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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members -

With Fall upon us and with Winter to follow, it's a good time to do some genealogical work. When you are done raking leaves, put your lawn tools away and get out your "genealogical tools" and start raking in ancestor information.

Just as in doing yard work, it is always more fun when someone works with you. Try to find a genealogical companion. They don't have to be of Polish ancestry, just interested in genealogy. For the most part, you would both be using the same library and resources, just searching in different geographic areas for ancestors. You'd be surprised how much more fun doing your genealogical digging will be when you have someone to immediately share your findings with.

Our membership continues to grow with the paid membership at 75 members as of the September meeting. As always, I

encourage those who can, to attend meetings and bring a friend or relative. Those of you who live outside our geographic area are encouraged to participate through our bulletin. Send us your ancestor stories or a short biographical sketch of yourself and we'll try and get it into a future issue of "Our Polish Ancestors".

Last, but not least, I encourage everyone to try and attend our December 6th meeting for our Christmas party. Those of you who have attended previous ones know what a fine time was had by all. If you can't make it, have a Holy and Merry Christmas on behalf of my fellow officers and myself.

John F. Szuch, President

P.S. Attend the October meeting and hear me give a talk and see a display on my favorite guy - Gen. Casimir Pulaski.

≡ **Welcome!** ≡

A warm welcome to the following new members of The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland:

Charles R. Kaczynski - Parma Hgts., OH

Emil & Marvella Kowalczyk - Juneau, AK

William & Connie Miller - Westlake, 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, OH.

OCTOBER 4TH:

We're past the terrible two's and ready to celebrate the BIG 3! Come join us for fun and friendship as we reminisce on our first three years. President **John F. Szuch** will give a talk on his favorite Polish hero, Casimir Pulaski, Revolutionary War General. John will also have a display of items he's collected over the years relating to the General.

NOVEMBER 1ST:

Come relax before the big holiday season and share those great Thanksgiving recipes. **Speaker to be announced.**

DECEMBER 6TH:

Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia i Szczesliwego Nowego Roku!

Once again our gracious hostess, **Virginia Luty**, will stuff us with those holiday taste treats from Poland. Come eat with us and browse through the Polish crafts and books for sale for those last minute gift ideas (*Members ONLY, please*).

"OUR POLISH ANCESTORS"
is published by
**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 OF GREATER CLEVELAND**



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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: December 1st

Contributors for this issue: Sarah Evanko, Ed Mendyka,
 Sophia Talkowski, Joan Uniatowski, Genevieve Szuba.

BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE EDITOR FOR \$5.00 EACH, WHICH INCLUDES POSTAGE. (Dues are \$20/year, which includes 4 newsletter bulletins.)

are indicated by diagraphs such as sz and cz (resembling English sh and ch) and by diacritics such as ^l and [˘] (resembling zh and a soft sh), derived from Czech. Unique to Polish is the *ł* (resembling English w). In the course of its evolution, Polish lost the distinction between long and short vowels, and word accent became fixed on the next-to-last syllable. Polish is the only Slavic language with nasal vowels (*a* and *e*), which are derived from Old Slavic nasal vowels. Of the original singular, dual, and plural, the dual has disappeared (as in most Slavic languages). The singular has three genders; masculine, feminine, and neuter. The plural developed a new category, personal masculine gender (for human males), which is distinguished from a common plural gender for all other categories. Polish is highly inflected and retains the Old Slavic case system; six cases for nouns, pronouns, and adjectives, plus a seventh case, the vocative (for direct address) for nouns and pronouns. Verbs are inflected according to gender as well as person and number, but the tense forms have been simplified through elimination of three old tenses (the aorist, imperfect, and past perfect). The so-called Slavic perfect is the only past tense form used in common speech. Word order remains highly flexible.

History:

The oldest known examples of written Polish are names and glosses in Latin documents (notably a papal bull of 1136). Modern literary Polish emerged in the 16th century. Although the core of literary Polish has remained pure, loan-words were absorbed from medieval Czech and German, from Latin, and more recently, from such languages as Belorussian, Ukrainian, French and English.

THE POLISH LANGUAGE

"Polish Language," Microsoft (R) Encarta. Copyright (c) 1993, Microsoft Corp. Copyright (c) 1993 Funk & Wagnall's Corp.

Polish Language, a member of the Western group of the Slavic branch of Indo-European languages and thus closely related to Czech, Slovak, and the Serbian language found in Germany. It is the language spoken by most of the inhabitants of Poland and by several million native speakers in the United States; Russia and the other successor states of the Union of Soviet Socialist

Republics (USSR); Canada; and elsewhere. Polish dialects include Little Polish and Silesian (spoken in the south) and Mazovian and Great Polish (spoken in the north). Kashubian, or Cassubian, also heard in the north, is often treated as a dialect of Polish, although it evolved as a separate West Slavic language.

Phonetics and Grammar:

Contemporary Polish has 7 vowel sounds and 35 consonant sounds, depicted by a modified Latin alphabet. Sounds that are not represented by the alphabet

CONFUSING FIRST NAMES

Most everyone is familiar with the trouble one can have researching surnames that are spelled several different ways. This could be due to phonetic spelling or carelessness. But sooner or later, you are going to come across some confusing first names. You might think Grandpa was married twice, to sisters. Wife #1 on one record was named Polly Jones and Wife #2 on another record was Mary A. Jones. But you're having trouble finding the death date of Wife #1, and the date of the second marriage. Chances are, Grandpa did NOT marry sisters. Here's why: The nickname Polly is derived from Mary. And believe it or not - the name Mary is not original either. It is the Greek or Hebrew version of the name Miriam. Mary was often considered a name too holy to be used. After the 12th century, the use of "Mary" was sanctioned for use. It then became the most common female name until about 1950. Keep this in mind as you do your research. Listed below are some common names and their nicknames:

AMELIA: Millie.

ANNE: Nancy.

CHARLOTTE: Lottie.

MARY: Molly, Polly, May, Mamie, Maria, Marie, Mariah, Marian/Marion, Marianne, Mariette, Merrie.

ELIZABETH: Bess, Eliza, Letty, Lizzie, Beth, Bessie, Libby, Betty, Betsy, Lisa, Liz and Liza.

CATHERINE/KATHERINE: Kitty, Kate, Kay, Cathy/Kathy, Cassy, Kit, Katie.

MARGARET: Daisy, Maisie, Maggie, Meg, Madge, Peggy, Marge, Margie.

SARAH: Sally, Sadie

WILHELMINA: Minnie.

BERNARD: Bernie, Ben .

EDWARD: Ned, Ted, Ed, Ward.

JOHN: Jack, Jon.

HENRY: Harry, Hank.

RICHARD: Rich, Rick, Hitch, Hick, Dick, Richie.

ROBERT: Rob, Robin, Bert, Bob.

WILLIAM: Will, Bill.

WILBUR: Will, Bill.

Other things to consider: Frances is a female, but Francis is a male, while Jean is a female and Gene is a male. Carol is the feminine, while Carroll is masculine. In addition, many Germans as well as Catholics of other nationalities often gave their children a "saint name", followed by the name they usually went by. Thus Mary Catherine may be listed as Catherine on some records, and Mary on others. Another problem is that parents often re-used a name if the child died young. Thus, you might find two Mary's or two John's in the same family.

ADVERTISING:

Rates for camera-ready ads are as follows:

Full Page (9.5" x 7" Wide): \$100.00/issue

1/2 Page (4.75" x 7" Wide): \$60.00/issue

1/3 Page (4.75" x 4.5" Wide): \$40.00/issue

1/6 Page (4.75" x 2.25" Wide): \$25.00/issue

Deadlines: March 1st, June 1st, September 1st and December 1st.

10% discount for placement in 4 consecutive issues (1 year), payable in advance. Checks should be made payable to: The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland.

Send To: Sarah Evanko, Editor, 1422 Wyandotte Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107

GENEALOGY AND THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM

Genealogical works themselves are classified in the history series and carry a "929" number or a decimal subdivision of it:

- 929 Genealogy and Heraldry
- 929.1 Genealogical tools, charts, forms, methods, etc.
- 929.2 Family History
- 929.3 Source Materials
- 929.4 Personal Names
- 929.5 Epitaphs
- 929.6 Heraldry
- 929.7 Royalty
- 929.8 Armorial Bearings
- 929.9 Flags

Under the Dewey Decimal System, a locality feature can be included with the subject (or source) feature so that certain source materials which pertain to a particular locality might be identified in the decimal number. For example, "920" in this system pertains to "Biography", but by including additional numbers, a geographical designation can also be made. The general subject and geographical designations for the "900" series follow:

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 900 | History | 950 | Asia |
| 910 | Geography, travels | 960 | Africa |
| 920 | Biography | 970 | North America |
| 930 | Ancient History | 980 | South America |
| 940 | Europe | 990 | Pacific Ocean Islands |

The above numbers may be further divided and subdivided to include a breakdown of the general geographical region. A further subdivision of North America follows:

- | | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 970 | North American | 976.7 | Arkansas |
| 971 | Canada | 976.8 | Tennessee |
| 972 | Mexico | 976.9 | Kentucky |
| 973 | United States | 977 | North Central States |
| 974 | Northeastern States | 977.1 | Ohio |
| 974.1 | Maine | 977.2 | Indiana |
| 974.2 | New Hampshire | 977.3 | Illinois |
| 974.3 | Vermont | 977.4 | Michigan |
| 974.4 | Massachusetts | 977.5 | Wisconsin |
| 974.5 | Rhode Island | 977.6 | Minnesota |
| 974.6 | Connecticut | 977.7 | Iowa |
| 974.7 | New York | 977.8 | Missouri |
| 974.8 | Pennsylvania | 977.9 | (reserved) |
| 974.9 | New Jersey | 978 | Western States |
| 975 | Southern States | 978.1 | Kansas |
| 975.1 | Delaware | 978.2 | Nebraska |
| 975.2 | Maryland | 978.3 | South Dakota |
| 975.3 | District of Columbia | 978.4 | North Dakota |
| 975.4 | West Virginia | 978.5 | (reserved) |
| 975.5 | Virginia | 978.6 | Montana |
| 975.6 | North Carolina | 978.7 | Wyoming |
| 975.7 | South Carolina | 978.8 | Colorado |
| 975.8 | Georgia | 978.9 | New Mexico |
| 975.9 | Florida | 979 | Far Western States |
| 976 | South Central States | 979.1 | Arizona |
| 976.1 | Alabama | 979.2 | Utah |
| 976.2 | Mississippi | 979.3 | Nevada |
| 976.3 | Louisiana | 979.4 | California |
| 976.4 | Texas | 979.5 | Oregon |
| 976.5 | Oklahoma | 979.6 | Idaho |
| 976.6 | (reserved) | 979.7 | Washington |

- 979.8 Alaska
- 979.9 (reserved)

A book dealing with United States History would have "973" as the first part of its book number but would also have an additional symbol to facilitate an orderly arrangement on the shelf. This symbol consists of the first letter or two of the author's last name and a number derived from a special printed list. Furthermore, if an author writes more than one book on the same subject, the books are distinguished by adding a work letter to the book number, as follows:

973
B38a Beard, Charles A.
AMERICA IN MIDPASSAGE

973
B38b Beard, Charles A.
BASIC HISTORY OF THE U.S.

Beginner's Guide To Probate Resources in the U.S. and Canada

(This is taken from a handout given at The Genealogical Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, entitled *GUIDE TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.*)

PROBATE RECORDS

DEFINITION:

Probate: the act or process by which the will of a person is proved, or the estate of a deceased person is dispersed.

GENEALOGICAL VALUE:

Probate records vary somewhat in content and form from district to district and from state to state. Probate records often give specific relationship of the heirs to the deceased. They may also give information on the present or former residence(s) of the heirs and of the deceased. Gifts of personal property mentioned in a will may provide clues to religious affiliation, military service, social status, occupation, etc. Wills may also provide the date of death, or a close approximation of it. Caution must be exercised in assuming relationships of people mentioned in the will. The wife may not be the mother of the children mentioned. Not all the children may be mentioned in it. Deceased children and those who had already received their inheritance were often excluded from the will.

Listed below are some of the records generated in the probate process and a description of their contents:

Major Records:

ADOPTION AND GUARDIANSHIP: name of the child(ren), parents, guardian(s) or foster parents; age and sex of child(ren); residences of the parties involved; inheritance(s); and guardians' bond.

BOND: name of the administrator or executor(s), bondsmen, the deceased; amount and date of bond.

CASE FILE: copy of will; inventory of estate; copies of the court order; miscellaneous letters and papers pertaining to the probate action.

DOCKET, CALENDAR or INDEX: date of court action; name(s) of executor(s) or administrator(s), and of the deceased; reference to the order book and case files.

ORDER BOOK: court order; date of order; name(s) of executor(s) or administrator(s); identification of the estate.

WILL: date of will; name of testator; name(s) and relationship(s) of heir(s) (if any); description of property and its deposition; name(s) of executor(s) and witnesses; date of probate.

ADDITIONAL TERMINOLOGY:

ADMINISTRATOR (ADMINISTRATRIX): individual appointed by the court to dispose of the estate of a person who died intestate.

CODICIL: document created by the testator to amend his/her will.

ET UXER (ER.UX.): and wife.

EXECUTOR (EXECUTRIX): person appointed by the testator and approved by the court to execute the terms of the will.

HOLOGRAPHIC WILL: will which is written, dated, and signed entirely in the testator's own hand. This type of will requires no witnesses to its signing.

INTESTATE: one who died without leaving a will.

NOTARIAL or AUTHENTIC WILL: will made by the testator before a Notary. It is retained in the Notary's file until the testator's death.

NUNCUPATIVE WILL: will given

orally in the presence of witnesses.

TESTATE: one who died leaving a will.

AVAILABILITY: Probate records are usually in the custody of the Probate Clerk in the county where the estate was probated. The Genealogical Dept. Library has microfilmed probate records for many counties, but seldom has the complete probate packets or case file. The complete probate packets may be available through personal research at the county courthouse by hiring a local researcher, or sometimes by correspondence with the probate clerk.

CANADA: Wills and probate records are registered with the various Surrogate or Probate Courts in each of the provinces. All provinces are divided into surrogate court districts, each of which is responsible for the administration of its own records. Most provinces have a central registrar for surrogate records. Local courts submit a brief notice to the central agency regarding each application for probate being processed in their offices.


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TRAVELING TO POLAND

Seen Through The Eyes of a First Time Visitor

by Sandy Prondzinski Risberg

"How would you feel about going to Poland?"

What I initially assumed was a rhetorical question landed me in the window seat on Lot flight 002 from Chicago to Warsaw in mid-July. Imagine my surprise!

Was I prepared for this?

How could I leave the office for one month? (I could, thanks to the good-will of my co-workers.) How could I leave my home for one month? (I could, thanks to my family.) Could I live out of a suitcase for one month, alone in a foreign country with virtually no knowledge of the language? (And this a country in transition – some have said economic chaos – as it attempts to escape the legacy of 40-plus years of Communist rule.) I could, I did and I would do it again.

Growing up with a Polish last name when Polish jokes were all the rage wasn't the best way to instill pride in your heritage. Still, my grandmother's stories about her immigrant parents left me with an abiding intrigue about Poland and "Polishness". So began my first journey to Poland – part adventure, part pilgrimage; my companions – curiosity, anticipation, and too much luggage. What would I find? Would I be disappointed?

My only disappointment was not having the time to visit all the places I wanted to see. Traveling inexpensively by train and bus, I was struck by the beauty of the countryside and the omnipresent flowers. The forests, lakes and rich farmland were a constant reminder of Wisconsin which made me feel right at home. Among my favorite stops were Kazimierz Dolny on the Vistula, a picturesque town that has main-

tained its medieval charm and outstanding Renaissance features; Krakow, which overwhelms one with its history, churches, Wawel, the Jagiellonian, jazz cellars, the Rynek Glowny teeming with vendors, entertainers, cafes and flower stalls, the authentic Polish arts and crafts bazaar in the Sukiennice (the old cloth halls) that delights every shopper's heart, and the sound of the trumpet from the Mariacki Church tower; Gdansk, with its magnificently rebuilt Old Town, the churches, the Solidarity monument and riverfront shops and cafes; the Oliwa Cathedral and its organ that could raise the dead on Judgement Day; Warsaw's Stare Miasto, churches and palaces; Malbork, the awesome castle of the Teutonic Knights.

My home base for three weeks was Lublin, a city of 400,000 in southeastern Poland where I attended the Summer School of Polish Language and Culture at the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL).

Germany, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Russia and other former Soviet republics. A number of participants were Westerners working in Poland for Western governments, banks and corporations. Others were hoping to do business in Poland.

Being part of this international community was a special highlight of the trip. English was the common language, and many friendships formed. Lublin quickly became "home" as we frequented shops, markets, currency exchange *kantors*, and the post office (for stamps, phones and faxes); stopped for an evening ice cream at *lody* stands on our walk back to the dorm (about 30 cents for two scoops in a large waffle cone); or ended the day with conversation and a Zywiec beer in the *barek*. The staff arranged day trips, tours, and guest speakers, including author Ryszard Kapuscinski, president of the Polish Parliament, Wieslaw Chrzanowski and film director Krzysztof Zanussi. They even

The greatest treasure . . .
was undoubtedly the people
I encountered.

Founded in 1918, KUL is the only Catholic university that existed behind the Iron Curtain, and can boast Karol Wojtyla as a faculty member prior to his election as Pope John Paul II. There were some 70 students in the summer program ranging in age from 15 to 80 years, coming from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Ireland, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, France,

hosted a bittersweet "graduation" party in Piotr's Barek on our last night in Lublin. I found the KUL program to be a wonderful introduction to experiencing Poland.

The greatest treasure of my four weeks in Poland was undoubtedly the people I encountered. I can't recall an unpleasant experience. I found people to be gracious, hos-

pitabile and solicitous. There was the rural family who shared their lunch on the train trip to Krakow; the camera shop owner who refused payment for repairing my camera; Agnieszka, Piotr, Marcin and other student counselors at KUL who translated, ran errands, chaperoned, arranged concerts, rearranged itineraries and did anything to make out stay comfortable and enjoyable; the hotel porter in Warsaw who came looking for us at 1:00 am at a sidewalk cafe to make sure we were okay and let us know that the hotel was locking the doors for the night; Krystyna and Grzegorz who welcomed me into their home; and made sure I began and ended my stay in Poland without problems.

I arrived in Poland with certain preconceptions derived mainly from Western media. I wasn't at all disappointed that those expectations turned out to be false. Poland has problems, but it is worlds ahead of Russia. Food appears plentiful in shops and from street vendors. Western consumer goods are readily available and at good prices for US dollars. Numerous shops offer high-priced consumer goods which would seem to indicate that money exists to support these shops. (We were told that the average monthly wage is the equivalent of two or three hundred US dollars.) People debate the current political and economic situation, but I never heard anyone say they wanted to return to the old ways. In the words of a taxi driver, "Life is no longer gray". (I think that's partly due to Western-style advertising that is appearing on every available space.) But the people I met do have hope; family and tradition are important. There is enduring pride in their Polish identity and history. There is a sense that they have endured worse, and they will make it through this challenge okay. I truly wish

them well.

As I said *do widzenia* to Poland from the new modern Okecie airport, I was taking with me pride in the heritage I shared with these people who had invited me into their lives and their country for a brief four weeks.

(This article was submitted by Genevieve Szuba, who now lives

in Columbus, OH. Sandy Prondzinski Risberg was her dorm roommate at the Catholic University in Lublin – Poland's summer school. Sandy works at *Gwiazda Polarna*, and is in charge of circulation for the *GP Light* newspaper in Steven's Point, Wisconsin. She wrote this article for the newspaper upon her return, and gave us permission to reprint it.)

TRAVEL TIPS FROM SANDY:

- Don't forget a pocket or purse-sized English-Polish phrase-book.
- A "Guidebook to Poland" really saves time.
- Bring a current converter that can be extended, as many receptacles are recessed.
- No electric alarm clocks, please. Even with a converter, the current burned up my digital alarm.
- I was advised to take travelers checks, but only certain banks will cash them, and charge a fee.
- Kodak Express, Fuji and Agfa 2-Hour Film developing shops are everywhere. I had most of my films developed at Kodak Express. Quality and price were good, and the photos could be shared.
- Don't overpack toiletries or supplies. Everything is available and the prices are good.
- Pepsi or Coke lovers, don't fret! Both are in ready supply, on tap, in cans, plastic and the tall, slender glass bottles that are no longer available in the States.
- I found flush toilets to be everywhere.

Tourist Literature is available from the Polish National Tourist Office.

In Chicago, phone (312) 236-9013, fax (312) 236-1125

In New York, phone (212) 338-9412, fax (212) 338-9283

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 have not been listed to date, please let the Editor know so we may include you in the next newsletter along with any new member's family surnames.

RESEARCHER'S NAME & ADDRESS:

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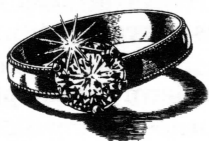
William & Connie Miller
29016 Bassett Road
Westlake, OH 44145

SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED:

Baciak, Grucza, Kaczynski, Ratajczak,
Wieczorek

Kowalczyk, Sheatzley

Januszczak, Miller, Przystas



DID YOU KNOW?

Marriage Customs In Early Poland

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Some of our members are getting delinquent in their dues. Don't know when your 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 \$20.00 to our trusty Treasurer (Chris Mata, 26450 Forestview Ave., Euclid, OH 44132), and she'll take care of it for you. Thanks!

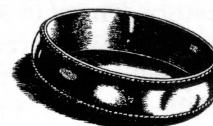
Most marriages in early Poland were arranged with the purpose of improving one's lot in life. The marriages of both sons and daughters were contracted by the father when the children were very young. Even if young people were attracted to each other, the final choice and decision was left up to their parents.

Most Poles felt that marriages were blessed by heaven and honored God. Thus, if you were unmarried, it was difficult to either obtain salvation for your soul or be happy. Most Polish villages had very few unmarried people as a result.

A Polish peasant in the Mazowsze and Podlasie areas would announce that he had a marriageable daughter by dotting the side of his house with whitewash. In the Sandomierz

and Krakow regions, the fence surrounding the house or gate was spotted. The mountain people of the Tatras used similar marks but also hung a wreath on the front door. In the Kurpie area, the front yard had flower shapes filled with sand in the front yard. In Mnichow, the windows were painted blue or had a blue circular decoration on the side of the house. In Gorna Wisloka, a sword and pistol made of tin hung on a post in front of the house to announce a marriageable young man lived there.

Congratulations to Eugene and Wanda Slusarski who celebrated their Fiftieth (50!!) wedding anniversary this past August.



- Our Family Pictures -



**JULY 7, 1913 WEDDING OF:
JOHN WOLANCZYK AND CECYLIA GRZESIK, ST. JOSAPHAT CHURCH, CLEVELAND, OH**

Back Row, L to R: John Wiciejowski, Walerjia Wolanczyk, Unknown, Unknown, Antonia Wolanczyk, Stanislaus Polinski.

Middle Row, L to R: Mary Zaucha, Joseph Zaucha, Groom, Bride, Unknown, Mary Skalska.

Front Row, L to R: Unknown Child, Henrietta Skalska, Unknown Child.

(A copy of this photo was recently donated to the Society by Sophia Wolanczyk Talkowski, niece of the Groom.)

“There are only two lasting bequests we can give our children – one is roots, the other, wings.”

Anonymous

TREASURE KEEPERS

"Please give me some bread!"

Karol had just started to eat his lunch when he heard the request. He lifted his lantern and swung it around the dark coal mine. He could only see the black walls of coal and stone, his cart and pick-axe. Nothing more.

"Now I'm hearing things," he thought. It was Karol's first day as a coal miner and other workers had sent him to the poorest shaft to dig for coal. He worked all morning and only had a bucket of coal to show for all that time. He sighed as he took a bite of his lunch.

"Please give me some bread," a small voice called.

Suddenly a fat gray mouse jumped in front of Karol, sitting up as if to beg for food.



Karol broke off a piece of his bread

and tossed it to the mouse and laughed. "For a moment I thought I heard you talking!"

The mouse munched the bread, every crumb, and asked for more.

"Sorry, that's all I have! But tomorrow I'll bring you some more."

He hardly finished talking when the mouse jumped closer, and in a flash, changed into an elf. Karol had heard of elves, but he was surprised to really see one. Everyone in Poland told stories about the Skarbnik. They lived underground and guarded the earth's treasures. Sometimes they played tricks on the miners, changing into any shape or form and popping up in the most unexpected places. They could bring good luck, too. But usually it was bad luck, and the miners always tried to avoid any nook or cranny when the Skarbnik might be hiding,

and never whistled in the mines. That irritated the Skarbnik most of all.

The little elf danced up and down in front of Karol. He was almost two-feet tall and his beard was almost as long. He wore a long pointed cap on his head and his clothes were as black as coal.

"So," he laughed, "They put you to work here."

"Yes, and so far I haven't had much luck," sighed the young miner.

"Well, I'll help you, since you shared your bread with me." And the elf pointed to a place to dig. Strangely enough, each blow of the pick-axe brought forth an avalanche of pure coal. Karol stopped to thank the elf, but all he saw was a little

mouse scurry away. Before the

day ended, Karol had filled his coal cart with ten times more coal than he was expected to collect.

The next day, the mouse appeared again.

"Please give me some bread!" Again, Karol gave him some, and when he had finished nibbling up every crumb, he jumped on the coal-cart and changed into a Skarbnik again.

"For being such a good fellow . . . I will help you every day!"

"For being such a good fellow and sharing your bread, I will help you every day! But from now on, I want a share of your

earnings, not your bread!" declared the elf. "One half for you and one half for me!"

Karol agreed, for without the elf's help, he had little success in finding coal.

All day long he chipped away at the walls of the mine, wherever the Skarbnik pointed. Chucks of coal broke off from the pick-axe blows. Again, the coal cart was filled before the day ended.

At the end of the week, he received a very large sum of money and the other miners were amazed. "What will you do with all that money?" they asked. "Let's celebrate! Come to the tavern!"

"No," said Karol, and he quietly went back into the mine, down the shaft where he had been working.

"Skarbnik, I am here," he called, as he swung his lantern around the dark shaft. He found Skarbnik sitting on a plank that had been thrown over a deep hole. The elf was sitting right in the middle.

"Come here and join me," Skarbnik called.

Karol eased himself across the plank until he was sitting next to the elf. He took a bag of coins from his pocket and began to divide the money into two equal piles on the plank. Finally, there was one coin left, and he put it in Skarbnik's pile.

"That's for you," he said, "Everything I earned was due to your help, anyway!"

Skarbnik danced up and down on the plank for joy. "Oh, I waited a long time to hear that! You're a lucky fellow."

"Why? That was our agreement."

"Yes, we agreed to share the money. But you went a little farther. You gave me the last coin. If you hadn't done that, you

(Continued next page)

would be at the bottom of this hole right now – like so many before you!” Karol was more puzzled than ever.

“I’ll tell you a little secret,” said the elf. “For a long time I’ve been looking for an honest man, with a kind heart. The miners before you were greedy and their hands trembled at the sight of money. They always took the last coin for themselves, or even worse, tried to keep it all! They perished in the hole for not keeping their promise! But you’re a good fellow. Your work will always be easy and you won’t have any accidents. Your axe will always strike coal!”

In a wink of the eye the elf changed back into a fat gray mouse and scurried off the plank into the darkness. Karol gathered up his pile of coins and went home. When he got

there, he found another pile of coins on the table – Skarbnik’s coins, waiting for him.

Every year Karol celebrates Barburka, Miner’s Day, by leaving his lunch in a small corner of a mine shaft.

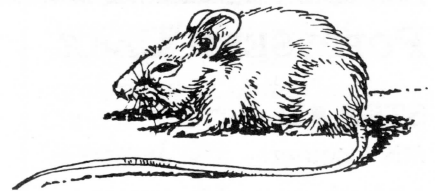
BARBURKA IS CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 4 by the entire country. It is considered one of the traditional holidays. It is also St. Barbara’s Day, and she is the patron saint of miners.

The nation takes time to honor the miners who work so hard supplying the basic necessities of life. Mining in Poland began centuries ago. Salt in Wieliczka, silver and lead in Olkusz, coal in Silesia, dolomite in Kujawa, copper in Lublin and sulfur in Tarnobrzeg. The beginnings of mining reach back to the first century B.C., when red iron ore

was extracted from the Polish soil. Following World War II, Poland became the fourth largest coal-producing nation in the world.

Many superstitions surround the mining industry, including the Skarbnik and the Pustecki, mythical figures who beat lazy miners and steal the lamps of sleeping miners.

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GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE:

You may not know that everyone has access to many different government publications through depositories in various places throughout the entire United States. To find out where the nearest depository to you is, check with your local librarian or check *The Directory of Government Document Collections & Librarians*. The publications cover the period from 1774 to the present.

Although many of us use the Federal Censuses, we’ve probably overlooked the *Mortality Schedules*, which were used before the State Bureaus of Vital Statistics began to record deaths. These mortality schedules usually list the names of persons who died, the cause of death, the age, and sometimes the name of the attending physician. Most state archives have lists for the period covering 1850-1880. In addition, the LDS Church has microfilmed the schedules for 1850, 1860 and 1870. These are available through their Family History Libraries (Such as in Westlake and Kirtland).

**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

c/o St. John Cantius Church
906 College Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POPPYSEED CAKE

STEP #1:

Mix together:

- 1# fresh ground Poppyseed
- 1 Cup sugar
- 3 Cups milk

Cook this mixture until thick, then cool.

STEP #2:

Cream together:

- 1/2# margarine
- 2 Cups sugar
- 8 eggs (one at a time)

STEP #3:

Mix together:

- 1 1/2 Cups bread crumbs
- 2 Tbs. flour
- 2 tsps. baking powder

Add this mixture to the egg mixture you prepared in Step #2. Then add the Poppyseed mixture from Step #1. Spread in a greased and floured jelly roll pan, that is at least 1" deep, and approximately 11" x 16".

Bake in a 350° oven for 45 minutes. Let cake cool before frosting.

Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 1 - 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1# powder sugar
- 1 stick of margarine
- 2 tsps. vanilla

Blend the above ingredients together, and use to frost the poppyseed cake. This cake freezes very well.

**EASY PIEROGI
(LENIWE PIEROGI)**

Joan Uniatowski

- 2 Cups Dry Cottage Cheese
- 2 Tbsp. Sugar
- 1 Cup Fine Dry Bread Crumbs
- 4 Eggs
- 2 Tbsp. Butter
- 1/4 Tsp. Salt
- 1/4 Cup Currants

Force the cottage cheese through a sieve. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix together thoroughly. Form into little balls, roll in flour and cook in salted, boiling water. They will take somewhat longer to cook than those without bread crumbs. Serve with melted butter or sour cream.

The recipe for Poppyseed Cake was given to the Editor a long time ago with no name as to who submitted it. You know who you are . . . Thanks!

If any members have a favorite recipe they would like to share, please send it to the Editor. We will include it as soon as space permits.