



Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

JUL / SEP 2019 VOL. 28 No. 3

A Family Named for the Ash Tree

By Trina Goss Galauner

The Polish surname "Jasinski", sometimes spelled "Jasienski", is derived from the word "jesion" which means "ash tree." Ash trees are found in the northern parts of Europe and its wood has been used to make tools, handles, and old fashion shafts for bow and arrows. It's pliability makes it useful for making barrels and wheels. Franciszek Jasinski was a cooper when he arrived in Cleveland in May of 1872. A "cooper" was a builder of casks and barrels which were sometimes made with ash wood.



Frank and Frances Jasinski with their son, Ignatius "Doc", about 1920
Photo courtesy of John F. Weaver

Franciszek Jasinski was born on January 1, 1846 in the village of Szczutowo, north-east of Swiedziebnia, in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodship of Poland. His parents were Antoni Jasinski and Katarzyna Ziolkowski. Franciszek's father died when he was just seven years old, leaving his mother with five children. As a small boy, Franciszek tended cattle and eventually learned the cooper's trade. When he immigrated to the United States in 1872, he continued this trade. Two years later, he married Franciszka Kopczynska.

Franciszka was very young, about 16 years old, at the time of her marriage in 1874 which was probably solemnized at St. Mary's on the Flats where parishioners of St. Stanislaus worshipped before their church was built. Her parents, Andrzej and Anna (nee Konkolewski) Kopczynski, had both died within a short time after their arrival on the SS Samaria in June of 1873 leaving both Franciszka and her sister, Walerya, orphans. Franciszka was old enough to marry but Walerya went to live at the St. Francis Orphan Hospital in Clinton Township, Ohio for several years.

Franciszek was a wagon maker according to the 1880 census and received his U.S.

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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 Anthonette Baciak at pgsgc@yahoo.com for more information.





Letter from the President

Summer is just about over and our monthly meetings begin again on Tuesday, September 3rd. Please remember that meetings begin promptly at 7:00 PM, so please don't walk in at 7:15 or you may miss the first part of our guest speaker's presentation.

If you were part of a summer family reunion, please share with our group your experiences and any genealogical discoveries.

Our organization has a new club banner and we displayed it for the first time at the St. Casimer Summer Fest where we received a lot of inquiries about our group and how to begin Polish family research. We welcomed two new members as a result of this event and will continue our efforts to grow our membership. My thanks go out to Corina, Trina and Lucia, for manning our booth.



We also now have a club email address. All correspondence and newsletters will be coming from this email address from now on. The email address is pgsgc@yahoo.com. Please make sure to check your spam file and set your server to accept our emails into your inbox.

If you have any interesting stories that you would share with our membership, please contact our newsletter editor, Trina, and she will try to include it in a future newsletter. We are always looking for newsworthy articles that are both entertaining and helpful in your family searches.

Ron

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Poland's Other Languages

By Trina Goss Galauner

A wonderful article entitled *Languages You Never Knew Existed* by Mikołaj Gliński was brought to my attention recently. The article, posted at culture.pl, discusses six Polish ethnolects and their origins. Different from a dialect, an ethnolect is a language variety specific to an ethnic group and is a mark of social identity. A dialect is specific to a geographic area, community or social class.

Kashubian, derived from the Slavic language, descends from the Pomeranian dialect and was spoken in Gdansk and the surrounding area. The language uses some German words, mostly of Low German, and has a few unique special letters not found in the traditional Polish alphabet.

The Silesian language's structure is mostly Polish but is influenced by Czech, German, Slovakian and Schlesisch, an old German dialect of Lower Silesia. It was, and still is, spoken in the area around Katowice and more people have adopted this ethnolect in recent years.

Wymysorys, or Vilamovian, was derived from 12th century Middle High German and was spoken only in Wilamowice, Bielsko-Biała in Southern Poland. Those that lived in the town were descendants of German, Flemish and Scottish settlers who arrived there in the 13th century. This language is nearly extinct.

The Tatars settled in Poland and Lithuania in the 14th century and brought with them their language. This Kipchak language of the northwestern Turkish group was spoken in the Podlasie area of Poland. Eventually, these Tatar settlers reverted to a Slavic language but kept their Islamic religion. Today, the Tatar language is being revived in Podlasie.

The Lemkos (Rusyns or Ruthenians) spoke a Ukrainian dialect. These people lived in the Polish and Slovakian mountain region of the Lower Beskid Mountains. They were also referred to as Carpathian Ruthenians or Carpatho-Rusyns. Forced to relocate after WWII, their language can also be found in Lower Silesia.

The Romani language can be traced to ancient Indian or Sanskrit. These groups of wanderers left their Indian homeland about 1,000 A.D. and never established any permanent residence. A "melting pot" language, it was formed from many European languages and produced many different dialects. The four Polish dialects of the Roma language are Bergitka Roma (Polish Highland Roma), Polska Roma (Polish Lowland Roma), Kalderasha and Lovari. The Communist regime forced the Roma people to stop their vagabond lifestyle after WWII and many settled in Lower Silesia around Legnica and Wrocław.

For further information on these languages, read Mikołaj Gliński's article at <https://culture.pl/en/article/languages-you-never-knew-existed>.

PGSGC Communications and Newsletter

The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland now has a dedicated email address. All correspondence and newsletters will be coming from this email address from now on. The email address is:

pgsgc@yahoo.com

Please make sure to check your spam file and set your server to accept our emails into your inbox.



From continued from page 1.....

citizenship in 1883. The Jasinskis were active members of St. Stanislaus parish and Franciszek possibly contributed to the construction of the church. They had seven children. Theodosia Hedwig was the oldest born in 1875. Then came Anna Elizabeth born in 1879, Frank A. born in 1881, John F. born in 1885, Ignatius E. born in 1890, Martha born in 1892 and Joseph born in 1896. Young Joseph died in 1898 from injuries sustained when he was trampled by a horse.



Michael Konkolewski and Theodosia Jasinski in 1892
Photo courtesy of John F. Weaver

Franciszek moved his family from 312 Columbus Street to 18 Forman Avenue about 1885. Here, he changed his occupation and opened a grocery. In 1904, he purchased a farm in Brecksville Township and in 1914, he bought a fruit farm in Dover Village (now Westlake).

In 1921, the Frank and Frances went down to Orlando, Florida to purchase citrus fruit for resale in Cleveland. Frank, who was suffering from severe rheumatism, was amazed that his symptoms disappeared while in Florida. They immediately purchased a fruit farm in Orlando where they lived until Frances died of a heart attack in 1927. Frank moved back to Cleveland where he died when he had a heart attack while pushing a wheelbarrow full of grapefruits and oranges to a pickup area.

Even though Frank and Frances' children lived near them in adulthood, several of them also lived on Forman Avenue, they took different paths in life. Of their daughters, Theodosia married Michael Konkolewski, a school teacher at St. Stanislaus and a good friend of her father's. He was 18 years her senior. Anna married Matthew Pawlowski who later changed the family name to Paul. He was a saloonkeeper turned jeweler. Martha married Walter Ladislaus Nowacki who in 1910 worked as a clerk at the Jasinski grocery. Walter may have deserted his wife since Martha's marital status is unknown in 1920 and she and her three children were living with her parents in Dover Village.

Of their sons, Frank was a Cleveland policeman who married Anna Kucewicz of Shamokin, Pennsylvania in 1903. He resigned from the police force in 1918 possibly due to alcoholism and became a real estate salesman. He died in 1930 of tetanus after he stepped on a rusty nail. Ignatius "Doc" graduated from the Cleveland-Pulte Medical College in 1914 and became certified by the Ohio State Medical Board later that year. He had a medical practice in the Rose Building in downtown Cleveland. He served as a doctor in World War I and later traveled to Poland to assist with an outbreak of disease. He eventually came back to his Cleveland practice. Ignatius never married.

Perhaps, the most successful of the Jasinski sons was John. John aspired to be an architect and civil engineer. In 1903, he graduated from the Central Institute and, in 1907, he graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the Case School of Applied Science. His undergraduate thesis was titled, "The Design of a New, High-Level Bridge Over the Cuyahoga Valley." John immediately started work with the Great Lakes Engineering Company in Detroit but soon returned to Cleveland where he worked for the Kellogg Construction Company and designed steel and concrete bridges for the Lake Shore Railroad. With the Dyer Engineering Company, Jasinski designed mill buildings. He also worked in the Cuyahoga County engineer's office where he was involved in the design of the Brooklyn-Brighton Bridge, just south of Denison Avenue, built in 1916. In 1918, Jasinski opened a private engineering firm in the Rose Building and designed and supervised many important works, such as the Cedar Theatre, St. Stanislaus Nuns' Home, Salisbury Ball Bearing plant and a number of churches, residences and apartment. By 1930, he went back to working as an architect for the county. Unfortunately, he lost his job with the county in 1933 during the Great Depression.



John had married Irene Dzieweczynski in 1906 while still in college. They had eleven children but by the mid 1930s he and Irene separated possibly due to the strain of unemployment. Around this time, John changed his surname from Jasinski to Jennings. Eventually, John was hired by the Samuel W. Emerson Company to lay out patterns on materials that are to be manufactured. The Emerson Company was a general contractor and built several buildings in downtown Cleveland. Irene died in November of 1949 but she and John were never divorced. In 1950, John remarried Margaret Mary Scalia who already had eight children of her own.

John F. Jasinski died in 1958 due to complications of diabetes. He was one of Cleveland's prominent young architects. His father's creative work as a cooper was likely a talent passed down to his son.

The Jasinski family came from humble beginnings, struggled through the loss of parents and still built a better life in Cleveland, Ohio. Their story is not unlike many other early Polish immigrants who have put a solid footprint on Cleveland. Currently, ash trees are dying in Poland due to disease and may become extinct there. But the Jasinski family of Cleveland lives on.

*Special thanks to John F. Weaver, the great grandson of Frank and Frances Jasinski, for his genealogical notes and photos.

The PGSCCTNE and their Databases

By Trina Goss Galauner

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and The Northeast is coming up on their 35th anniversary this year. This well-established society based in New Britain, Connecticut has a nice website with an extensive database of transcribed records that could be useful to anyone researching their Polish heritage.

Many times our ancestors came through other cities before they settled in Northeast Ohio and some of them had brothers and sisters who settled in those regions. The PGSCCTNE has databases that include records from the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont primarily between the years of 1885-1951. Their site includes Polish cemetery records of not only these states but also some Midwest states including Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, as well as, some Canadian cemeteries and select cemeteries in Poland. They have a small collection of records from the Sulkowski Travel Agency in Newark, New Jersey. The website has a "Changed Surname List" which lists many Polish surnames and how they changed when an immigrant came to the United States. T

In some cases, the society will send you a copy of the record, if they have it, for a small fee. There are several other databases and resources with links that may help any of us in our quest for our ancestors. You can take a look for yourself by visiting <https://pgsctne.org>.

Polish Genealogical Society of America 2019 PGSA CONFERENCE

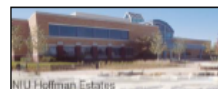


"Polish Genealogy: The Next Generation"

A look at how 21st century digital technologies are transforming today's genealogical research



October 11-12, 2019
Northern Illinois University Conference Center
Hoffman Estates, Illinois



Topics to be covered include:

- ✓ Research updates on the historic Galician, Prussian, and Russian partitions
- ✓ Use of "crowdsourcing" tools and online forums
- ✓ Deciphering 19th century source documents in today's online world
- ✓ Digital geographic and cadastral maps for Poland
- ✓ Strategies for achieving your genealogical research goals
- ✓ DNA technology, testing, ethics, and implications for family research
- ✓ and Much More.....

Plus one-on-one opportunities for translation assistance, research guidance for your "brick walls," and informal networking with colleagues.

Register at the PGSA Store: <https://pgsa.org/product-category/conference>



Getting Lost in Poland 2018....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 the spring of 2018.

Day I Friday April 27.....Departure day for my 11th trip to Poland

I got up at 4AM today so I could take care of any last minute things before leaving including a few quirky pre-travel customs. For whatever reason, even though I NEVER make my bed and my kitchen is usually in various states of disarray (probably shouldn't restrict that to the kitchen), I need to make my bed and clean my kitchen before leaving on a trip. The rest of the house can be in shambles but those two things need to be done. Now if I didn't make my bed or clean my kitchen, I wouldn't lose a minute of sleep over it so don't start psychoanalyzing me. It's just one of my rituals.

Most of my packing was already done and I just needed to add my toiletries to my roller bag and close it. I already had to make a wardrobe change after looking at the weather forecast for very warm weather the first week of my trip. Now I was packing shorts and a hat and gloves. If my mix of clothes didn't work out, I'd be doing laundry somehow, somewhere, sometime which is problematic because all clothes are typically air dried in Poland which takes 2 to 3 days.

I made my rounds giving everything a last look over in my yard before leaving. It's the end of April and still no leaves on the trees and nothing flowering. The grass is just starting to turn green. This has been a very elongated winter.

My Dad came over as agreed and picked me up with the usual small talk on the way to the airport. There weren't many people dropping off passengers so we had no trouble finding a drop off spot. I grabbed my bag and my carry-on out of the car then gave my Dad a big hug because you just never know what may happen. He continued on to work and I went to check my bag. No issues or huge waits through security.

I don't like sitting before flights, especially long flights because I know I'll be forced to sit far longer than I am accustomed to. So I took a 30 minute stroll up and down the 3 terminals in CLE. The flight boarded on time and we were in O'Hare before we knew it despite the turbulence. I try to schedule at least 90 minutes for layovers in case I need to change terminals. As it turns out, my next gate was just on the other side of the terminal, a short 1 minute walk away.



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Check Your Ethnicity Index: How Polish are you?

By Robert Strybel

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Since October is celebrated as Polish-American Heritage Month, this may be a good time to take stock of your ethnic identity and appreciation. This is obviously not a sociological study, but only an informal fun way to check how much of your immigrant ancestors' heritage you continue to cultivate.

1. **FAMILY DESCENT:** Are all four of your grandparents of Polish descent? If so, add 10 points. If not, add 3 points for each one that is or was Polish.
2. **SPOUSE'S DESCENT:** Is your spouse of Polish extraction? If so, add 10 points. If unmarried, would you marry only someone of Polish background? If so, also add 10 points.
3. **ORIGINAL SURNAME:** Have you retained your immigrant ancestor's original Polish surname? If so, add 10 points.
4. **MODIFIED SURNAME:** If your ancestors' surname has been shortened or simplified (e.g. from Nowakowski and Kolodziejczyk to Nowak and Kolodziej respectively) without obliterating its Polish image, add 5 points.
5. **CHILDREN'S FIRST NAMES:** If you have given all of your children typically Polish (nonuniversal) first names such as Bogdan, Jadwiga, Wacław, Grażyna, Wojciech, Halina, Zbigniew, Wanda, etc., add 10 points. If not, add 3 points for each child with a Polish first name.
5. **LANGUAGE SKILLS:** If you fluently speak, read and write in Polish, add 10 points. If your Polish writing ability is limited but you are able to roughly converse in Polish about daily, family and household situations, add 5 points. If you know only a handful of food names, greetings and swear words, add 3 points.
6. **TRADITIONS:** If your family shares opłatek on Wigilia, blesses, Easter baskets, celebrates namedays, sings "Sto lat," visits the graves of loved ones on Nov. 1st/2nd, mark doorways with K+M+B on Jan. 6 and regularly attends an annual PolAm festival, add 10 points. If not, add 2 points for each of the above traditions that is observed.
7. **ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** If you hold membership in at least three Polish-American organizations (fraternal, parish, local club, etc.), add 10 points. If not, add 3 points for each one you belong to.
8. **NEWS SOURCES:** If you buy or subscribe to a PolAm newspaper or magazine or regularly visit Polonian and/or Polish news sites on the Internet, add 10 points. If you only glance through the pages of a Pol-Am fraternal newsletter sent to all insurees, add 3 points.
9. **CULTURAL ARTIFACTS:** If Polish artworks and decorator items are prominently displayed in your home and Polish-themed books, ebooks, DVDs and CDs are found in your home collection, add 10 points. If not, add 2 points for each of the items that apply.
10. **CUISINE:** Do you regularly prepare, serve or eat typical Polish foods? If at least once a week, add 10 points; if at least once a month, add 5 points. If several times a year, add 2 points.

Now total up your score. How did you do? Where do you fall on the grading scale provided on the next page?



100 POINTS: Perfect score. You are a Polish American with the deepest possible appreciation for your ancestral roots and cultural heritage.

90-99: You have an excellent appreciation of your ancestral roots and cultural heritage.

80-89: You display an above-average appreciation of your ancestral roots and cultural heritage.

70-79: You have a fair appreciation of your ancestral roots and cultural heritage.

60-69: Your appreciation of your ancestral roots and cultural heritage leaves something to be desired.

59 and below: Your appreciation of your ancestral roots and cultural heritage leaves much to be desired. If you wish to overcome that deficiency, read up on your Polish legacy by Googling Polish customs, culture, history and cookery. Good luck!

NOTE: Have your Pol-Am relatives, friends, colleagues and neighbors take this little test to see how they match up to your results.

"The Forgotten Legacy of Stella Walsh" by Sheldon Anderson

"The Greatest Female Athlete of Her Time" was once a young Polish immigrant from the village of Wierzchownia, Poland. In "The Forgotten Legacy of Stella Walsh", Sheldon Anderson chronicles the life of Stanislaw Walasiewicz from her earliest days in Poland to her senseless murder in a shopping center parking lot in Cleveland's Slavic Village.

Anderson provides rich context for Walsh's triumphs and failures in the sport of track and field amongst two world wars, the Great Depression, and Olympic history, as women struggled to be recognized as athletes. He addresses the issues of national, ethnic, cultural and sexual identity. Stella's accomplishments were largely overshadowed by the controversy over her gender, which was discovered during her autopsy to be ambiguous. But Anderson brings Stella's legacy back into focus through his insightful account of her achievements and contributions to women's sports throughout her curious life.

Stella's story is an integral part of Polish, Cleveland, Polish American and women's history. Her legacy is that of a pioneer in women's sports and a world class athlete.

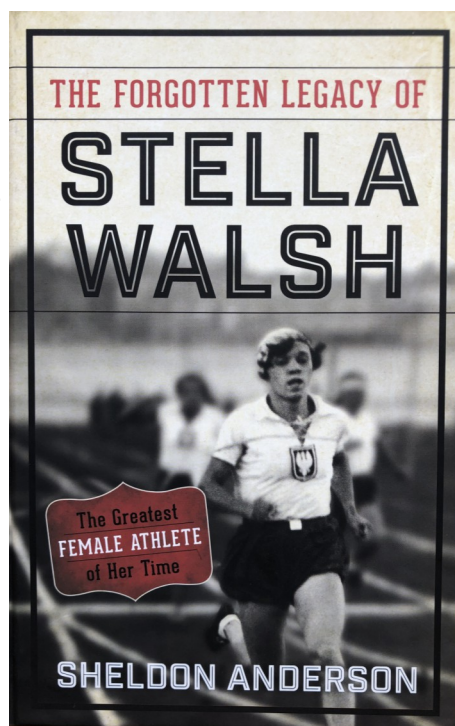
Published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers (September 8, 2017)

ISBN-10: 1442277556

ISBN-13: 978-1442277557

Price: \$38; Available at www.amazon.com

Review by Trina Goss Galauner





Getting Lost in Poland 2018 continued from page 6.....

Boarding for the flight to Frankfurt was uneventful. I ended up sitting next to a guy who sucked snot every 5 minutes for the whole flight, more of an annoyance since I didn't really try to sleep. The airplane was as cold as a refrigerator so when we reached altitude and it never warmed up, many people, including me, put jackets on for the duration of the flight. I had a nice mushroom pasta dish and glass of red wine for dinner. Time change into tomorrow...

Day 2 Saturday April 28

We landed on time in Frankfurt. I breezed through passport check. I tried to be polite and say good morning to the customs officer in German and he quickly and jokingly asked if I wanted to continue the questioning in German. After dodging that I walked to my next gate. I verified with the airline representative that this gate was going to be for the flight to Warsaw and sat down to wait. I needed to charge my cell phone since there were no plugs in my row of seats on the plane for the flight from the U.S. to Germany. (Insert angry face here.) Boarding started on time and we boarded busses to take us to the plane. I had no issues getting to my seat or on the flight. It was just a short hop to Warsaw and we landed on time at 9:30 a.m. CET.

I disembarked and made my way to the baggage carousel. It's always a good feeling to see your suitcase coming down the belt. I grabbed my bag and went through the "nothing to declare" door and officially was turned loose on Poland!

Since I was going to be picking up my rental car at the airport tomorrow, I decided I would just stay at the Courtyard Marriott at the airport. The hotel was located just across the street from the airport. Signage was poor directing people to the entrance/elevator to the hotel so I spent some time wandering around trying to figure out the lay of the land. After finally getting to the hotel, I knew that I was too early to check in so I asked at the front desk if I could leave my luggage in the baggage check room.

With that situated, I walked back to the airport to find the rental car office so I wouldn't waste time the next morning looking for it. Now I needed to get a SIM card for my phone. After finding the Ruch store, I had a discussion with the clerk about both the Plus and Play mobile carriers. I ended up buying a Plus starter pack and topped it up with more money so my number of minutes would be more than enough to get me through 2 weeks. This was an issue on my last trip 4 years ago since I ran out of minutes the day before I left Poland. Because of that, I just took care of everything up front for this trip. SIM card in hand, I walked back to the hotel and sat in the lounge to switch out my SIM card. The Plus kit didn't include a SIM chip extract tool to pop open the door on my phone so I improvised and used a safety pin instead. After swapping out my Verizon SIM for the Plus SIM, I turned my phone on and started getting error messages saying the SIM card wasn't registered. In Poland, they changed the law and implemented a mandate that people had to register SIM cards at the time of purchase. You need to present your passport and the clerk associates your SIM card to your identification documentation. Since my phone was telling me my card wasn't registered even though I had given the clerk my passport, I walked back to the airport and talked to the clerk again. She basically told me that I had to wait. This was very strange for me because it usually registers instantaneously. At least that was my experience with the Play service 4 years ago.

With that, I went back to the hotel to use wifi and to verify where I wanted to start my planned walk. Before big trips, I've started putting together itineraries to help me plan out what I'll be doing so I can get a sense of timing and how much stuff I can potentially pack into my vacation time. I use Excel to create a day to day plan then write up a Word document that is more interesting and descriptive so family and friends can follow along. For this trip, I started to use *OneNote* to capture points of interest, reservations, daily trip notes, research goals, etc. while I was pulling everything together for my trip. What makes it nice is that I can view my *OneNote* notes on my phone, tablet and computer. It worked really well for this trip when I needed to reference something I researched earlier. In addition, while I was sitting in an airport, I found out that I could flag places in *Google Maps* with a green "want to visit" flag in addition to using a star as a favorite. I had seven places in Warsaw I wanted to visit so I flagged them



in *Google Maps*. When I looked at the pattern of the flags on the map, they created a really nice walking tour. This is what I wanted to verify before I headed into Warsaw for the day. After verifying where I wanted to start, I went back to the airport and caught a taxi to my starting point. The ride cost 30 zloty. The actual fare was 28 so I rounded it up to 30 and went on my way. \$1 = 3.5 zloty on average.



One of the main goals of this trip was to make contact with living relatives from my Mom's side of the family. (I've found plenty of dead ones!) In preparation, I did a LOT of research trying to set myself up to achieve this. As a result, I found 6 churches in Warsaw in which relatives from Mom's side were baptized or married. These churches, plus the apartment building that my grandmother's sister lived in after WW2, created my walking route. The churches, in order of visit, plus the apartment, were: Church of the Holiest Saviour, Mokotowska 71, St. Alexanders, St. Barbara, All Saints and Holy Cross. It was an interesting walk through various residential and commercial areas and despite getting "churched out", it was still moving to visit and photograph each church due to their significance to my family. Along the way, I walked past Warszawa Centralna train station. It had been under renovation for years and since I was so close, I decided to stop in and see the improvements. I was underwhelmed. I saw a few changes but overall it was still a dark, dingy train station. It looked like they updated it from a circa 1940s train station to a circa 1980s train station. Maybe I missed something in my brief walk through.

In preparation for the trip before I left home, I wanted to have a backup plan in case the GPS in the car wasn't very good and/or I couldn't use *Google Maps* on my cell phone for driving directions. I downloaded several maps of regions of Poland that I would be visiting to an app on my phone called *Maps.me*. It is a great tool and, with the downloaded maps, can be used for navigation even without an internet connection. I used this app to give me directions from one point to the next on my walking tour.

I failed to mention that the weather was HOT (80s) and sunny. I was coming from weather that was winter like back home so this was a shock to my system. All the trees had leaves and flowers were blooming. It was quite a switch. Needless to say, I was sweating profusely!

My planned walk conveniently finished near the northern end of ul. Nowy Swiat which is a trendy street lined with cafes, restaurants, etc. This was part of the Royal Way leading from the royal castle to Wilanow palace. Heading north, Nowy Swiat transitioned into Krakow Przedmiescie and then into Plac Zamkowy (Castle Square). This route was thronged with people and tourists.

The first week of my vacation in Poland had two national holidays, Labor Day and Constitution Day. Those were on Tuesday and Thursday respectively. Many people take the entire week off. This time period is referred to as Majowka (my-OOF-ka) when many people have cook outs (and drink vodka) and have get-togethers (and drink vodka). As well, quite a few people will travel to the Baltic seaside or the Mazurian Lake District or to the Tatra Mountains to enjoy their time off. This, plus the incredibly nice weather, helped explain the large number of Poles strolling through the city.

Plac Zamkowy is at the southern edge of the Old Town. The first thing I noticed was the throng of tourists. This



was still April and there were already crowds of tourists milling around. People must be trying to get to Poland earlier and earlier to avoid the summer crowds. This really caught me off guard. It was already late afternoon and my plan was to slowly wander around the Old Town which is the historic center of Warsaw. Because of the holidays, there was a market set up along the city walls so I decided to stroll through it to see what was for sale. It was mostly the usual tourist trinkets and arts and crafts. I eventually sat down at a café and had a beer. I was tired and thirsty. I was shocked at



the price of the beer, 12 zloty which is about US\$3.5. Though still cheaper than what I would have paid for a comparable beer in the U.S., it was obvious that Poland was capitalizing on the tourist economy. After relaxing, enjoying my beer, and people watching, I decided to grab a taxi and head back to the hotel. It had been a long day for me.

Unfortunately, I didn't have a working phone and I knew that many of the taxis waiting for customers were hacks that overcharged. I asked a couple of drivers what the rate would be and it was exorbitant relative to what it should have been. A normal fare from the Old Town to the airport should be between 30 and 50 zloty. These guys were charging over 80 zł. I went to the tourist office and asked if they could call a reputable taxi for me and they said "no". I told them that the drivers were gouging people and the person on staff only could say that she knew and that it was a problem.

I knew there was a train that went from Warszawa Centralna to the airport so I decided to continue my walk and headed back to the train station. After going to customer service (they had a modern office) to purchase my ticket, I waited for the train and enjoyed a quiet ride back to the airport. The trip cost 6.4 zł. Back at the hotel, I checked in and claimed my roller bag. After settling into my room, I went back down to the lobby to have some dinner at the hotel bar. I had a tapas plate which was fried cheese sticks, fried calamari and french fries, not traditional Polish cooking. A couple with their unruly children were a few tables away. I was too tired to care. I ate my American bar food and washed it down with a Polish beer. It was now evening and after I finished eating, I went up to my room, did some planning for the next day, tried fixing my cell phone and went to bed early.

Schedule of Presentations for Upcoming Meetings

Oct: ***Researching Your Ancestors From the Kresy***

Learn about what the Kresy is and some resources for doing research in that region.

Nov: ***Annual Party***

Come join us for our annual pot luck dinner. It's a feast of homemade Polish cooking. No one goes away hungry and you have a great opportunity to try other families' long kept secret recipes.

Dec: ***All Things Poland***

Come prepared to share your favorite books, blogs, websites, podcasts, Facebook groups, stores, etc. for all things Polish. Namely, food, customs, history of Poland, regional Polish information, Polish genealogy, Polish language, restaurants, maps, gazeteers, Polish neighborhoods, you name it.

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



**Polish Genealogical Society of
Greater Cleveland**

PGSGC
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Visit us on the web at:
sites.rootsweb.com/~ohpgsgc

Please submit all correspondence to:
PGSGC Newsletter
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About Us

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at St. Mary's PNC Church parish hall, 5375 Broadview Rd., Parma, Ohio. We have 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 7:00 PM and are usually over by 9:00 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.