



Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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The Interesting Life of P. S. Smigel, M.D.

By Trina Goss Galauner

There's a remarkable home on the market right now in the Cleveland suburb of Independence. The realtor calls it "a smaller version of Stan Hywet Hall". The man responsible for it's construction played an integral role in Cleveland's medical community. His name was Dr. Peter S. Smigel. His family stretched far and wide and were pioneers of the Polish Cleveland community.



Former home of Dr. P. S. Smigel
6748 Brecksville Road, Independence, Ohio

Dr. Smigel's parents were Antoni and Katarzyna (nee Derenek) Smigel. The Smigels were married in Dąbrówka Nowa, Bydgoszcz, Poland. Antoni was from the small village of Gogolin (though he doesn't seem to have been born there) and Katarzyna was born in the small village of Pietrowka (Piotrkówko). They had a daughter named Antonina who was born in Pietrowka in November 1861 but she died 9-1/2 months later. Three other daughters were born before the family emigrated.

Dr. Smigel got a free ride from Bremen to New York since his mother was pregnant with him when the family departed Poland in 1872. His parents and elder sisters,



Antoni Smigel and Katarzyna (Derenek) Smigel
Photos provided by Ellen VanDer Kaay

Rosalia, Josepha and Franciszka, arrived in New York on April 18, 1872 via the SS Johanne Marie. The passenger manifest claims they were bound for Chicago. In any event, by August 1872 the family was living in Cleveland and young Peter was born into this world. Two other children followed, Henry Anthony in 1874 and Mary in 1876.

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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

It's hard to believe that 25 years have passed since I was first called on to do one of these letters. Never in my wildest dream did I expect my term as president of the PGSGC would end up covering the next 25 years! I can honestly say that I have been proud to have represented this organization as it's leader but the time has come to give someone else the honor. That someone else is Ron Kraine who has been my vice president in recent years. I know he will do an excellent job and I hope that the members will support him as well as they have supported me right from the very beginning.

I won't single out names of those that have supported me over the years but know in your heart that I have appreciated each and every one of you. I will make one exception, and that is my maternal grandfather, Jan (John) Malicki, who I was named after. I was born and raised in his home and he was my father figure from the time of my mother's divorce when I was 14 months old. He instilled his love for his native land, Poland, in me.

Having been a charter member of the PGSGC right from the first meeting, I grew to know and love the members as if they were my newly extended family. Many have moved on from the organization for one reason or another. Some left because they achieved what they wanted to, some for age and health reasons and many because they have passed away. The latter reason has touched me the most.



President Szuch holding his grandfather's pipe and posing with a portrait which he painted of his grandfather and his pipe, shortly after he passed away in 1969

As I become President Emeritus, I still hope to be active with the group. The main difference is I'll be sitting on the other side of the officers' table.

Thanks, GOD BLESS you all, and have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sincerely,
John F. Szuch, President

Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

c/o St. Mary's PNC Church

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Remember When: My Godparents

by John A. Prokop

While recently working on my family tree, I came across my baptismal record from St. Casimir Church. As I studied and reviewed the facts and data recorded, I remembered the two people listed on my baptismal record, my godparents. My godfather was my Uncle Henry and my godmother was my Aunt Sophie. Both of these relatives would play a significant role in my life until I was an adult.

Traditionally, being asked to be a godparent was an honor and duty usually bestowed upon family members or relatives who would guarantee the child's spiritual growth and development in the Roman Catholic Church. The godparents were a living testimony to practicing the faith and being good role models for the child to imitate and emulate.

My earliest recollection of my special relationship with my godparents was my first holy communion. I received special occasion cards from them which had the word "godchild" or "godson" on them. That alone made them stand out and apart and made them special to me. There were also special pictures I had taken with my godparents to commemorate the event and our relationship.

At future family gatherings or parties, I was addressed and welcomed as their godchild! Uncle Henry or Aunt Sophie would often times slip me money at these events. Boy, would that ever make me feel special and loved, when hugs and kisses included spare change from their pockets. As I got older, the special occasion cards always included "godchild" or "godson" and folded paper money was included inside those cards.

By high school graduation, the special cards and gifts seemed to have stopped. After all, I was 18 years old now and considered an adult. There were no special occasion cards that said "god adult" in them and I guess their job and role was over by that time. However, our special relationship wasn't quite over yet. When I was looking for a summer job after graduation and needed help, my godfather got me a job as a "plumber's apprentice" on Waterloo Road. He said it would be good for me to be exposed to "a trade and skill that would last me a lifetime." It was a memorable summer that year in 1966 and I learned the skills and crafts of plumbing. When fall turned to winter, working outdoors and in cold basements motivated me to look for another job opportunity. Two years after that summer experience as a plumber's apprentice, I replaced all the galvanized iron plumbing with copper and replaced two steel hot water tanks in our house on Bellevue Ave.

Aunt Sophie was always special to me. She collected rosaries and had an impressive collection of them and some of them were so beautiful and unusual, that they were a pleasure to look at. The stories behind them made them more meaningful. Years later, on one of my visits to see her, she offered to give me one from her collection to remember her by. It is still one of my prized personal and family heirlooms. The beads were made from genuine Connemara marble, which is only found in the Connemara Mountains in the West of Ireland, and dates back 900 million years to the pre-Cambrian period. It was very masculine and the marble beads were various shades of deep gray and green. Many times during stressful occasions or events, I slept with it after praying the rosary.

When I got married it was the last adult occasion and event and when our relationship seemed to have completed a cycle. I had two great godparents who taught me well and completed their roles. It was my turn now to take what I had learned from them and my faith and to now "pay it forward." When the opportunity to become a godparent presented itself to me, I was honored and I graciously accepted it. I loved being a godfather and I was fortunate enough to have been asked and honored three different times.



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.



Poland 2014: A Journey.....Part 8

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 14 Thursday September 18

We get up at our usual time, gather our stuff, pack the car and head over to Genia's house for breakfast. As we are eating, she starts pulling out wedding pictures. We really need to hit the road and get to Krakow because we have a tour leaving for Auschwitz at noon. We look at the pictures and finally make our way to the car between 9 and 9:30. It's not always easy to slip out of the grip of you relatives.

I set the GPS for Krakow and we set off. Right away, the directions don't seem correct. We are going west and we should be heading north. I go back to the main road and start driving toward Tarnow to the north. We eventually approach Tarnow and start following roads going west. We start snaking through neighborhoods and come to a highway. After a slow start we start making time on the highway then the GPS instructs us to exit the highway. We start driving through neighborhoods again and continue to lose time. Everyone was getting frustrated. Eventually we got back on a main road and worked our way to Krakow.

Once we got to the city, the GPS took us directly to the apartment we were renting. We arrived around 11:15. When we parked the car, I called the apartment owner and she came out to meet us. I explained that we were in a bit of a hurry since we were leaving on a tour at 12:00. The four of us went to the flat and got a quick tour, received the keys and got an overview of the ground rules and checkout procedure. I felt bad rushing her but we were in a tight spot. She was very accommodating given the situation.

One unanticipated issue was paying for parking. We only had enough change to pay for a couple of hours and our hostess didn't have any change either. She took us to a pizza restaurant and they wouldn't break any of our bills for us so I had to go to a grocery store and buy something. I still didn't have enough change, but thought there was enough to pay for parking until our tour returned. We were supposed to return the car to the rental company that day as well but our late start and the horrific traffic in Krakow prevented that. We were forced to pay for the car for an additional day and promised we would return it tomorrow.

Fortunately, the place where we were going to be picked up for our tour was 100 feet from our apartment building. We walked over to the pickup location and caught our breath after a whirlwind morning. A short while later, the minibus showed up exactly on time. We boarded and I showed the driver our online reservations. After we found seats, the driver continued to several more stops picking up people until the entire minibus was filled. Our last pickup was our tour guide. She made some introductory comments and we head to Oswiecim. Our bus driver is the standard Polish driver. Everyone on the bus is talking under their breath as we careen past trucks and fly through roundabouts.

We arrive at Auschwitz and receive a color coded identification badge so we return to the correct bus after the tour. There were 3 different SeeKrakow tour busses. All of the SeeKrakow tourists are divided up into language groups so they can be paired with a guide who speaks the appropriate language. The first thing I noticed is that there are TONS of tourists waiting to tour the camp. The next thing I noticed is that there is a huge, brand new tourist reception building. Finally, there are all sorts of displays and signage outside of the reception area detailing the history of Auschwitz. My last trip to Auschwitz was in 1990. Back then, you literally parked then walked through the Arbeit Macht Frei gate. Now you need to pass through the reception building before



entering the concentration camp.

DISCLAIMER: Before I continue with my experience touring Auschwitz, I want to be clear that, through my observations, I am NOT trying to reduce the significance of the fact that the primary focus of Hitler's ethnic cleansing was the Jewish race. There is absolutely no denying that. However, I think it is important to note that the message being communicated on the tours has changed since 1990 and that the previous message provided a broader perspective on its victims, on the atrocities that occurred in this complex and on the significance of Nazi death camps located in Poland. I realize that this is an incredibly sensitive topic that strikes at the core of the Jewish existence and the gravity of the loss of millions of lives weighs heavily on any discussion.

In 1990, after passing through the main gate proclaiming "Through Work, Freedom", a palpable sense of sorrow and evil weighed on you. The silence and reverence of standing within the gates was tangible. I recall not hearing any birds, animals or insects, just silence. People were morose, many crying. Conversations were conducted in hushed tones. The grandfather of one of our group leaders died in Auschwitz and she refused to tour the facility. This was the backdrop to the start of our tour then.



In 2014, we were split up into language groups, fought our way through crowds, herded ourselves through the turn styles and were marched unceremoniously through the main gate. People were jostling to get the best photo op and keep up with the guide. The sense of ominousness was lost.



The tour of Auschwitz consists of two parts. The first is a tour of the main camp at Auschwitz then you continue to a second facility at Birkenau. Auschwitz itself is a relatively compact area of buildings but they represent the worst of humankind. As you move from building to building the history, growth and purpose of Auschwitz unfold. You visit a room filled with luggage, a room filled with human hair, a room filled with prosthetic limbs, a room filled with prayer shawls. One of the buildings was used by Doctor Mengele for his experiments on forced sterilization, genetics, torture techniques and medical

conditions. Another building had prison cells designed to break the inmates' spirit through physical and mental stress. There are the "showers" which were in reality gas chambers into which inmates were herded and poisoned with Zyclon B. Nearby were the crematoria.

The tour we were on this year glossed over some important areas and completely omitted others. We walked past the cell and memorial for Fr. Maximilian Kolbe without one I mention of its significance. We were not shown a cell in which a prisoner etched a figure of the Blessed Virgin in the wall with his fingernails. We did see



the standing cells which were small rooms perhaps 4 ft. square into which they packed prisoners so tightly that they could not sit or lay down. However, we did not see the cells in the basement in which prisoners had to stand on 1 foot square pedestals that protruded from the floor. The room was then flooded to just below the top of the pedestal. When the prisoners became so fatigued that they couldn't stand, they fell into the water, woke up and climbed back onto their pedestal. These rooms had windows that were open to the outside so the tired, wet prisoners were often exposed to freezing temperatures. They eventually succumbed to the elements. There also used to be a lamp with a shade made from human skin that wasn't on display now.

The other aspect that was glossed over was the Polish aspect of the camp. Poland, historically and relative to other countries, was more tolerant of other religions. (I am not implying that there was no bigotry or prejudice.) As a result, many Jews who were fleeing persecution in other countries settled in Poland. This led to Poland having one of the highest Jewish populations in all of Europe. This was one reason for Hitler's push into Poland. However, one of his secondary goals was the destruction of the country and its people. This also fit into the overall strategy for the Third Reich since Poland had vast expanses of farmland. The Nazis could enslave the Polish people, work them to death on the farms and feed the Third Reich. The country suffered huge losses both in population and culture at the hands of the Nazi's. I've found various statistics on the deaths at Auschwitz. Total numbers range from 1.4 million to 4 million. One report shows that Hungarian Jews represent the highest population of victims at Auschwitz at around 440,000, followed by Polish Jews around 300,000. The next largest group of victims was non-Jewish Poles at a count of around 75,000 to 85,000. Another report shows 1.1 million Jews were killed there and 140,000 to 150,000 Poles. The more information I reviewed the more variability there was. However, the top two targets of the Nazi's atrocities at Auschwitz were always the Jews and Poles. Given the massive scale of human death in these facilities, it is unfathomable that people could visit this place devoid of emotion or reverence.

The second part of the tour visited camp number two, Birkenau. There were actually 3 main camps but Auschwitz (camp 1) and Birkenau (camp 2)

represent the core of the horror. Birkenau is an expansive camp that extends as far as the eye can see. Most of the buildings here have been destroyed but it is easy to see where rows and rows of buildings existed while the camp functioned. This tour entailed a lot of walking. Starting at the main gate through which the trains entered to unload their victims, we walked to the back of the camp to a large monument dedicated to the Jews who lost their lives. The four main crematoria were situated on either side of the monument and we viewed their ruins as we made our way to see some of the barracks. There was a large Jewish contingent at the memorial that day and a ceremony was in process. On the walk back to the main gate, we stopped in to see the living conditions in one of the brick barracks. These buildings are filled with rows and rows of wooden racks that slept 3-4 people per space. As we neared the entrance gate again, we stopped to see one of the few remaining wooden barracks. Half of this building was filled with the



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NOTICE: Your yearly membership will expire on December 31, 2017. To retain your membership, please submit your \$24 yearly dues, along with the form below, to Ben Kman, at the address shown on the form. THANK YOU ...



**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Applicant

Renewal

Applicant Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Member Surname

Address: _____

OTHER SURNAMES 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 (January through June and September through December) at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's PNC Church parish hall, 5375 Broadview Rd., Parma, Ohio. We have summer break in July and August.

Programs include: Guest Speakers, Individualized Workshops and Social Hour.

A One Year Membership includes: Enrollment on our active membership list; A packet of information containing various forms and materials to get started in genealogical research; and a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, "Our Polish Ancestors" delivered via email (paper copy upon special request).

USE REVERSE SIDE IF NEEDED

Please indicate what contact information we can publish online and otherwise for genealogical purposes. Your contact information will not be used for any other purpose.

email

mailing address

Your completed **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** will be filed with the Secretary and Membership Chairman upon payment of annual dues (Jan. thru Dec.) of \$24.00. Dues for **new members** joining mid-year would be \$2.00 times the number of months remaining in the year. Make check payable to: "Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland" and mail to the Treasurer/Ben Kman, PGSGC, 170 Bellus Rd., Hinckley, Ohio 44233.



The Interesting Life of P. S. Smigel, M. D..... continued from page 1

The Smigel family first lived on 4th Street but in 1878 the Smigels settled in the Czech/Bohemian neighborhood at 26 Praha Street in the Kingsbury Run area. Antoni was a stationary engineer for John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company. He invested in some property on Broadway Avenue and moved his family to 12 Colorado Street by 1888. The Smigel family would invest in many properties over the years.



Smigel home at 12 Colorado Street ca 1890s
Photo courtesy of Kristina Morgan

Young Peter was sent to St. Joseph's Seminary in Teutopolis, Illinois for schooling and then continued on to St. Ignatius College in Cleveland. He was a gifted student and, upon graduation from St. Ignatius in 1888, Peter entered the Western Reserve University Medical School. In 1894, he obtained his medical degree and became "the first physician of Polish parents to graduate from Western Reserve University".

Dr. Smigel served as a staff physician at St. Alexis Hospital for two years. During that time, he met Lillian Buettner, daughter of councilman and St. Alexis Hospital benefactor, Frank Buettner. The couple were married on January 28, 1896.

Dr. Smigel opened his own private practice at the corner of Broadway Avenue and Ledyard Street. He later moved his offices to his home at 2155 Broadway Avenue (later 7211 Broadway). He became a well respected surgeon and was a prominent figure in the Polish neighborhood of Cleveland. A leader in his profession, he was a member of the Cleveland Academy of Medicine, the Ohio State and American Medical associations and the Cleveland Polish Physicians Association. His brother, Henry, became a pharmacist in 1896 and opened his own apothecary at 2084 Broadway.



Dr. P. S. Smigel
From "The Poles of Cleveland"
by Charles W. Coulter

Dr. P. S. Smigel (as his signature often was written) was also active in the business development of the southeast side of Cleveland. He served on the board of directors of both the Washington Building & Loan Company and the Leading Home & Investment Company. He was also active in community organizations and a parishioner of St. Stanislaus Catholic Church.

While it seemed all was perfect for Dr. Smigel, it was not. Scandal would rock the Smigel family and their name would be regularly in the newspaper for a time. In October of 1901, Dr. Smigel's wife, Lillian, sued him for a divorce on the grounds that he "gambles and drinks and has brought dissolute people to their home". Since he ran his medical practice out of their home, there certainly were many strange cases that landed on their doorstep. She also claimed he did not give her enough allowance for daily necessities. A few months later in February 1902, Peter's



pharmacist brother, Henry, was arrested for assault against a young 14-year-old girl named Dorothy Ames who claims she was held against her will at what appeared to be a house of ill repute on Broadway Avenue. Later that year, Dr. Smigel's father-in-law, Frank Buettner, went under the knife to allegedly remove a set of false teeth the man had believed were stuck in his throat. He died of shock during the operation. His false teeth were found on the floor at his bedside. Then in the summer of 1904, Dr. Smigel's father, Antoni became ill. Under his son's medical care, Antoni died of complications due to prostate cancer in October of the same year.

Dr. Smigel's divorce case became messy with Lillian accusing him of "extreme cruelty" stating he abused her necessitating 3-4 operations, that he kidnapped their 3-year old daughter and that he also "pursued her with an amputation knife and threatened to shoot her". On June 24, 1907 the divorce was final and Dr. Peter Smigel was free.



Theresa Kreger (daughter of Frances Kreger), Sally Nowak Schmidt (Krajewski cousin), unknown man, Dr. P. S. Smigel and Frances Krajewski Kreger at the Kreger home on E. 71st Street, Cleveland, Ohio, ca. 1915
Photo courtesy of Kristina Morgan

At some point, a woman named Frances Kreger (nee Krajewski) came into Dr. Smigel's life. Family members believe she became his housekeeper after the death of her husband in 1910. In any event, Frances Kreger became a major part of Peter Smigel's life sometime after his divorce. The two vacationed together in Cuba and in Hawaii. On their trip to Hawaii, Frances traveled under the name "Frances Smigel" with marital status as "married". Whether their relationship was romantic or otherwise, they never actually married.

Tragedy once again struck the Smigel family. Dr. Smigel's only son, Frank, died of a heroine overdose in July 1923. His death certificate indicated he was a "habituate". Frank had received an education at his father's

alma mater, St. Ignatius College as well as earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University. He left a young wife. The following February, Dr. Smigel's aging mother passed away. Katarzyna Smigel was 84 years old.

In 1927, Dr. Smigel purchased a wooded piece of land from the Carmichael's on Brecksville Road in the Village of Independence. He began building the home of his dreams. It was completed in 1932 and was built with only the finest quality materials. It was an impressive retreat for a doctor to enjoy in his retirement. Unfortunately, Dr. Smigel could only enjoy the splendor of his newly constructed home for 5 years. He succumbed to the same illness that his father died of in 1904, prostate cancer.

Dr. Smigel served the poor immigrant community of Cleveland's southside as a medical doctor and surgeon.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
1. PLACE OF DEATH County: <u>Cuyahoga</u>	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH Registration District No. <u>285</u> File No. <u>73042</u>	2. FULL NAME (a) Residence: No. <u>748</u> <u>East 14th St.</u> Cleveland, Ohio	31. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Dec. 2, 1927</u>
3. SEX <u>M</u>	4. COLOR <u>W.</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED <u>Married</u>	32. I HEREBY CERTIFY that I attended deceased from <u>Aug. 15, 1926</u> to <u>Dec. 2, 1927</u>
6. MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED Husband of <u>Lillian</u>	7. AGE (years, months, days) <u>61</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	8. TRADE, PROFESSION, OR PARTICULAR KIND OF WORK DONE, AS OCCUPATION <u>Physician</u>	33. I last saw deceased alive on <u>Dec 2, 1927</u> death is said to have occurred on the date stated above <u>Dec 2, 1927</u>
9. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) <u>Poland</u>	10. DATE DECEASED LAST WORKED AT THIS OCCUPATION (month and year) <u>1927</u>	11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation <u>17</u>	34. THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF DEATH and related causes of importance in order of their onset as follows: <u>Paranormal fracture</u>
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) <u>Poland</u>	13. NAME <u>Anton Smigel</u>	14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) <u>Poland</u>	35. CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES OF IMPORTANCE NOT RELATED TO PRINCIPAL CAUSE: <u>Paranormal fracture</u>
15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Unknown</u>	16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) <u>Poland</u>	17. IMPROBANT <u>Lillian Smigel</u>	36. Name of operation: _____ Date of _____
18. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) <u>Poland</u>	19. BURIAL CREMATION, OR REMOVAL <u>Buried</u>	20. FUNERAL FIRM <u>St. Ignace</u>	37. Was there an autopsy? <u>Yes</u>
21. EMBALMED <u>Yes</u>	22. FILED <u>12-14-1927</u>	23. REGISTERED <u>12-14-1927</u>	38. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury: _____ Where did injury occur? _____ Specify whether injury occurred in factory, in home, or in public place. Manner of injury: _____ Nature of injury: _____

Death Certificate of Peter S. Smigel
December 2, 1927



He was a community leader and philanthropist and built his fortune the American way, through hard work and dedication. He left a good deal of wealth to his descendents of which there were very few. His fabulous home in Independence was left to his two daughters, Lillian and Beatrice, and interestingly.....Mrs. Frances Kreger.

Dr. Smigel's showcase home is nestled in a fairytale, park-like setting of nearly 5 acres on Brecksville Road. Hidden and private, it boasts multiple bedrooms and bathrooms, 2-story ceilings, leaded glass windows, fireplaces and an Olympic-sized swimming pool. It is certainly a hidden gem of Cleveland.



*** View the interior of the Smigel home at https://www.zillow.com/homes/for_sale/Independence-OH/33609484_zpid/32141_rid/4_beds/275000-900000_price/1030-3370_mp/41.421941,-81.571599,41.349559,-81.688843_rect/12_zm/

SOURCES

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Coates, William R., *A History of Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland*, The American Historical Society, Chicago and New York, 1924

Historical Cleveland Plain Dealer (1845-1991)

Cuyahoga County Recorder's Office

Schedule of Presentations for Upcoming Meetings

Jan: *The Power of Polish to Unlock Your Research*

Come learn the basics of Polish pronunciation and how to use it as a tool to expand your genealogy research. Presented by Ben Kman

Feb: *Poland Historical Geography*

Recorded video by Dan Jones from the Family History Center

Mar: *Finding Grandma in the Archives: Polish records for genealogical research*

An overview of the history of vital record keeping in all 3 partitions. Sources of records for Polish genealogical research are given, organized by partition. Live Webinar presented by Ola Heska.

*Poland 2014: A Journey continued from page 6*

same wooden racks and the other half was a large communal latrine. The latrine consisted of 4 rows of boards with holes cut through them where people could sit while using the facility. There were hundreds of holes. It was pretty clear that every aspect of life was devoid of dignity and humanity. One thing that I recall from my first visit to Birkenau was visiting a former lake within the camp that was filled in with human ash. There was no mention of that on this tour.

This ended our tour and we then waited for our bus to pick us up. The ride back to Krakow was uneventful and we were dropped off where we were picked up. Unfortunately, we were an hour and a half later than I had anticipated. As we disembarked from the bus and started walking back to the apartment, we passed the rental car and I noticed a slip of paper under the windshield wiper. Yep, a parking ticket. I folded it up, stuffed it in my pocket and continued walking. After letting my parents into the apartment, I went back to the store and got enough change to pay for parking through the next day.

I got back to the apartment after feeding the parking meter and we discussed dinner plans (no pun intended). A Polish friend of mine living in Krakow gave me a list of restaurant recommendations and prior to leaving on the trip, I previewed them. Now that we were in Krakow, I looked to see which was the closest and it happened to be one of his better rated selections.



After we relaxed for a bit and got washed up, we walked over to the restaurant which is literally a few hundred feet from the Barbican. It was Restauracja Jarema (<http://www.jarema.pl/en/>). The menu was the most extensive menu I have ever seen and it was nearly impossible to make a selection with so many interesting and varied options. The interior was intimate and we ended up sitting next to an English couple who already suffered through trying to decide what to order. They were commiserating with us on the difficulty of making a choice. A piano player was playing music in the background and he picked up on the fact that we were speaking English. He then started playing old American songs. We sat and chatted about the day's activities and enjoyed beer and wine. I fell head over heels in love with our waitress and was

prepared to throw all of my clothes in the garbage so I could pack her in my suitcase and take her home with me. Sigh...

Our meal including an appetizer consisted of the following: a side dish of broccoli sauteed in butter and garlic, two servings of Lithuanian cold crawfish soup (one of the most phenomenal soups I've ever had), venison roulade stuffed with wild mushrooms, roasted goose, roasted boar, salad with goat cheese, vegetable salad (not a lettuce salad), 3 beers, two glasses of wine, a coffee, bottled water and a shot of zubrowka. Damage report = US\$115 excluding tip. Needless to say, this restaurant is highly recommended.

That brought our day to a close. I made a quick trip to the grocery store after we got back to the apartment and picked up some breakfast goodies for the morning then we called it a night shortly after I got back.

To be continued in the next issue

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



**Polish Genealogical Society of
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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.