

Our Polish ANCESTORS

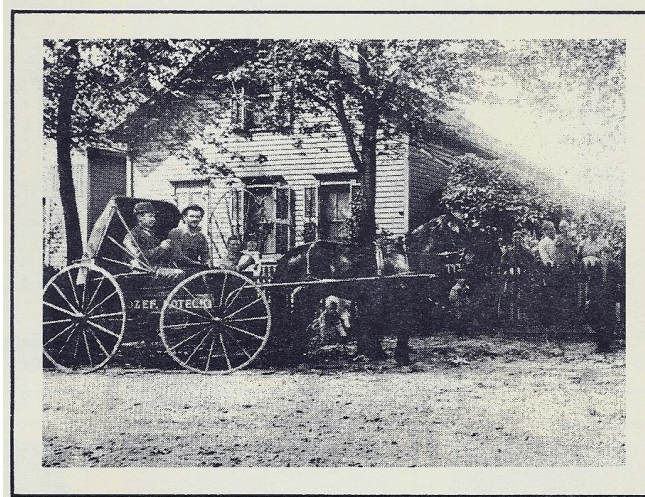
THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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Carving History Into Stone—Joseph Kotecki's Legacy

By Trina Goss Galauner

Many Polish immigrants came to the United States in the late 18th century and early 19th century to work in the stone quarries. In the Cleveland area, stone cutters found work at the quarries in Berea, Amherst, Elyria and Euclid run by the Cleveland Stone Company. But Joseph Kotecki was a different kind of stone cutter. With his talented hand, he was able to design and sculpt pieces of art and found a niche in a religious population who needed his handiwork to memorialize their loved ones.



Joseph Kotecki delivering stones from his horse drawn wagon Ca. 1899

Zusammen.		Hintergebl.		in Nach.		Hintergebl. Kind		Zahl		Dauer und	
Nr.	Nachname.	Vorname.	geb.	gest.	geb.	gest.	geb.	gest.	der	der	der
									Ort und Land	Ort und Land	Ort und Land
1	Kotecki	Lorenz	1822	1887					New York	New York	New York
2	Kotecki	Franciszka	1825	1887					New York	New York	New York
3	Kotecki	Marianna	1828	1887					New York	New York	New York
4	Kotecki	Josef	1830	1887					New York	New York	New York
5	Kotecki	Catherine	1832	1887					New York	New York	New York
6	Kotecki	Magdalena	1834	1887					New York	New York	New York
7	Kotecki	Michael	1836	1887					New York	New York	New York

Passenger Manifest for Lorenz Kotecki and family 12 April 1882

assumed the role of raising his younger sisters....he would trap animals in the swamps of New Jersey....and sold their furs at market.”

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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 Michael Speare at pgsgc@yahoo.com for more information.



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Letter from the President

Dear Members:

MEETINGS: We have all been struggling living with the virus, Covid-19, which has impacted the world. "Adaptation" seems to be the operative word at this "new normal" time. As a result of the e-mail responses received regarding physical attendance at our monthly meetings, preference is to keep in contact using ZOOM. Until it is safe to physically meet again as a group, the PGSGC will meet virtually. Check your e-mail for more information regarding ZOOM meetings.

ACTIVITIES: Safety is our first priority, therefore, the November Annual Dinner is cancelled. Ordering of the PGSGC shirts is suspended as well.

NEWSLETTER: We will continue to publish our quarterly newsletter, however, we lost our printing company which went out of business. We have found another but the cost has increased. On the other hand, the paper quality is better as well as the photos. I guess it is a sign of the times. Members will continue to receive the newsletter through e-mail or regular mail. We have been able to minimize mail subscriptions as postage continues to increase as well. As far as other genealogical societies and libraries with whom we exchange newsletters, we have reverted to email only delivery. Most other organizations have done the same.

COMMUNICATING WITH PGSGC: Some of our members were not familiar that we were on Facebook and reachable by email at pgsgc@yahoo.com. This is the best way to communicate with the board members and the group. Otherwise, officers may be reached by phone or mail. Contact information is below. If you have hit a wall in your family research, or need some help, feel free to call any officer. We will try to be helpful or direct you to someone in the organization who can assist you. Our members are very willing to share their experiences and resources.

Please stay safe, healthy, and remain in touch. Till we meet again...

Anthonette Baciak

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Carving History Into Stone continued from page 1.....

According to the 1892 New York State Census, Lorenz was working as a laborer and lived with his children, Joseph, Kate and Maggie. His eldest daughter, Maryanna, had married Ignatz Chebulski that year. It wasn't long after that when Joseph met his future wife, Maryanna Atemborski, who had immigrated to New York in May of 1893. They married about 1895.

Joseph became a stone apprentice with Norcross Marble and Stone, aka Norcross Brothers, a prominent building contractor on Long Island noted for their work with stone and granite. He worked on the East River Bridge Project (Williamsburg Bridge). Construction of the Williamsburg Bridge began in 1896. It was the 2nd bridge to span the East River linking the highly immigrant populated Eastern District of Brooklyn to Lower Manhattan.

The city of New York was flooded with immigrants looking for work and despite the many cemeteries that needed laborers and grave stone cutters, there were as many workers to answer the call. Joseph Kotecki had an uncle that lived in Cleveland who had immigrated with his family in 1883. Jan Kotecki traveled straight to Cleveland, Ohio to work in the steel mills. Undoubtedly, Jan wrote to his Kotecki relatives in New York about the employment opportunities in Cleveland. The area where Jan lived, the Warszawa neighborhood, had a booming population with a need for the services of cemetery stone cutters. It was also possible that Kotecki originally came to Cleveland to work for the Norcross Brothers who had opened an office on West River Rd. in the early 1890s.

In June of 1899, Kotecki purchased a property on Warwick Street (later E. 57th Street), south of Harvard Avenue. Later that year, he moved his family, including three young children, Gertrude, Edward and Eleanor Angela, to Cleveland. Kotecki formed a partnership with Valentine Radomski called Radomski Monuments located on McConnell Avenue (later E. 96th Street). Radomski moved the business to 15 Cowley Avenue (later E. 99th Street) and the company became Cuyahoga Marble & Granite. The joint venture lasted only a few years. Kotecki purchased a property at 17 Cowley Avenue in 1902 and started his own cemetery stone cutting business called the Calvary Granite Monument Company (aka Calvary Granite & Marble). The business location was conveniently adjacent to Calvary Cemetery, near the office. In 1903, Kotecki moved his family to a home on McConnell Avenue which was closer to his business.

Joseph Kotecki's family had grown with the additions of John (Sylvester) in 1902, Elizabeth in 1904 and Mary in 1905. He spent his days selling cemetery stones via horse drawn cart and spent nights carving and lettering them by hand. In 1910, Joseph Kotecki's sister, Magdalena Kesisky, came to Cleveland with her husband and family. They opened a floral shop and greenhouse on E. 99th, right across the street from the Calvary Granite Monument Company. That same year, Kotecki purchased a property on the corner of E. 99th and Miles Avenue and the family moved from their home on McConnell, which was now called E. 96th Street.

Joseph Kotecki's oldest son, Edward, joined the business around 1918 and the business name became Calvary Monumental Works, a name that the Koteckis would use for many years. During the 1920s, other family members became part of the family business. Edward acted as the general manager/salesman, Eleanor was the bookkeeper and Sylvester was an agent. The family moved to the west side of Cleveland during this time and made their old residence at 9906 Miles Avenue into the new storefront/office. The factory remained at 4251 E. 99th.

Sadly, Sylvester died of heart disease in 1932 at the age of 29. Kotecki's wife, Mary, would also die the following year of lung cancer. In 1936, Calvary Monumental was commissioned to erect a monument to Casimir Pulaski at the intersection of E. 12th Street and Superior Avenue. The statue contained a cannon atop a granite and marble base. It was dedicated in May of 1937. Due to expanding roadways, the monument was moved in 1968 to the downtown mall between City Hall and the Lakeside Courthouse. It now sits in Pulaski Square on a bluff overlooking Lake Erie with the cannon pointing out into the lake.

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Genealogy 101 — Relationships and Organization

By Michael Speare

At the PGSGC we have a variety of skill levels when it comes to genealogy. Almost weekly, I learn from a podcast, a website, from exchanging ideas or at a meeting (remember those) some seemingly basic genealogy skill that is new to me. Frequently, it is a skill I knew but needed to be reminded of. With that in mind, I am beginning a series of “back to basics” articles devoted to learning, or re-learning, what we should have learned in Genealogy 101 Class. I invite all suggestions and comments at mespeare@mindspring.com.

Understanding Family Relationship Terms

You probably have many living and deceased members in your family tree. Do you sometimes get confused when you hear someone is once, twice, or five times removed? What about second through tenth grandparents or other such terms? I hope the following will help you better understand some of these, and other genealogy terms, for your own understanding and perhaps to impress your family.

Affinal: It means related by marriage. In common language it is an in-law. An example might be the husband of your mom’s sister who is your aunt. He might be called your uncle but he is not a “blood” relative.

Consanguine: In translation it means of the “same blood”. A consanguine relation is one in which you share a genetic relationship. Anyone to whom you are related by genetics (or “blood,” as in the old-fashioned phrasing) is a consanguine relative. You may remember from your history class that often kings or queens needed special dispensation from the Pope to marry. This was because the royal families of Europe intermarried so frequently that the available mates were frequently close cousins. This lack of genetic variety caused physical and mental problems that not only reproduced in the next generations but sometimes became magnified. A good example would be the hemophilia which struck many of Queen Victoria’s grandchildren. Also, have you noticed how many royals were described as “mad”? The Roman Catholic Church, beginning in 1215, forbade marriages within the fourth degree. The method of calculation is to count the number of generations back to the common ancestor. Examples are: third degree would be an uncle/aunt marrying a niece/nephew and fourth degree would be a marriage of first cousins. You may find people with the same surname in your family tree marrying. This would not be an infrequent occurrence in small towns or villages with low populations and only a few founding families to choose spouses from. Do not be disturbed, secular and religious laws were observed.

Great grandparents: We all know a grandparent is the mother or father of one of our parents. In turn, the parents of our grandparents are great-grandparents. If we go beyond that we can just add another great to each successive group of parents. This becomes a very cumbersome system after a few generations. The methodology to overcome this is to make the parents of our great grandparents our 2nd great-grandparents. We just add another number to each set of parents. Thus after 10 generations from ourselves we are dealing with our 8th great grandparents. By the way, we have 1,024 eighth great grandparents, enough for a lifetime of genealogical discovery. This system would also apply to the siblings of our grandparents whom we would call grand aunts or uncles.

Multiple layers of cousins: Recording multiple legs to our family tree adds robustness. It also can be helpful in discovering relationships via DNA. Besides grand aunts and uncles, there are also the cousins. This can be a confusing area. One’s eyes tend to glaze over when you start talking about fourth cousins three times removed. First, second, third, and other whole number cousins are easy to determine. First cousins share the same grandparents, second cousins share the same great-grandparents, and so on. Now, the difficult part, adding “removed” when applied to cousins designates how many generations away someone is from you in the family tree. As an example, I am the first cousin to the children of every one of my parent’s siblings. My children are second cousins to every one of my first cousins children. Any one of these children is my first cousin once removed. It can be helpful

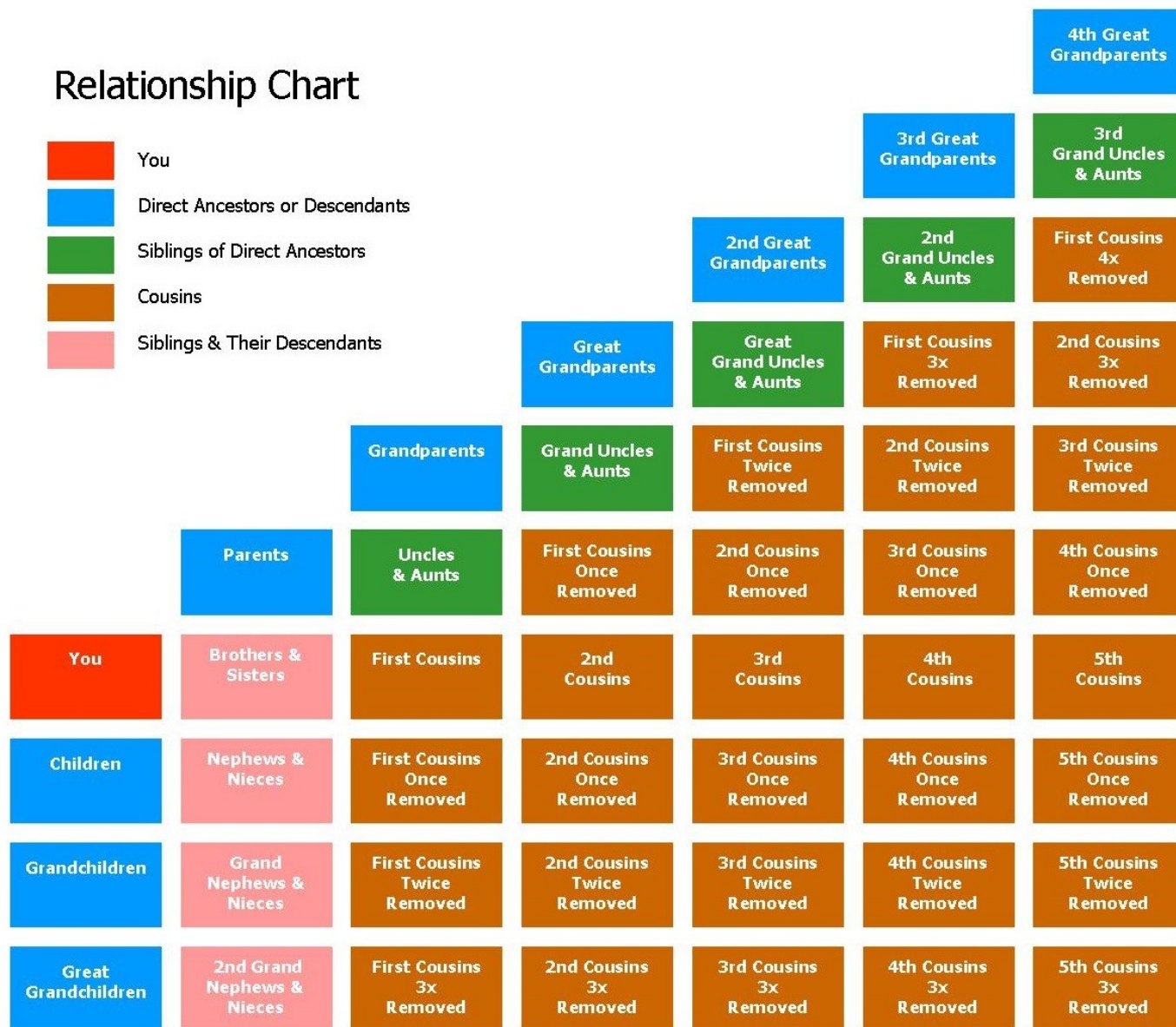


to think of your cousins in a pyramid. Start with your grandparents at the top and your parents and their siblings on the next line down. The following line is the children of the line above. These are all your first cousins. Each next line will be the children of the line above. Using this system the “removed” for cousins means how many generations you are away from someone on this pyramid. As an example, the grandchild of your second cousin is your second cousins twice removed.

If you are not cross-eyed yet, you can extend this example by putting the oldest direct great grandparent you know of at the top of this pyramid and continue to put children on each generation on the same line. Then, count down the generations from there. Any cousin who is on the same generation line as you is a round number cousin. Cousins up or down the line from you are removed.

Relationship Chart

- You
- Direct Ancestors or Descendants
- Siblings of Direct Ancestors
- Cousins
- Siblings & Their Descendants



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Organization forms: For many years my organizational system was, it’s somewhere on this pile. I have wasted many an hour searching online for information I later discovered I already had. Then there is the confusion of



trying to keep straight which Stanislaus or Wojciech belongs to whom since I have twenty of each in my family tree. I am a computer person. I use, or have used, all of the available software and online family tree resources. They are great but I have come to realize the beauty of still organizing items on a piece of paper. I recommend that you consider filling out, at a minimum, a **family group sheet, research log, and an ancestral chart**. In a family group sheet you enter information about an ancestors and his/her family. For my direct ancestors, I staple each successive generation together making tracing a direct line easy to refer to. A research log is a way of recording every record source you have searched. It will help you avoid the repetition of researching records you have already searched, as well as, provide a record of where you found the data you have. The old standby of the ancestral chart is often overlooked. It is a great way of visualizing the direct ancestors you know but, also, those blanks remind you of areas of further research. There are other useful forms in the genealogy toolbox. Many are available for free on the web using Google search or at <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/charts-and-forms>.

Carving History Into Stone continued from page 3.....

Joseph Kotecki's grandson, Edward E. Kotecki Jr., joined the family business in the late 1930s as secretary. Joseph was the company president, Eleanor the treasurer and Edward Sr. was the general manager. The company continued to grow and thrive.

As Joseph Kotecki retired, a fourth generation joined the business in the 1960s, Edward E. Kotecki III. The company name became Kotecki Monuments and additional offices opened in Cleveland and the suburbs. The business started to concentrate more on design and artistic



Joseph, Edward Sr., Edward Jr. and Edward Kotecki III
Ca. 1950s

work in their memorials. Edward Jr. spent a length of time in Carrara, Italy in quest of Italian artists to hire. A new carving plant was opened at 3636 W. 25th Street to accommodate the more elaborate work.

Joseph Kotecki died in 1967 at the age of 91. The monument business he started was now not only producing simple cemetery headstones but also was designing and carving shrines, crypts, entrance structures and other memorials and monuments, employing master stone cutting artists, and adorning Cleveland and the world with stone, marble and granite masterpieces.

Today, the fifth generation of Koteckis runs the family business. Edward Kotecki IV serves as President of Kotecki Family Memorials. The company continues to "deliver tasteful, permanent and carefully perfected memorials to fashion an everlasting tribute"...a tribute to the legacy of Joseph Kotecki himself.



From Kotecki Family Memorials website



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

Day 7 Thursday May 3

I woke up today and got the normal morning question "wypales sie dobrze?" (Did you get enough sleep?) Then, I was asked if I heard the storm last night. Supposedly there was lightning, thunder and a downpour. I never woke up so I guess I did get enough sleep. We had the usual... bread, cold cuts and other fixings for breakfast. Anna also prepared two kinds of sausages. The one I had tasted "off". I wasn't sure if that was the way that sausage was supposed to taste. I guess since I am writing this journal, it was fine. Edward slowly made his way to a sitting room with his crutches. It was obvious that he was in a lot of pain.

We talked for a bit then it started to lightly rain. Anna took the opportunity to give me presents this morning and I reciprocated. It's getting harder and harder to buy gifts for family in Poland. Everything is readily available there now so finding something unique and interesting is challenging. Anna had seen a copy of my itinerary before I arrived in Poland so she had an idea of my plans and which towns and villages I was going to visit. The questions then started.

Anna: I see you went to Pomiechowo. Why?

Me: Um, because I was researching relatives on my Mom's side who used to live there.

Anna: Do you realize that your great grandmother's brother, Bronislaw, is buried there?

I put my palm to my forehead in exasperation.

Me: No!

Anna: ...and that his son Stanislaw is living not far from there in Zegrze?

With my chin in my chest I exclaim in exasperation again.

Me: No!

Anna: Why do you want to go to Lekno?

Me: I heard it was a seat of the Piast dynasty and there were some ruins there.

Anna: That isn't far from here and I've lived here almost my entire life. I know of nothing to see there.

Me: Hmm...maybe I'll change my plans.

Anna: Where are you staying in Czestochowa?

Me: I don't have any arrangements yet.

Anna: There are plenty of places to stay. I recommend the Dom Pielgrzymki. You can't miss it.

In my head I am thinking, Oh My God.

Me: Thanks!

Anna: Did you know that I have been to Haczow.

I replied in utter bewilderment.

Me: Really?



This continued on as she stepped through my entire itinerary. Then Anna and I went upstairs to see if I could find some info on Edward and Anna's relatives in the U.S. I found that Anna's grandfather actually went to the U.S. multiple times and lived in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, not Michigan as they previously believed. Also, there was a Ryba from Sietnica that went to McKeesport as well. She was so excited. She tried to call her brother and sister eight times to share this information and see if they knew anything else. No one was home but her brother did call back with some clarifying information on the Rybas. It seems they were in-laws. He also hadn't realized that their grandfather made multiple trips from Poland.

The sun came out and we took a walk through the garden. Edward came out "sans crutches" and walked around with us. I guess once he could get warmed up then he could get around better. At this time, everything was just starting to grow. The main crop available was chives. This was where I realized I missed visiting in September. In September, the trees are full of fruit and nuts, the berry bushes are still bearing and there are many fresh vegetables in the garden. But it was early spring and everything was just starting out. However, Edward did point out a plant he called "maggi." I had never heard of it before so he ripped off a leaf and gave it to me to eat. It had a unique celery like flavor with a complex spiciness (not hot spicy). As soon as I tasted it, I recognized the flavor from many soups I've had in Poland. I could never figure out why, when I tried to make the same soup at home, it never tasted the same. Now the secret was out! I just needed to find out what the real name of the plant was.

While we were touring the garden, Anna and Edward's daughter, Danka, and her two boys stopped for a visit. I had never met her boys before. I believe they were 11 and 13 but don't recall their names. I would need to ask Anna during one of our future Skype chats. Everyone chatted for a bit then Danka, the boys and I went to Znin to the jarmark (market). So, overnight, the stage had been torn down and many market stalls were set up around the rynek in Znin. They were selling arts and crafts, fruits and vegetables, various foods, clothes, etc. We continued to walk around and heard an announcement for a medieval fight re-enactment so we made our way to the center of the stalls to the open part of the rynek. There were six guys dressed in battle costumes and each had a different weapon. There was an initial explanation of each weapon followed by five or six rounds of combat. It was quite interesting but it was hot and sunny and I have no idea how they made it through the demonstration without passing out from the heat. After that, we continued to wander and came across a stand selling grilled oscypek, a smoked sheep milk cheese made exclusively in the Tatra mountains. It was tasty! We found a place in the shade to sit down and eat our cheese and then heard a women's choir singing old medieval songs. I wanted to listen for a bit so we went back to the same area where the fighting occurred. I knew the boys were bored out of their minds so I just listened to a song or two. Then we decided to get ice cream.

We left the main square and walked past a couple of ice cream places but Danka didn't seem interested in them. Finally, we settled on a place with a good size line of people waiting. We got in line and just as we got to the counter, Wojtek called to see if I wanted to go kayaking. Danka passed along the info to me and I said "yes." She told Wojtek we were getting ice cream and would make our way home soon. I ordered a mango ice cream. I was asked, "Did I want it dipped in chocolate?" I replied, "no." "Sprinkles?" I again replied, "no." "Just plain?" was asked with a raised eyebrow. And I exclaimed, "yes!" Everyone else had their ice cream with the works. We made our way back to the house and Wojtek was there waiting for me. I asked what I should wear and he just said shorts. I put a pair of shorts on and a shirt that would dry fast if it got wet. I wasn't sure if we were just going out for a trip or if I was going to get formal training.

On the way to the lake, Wojtek asked if I knew how to swim and I said "yes but not well." Had I ever been kayaking before? No, but I've been canoeing. We arrived at the place where Wojtek had the kayaks for his business on the eastern shore of Male Jezioro and decided to take a 2-man kayak for my maiden voyage. We walked over to the rack/trailer where the kayaks were stored and unlocked one, took it down and carried it to the lake. We took our shoes off and left them next to a pier (secretly praying they would still be there when we got back), put the kayak in the water and then got in. Wojtek started out. He said if I wanted to row I could but that I didn't need to. Wojtek had been rowing (think "crew") since he was in high school. He trains year round, runs marathons and biathalons and he kayaks. He is built. After a bit, I started rowing and we got into a rhythm. Then, Wojtek confirmed whether I had ever been kayaking before and mentioned that I had the skill to be a good kayaker. I



guess I was doing ok. We took a trip around the whole Male Jezioro which was about 3 or 4 miles. We saw an island that I never knew about. He pointed out a place he used to play when he was younger. We did some wild-life spotting and found a sandbar in the middle of the lake where the water was only 3 feet deep. As we approached the southern shore which was next to the center of Znin, Wojtek explained that prior to the storm the previous year, you couldn't see the buildings in the center of Znin due to the trees. Now, everything was visible. The boys were on shore watching for us, waved and then ran back home to report on our progress. We made our way back to the beach we launched from, put our shoes back on (they were still there) and carried the kayak back to the rack. Once we got home, it was time for obiad (main meal typically around 3PM) and the chicken soup (rosol) was waiting for us. It was nice to have worked up an appetite before eating!

After obiad, we cleaned up and I went outside with the boys. They were all learning English but were very shy. I tried to teach them some slang. However, they were mostly goofing off and being boys. That said, injuries were inevitable and when they were told not to do something, that was exactly what they did. Everyone said their good-byes. I could see the concern in Danka's face when she told her mother to call her. That's when I found out we were going to church and since I was driving, Edward was coming too. I quickly changed and we went out to the car. Edward was crawling down the steps to the basement on all fours. We met him in the driveway and then walked to the car in the street. The church wasn't far and I found a good spot, despite the crowds. It turned out we were late and just missed the homily. Anna told me that there was a mass everyday for something during the first week of May and the schedules got confusing. We sat and stayed for the second half of mass. The church was crowded as usual. When mass ended we drove home and dropped Edward off. Then, Anna and I continued on to her brother Jan's house.

There was always a mandatory stop at the cemetery on the way to visit Anna's father's grave. Ksawer was the brother of my great grandmother, Stefania. We also stop to visit Jan's wife's grave. I contemplated taking a glass candle flute from the trash pile for my Dad but they were all large and I had no idea how I would pack it. When we finally arrived at Jan's house, Jan's son's wife's family was visiting and there were shot glasses (kieliszki) and a bottle on the table they were sitting around on the porch. But, no vodka for me as I was driving. We said our hellos and continued inside with Jan accompanying us. Jan was walking with a cane due to back problems.

We sat down around a table and out came the cakes. I knew I shouldn't be eating all of these delicious cakes but I was on vacation (just don't tell my doctor). We chatted and Anna brought up the topic of her grandfather in America. The Ryba name came up again and Jan went to get something. He came back with his box of old pictures. This time I made a point of photographing all of the ones related to my family. We continued to chat and Jan's granddaughters came in and started to talk about their dreams of living in America in Los Angeles. Everyone laughed and countered them and rolled their eyes knowingly. It's good to have dreams. It was starting to get late so we started to say our goodbyes. As we walked out the door, I said "goodbye" to Jan's son and he clamped onto my hand with his thick farmer hand and wouldn't let go. "When are you coming back?" he asked. "Hopefully in a year or two," I responded. That seemed to appease him but he wouldn't let go of my hand. It wasn't awkward but more reassuring as if a bond was forming. Eventually, we parted ways and I kissed Jan goodbye. Yes, men kiss in Poland. It caught me totally off guard the first time it happened to me but I've become accustomed to it and know when it is appropriate.

We pulled out of the yard formed by the house and two barns. Anna took me home a different way so I could see the Dinosaur Park. It's a park, picnic ground and play area with a dinosaur theme. Anna pointed out all of the new houses that had been built since we were there last and told stories about growing up there when she was young. After we got home, we brought out the fixings for a light dinner. For the first time ever, Anna didn't refuse my help with anything. Once dinner was done and we cleaned up, Anna brought out a couple of beers and some nalewka (cordial made from fruit, sugar and spiritus or vodka). She poured the nalewka into two shot glasses for us and I saw some gelatinous blobs plop into the glasses. If she wasn't worried, I wasn't worried. We sat and shared conversation over our drinks. When our glasses and bottles were empty, I took a shower and went to bed. Tomorrow was going to be a long travel day.



The Legend of Joseph Kotecki

By Trina Goss Galauner

There are some historical statements at the Kotecki Family Memorials website and in the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History that may simply be legends and some have been proven false with research. These have been left out of the story in this newsletter as they are believed to be erroneous. Here are these disclaimers.

The Kotecki website states that Joseph Kotecki traveled to Cleveland to work on the Garfield Memorial in 1889. This would be unlikely since at that time he was only 13 years old and probably preoccupied with helping his father provide for the family after the premature death of his mother. It is extremely doubtful that Joseph Kotecki was considered a “skilled stone cutter” at that young age. The Garfield Memorial was completed and dedicated in 1890.

Regarding Joseph Kotecki’s work on the East River Bridge, the Williamsburg bridge was a suspension bridge, built mostly from steel, so very little actual stone cutting was involved. Joseph may have just been a general laborer on the project.

The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History claims that Joseph Kotecki was “trained in Europe as a stone cutter and a blacksmith”. He was only six years old when he immigrated and no evidence can be found that he traveled back to Europe in his young life. There is no other corroboration of this story. He did travel to Europe in his adult life but this was long after the establishment of his business. The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History statement is likely false.

The Kotecki family states that Joseph married Mary Dembroski at the Holy Trinity Church on Long Island. Mary’s correct surname was Atemborski. This is confirmed on her death certificate. Also, being that the family was living in Newtown, it would have been more likely that they married at either St. Mary’s in Winfield or St. Adalbert’s on 83rd Street, the newly established first Polish language parish on Long Island. However, no marriage record can be located for the couple to prove any of these claims.

Many sources and company advertisements state that Kotecki started his business in 1896. More likely, he started his trade as a cemetery stone cutter in 1896, working for others. The first indication of Joseph Kotecki establishing himself in Cleveland is in 1899, the more likely start to his business partnership with Valentine Radomski. Once he purchased the property on Cowley Avenue (E. 99th) in 1902, he likely separated from Radomski and started his own company.

There was no stone left unturned in researching the Kotecki family....pun intended!



The Joseph Kotecki Family Memorial
Calvary Cemetery



"Genealogy at a Glance: Polish Genealogy Research" Updated Edition by Rosemary A. Chorzempa

The seasoned Polish genealogist may already own one of the editions of Rosemary A. Chorzempa's *Polish Roots* but now she has compiled a short, "at a glance" version for the novice genealogist called *Genealogy at a Glance: Polish Genealogy Research*. This updated edition addresses the issue of different languages used in vital records due to the historic partitioning of Poland and the importance of determining the place of origin of an ancestor. An outline history of Poland, with important facts and dates, a short history relating to reasons for emigration and tips to discovering the village of origin will give the beginner a foundation for research. Ms. Chorzempa also includes a list of the most recent URLs for online resources, digitized records and other important reference materials.



This 4-page laminated piece serves as a highly informative introduction to Polish genealogy research that will help the beginner with the basics needed to start their quest for their Polish ancestors.

Published by Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., Baltimore, Maryland

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Review by Trina Goss Galauner



Schedule of Presentations for Upcoming Meetings

Oct: **Comparing the Genealogical Giants: Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, FindMyPast.com and MyHeritage.com (VIRTUAL MEETING via ZOOM)**
Sunny Morton

Nov: **TBA**

Dec: **TBA**

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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Please submit all correspondence to:
PGSGC Newsletter
c/o the return address above

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.