



Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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She Prayed for Everyone—The Suffering of Helena Pelczar

By Trina Goss Galauner

Lost souls in purgatory, those were some of the people Helena Pelczar prayed for. One was Sr. Mary Venantia, once a young teacher at St. John Cantius School, who was in purgatory suffering due to "curiosity about terrestrial things". Another was Pope Benedict XV who had not prayed enough in his life. Yet another was Cleveland pastor Rev. Francis Doppke who died in 1917 and was relegated to purgatory because his parishioners had forgotten about him.



Portrait of Helena Pelczar from the cover of the book *Helen Pelczar A Forgotten Stigmatic* by Rev. Dr. Bernard F. Jarzembowski

Helena Pelczar was a pious young immigrant living on Thurman Avenue in the 1920s with her aunt, Julia Wiernasz, and cousins, when she allegedly suffered in great pain for sinners. Her story is holy and uplifting yet somewhat questionable. She is claimed by many to have had stigmata, the mysterious appearance of wounds on the body like those experienced by Christ during the passion. However, to this day, there is no acknowledgement by the Roman Catholic church of Helena Pelczar's stigmata and little written data to support her story.

It was in the small village of Korczyna that Helena Pelczar was born on Christmas Day in 1888 to Franciszek and Salomea (nee Wiernasz) Pelczar. She was the 2nd oldest of eight children. The family was very poor and as a child Helena suffered frostbitten legs and feet during the winters because of her lack of suitable clothing and footwear. When she was young, she developed a large ulcer on her stomach. Her father took her on a pilgrimage to the church in Stara Wies to visit a painting of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary that was known to produce miracles for those who prayed to it. As the story goes, Franciszek laid a cloth on the painting and then on Helena's wound and it was healed.

Helena's family was so poor that she even had to borrow her First Communion dress from her school principal. Her mother died when she was only nine years old and Helena was sent to work as a servant. Later, she went to live with the Jurasz family,

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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.





Letter from the President

I often try to analyze why today's younger generation has little interest in their heritage and I think I've come up with "The Missing Link"! The Missing Link is European born Grandparents! Those of us who are second generation Americans born in the 1930s and 1940s have had great exposure to our Polish heritage through our Polish born grandparents and may have, like myself, grew up in the same home with them. Either way, we had first hand exposure to their Polish customs and cooking and, of course, their religious faith.

Many of our generation grew up in Polish ethnic neighborhoods with a Polish church or churches as our focal point. We also had numerous Polish organizations (see the article in this bulletin) that indoctrinated us in Polish customs, etc. The intercity ethnic neighborhoods have all but pretty much dissolved as the younger generation of Poles moved to the various Cleveland suburbs. Some of the Polish churches still exist today but many have closed or merged.

The dissolving of the ethnic neighborhoods probably brought about the loss of ethnic identity today. In the old days, people of the same ethnic backgrounds attended the same schools, churches and community functions were likely to marry each other. With mixed heritage marriages today, there may not be as much interest in the ethnic customs of either side of the family.

All that we can do is try to expose today's younger generation to our ethnic pride and hope that some of it rubs off. One good way is to plan an outing for a mass at one of the magnificent Polish intercity churches such as St. John Cantius, St. Stanislaus, St. Casimir, or Immaculate Heart of Mary. The younger generation would be in awe of these churches where their great grandparents worshipped! I planned a family outing to St. Casimir's on November 11, 2012 to honor my grandparents 100th wedding anniversary. It was an inspiration to my children and their children to attend a Mass in such a beautiful and ethnically historic structure.

John



Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

c/o St. Mary's PNC Church

1901 Wexford Ave.

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Cleveland's Ethnic Directory

By Trina Goss Galauner

In 1955, the Cleveland Press and the Folk Arts Association sponsored a publication entitled *Theodore Andrica's 1955 All Nationalities Directory*. The booklet contained a "complete roster of 2,000 organizations in Greater Cleveland belonging to 46 Nationality Groups." Louis B. Seltzer, editor for the Cleveland Press, indicated in the foreword section of the publication that the project was created in 1926 when Theodore Andrica was hired as Nationalities Editor at the Cleveland Press. For over 25 years, information was collected and compiled until in 1955 it reached publication. The hope was that the guide would provide a benefit to the community by connecting them with ethnic businesses, clubs, churches and other organizations within the Greater Cleveland area. The guide included the following nationalities:

Albanian	French	Norwegian
Armenian	German	Polish
Austrian	Greek	Puerto Rican
British	Hungarian	Romanian
Byelo-Russian	Irish	Rusin
Bulgarian	Italian	Russian
Canadian	Japanese	Saxon
Chinese	Jewish	Scotch
Cossack	Latin-American	Serbian
Croatian	Latvian	Slovak
Czech	Lebanese	Slovenian
Danish	Lemko	Spanish
Dutch	Lithuanian	Swiss
Esthonian	Macedonian	Syrian
Filipino	Manx	Ukrainian
Finnish	Mexican	Welsh



Courtesy of John F. Szuch

Organizations were sorted by ethnicity and then by type of organization. Churches, banks, radio programs, halls, publications, musical groups, fraternities, lodges and social groups were included in the publication which indicated contact name, address and phone number for each entry as available.

A listing of organizations from the Polish section of the booklet is on the following page.

Churches - Roman Catholic

St. Barbara
St. Casimir
Corpus Christi
St. Hedwig
St. Hyacinth
Immaculate Heart of Mary
St. John Cantius
St. Josaphat
Our Lady of Czestochowa
SS. Peter and Paul
Sacred Heart of Jesus
St. Stanislaus

Churches - Polish National Catholic

Holy Trinity
St. Mary's
Sacred Heart of Jesus
Good Shepherd
All Saints

Publications

Wiadomosci Codzienne
Kuryer
Zjednoczenia
Zwiaskowiec

Banks

Bank of Cleveland
Lincoln Heights Savings and Loan Co.
St. Hyacinth Savings and Loan Co.
Third Federal Savings and Loan Co.
United (Warsaw) Savings and Loan Co.
Progressive Grocers Association

Radio Programs

WDOK (Weds. 7-7:30 pm and Sun. 11-12 noon)
WERE (Sun. 9:30-10 am)
WJW (Sun. 10-11 am)
WJMO (Sun. 12:30-1 pm)

Halls

Alliance of Poles Hall
Association of Polish Women's Hall
Polish National Home
White Eagle Hall
Polish Library Home Hall
Polish American Home
Polish People's Home
Polish Library Home

Polish Falcon's Hall
Polonia Hall
Harmonia Chopin Hall
Moniuszko Hall
Union of Poles Hall
Polish Legion American Veterans Hall
Pulaski Post Hall
Polish Legion AmeriVeterans Washington Post Hall
Krakow Club Hall
Polish Army Veterans Hall
ZPA Hall
Polish N. Alliance Hall

Drama - Music

Fredro Dramatic Club
Halka Singing Society
Halina Singing Society
Harmonia Chopin Singing Society
Harmonia Chopin Ladies Chorus
Jutrzenka Singing Society
Moniuszko Singing Society
Moniuszko Ladies Chorus
Polish National Chorus
Polish National Singers Society
Polish Comabats' Chorus
Promienistych Chorus
Symfonia Singing Society
Polish American Dancers

Fraternal

Polish National Alliance
Assn. of Polish Women in the U.S. (Cleveland lodges)
Polish Roman Catholic Union of America
Alliance of Poles of America (Cleveland lodges)
Polish Association of America (Cleveland lodges)
Polish Women's Alliance of America (Cleveland lodges)
Polish National Union of America
Union of Poles in America (officers and directors)

Veterans' Groups

Polish Legion of American Veterans, Dept. of Ohio
Polish Legion of American Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary,
Dept. of Ohio (Gold Star and Cleveland chapters)
Polish Army Veterans Post 152
Polish Army Veterans Association Post 6
Polish Seventh Army Veterans (Gen. Sikorski) Post 203

.....continued on the following page



Social, Cultural and General

American Relief for Poland
 Alvernia Rest Home
 Advocates Club
 Civic Welfare Association
 Cleveland Society
 Helen Modjeska Club
 Kosciuszko Monument Association
 Polish American Women's Club
 Polish American Club of Brooklyn
 Polish American Club on Corlett
 Polish Club on Bellaire
 Polish Cultural Garden
 Polish Educational Club
 Polish Falcons
 Polish Golden Age Club
 Polish Ladies Educational Circle
 Polish Library Home
 Polish Medical and Dental Arts Assn
 Polish National Fund
 Polish American Congress, Ohio Dist.
 Polish People's Home
 Polish Sea and Colonial League
 Polish Women's Corlett Club
 Polish Women's Progressive Aid Club of Newburgh Hts.
 Polish Widows and Widowers Club
 Polonaise Art Club
 Star of Polish Women

She Prayed For Everyone—The Suffering of Helena Pelczar continued from page 1.....

worked in their fields and tended the cattle. In 1910, while living with the Jurasz family, Helena had her first vision of the Lord, Virgin Mary, angels and saints.

Helena's aunt, Julianna Wiernasz, had immigrated to the U.S. in 1898. In 1905, she purchased a home on Thurman Avenue in the Kantowa neighborhood. Helena's sister, Julia, immigrated shortly before her in March 1913. Then on November 19, 1913, Helena arrived in the U.S. aboard the Grosser Kurfurst. She went to live with her aunt Julia in Cleveland. She immediately came down with her "strange sickness" with visions. Reportedly, the illness lasted for five years.

Her sickness would start with Helena losing touch with reality for several days and she would not leave bed or eat or drink. Then she would come out of her trance and suffer intense pain for 3-5 days. And finally she would black out and come back to reality pain free.

Her family said she could predict the exact time and length of her sicknesses. On Christmas Eve in 1917, Helena came home from mass and began suffering great pain. Four days later, sores appeared on her hands and feet, the stigmata. Dr. Smigiel examined

her but could not diagnose her. Helena continued her suffering until February when she had a short respite for 9 days before her pain began again. This time the stains/sores got larger and she was in agony on Ash Wednesday until falling into an unconscious state the following evening. During this unconsciousness, she claimed Jesus came to her and told her to totally abstain from meat and abstain from all food and drink from Thursdays at noon until Saturdays at noon. He also told her she would continue to experience great pain and be able to recognize sinners. Upon awakening, Helena started to bleed from her sores, on the first Friday of Lent in 1918.

In March 1918, the Sisters of St. Joseph visited and witnessed Helen's stigmata. Fr. Francis Duda, visiting priest to St. John Cantius church, also witnessed Helen's stigmata when he would bring her Holy Communion. Later in October, Helena would suffer even worse and a wound would appear on her forehead similar to the crown of thorns worn by Jesus.

In 1919, Helena became ill with colic. Dr. Krebs came and diagnosed her with pleurisy but did not witness her stigmata. Later, Fr. Duda brought Dr. Kocinski to witness the bleeding, but her sores did not bleed until he left. In 1920, Helena applied to the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. She needed a clean bill of health from a doctor to join the Order but was given a diagnosis of tuberculosis so was unable to. Helena continued in ill health.

In December 1925, she took critically ill and suffered for the next several months having trouble breathing and swallowing due to the advancing tuberculosis in her body. Helena died on April 27, 1926, quietly, at her Aunt



Our Polish Ancestors

Julia's home. Just before she died she promised "When I get to Heaven, I will pray for everyone...."

Helena had applied to the Third Order of the Franciscans, a lay organization, and was accepted. Because of this she was permitted to be buried in a tertiary habit. "All letters, personal notes and photos that belonged to Helen Pelczar were given to Franciscan friars." Helena's favorite painting of Our Lady of Sorrows was given to St. John Cantius Church. Neither of the local bishops during Helena's life, Rev. Farrelly and Rev. Schrembs, communicated her religious sufferings to the Pope. Perhaps, they were in disbelief.

The Rev. Dr. Bernard F. Jarzembowski of Michigan became interested in Helena's case soon after her death in 1926. Through interviews with those who

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Cuyahoga Registration District No. 9 File No. 23067
Township Walbridge Primary Registration District No. 4455 Registered No. 4455

or Village Walbridge No. 1 (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)
or City of Walbridge State Ohio Ward 1
Did Deceased Serve in U. S. Navy or Army No

2 FULL NAME Helena Pelczar
(a) Residence No. 2178 Thurman St. Walbridge Ward 1
(b) Residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U.S. if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds. (If nonresident give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3 SEX <u>Female</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced <u>Single</u>	16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day and year) <u>4-27 1926</u>	17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>March 28 1926</u> to <u>April 27 1926</u> that I last saw her alive on <u>April 27 1926</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>9:30 p.m.</u>	
6 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>Dec. 25 1888</u>	7 AGE Years <u>37</u> Months <u>4</u> Days <u>2</u>	8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED <u>Home girl</u>	The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Tuberculosis</u>		
9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Poland</u>	10 NAME OF DECEASED <u>Helena Pelczar</u>	11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) <u>Poland</u>	18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? <u>Cleveland, O. home</u>		
12 MOTHER'S NAME <u>Wiermas</u>	13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) <u>Poland</u>	14 Informant <u>Frank Wiermas (Cousin)</u>	Did an operation precede death? <u>No</u>		
15 Filed <u>APR 30 1926</u>	16 Registrar <u>W. J. ...</u>	17 Informant (Address) <u>2178 Thurman St.</u>	Was there an autopsy? <u>No</u>		
		18 Informant (Address) <u>2178 Thurman St.</u>	What test confirmed diagnosis? <u>Clinical findings</u>		
		19 Informant (Address) <u>2178 Thurman St.</u>	(Signed) <u>A. H. ...</u> M. D. <u>4-28-26</u> (Address) <u>2732-1614</u>		
		20 Informant (Address) <u>2178 Thurman St.</u>	*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or its details from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS AND NATURE OF INJURY, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. (See reverse side for additional space.)		
		21 Informant (Address) <u>2178 Thurman St.</u>	19 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL <u>Calvary Cemetery</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>May 1 1926</u>		
		22 Informant (Address) <u>2178 Thurman St.</u>	20 UNDERTAKER License No. <u>2128A</u> ADDRESS <u>2258 Professor</u>		

Ohio Death Certificate for Helena Pelczar



Prayer card printed by Franciscans BVM Assumption Province printer in 1948

knew her in the U.S. and Poland, he researched Helena's life in order to make her case for beatification. His work was approved by the Roman Catholic church for publication by Cardinal G. W. Mundelein of Chicago but remained unknown. When Jarzembowski's manuscript surfaced in 1936 and was given to Rev. Marion J. Orzechowski of St. John Cantius Church, Helena's story came back to life.

Local Clevelanders and others made pilgrimages to Helena's grave at Calvary Cemetery by the thousands. There were claims singing could be heard from the gravesite and miracles were being performed there. The grounds were so trampled around her gravesite that the cemetery had her grave roped off and watchmen were posted at cemetery entrances to question the intent of those entering to dissuade the curious. The Catholic diocese remained skeptical until a full investigation could be made. In the end, no documented miracles or proof of stigmata was uncovered. Helena was forgotten and the matter dissolved.

In 1948, Helena's cousin, Frank, ordered prayer cards from the Franciscans BVM Assumption Province printery to distribute in his quest for her beatification. The prayer card was approved for printing by Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona of the Diocese of Green Bay. But, again, nothing became of it.

PGSGC founder and member, Ed Mendyka, now deceased, researched Helena's story from 1996 to 1997. In his documentation was a letter from Rev. Ralph E. Wiatrowski, Chancellor of the Diocese of Cleveland,



to Mrs. Geraldine Levinsky, a distant relation to Helena Pelczar. In the letter, regarding the singing at Helena's gravesite, Rev. Wiatrowski stated, " ...some people began reporting that they had heard music coming from her grave.....there was some public notoriety about the event and the diocese investigated it and discovered that what was occurring was a part of an elaborate hoax created by a person who hoped to make a profit from writing her biography." Helena's life in Cleveland was "exceedingly simple...her daily routine consisted of attending Mass, receiving Holy Communion, doing the house-work and for the rest of the day preparing vegetables for a small market kept by her aunt." This mentions no denial of her stigmata .

However, other letters to Mr. Mendyka from the Franciscans in Pulaski, Wisconsin, the La Salette Fathers in Twin Lakes, Wisconsin, the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin and even the Archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, claim to have no record of Helena Pelczar or her story in their files. The few Sisters that were living in 1996 who had taught at St. John Cantius during Helena's life there had no memory of her. Mr. Mendyka even attempted to visit the elderly Sister Matilde, who was reportedly very close to Helena during her life. However, Sister Matilde had just suffered a stroke and was not even conscious to communicate. It would appear that Helena's story had gone cold once again.

There are many people who believe that Helena Pelczar was a stigmatic. With the republication of her story, perhaps new information will surface. It is interesting to note that her own sister, Julia Pelczar Zielinski, did not even know or witness that she was a stigmatic. Whether or not she endured this mysterious suffering we can take comfort to know that she is praying for all of us.

Other Notes:

The birthplace of Helena Pelczar, Korczyn, lies in a valley surrounded by mountains. The word "Korczyn" actually means "beautiful mud". The people of Korczyn were known for their weaving and many immigrated to the U.S. bringing their trade with them. Several Pelczar and Pelczarski families settled in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. They are likely related to Helena, if only distantly.

The Pelczar family name seems to originate in Korczyn, Kroscienko Wyzne and surrounding areas in southeastern Poland. The surname possibly came from Sweden. Legend has it that during the Swedish-Polish Wars in the 1600s there was a Swedish soldier named "Pelchar" that married a Polish girl and settled in Poland. The surname in Polish would be spelled "Pelczar".

There is speculation that Helena was related to St. Josef Sebastian Pelczar who was born 1842 in Korczyn. However, exactly how they are related is not known. The Pelczar/Pelczarski family was quite prominent in Korczyn. In 1621, Sebastian Pelczar, a farmer, built a large wooden church in Korczyn. St. Josef Pelczar's

August 1, 1997

Mr. Ed Mendyka
433 Jennings Rd. #233
Cleveland, Ohio 44109
(929) 822-5422

B.V.M. Assumption Province Archives
143 East Pulaski St.
Pulaski, WI. 54162

Dear Mr. Mendyka,

Sister Ella Kaster, CSJ, archivist for the Green Bay Diocese Archives, forwarded your letter of inquiry and other items to the Franciscan Archives of the Assumption Province, Pulaski, WI.

The prayer card in your possession had been printed in our printery. Most probably at the request of Mr. Frank Wiernasz whose name appears on the card. However the printery archive has been disbanded and no further information is available.

I would suggest you contact:

Diocesan Archives and the Parish Archives since a phenomenon such as experienced by Helen Pelczar must have drawn some local attention, and recorded.

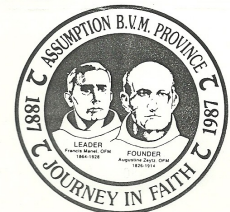
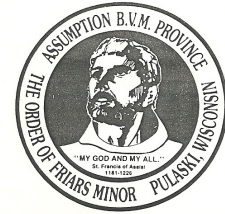
The Polish Jesuits in Chicago. They print the POSLANIEC SERCA JEZUSA and are in their eightieth year. They may have some information. "Poslaniec Serca Jezusa" Jesuit Fathers, 4105 N. Avers Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60618-1903.
(773)588-7476 fax (773)588-6517
Rev. Roman Nir, Central Archives of Polonia, 3535 Indian Trail, Orchard Lake, MI
(810)683-0412 fax (810)683-0402 48324

Fr. Alcuin Mikulanis at St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland.

Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis Archives, Garfield Heights, Ohio

Together with Sr. Ella I send best wishes and God's blessings on your venture.

Sincerely Yours in St. Francis,
Walter Kalenty OFM
(Rev.) Adalbert Kalenty, OFM
Provincial Archivist



Letter to Edward Mendyka from the Franciscans, 1997



grandfather, Sebastian, purchased an estate from a noble family in 1807 called Zagroda Wielka. Wojciech Pelczarski was the owner of a brick factory in Korczyna.

Rev. Dr. Bernard F. Jarzembowski was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1890. He wasn't the only child in his family to take a religious vow. His oldest sister, Elizabeth (Sr. Mary Jerome), and younger sister, Mary (Sr. Mary Sabinia), both entered the sisterhood. Younger brother, Leonard, also was an ordained priest. Ordained in 1912, Fr. Jarzembowski wrote many religious books, mostly on the Blessed Mother. After Helena's death, his special interest in her story lead him to publish several articles in "The Apostle", a religious monthly publication of the Marian Hill Mission Society in Detroit. Those articles resulted in many letters being sent to Helena's cousin, Frank Wiernasz, claiming of miraculous intercessions received from Helena.

Interestingly, Fr. Jarzembowski's sister, Sr. Mary Jerome, came to Cleveland in 1927 just after Helena's death and served as parish secretary at St. John Cantius from 1945-1949. Coincidence?

SOURCES:

Helen Pelczar: A Forgotten Stigmatic by Rev. Dr. Bernard F. Jarzembowski

Various letters to Edward J. Mendyka, 1996-1997

Origin of the Pelczarski name? by Mark Peczarski (<http://pelczarski.name/family/origin.html>)

www.staypoland.com

Aunt Julia Wiernasz—Widow or Not?

By Trina Goss Galauner

Helena Pelczar's aunt, Julianna Wiernasz, was not a blood relative. She was actually the sister in law of Helena's mother, Salomea Wiernasz. Julianna's maiden name was Smagolowski according to her death certificate.

We know Julianna arrived in 1898 on the Lahn but here it gets confusing. There is a listing for Julianna Wiernasz, from Korczyna, age 32, widow, going to brother and brother-in-law at 669 Canal St. And there is a listing for Julianne Fuzosz, from Korczyna, age 24, with child, Franciszek, going to husband at 669 Canal St. The surname Fuzosz is likely a misspelling. Julianna did have a 4 year old child at the time but his name is later seen in census records as Stanislaw.

Julianna may be in the 1900 U.S. census as Julia Werugsk, a servant working for the Hass family on Woodland Avenue. Her other son named Franciszek arrived on 10 May 1901 at age 13. Jędrzej Wiernasz (her husband?) then arrives on the Pretoria in 1904 going to his wife, Julia Wiernasz, at 37 Literary in Cleveland. Yet, in the 1904 Cleveland city directory, Julia Wiernasz is listed as a widow living at 37 Literary.

Julia purchases the home on Thurman in 1905 and in 1906 we find Henry Wiernasz living there. Henry might be Jędrzej. In the 1910 census, Julia's last name is Bernaska, she's a widow, and lives at 2178 Thurman with her two sons, Frank and Stanley. Then in the 1911 Cleveland city directory, her and her son, Frank Vornos, are living at 2178 Thurman and she is listed as the widow of Andrew.

Julianna died in 1943 of broncho pneumonia, one month after a fall at home left her with a broken femur. She was 77 years old. I am still confused as to whether she was always a widow while living in the U.S. or not. No death record can be found for Jędrzej, Andrew or Henry Wiernasz. It is a mystery!



PGSGC Family Tree

By John F. Szuch

Our Treasurer, Ben Kman's Polish family tree manifested itself at our April 7th meeting! Ben was kind enough to bring in a sample "pisanki" (Polish decorated Easter Egg) that he had done this year. Pisanki have always fascinated me since I was a kid, which was quite a few years ago. Unfortunately, I didn't have anybody in the family with the skills to make them. That was not the case in Ben's Polish family.

When I asked Ben what his inspiration was to make pisanki, he replied: "My grandmother always had a display of pisanki that her parents made and I always enjoyed looking at them. When we were old enough, my parents gave my brother and I a stick with a nail in it. We would dip the nail into melted wax and then make dots on the egg. Soon we learned how to make dots of different colors by following the dye color progression and applying wax between each subsequent dying. We eventually graduated to using a kistka to draw lines and patterns. We came up with some pretty creative but non-traditional patterns and styles. I continue to make a new egg every year. If a goose egg is available, I use that. Otherwise, it's a plain chicken egg."



Ben is a perfect example of a person trying to keep his Polish heritage alive and hopefully he will pass it on to future generations. If you, in some way, carry on a tradition of your Polish ancestors, please pass it on to me so that I may share it with our readers.

On a sad note, our editor, Trina Galauner, recently lost her mother-in-law, Elisabeth G. Galauner. Elisabeth was a first generation German American having lived through World War 2 in Germany. Our condolences to Trina and her husband, Mark.

Please email me with your news for future issues. Family news can include births, deaths, weddings graduations, trips, etc.

President John

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

June: **Family Tree Night 1** (small group discussion session)

No meetings in July and August

September: **Family Tree Night 2** (small group discussion session)

October: **PGSGC Anniversary/Christmas Party**



Cleveland's Polonia: Jackowa

In the 1880s, another Polish community formed just northeast of the Warsawa neighborhood. These Polish immigrants mainly worked for the Empire Plow Company and for industries along Kingsbury Run. Their Catholic parish was St. Stanislaus church.

By 1906, this community had grown to near 200 families. In response to the overcrowded conditions at St. Stanislaus church, a group of Poles petitioned the Bishop Ignatius Horstmann for their own parish. The Bishop granted their request, purchased land at the southeast corner of Francis Avenue and East 61st Street from the Cleveland Museum of Art and appointed Rev. Louis Redmer as the pastor. The parish was named St. Hyacinth's and the community was then known as "Jackowa" (pronounced "Yahts-KO-va") named for the Polish word for Hyacinth.

The Jackowa neighborhood would encompass the approximate area north to south from Kingsbury Run to Union Avenue and east to west from East 79th Street to East 55th Street. Currently, Jackowa is considered part of Slavic Village.

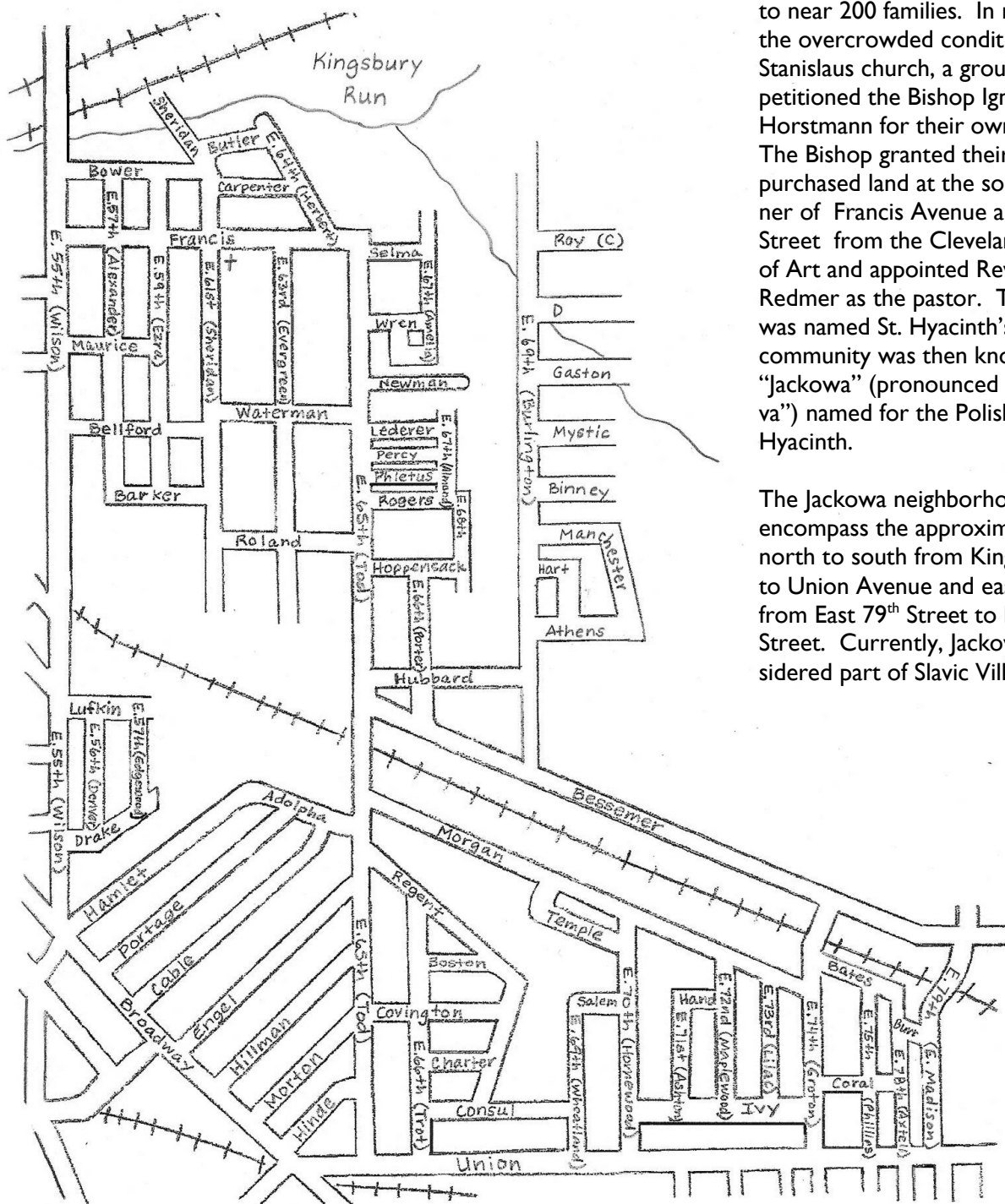


Illustration by Trina Goss Galauner



WANTED

Your Polish family photographs and stories
For inclusion in our newsletters.

We want to feature YOUR family and share their stories with our members and the genealogical community in order to further assist each other in research.

Please email to Trina/PGSGC Newsletter Editor
At
Galauner@yahoo.com



Correction to Our Polish Ancestors Vol. 24 Issue 1

In our previous newsletter regarding the little prayer book belonging to Berni O'Malley's Polish grandfather, Walenti Wywra, we were in error in reporting that he was the first licensed embalmer in Ohio. Walenti Wywra was "one" of the first licensed embalmers in Ohio.

Have You Ever Visited Our Own Polish Library???

By Ron Kraine

If you haven't already, you really should spend a few minutes before or after our monthly meetings browsing through the PGSGC Polish library located at St. Mary's PNC Church. You would be very surprised at what you can find there.



During my most recent visit, I found two note books full of info that were of interest to me. One, was the 2012 list of surnames that our current members were researching. The list is too long to put into a newsletter so the best way to find other members researching the same surnames is to just browse through this book. We are currently working on bringing the surname list up to date. Stay tuned!

Another book I found in our Polish library contains the complete listing of Polish men from the America that went off to Poland to defend their fatherland. This list contains the names of the 15,463 men that trained for war in Canada and then were shipped to Europe to fight under the Polish flag. They were called "Haller's Army". There were 3 different documents on each man, documents A, B and C. The information on these documents includes age, weight, height, address, marital status, citizenship, various health conditions, birth date, name and address of nearest relative in America and Poland, and the volunteer's occupation. Of these three forms, form "C" contains the most useful information for the genealogist. The book also contains information as to how you can obtain the actual enlistment papers.

Our library is not open to the public but only to our members before and after each monthly meeting. All items contained in our library are available to members, in good standing, to borrow for one month. Go to our website at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/> to view a partial list of our library's holdings. Eventually, we will be updating this list as well. Browsing through the two large cabinets full of items is the best way to find items of interest to you.

The Polish Genealogical
Society of Greater Cleveland
c/o St. Mary's PNC Church
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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.