



# Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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## The "Polish" Great One

By Trina Goss Galauner

For the past three years I have been on a quest to prove that "The Great One", hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, is indeed of Polish descent. My research has taken me through many different sources including, familysearch.org, the Ontario Archives, and the Library and Archives Canada. There has been much speculation regarding Wayne's background and very little reported about it. So, the very first source I consulted was Walter Gretzky's Autobiography "On Family, Hockey and Healing". In his book, he gave me the first clues to the Gretzky family's genealogical background.



A young Wayne Gretzky playing hockey on the Nith River at his grandparents' farm in Canning, Ontario taken from the book "Gretzky: From the Backyard Rink to the Stanley Cup"

Walter's father (Wayne's grandfather), Terentiy Lavrentievich Gretzky, who went by the name "Tony", was born in Ogdemer, Grodno, Russia on April 10, 1892. From 1569 to 1795, Ogdemer was part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth under the jurisdiction of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. After 1795, the village came under Russian rule. According to Walter Gretzky in his autobiography, "When anyone asked my father if he was Russian, he'd say, 'Nyet, Belarus,' meaning, White Russian, the upper class."

The White Russians, or Belarusians, were known to be loyal to the Czar. Walter Gretzky claims his father's family "had been landowners in the old country, supporters of the czar". Walter also states the reason for his father's emigration was due to the impending Russian Revolution though some historians believe that most Belarusian emigrants at the time were labor migrants.

In any event, Terento Spetzki (as Tony Gretzky's name was misspelled on the passenger manifest) arrived at the port of Philadelphia on the SS Hannover on April 17, 1912. Though he was married, he did not have his wife, Anna, or his son, Zinoviy,

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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

As I got ready to do this letter, which I thought would be my last as President, my spirits lifted as I changed my mind about not running for re-election. I had made an announcement at the November meeting that I did not plan to run for President again. I discussed that decision afterwards with my wife, Marlene, and my fellow officers, and decided to run for re-election one last time. I am going on record now though that come December 2016 you'll have to elect a new President. Also, Sonia, our secretary of many years, is also looking to step down at that time.

What it all amounts to is that I have been proud and enjoyed being the PGSGC President for over 20 years and I figured it was time to elect a new President with a fresh approach. I do plan to make 2016 our best year yet!

Some other changes have already occurred. Ben Kman is replacing Georgene Jasinski as our program director and Pat Bakaitis is replacing Elizabeth Joy as our librarian. Any suggestions you may have to make our organization better would be greatly appreciated.

Our "Cleveland's Polonia" series in the newsletter has come to a close. Look for smaller Polish enclaves such as South Brooklyn and Parma in future newsletters.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

John F. Szuch  
President



The Polish family breaks the Oplatek (Wafer) (Oh-pwah-tek) on Christmas Eve (Wigilia) as their ancestors before them have done.  
from <http://annhetzelgunkel.com/polxmas/polxmas.html>

### Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

c/o St. Mary's PNC Church

1901 Wexford Ave.

Parma, Ohio 44134

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/)



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The "Polish" Great One continued from page 1.....

with him. He spent a short time in Baltimore and then traveled to Chicago where he would live and work as a stationary fireman until 1917. According to Walter, Tony wanted to volunteer for the war effort during World War I and was told to join the Canadians because they would treat him better. So he traveled to Toronto in August of 1917 and joined the 1st Reserve Battalion of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. He spent some time in Ryhl, Wales until the Canadian government shipped him back home in 1919.

When Tony returned from the war in April 1919, he went to stay with his brother, Louis (Lukyanov) Gretzky, who was now in Chicago. In Chicago, he continued to work as a fireman in a corn refinery. In May 1921, his wife, Anna, and son, Zinovi, arrived at Quebec and went to meet Tony in Toronto. It appears Tony bounced back and forth between Chicago and Toronto for several years. Anna would stay with her brother in law, Gregory Michaelowicz, in Toronto. Tony and Anna had four more children, William, Olga, Katherina and Feodor between 1921 and 1926. Tony, Anna and Zinovi became naturalized citizens of Canada on July 18, 1927. But soon after, for an unknown reason, Anna decided to take her children back to Belarus, never to return to Canada.

Whether Tony intended to return to Belarus is unknown but he continued to go back and forth between Chicago and Toronto not making a permanent residence but boarding with friends. Then, around 1930, he returned to Toronto taking a job at Penman's Textile Factory in Paris, Ontario with the intention to apply for a Canadian Veteran's loan in order to purchase a farm. It was back in Toronto where he met his future wife and Wayne's grandmother, Mary Chodyniecki.

Mary Chodyniecki arrived on the SS Tuscania at Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 10, 1928. She was 27 years old, single, and born in Panowice, Podhajce, Poland. She was indeed Polish! Her final destination was to her uncle, Emil Lacowski, near Winnipeg, Manitoba, but it appears she did not get past Toronto. Mary and Tony married about 1931 and settled down purchasing a 100 year old farmhouse and starting a cucumber farm in Canning, Ontario.

Russian. **DUPLICATE**

1. *copy*

No. 3080122  
Folio.

**ATTESTATION PAPER.**  
1st Reserve Battalion, C. O. Regt.  
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS)

- What is your surname? **GRETZKI.**
- What are your Christian names? **Tony.**
- What is your present address? **7612, 61st St, Chicago, Ill. U.S.A.**
- In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? **Ryhl, Wales.**
- What is the name of your next-of-kin? **Anna Gretzki.**
- What is the address of your next-of-kin? **Ogdmar, Grodno, Gub. Russia.**
- What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? **Wife.**
- What is the date of your birth? **April 10th, 1892.**
- What is your Trade or Calling? **Stationary Fireman.**
- Are you married? **Married.**
- Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? **Yes.**
- Do you now belong to the Active Militia? **No.**
- Have you ever served in any Military Force? **No.**
- Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? **Yes.**
- Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? **Yes.**
- Have you ever been discharged from any Branch of His Majesty's Forces as medically unfit? **No.**
- If so, what was the nature of the disability? **No.**
- Have you ever offered to serve in any Branch of His Majesty's Forces and been rejected? **No.**
- If so, what was the reason? **No.**

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, **Tony Gretzki.** do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Sea Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date: **August 21st, 1917.** *Tony Gretzki* (Signature of Recruit)  
*Anna Gretzki* (Signature of Witness)

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, **Tony Gretzki.** do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and all of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date: **August 21st, 1917.** *Tony Gretzki* (Signature of Recruit)  
*Anna Gretzki* (Signature of Witness)

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.**

The Recruit above named was questioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.  
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.  
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at **Toronto, Canada.** **21st** day of **August, 1917.**

*[Signature]* (Signature of Justice)

M. F. W. 33.  
FO. M. 1-7.  
H. C. 170-2-24.

NOTE.—ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT ANY PERSON MAKING A FALSE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS IS LIABLE TO A PENALTY OF SIX MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT.

Tony Gretzky's Attestation Paper for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force filed on August 21, 1917 in Toronto, Canada

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT RETURN													CANADIAN IMMIGRATION SERVICE																
S. S. "TUSCANIA" SAILING FROM <i>ANTWERP</i> ON <i>19</i> <i>th</i>													ARRIVING AT <i>HALIFAX</i> ON <i>10</i> <i>th</i> <i>MARCH</i> <i>1928</i>																
SHEET NO. <i>17</i>													SHEET NO. <i>17</i>																
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
FAMILY NAME, GIVEN NAME		AGE	COUNTRY AND PLACE OF BIRTH			NUMBER OF PEOPLE	SEX	IF IN CANADA BEFORE	IF IN CANADA BEFORE	IF IN CANADA BEFORE	IF IN CANADA BEFORE	IF IN CANADA BEFORE	IF IN CANADA BEFORE	IF IN CANADA BEFORE	IF IN CANADA BEFORE	IF IN CANADA BEFORE	OCCUPATION	DESTINATION	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT	IF APPLICABLE TO RELATIVE, PRIOR OR PRESENT
6	ATKINSON, ALBERTA	35	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	M	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	18	U.S.A. Winnipeg, Minn.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7	ATKINSON, ALICE G.	30	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	F	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	19	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	William John Anderson, Edith & Sigrid, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	ANDERSON, WILLIAM	35	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	M	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	20	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	ANDERSON, ANNA	30	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	F	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	21	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	ANDERSON, OLGA G.	25	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	F	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	22	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	ANDERSON, FEODOR	20	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	M	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	23	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	ANDERSON, ANNA	15	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	F	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	24	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	ANDERSON, ALBERTA	10	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	F	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	25	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
14	ANDERSON, ALICE G.	5	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	F	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	26	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	ANDERSON, WILLIAM	5	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	M	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	27	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	ANDERSON, ANNA	5	3	Denmark	Denmark, Odense	1	F	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	28	Denmark, Odense, Denmark.	Robert Johnson Anderson, Albert & William, Denmark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Passenger manifest for the SS Tuscania arriving at Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 10, 1928  
Mary Chodyniecki is on line 7



They would raise 6 children, Edward, Sophie, Jennie, Walter, Albert and Ellen and become the grandparents of the "Great One", probably the most famous hockey player in the world.



Portrait of the Gretzky farm in Canning, Ontario  
by Michael Swanson 1988  
taken from the book "Gretzky An Autobiography"

If you still aren't convinced that Wayne Gretzky is Polish, let me add this postscript. Wayne's Toronto restaurant serves a dish called "99 Pierogies" and the menu indicates it as "Grandma Gretzky's favourite" made with duck-fat fried cheddar and potato pierogies, caramelized onions, double smoked bacon and sour cream. I tried it this past summer when I traveled with my son to a hockey tournament in Toronto. I can attest it is delicious! Of course the Gretzky's are Polish!

In an interview for the Ukrainian Weekly in 1982, Mary Gretzky was asked if her husband, Tony, was Belarusian or Ukrainian and she answered immediately that he was Ukrainian. When the interviewer suggested that she might be Ukrainian, Mary stated "No, no. I am Catholic. I'm Polish."



99 Pierogies—Grandma Gretzky's favourite  
At Wayne Gretzky's 99 Restaurant

## SOURCES:

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Čajčyc, Alexander, *Legendary Hockey Player Gretzky Meets Belarusian Relatives*, Belarus Digest, Feb. 7, 2010.

Gretzky, Walter and Jim Taylor, *Gretzky: From the Back Yard to the Stanley Cup*, McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1984.

Gretzky, Wayne with Rick Reilly, *Gretzky An Autobiography*, Harper Collins Publishers, 1990.

Taylor, Jim, *Forgive Me My Press Passes*, Horsdal and Schubart Publishers Ltd., 1993.

Library and Archives Canada at <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>

Archives of Ontario at <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/>



## The Polish Connection to the House of Seven Gables

by Trina Goss Galauner

This past October, my daughter, my sister and I took a girl's trip to Salem, Massachusetts for some witch history and autumn fun. As we were chauffeured to the Salem Inn, our driver suggested the sites we should see during our two day excursion. His top three suggestions were the Salem Witch Museum, the Witch House, and the House of Seven Gables.

On our walk to the House of Seven Gables, we passed by Kosciuszko Street. A Polish named street in Salem, Massachusetts? Not what I expected to find on our witch hunt. Obviously, there had been a Polish settlement in Salem at one time.

Our tour of the House of Seven Gables would open my eyes to a much different story in history. The classic novel of the same name, by Nathaniel Hawthorne, was a story based on this house that Hawthorne had visited frequently as a child. The original parts of the home on Turner Street date back to 1668. Over the centuries, there were additions and remodels including gables being removed and later reinstalled. In the later 1800s, the home fell into disrepair and was vacant for some time. Just as it was about to be torn down, Henry and Elizabeth Upton purchased it and made it a home again. But they also turned it into a museum, building on the history of the home and its connection to the famed novel by Hawthorne.

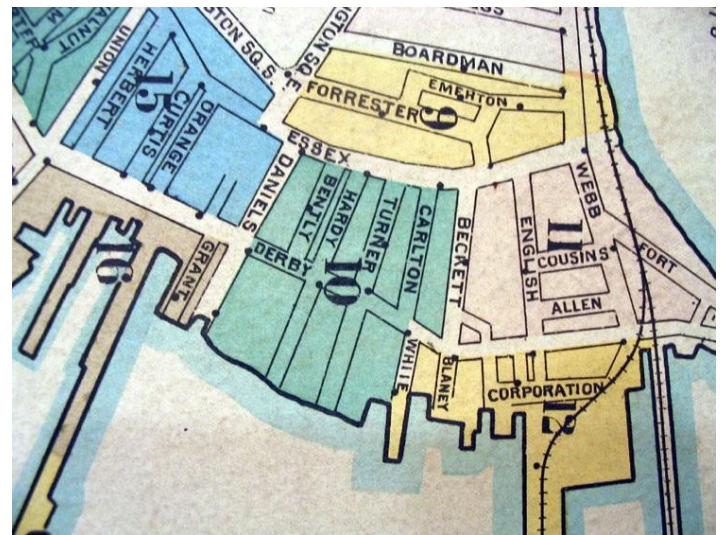
Earlier in the 1800s, Salem acquired its first Polish resident. Edward Baltasar Bohuszewicz was an exiled patriot and musician from Podolia, Poland. He lived on Essex Street for only a short time in the late 1830s where he composed music and taught music lessons.

Salem's first Pole to make Salem a permanent residence was a cigar maker named Edmund A. Yasinski. Though he was born in New York, he came to Salem in 1858, boarded on Derby Street, married a local girl and built a home on Forrester Street. He joined the Salem Cadets and served during the Civil War. He died in 1901 in Salem.

While the Uptons were making the House of Seven Gables their home, the largest Polish migration to Salem was beginning. The first migration of Poles came about 1890 from Webster and Chicopee, Massachusetts to work for the Salem tanneries and the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company. They settled along Derby Street with the help of long time resident, Edmund Yasinski. By the late 1890s, Polish immigrant families came directly from the old country, taking up residence in the now Polish neighborhood and setting up their own ethnic businesses.



The House of Seven Gables, 2015  
Photo by Trina Goss Galauner



The Polish Community of Salem  
Water and Fire Map of Salem, ca. 1895-1900  
courtesy of Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum  
Note that Grant Street is now Kosciuszko Street



Meanwhile, the U.S. settlement house movement was beginning. Settlement houses were established to help integrate poor immigrants into U.S society by providing language classes, vocational training, social programs and other assistance. Middle and upper class reformers moved into the neighborhoods to manage these programs. One such philanthropist was Caroline Emmerton, a wealthy descendant of long time Salem resi-

dents. Emmerton observed the growing Polish immigrant enclave and recognized their need for social services. So, as a leader of the Settlement Association of Salem, Emmerton devised a settlement program that would integrate the immigrants into Salem's American culture through its history. She was well-informed about the rich history of the House of Seven Gables (also called the Turner-Ingersoll Mansion) so when the



Immigrant girls in cooking class  
Courtesy of the House of Seven Gables Settlement Association



Immigrant boys in woodworking class  
Courtesy of the House of Seven Gables Settlement Association

opportunity was presented to her to purchase the home in 1908, she quickly responded. Emmerton believed the home would be the perfect vehicle to fund her cause and also to establish a connection between old Salem residents and their new Polish neighbors. She stated, "If, as is generally conceded, the settlements do the best Americanization work, should not this settlement excel whose home is the ancient House of Seven Gables, the foundations of which were laid by the first immigrants who came here long ago, strangers in a strange land?"

With the help of architect Joseph Chandler, Emmerton transformed the House of Seven Gables into a historic icon that reflected Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel more closely than it did to the home's actual history. The settlement program was housed in the home offering English language classes and sewing and woodworking classes among other programs and was also used as a social gathering place for the Poles. Over time, the Gables compound grew with the addition of four more colonial-era buildings, including the birthplace of Nathaniel Hawthorne. Polish immigrants staged plays, held meetings and had dances at the Gables. They were also employed at the Gables for maintenance, repairs,



Caroline Emmerton working with immigrant girls  
Courtesy of the House of Seven Gables Settlement Association



renovations and as museum personnel. Descendants of those Polish immigrants continue to be employed there as was evidenced by our Gables tour guide who just happened to be of Polish descent.

The House of Seven Gables Settlement Association continues its mission today with a different immigrant population. While the compound doesn't house the programs it did in the past, its proceeds continue to help fund programs in Salem's Point neighborhood and Latino communities. But, the House of Seven Gables will always retain its Polish touch for the many years it served as a home, school and workplace for the Polish immigrants of Salem.

### SOURCES:

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Stanton, Cathy and Jane Becker, *In the Heart of Polish Salem: An Ethnohistorical Study of St. Joseph Hall and Its Neighborhood*, Northeast Region Ethnography Program, National Park Service, 2009.

Washington Mazurkerwitz and Veronica Ryewhiskey, *Recollections of the Polish Community in Salem*, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2013.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, "House of the Seven Gables Historic District", U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, 2005.

House of Seven Gables Settlement Association, [www.7gables.org](http://www.7gables.org)



Vintage 1916 Polish language Christmas postcard

## Polish Cleveland Facebook

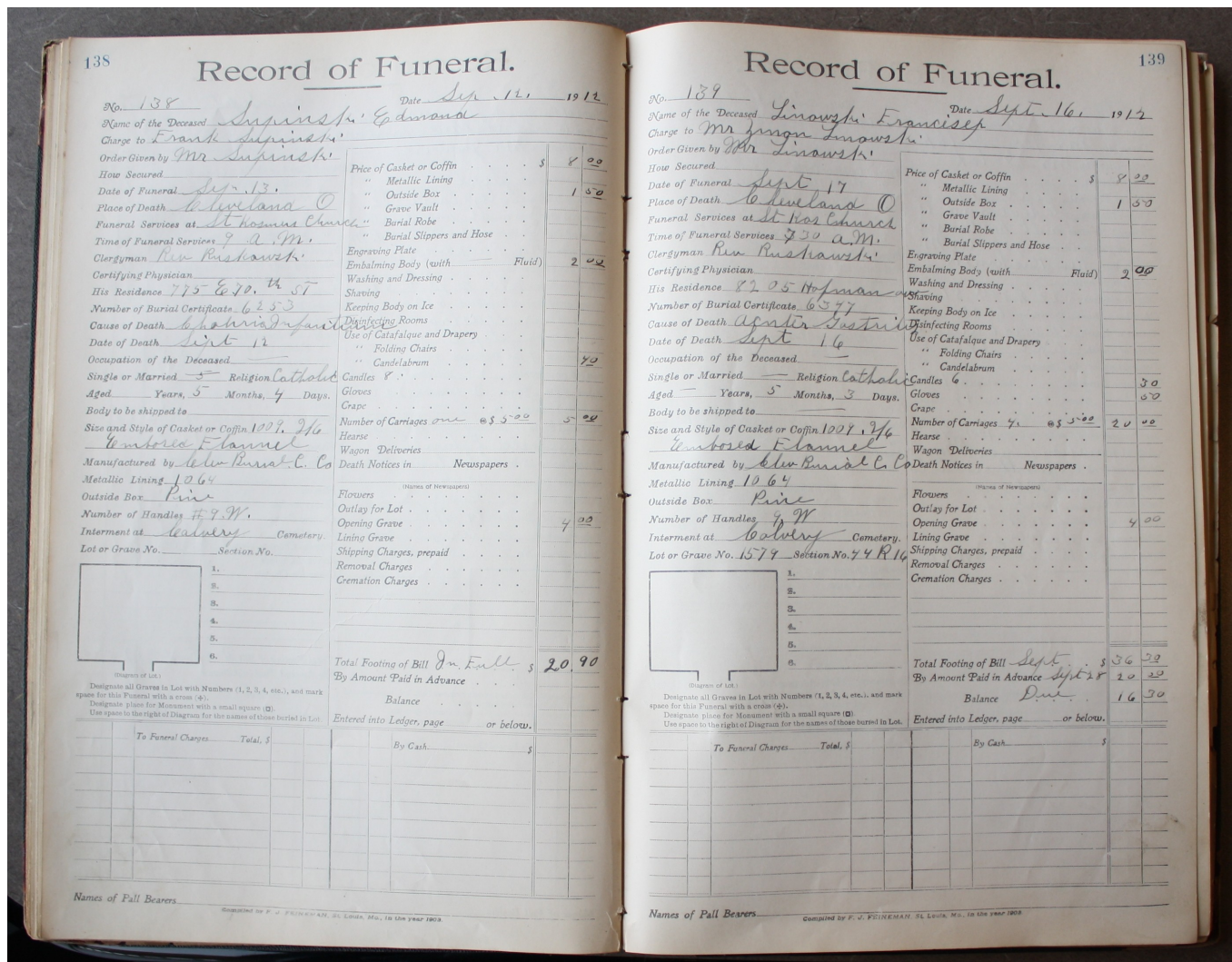
Here are some local Facebook pages that may be of interest in your Polish genealogical research. Some are public pages and others are private. For those that are private, just request to join and the moderator of the page will likely approve your membership and then you will be allowed to make and see all posts. Do searches for other subjects you are interested in. You never know what you will find. Have fun!

Memories of Tremont—Cleveland's Southside  
 Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish Church and School  
 Raised in Goosetown— S East Cleveland  
 St. John Cantius Church-Polish  
 Brooklyn Centre Community Association  
 Lake View Cemetery



# Polish Family Heirlooms

Berni O'Malley's Polish grandfather, Walenti Wyrwa, had his own funeral business and kept this funeral record book which Berni is in possession of today. He mainly served parishes in Cleveland and Lorain. The record book has information about the deceased such as name, date of funeral, place of death, funeral service location and time, clergyman, certifying physician, residence, date and cause of death, occupation of the deceased, marital status and age which is similar to what is found on a death certificate. Other information contained in this record includes size and style of casket, lining, number of handles and interment information. Pricing is listed on the right hand side of each page that also includes costs for extras in the preparation of the body and fees for the funeral itself including number of carriages rented for the procession and flowers.





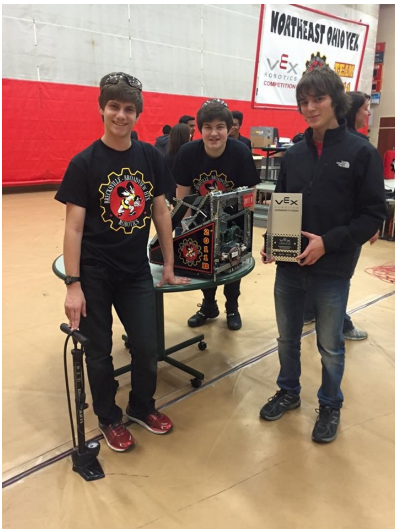


## PGSGC Family Tree

By John F. Szuch

Anthonette Baciak, our meeting hostess, informed me recently that her husband Norman is in failing health. Please remember him in your prayers.

Also, please remember the following two members who have recently passed away. First off, our Secretary Sonia Chapnick's husband Ron, who was an M.D., passed away. Although Ron could not attend meetings in person, he was there in spirit! Sonia would take hand written notes at the meetings and then give them to Ron afterwards who in turn would type them out for her to read at the following meeting.



Adam Galauner with teammates Wyatt Slifcak and Owen Horter and their winning robot at the VEX Robotics Competition on Nov. 14th

Another old member, Rita Brady (Stroka) passed away recently at age 87. I fondly remember her and her Irish husband Bernard (Bud) frequently attending meetings and contributing. Bud had passed away on 2011.

Please remember the above recently departed souls in your prayers and all of our deceased former members and our deceased relatives.

Our members, Trina and Mark Galauner, have some exciting news to report. Their oldest son, Adam, a junior at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, was part of the Robotics team that took 1st place in the VEX NEOH Tournament. The team's 228 point score is the highest this year in Ohio and 3rd highest in the U.S. They have qualified for both the State competition and the National competition. Also, their daughter, Brigitte, recently debuted her dance choreography called "Whales on the Water" at the College of Wooster Fall Dance Concert.



Brigitte Galauner and her College of Wooster dancers, Claire, Theresa, Madigan, Isabel and Julia

If you have any family news that you would like me to report, please contact me. I'd like to report more good news such as births, weddings, awards, etc. Also, any genealogical news and discoveries in your research would be appreciated.

John F. Szuch  
[pulaskipro@aol.com](mailto:pulaskipro@aol.com)

## Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

Jan: TBA

Feb: TBA



### Cleveland's Polonia: Czestochowa

The area in Cleveland that runs down Harvard Avenue between East 131<sup>st</sup> and East 148<sup>th</sup> Streets was originally part of Newburgh Township and Warrensville Township. This land was predominantly rural farmland throughout the 1800s. The residents were mainly Manx (Isle of Man) immigrant farmers that followed the Corlett family to the area after 1822.

By the 1890s, the farmland was slowly being converted into residential lots. Czech immigrants started to make their homes along E. 131<sup>st</sup> Street. In 1906, this neighborhood straddling the two townships was organized and named Corlett.

## Czestochowa

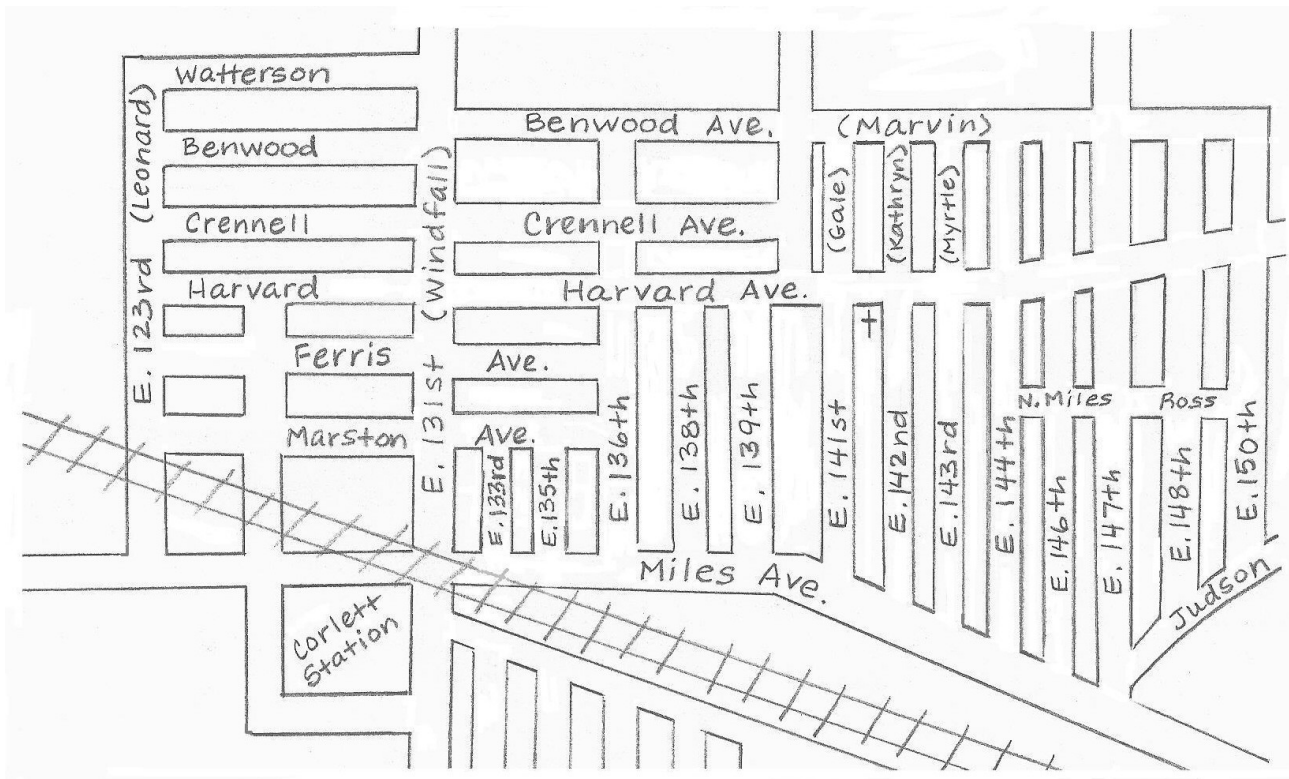


Illustration by Trina Goss Galauner

Polish immigrants, many from the Warszawa and Krakowa neighborhoods in nearby Newburgh Township, started to move into Corlett around 1910. Most likely, this migration followed the streetcar lines that ran down Miles Avenue. The streetcar lines made commuting to the rolling mills and other industries possible.

By 1913, the Polish population had reached 85 families and the residents petitioned Bishop John P. Farrelly for permission to start their own congregation. At first, the Bishop refused the request due to the lack of available Polish speaking clergy. But later, with the assistance of Father Victor Szyrocki of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, residents were granted their new parish. It would be named "Our Lady of Czestochowa". From then on, the neighborhood would be known to Poles as "Czestochowa". In 1917, the Corlett neighborhood (including Czestochowa) was annexed to the city of Cleveland.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish celebrated its last mass on April 28, 1996 before closing due to lack of parishioners.



**NOTICE: Membership expires on December 31, 2015. Please renew your membership by mailing payment to Ben Kman at the address below.**

The Polish Genealogical Society



**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

New Applicant       Renewal       Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Surname

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SURNAMEN YOU ARE RESEARCHING

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Programs include: Guest speakers, workshops, member findings and active social exchange.

Membership includes: A packet of forms, search tips and general information to get you started in genealogical research, a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, "*Our Polish Ancestors*", (emailed unless otherwise requested), and access to our extensive library of Polish literature and maps, which includes a complete listing of member surnames being researched around the world.

Your completed **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** will be filed with the Secretary and Membership Chairman upon payment of annual dues (Jan. thru Dec.) of \$24.00. **Make check payable to: "Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland" and mail to the Treasurer/Ben Kman, PGSGC, 170 Bellus Rd., Hinckley, Ohio 44233.**

Please check below giving us permission to publish your email address and mailing address online and in our newsletter for genealogical purposes. We will not share your personal information for any other reason.

USE REVERSE SIDE IF NEEDED

YES

NO

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

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Visit us on the web at:  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/](http://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 \$24.00 per calendar 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.