



Our Polish ANCESTORS



THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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Will the Bell Toll for Sokolowski's University Inn?

By Trina Goss Galauner

The second oldest family-owned and operated restaurant in Cleveland announced this past October that it would be permanently shutting its doors. Sokolowski's University Inn had been serving customers since 1923 but the current Covid-19 pandemic dealt a severe blow to eating establishments, Sokolowski's included. The owners decided to put the property on the market. With an incredible view of downtown Cleveland, it should fetch a good price. But what Cleveland residents will miss most is the homestyle Polish American fare and warm ethnic atmosphere of a nationally-known restaurant once patronized by celebrities and a U.S. president.



The history of the inn goes back to 1904 when Louis and Emilie Weber purchased the building at 26 Cliff Street (now 1201 University Avenue) from Eleanor Hoyt Kilbourne, the granddaughter of George Worthington who had originally owned a large tract of land atop the cliff on Cleveland's near west side. The Webers opened up a saloon which Emilie continued to run with her son after her husband passed away. In 1916, the home and business was sold to Ludwig Lis who operated the drinking establishment through World War I. Prohibition surely hurt his business and Lis sold the property to a Polish immigrant named Michael Sokolowski.

In the late 1800s, the small town of Zelwa in the Grodno region of Russia had a mostly Jewish population. Ethnic Poles, Russians and Bjelorrussians lived on the outskirts of town in smaller villages or on farms. In this atmosphere, Michael Sokolowski was born in November of 1886 to a farmer named Piotr. The church he was likely baptized in was the Uniate Church of the Holy Trinity in Zelwa which was an

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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

My congratulations to everyone as you are making history in 2020! Together, we as genealogists have experienced an unprecedented year. Hopefully, many of you who like to journal are documenting, in some manner, your thoughts as to how you view today's challenges. Sometimes expressing your thoughts on paper can release the anxiety and frustration that has been bothering you during this challenging time. I, personally, keep hearing the voices of my parents echoing in my head whenever stress wants to envelop me. "Remember, this too shall pass. Do your best." With those wise words as my guide, I keep moving forward with hope in my heart, especially as I approach such a holy and special season.

Our club lost one of our founding members and former president, John F. Szuch, this past October. John served as the PGSGC president for 25 years until he stepped down 3 years ago. I spoke with him about 3 weeks before he passed and, even though he was ailing, he still had a sense of humor and joked with me. I was privileged to have known him and worked with him. Our hearts and prayers continue to be with his family.

COVID-19 challenges us to modify our beautiful Polish Christmas traditions. However, we can safely celebrate with family, being mindful of social distancing, and, maybe, with some technology. As suggestions, opłatek is lightweight and can be mailed to each family member and ZOOM provides a tool for the sharing of good wishes for health and happiness and, of course, a much better New Year.

Wesołych Świąt and a Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Zobaczenia w przyszłym roku!
See you next year!**

Anthonette Baciak



Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

c/o St. Mary's PNC Church

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Pułaski and Szuch

By Trina Goss Galauner

It is with great sadness that I report the passing our PGSGC President Emeritus, John F. Szuch. For 25 years, he led our humble group and inspired our genealogical pursuits. But John wasn't just our President, he went beyond that. Not only was he a researcher of his own Polish heritage but he also stood as a noble example of Polish American pride. And this Polish American pride was no more evident than in his pursuit of knowledge regarding the life of Kazimierz Pułaski.

Pulaskipro@aol.com was John's email address. If that wasn't evidence enough of his interest and reverence toward this Polish nobleman who was an American Revolutionary War hero, I don't know what is. Pułaski was called "the father of the American cavalry". He came to the U.S. on the recommendation of Benjamin Franklin, saved the life of George Washington and became a general in the Continental Army. He was only one of eight people awarded honorary U.S. citizenship for his bravery and selfless contribution to the American revolutionary cause.



John at a banquet several years ago in honor of his hero, Kazimierz Pułaski



The full color portrait of Kazimierz Pułaski on the calendar bought for John by his grandfather

John's fascination with Kazimierz Pułaski began at the age of six with a routine visit to Chambers Bakery on E. 131st Street in Cleveland. His grandfather, whom he called "Jacka", came out of the bakery with his purchases and a calendar with a full color portrait of the Revolutionary War hero on the front. John was intrigued and interested, even at that young age, in the story of this highly decorated general. From then on, he learned his story, studied his ancestry, collected memorabilia about him and even traveled to U.S. towns and counties named after him. He was "hooked on Pułaski" as he once said.

For years, the birth year of Pułaski was written and recorded in biographies and other history books as 1747. In 1995, when the Polish American Journal published an image of Pułaski's baptismal record from the parish book at Holy Cross Church in Warsaw, they accidentally cut off an important part indicating the date of the baptismal ceremony. John Szuch had a copy that he obtained from the Pułaski Museum in Warka, Poland and forwarded a copy to the editor of the Polish American Journal. Pułaski was born on 4 March 1745 and his baptismal ceremony was held on 14 March 1745 in the parish church, in Grabów nad Pilicą just 3.5 miles from Warka. John Szuch helped solve a Pułaski mystery.

Just like Kazimierz Pułaski, John served in the U.S. Army, except as a helicopter pilot. Interestingly, there was a famous Polish pilot named Zygmunt Puławski who designed an all-metal monoplane fighter in 1931.

It makes me wonder if John had "Pułaski" in his ancestry. He certainly had the Polish pride and American patriotism of his hero. And, he was a great friend and mentor. He will be greatly missed.

For more about John in his own words, see the January/March 2013 issue of *Our Polish Ancestors*.



Will the Bell Toll continued from page 1.....

Eastern-rite Catholic denomination that answered to the Pope. Nothing more is known of his time in Zelwa. Michael boarded the SS Pennsylvania in Hamburg, Germany and arrived in New York on March 23, 1907. By 1910, he was living with his sister, Zofia Werstak, and her husband, at 6514 Fullerton Avenue in Cleveland and working as a cold roller for the U.S. Steel & Wire Company.

About 1911, Michael met and married Victoria Zielinski. Victoria was born in Berea, Ohio to Anton and Mary (nee Dąbrowski), immigrants from Bobrowo in Prussian Poland. Victoria had been boarding with the Skorczewski family on E. 56th Street while working as a sewer. The couple started their family immediately with the birth of Florence in 1912. Their first son, Rafal, died as an infant. Later came Bernard, Anthony, Dorothy, Lucille, Clara and Victor.

The Sokolowskis lived in several residences, 3735 E. 61st Street, 6418 Gertrude, 6803 Hosmer and then 6925 Hosmer with Victoria's parents and siblings. Hard work at the steel mill paid off and the Sokolowskis were able to purchase the combined residence and commercial property at 1201 University Street in September of 1923. A few weeks later, on October 10th, the Sokolowskis opened their business. At first, they operated a simple neighborhood grocery while Michael continued working as a laborer. Since saloons were illegal, they could not offer alcoholic refreshments. The store eventually



Wedding photo of Michael Sokolowski and Victoria Zielinski displayed on the wall at the University Inn



The Sokolowski Family about 1928
from www.sokolowskis.com

offered lunch and beverages which catered to the steel workers in the area. When the 18th Amendment was repealed in 1933, the Sokolowskis were able to legally open their tavern. Not many years later, Michael Sokolowski, who suffered from tuberculosis, retired due to ill health. He died from the disease on December 28, 1939.

Michael and Victoria's son, Bernard, worked for the local Leisy Brewing Company until he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942. Wounded in Luzon on March 28, 1945, he returned home and took over management of the tavern. A girl named Marion Szwejkowski, a registered nurse from New York, moved to Cleveland in the early 1950s.

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Genealogy 101: Photograph Preservation and Editing

By Michael Speare

Most of us have saved or inherited a shoe box of old photographs and documents. Many were found in attics or basements. They contain priceless images for us and a treasure to be shared with future generations. Yet, as precious as they are, they are also among the most prone to deteriorate with their images gone forever.

First, you should seriously look at which pictures you want to preserve and, if necessary, spend the resources to enhance and preserve them. One of the most efficient ways to wade through a box of pictures is to be realistic about what you want to save. Creating “must save”, “would like to save”, “maybe save”, and “throwaway” piles can help sort them out. This will make that big box of pictures more manageable. Otherwise, you will be tempted to just put them back in the box.

With the “must save” batch of pictures, you should consider having them digitized. Digitizing will give you the opportunity to enhance faded pictures, crop them, and ultimately share them. So, how do you digitize? There are several options. Earlier this year, I wrote an e-mail to all members about my experience with a commercial company. My experience was good but it can be costly depending on the number of pictures. Other options can include using a dedicated scanner, scanning on an all-in-one printer, or taking a picture of the picture with a cell phone or tablet. Once on your tablet or phone, pictures can be e-mailed to your computer or transferred via your Google or Apple accounts.

On your computer, the gold standard of picture editing is *Adobe Photoshop*. However, this can be a costly purchase or subscription and takes a good deal of learning. *Vivid-Pix* (<https://vivid-pix.com/>) is a company that offers a service to restore faded pictures and documents. It is a subscription service but does offer a ten (10) image trial. If you are a subscriber to *MyHeritage.com*, they have recently offered a colorization service for black and white pictures. For editing, I recommend a company called *Pixlr* (<https://pixlr.com/>). They offer several levels of photo editing from free service to subscription service. The free version should serve all of your needs. It is easy to learn and I recommend it as a starting point. The free version offers many of the same features as *Adobe Photoshop*. You can use it on a computer and download the program from the website or install the app for use on tablets and phones. You can crop, adjust contrast, brighten, straighten, and make many more adjustments. A very useful feature it has is the ability to add text to a picture. Using that feature, I was able to place the names of each person in my parents’ wedding photo directly on the picture. This could also be used to record a date and place on a photo. *Pixlr* has tutorials on *YouTube.com*. One word of caution, you should save all newly edited pictures with a new file name. This will preserve the original for any different types of needs in the future. The new edited picture can be then printed. These pictures may be the ones you display in frames or scrapbooks. For printing pictures, inkjet printers are the best.

So, now that you have digitized and edited these precious original photographs what do you do with the originals? It is still worthwhile to save them. While digital pictures are great, there is nothing like a real picture. There are right and wrong ways to store documents and images. Heat, cold, and humidity are the enemies of preservation. Also, the use of the wrong storage materials can actually accelerate the deterioration of them. When purchasing boxes, clear sleeves, bags, etc., you should use items identified as “**for archival use**”. I had spoken to a library archivist and she indicated that her library used materials from *Print File Archival Storage*. Their website is <https://printfile.com/>. Another suggestion is *Gaylord Archival* (<https://www.gaylord.com/>). Whether you use these sources or others, make sure the materials are for archival use. Also, never, ever, laminate a picture you want to preserve as this will damage the picture.

One last thought, be sure you identify the people in the pictures for future generations of people. Separately, label who is in a picture and, perhaps, make note of the story behind it and when and where it was taken. Resist the urge to use only nicknames like “Shorty” who is actually John Albert Jones, your mother’s second cousin. Indicate maiden names as well when possible. Do not write on the back in ink as this can bleed through to the picture side. Store these items in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and they can last for many more generations.



Getting Lost in Poland 2018....Part 6

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 8 Friday May 4

I left Znin and the Urbanowski's today. It was always sad to say goodbye but especially so this time. I didn't know if I'd ever see Edward again. These were the first people I corresponded with when I started looking into my family history. They were the first family I visited in Poland. It had been a 24-year relationship.

We had breakfast, cleaned up and then I finished packing up. Edward was in another room trying to get his legs working with simple exercises and stretches while sitting in a chair. I said "goodbye" and wished him good health. Anna walked me to the car and I loaded my suitcase and backpack into the trunk. We kissed goodbye and I got into the car. As I rolled down the window to say one last goodbye, Anna thrust a cluster of lilacs through the window. I couldn't say a word. I waved and we smiled at each other and I drove off in silence with tears welling up in my eyes.

I decided to skip Lekno on Anna's recommendation and went straight to Mrowki. When I went to program Mrowki into the GPS, it couldn't find it. Fortunately, the copy of the webpage I had in OneNote had the GPS coordinates for the museum in Mrowki that I wanted to visit so I figured out how to enter the GPS coordinates and off I went. Along the way when I wasn't far from Mrowki, the area turned into a lake district. I passed through a small town on a lake called Przyjezierze. It looked like a summer lake entertainment area with a row of restaurants and cafes with lots of outdoor seating. Obviously, it was the offseason, but it was easy to see that it would be a fun place to visit during the summer. After about an hour to an hour and a half of driving, I was in the middle of "NOWHERE" and just a little concerned. Unbelievably, my "Tom Tom" GPS notified me that my destination was just ahead even though I was in the middle of a thick forest. Sure enough, I had arrived successfully! Supposedly, a medieval forester's residence was there. After walking down a long dirt trail with signs warning of swampy ground, there was an entrance gate where the admission was 2zł.

After passing through the gate, there was a very large manmade hill surrounded by a moat. At the top of the hill were a couple of buildings surrounded by a picket fence. There was a bridge across the moat leading to a set of stairs that climbed the side of the hill to a gate in the picket fence. Passing through the gate, you entered into the forester's compound. The whole site was reconstructed because it was made of wood and originally dated from the 1320s. The view from the top covered the entire forest surroundings, as well as, a nearby lake. There weren't any exhibitions or displays, just the empty buildings with a few descriptions of the history of the place. It was interesting, nonetheless, and when I climbed back down from the forester's quarters, I followed a path around the moat then back out of the main gate. When I got back to my car, I noticed a trail on the other side of the road and decided to explore it. It was nothing more than a walk in the woods and past some pastures.

I decided there was nothing to see on the trail and wanted to move on to my next destination, the royal hunting lodge in Antonin. Back at the car a second time, I tried to program "Antonin" into the GPS and it couldn't find it so I went with GPS coordinates again. After the success of using them to find Mrowki, I was feeling confident they would get me to Antonin without issue. So, off I went. I knew it was going to be about a two hour drive. Right around the two hour mark, Tom Tom indicated that I should take a right turn on a gravel road in the middle of a farm field. This was a "red flag" moment. So, I made the turn and drove down a road that alternated between



dirt, gravel and asphalt. Halfway down the road, Tom Tom cheerily said “You have arrived”. Now what? I literally had no idea where I was. I continued down the “road” to the end then turned around and went back to the other main road I turned off of originally. Then I threw fate to the wind and continued driving south on the main road hoping I would find somewhere at which I could ask for directions.

Shortly, there was a gas station, so I stopped to ask for directions. My initial attempts to ask for directions to Antonin from the attendant weren’t clear enough so I went to get my cell phone from my car and showed him a picture. Once he saw the hunting lodge, he got me pointed in the right direction. That’s when I went “old school” and drove solely by street signs. Finally, I arrived in the town of Antonin and almost immediately there was a sign for the hunting lodge I had been looking for.

I pulled into the entrance to what looked like a park, parked my car, got out and walked over to a large sign that said “Closed for renovation”. (Profuse cursing here) Well, I was there and even though I couldn’t go inside the lodge, I took a walk around the grounds and looked at the architecture on the outside. It was a short visit. I snapped a few pictures then moved on.



Next up was Byczyna, a small town with its original medieval walls intact. This was going to be about an hour drive AND the GPS unit was able to locate the town for driving directions. On the road again, the trip to Byczyna was about an hour and uneventful. At Byczyna, I quickly found a place to park right next to the city walls. There was a tourist map on the wall showing a walking path around the city highlighting the walls both inside and out. The town was oval shaped which led to some interesting building configurations for houses built along

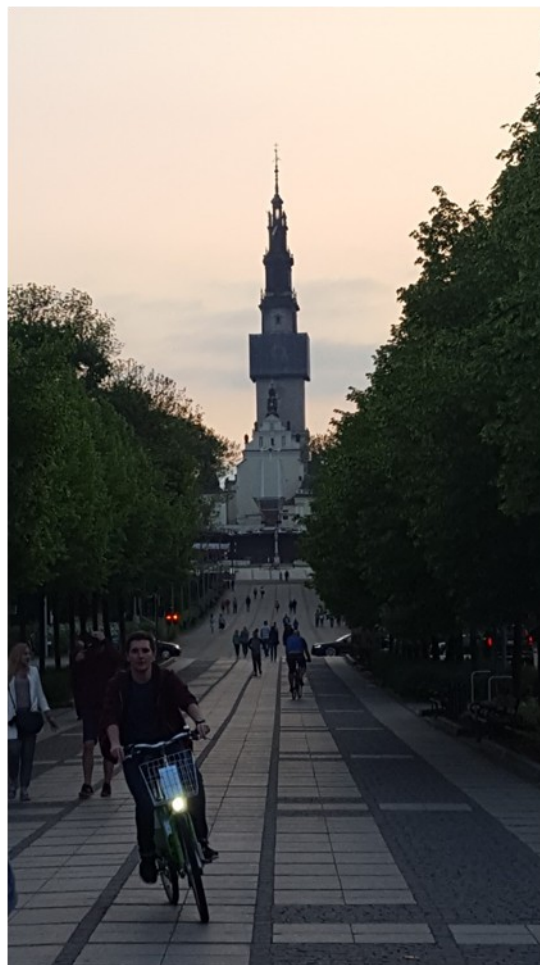
the interior of the walls. I passed through the main gate and there were four old men sitting on a bench just outside the gate smoking and talking. I walked past them and started the tour in a counterclockwise direction. The first quarter of the path followed the inside of the wall and some houses along the inside of the wall. At this point, I wandered into the center of the town to the rynek (main square). It was surprising to see that there was nothing touristy about this city. I walked back to where I stopped and followed the trail through the medieval wall to a park outside the walled town. There was a nice water feature built into a moat-like area and a walking trail through the park that made for a pleasant stroll and good viewing of the walls from outside the town. Eventually, I ended up where I started thoroughly impressed with this town and thoroughly shocked that it does not get more advertising as a place to visit.

It was now early evening and I had another hour to hour and a half to get to Czestochowa. I hadn’t reserved a



room yet and still needed to find a place to stay. After another uneventful drive, once I had arrived in the city, I started to try to locate myself based on landmarks. Unfortunately, it became more difficult with the buildings and I ended up overshooting where I wanted to go. Heading back towards Jasna Gora, I found a place to park on the main road. It was 7:30 PM. Since I wasn't far from Jasna Gora, the main religious site, I started to look around for hotels. I kept walking towards Jasna Gora and stopped in a couple of restaurants to ask for directions to the Dom Pielgrzymy. Some clients in one bar told me that it was right next to Jasna Gora. So I hiked up the hill to the cathedral compound and started walking around the outside looking for the hotel. I came across one place with a similar name but when I spoke to the nun about accommodations, the description didn't match the description that Anna gave me. Plus, I wasn't in the mood for a communal (shared) room.

I continued on and a block further down the street stood the hotel I was looking for. I went to the reception desk and asked if there were single rooms available and yes there were. "How much?" I asked. "90zł with breakfast included," was the reply. Bonus! Parking was free as well. Once I had my room, I hoofed it back to my car (fortunately downhill) and drove back to the hotel which was right next to the monastery. I parked in a large lot just outside the hotel then took my stuff to my room. There were people everywhere helping guests find their way around the building and to their rooms. This place was "old school" and probably was last updated in the 1980s. It brought back memories of my early trips to Poland.

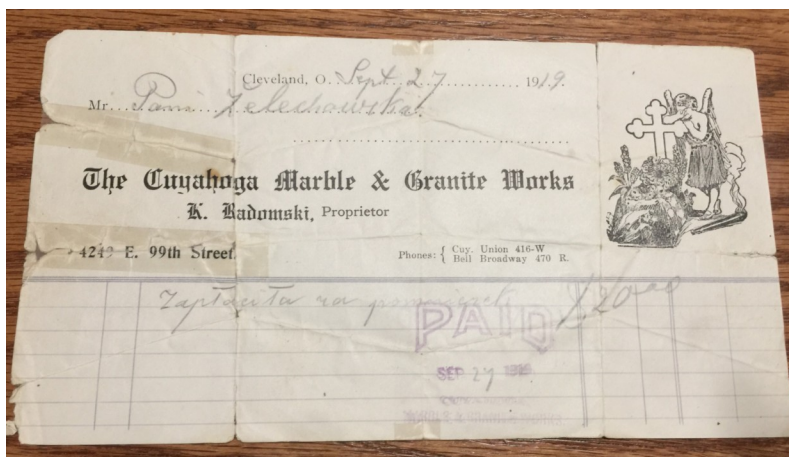


Now I needed something to eat. The restaurant right next to the hotel was basically closed. Options were very limited on top of the hill and I really didn't want to walk all the way back down to the main drag to find a restaurant. However, I did see a sign for a piviarnia (beer hall) so I walked over to it. It was a cozy little bar filled with locals. They had a draft list of local micro-brewed beers which was promising. Unfortunately, they didn't serve food. Liquid dinner it was.

Polish Family Heirlooms

In response to the article in our last issue titled *Carving History Into Stone, - Joseph Kotecki's Legacy*, Anthonette Baciak, our president, shared this receipt from Cuyahoga Marble & Granite Works dated September 27, 1919. The company was owned by the Radomski family who once partnered with Joseph Kotecki.

This receipt was for a headstone purchased by Anthonette's grandmother for her husband who died in December of 1918.





Since we won't be able to enjoy Ben's bigos (hunter's stew) due to cancellation of our annual party this year, he has offered to share his recipe for those who would like to try to make it this holiday season. Thanks Ben!

Ben's Bigos

- 2 quarts sauerkraut, chopped and drained (do not rinse)
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 lb. head of cabbage (small), core removed and chopped into 1 in. square pieces
- ¼ lb. bacon, cut into pieces
- 1 large onion, chopped
- ½ lb. pork butt cut into ½ in. to ¾ in. cubes
- ½ lb. beef chuck roast into ½ in. to ¾ in. cubes
- ½ lb. of lamb or venison roast into ½ in. to ¾ in. cubes
- ½ lb. smoked polish sausage, sliced and diced into ½ in. to ¾ in. cubes
- ½ lb. mushrooms (porcini, portabella or white), sliced and diced and sautéed in butter
- 1 cup defrosted, drained frozen tomatoes or 1- 16 oz. can stewed tomatoes, drained
- 1 cup pitted prunes quartered or halved (measure volume after chopping)
- 2 cloves of garlic, sliced thin and chopped or put through a garlic press
- 2 apples peeled, cored and diced
- 2-3 potatoes cut into ½ in. cubes
- Ground black pepper to taste
- 1 cup dry red wine

Instructions:

In a dutch oven, fry bacon over medium heat until crisp, remove and set aside. Brown the pork, beef, and lamb/venison in small batches, over high heat, in the bacon fat. Remove meat and set aside. Saute the onion over medium heat in the dutch oven. Add some vegetable oil if necessary.

Return browned meat to dutch oven with the sauteed onions and add stock or water to just cover the meat. Bring to a boil over high heat then reduce to a simmer, uncovered, about 2 hours. Drain, reserving stock for other uses.

In a large pot add sauerkraut and bay leaf and cover with water. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer and cook for 1 hour. Drain. In another pot, bring water to a boil and add chopped cabbage. Return to a boil and cook for 30 minutes. Drain thoroughly. Cook potatoes in a pot of water until tender, approximately 10-15 minutes. Drain thoroughly.

Mix the cabbage, sauerkraut, potatoes and meat in large pot or roasting pan. Add the tomatoes. Add the sausage.

Saute mushrooms in butter, then add to the mixture. Add the bacon, prunes, garlic and apples. Season with ground black pepper to taste. Mix until combined.

Preheat oven to 350F, bake the bigos, uncovered, for 30 minutes. Stir, then lower the temperature to 325F and continue baking for another 2 hours, stirring every 30 minutes. (When and if you cover the bigos depends on how juicy it is. If it is dry, cover it longer. If it is really juicy, leave the cover off longer.)

At the end of the 2 hours, shut off the oven and allow the bigos to cool, covered. Once cool, refrigerate.

The next day, add the wine to the bigos and mix. Heat in 350F oven for 90 minutes, uncovered, stirring every 30 minutes. Serve and enjoy! Smacznego!



The Polish Genealogical Society



THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Applicant []

Renewal []

Applicant Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

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 7:00 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).

Your completed MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION will be filed with the Vice President/Membership Chairperson 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: VP Membership/Michael Spears, PGSGC, 1525 Woodlake Blvd., Stow, OH 44224.

Member Surname

OTHER SURNAMEN YOU ARE RESEARCHING

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

---- PLEASE PRINT ----



Bernard Sokolowski at his University Inn bar
from www.sokolowskis.com

Will the Bell Toll continued from page 4.....

She met Bernard and they were married in 1954. Around that time, construction of the Inner Belt Bridge began and the little tavern was overcome with construction workers at lunch time. The Sokolowskis could not keep up with the demand so they started preparing soups and other lunch-eon items in bulk. Marion suggested a cafeteria style service for efficiency. Bernard, Marion and their children moved their residence upstairs and expanded the lower level behind the old bar area into a dining room. Marion quit her job as a nurse and devoted herself to the family business. Over the years, the family acquired adjoining property in order to expand the restaurant and began offering more ethnic Polish food along with American fare. Pierogi, salisbury steak, stuffed cabbage and fresh fish have been among the favorites.

Victoria Sokolowski died in 1968 as the business she and her husband started was continuing to grow and thrive. Among the décor at Sokolowski's University Inn are photos of the current owners (Bernard and Marion's children) with famous celebrities that have stopped in for lunch on their journeys through Cleveland. The restaurant was always a week-day lunch spot and was open Friday and Saturday evenings for dinner.

Will the Sokolowskis sell to the highest bidder? Or will they decide to re-open when the Covid-19 pandemic subsides? If the bell does toll for the University Inn, I hope it is the dinner bell calling us all back for lunch.



Sokolowski's University Inn
from www.sokolowskis.com

Schedule of Presentations for Upcoming Meetings

Jan: ***Prussian Research: Searching For Your Elusive Prussian Ancestors***
ZOOM presentation by Stephen Wendt

Feb: ***Genealogical Technical Tid Bits***
ZOOM presentation by Michael Speare

Mar: ***Genealogy TV: Learn how to research your Polish ancestors***
YouTube video presentation by Polish Genealogy Society of America board members, Chet Szerlag, Robert Pine, and Ola Heska

The Polish Genealogical
Society of Greater Cleveland
c/o St. Mary's PNC Church
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**Polish Genealogical Society of
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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.