



Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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The Adventures of Antoni Sadowski - Polish Pioneer

By Trina Goss Galauner

One of the earliest documented Polish settlers that came to America and made it his permanent home was not an explorer or one of the Jamestown colonists, he was a true Polish pioneer named Antoni Sadowski. He established a very large family that has continued to grow for 12 generations and settled the wide expanses of the frontier, possibly giving his namesake to the Northwest Ohio city of Sandusky.

There has been much speculation over the life of Antoni Sadowski. Historian Edward Pinkowski wrote one of the most complete histories of the Sadowski family in 1966 in his manuscript, "Anthony Sadowski Polish Pioneer". What we do know is that Antoni Sadowski had a colorful and adventurous life in the old country and the new and contributed greatly to the fabric of pioneer America.

Sadowski means "from the orchard" or "from Sadow". Sadowie is a small village near Ostrowiec in the province of Kielce. This is most likely where the Sadowski family originated. The "d" in Sadowski when pronouncing the name sounds like "nd" which may be the reason later generations wrote the name as "Sandusky".

From Pinkowski's research, we are told that a descendant of Antoni Sadowski named Dorothy Taylor visited Poland after World War I and by chance met with the Prime Minister Ignacy J. Paderewski and his wife. Dorothy had heard many family stories over the years and was interested to know if the Sadowski family was originally Jewish. Madame Paderewski assured her that Antoni Sadowski was not Jewish and directed her to a castle in Naleczow, near Kielce, where she could learn more about her family.



Artist's imagined portrait of Antoni Sadowski
by Hanna Dubiel-Pstragowska
Courtesy of www.poles.org

.....continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

<i>The Adventures of Antoni Sadowski—Polish Pioneer</i>	1
<i>Letter from the President</i>	2
<i>In Search of the Descendants of the Brzecki Brothers of Jamestown</i>	4
<i>PGSGC Membership Application</i>	8
<i>PGSGC Family Tree</i>	9
<i>Cleveland's Polonia: Kantowa</i>	10
<i>Book Review: "Memories of Dziadka" by Stephen Szabados</i>	11

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.





Letter from the President

Hi Folks,

This is my last letter for 2014. In retrospect, 2014 was kind of a tough one for the organization. We lost our founder and first President, and also some long time members. Age and health has also hurt us with membership participation at meetings. We have however, been picking up some new members so that we are kind of staying even.

Our meetings during the last year had some interesting programs both from members and outside guest speakers such as Father Eric Orzech the Pastor of both St. Casimir and St. Stanislaus Parishes. If you, or you know of someone who has an interesting presentation that would be of interest to us for a future meeting, please contact me.

Our final meeting of the year will have a short business meeting at 7:00 followed by our annual Christmas party. I'm hoping to see many of you at the party. For those of you who don't make the party, on behalf of my fellow officers and myself, I'd like to wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

John

PS. Remember our inclement weather rule: If the Cleveland Public Schools are closed for the day, the meeting is canceled. In any event, if you think the weather is too bad for you to drive in, please don't! You can always check with one of the officers about the meetings status.

Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

c/o St. Mary's PNC Church

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The Adventures of Antoni Sadowski—Polish Pioneer continued from page 1.....

The Sadowski descendants came from nobility and were represented by the Nalecz coat of arms. The earliest known Sadowski was Tomasz Sadowski who was granted a noble title and given the government of Miechow in 1452. There were other Sadowskis such as Daniel Sadowski, claimed to be an Archbishop of Gniezno, Stanislaw Sadowski, a Calvinist from Radom who spoke against the Roman Catholic church and fled to Jamestown, and Marcin Sadowski, a chamberlain and later, castellan, at the castle in Gostyń in Greater Poland. Marcin also served as a member of Sejm, the Polish Parliament under King Jan Sobieski and served as inspector of the king's land holdings in Ukraine.



Nalecz Coat of Arms

From Edward Pinkowski's manuscript

Pinkowski and many other historians and family researchers have stated that Marcin was the father of Antoni Sadowski, though this has not been proven by any official record. A Rootsweb message board post by Pinkowski, in December 2000, regarding new discoveries about the Sadowski family, states that "Because Marcin Sadowski had no children, as was reported in a genealogy of the Sadowski family in the court records of Kalisz in 1749, it is necessary to continue the research on Anthony Sadowski, where he came from, the names of his parents, what colleges he finished, military records, and early life in Poland."

In any event, we know that Antoni Sadowski was born about 1669, possibly in Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski near Kielce, shortly after the Russo-Polish War. We know the approximate birth year based on his death record in 1736 at age 67. His descendants claim that Antoni was a "great scholar" and could "speak seven different languages". If he came from a noble family, it is likely he had a classical upbringing. Some historians say Antoni was married in Poland and had a son named Jonathan Jacob born in 1700. But this information cannot be proven.

To continue the story of Antoni Sadowski, it is necessary to know some of the history of his time. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth had been established in 1569 to secure Lithuania's eastern boundaries from the Russians and strengthen the Polish kingdom. But the neutral Commonwealth would become a constant battleground throughout the 1600s as Russia, Sweden and the Ottoman Empire battled for supremacy and control of Poland's borders. When Elector of Saxony Augustus II was given the title of King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1697, his ambition of conquering his cousin, Karl XII the King of Sweden, enticed him to ally the Polish-Saxon army with Russia, beginning the Great Northern War. This angered the neutrality-minded Polish nobility and resulted in the nobility-controlled Sejm Polish Parliament vetoing any domestic reform introduced by Augustus II. This internal political struggle left Poland to be further victimized by Russia and Sweden as they fought each other for domination.

As the narrative is told, in 1700, during the Great Northern War, Antoni and his brother joined the Polish army to defend their native country. When Swedish forces invaded Riga in the summer of 1701, Antoni's brother was killed in a surprise attack and Antoni was captured and imprisoned. While in captivity aboard a Swedish ship, he was interrogated and tortured. Practically dead, he managed to escape into the bay and swim nine miles to shore. Swedish ruler Karl XII was victorious in his conquest of Riga and able to extend his power further inland and eventually controlled Warsaw. Antoni, being an escaped prisoner of war, was not able to return home so fled to Scotland.

.....continued on page 6



In Search of the Descendants of the Brzecki Brothers of Jamestown

by Trina Goss Galauner

An interesting family story came to my attention after the publication of "The Poles of Jamestown" in our last newsletter. I was contacted by Kristina Morgan whose family claims to be related to Peter Brzecki who came to Jamestown with his brother, Walenty Brzecki, in 1609. Kristina's grandmother's cousin, Sally Nowak Schmidt, recorded part of her family history in 1959 in a booklet entitled "Identity: 1609-1959 Records and Facts in Family History of Sophia Brzecky Krajewski, Mary Krajewski Banaszek, Josephine Banaszek Nowak, Sally Nowak Schmidt". Sally's story recounts her older brothers' quest to discover the lineage of their great grandmother, Sophia Brzecky Krajewski, and their relationship to the original Jamestown Poles.

As Sally's story goes, her great grandmother Sophia was told a story passed down through several generations. Peter and Walenty Brzecki came to Jamestown in 1609 having been recruited by the London Company. They were skilled in the refining of the byproducts of pine for pine oil, turpentine, resin, tar and charcoal and felt it was their duty to respond to this calling to the New World. Per Sally's booklet "the two brothers were faced with grave disappointment, much unhappiness, and severe privations.....Their disappointment stemmed from the fact that they came from a family regimented and organized to a work-pattern. Upon arrival, they found no actual work organized for them. They also learned that many of the men who came had done so for the purpose of seeking wealth and adventure and that they were two of a small group who actually came to work."

The brothers also faced the hunger and sickness of the colony and Indian hostilities. They weren't at liberty to practice their Catholic faith which further contributed to their unhappiness. They faced a hard winter known as "The Starving Time" and then faced the following summer with no provisions living on a shellfish diet, quite different from their homeland diet of wheat and rye. As the oral history goes, Peter was broken in health and spirit and decided to return to England in 1612. Eventually, he made his way back to Poland where his descendants would not return to the U.S. until the 1870s. Walenty stayed and later moved down the James River to work at a plantation named "Warrascoyuck". The family states that he married late in life. It is claimed the brothers kept in touch, however impossible that may sound. Men that travelled to and from Virginia would relate the stories back to the old country. It is even claimed that the name of the plantation "Warrascoyuck" is a variation on the spelling "Warszawiak" and named for the Polish capital Warsaw. At least this was the story told back in Poland.

Sophia Brzecky Krajewski told the above story to her two great grandsons, Martin and Ladislaus Nowak, when they were young boys. Her family states she was born in 1803 in Bydgoszcz, Poland but her marriage record in Gora Znin in 1835 states her age as 22 which would make her birth year 1812 or 1813. Her parents were Adam Brzykci and Salomea Bialecka. Sophia's son, Casimir, immigrated to the U.S. in 1872 with his family. Another son, Jan, came about 1880 and married in the U.S. Sophia's granddaughter, Josepha Banaszczak Nowak, immigrated with her husband and baby, Martin, in 1876. All of these descendents of Sophia settled in Cleveland, Ohio. Sophia arrived in 1887, presumably a widow. She likely lived with her granddaughter, Josepha, where she would tell her stories to the young Martin and Lad. Sophia lived only a short time in the U.S. having died on Christmas Day in 1890. Martin and Lad were only age 16 and 11 when Sophia died but her stories lived on with them. In their retirement, they began the search for the Brzykci/Brzecki/Brzecky descendants of Jamestown.

Sophia had told them that Walenty Brzecki had married late in life but had one son also named Walenty. Also, the "z" was dropped from the surname and Walenty Jr. changed his name to William, thus he would be called William Breckey. A death record for William Breckey was found in the Parish Register of North Fornham on December 19, 1732. Later, the city of Warsaw, Richmond County, Virginia would have an entry in their "Will Book" for John Breckey, indicating him as the son of William. John's son, Peter, was also mentioned in the will of William Breckey.



Later, the will of Peter Breckey was found in the archives of Montross, Westmoreland, Virginia. Peter had owned slaves and left his possessions to his children, Gerald, John, Peter, and William and to his grandchildren.

The family story included key locations where the family lived including Warrascoyuck Plantation, Montross in Westmoreland County, and Warsaw in Richmond County. Sophia indicated that she knew that both Walenty and his son Walenty (William) were employed by the Washington and Lee families. Written documents in these years were very limited and with the naming practices of the time, different generations can easily confuse the researcher.

Now, here is where the Brzecki story is challenged. Peter Breckey (or Brickey), who signed his will on September 16, 1786 and died shortly after was married to Winifred Lucas. We can confirm this through online records and his will. However, his ancestral lineage came into question long after brothers Martin and Lad had researched their heritage and Sally Schmidt had documented their research in her manuscript. The 1815 Brickey Family Bible was discovered in the Roanoke library by Brickey family researchers. Peter Brickey's family is documented in that bible except the bible claims the family's ancestral lineage to John Brickey aka Jean Bricquet, a French Huguenot who immigrated around 1685 to South Carolina. The bible states that a year later John Brickey's family migrated to Westmoreland County, VA where his descendants would be tied to the Lee family (a fact that Sophia had related many years before about her own family). Information in the family bible was recorded by John Compton Brickey until his death in 1864 and included names and vital statistics for the descendants of Jean Bricquet/John Brickey. However, no immigration information or proof of his name is given for Jean Bricquet. The name of his wife is even in question.

Breckey Family (Sophia's version)

Walenty I

Walenty II (William) (?-1732)

John (? - 1762)

Peter (? - 1786)

Jarrett

John

Peter

William

Brickey Family (1815 Bible version)

Jean Bricquet (John Brickey) (? - 1718)

Peter (1715-1786)

Jarrett (1740-1790)

John (1741-1806)

Peter (1747-1791)

William (1756-1833)

Several books and manuscripts have been published about the Brickey family, all referring back to the written story in the original 1815 bible. The National Huguenot Society even verifies the existence and religious persuasion of Jean Bricquet aka John Brickey and that he was the immigrant father of the Brickeys in the U.S.

We cannot ignore the stories of Sophia Brzecki Krajewski as we cannot discount the written family bible yet we cannot prove either story without a doubt either. Unless further written documentation turns up we will never truly know if the well documented Brickey family were Poles whose ancestors came to Jamestown in 1608.



The Adventures of Antoni Sadowski—Polish Pioneer continued from page 3.....

While in Scotland, it is said he returned to his knowledge of languages to make a living as a tutor. It is thought that his relationship with the Scots lead him to immigrate to the New World. Approximately 1702, he crossed the Atlantic arriving most likely in New York (though a ship manifest with his name is not known to exist). He may have spent some time in Newtown, Long Island, New York living among Dutch and Scottish immigrants. This is likely where he met his wife, Marya Bordt (Mary Bird), a Dutch Protestant, whom he married about 1703.

The Birds and the Sadowskis and other Dutch families sought better land in the Somerset Valley. Around 1704, Antoni and Mary moved to Raritan (Somerville), New Jersey where records of the First Reformed Dutch Church of Raritan indicate the birth of a daughter named Britjert. However, they did not stay there long. By 1705, the family moved to a Scottish settlement near Matawan or Freehold, New Jersey where children Andrew, Justina, Anna, and Sophia were born. Here, as Pinkowski states, "Sadowski associated with men who sedately raised families, cultivated the soil, held political offices, traded with Indians...he witnessed a will, prepared an inventory of a man's estate, and had a fair account with Captain John Bowne, an old established merchant of Matawan." He was obviously a well respected citizen of Freehold.

John Bowne operated a trading post at Matawan where he bought furs from the Indians to ship to Europe. This is likely where Sadowski began his occupation as a fur trader and cultivated a lifelong friendly relationship with the Indians. His knowledge of languages would undoubtedly assist in his understanding of their native tongue.

Having established himself as a fur trader, Antoni was intrigued by the undiscovered wilderness. A Swedish colony had been established by William Penn along the Schuylkill River near present day Douglasville, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Those colonists, who were granted this land for practically nothing, were eager to sell portions to other settlers. In 1712, Antoni purchased "400 acres of land along the river for thirty pounds." The settlement was called Manatawny, Molatten or Morlatton and the land there was fertile and practically untouched, perfect for the Sadowski family to farm and raise cattle. It was also a prime location for his fur trade as the homestead was along an Indian trail that extended from Philadelphia to several Indian villages at the fork of the Susquehanna River.

In 1718, Antoni and some of his Swedish neighbors petitioned and were granted their own township. It was named Amity because of the peaceful relations they had with the neighboring Indians. In 1720, Sadowski and some other settlers went to Philadelphia to procure a pastor for a small congregation in their township. St. Gabriel's was then established in Molatten.

Sadowski's relationship with the Indians would be challenged in 1728. Antoni was summoned by the Governor to settle a dispute between the settlers and the Indians in his area. He travelled to the Indian villages as peacemaker



Postcard by Arthur Szyk
Jacob Sadowski, surveyor of Kentucky and grandson of Antoni Sadowski, who was originally thought to be the first Sadowski to settle in America

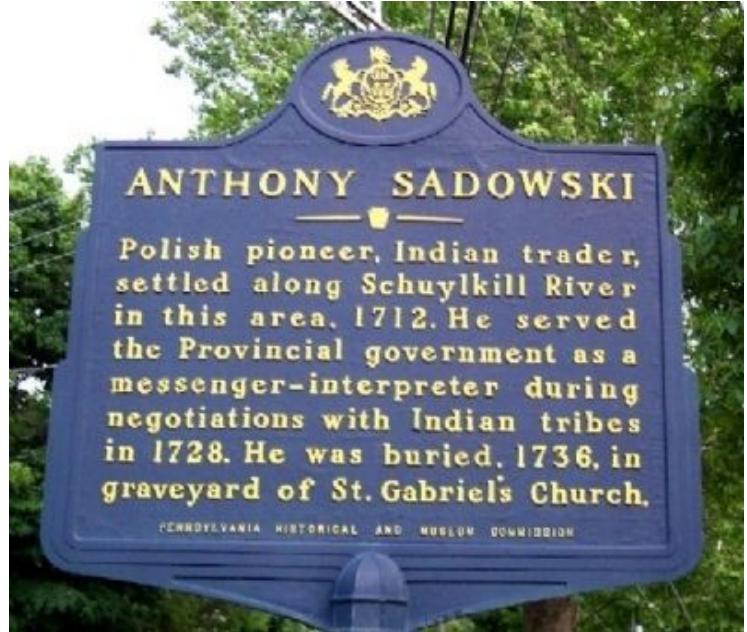


drawing on his language and mediating skills to settle their differences.

As the Indians settled further and further west, Sadowski followed and continued to trade with them. He set up a trading post called Kittanning along the Allegheny River. It was here that his trading post was robbed by some Indians. The loss was enough that Sadowski had to sell 100 acres of his land in Amity Township to pay his debtors. Antoni Sadowski, ever a peacemaker, took the loss in the course of business and continued to pursue trading with Indians as they continued to settle westward.

Later in 1728, a fellow Indian trader named John Le Tort was planning a trip out to the western shores of Lake Erie to trade with the Miami Indians. Sadowski also took the challenge and set up a trading operation at the mouth of the river as it entered the bay. For several years, possibly with one of his sons, he travelled back and forth to this area commencing trade with the Indians. However, when trouble started to stir between the French, the British and the Indians, Antoni abandoned his post and returned home. Shortly thereafter, this area would be called "Sandusky". Whether it was named for Antoni Sadowski or not is still a matter of debate.

Antoni died quietly in the spring of 1736 and was buried at the tiny cemetery of St. Gabriel's Church in Douglassville, Pennsylvania. His son, Andrew, had several children and eventually made his permanent home in Mooresfield, Virginia (now Moorefield, West Virginia). Andrew's sons, James and Jacob, became surveyors of Kentucky and eventually settled their families there. Jacob Sadowski (Sandusky) would make his own name for himself as a pioneer. Theodore Roosevelt in his book "The Winning of the West" called the Sadowskis "a most respectable family." Certainly, they cleared many paths for future generations in America. And a Polish pioneer adventurer named Antoni Sadowski started it all.



Antoni Sadowski Historical Marker
Douglassville, Berks County, Pennsylvania
Photo by William Fischer, Jr.

Sources and Further Reading:

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Davis, Marie Evans, *Some Sandusky descendants of Antoni Sadowski 1669-1988*, Greenville, AL, 1988.



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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**



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

"THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND" is an organization
dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing Polish genealogical information.

We invite anyone to join who is interested in tracing their family history. Meetings are held the
first Tuesday of each month (Sept. thru June) at St. Mary's PNC Church parish hall, located at
5375 Broadview Rd., Parma, Ohio at 7:30 PM.

PROGRAMS INCLUDE: Guest speakers, member participation and social hour. Our 12 page
quarterly newsletter is titled "OUR POLISH ANCESTORS", and is filled with interesting
Polish facts and history.



PGSGC Family Tree

By John F. Szuch

There is not a lot to report this time around. On a sad note, member Len Pryer's wife, Hanna (Pajzer), passed away after a long illness. Please remember her in your prayers, along with other deceased or ill members. Len is a regular fixture at our meetings selling the 50/50 raffle tickets and cleaning up the meeting room afterwards.



John Szuch with grandson, Jonathan Szuch
Benedictine Bengals Senior Honors Night
November 24, 2014

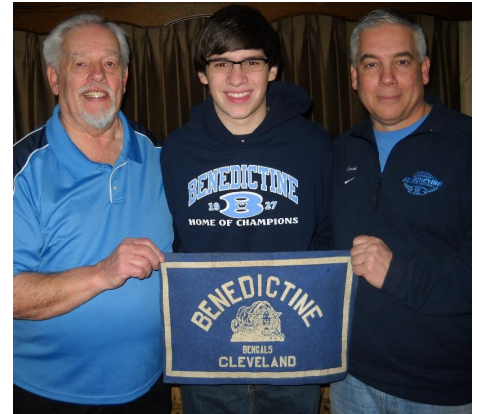
Personally, it has been an exciting time for me since the last bulletin. My grandson, Jonathan Szuch, is carrying on a family tradition at Benedictine High School in Cleveland. He is a senior and is a member of the Benedictine Bengals football team which plays in the State Semi-final playoff game against the Steubenville Big Red on Nov. 28th. I had a cousin, Wesley Sliter Jr., who graduated from BHS in 1949. Because of him, I got to attend two Benedictine games at the old Cleveland Stadium in 1948. One was the Bengal's first football win over Cathedral Latin and the other was their first City Championship beating South High 7-0! I graduated in 1955, my son, John, in 1978 and my son, Chris, in 1979. We were recently honored in a Benedictine Alumni publication as being one of a handful three generation BHS families.

Also in my household, my wife, Marlene, is recovering from her second cataract surgery in the last month.

Please contact me with some family information for future issues.

Thanks,

President John



Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

- January: **Small Group Discussion Sessions**
- February: Dr. Deborah Abbott, Professor at Cleveland State University
A Gift of Legacy: Who Is Writing Your Story?
- March: **Small Group Discussion Sessions**
- April: Sgt. Jerry Brown (retired), Cleveland Police Department
Museum in a Box (Cleveland Police Museum)



Cleveland's Polonia: Kantowa

Cleveland's Polish "Kantowa" neighborhood was originally settled in the 1840s when Isaac and Thomas Lamson and Samuel Sessions came from New England and established the area's first factory which produced carriage bolts. The area became known as University Heights when the city's first college, Cleveland University, was built there in 1850. However, the university closed in 1853 but the area retained street names such as Professor, College, University and Literary.

KANTOWA

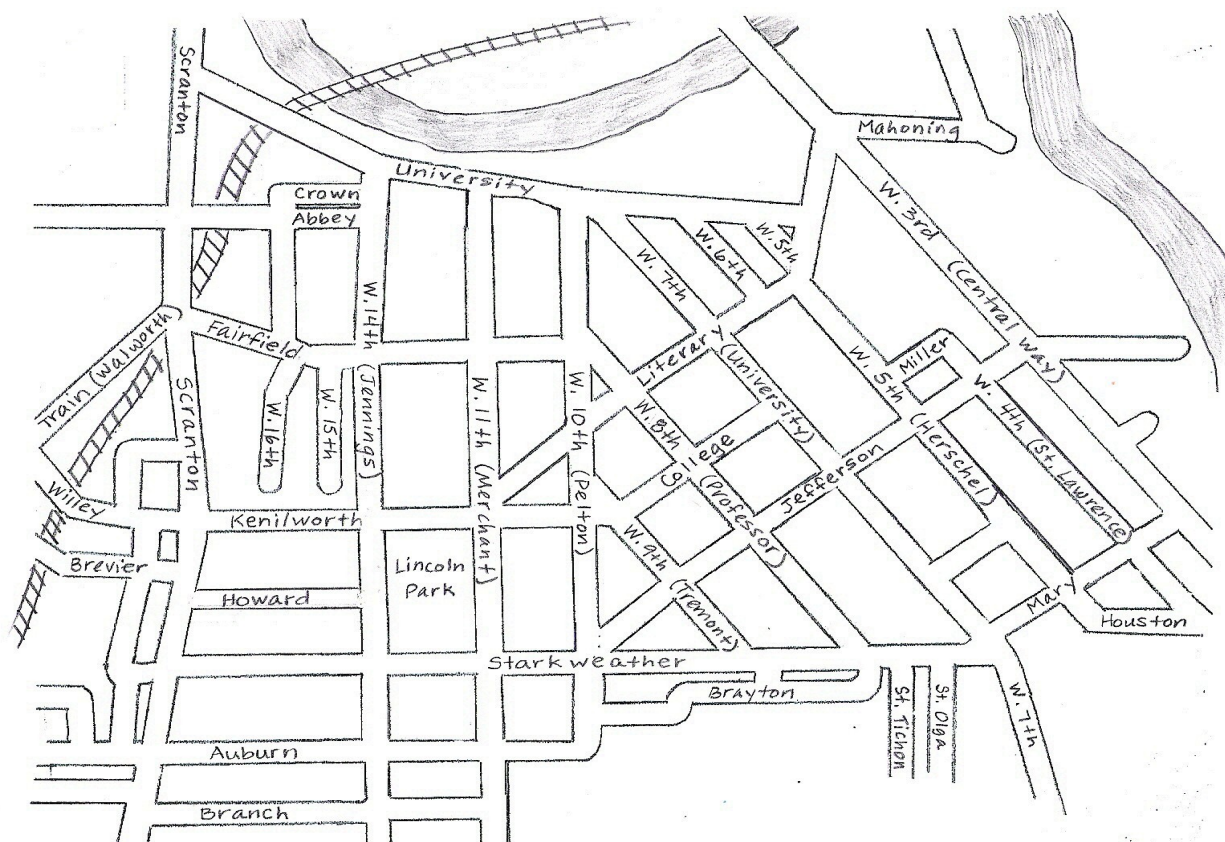


Illustration by Trina Goss Galauner

After the Civil war, the area was renamed Lincoln Heights, since the area hosted two Union Army camps during the war.

In the late 1870s, the earliest Polish settlers arrived to work on the dock or as laborers in the lumberyards and industries in the Flats. By the 1890s, the steel industry drew more Poles to the area. By 1897, enough Poles resided in Lincoln Heights for the formation of a Polish Roman Catholic parish, St. John Cantius. Thus, the community of "Kantowa" was formed, named for the local church.

The old neighborhood of "Kantowa" is located just west of the Cuyahoga River Valley and south of downtown Cleveland. The area is currently known as Tremont.



"Memories of Dziadka" by Stephen Szabados

Stephen Szabados writes a memoir of his grandfather's life in this historically informative account of a Polish immigrant to the United States. "Memories of Dziadka" is not a true biography but a probable image of the life of Stefan Zuchowski from rural Poland to industrial America.

Mr. Szabados first writes about rural life in Poland including family life, rituals, holidays and customs while also including some of the history of Poland. Later, he explains the reasons why Poles decided to emigrate, the struggles they endured to secure passage, and their trials and tribulations on their voyage and establishment at their final destination. In between, he includes factual information regarding Stefan's parents, brothers and sisters and his wife, Anna Chmielewski. He includes information and photos of the family homes and their occupations giving a full picture of a Polish immigrant's life. Images of the family, the homeland then and now, examples of steerage accommodations aboard a ship and the community in Bloomington, Illinois where his grandparents raised their family are integrated for extra affect.

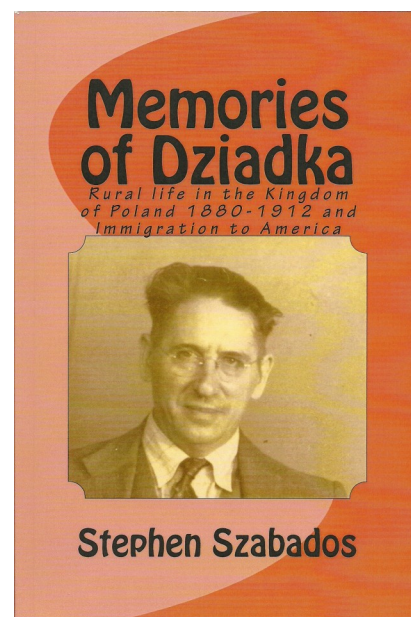
Mr. Szabados' straightforward and concise account about Poles and immigration makes the book an easy read and a great reference for anyone writing their own immigrant family's history. Reading this will certainly motivate any genealogist to dig deeper into the details of their immigrant ancestor.

Published by Stephen Szabados

ISBN: 150080309X

ISBN-13: 978-1500803094; Price: \$14.99; Available at www.amazon.com

Review by Trina Goss Galauner



Small Group Discussion Sessions to begin at PGSGC Meetings

The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland has come up with a new and exciting format for some of our monthly meetings. While we have guest speakers that come in and offer us training and advice on our genealogical research we will now offer small group discussion sessions. Our members themselves are a wealth of knowledge and information and allowing them to share their sources and knowledge will enable others to further their research. This will be especially beneficial for the beginning researcher that doesn't know where to start but also will benefit the seasoned genealogist with offering ideas and sources that may not have been known to them.

Items for small group discussion may include new and existing genealogical websites, ideas for cataloging your information, how to preserve your photographs, how to read and decipher documents, where to look for certain vital statistics, etc. The topics are endless!

If you have a source (electronic or otherwise) that you could share with our members in a small group atmosphere at our next meeting, please bring it along. Our first session will be at our January 6th meeting. We hope that all can attend and take advantage of what the PGSGC can offer you!

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**Polish Genealogical Society of
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www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/

**Please submit all correspondence to:
PGSGC Newsletter
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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.