



Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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Polish Woman Reaches Great Heights in Sports

By Trina Goss Galauner

Frances Sobczak was interviewed for an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer in 1936. At this time, it was her extraordinary height of 6' 1" that they were writing about and her difficulty in obtaining clothing and footwear for her size. Little did everyone know then what an influence she would have on women's sports.

Born in 1916 in Donora, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of Henry Sobczak and Lucy Kaminski. Henry immigrated from Kozarzewo, Poland in 1910 coming to Cleveland, Ohio but was drawn to the factories in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was in Pittsburgh that he met Lucy Kaminski. They had 5 children while living in Donora, Pennsylvania located south of Pittsburgh. Frances was the 2nd eldest in the family.

The family moved back to Cleveland about 1926. At the age of 14, Frances was already 5' 6" and just about the height of her father. She was intrigued by sports and persuaded her parents to allow her to become a member of the Polish Falcons Hall which was located next door to their home. Here she would meet Olympic gold medalist Stella Walsh and learn track and field.

At the age of 16, Frances competed in Chicago at the Polish Falcons National Games and broke the high jump record by jumping 5 feet. She also won shot put and discus. Frances graduated from South High School and was offered a scholarship to a teacher's college but she turned it down to stay home to help her family. One day she hoped to represent Cleveland in track and field at the Olympic games.

But Frances also excelled at basketball and given her tall stature it's not hard to believe. She started to play for the Fisher Foods girls basketball team as their center. Shortly after, she traveled to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada playing for a team formed by Baldwin College men's basketball coach, Barclay Sanders. At one point, Frances scored 7 points in 30 seconds. She was offered a college scholarship to play in

Looks to Olympics.



FRANCES SOBZAK.

Photo from the Plain Dealer
December 13, 1936

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Welcome

If you are not already a member of the PGSGC and would like to become one and receive this quarterly newsletter (cost is \$24.00 per year), please contact Membership Chairman, Ron Kraine, at ronkraine@aol.com for more information.



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Letter from the President

Here I am, back again for my 24th term as President. Joining me is my previous slate of officers which is made up of Ron Kraine as Vice President, Sonia Chapnick as Secretary, and Ben Kman as Treasurer.

At our last meeting in December, we voted to skip the months of January and February as the Winter weather has caused numerous meeting cancellations or made travel a risk for our aging membership. This year has been a pleasant surprise for us because of the mild weather, but it was still nice to not have to worry about the driving conditions. Sometimes we get smarter as we get older!

Since our annual \$24.00 dues were due the first of January and since we didn't have a meeting until March 1st, a number of members are past due for their 2016 dues. If you are not sure if you are one of them, please check with Ron Kraine or Ben Kman.



2016 Officers
Ben Kman, Sonia, Chapnick, John Szuch and Ron Kraine

Ben Kman is taking over as program director for the meetings. He promises to come up with more "hands on" genealogy work shops with the hopes of getting the membership more involved. If you would like to help or have some program suggestions, please contact Ben at: ben_kman@hotmail.com.

My goal for the PGSGC this year is to see us expand our membership numbers. You can help in that regard by bringing someone to a meeting, maybe a younger relative or someone younger of Polish heritage with the hopes that they will get interested in finding their ancestors.

I hope to see you all soon, and would like to wish you and your family a HAPPY EASTER!

John

Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

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Polish Woman Reaches Great Heights in Sports continued from page 1.....

Canada but once again she turned down the opportunity because she felt she was needed at home to care for her family. Frances felt a great responsibility to help support her family.

In 1945, Frances secured a job as executive secretary of Fisher Foods. In this position, she managed their girls' softball and basketball league working in conjunction with many of the Cleveland recreation centers. At this time in the U.S., girls were somewhat discriminated against in the sports world. If you planned to marry and have a family it was presumed you would not compete in athletics. Frances married Peter Paul Kaszubski in 1946 but she continued to break this boundary by competing in sports.

Finally, in 1948, Frances finally got her opportunity to compete for the U.S. Olympic team in shot put and discus throw though she did not win a medal. It was then, when she realized how differently European women competed, that she really began her quest on behalf of female athletes in the U.S.



Frances Sobczak Kaszubski
Photo from ClevelandSeniors.com



Frances Sobczak Kaszubski competing in discus
Photo from ClevelandSeniors.com

Dan Ferris, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Amateur Athletic Union

(AAU) introduced Frances to a male coach named Boyd Comstock. Ferris wanted Comstock to teach Frances how to train American women in running, jumping and throwing. For a full year, once a month, Frances flew to Washington D.C. where she was trained by Comstock. What she learned not only helped her win more national AAU titles in shot put and discus but also gave her the knowledge to teach and inspire young women in sports to compete better. Between 1948 and 1960, she was responsible for uniting the association of women's physical education teachers, the AAU and the U. S. Olympic Committee in their vision of women's athletics.

Frances continued to compete and brought home the bronze from the Pan American Games in 1951. After that, she decided to retire from competition and start a family of her own at age 36. But Frances continued managing women's teams, in 1959, coaching the U.S. women's track team for the Pan American Games and, in 1960, managing the U.S. women's track and field team for the Olympics in Rome. She served as the national AAU chair for women's track for seven years.

Frances influenced many young women athletes in Cleveland and throughout the U.S. In 1976, Frances Sobczak Kaszubski was inducted into the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame for meritorious service. She died at age 93 in 2010. This incredibly tall woman indeed reached great heights in her accomplishments for women's sports.

SOURCES:

www.familysearch.org

"Topping Six Feet, Girl Likes Cities", Cleveland Plain Dealer, December 13, 1936,

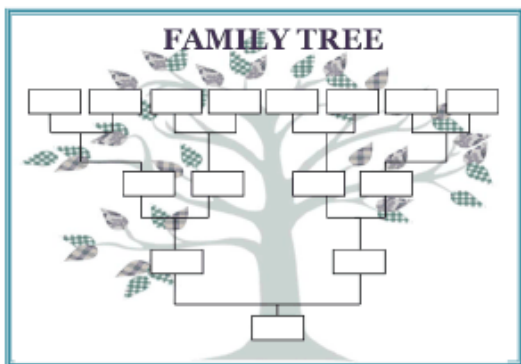
Karpinski, Diane, "Frances Kaszubski", www.ClevelandSeniors.com, 2005-06.

Segall, Grant, "Frances (Sobczak) Kaszubski was a top athlete and sports official", Cleveland Plain Dealer, April 13, 2010.



Family Tree Templates

Multiple templates for documenting your family tree can be downloaded at www.familytreetemplates.net. Fan charts, trees with graphics and tree charts for up to 10 generations are available for free. For a small fee, you can download a version editable in Microsoft Word. They also provide family sheets and other aids for documenting your research. Check it out!



www.FamilyTreeTemplates.net



www.FamilyTreeTemplates.net

www.FamilyTreeTemplates.net

1 name: _____
born: _____
place: _____
married: _____
death: _____
place: _____

2 name: _____
born: _____
place: _____
married: _____
death: _____
place: _____

3 name: _____
born: _____
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4 name: _____
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5 name: _____
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18 name: _____
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19 name: _____
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place: _____
married: _____
death: _____
place: _____

20 name: _____
born: _____
place: _____
married: _____
death: _____
place: _____

Family Unit History

Husband

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____
Last Name: _____ Divorce: _____
Birthdate: _____ Birthplace: _____
Marriage Date: _____ Marriage Place: _____
Death Date: _____ Death Place: _____
Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____
Other Spouse/Children: _____

Wife

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____
Last Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____
Birthdate: _____ Birthplace: _____
Death Date: _____ Death Place: _____
Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____
Other Spouse/Children: _____

Siblings

Name	Related To:	Birthdate/Place	Spouse	Children	Death Date/Place
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					

Children

Name	Birthdate/Place	Marriage Date/Place	Spouse	Children	Death Date/Place
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					

www.FamilyTreeTemplates.net

“Polish Ancestors” website offers more help for researchers

The Polish Ancestors website at <http://dyguslav.wix.com/polish-ancestors> offers a few different avenues for the researcher. Mainly, they put family historians in contact with researchers for a fee. For this fee they claim to provide documented proof of ancestral lineage. One of their special projects is called “Descent from Polish Kings” in which they try to connect with all descendents of nobility. As with all paid research, buyer beware. Their website offers some tantalizing research aids which they provide free online for a limited time along with transcriptions of records such as “List of Physicians in Warsaw (1930)” and “Grabieniec Catholic Parish Baptisms (1740-1789)”.



Poland 2014: A Journey.....Part I

by Ben Kman

The following is the story (offered in quarterly installments) of member Ben Kman's 16 day journey to his ancestral villages in Poland in September 2014.

Day 1 Friday September 5

On Friday, we were scheduled to leave Cleveland and start our journey to Poland. I had been working from 2AM to 8PM everyday for a project at work. I actually came up with this schedule, based firstly on past experience trying to cover project activities 24x7 with one other person, and secondly, on the fact that it would give me a head start getting acclimated to Central European Time. What I didn't account for was general exhaustion from working crazy hours. Regardless, I stopped working at 8AM on departure Friday and finished packing. I took a last wander around my yard and house then a close family friend arrived in her minivan with my parents to take us to the airport. My great Uncle was supposed to go with us but he had emergency spine surgery two days prior to departure so his doctor forbade him from traveling. That added a layer of complexity I really didn't need or want to deal with but the agent at the counter when we checked in was very nice and separated his reservation out from ours and cancelled his ticket. At that point, I wasn't going to do any more until I got home and could contact United Customer Care to start the refund process. Bags checked and carry-ons in tow, we headed to the security checkpoint. Fortunately, due to my airline status and travel history from frequent travel for work, I had TSA Pre Check approval for our reservation and we passed through security without having to take our shoes or belts off and without having to remove electronics or toiletries from our carry-ons. Through security we settled in at the gate. The trip over was uneventful and all flights were on time. The only snafu was when we arrived in Frankfurt we were told to go to a different customs checkpoint that would be faster because no one was there. They never told us we needed to walk 30 minutes to get to it then another 20 minutes back to our departure gate. It would have been better for us to stand in line and wait than to walk all over creation. So much for German efficiency.

Day 2 Saturday September 6

Weather mid-70's and sunny. I didn't keep track of the weather or temperatures on a daily basis because we had the exact same weather every day. Mid 70's, clear blue sky and sun. It was surreal. We only had one cold, cloudy day with rain in the 15 days we were in Poland. I've never experienced anything like that before. We arrived on time in Warsaw at 9:30AM CET. Since we went through customs in Germany, we literally walked off of the plane, claimed our bags and walked out the door. One nice thing I noticed now at Frederic Chopin Airport is that there is a taxi stand with representatives getting people into honest taxis and on their way to their destination. Previously, there was a bunch of seedy hawkers walking around saying "Need taxi? Need taxi?" If you didn't know who a reputable taxi company was, you could have ended up riding with one of these guys who would have given you the scenic tour route to your hotel and over charging you. For anyone going to Poland, the standard fare from the Warsaw airport to the center of town is 40 to 50 zloty. A good cabby can find his way around traffic. If you get charged much more than that, you should argue. You don't need to tip cab drivers but you can round up to the nearest zloty to make everyone's life easier.

There is an ATM (Bank-o-mat) in the airport and that is the best place to get some money when you arrive. I completely discourage using travelers checks and from exchanging US\$ for zloty at Kantors. Both of these are rip offs and guarantee you that you will get a bad exchange rate as well as waste your time shopping around for a "good" exchange rate. Debit cards for cash withdrawals from bank machines and credit cards for most larger purchases/



payments will serve you the best during your travels. People may want to debate with me on this strategy but it has served me well during my travels to 30+ countries. I only carry a couple hundred US\$ for an emergency and to leave with relatives as a token gift for their hospitality (More on this later). After getting cashed up, we got our cab to our hotel which was located on Plac Zamkowy. Primo location. Here is my hotel review.

Castle Inn, Warszawa

- a. Boutique hotel right on Plac Zamkowy. Perfect location.
- b. No elevator or AC.
I was told that due to Conservancy restrictions there are no elevators allowed in buildings in the old town of Warsaw.
- c. Very nice, eclectic, themed rooms with modern conveniences.
I was in the Orient room which was quite nice and my parents had a tree motif in their room. The rooms were actually decorated by renowned Polish artists and you can reserve your room by name if you like. There are pictures of all the rooms on their website. In general across Poland and Europe, hotel rooms, bathrooms, showers and sinks tend to be much smaller than most Americans are accustomed. This hotel was no exception but my parents said it was comparable to a hotel they stayed at in Paris but our hotel was much cheaper.
- d. Private bathroom/toilet in the room.
There are still some low end hotels with a common bathroom/toilet for multiple rooms. Given I was traveling with my parents, I didn't book any of these. However, when I travel on my own, I look for rock bottom lodging which tends to lead to some interesting experiences.
- e. Breakfast buffet is extra and somewhat pricey.
My parents ate in the hotel on Monday morning (Day 3), the half day they were on their own, and thought the buffet was a decent value. I didn't agree but I am jaded by my previous travels to Poland when it was dirt cheap.
- f. Price about US\$113 per night.
This was the most expensive hotel we stayed in by far but given the location and the fact it is in Warsaw, it is not a bad deal.
- g. No parking was available.
- h. You can make reservations directly through their site or through third party sites like tripadvisor.com or hotels.com.

We arrived early for check in and needed to put our bags into a storage room until our rooms were ready. This wasn't a problem since I wanted to get out and about to keep moving so jet lag wouldn't get the best of us. The first order of the day was a quick walking tour of the Old Town and New Town. This is the core of the tourist area and a must see in Warsaw. The number of tourists in Warsaw was amazing. As well, all of the buildings looked like they had been cleaned and painted on the outside. There was also landscaping/flowers everywhere and all the public grass was cut with a lawnmower.

We stopped at a café on the Old Town square for a drink and a bite to eat. There are buskers at every café enticing you to come to their café. We randomly picked one and our waiter rubbed us the wrong way. We eventually got something to drink and a pierogi sampler platter. Our waiter then tried to tell us he had no change when we tried to pay the bill which nearly turned into an incident but we worked through it and left. Word to the wise, avoid the cafes on the Old Town square. They are overpriced and out to get you. There are plenty of other places from which to choose.

After a good wander, we stopped at the Pizza Hut next to our hotel to relax and have a couple of beers. As we watched people walk by, we were amazed at the number of weddings that were going on. It was Saturday



afternoon and wedding party after wedding party walked past us.

Now it was time to head over to the Hop On Hop Off bus stop to take an orientation ride around Warsaw for some perspective on the city and its history. NOTE: there is a Red hop on hop off bus that many places recommend but it only has 10 or 12 stops. I found another Company, Warsaw City Tours (yellow bus), that offers hop on hop off tours with 27 stops at all of the major tourist attractions except Wilanow Palace. More info at www.warsawcitytours.info.

A 48-hour pass was basically \$25 per person. As long as you timed your travels, you could easily see everything Warsaw had to offer in 2 days. This bus has excellent audio commentary on all of the sites along the route. The full ride was two hours and gave a great overview of the city and its history. You can pay with a credit card on the bus for your tickets.

.....continued on page 10



Map of Ben's journey through Poland
September 2014



Polish Family Heirlooms

These Easter lamb cake molds belonged to Trina Galauner's great grandmother, Mary Wisniewski Moniak. The larger one is a 12" Griswold heavy cast iron mold from the 1930s. The smaller 7" mold is heavy duty cast aluminum. Trina continues the tradition of baking and decorating lamb cakes for her family each Easter.



PGSGC DUES REMINDER!

Please check to see if you have paid your yearly dues. Dues for 2016 were due by January 1st. You can email Ron Kraine at ronkraine@aol.com if you aren't sure if you paid. Remember, your dues include membership to our quarterly newsletter, *Our Polish Ancestors*, and access to our genealogical library. If you are past due, please submit a check for \$24.00 to:

Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland
c/o Ben Kman/Treasurer
170 Bellus Rd.
Hinckley, Ohio 44233



PGSGC Family Tree

By John F. Szuch

Once again, I have sad news to report. First off, Anthonette Baciak our meeting hostess lost Norman, her husband of 54 Years. They were married at Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church on Lansing Ave. with a reception at the Polish National Home at 7205 Fullerton Ave. Anthonette laughed when she was telling me that the Hall was referred to as “Spooks Hall” because someone had hung themselves there and now haunted the place. I had heard people talk about “Spooks Hall” but never knew the story behind the name! Norman passed away on December 17th. They had a memorial mass on December 30th. Norm had attended our annual dinner party in October where he helped with the set-up and tear down. Our condolences go out to Anthonette, her children and grandchildren.



Norman and Anthonette Baciak Wedding photo



Ron Marec in 2009

Another big loss was Ron Marec who was a former Vice President and occasional speaker at our meetings, and occasional article contributor to our bulletin. Ron acquired his skills from years of being a World History and Psychology teacher at Brecksville High School. In addition to teaching there, he also was a wrestling, football, and Academic Challenge coach, and was loved by his students as evidenced by the glowing memorial article by Kathryn Reiss in the Brecksville High School alumni publication. Kathryn Reiss is a noted children's books author and a former student of Ron's.

Ron passed away suddenly at home on January 8th, he was 76 years old. I have to chuckle when I think back to the years he was my Vice President. When we would see each other at meetings, or when I would talk to him on the phone, he would always address me as “Boss”. Again, our condolences go out to his widow, Judi, and their children. He will be missed by us all.

Remember your deceased relatives and friends in your prayers and somebody PLEASE give me some GOOD news to report into this column!

John

Programs and Presentations for Upcoming Meetings

- Apr: *Beginning Polish Genealogy* by Ceil Wendt Jensen (video presentation)
- May: *Advanced Polish Genealogy* by Ceil Wendt Jensen (video presentation)
- Jun: Genealogy Case Study—Member, Ben Kman, will walk through an example of tracing a cousin's maternal line through various records back to their ancestral village)



Poland 2014—A Journey continued from page 7

When our orientation tour ended at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, we were able to catch the end of the changing of the guard as we walked back to the hotel where we got a recommendation for dinner from the front desk. After a short rest, we went to dinner at Zapiecek (ul. Swietojanska 13). Overall the décor was nice but they crammed a bunch of tables into a very small space making for a very crowded situation. The service was not very good but the food was fine. We were tired and hungry and close to the hotel so we were thankful for the convenience on our first day. My parents each ordered an iced tea and I had a beer. For dinner, we ordered several dishes for sharing: Gulasz over buckwheat groats, white sausage and traditional sausage over sauerkraut, potato pancakes with mushroom sauce and a carrot salad. The whole meal including drinks was about US\$33.

Day 3 Sunday September 7

Today we were going to explore Warsaw in more detail with the help of the hop on hop off bus. We checked out the buffet in the hotel for breakfast and my parents decided that they really just wanted a cup of coffee so we headed out to find a café. Unfortunately, on Sunday, nothing opens early so we wandered to the rynek in the new town and had to wait until a café opened at 9AM to get coffees. Actually, the café opened at 10 but when I asked, the manager said if we only wanted coffee he would serve us. We just couldn't order food until 10. The coffee was FANTASTIC and when other people saw us sitting and drinking coffee they started filling up the outdoor seats. I felt both good and bad for the manager. He did us a favor but he ended up serving more people than he expected by opening early. I won't begrudge him the extra money he made that day as a result of us bringing in more business.

After our coffees, we started walking through neighborhoods to some nearby sights. The first stop was the memorial to those who died in the eastern borderlands. It is a life-sized flat bed railroad car cast in bronze with crosses, orthodox crosses, stars of David and Muslim tombstones covering the car. It is an impressive and moving sculpture. The next stop was the Jewish uprising monument and Jewish History museum.

None of my family are really museum people so we looked at the monument and various memorials on the museum grounds before moving on. Next was Umschlagplatz. There is a stylized railroad car monument here made of marble that symbolizes the train station in the Warsaw ghetto that was used to ship all of the Jews to the death camps. It is very simple and very powerful. We were going to wait here for the bus to pick us up but we decided we could walk to the next destination in less time. Since we couldn't find the entrance to Cmentarz Powazki, the Polish cemetery, we moved on to the Jewish cemetery down the street. When we got to the gate, we were greeted by a middle eastern looking man who was interrogating us regarding why we wanted to visit the cemetery. What country are you from? What is your religion? Why do you want to visit? That's when I noticed the secret service type earpiece he was wearing. He was security to prevent any incidents/terrorist activities in this holy place. The entire cemetery is surrounded by a 10 foot high brick wall so you can't see anything from the street. Eventually he let us pass and when we walked through the gate, we were all blown away by what we saw. Once you enter, there is a building where you need to buy a ticket then you are faced with an extremely old cemetery engulfed in a mature forest. The graves are packed one on top of another in the midst of thousands of big, old trees. It was absolutely surreal. We walked through a tiny fraction of the entire place which is immense and you couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by the sense of place.

Leaving the cemetery, we caught the bus and went to the Warsaw Uprising Museum. A friend of mine highly recommended this museum so I made sure we carved out some time to see it. Especially considering it was the 70th anniversary. Unfortunately, Sunday was free admission and there was a huge line to get in. We waited but once we were inside there were so many people that you couldn't see the exhibits or follow the progression of the displays. We all felt disappointed with the experience but decided to wait in line again for a 3D movie that



recreated what a flight over Warsaw would look like after the city was completely leveled by the Nazis. It was an interesting but short movie after which we decided to leave and continue our tour of the city. This looks like it could be an interesting exhibit if you were able to take the time to wander through the museum without all the people but based on my experience, I can't give a positive or negative review.

From the Uprising Museum, we caught our bus again and headed to Lazenki Park and the Palace on the Isle. Lazenki is the home of the Frederick Chopin monument. When we were there, people were arriving for an afternoon piano concert in the park. There is a nice pond in front of the monument as well as flower gardens which make for a very attractive venue. After viewing the huge statue of Chopin, we continued through the park to the Palace on the Isle which is an old royal residence situated on an island in a small lake. After visiting the palace grounds and park, we headed back to our bus to end our touring for the day. We were dropped at the last stop again before we began walking back to the rynek in the new town to attend mass at Sw. Kazimierz Church. There was a high mass in Polish and Latin that my parents were interested in attending.

At the end of mass, we walked to a restaurant that was next door to the café we had coffee at in the morning and had a great meal for my parents' wedding anniversary. The restaurant was Galeria Freta Café (ul. Freta 39). Mom had a lemonade and Dad and I had beers. Dad also had a shot of Wyborowa vodka. Our dinners were veal cutlet, chicken breast and grilled trout with a salad followed by a cappuccino and two coffees. The total bill was about US\$77. This was a very nice restaurant and I would recommend it for a meal if you are in Warsaw. I'd like to give a better description of the meal but their website wasn't working so I couldn't get the tantalizing wording from the menu. Once we finished eating, we took a slow walk back to the hotel and Dad grabbed an ice cream on the way. At that point, we were ready to call it a night. The next day would be our last in Warsaw before heading to the country side.

Day 4 Monday September 8

Today I turned my parents loose on Warsaw for the morning. I had a job interview with a friend of mine who started his own business in Warsaw. I told my parents that they needed to see the Uprising Monument in Warsaw before we left and showed them where it was on the map.

After agreeing to meet back at the hotel around 11AM, I headed out to my interview. I walked over to the office and eventually found it in a maze of buildings. My friend Biser (He's actually a Pole of Bulgarian descent. Trace that tree!) was finishing up a meeting with a new hire then he met with me. We caught up after not seeing each other for almost 13 years then started to talk about his business and the job opportunity. Once we finished up our discussion, he helped me find a Play Mobile store nearby his office so I could buy a SIM card for my phone. We said our farewells and I was off to the store and back to the hotel.

The mobile store was in the Polish version of a multi-building strip mall. The problem was that the buildings were numbered 20a/b/c, 19a/b/c and the businesses had addresses 20a/b/c and 19/a/b/c etc. So the address on their website said 20c but I wasn't sure if that was the building or their address. Typically addresses in multi tenant buildings follow a pattern, 20/3 which would be building 20 and office or flat number 3. With the help of a couple friendly shop keepers, I eventually sorted it out and found the store. A quick 5zł purchase and I was on my way.

Heading back to the hotel, I went past the uprising monument as well and stopped to take pictures. Surprisingly, there were no tourists mobbing it yet. I got back to the room a little late and found my parents relaxing. It turns out that they went to breakfast in the hotel buffet. I stopped and got a cheese Danish from a bakery. They then took a mini tourist train tour of Warsaw then walked over to the Uprising Monument. Sounded like an interesting time. The hotel called a cab for us when we checked out and we walked over to meet it. We took the cab to the rental car office to pick up our car for the next 10 days.

To be continued in the next issue

The Polish Genealogical
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**Polish Genealogical Society of
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c/o the return address above**

About Us

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month (March, April, May, June, September, October, November and December) at St. Mary's PNC Church parish hall, 5375 Broadview Rd., Parma, Ohio. We have Winter break in January and February and Summer break in July and August. 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 10:00 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.