



Our Polish ANCESTORS

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
 JANUARY/MARCH 1994 - VOL. 2, No. 1 906 COLLEGE AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members - It is hard to believe that we just finished our first year in office (your officers) and thanks to your vote of confidence, we'll all be back to serve you again in 1994.

For those of you who missed the December meeting/Christmas Party, you missed a great time! The food was fantastic. There was a nice variety from assorted desserts, to Ed Mendyka's famous kielbasa. We also had delicious Hunter's Stew and Stuffed Cabbage. Believe me, you got your money's worth and I'd advise you to mark your calendar for the 1994 Christmas Party. In fact, I'd encourage each of you to mark the first Tuesday of the month for our Society meetings. Attendance continues to be good as our membership grows. As usual, I encourage each of you to try and bring a friend or relative to each meeting.

In 1994, I would like to invite you to all go on a "mission of love" - a love of your ancestry! Pursue this "love" as you would any love interest and the results will be just as rewarding. I guarantee you, that although your family members may not enjoy doing the genealogical mining work you do, they WILL enjoy the jewels that you will discover from your efforts. Remember, the genealogical job to be done, will never be any easier to be done than it is now. Your future generations will not have the

same relatives you have at your disposal, and therefore will not be privy to the information that they can provide you with.

To each member, I would encourage you to set a goal of attempting at least one new research endeavor a month. It can be a letter or a phone call to some relative, or it can be a trip to a source to check old records. But, whatever it is you do, you will be surprised as to how much new information you have dug up over a twelve month period. And please, share that information with us at either the meetings or through this bulletin. Remember, we are all one big family.

As ever, I encourage members to contact me with any suggestions that they may have to make this society a better one.

I would like to wish each and everyone of you a happy and prosperous New Year. With God's blessing, may we ALL be back in 1995.

Thanks for your support,
 John F. Szuch, President

COMPUTER CORNER:

Ed Mendyka has obtained a copy of a PGSA data base file. It's on a 3.5" diskette and contains an alphabetical listing of more than 20,000 Polish men who volunteered to fight in Haller's Army during World War I. In order to print out the list, we need someone who has an IBM compatible PC and a LaserJet III printer, plus Word Perfect and D-Base software. Can you help? Call Ed at 459-0209 or me at 888-2441.

Ralph Lysyk

≡ **WELCOME!** ≡

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members. They are:

Bertha Cetner
 Willoughby Hills, OH

Francis Bostosky
 Cleveland, OH

Laura Brandt
 Fair Oaks, CA

Don & Pat Lubecki
 Cleveland, OH

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the basement cafeteria of St. John Cantius Church, 906 College Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

JANUARY 4: To be Announced.

February 1: To be Announced.

March 1: Ed Chojnicki; will share with us his insights and some slides that he's taken on previous trips to Poland. It promises to be a very interesting evening. Join us!



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 OF GREATER CLEVELAND**



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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: March 10th

Contributors for this issue: Sarah Evanko, Ralph Lysyk, Ed Mendyka, John Szuch.



PGSGC's 1994 Officers: Joe Evanko, Secretary; John Szuch, President; Ben Kman, Vice-President; Christine Mata, Treasurer.

SISTER LORETTA RETIRES TO WISCONSIN

Sister Loretta, a founding member of The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland, has left her assignment at St. John Kanty (Cantius) to retire to the Mother House in Steven's Point, Wisconsin, where she is originally from. She has a brother and other family members there. Prior to her assignment to St. John Cantius in Cleveland, Sister Loretta spent twenty years in God's service in Puerto Rico. On behalf of the PGSGC, we wish you the best in Steven's Point, Sister! Please keep us in your prayers.

HANG-OVER DANCE

Prime-Time Polkas is holding their 2nd Annual HANG-OVER Dance on Saturday, January 8, 1994 from 7 PM to 11 PM.

WHERE? At the PNA Hall, 7526 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, OH (Old Polish Women's Hall)

Featuring Andy Fenus and Bobby Szymanski. Food will be available, NO B.Y.O.B. Admission: \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door.

THIS AND THAT:

We're sorry to hear that Joyce Hillson's father recently passed away. The PGSGC would like to extend its condolences to Joyce and her family on their loss.

Thank you to Stanley Schmidt of PGSA, for his donation of a listing of congregations of the Evangelical-Ausburg Church in Poland, 1910-1939-1991.

Many thanks also to William Hoffman for the donation of his book, "Polish Surnames - Their Origins and Meanings", and to PGSA for the Gazetteer of Parish and Civil Jurisdictions in Eastern and Western Prussia. (Written by Barthel).

Edward A. Peckwas, founder of PGSA 15 years ago and its President for 13 years, was posthumously awarded the Wigilia Medal on Oct. 9, 1993 by PGSA. This medal is awarded an individual who has significantly contributed to the field of Polish-American genealogical research. Mr. Peckwas died of cancer several months ago at the age of 51.

An update on the review of "Reunion" software: There is now a Windows version available for IBM-compatible users.

GENEALOGICAL SOURCES:



National Archives Great Lakes Region 7358 South Pulaski Rd. Chicago, IL 60629

Quickest way to inquire about naturalization/alien documents for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. If they have it on file, they will charge you a modest fee for copies of the records. If they don't have it, but know where it is, they will direct you to write to that courthouse, etc. If they don't have any record, they will advise you to write to the U.S. Immigration And Naturalization Service listed below.

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service Washington, DC 20536

For inquiries BEFORE 1906 - Do NOT write to this address; instead, write directly to the County Courthouse in the state where the person originally applied for naturalization. Write to this address for inquiring about naturalizations filed AFTER 1906. Usually they provide a copy of the intention to become a citizen as well as a copy of the naturalization paperwork. Usually a person's place of birth and the name of the ship they entered the USA is included. It takes many, many months to get a reply. FEES: Free, exception: Only if they copy more than 20 pgs; usually only 2-3 pgs. are done.

Office of Public Inquiries 6401 Security Blvd. Baltimore, MD 21235

For searching Social Security records. Provide the full name, date of birth, and Social Security #, if known. They usually provide a copy of the application for the Social Security

card which includes the person's name, date and place of birth, and their parent's names. Records were NOT kept until 1936, so no records are available for people who died before then. FEES: \$7 when the Social Security # is known, and \$16.50 when the number is either not known or incorrect.

Railroad Retirement Board 844 Rush Street Chicago, IL 60611

For obtaining retirement records of former railroad workers. They did not collect records until after 1936. Give the full name of the person you want to research, as well as birth and death dates. It is also helpful to list the Social Security # if you know it. (Listed on the death certificate) Employment records as well as a copy of a birth and death certificate and even marriage information was obtained through an inquiry done in 9/92. FEE: Free

Central Address Bureau in Warsaw, Poland

There is a Central Address Bureau in Warsaw that apparently can be contacted for tracing the living descendants of residents of Poland. A member of the PGS of America received a favorable reply in locating family members. There is apparently no charge for this information. The address is:

Centralne Biuro Adresowe 00-904 Waszawa 6, Poland

AMERITECH - Telephone

Directories from Poland:

Ameritech informs us that there are five regional phone directories for Poland that can be ordered if you would like to see if you still have any relatives in

your ancestor's area. They are: Bialystok (\$80), Krakow (\$90), Gdansk (\$130), Lublin (\$80), and Poznan (\$60).

Polish Genealogical Society of the Northeast 8 Lyle Road

New Britain, CT 06053

This Society has a number of publications available for sale. Those of particular interest to our members are:

Directory of Polish Roman Catholic Parishes in the Territory of the Former Austrian Partition - Galicia.

This is a listing of addresses of all known parishes in the dioceses of Tarnow, Krakow, Przemysl, and the former Archdiocese of Lwow. Indexed by parish with a brief section on translating church records from this region. 119 pp. \$14.00

Directory of Polish Roman Catholic Churches in the Territory of the Former Russian Partition.

Includes the addresses of all parishes in the Dioceses of present-day Poland located in territory formerly under Russian control. Also included are lists of parishes in the pre-1939 dioceses of Wilno and Luck, now in the U.S.S.R. 193 pp., \$17.50

Genealogical Society of Poland Towarzystwo Genealogiczno- Historyczne Wodna 27 Palac Gorkow 61-781 POZNAŃ, POLAND

Zakład Onomastyki Polskiej Instytutu Języka Polskiego PAN ul. Straszewskiego 25 31-113 KRAKOW, POLAND

(Write here for the meaning of and background on your surname.)

MY ANCESTORS REVISITED

by JOHN F. SZUCH

When you start asking questions of family members about your ancestors, you never know what you're going to come up with. That was the case when I questioned by Uncle Steve about his father, John Malicki.

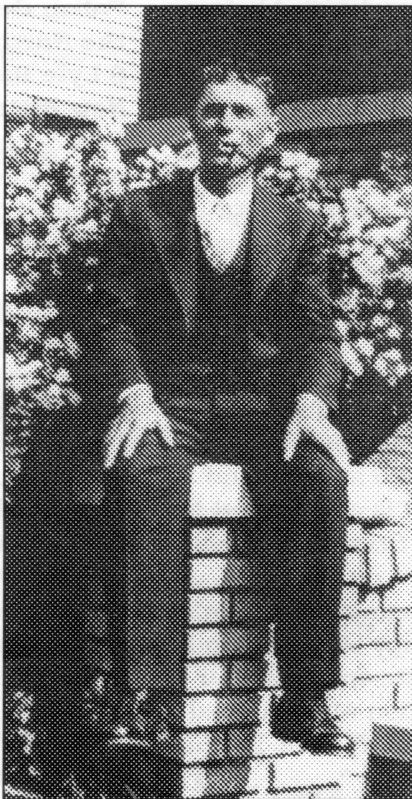
I had recently come across some old family letters and envelopes from Poland that I had saved as a kid because of my stamp collecting interest. I questioned my Uncle Steve as to who we used to write to in Poland, as these letters were 30 to 40 years old. It seems that one person we wrote to was my grandfather's brother, although none of the items I had were from him. And now, the story of the "two horses".

It seems that sometime after World War II, my grandfather's brother wrote from Poland (probably from Lekowo - near Ciechanow), stating he could use two horses for the family farm. My grandfather got together with his brother-in-law, Leon Kalinowski, and they bought two horses and had them shipped to Poland.

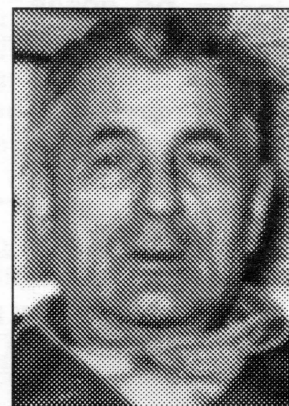
Sometime later, they got a thank-you letter for the horses. In the letter, the brother stated he had sold the horses for several thousand

dollars and could they send two more horses! To this, my Uncle Kalinowski responded, get yourself a big bag and shovel and come over to the United States and dig up the money which he thought must be buried everywhere! My grandfather was a very generous man, but I guess he was pushed over his limit because he ceased to correspond with his brother after this incident.

Hopefully, with the old address I have, maybe I can still contact some of the family members we have lost touch with over the past thirty years. If I do make contact, I hope they don't ask me to send them a couple of horses!



John Malicki - circa 1930's
(taken on Avon Avenue)



John Malicki - circa 1950



Grandma Bernice (Czaplicka) Malicki, Grandpa John Malicki and John F. Szuch - Circa 1943



John F. Szuch and his "hero"

HALLER'S ARMY

(from the 70th Anniversary of American Polonia Appeal To Arms)

History recognizes the valuable contributions of General Joseph Haller's Army to the winning of freedom for Poland in World War I.

At the outbreak of World War I, in 1914, Poland was not on the European map as a result of partitions by its neighbors - Germany, Austria, and Russia, in the late 1700's.

The Polish Army, organized in France, under the leadership of Gen. Joseph Haller, during World War I, was supported financially and materially through the efforts of Polish American organizations.

In 1914, volunteers were being trained as Polish Army officers at Alliance College in Cambridge Springs, PA. On January 3, 1917, another training center was opened at the University of Toronto in Canada, followed by volunteer training centers at St. John's Quebec, and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada. Another center at Ft. Niagara, NY offered training for combat on the use and operation of military weapons.

On September 12, 1917, the National Department of Polish Central Relief was organized in Chicago under the chairmanship of the renowned pianist, Ignacy Paderewski. This committee formed a military commission for the Polish Army. It started an active campaign with the slogan, "Let's follow the paths of our Fathers in the ranks of the Polish Army for the Motherland and her Freedom".

Soon after the meeting, twelve recruiting centers were opened in the following cities: Milwaukee, WI; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI;

Buffalo, NY; Pittsburgh and Wilkes Barre, PA; Boston, MA; and New York City, NY.

Their personnel were instructed how to fill out the necessary documents and to direct volunteers to the proper military camp. The Recruiting Centers performed their duties diligently until the end of the war. They recruited about 40,000 men.

During the war, President Woodrow Wilson considered peace. On January 8, 1918, before Congress, he outlined his settlement of the war in fourteen points on which peace could be achieved. One of his points called for "Independence for Poland" to be recognized by the Allied Powers and all other countries at the end of the war.

On October 1, 1918, the Military Commission named General Haller as the Commander-in-Chief of the Independent Polish Army in France. A short time after this promotion, on November 11, 1918, the Armistice was signed at 11:00 AM and World War I ended. Poland was reborn as a nation after 150 years of bondage and partition. The Allied Powers established a Regency Council on Polish territory and appointed Joseph Pilsudski as Supreme Commander of all Polish troops. His first act was to declare himself head of the National Government. He then notified all belligerent powers that Poland became an Independent Country.

The western frontiers were delimited by the Treaty of Versailles.

After Pilsudski's declaration of Poland's independence, peace did not last long. The Bolshevik typhoon swept westward.

Something had to be done immediately by the Allied Powers. They decided to transport General Haller's Army through Germany to Poland. Lord D'Abernon, British Ambassador in Berlin, was instructed to proceed to Paris where he was to be joined by General Maxime Weygand. They immediately hastened to Warsaw and found that Pilsudski wanted shells, not advice. After a long discussion, Pilsudski placed General Haller in command of Warsaw and raised a new Army, the Fifth, under General W. Sikorski.

The Battle of Warsaw in 1920 became a critical one. The Polish situation grew worse for a while, but Haller's Army held firm in Warsaw. At last, on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (August 15, 1920), the Bolsheviks were defeated.

On October 10, an armistice was agreed on. On March 18, 1921, the Treaty of Riga set the eastern frontier of Poland which stood until 1939.

When the hostilities in Poland ended, the soldiers from Haller's Army started returning to the United States and Canada. During their voyage, while still on the U.S. troop transport ships, they discussed forming a veteran's organization.

In communication with the veterans from other states and Canada, a historical meeting was held in Cleveland, OH from May 28 through 30, 1921. An agreement was reached to elect national officers. They incorporated this organization of veterans, nationally and internationally, under the name of "**Polish Army Veterans Association of America**".

(Haller's Army - continued from page 3)

The newspapers of this country were full of articles about the forming of the Polish Army. One from the New York Times of October 6, 1917, said:

POLES HERE TO ENLIST FOR ARMY IN FRANCE - WAR DEPARTMENT INDORSES THE MOVEMENT BACKED BY PADEREWSKI AND HIS COUNTRYMEN.

- A campaign to recruit Poles in the United States for a Polish army now training in France was indorsed today by the War Department. It will start tomorrow under the direction of the National Department of the Polish Central Relief committee of

Chicago, whose Chairman, I.J. Paderewski, the pianist, issued an appeal today to unnaturalized Poles to enlist.

Recruits will be trained at a camp already established by Polish interest near Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Polish-Americans subject to draft and men with dependents will not be accepted. -

Did a member of your family fight for the Polish Army?

The records are in the archives of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago. The Polish Genealogical Society of America has been organizing the loose sets of papers for each recruit in alphabetical order. There is an estimated 22,000 records.

The loose papers came from

recruitment books which still contain carbon copies of the papers.

The recruitment records are from areas with large numbers of Polish immigrants.

The index is only an aid, and not intended to be an abstract of the information contained within these papers. They are fragile and stored in boxes.

The LDS Church Library has a contract to microfilm these records, and at this time, the records are unavailable for researching. When the indexing project is finished, the LDS Church will be contacted for microfilming. (Additional info from PGS of CA, July '93)

SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET

by Sarah Evanko

If you are able to trace your family genealogy back far enough, you may find that you are descended from a royal or Charlemagne line. One does not normally expect to be related to royalty, and the discovery is fairly exciting. Such is the case in my family genealogy; work done over the past 100-120 years by my mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

I've come to realize, however, that there are probably *millions* of people who could say the same thing! While some of my blood lines are very well documented, the line to Charlemagne makes me wonder. You see, it's been reported in several genealogical sources that many "royal" lines were falsified in the last century. It seems that genealogy was something "blue bloods" did, often for less-than-honorable purposes. It was a way of elevating yourself above the rest of your community, to make yourself seem more important than you were. Many family

histories from the last century are full of these inaccuracies, and anyone related to one of these old family histories would do well to try and document these lines with current day records.

Even if you are not related to royalty, the laws of probability show that everyone should have at least a few skeletons in their family closet. What kind, you ask? Well, most of us will find a few divorces in the public court records. If there were Mormons in the early years of your family, you would probably find polygamous marriages. Families from New England several hundred years ago can use the Bastardy records available there. How about searching criminal and penitentiary records? All those "criminals" had to have families somewhere! And many otherwise "missing" ancestors may be found in records of insane asylums and the poor house. Suicides were often recorded in public documents as well as the

newspapers of the day. I have even seen a newspaper account about some poor, unfortunate Victorian housewife whose demise was due to an addiction to "that destroyer of families, heroin". Some Victorian families had "premature" first births much as we still have today. Family feuds often extend for generations, without either side knowing what the original split was about anymore. Today, some of these families don't even think they're related, even though they carry the same last name and come from the same area! Just imagine the tidbits waiting to be discovered!

So if you don't have any royalty in your ancestry, don't despair. There are plenty of colorful, "infamous" people in your family history. You just need to be open-minded, curious, and search out these characters. They are the ones who will make your family history come alive so it will not be just a boring repetition of facts. Happy Hunting!

QUEEN WANDA

(Reprinted with permission from "Polish Folk Legends" by Florence Waszkelewicz-Clowes)

When Krak had killed the dragon that lived in the cave in Wawel Hill, the people were very grateful and they asked him to be their leader. He guided the tribe and ruled for a very long time. They developed their settlement on the river, farmed, fished and hunted, and protected their territory from invaders. When he grew old and died, it was decided that his oldest son, also named Krak, would be their next ruler. But his younger brother wanted the job, and one day when no one was looking, Lech killed his brother. But Lech didn't last very long, for

...the villagers found Krak's body and realized what Lech had done...

he villagers found Krak's body and realized what Lech had done. They forced him to leave the protection of the settlement and flee into the forest.

Then the villagers and councilors gathered in the old wooden fortress. "Now, what shall we do? Who will guide us?"

A councilor spoke up, "Krak had three children. His daughter Wanda is very wise and kind!"

"What! Shall we have a woman rule us?"

"Well, she always sat by her father at meetings, and everyone likes her and besides, what else can we do?"

Everyone agreed she was good and brave and just.

"So be it," the oldest councilor declared. "She will be our Queen!"

When Wanda heard this, she trembled at the thought of

guiding and protecting the people. They assured her she was the one they wanted and encouraged her to take the throne. And so it was that the land of Krak had a woman for a leader.

Wanda worked hard to make the people happy and safe. In those days there were foreigners that brought goods to trade and were friendly, but there were also foreigners who saw the lovely fields and forests that surrounded the settlement and tried to claim it for their own. It is said that Wanda herself, would lead her soldiers in the battlefields. She inspired them with her bravery and they successfully defeated many foes.

Wanda's fame spread far and wide, and soon a German prince, Rytygier, heard of her beauty and bravery. Even more, he knew the lands she ruled were fruitful and rich. He sent a message to Wanda, asking for her hand in marriage. It was a marriage proposal, but also a demand to surrender to the prince. He wanted the lands of Polani for her dowry, and threatened to fight for her and her lands if she refused.

She inspired them with her bravery...

Wanda was very upset. She didn't want to marry a German prince. She didn't want to give him the Polish lands and the people that trusted her. Rytygier's armies were very large; Wanda's small band of warriors would certainly be defeated. If she had not been so beautiful, brave and wise, Rytygier might not have noticed her or the fertile lands. She felt she was responsi-

ble for this ultimatum.

"I love my land and my people," she cried to the councilors. "I can't give in to the prince's demand!" And she retreated to her room trying to decide what to do.

The next day, she prepared a huge banquet for all her people and called them together. She told them how much she loved them, and would do anything to protect them. Then she urged them to come to the table and enjoy the feast. Soon the old fortress was full of partying people. No one looked for her after she had greeted them. In the cool of the evening she again retired to her room, where she prayed to God to grant her people freedom from the German prince in return for her life. She had decided to sacrifice herself, rather than marry Rytygier and surrender her lands to the German! And in the darkness, she threw herself into the Vistula and drowned.

It was many days before her body was found, and then she was buried with honor. The people honored her by heaping mounds of dirt on her grave until it became as large as her father's. Her mound is called Mogila, and is there to this day.

FIRST TOLD BY *Bishop Vincent Kadlubek in 1206, the Wanda legend has been told and retold many times through the centuries. It symbolizes the folk philosophy of good overcoming evil. The name Wanda, (pronounced "Vanda" in Polish), is linked to the great mother of rivers, the Vistula. Every child in Poland, learning of the bravery of Wanda, develops a respect and love for their land.*

SURNAME RESEARCH LISTINGS - PGSGC MEMBERS

Look this list over carefully - you just might have a cousin that you didn't know about! If you can be of help to ANY of these members, please contact them. After all, this is just one reason our Society exists. If for some reason you are not listed, please let the Editor know so we may include you in the next newsletter along with any new member's family surnames.

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SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED:

Skubis, Slabek, Tamiolowski

Czadek, Erdt/Erdert, Jozwiak, Krajewski,
Palmowski, Pokorski, Tischor

Cetner (from Lipno, Poland), Koszewski

Bassett, Blow, Carman, Coleman, Curtiss,
Drake, Kenower/Knaur, Lanning, Lynn,
Mill/Mills, Moore, Mott, Parker, Poulain, Rubins,
Sadler, Sherwood, Skinner, Smith, Standlick,
Stevens, Wheeler, Woodworth, Wright

Mikina, Churma, Smetanka, Karol

Bialogrecki

THERE IS A CHANCE YOUR LOVED ONES DIDN'T DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE.

There's nothing worse than not knowing what happened to a loved one. Yet, for thousands who lost loved ones to the Nazis or who were imprisoned in forced labor camps, that answer may finally be available. The American Red Cross now has copies of death books, certificates and lists containing hun-

dreds of thousands of new names of victims imprisoned by The Third Reich. For more information on their Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Service, contact your local Red Cross Chapter or call 1-800-848-9277. It could mean the answer you've been searching for.



MICROFILMING YOUR RECORDS

by Sarah Evanko

Have you given any thought as to what is going to happen to all your research and documents when you are gone? What if you have a house fire? Or a flood? When you've gotten to the point that your research is fairly complete and documented, it becomes critical to think of preserving it.

Think about going to a specialty printer and having the entire collection; family record sheets, photos, documents and all, microfilmed. You could even have a microfiche made. Then the whole thing will easily fit into a safety-deposit box where it will be safe from fire, water, or other loss. Copies can be made when you need to send a copy of something to others. A roll of film holds about 2,500 pages, and one microfiche holds about 60 pages. Believe it or not, the cost is very comparable to having the entire collection photocopied! (Which isn't archival or permanent at all) I read about this in "The Family

Tree", the newsletter of The Howard County Genealogical Society in Howard County., Maryland. The Editor had read about it in the newsletter of West Bank Genealogical Society, Harvey, LA in November 1992. Like you, he didn't believe it would be so inexpensive and easy. Think how great this would be for those older, fragile, one-of-a-kind documents or photos you have! As time takes its toll on these old papers, you can rest assured that it is preserved through microfilm.

The regular Yellow-Pages for the Cleveland area does not list any firms that I could see that do these services. However, I did find several in the Business-To-Business Yellow Pages Directory. They are:

Midtown Professional Record Center
(216) 361-3733

IMT Graphic Imaging
(216) 267-8010

Both of these firms were very helpful, and almost identical in pricing. IMT microfilms many local government and hospital records. The minimum cost is \$50.00, which would cover approximately 2,000 documents. You can even have photos microfilmed, though they would be in negative form when you viewed them through a reader. If you were to print it out, however, it would be in positive ("normal") form. Microfilm is a silver film, like black & white film. Research shows that this should last for at least 400 years under proper storage conditions (such as being kept dry, with proper humidity and out of sunlight).

Although this may seem expensive, it is definitely worth thinking about if you've amassed a lot of paper such as marriage licenses, photos, family group sheets, birth and death certificates, etc. Think of it as an insurance policy - and preserve your hard work for future generations.

POLISH NATIONAL EAGLE



History Of The White Eagle

The national emblem of the Republic of Poland is a White Eagle on a red shield. His crowned head is turned right, wings displayed.

The White Eagle had appeared first in our history on the silver denar (currency of that time),

minted by King Boleslaw Chrobry (992-1025).

The White Eagle was one of the totemic symbols of our forefathers from the Western part of Poland state and of the Piast family (the first dynasty of Polish Kings who ruled the country from the early 9th century until the end of 14th century. The White Eagle, being the emblem of the Kingdom of Poland, was also the coat of arms of the Piasts.

This symbol was adopted as an emblem of the Polish State by the next dynasty of Polish Kings, the Jagellons, as well as

by all their successors elected during the following centuries, until the end of the 18th century, when Poland lost her state independence. In 1918, when it had regained independence, the White Eagle again became the national emblem.

During the time of the Communist domination after World War II, the Eagle had been deprived of its crown, and it was crowned again in 1989, when the Solidarity movement won, and Communism finally fell.

POLISH POPULATIONS IN AMERICAN CITIES TODAY AND PRIOR TO WORLD WAR I:

The cities listed below had the largest Polish populations prior to World War I. (according to *The Historical Atlas of Poland*.)

Over 100,000 Poles:

Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; New York, NY.

50,000 to 100,000 Poles:

Buffalo, NY; Cleveland, OH; Milwaukee, WI; Philadelphia, PA.

25,000 to 50,000 Poles:

Baltimore, MD; Bay City, MI; Hamtramck, MI; Jersey City, NJ; Newark, NJ; Pittsburgh, PA; St. Louis, MO; Toledo, OH.

10,000 to 25,000 Poles:

Boston, MA; Chicopee, MA; Gallitzin, PA; Grand Rapids, MI; Minneapolis, MN; Nanticoke, PA; New Britain, CT; Omaha, NE; Rochester, NY; Scranton,

PA; Shenandoah, PA; South Bend, IN.

Under 10,000 Poles:

Bayonne, NJ; Erie, PA; Kosciusko, MS; Lublin, WI; Passaic, NJ; Paterson, NJ; Poland, NY; Wausau, FL; Wausau, WI; the cities of Pulaski in GA, IL, IA, NY, TN, VA and WI; the cities of Warsaw in AL, GA, IN, IL, KY, MO, NY, NC, OH and VA.

The next list is of U.S. cities that have the greatest number of residents who have at least one parent of Polish descent today, along with the number of Poles in each of these cities:

Chicago, IL	797,402
Detroit, MI	511,829
New York, NY	478,138
Philadelphia, PA	284,881
Buffalo, NY	230,309

Pittsburgh, PA	213,880
Milwaukee, WI	207,516
Nassau-Suffolk, NY	196,209
Los Angeles, CA	168,654
Cleveland, OH	166,477

(Source: *Polish-American Journal*, June 1989, from USA Today research.)

The listing on these cities should give you a good idea of where most Polish immigrants settled, and libraries in these cities should have information on the early Poles who lived there.

It's interesting to note that Los Angeles didn't show up in the listing of Poles in American cities prior to World War I, but now has more residents of Polish descent than Cleveland, one of the *largest* concentrations prior to WW I.

- Our Family Pictures -



Katarzyna Demnicka (married Frank Klimkiewicz on May 23, 1923 - Cleveland, OH)



Marya Klimkiewicz and Joseph Iwanko - June 12, 1922 - Cleveland, OH (grandparents of Joe Evanko)

WAS THE FIRST ANCESTOR WHO CAME TO AMERICA THE SAME ONE WHO EMIGRATED?

BY SARAH EVANKO

In the January 1993 issue of *The Eaglet* (Journal of The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan), there is an interesting article by Jan S. Zaleski, A. G. In this article, he discusses his discovery of finding an ancestor who came here earlier than the one who he had thought was the immigrant; apparently to make enough money to return to Poland and send other relatives here to live.

Mr. Zaleski goes on to explain how he researched this relative, and actually found the arrival index card for his ancestor through records maintained by the LDS Church. My husband has a similar situation. In looking through Cleveland City Directories for the addresses where all his relatives lived, we stumbled upon his great-grandfather's name, living with his son in 1904! He only appeared for that one year, and the assumption is that he came here to make money for his family in Poland, as Galicia was very poor at that time. This was quite an exciting discovery, for no one had known that he'd ever left Poland! Eventually several of his children would immigrate to America, but not him-

self or his wife. I'd been told that there was no way to research this further if he did not stay in this country or apply for naturalization. And in a way, this is true. Mr. Zaleski's article states that the index for New York Arrivals only covers the period from 1897-1902 (Film #821,563). That's about a year too early for Joe's



Jakub Klimkiewicz - circa 1910
(great-grandfather of Joe Evanko)

great-grandfather, but worth checking out nevertheless. However, there is an Baltimore Arrivals Soundex listing for 1897-1952, as well as a Port of

Detroit Alien Index. You might also try the WWI Draft Registration Cards. Listed below is a listing of the indexes you might check out, along with the catalog heading used by the LDS Church. Keep in mind that you need to know the ancestral village of your ancestor to use these indexes.

New York Arrivals Index 1897-1902

New York, New York - Emigration and Immigration

Baltimore Arrivals Soundex (1897- 1952)

MD, Baltimore (Independent City) Emigration and Immigration

Port of Detroit Alien Index

MI, Wayne, Detroit - Emigration & Immigration

WWI Draft Registration Cards

United States - Military Records - WWI: 1914-1918

If you do not know the ancestral village of your ancestor(s), these indexes are worth looking at to determine *possible* ancestral villages through finding others with your surname(s). Good Luck!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Some of our members are getting delinquent in their dues, perhaps because they don't know when their membership is up for renewal. Check your mailing label on this newsletter to find the month and year when your membership needs to be renewed by. If you can't make it to a meeting, send your yearly fee of just \$20 to our Treasurer Chris Mata, and she'll take care of it for you.

**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

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Cleveland, OH 44113

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**HOW AND WHERE TO
WRITE FOR VITAL
RECORDS IN OHIO**

Birth or Death:

Div. of Vital Statistics
Ohio Dept. of Health
G-20 Ohio Department Building
65 South Front Street
Columbus, OH 43266-0333

COST: \$7.00

NOTE: State office has had records since December 20, 1908. For earlier records, write to Probate Court in county where event occurred. Check or money order should be made payable to **State Treasurer**. Personal checks are accepted. To verify current fees, phone number is: (614) 466-2531.

Give the following facts when writing for **birth or death records**:

1. Full name of person whose record is being requested.
2. Sex.
3. Parents' names, including maiden name of mother.
4. Month, day, and year of birth or death.
5. Place of birth or death (city or town, county, and State; and name of hospital, if known.)
6. Purpose for which copy is needed.
7. Relationship to person whose record is being requested.

Marriage:

ADDRESS: Same as Birth or Death.

COST: Varies.

NOTE: Records since September 1949. All items may be verified.

Certified copies are not available from State Health Department.

Inquiries will be referred to appropriate office. Probate Judge in county where license was issued.

Give the following facts when writing for **marriage records**:

1. Full names of bride and groom.
2. Month, day, and year of marriage.
3. Place of marriage (city or town, county, and State).
4. Purpose for which copy is needed.
5. Relationship to persons whose record is being requested.

Divorce:

ADDRESS: Same as Birth or Death.

COST: Varies.

NOTE: Records since September 1949. All items may be verified.

Certified copies are not available from State Health Department.

Inquiries will be referred to appropriate office. Clerk of Court of Common Pleas in county where divorce was granted.

Give the following facts when writing for **divorce records**:

1. Full names of husband and wife.
2. Date of divorce or annulment.
3. Place of divorce or annulment.
4. Type of final decree.
5. Purpose for which copy is needed.
6. Relationship to persons whose record is being requested.

(Source: *Where to Write for Vital Records*, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services)

Sarah L. Evanko

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