





## Letter from the President

It's hard to believe that this is the beginning of my 25th year as President of the PGSGC! I had no idea when Ed Mendyka (our founder and first year President) asked me to run for President after his first term was up, that I would still be in that office in 2017. That will change for 2018 as this is my final year in office and you will be electing a replacement. It's time to get some fresh blood to pump some vitality into our organization.

The years have really flown by quickly, but I have enjoyed them. The most enjoyable part has been all the wonderful people I have met over the years and whom I now consider "family" members. The down side has been how many PGSGC family members I have lost during that time period. Age will do that to all of us sooner or later.

Here is a genealogical tip. What 10 questions would you ask your parents or grandparents? In many cases, those family members are now deceased, and you now wish you could personally ask them. Why not answer those same questions and document your answers for your own descendants? I can guarantee you that if you don't think anyone is interested now, some descendant in the future, possibly not even born yet or too young to be interested, will thank you for your foresight.

Welcome to our new PGSGC Secretary, Lucia Dominak. Lucia has been a long time member and we are grateful that she has accepted this position. Thanks to Sonia Chapnick for her many years of service as secretary.

We've got a pretty full meeting schedule for this coming year so if you are a member (present or past) or just happen to be reading our latest newsletter and see this, please stop by. Guests are always welcome at the meetings!

I hope to see you all soon.

John



2017 PGSGC Officers  
Ron Kraine, Lucia Dominak, John Szuch, Ben Kman

### 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/)



#### Officers:

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## Remember When: Going to Confession

by John A. Prokop

I was thinking recently about Confession and began to think of how much time I spent inside that Confessional at St. Casimir's Church, over the years. I figured out it was plenty! I had spent eight years at St Casimir's School and four years at Cathedral Latin High School and there alone equaled at least 520 visits over those initial 10 years. I can't fathom how many Our Fathers, Hail Marys, Glory Be's, Novenas, Litanies, Rosaries and Acts of Contrition that all must have amounted too. I imagine quite a few. Keeping track of sins, indulgences and time off in Purgatory were most perplexing computations, but that's another article for another time.

I know going to Confession sure helped me get better at arithmetic because I had to remember all those sins I had committed and how many times. Not only that, but they had to be tracked by their sin category; Mortal, Venial and Actual and if they were sins of thoughts, words or deeds. Wow, I bet my mind was a myriad of worksheets, spreadsheets and algebraic equations all going on at the same time, trying to tally the final numbers and scores.

My First Confession was special because it prepared me for my First Holy Communion. I studied hard to memorize the penance protocol, down to an exact science. I had memorized the 10 Commandments and every possible sin that could be committed under every one of them. It was hard to believe that 10 sins could suddenly multiply into over a hundred, after only one Examination of Conscience!

The nuns were masters at performing and reciting a comprehensive "Examination of Conscience." It was always a Friday afternoon ritual at St. Casimir's and held at 3pm, because at 3:30pm we went to Confession before going home for the weekend. That way we freed up Saturdays for the other parish sinners, who couldn't go to Confession at their workplaces, like we could from school. Most important, however, you were expected to behave over the weekend and not do any serious sinning before Sunday Mass, so you could go to Communion. If you didn't go to Communion on Sunday morning, you were subjected to some serious scrutiny by your classmates, your nun, neighbors, family, or friends.

Going to Confession was like picking from a box of chocolates, you never knew which priest you were going to get. Some priests were brutal in that broom closet sized dim lit box. You were always worried if you talked too loud (lest someone outside would hear you), or you were kept too long (for asking too many questions or you just talked too much trying to explain yourself). Nothing was more embarrassing than to have your confession buddy ask you "What took you so long in there?" If you were lucky, you knew of a priest who was kinder and gentler, who didn't holler or make you say a rosary, litany or novena for your penance. Sometimes that meant walking or hiking far away outside your neighborhood, or taking a short bus ride to another parish.

As you grew older and wiser the sins you could commit became more complicated. Sins started having more moving parts and extenuating circumstances. It became more difficult to go to Confession because your black and



.....continued on page 10



Michael Kniola, Polish Godfather of Cleveland continued from page 1.....

back to Sayreville, we had eating and dancing for two days and that was our honeymoon.” Two months later, they were on their way to Cleveland, Ohio where Michael would secure a job at the Cleveland Rolling Mill Company (later American Steel and Wire).

The newly married Kniolas stayed with Mary’s family on Phillips Street in Cleveland at first. During the day Michael worked at the steel mill and in the evening he attended night school to learn how to speak English. Within three months he was promoted to foreman of the Polish speaking laborers. Within the calendar year, he also became a naturalized citizen. Eighteen months after he arrived in Cleveland, he purchased a property at Tod and Osmond for \$825.00.

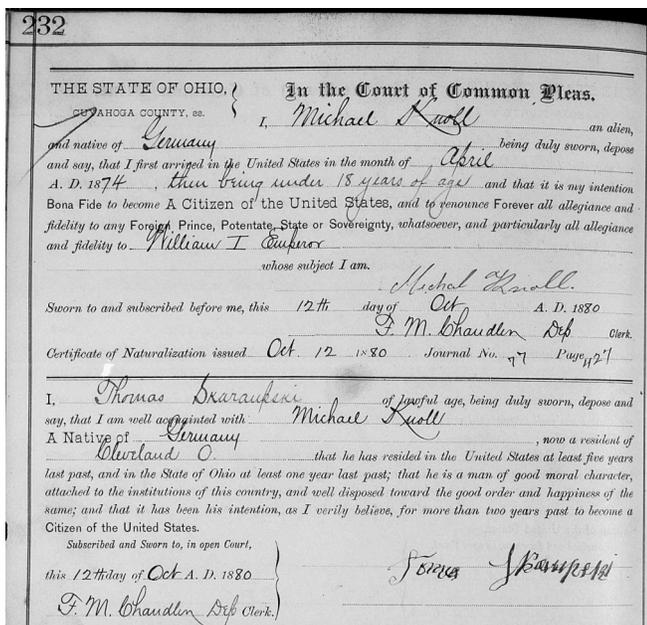


Kniola Travel Bureau ca. 1890s  
Courtesy of the Western Reserve Historical Society  
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Kniola purchased more property in 1886 and opened a grocery store on Tod Street. Mary ran the store during the day, in addition to raising a family, and Michael made deliveries in the evening after working at the steel mill.

The Kniolas also offered their goods on credit. Michael was an honest, hard working, trustworthy man. Many in the Polish community distrusted the big American banks and begged Kniola to safeguard their money for them. So Kniola became their private banker, taking cash deposits from his Polish customers and paying them interest. Soon he was also offering loans. He ran his community bank out of the safe in the back of his grocery store. Realizing the needs of the community, Kniola broadened his services and began to offer foreign money orders and steamship tickets. By 1890, his business officially became M. P. Kniola Travel Bureau.

But Michael Kniola didn’t just provide steamship tickets. His customers needed an immigration facilitator for their family members in Poland. So Kniola took on the role of a full travel agent. He helped these Polish immigrants from beginning to end and beyond. He made arrangements for train and steamship tickets and took care of correspondence between the customer, steamship line and immigration authorities. If there was a problem, such as the inability to procure a visa or illness of a passenger preventing his



Michael Kniola naturalization  
August 12, 1880  
from www.familysearch.org



STUB—TO BE RETAINED BY AGENT. ✓

**HAMBURG - AMERICAN LINE.**  
EMIL L. BOAS, GENERAL MANAGER.

**THIRD CLASS OUTWARD TICKET.**

S. O. T. 118160

**RECORD.**

Agency at.....  
Date DEC 6 - 1901 1901  
Steamer Deutschland  
Sailing on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 1901  
PASSENGER'S NAME.  
Wojciech Zygmunt.  
ADULTS one  
CHILDREN, UNDER 12 YEARS..... X  
INFANTS, UNDER 1 YEAR..... X  
OUTWARD OCEAN PASSAGE..... \$ 33.00  
EUROPEAN INLAND FARE.....  
IN..... CLASS.....  
To..... \$.....  
TOTAL, \$ 33.00  
LESS COMMISSION, \$ 2.00  
NET, \$ 31.00  
PAID BY..... 190

Third Class ticket stub  
Kniola Travel Bureau Records  
Courtesy of the  
Western Reserve Historical Society  
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passage, Kniola corresponded with the steamship companies and government authorities to remedy the situation.

But he did not stop there. Once an immigrant arrived, Michael found them a place to stay and offered them generous credit at his store until they found work.

By 1900, the travel bureau took up so much of Kniola's time that he sold his grocery business. He opened a boarding house for new immigrants and became an employment broker. Businesses outside of Cleveland contacted him with their labor needs and Kniola, under commission, sent many new immigrants, as far as Middletown and Barberton, for employment. Michael Kniola, always the entrepreneur, diversified and became a real estate and insurance broker further providing for the needs of his Polish community.

Kniola was also active in the local political scene. He cast his very first vote for President Garfield and voted in every election thereafter. He was a staunch Republican and started the Polish Republican Club. He had several connections with highly influential government officials who helped him in business transactions and with immigration disputes. He ran for city council in 1893 and 1909 but lost both times.

Michael Kniola was also active in his local church, St. Stanislaus, serving as a trustee of the parish. He was a member of many Polish fraternal organizations, having co-founded many of them, and commander of the Knights of St. Casimir. In 1892, he helped establish the first Polish newspaper in Cleveland called *Polonia w Ameryce*. He remained active in all these groups throughout his life.

In the late 1920s, Michael Kniola retired from his travel bureau business, handing it over to his son, Raymond. In 1927, he was honored by the Polish government for "his activity on behalf of the homeland during the World War". He and Mary celebrated not only their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary but also their 60<sup>th</sup> and raised seven children to adulthood. Michael

.....continued on page 11



## DID YOU FORGET?

If you have not already paid your \$24 yearly membership fee for 2017, it is now **PAST DUE**. Don't let your membership expire. Please submit payment immediately to:

PGSGC c/o Ben Kman/Treasurer

170 Bellus Road

Hinckley, OH 44233



## Poland 2014: A Journey.....Part 5

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 9 Saturday September 13

Standard operating procedure today: Out of bed, have breakfast, load the car and goodbyes. It was another misty eyed departure. Seeing the health of some of the older relatives makes you wonder if you are going to see them again which makes saying goodbye that much more difficult. If I could go back every year or two, that would be one thing. However, I'm never sure when I can make it back to Poland so I just take each moment for what it is worth.

My parents and I agreed to leave money with each family we stayed at in consideration of everything they do for us and as a way to defray the cost of extra mouths to feed. I felt US\$10 per person per day wasn't so little that it was insulting but not so extravagant that it was arrogant. It just felt about right. The problem is that you just can't hand them an envelope with cash in it. That would be flat out rejected. Over the years, though, I developed a technique in which I just put the cash under a pillow on the bed on the morning of departure then I don't make the bed. By the time we are out the door and on our way, we are out of reach and the family can't return our gift. No one has ever confirmed finding the money and I have never asked. I can honestly say that I don't believe it is expected by relatives but it is a nice gesture. And, after you get overwhelmed with hospitality, you feel guilty into doing something beyond the gifts you brought.

Today is the day I warned my parents about....the LONG haul. The goal of today was to get from Paslek, in the far North, to Lublin, in the Southeast. I picked Lublin as a historic city of importance and as a good breaking point from the day's drive. I was actually looking forward to the drive today because I had never been to the northeastern or eastern part of Poland before.

After saying our goodbyes, we packed the car. Despite giving gifts at each family stay, we always seemed to receive an equal or greater volume of "stuff" in return. On this family stay, we were able to dissuade our hosts from giving us perfume. However, they also made Aronia berry cordial. Of course, we were gifted a full bottle of it. We tried to defer this gift as well by saying it would leak on the airplane. Polish ingenuity foiled our efforts and during our vodka drinking session the night before when we were given the gift, out comes a heat sealing wrap for bottles and a small blow torch. Mariusz slipped a sleeve of heat sealing material over the neck of the bottle then heated it with the blow torch. It shrunk around the cap and neck of the bottle and sealed it up making it leak proof. With the problem solved, now we had to take it. There was also a partial bottle of cordial. That ended up going with us as well. As the family said, "you'll need something to drink in the evenings while you are on the road." Finally, we drove off but we were in desperate need of fuel. Our little detour to Russia on the way to Paslek had us rolling into our relatives' parking lot with an empty gas tank. Fortunately, there was a gas station very close by. With a full tank and a long road ahead of us, we headed east.

The first stop of the day was Wilczy Szaniec, The Wolf's Lair. This was Hitler's compound for 3 years during WWII. It's located in Ketrzyn. The drive to Ketrzyn was through massive farms that stretched as far as the eye could see. I had never seen farms like this in Poland before. The tractors were scaled for mass agriculture as well. Everything was mechanized. Hay wasn't piled up into a neat little mound draped over a pine tree trunk like I was accustomed to in the mountains of the southeast. There were large industrial rolls of hay and straw



wrapped in protective plastic and piled into huge mountains.

As we continued to drive, the scale of agriculture in the northern part of Poland became very apparent. We primarily drove along two lane asphalt roads, many of which were lined with huge old trees. What I found unusual was that these were full sized trees. Very often, many of the trees are topped then they sprout a large amount of new growth resulting in long, thin, dense branches growing from the top of the trunk. These are then successively cut for firewood, fence material, etc. But it leaves the tree with a very distinctive, unnatural look. This is very common in Poland and I found it strange to see so many large, natural trees alongside the road. They were beautiful and made for a very nice drive. It was reminiscent of the plantations in the southern part of the U.S.

Eventually, we saw a massive brick or stone building off in the distance. As we got closer, it began to look like a castle. We figured out that this was a castle and it was located in Reszel. An impromptu stop was in order. Once we made our way to the castle and parked, we bought our tickets and took a quick tour. The castle is massive and very imposing. It is currently being converted into a hotel. There is already a restaurant and gallery in the complex. My dad was fascinated by the scaffolding made from trees. The uprights are made from trees that were 3-4 inches in diameter. The working plat-

forms are attached to these. When you first see this type of scaffolding around a building, your first thought is that it can't be safe. It's a very popular way of putting up scaffolding throughout Eastern Europe though.



After our brief tour of the castle, we continued on to Wilczy Szaniec. It was fairly well marked so we didn't have too much trouble finding it. As soon as you park and get out of your car, a "guide" comes over and tries to convince you that it is mandatory to use their services to tour the ruins. This is completely untrue. After brushing off a couple insistent people, we made our way to the map of the area and chose the red tourist route which would lead us around the bulk of important ruins. The whole area is now heavily forested and as you walk along the trail, you come across massive concrete compounds with solid walls 5 to 10 feet thick and 40 feet in the air. The scale of building on this site is incomprehensible and the amount of explosives that it took to destroy all of these buildings at the end of the war is unfathomable. Seeing this all in ruins with a forest growing amidst it is surreal. Each building leaves you in awe and eventually you came to the end of the tour where you started. This is definitely worth a visit for what it represents but it is well off the tourist route. This also happens to be the site where an assassination attempt was made on Hitler's life.



Now we turned our sights southward and headed towards our next stop on the way to Lublin, Mikolajki. Driving in Poland has changed quite a bit since 7 years ago. There have been massive infrastructure projects as a result of the funds from the European Union and fixing the Polish roads was one area of focus. One of the unique traits of Polish roads that remains the same is that many have very wide berms. These berms are used by slower moving traffic, tractors, etc. to yield to faster moving traffic and provide room to pass on the narrow roads. This can be harrowing sometimes especially when you try to yield to Polish maniacal drivers and find a bicyclist peddling along or a family walking in the berm. One of two new changes that I noticed is an infinite number of new roundabouts in almost every city and town. I don't recall ever seeing a roundabout in Poland before and am not sure why they introduced them but they are a major hassle. The other addition is crossing zones for pedestrians in the middle of nowhere that cause the road to divide around a concrete island in the middle. This is accompanied by flashing yellow lights and a significantly reduced speed limit. Sometimes they have mobile photo radar set up at these crosswalks to catch people flying through these zones. Besides that, speed limits outside of reduced speed limit areas are never posted. It really made it challenging to figure out how fast you could be driving on different stretches of road. As we continued south into the lake district, the terrain became more and more forested. Since September is typically high season for mushrooms in Poland, we started to see pickers with baskets full of mushrooms sitting on the side of the road selling their day's finds.

Another thing you will see alongside the roads in Poland, especially more major roads in the countryside just outside of big cities, is tyrowki. (You won't find this word in the dictionary and PLEASE DO NOT GOOGLE THIS AT WORK OR AROUND CHILDREN!) Tyrowki are roadside prostitutes. They are VERY easy to identify and I don't think I need to explain what they are doing. I remember seeing them 24 years ago so they are a mainstay in Polish culture. Typically they are standing at turnoffs from the roads/highways in wooded areas "advertising". I guess their pimps drop them off then come to pick them up at the end of their shift because some of these ladies are in quite remote places. Please don't ask me about pricing or how the system works... I digress.

We arrived in Mikolajki and found a nice park on the water. The Sochas made sandwiches for us and gave us cakes to take on the trip so we wouldn't go hungry. We sat on a bench watching boats sail past while we ate our lunch. Each sandwich must have weighed a pound and fortunately I was able to convince them not to butter the bread with which they made the sandwiches. Trust me a sandwich made from bread smeared with butter or lard is to die for (and from) but my parents wouldn't be experiencing that.

After finishing our lunch, we took a stroll around the pedestrianized area of Mikolajki. For those who aren't aware, Mikolajki is in the center of the Mazurian lake district and a good hub for exploring the area. It is situated between two lakes and I thought it would be a scenic place for a stop. The weather was beautiful again that day and there were tons of people boating. Many of the lakes in the area are connected by canals and you could literally spend an entire week just boating, canoeing or kayaking around the whole region. This is a very beautiful part of the country and I hope I can return one day to enjoy it more fully.

On our stroll back to the car, we stopped and got some ice cream. I had black currant which was fantastic! There were no more planned stops today until we reached Lublin so the rest of our drive after leaving Mikolajki was all about making time. I never really tried to calculate how fast I was going since I typically tried to drive about 10 km over the known speed limit. On the trip to Lublin, I pushed it. When I got home, I glanced at the speedometer in my car and thought "oops... was I really driving that fast on those narrow two lane roads?"

We arrived in Lublin after dark then had to drive around looking for a parking place near our hotel. Eventually we found a paid and guarded lot just outside of the Old Town and left the car there for the night after paying the attendant. We dragged our bags across the street and over more cobblestones as we passed through the main city gate into the old town square. I left my mom and dad with the bags as I went to look for the hotel. It didn't take long to find it and I collected my bag and my parents then we went to check in. Our hotel was actually a café with 8 rooms available. After verifying our reservation (I paid for everything in advance through the internet) and

.....continued on page 10



## PGSGC Family Tree

By John F. Szuch

Sorry to say, no good news here! Chet Luty, an early member of our group, along with his wife Virginia, passed away on December 14, 2016. Chet and Virginia were collectively known as the "Polish Peddler". They would set up at a number of Polish festivals selling their imported Polish items. We had the pleasure of having them set up at a number of our Society's Christmas parties which gave members an opportunity to buy Polish Christmas gifts for family and friends. Chet had two sons, Christopher and Craig. He assisted his son Craig who is a "forensic genealogist". Chet was 85.

Although I don't believe he ever was a member, the Honorable Judge Raymond L. Pianka passed away at age 65. on January 21, 2017. He did do a presentation at one of our meeting and was always cordial at Polish functions when I would run into him. I considered him a friend of not only myself but also of the PGSGC. Ray always had a smile on his face!



The "Polish Peddlers" at work at the 12-2-97 PGSGC Christmas party.



President Szuch with his two heroes,  
Grandson Gregory R. Szuch & Casimir Pulaski.

Last, but not least, I report the passing of Gregory R. Szuch, the only child of my daughter Valerie. Greg passed away in his sleep at the age of thirty six on January 23, 2017. I last saw him on January 14th at a birthday party for me at his Mother's house. He was in great spirits and seemed to be healthy, He was his usual self, smiling and laughing, that's why it was such a shock to get a call 8 days later informing me that he had passed. He was a proud Marine veteran, having fought in Iraq. Greg was the first descendant on my personal family tree to serve in the Military since I did in the early 1960s. I lost not only a Grandson, but a personal hero!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members that either emailed me, sent a sympathy card, or paid their respects at the funeral parlor. Your thoughts and prayers were a huge payback to me for all my years of service to the PGSGC. Like I said in my letter from the President, we are all like family, and may GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

John

## Schedule of Presentations for Upcoming Meetings

**Apr:** *The Story Behind The Story* - What was the trigger that started you on the path to researching your family? Was it a friend telling you about their research? A motivational presentation on genealogy? An upcoming trip to Poland? Come and share the moment when you caught the genealogy bug.

**May:** *Finding Uncle Frank: Confirming the Identity of a Polish-American Soldier Buried Under the Wrong Name* - Join us for a live webinar presented by our Spring Keynote speaker, Julie Szczepankiewicz

**Jun:** *Polish Family Heirlooms* - Bring a family heirloom and tell the story behind it.



*Poland 2014: A Journey continued from page 8.....*

getting the keys, we were given a short tour of where breakfast would be and where the elevators were. Ah, elevators. We went up to our rooms and decided to relax for a few minutes and unpack. These were very chic rooms with views over the old town square. My parents compared them to a hotel they stayed at in Paris. This was a very nice place.

We regrouped and decided to head downstairs for drinks and a snack. After a short walk around the old town to see what our options were, we came back to our hotel's outdoor patio. Service was very slow but eventually we got a very nice cheese board and some drinks. We sat and people watched and listened to a wedding upstairs. Eventually, it got too cool and we headed back up to our rooms for a nightcap of aronia cordial. My mom discovered that when she unpacked her bag, the partial bottle of cordial that wasn't sealed had leaked all over her nightgown and some other clothes. So now she has a permanent reminder of her trip to Poland.

After a couple drinks in the room and a short chat, it was time for bed after a long day of travelling.

Café Trybunalska, Lublin

1. This is a café/bar/restaurant that offers "noclegi" (sleeping accommodations). It is situated directly on the old town square in Lublin. Fantastic location.
2. Paid public parking is about 800m from the hotel in a guarded parking lot outside of the city walls. This is a bit of a pain.
3. There is an elevator, though some rooms require you to climb 2 to 3 steps.
4. The rooms are incredibly modern, chic and spacious with all of the amenities.
5. We had rooms 7 and 8 that overlooked the rynek. There are only 8 rooms available.
6. We had no problems with noise from the wedding or the people at the outdoor cafes below our rooms.
7. Private bathroom/toilets were in each room.
8. Price US\$80 per room per night.
9. Breakfast buffet is included in the price of the room. It had all the usual fixings plus fruit and cheese danishes! They also have excellent coffee.

**To be continued in the next issue**

*Remember When: Going to Confession continued from page 3.....*

white world had turned gray. Society had changed and the Church was trying to keep abreast of all the changes in laws, ethics and morality. The Sacrament of Penance became the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but the purpose remained the same, to seek forgiveness and to forgive. No more prayers to recite for your penance, but rather you were asked to perform acts of justice, mercy, or kindness. Actions speak louder than words and behaviors were more responsible than words. Penance was good salve to heal and repair your body and soul. Most important, our faith made it available to us, whenever we needed it. You also knew it was your only ticket and assurance to get into those "Pearly Gates of Heaven."

*From the St. Casimir Alumni Newsletter of E. 82nd and Sowinski Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. Reprinted with permission.*



John A. Prokop is a freelance writer and has published articles about growing up on Cleveland's East Side Polish neighborhood (Poznan,) in the 1950s and 1960s. He attended St. Casimir Grade School (Class of 1962) and then Cathedral Latin High School (Class of 1966). He is also the Prokop Family Historian and Genealogist and has studied Genealogy for about 5 years. John tries to capture and record his feelings of the times, culture, food, religion, people and relationships, as he perceived and lived them. He also chronicles personal information about his family genealogy, which is often rarely recorded or documented. John currently is retired and lives in St. Petersburg, Florida with his wife, Laura, and their two married daughters, Holly and Jennifer.



*Michael Kniola, Polish Godfather of Cleveland continued from page 5.....*

Kniola died one day after his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1944 only nine months after losing his dear wife, Mary. Kniola's service to his community had been invaluable. He was "instrumental in bringing more than 25,000 Poles to Cleveland". Based on his standing in the Polish Cleveland immigrant community, some may consider him the Polish Godfather of Cleveland.

#### **Notes:**

Michael Kniola likely worked at the Appleby DeVoe Eagle Mills snuff factory in Spotswood, New Jersey in the late 1870s. After that he likely worked at the Sayre & Fisher Brick Company in Sayreville which was the largest brickyard at that time.

Michael and Mary Kniola's wedding on February 7, 1880 was likely held at the Church of St. Stanislaus (later St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr) as it was the only Polish parish in New York City at that time. The parish operated out of a few locations before building its own church in 1900. At the time of the Kniola wedding, the parish occupied a previous Methodist church which had also been a synagogue at one time. This building was at Forsyth and Stanton Streets in New York City.

Michael Kniola was naturalized in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas on October 12, 1880 under the name Michael Knoll.

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[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

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Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

## *Polish Family Heirlooms*

Show and Tell Program

June 6, 2017

How many of you have items at home that have been passed down for generations? Maybe you have a family bible, an old bank book, an article of clothing, jewelry, military items or other unique items from the past. Please bring one item to our June meeting and share the story behind it. The older, the better! Your item and story may be featured in our "Polish Family Heirlooms" article in one of our future newsletters.

The Polish Genealogical  
Society of Greater Cleveland  
c/o St. Mary's PNC Church  
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**Polish Genealogical Society of  
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**Please submit all correspondence to:  
PGSGC Newsletter  
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.