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Do Cherry Trees Grow in Independence?

By Trina Goss Galauner

Are there cherry trees in Independence? There is a Cherry Street in Independence. And there was a family that lived in Independence named for the Polish word for cherry tree, Wiśniewski.

According to Wikipedia, the surname "Wiśniewski" (Polish pronunciation "vish-NEF-skee"; American pronunciation "wis-NES-kee") is the 3rd most common surname in Poland. ("Nowak" is the most common Polish surname). The first part of the name, "Wiśniew" or "wiśnia" translates in English to "cherry" or "cherry tree". Thus, anyone with the Wiśniewski surname would be "from the town of the cherry tree".

One of my direct ancestral lines has the surname Wiśniewski. As a matter of fact, one of my great great uncles changed his last name to "Cherry". Through my research, I have found that many Americans did the same. But the surname has also been changed to many other spellings that include but are not limited to Wisnieski, Wiszniewski, Wisniowki, Wisny, and Wisniowiecki. One of those variations, "Wisnieski", caught my interest while I was driving to the Independence Community Center. The name on a street sign was "W. Pete Wisnieski Pkwy".

W. Pete Wisnieski Parkway runs from Selig Drive through Elmwood Park to Elmwood Avenue in Independence, Ohio. The mayor of Independence from 1956-1978, whom this street was named for, was Winfred Pete Wisnieski (born Winfred Frank Wisnieski in 1908). He is credited with the development of Elmwood Park into a multipurpose community and civic center over the course of his



term. In 1986, the Independence City Council voted to change the name of Elmwood Park to Wisnieski Park but the change was met with disapproval by a faction of residents who thought the name "Elmwood" was more appropriate for a tree-filled park. Ironically, the name "Wisnieski" had the meaning "cherry tree". In 1989, a vote of the people returned the park's name to Elmwood Park. In 2003, city officials still wished to honor the former mayor so the winding road through Elmwood Park was

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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 for more information.



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Letter from the President

The three months between these letters seems to really fly by fast. But, the way the weather has been here of late, it's not going fast enough!

Surprisingly, the weather wasn't a factor like it was some years for our December/Christmas party meeting. The cold did keep some folks away either due to health conditions or just discomfort in general. Our attendance wasn't up to what it has been in the past.

I canceled the January meeting based on the weather predictions for that night. Although it didn't turn out as bad as they predicted, I felt it was better to play it safe than to be sorry.

That brings me to two suggestions that I'll be bringing up at the March meeting. One is to move the Christmas party to the October meeting which is our organization's anniversary month. The second suggestion is to eliminate the meeting for January which always has questionable weather for traveling.

Moving the party to October should eliminate the apprehension about the weather being a problem and should boost the attendance at the dinner. Speaking of the dinner, my thanks to all who contributed food and helped to make it an enjoyable time. My special thanks goes to Anthonette Baciak who stepped in for my two ailing "Kitchen Angels" (Charlotte & Shirley) and saw that everything went smoothly for the party.

As you can see from the photo in this bulletin, I, along with the rest of my officers were re-elected for another year. Thanks from the four of us!

May we all have a good 2015,

John



2015 PGSGC Officers Ben Kman, John F. Szuch, Sonia Chapnick, Ron Kraine

Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

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In Search of Stanley Radwan, Polish Iron King—Part 2

By John F. Szuch

World War II ended for Stanley on April 16, 1945 when the Allied Troops liberated the prisoners at the Bergen-Belsen POW Camp. What he did immediately after the war I do not know for sure. According to his son Thad-

France as Thaddeus was born there. The new

family sailed aboard the S.S. Sobieski from Cannes, France on May 12, 1947 and arrived in New York City on May 26, 1947. The ship manifest states that his destination was 10 Park Plaza, New York to see George A. Hamid Sr.

deus (Tadeusz), Stanley married his wife Zofia in Germany. Apparently they spent some time in



Stanley Radwan wrestling with Florian Stoebe at Bergen Belsen POW Camp in Germany photo courtesy of Rosemary Stoebe

Hamid at that time was the owner of the famous Steel Pier in Atlantic City, and was also the premier booking agent for acts performing at fairs,

circuses and expositions. Apparently, Hamid was aware of Stanley's strength talents and of his fame in Europe, and therefore sponsored him to the United States not only to help Stanley but to also to reap some financial benefits from Stan's talents and reputation.

Stanley Radwan in Polish Navy 1938

Sometime not too long after arriving in the US, Stanley and his family moved to the Cleveland, Ohio area. He started wrestling professionally in the latter part of 1949 and

sometime into the early 1950s. In addition to wrestling locally, he did exhibitions of his strength. I have a copy of an ad for his appearance in Hamtramck, MI in March, 1948. Another ad in my collection is a store window card advertising Stan's appearance on March 13, 1949 at St. Josaphat's Hall on E. 33rd Street in Cleveland. Stan's biggest

show was at the Cleveland Public Auditorium in 1950 and reported in LIFE magazine with numerous photos showing Stan's feats of strength such as pulling a delivery truck with his teeth, bending steel bars, lifting a horse, and being run over by a vehicle! That magazine article surely made him famous across the Nation.

Stan did not spend all his time bending steel rods and biting nails, he also held down other jobs. He was a bodyguard for Cleveland politicians including Mayor Ralph Perk. And according to William Miller of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, he retired after two decades of work for the Cuyahoga County Auditor's office. He inspected weights and measures and delivered paychecks to employees. Stan also spent 12 years working at the W.S. Tyler Co. in addition to having a local radio program.



Stanley Radwan at Bergen Belson POW Camp in Germany photo courtesy of Rosemary Stoebe

I remember talking to Fr. Ralph Bodziony at one of our early PGSGC meetings at St. John Cantius in the mid 1990s

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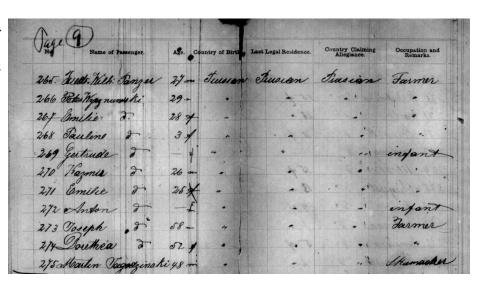


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officially named W. Pete Wisnieski Parkway.

But the Wisnieski legacy in Independence doesn't stop there. The Wisnieski family has a long history in Independence. As it turns out, the family became part of the backbone of the township that became a village and then a suburb of Cleveland.

The first Wisnieski that came to Independence was actually a farmer headed for Wisconsin. Antoni arrived on the Marco Polo on August 8, 1867. He went to Leavenworth, Kansas before ending up in Independence, Ohio. He likely heard about available work at the Kinzer and Hurst stone quarries. Independence quarries were known for their sandstone and blue stone. Ten months later on June 5, 1868, Antoni's parents, Joseph and Dorothea (aka Anna), and two brothers with their families arrived in the U.S. on the Hermine. From most accounts, the three brothers worked in the Independence stone



Wisniewski family listed on passenger list of the Hermine June 5, 1868

quarries until Antoni married Rosalie Jablonska, the sister of his brother Peter's wife, and decided to move to Nebraska and go back to farming.

Peter Wisnieski's two eldest girls were born in Poland and his wife, Wilhelmina Emilia, would give birth to six more children before she died in 1884 while giving birth to their only son, August. Unfortunately, August survived only ten days after his mother's death. Peter sent three daughters to live with his brother Anton in Nebraska, sent another daughter to live with a family in Bedford, Ohio and two other daughters went to live with a family in Northfield, Ohio. Peter only lived another five years and died in 1889.

Casimir and Amalia (nee Jablonski) Wisnieski's family would establish the roots of the family in Independence. The surname "Wisnieski" was actually "Wiśniewski" which is confirmed in the marriage record of Casimir and Amalia in Margonin (Chodziez), Posen, Prussia in 1865. Family historian Elma Wisniewski Carpenter claims this Amalia was a sister to Wilhelmina and Rosalie but the Margonin marriage record indicates Amalia's father's name is different. The eldest son, Anton, was born in Poland and after the family settled in Independence, Amalia gave birth to Frank, Mary, John P., Edward, Julie and Joseph. Casimir (sometimes called Casper) worked in the Independence stone quarries but died about age 54 in 1897. He and some of the early Wisnieski settlers of Independence are buried at St. Lawrence Cemetery on Rockside Road.

Casimir's sons worked in the stone quarries with their father but branched out into other occupations after the turn of the 20th century. Frank Wisnieski opened an auto garage with his sons, Joseph, Alvin and Winfred and became one of the first Ford dealers in the Cleveland area. He was also a trustee of Independence Township. When the township was incorporated in 1914, Frank became the first mayor of Independence Village. He would



serve 6 non-consecutive terms as mayor.

Mayor Frank's son, Winfred aka Pete, would continue his legacy when he became mayor in 1956. During his term, Independence would become a city in 1960. The city would enjoy tremendous growth over the decades and become one of the most desirable cities to live in being nicknamed the "Heart of Cuyahoga County". The Wisnieski family tree continues to grow proving that cherry trees do grow in Independence, Ohio.

FURTHER READING

The Story of Independence by Grace Miller, Elizabeth Spelman, Kathryn Boyer and Robert Boyer Descendants of Joseph and Anna Wisnieski and their sons by Elma Wisnieski Carpenter

Polish Family Heirlooms

This little prayer book is from the collection of member, Berni O'Malley. Her Polish grandfather, Walenti Wywra, ran a funeral service and carried this tiny book with him to all funeral assignments. He is believed to be the first licensed embalmer in Ohio. The prayer book measures about 3" x 2". The spectacles were also his (probably necessary for reading the miniscule book). Walenti caught diphtheria (reportedly from a body he was embalming) which turned into pneumonia and he died at age 37. These family heirlooms date back to about 1907 when he began his funeral business.







Message from our Librarian, Betty Joy

There is a new book available to our members to borrow that was donated by member, Roseanne Ewazen. Helen Pelczar, A Forgotten Stigmatic by Rev. Dr., Bernard F. Jarzembowski

denguis

dentitio

dengue fever

teething



Cause of Death and Disease terms and translation

Cause of death in a Polish death record was many times written in Latin. Below are some of the translations to English for your reference.

childbirth Abortus diphtheritis diphtheria abscessus abscess dysenteria dysentery seizure ecclampsia convulsions accessio sick empicus lung disease aeger cramps epilepsia epilepsy agonia pneumonia eructo vomiting agrippo ambustio burn/scald fatuitas idiocy febris aneurisma fever aneurysm febris enterica enteric fever angina angina angina laryngea croup febris flava yellow fever angina membranacea diphtheria bilious fever febris gastrica angina tonsillaris quincy febris hectica hectic fever apoplexy, stroke febris inflammatoria infammatory fever apoplexia febris nervosa strong fever; seizures apoplexia cerebralis apoplexy apoplexia cordis hemocardiorrhagia febris petechialis spotted fever nervous apoplexy apoplexia nervosa febris puerperalis puerperal fever apoplexia pulmonum febris putrida typhus gravior hemoptysis febris rheumatica asthenia atrophy rheumatic fever atrophia febris rubra scarlet fever atrophy calculus stones febris scorbutica scorbutic fever cancrum canker fluxus dysentery carbunculus carbuncle fluxus sanguinis bleed to death fractura carcinoma cancer fracture carcinoma prostata prostate cancer fulmen lightning strike furunculus carcinoma ventriculi stomach cancer furuncle, boil rhinitis infirmus weakness catarrhus inflammation causa incognita unknown cause inflamatio causarius veteran, disabled influenza flu cholerica cholera insanus insane, mad chorea Sancti Viti St. Vitus dance interitus enteritis colica colic invina/invivus stillborn commotio concussion labes rash constipatio constipation galbanus jaundice tuberculosis consumptio gangræna gangrene contusio contusion hæmorrhagia hemorrhage hæmorrhois hemorrhoids convulsio convulsions cordis degeneratio fatty degeneration of the heart hydrocephalus hydrocephalus crampus cramps hydropsis dropsy; edema de Morbo Gallico syphilis hydropsis abdominalis ascites debilitas debility, illness, weakness hypertrophia cordis heart hypertrophy weakness in childbirth debilitas ex partu icterus iaundice decollatio decapitation/beheading igne combusta burned delirus, delira erysipelas, St. Anthony's Fire mad, insane, crazy ignis sacer demens insane immaturitas immature; premature

inedia

infectio

famine; fast

infection

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infirmitas weakness
inflamatio inflammation
influenza flu
insanus insane, mad
interitus enteritis
invina/invivus stillborn

labes rash; spotted fever

marasmus weakness

marasmus senilis progressive atrophy of old age

marasmus universalis wasting away of flesh meningitis cerebralis cerebro-spinal meningitis

morbili measles morbus disease

morbus Addisonii Addison's disease

morbus aphrodisius syphilis morbus arquatus jaundice

morbus articulorum disease of the joints

morbus Brightii Bright's disease of the kidney

morbus caducus epilepsy

morbus cerebri disease of the brain

morbus coeruleus cyanosis morbus cordis heart disease

morbus coxæ tubercular disease of the hip joint

morbus cutis skin disease syphilis syphilis elephantiasis morbus hungaricus epidemic typhus

morbus incurvus cyrtosis, incurvation of the spine

morbus indicus syphilis

morbus infantilis infantile epilepsy morbus jecoris liver disease morbus magnus epilepsy

morbus pancreatis pancreas disease morbus pedicularis phtiriasis (lice) morbus pulmonum lung disease morbus splenis spleen disease morbus strangulatorius sore throat uterine disease morbus ventriculi stomach disease

mors death

mors death
mors repentina sudden death
mortua nata stillborn (girl)
mortus natus stillborn (boy)

myelitis lumbalis paraplegia of both legs

naturali natural death
natus immaturus premature birth

natus mortuus stillborn noma canker

obstructiones bowel obstruction oetic media middle ear infection

ossifragium broken bone partus childbirth perfrictio cold, chill

perniciose anaemie pernicious anemia

pestis plague phthisis tuberulosis

phthisis acuta galloping tuberculosis phthisis bronchialis bronchial tuberculosis

phthisis pituitiosa
phthisis pulmonalis
pleuritis dextra
pleuritis sinistra
pox

bronchorrhea
lung tuberculosis
right side pleuritis
left side pleuritis
smallpox

pox proflurium diarrhea childbirth puerperium Pulmonum lungs pustula blister rheumatismus rheumatism rubeola measles scarlet fever scarlatina scophulosis scorfula scorbutus scurvy senectus old age

senilis weak with age spasmus cramps

stranguria strangulation struma goiter submersio drowning suffacatio suffocation suididium suicide surditas deaf

suspendium death by hanging tabes exhaustion tetanus lockjaw tremor convulsions thussis whooping cough

Tuber swelling tussis convulsiva pertussis typhus typhoid fever ulcus ulcer

ulcus ulcer
varicella chicken pox
variola smallbox

variola smallpox venenatio poisoning vermis worms

vitia conformationis malformation
vomitus vomiting
vulnus cultro stabbed/cut
vulnus punctum stab wound
vulnus sclopeticum gunshot wound
vulnus tormento gunshot wound

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Our Polish Ancestors

In Search of Stanley Radwan, Polish Iron King—Part 2 continued from page 3......

and I mentioned that I was trying to find Stanley Radwan. He said he knew him and would get me his address. I was also surprised when he told me that he saw a performance by Stan during a student assembly at our mutual alma mater, Benedictine High School. Armed with the address information I was able to end my quest for Stanley Radwan in 1995 by visiting him at his residence on Clement Ave. I wish I had met him in his prime, I would have had him bend a quarter in half just using his fingers.

Stan died on April 6, 1998 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery (Sec. 70, lot 3754). There isn't a marker but the location is immediately to the right of the stone for John SCHULTE. When the weather gets better this spring, I plan on looking into the possibility of collecting money to buy a marker for this hero of the Cleveland Poles and Poles the world over!

I would like to thank Rosemary Stoebe of Toronto, Canada for sending me two photos of her Dad, Florian Stoebe, wrestling with Stanley Radwan in the Bergen-Belsen POW Camp in Germany. And also thank her for some of the genealogical research she did on Stanley.

Anyone who has any personal memories of Stanley, I would love to hear from you.

Welcome — New Member — Witamy

Marilyn Polansky Gross 1329 W. Island Club Sq. Vero Beach, FL 32963 megdrg@yahoo.com

Polanski/Polansky, Siodyla, Boczar, Folcik, Jurkowska, Zawada, Szafran, Filak, Przybla, Gebus, Bojnowski

Patricia Shiley 3803 Lincoln Ave. Parma, OH 44134 jshiley@att.net Brunswick, Bronczyk, Fraczyk, Przybyla, Chmielewska, Madej, Michalak, Prorok,

Polanski, Zubik, Szafran, Zawada

David Bernatowicz 4934 East 107th St. Garfield Hts., OH 44125 Bernatow.david@sbcglobal.net Bernatowicz, Kucharski, Materna, Domeracki, Potha, Wisniewski

Ellen Zielinski

162 E. Broadway #4B New York, NY 10002 ezielinski@dcas.nyc.gov Zielinski, Cuglewski, Sepetowski, Krawczyk, Traczynski/Traczinski, Sienkiewicz,

Jablonowski, Pasiut, Wachowski

Stanley Brescoll

4951 S. Haggerty Rd. Lot 46 Canton, MI 48188 sbrescoll@hotmail.com Brzeski, Sitek, Kucyba, Jesionowska, Kaszubska, Wojnar, Osucha, Rachwal,

Pawella, Jarczakowska, Mosson

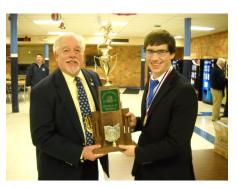
Mary Ellen Paduch 4179 Columbia Rd. #116 North Olmsted, OH 44070 Zack/Zach, Wesolowski



PGSGC Family Tree

By John F. Szuch

Unfortunately, I do have some sad news to report this issue. I am ,however, looking for good news from members for the next issue. Member Barry Nauts (brother-in-law of member Gayle Palshook and son-in-law of deceased members Helen and Peter Palshook) passed away in Toledo, OH on December 29th after a period of illness. Barry did attend a meeting in the past when it coincided with a visit to his in-laws. Our condolences to the family. May his soul and all of those faithfully departed rest in peace.



John and Jonathan Szuch with trophy

In the last installment I wrote that my Grandson, Jonathan Szuch, and his Benedictine Bengals High School football teammates were advancing in the Ohio Div. IV playoffs. I'm proud to report that they did in fact win the Div. IV State Title by virtue of a hard fought 21-14 victory over Kettering, Archbishop Alter High School. The game was played at The Ohio State stadium in Columbus. It was truly a dream sea-

son for this Grandfather!

If you have any old family pictures with a story that you would like to share with us, please contact us.

Our newsletter editor and website manager, Trina Galauner, has some proud news to report. Her youngest son, Erik, just earned his USA Hockey Officials license at the young age of 12. Now, he not only plays ice hockey but he plans to referee some games to help pay his hockey travel expenses. Trina's father, Ken Goss (Gosiorowski), who passed away in 2010, had played hockey as a youth and then became a USA Hockey Official serving the local hockey community for 40 years. Some things just run in the family!



Erik with his Official's patch

Grandpa Ken referee's Erik's game 2009 Ice of March mite tournament

President John

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

April: Sgt. Jerry Brown (retired), Cleveland Police Department

Museum in a Box (Cleveland Police Museum)

Andrew Mizsak, Volunteer Ranger, Cuyahoga Valley National Park May:

Ohio's National Park and the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps)

Family Tree Night (small group discussion session) lune:

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Cleveland's Polonia: Barbarowa

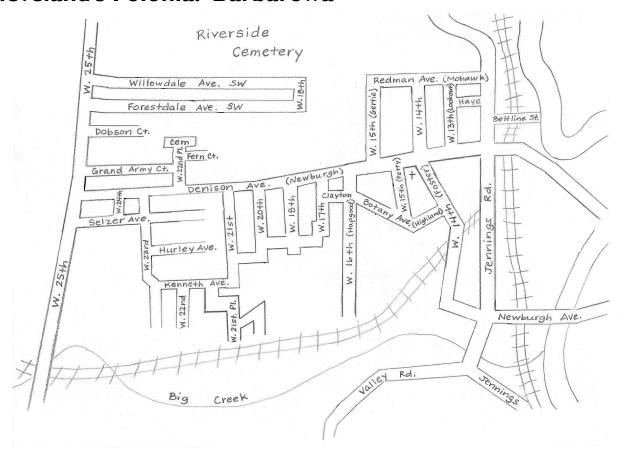


Illustration by Trina Goss Galauner

James and Moses Fish of Groton, Connecticut first settled the neighborhood of Brooklyn Village in 1812. These early settlers cleared an 80-acre tract of land that was on both sides of present day Denison Avenue. Soon after, the families Hinckley, Brainard, Young and Foster arrived. Ebenezer Foster owned a large tract of land, which would become a large part of "Barbarowa". He was a farmer and raised horses.

By 1898, much of the Foster land had been subdivided. A development partnership, Petty and Baldwin, had also divided land into residential lots. There were now homes along Denison Avenue (then known as Newburgh Road) and West 15th Street (then known as Gertie Avenue). Leather tanneries and soap and fertilizer industries were established on the west bank of the Cuyahoga River. These industries attracted German immigrants and later, Polish immigrants. The lack of transportation to these factories and necessity of the workers to be able to walk to their jobs led to the further increase of settlement into the nearby residential neighborhood.

By 1900, the area was developing but had more vacant lots than houses and numerous undeveloped streets. The Poles living in the area were dependent on the pastor of St. John Cantius for their religious needs. There was also an increase in the number of independent Catholic churches being formed and a belief that they were luring away the faithful from the Catholic diocese.

It was in this environment that the Polish parish of St. Barbara's was founded in 1905. The establishment of the church drew more Poles to the area so that by the late 1920s Polish immigration had filled the neighborhood that was now called "Barbarowa". The neighborhood would encompass the area south of Riverside Cemetery, west of the Cuyahoga River, north of Big Creek and east of West 25th Street.



"Polish Roots" 2nd Edition by Rosemary A. Chorzempa

Some may consider *Polish Roots* by Rosemary A. Chorzempa the bible for Polish genealogy research. I would certainly not argue that statement. Every Polish family historian should have this handy reference on their shelf. Now, the publication of the 2nd edition of *Polish Roots* includes even more beneficial and updated research aids.

The 1st and 2nd editions include chapters on valuable records, places to research Polish genealogy in the U.S., Polish Genealogical Societies and their contact information, the history of Poland and its social classes, geographic

areas, civil records, surname practices, just to name a few. A listing of Polish first names (with spelling variations), the Polish alphabet, key Polish words and a glossary of Polish terms found in vital records are also included. Especially helpful are the several scans of Polish records which give the reader a glimpse at the types of documents they may find while researching and how to decipher them. Simple historical and modern maps in the book also give the researcher an understanding of the territorial boundaries and their change over the centuries.

The 2nd edition adds three additional chapters to the original version, Online Polish Genealogical Research in America, Online Research Using Records from Poland and Polish Genealogy Research in the Digital Age. These chapters update the researcher on new websites available and new information at existing genealogy websites since the last publication. Also included are updated mailing addresses for archives, libraries and genealogical societies in addition to web addresses for many of them.

There are countless benefits to having this guide as a reference while researching your Polish family history. Don't miss out on owning this fine piece of reference material.

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Price: \$24.95; Available at www.genealogical.com and www.amazon.com

Rosemary A. Chorzempa

Some Genealogy Websites

geneteka.genealodzy.pl

(great online site where you can get copies of original Polish birth, marriage and death records)

http://archive.org

(access actual passenger manifests of New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, etc. and so much more!)

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



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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.