealogical
Society of Greater Cleveland
c/o St. Mary's PNC Church
1901 Wexford Ave.
Parma, Ohio 44134



**Polish Genealogical Society of
Greater Cleveland**

PGSGC
c/o St. Mary's PNC Church
1901 Wexford Ave.
Parma, Ohio 44134

President: John F. Szuch
E-mail: pulaskipro@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Trina Galauner
E-mail: galauner@yahoo.com



Visit us on the web at:
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/

**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.