



Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

JUL. / SEP. 2015 VOL. 24 No. 3

A Polish Woman's Quest to Break the Gender Barriers of Medicine

By Trina Goss Galauner

Marie Zakrzewska wasn't just the first Polish American woman to receive a medical degree. She was much more than that. She was a proponent of a woman's right to be educated and employed. Her experiences fighting for her own right for a medical education, providing medical care to poor and destitute women and living and working with abolitionists and women's rights advocates, awakened her humanitarian instinct to provide guidance, education and employment to women in the medical field. "Charity always humiliates and degrades the individual" Marie wrote in September 1857. She felt that guiding, educating and employing those in need is every person's responsibility to society.



Dr. Marie E. Zakrzewska
Circa 1860s

From her autobiography "A Woman's Quest"

Marie was born on September 6, 1829 in Berlin to Martin Ludwig Zakrzewski and Caroline "Friedricke" Wilhelmina Urban. Martin was a quarter master in the Prussian Army. His Polish family held large possessions in Poland but lost their land to the Russians during the partitions of 1792. Friedricke was from Prenzlau, Brandenburg, Prussia and was said to be descended from a gypsy queen in the Lombardi line. Also in her family was a long line of medical practitioners, including her mother (Marie's grandmother) being a veterinary surgeon. Friedricke's military father (Marie's grandfather), upon returning from the war of 1813-15, was awarded land for his services which he used to open a non-charitable institution for the infirm, orphaned and unfortunate. Here, people could live and work the land for their needs. Marie was quite inspired as a child by her grandfather's sense of obligation to the less fortunate.

Marie's first interest in medicine came at the age of ten. Her father's revolutionary tendencies caused his dismissal from his position as a military officer and his pension

.....continued on page 4

Inside this issue:

A Polish Woman's Quest to Break the Gender Barriers of Medicine	1
Letter from the President	2
Where Can I Get Alien Registration Records?	3
Missing Immigrant Girls	8
PGSGC Family Tree	9
Cleveland's Polonia: Josephatowa	10
This is...Holler House	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

Another two month summer break has come and gone. As you get older, they seem to go faster! I usually have plans to get certain things done during that time, but often don't get the things done that I wanted. I hope you had better success this year than I did.

One of my biggest road blocks this summer was coming down with a case of the shingles! I ignored getting the preventative shingles shot as I have generally been healthy over my lifetime (77 years). As I found out, as you get older, your immune system wears down somewhat making you more prone to having a problem!

Most of you Cleveland area members probably remember insurance salesman Thomas J. Unik's slogan, "Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it!" I am now on a crusade to persuade all of you who are 50 and over to get the shingles shot! Fortunately for me, I had a mild case which didn't cause me too much of a problem, but enough to know I don't want them again.

As you may remember from our last bulletin, we have changed our organization's annual party from the December meeting date to the October meeting date which falls on Oct. 6th. I'm hoping all of you can attend. The cost will be \$10.00 per person. If you can't make the September 1st meeting, please either email or call me to make a reservation for the party. We also need to know what dish you will be bringing to the party. Let's make this event a really good one!

John



Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

c/o St. Mary's PNC Church

1901 Wexford Ave.

Parma, Ohio 44134

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/



Officers:

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



Where Can I Get Alien Registration Records?

PGSGC Member, Ron Kraine, received the following guidelines when searching for Alien Registration Records from Polish Genealogical Society of America Volunteer, Dell Kasuk. The following is taken from an email to Ron from Dell.

'The process of requesting a copy of the Alien Registration Form has changed through the past thirteen years and I think the best place to begin is: <http://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/alien-registration-forms-microfilm-1940-1944>

When completing the forms:

- fill in the name and spelling used at the time (1940-1944)
- if the last name ended in ski, remember if a female she may have used ska.
- if you knew your ancestor as John, he may have come to the U.S. as Jan, Walter as Wladyslaw or Katherine as Katarzyna.
- keep in mind there was no Poland from 1772 - 1918 therefore your ancestor may have replied to questions on the form as coming from Russia, Germany or Austria.

WWI Alien Registration files are scattered, and the majority are no longer extant. Existing files can often be found in state archives and similar repositories. Existing WWI alien registration records for [Kansas](#); [Phoenix, Arizona](#) (partial); and [St. Paul, Minnesota](#) can be searched online. Other alien registration records are available in off-line repositories, such as the [1918 Minnesota Alien Registration](#) records at the Iron Range Research Center in Chisholm, MN. Check with your local or state genealogical society to learn what WWI alien registration records might be available for your area of interest.

WWII Alien Registration (AR-2) files are available on microfilm from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and can be obtained through a [Genealogy Immigration Records Request](#). Unless you have the actual alien registration number from an alien registration card in your family's possession, or from a passenger list or naturalization document, you will want to begin by requesting a Genealogy Index Search.

Important: Alien Registration Forms AR-2 are only available for A-numbers 1 million to 5 980 116, A6 100 000 to 6 132 126, A7 000 000 to 7 043 999, and A7 500 000 to 7 759 142.

If the subject of your request was born **less than 100 years before the date of your request**, you are generally required to provide documentary proof of death with your request. This might include a death certificate, a printed obituary, a photograph of the tombstone, or other document demonstrating that the subject of your request is deceased. Please submit copies of these documents, not originals, as they will not be returned.

Cost:

Alien registration records (AR-2 forms) requested from USCIS cost \$20.00, including shipping and photocopies. A genealogy index search is an additional \$20.00. Please check the [USCIS Genealogy Program](#) for the most current pricing information.

What to Expect:

No two Alien Registration Records are alike, nor are specific answers or documents guaranteed to be in each case file. Not all aliens answered every question. Turn-around time to receive these records averages about three to five months, so prepare to be patient.'



Links and Forms for Requesting Alien Registration Records

Form G639 to request a copy of the Alien Registration Record

<http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/g-639.pdf>

Instructions on completing Form G639

<http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/g-639instr.pdf>

Form G-1041 Genealogical Index Search Request (form can be completed on your computer)

<http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/g-1041.pdf>

<http://www.uscis.gov/g-1041>

Instructions on using Form G1041 & G-1041A

<http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/g-1041instr.pdf>

National Archives (researching the Alien Files)

<http://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/aliens/a-files-kansas-city.html#copies>

A Polish Woman's Quest to Break the Gender Barriers of Medicine continued from page 1.....

was too small to support his family with four young daughters and one son. In order to help provide, Marie's mother applied and was admitted to the School for Midwives at the Royal Hospital Charité in Berlin. During her course of study she was required to live at the hospital. When Marie came down with an eye ailment, she was granted permission to stay with her mother at the hospital while she recovered. Put under the care of Dr. Müller, she tagged along with him learning the inner workings of a hospital and he provided her with books on medicine to feed her curiosity.

Marie was a good pupil at school. She never had a problem understanding and completing her studies. But her obstinate manner and peculiar appearance left her friendless. When Marie returned to school after her illness, she was assigned a teacher who took a special interest in her eccentricities. From him, she developed abstract thought, cultivated an inquiring mind and came to understand the nature of human relationships. But when her beloved teacher died of consumption, she quit school entirely.

At the age of thirteen and not attending school, Marie was forced to become a housekeeper. But her interest in reading books on medicine made her a very poor housekeeper. She also travelled with her mother to attend patients. When her aunt became sick, Marie was put in charge of her care. Her aunt's homeopathic physician, Dr. Arthur Lutze, realized Marie's keen interest in homeopathy and supplied her with many books to read on the practice. Marie then became engrossed in learning all she could about the human body and its systems.

By the time she turned eighteen, she had decided that she wanted to attend the School for Midwives as her mother had. She contacted Dr. Joseph Hermann Schmidt, Professor of Midwifery in the University and director of the Royal Hospital Charité in Berlin. Impressed with her determination and interest, he recommended her to the Prussian Cultural Ministry for acceptance into the program. But her application was refused due to her youth and the fact she was unmarried. She applied the following year with Dr. Schmidt's continued support but was refused once again. Determined to get into the school, Marie continued to read books given to her by Dr. Schmidt and maintained her schedule of visiting patients with her mother. When Marie was refused entrance to the School of Midwives for the third time, Dr. Schmidt took his appeal directly to the King. Dr. Schmidt was well respected and the King granted him permission to have Marie as his own private pupil.

Dr. Schmidt had a strong belief that women should be educated in medicine just as any man and he felt Marie



was an ideal apprentice. He campaigned for her appointment to work beside him equally and groomed Marie to become his eventual replacement as Chief director of the hospital. However, medical and diplomatic figures opposed a woman holding this prestigious appointment. Their reasons were that she was too young and could be swept away by romance and leave the position. Also, her father's rebellious character put her family's loyalty to the government in question. The position of Chief of the hospital was as much a medical appointment as it was a political appointment. Still, Dr. Schmidt fought for her assignment. Marie's father, who probably was pressured to dissuade his daughter from her pursuit of this position, vehemently opposed her quest and attempted to force her to marry and forget her career aspirations.

As this most harrowing event was playing out in Marie's life, Dr. Schmidt's frail health took a turn for the worse. He had been suffering with consumption for quite some time. Being a man of much importance to his country, this prompted medical and diplomatic officials to approve Marie's appointment to give him peace in his condition. When officials asked for her father's consent he then most readily obliged. Thus, at the age of twenty two, Marie achieved what no other woman had in Berlin, Chief at the Royal Hospital Charité. But her excitement was quickly expunged. Dr. Schmidt's illness claimed his life just the night before she started her new position by his side. Now she would become his replacement.

With the absence of Dr. Schmidt, Marie's opponents reemerged to make her job difficult. She worked tirelessly to impress her colleagues and cared tenderly for her disadvantaged patients. Marie's empathy toward her female patients was so appreciated by them that they presented her with gifts on her birthday. Knowing the receiving of gifts was prohibited by hospital rules but not wishing to insult the gift givers, Marie put them in hiding. Her adversaries found this out and reported this to her colleague, Dr. Horn. She explained her reasoning and then spoke out loudly about her unfair treatment at the hospital. In the end, she declared her resignation. After only six months in her position and despite her success as both an instructor and a physician, Marie left the Royal Hospital Charité.

In a predicament as to what to do next, Marie remembered Dr. Schmidt's interest in the program for women at the Pennsylvania Female Medical College in the United States. She decided to set her sight on immigrating to the U.S. in order to freely practice medicine and assist as an instructor at this medical school for women. However, that would not be easy.

Armed with letters of recommendation from colleagues in Berlin (including one from Dr. Horn who was obliged by the Berlin government to recommend her), Marie arrived in New York on the Deutschland with her sister, Anna, on May 23, 1853. They had traveled via second class for 47 days having transported furniture as well as other personal belongings.

An acquaintance who had known them in Berlin (Mrs. G), met them at the dock and set them up in New York's "Little Germany" or "Kleindeutschland" in the lower east side of Manhattan. Anna worked as a sewer for a dress-maker but this provided little funds and the girls did not want to write home for money. They also did not want to appear as needy in their current social climate and wanted to keep their appearance as bourgeois.

Marie's original plans to work at the Female Medical College in Philadelphia were put on hold when she encountered little support in New York for women in the medical field. It didn't help that her English language skills were lacking either. Instead, Marie tried to get an apprenticeship with Dr. Reisig who had worked with her mother back in Berlin. But he only offered her a nursing position which she refused on principle. To make ends meet, Marie started a small worsted business. This enabled the sisters to move into a better neighborhood and rent a home.

Marie's brother, Herman, arrived on August 3, 1853 and then another sister, Sophie, arrived on September 12, 1853 increasing the household. Also, a friend from the Charité in Berlin named Catherine arrived hoping to practice medicine freely as Marie. But she realized Marie was still struggling herself. Catherine managed to secure



work as a nurse at the Home for the Friendless. But she became disenchanted after a month and returned to Marie's household the day after the home was robbed leaving the family unit penniless. Catherine returned to Berlin. Misfortune continued and by spring 1854, the demand for worsted products was decreasing and Marie's business was drying up. She was near desperation and in despair that she had not succeeded in securing work as a physician.

Marie came upon the idea to call on the matron at the Home for the Friendless where Catherine had worked, Miss Goodrich, and ask for advice. Miss Goodrich put Marie in touch with Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell who she would enjoy a lifelong friendship with and who would set her on her course to becoming a respected female physician.

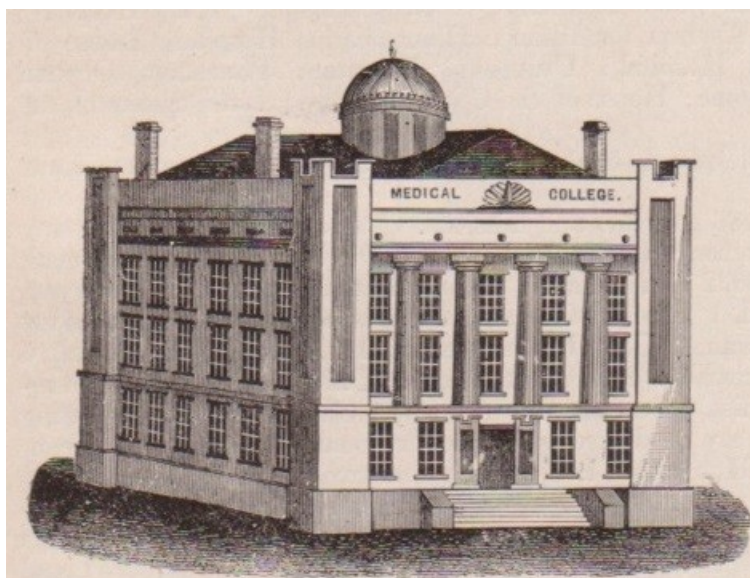
Dr. Blackwell ran the New York Infirmary for Indigent Women and Children, a small dispensary for poor German immigrants. She and Marie shared the same aspiration to establish a hospital for women. Blackwell saw Marie as the perfect person to help her and in return offered to teach her to speak English and help her obtain a medical degree. With the help of Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, by the summer of 1854, Marie was accepted into the Cleveland Medical College in Cleveland, Ohio. Marie's worsted business had not been doing well so it was fortuitous that Blackwell was able to get the Ohio Female Medical Education Society to subsidize some of her education.

Marie left New York for Cleveland on October 16, 1854. Her host in Cleveland was Caroline M. Severance, the secretary of the Ohio Female Medical Education Society. Caroline, being a political activist, introduced Marie to the anti-slavery and women's rights movements. She met and shared company with William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Theodore Parker, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglas, Sarah and Angelina Grimke, Harriot Hunt and Caroline Dall.

At the Cleveland Medical College, Marie was warmly received by the dean, Dr. John J. Delamater. He was a caring, father-like figure to her while she was there replicating her relationship with her beloved Dr. Schmidt.

Living with the Severances was temporary and Marie soon moved in with Mrs. Shepard, who also boarded the three other female medical students at the college. The women were all shunned by their male classmates but the college had promised these ladies the opportunity to graduate. In her spare time, Marie liked to socialize with humanitarians, abolitionists and women's rights activists at meetings of the Independent Christian Church. Rev. Amory Dwight Mayo directed the meetings and Marie found his social reform beliefs in line with her own. Marie's educational subsidy lasted only a short time and soon Marie found she could not afford her room and board. The Mayo family was kind enough to offer her room and board for assistance with their new baby and some light housekeeping.

Worried for her well being, Marie received letters from her father pleading for her to abandon her medical aspirations. And though her financial situation was precarious, she persevered in her quest. So Marie's mother, Friedricke, and sisters, Wilhelmine and Rosalie, set off from Berlin in August 1855 to come visit and check upon her. But, tragically, Friedricke became ill soon after the ship embarked and died aboard the Deutschland. Her young sisters, Wilhelmine (18) and Rosalie (11) arrived in New York alone. Marie was crushed at the loss of her mother



Cleveland Medical College
Medical Department of Western Reserve College 1843-1885
located at E. 9th and St. Clair



who was always supportive of Marie's independent ambitions. In despair, she scraped together enough to travel back to New York that fall as she felt the need to be with her poor sisters and family.

While in New York, she visited with Dr. Blackwell who was anxious for Marie to finish her studies and join her in their vocation. Marie also accepted an invitation from Dr. Harriot

	NAMES	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they severally belong	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the voyage.
208	Friederike Zask	36	female	was on going to her husband's house			
209	Carl	7	male	her children			
210	Wilhelm	5	male				
211	Friederike Zakrzewska	39	female	was on going to her husband's house			Died
212	Wilhelmine	11	female				
213	Rosalie	11	female	her children			

Passenger list of the Deutschland arriving September 18, 1855 showing Friederike Zakrzewska died at sea

Kezia Hunt, who she had met through Caroline Severance six months earlier, to visit Boston for a few days. Boston residents were more accommodating to female physicians. Through Dr. Hunt, Marie met more liberal thinkers including Dr. Walter Channing.

Upon returning to Cleveland, Marie was offered room and board with the wealthy family of Mrs. C. Vaughn through her connection with Rev. Mayo. The Vaughns were reformed slave owners who had freed their slaves and moved north. Mrs. Vaughn, a like-minded humanitarian, had heard of Marie's tragic family situation and sympathetically offered her accommodations in return for German conversational classes.

Continuing her studies, Marie graduated from the Cleveland Medical College with her medical diploma in March 1856. It was the last year the college would grant a medical degree to a female medical student until 1880. Marie wrote that her time in Cleveland was the happiest ever as she spent it devoted to her vocation and learning the English language and enjoyed "the warmest tokens of real friendship."

Marie returned to New York to help Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell and her sister, Dr. Emily Blackwell, establish a women's hospital and medical school. Her friend, Dr. Walter Channing, implored her to visit Boston to solicit funding. While there, she met Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney who would become an important part of Marie's life thereafter. Boston social reformers were very supportive to her cause and the New York Infirmary for Women and Children was established in 1857.

For two years, Marie assisted the Blackwells and enjoyed a thriving private practice. But her friends in Boston would entice her to move there and she was offered a position as professor of obstetrics at the New England Female Medical College. After a few years, Marie was given permission to fulfill her lifelong dream of running a medical college and teaching hospital for women. In 1862, along with Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney, Marie founded the New England Hospital for Women and Children. She remained there until her death in 1902.

In a farewell address that Marie wrote just months before her expected death, she thanks the many people in her life that helped her in her quest and is at peace with dying having believed she had used her life to the best of her ability. Perhaps, her dear friend, Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney best described Dr. Marie Zakrzewska in an interview for the publication *The Woman's Journal* by saying "A sound intellect and a large and sympathetic heart unselfishly devoted to the service of humanity, and especially to the welfare of her own sex, have made her service in Boston for thirty-seven years an incalculable blessing to thousands of women whom she has helped to a life of health, usefulness, and happiness."

SOURCES:

A Woman's Quest - The Life of Marie E. Zakrzewska, M.D. (autobiography edited by Agnes C. Vietor, M.D.)

Science Has No Sex - The Life of Marie Zakrzewska, M.D. by Arleen Marcia Tuchman

Twenty Years of The Open Court (An Index of Contributed and Editorial Articles including Authors and Titles Alphabetically Arranged in One), Volumes I-XX, 1887-1906



Missing Immigrant Girls

By Trina Goss Galauner

While browsing online I came across an excerpt from a book titled "Immigration: Select Documents and Case Records". The page was from the section called "Immigrant Girls Traveling Alone Who Failed to Reach Destination". The case book, compiled by Edith Abbott and published in 1924, contains case records of European immigrant girls who failed to meet the friends and relatives waiting for them in the U.S. The page online just happened to list some Polish girls and their cases.

One, Rozalia Kazewski age 17, was supposed to go to her married sister in Chicago. The Immigrants' Protective League, a group formed to protect Chicago immigrants, especially young immigrant girls, visited Rozalia's sister 4 weeks after she was supposed to arrive and found she was not yet there. The League called for an investigation and Ellis Island representatives replied that Rozalia had indeed disembarked, purchased a ticket on the Grand Trunk Railroad to Chicago and did use the ticket. No other information was noted about her whereabouts.



Polish Immigrant Girls ca. 1890

Another, Maryana Kucynski age 16, failed to arrive at her destination in Chicago. She was supposed to have traveled on the Kronprinzessin Cecilie. Her aunt was told by friends that she was seen at Ellis Island. Acting Commissioner at Ellis Island, Charles Abel, replied in a letter that Maryana did arrive at Ellis Island and was discharged to go to her uncle Stanley Kucynski. No more was written on this case.

A seventeen year old girl named Rozalia Michaelis was to report to her father, Stanley. When she did not arrive when expected her father feared she had been deported. Commissioner Henry Joseph replied to him that she was "found to be insane and was deported" that "aliens so afflicted being, under the Immigration Law, excluded from admission."

Marya Kopek, age 22, intended to travel to her brother, Jan. But Jan had moved with his family to a farm in Michigan and apparently didn't know his sister was coming. An investigation proved she did arrive at Ellis Island, was admitted and sent on her way. We don't know if they ever reunited.

There are likely many more interesting cases regarding immigrants' mishaps in their journey to their final destinations. Hopefully these girls were not truly lost but just misdirected for a time.

Information found at *Newberry Digital Collections for the Classroom* website

<http://dcc.newberry.org/items/immigrant-girls-traveling-alone-who-failed-to-reach-destination>



PGSGC Family Tree

By John F. Szuch

Unfortunately, all Family Tree news isn't always good! Active member Carole Zanath reported that her 50 year old son Rob passed away on May 28th of this year. He leaves his wife Lynn, children Holly and John, and parents Carole & Jack Zanath. Our prayers go out to them.

On a personal note, my Grandson, Jonathan Szuch graduated from Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio. He became the third generation to graduate from Benedictine, following in my footsteps (1955), his Dad (1978) and Uncle Chris (1979). He is attending Kent State University this fall. I wish



Three generations of Benedictine graduates

him and any member's recently graduated children the best of success in the future whether it be in continuing their education or entering the work force.



Erik Galauner at Yantar Arena, Moscow, Russia

Our editor, Trina Galauner, had some excitement in her family. Her 12 year old son, Erik, was chosen to play in the "2015 Tretiak Cup" hockey all-star tournament which was held in Moscow, Russia! Erik made the week long trip with his Dad, Mark. Trina laughed that if she had gone, she would have been tempted to slip into Poland to do some genealogy work.

On a sad note for me, I recently lost a very close friend, Alan LaSocha, on June 12th. I got Alan interested in the Polish heritage of his Dad, Stanley LaSocha who was from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in the Slavic Village area. I was able to bring Alan to a meeting some time ago, to some Polish events at the Cleveland Museum of Art and to the re-opening of St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland. May his soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace, Amen.



Alan LaSocha
April 22, 2015

Please send me your Family Tree news to share with our fellow members.

John

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

Oct: PGSGC Anniversary Party

Nov: Alan Dutka, Author of "Cleveland History" – *Cleveland History: Cleveland Calamities*

Dec: TBA



Cleveland's Polonia: Josephatowa

The area situated around E. 33rd Street between St. Clair and Superior Avenues was originally owned by Albert G. Lawrence, an attorney who was born in New York. During the late 1800s, the land was divided up and sold. Being that the location was close to the central city, it was highly residential and the proximity to light industry was attractive to immigrants. South Slavic immigrants arrived in the 1890s and shortly before 1900, Polish immigrants began to arrive. Because the Polish immigrants came mainly from Galicia, the neighborhood was sometimes called "Little Galicia". At the turn of the 20th century, the South Slavs, mainly Slovenians, began to move east along St. Clair Avenue. The Polish population remained and continued to grow. These Polish families bought second generation homes rather than building their own.

By 1908, there were enough families to necessitate the forming of a Polish Catholic parish. The Catholic community was originally formed as St. Hedwig's Parish although there was also a newly formed St. Hedwig's Parish in Lakewood. So in 1910, to avoid dispute, Bishop Farrelly changed the name to St. Josaphat's Parish. The following year, land along E. 33rd Street was purchased for the church building. Thus, the neighborhood of "Josephatowa" was born.

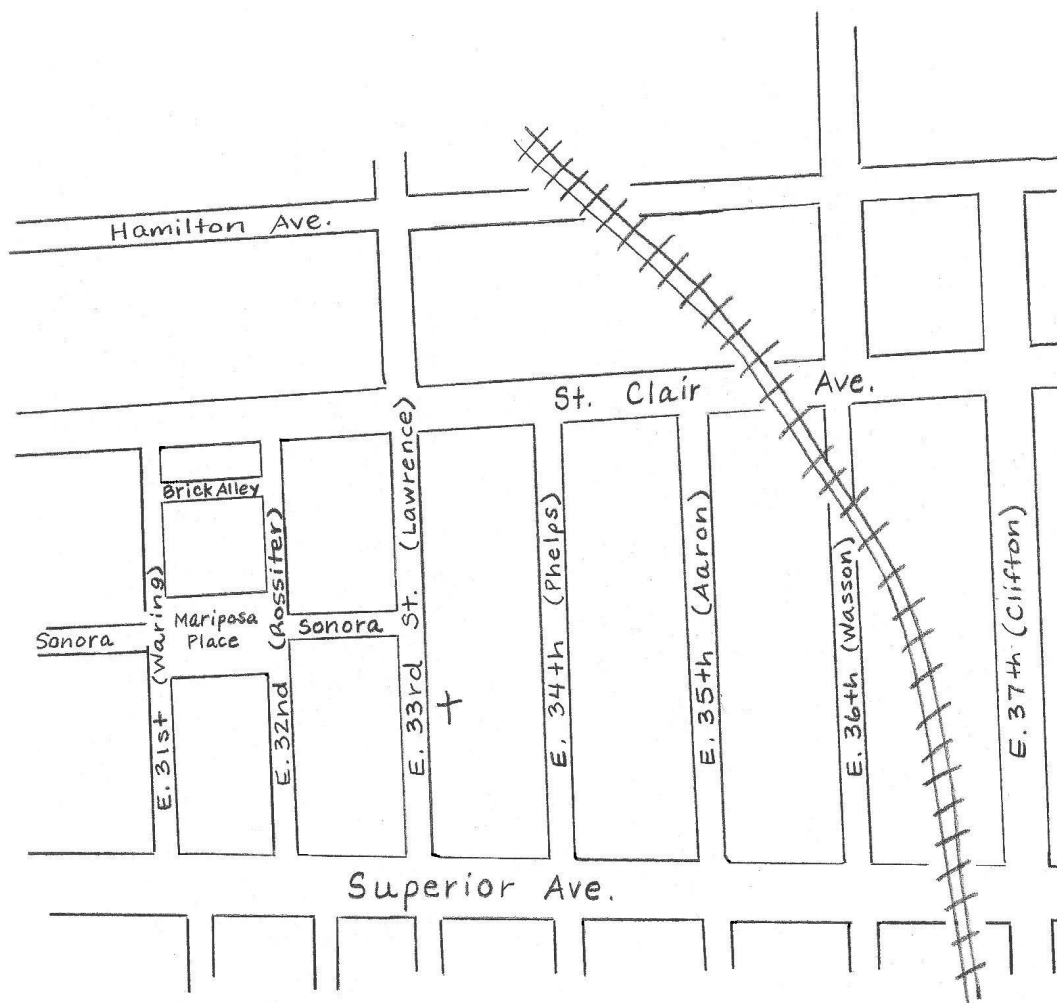


Illustration by Trina Goss Galauner

St. Josephat's Parish was closed in 1998 and the property sold. The church building was desanctified and its religious artifacts removed. In 2005, Josephat Properties purchased and renovated the church building. The Josephat Arts Hall is now inside the original church. The area has become a gathering place for art enthusiasts of all ethnic backgrounds.



This is... Holler House

By Tisha Goss Bell

During a recent road trip to Milwaukee, I stumbled upon a Polish gem with a lot of history. The Holler House is a tavern which is also home to the oldest sanctioned bowling alley in the US. It is located in Milwaukee's historic Polish South Side at 2042 W. Lincoln Avenue. Holler House was founded in 1908 by Mike Skowronski and, at that time, was simply called "Skowronski's".



In 1955, it was taken over by Skowronski's son, Eugene, and wife Marcy, and renamed "Gene & Marcy's". The name "Holler House" was established back in the 1970's when a German woman selected the tavern for a first date with her future husband. When he asked where she would like to go, she told him he wanted to go to "that holler house," remembered as a loud and lively establishment. Gene passed away in 1990. Marcy still runs the Holler House today, at age 89, and it was quite a treat to visit this historic place and talk with her.

The tavern and bowling alley are filled with Polish symbolism and memorabilia, reflecting the ethnic background of the neighborhood. The presence in this basement bowling alley feels as if you walked back to a century ago. The lanes are still the same solid wood laid over 100 years ago. Above the two bowling lanes, you will see Polish falcon crests. Most unique is that the lanes still have a manual pin mechanism requiring a pin boy to reload by hand by rolling the bowling balls down a track between the two lanes. When my friends and I asked if we could bowl during our visit, Marcy advised that, unfortunately, on summer days with high temperatures, it's far too hot for a pin boy to work in the back of the lanes.



Tisha (far right) and friends with proprietor of Holler House, Marcy Skowronski



Polish bowling ball?

Upstairs in the tavern, Marcy (who basically runs the place herself) will offer you a "Zywiec" Polish beer and tell you of celebrities that have visited her place. She told us of recent visits from Joe Walsh (American guitarist) and Jack White (modern rock musician). On the walls throughout the tavern you can find Polish beer slogans and a Polish bowling ball displayed. Marcy even sells Holler House t-shirts, colored in Polish flag red, with sizeable Polish falcon crests across the back.

If you are ever in the Milwaukee area, do not pass up the opportunity to swing into the Holler House and chat with Marcy. Be sure to call first, as opening and closing hours fluctuate day to day, based on Marcy's discretion. The visit to Holler House is certainly worth the time to see a fabulous place in history with a prominent Polish touch!

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



**Polish Genealogical Society of
Greater Cleveland**

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

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

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



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

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

About Us

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

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

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

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

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