



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Dear Fellow Members -**

**I**t never ceases to amaze me how fast these three month periods go. I do one of these letters and it seems like it's time to do the next one - and I'm doing it at the last minute.

Genealogy work can be similar at times, especially when it comes to contacting older family members for information. Often times, for one reason or another, we put off making that contact with the result that we are too late. We all think our older parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles etc., will be around forever. Unfortunately, we know that's not the case. I know we all wish we could have had asked some now deceased relative some genealogical questions but they're gone and it's too late. Please take advantage of those that are still around. You'll not only be giving yourself pleasure, but also your future generations who will thank you (and remember you) for the

work you do now!

Springtime and better weather is coming, so try and attend the meetings. Bring a friend or relative along to share your interest.

On a sad note, please remember in your prayers our member Telesforte J. Filipski who passed away on March 1, 1995.

We are always looking for contributions and suggestions for the bulletin. If there is anything in particular you'd like to see us do in the bulletin, please don't hesitate to drop either Sarah or myself a note.

In closing, I'd like to wish you all a Happy and Holy Easter.

John F. Szuch, President

P.S. Note on your calendar that our July meeting will be one week later, on July 11th - rather than on July 4th.

*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.*

**April 4th:**

Sandra Malitz will discuss how to get your family involved in your genealogical research and how to write your own autobiography.

**May 2nd:**

To be announced.

**June 6th:**

Let's pin down where our ancestors came from in Poland and where they settled in Cleveland. Bring the information about your relative's birthplaces in Poland, and where they settled in Cleveland. Maps will be available to mark the locations in Poland and Cleveland. Let's see who our neighbors were on both sides of the ocean. This should be an interesting study in demographics. Members from out of state are welcome to submit their entries by mail. We will publish our results in one of our future newsletters.

# Welcome!

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

Joseph & Gloria Sliva - N. Ridgeville, OH

George & Francis Zeglen - Euclid, OH

Gertrude F. Derr - Tiffin, OH

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



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 3912 Behrwald Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109

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 3889 Edgepark Drive, North Olmsted, OH 44070

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: June 6th**

*Contributors for this issue: Helen Boczek, Joe Evanko,  
 Sarah Evanko, John Szuch*

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

**THREE-DAY TOUR OF HISTORIC  
 DOYLESTOWN/PHILADELPHIA:**

**NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA  
 JUNE 14-16, 1995**

The American Polish Women's Club is sponsoring a three-day tour which departs Turneytown Shopping Center about 6:00 AM on June 14th. The tour expects to return to Garfield Hgts. at approximately 10:00 PM on June 16th. The price for double occupancy, which includes two nights of rooms, transportation, seven meals and four attractions is: \$245/person. **Deadline: April 28th.**

For more information, contact:

Virginia Luty, President 237-6924  
 Joan Uniatowski, Vice President 587-1733

*In Memory*

Fellow member Telesforte J. ("T.J.") Filipski, 73, passed away on March 1, 1995 at Marymount Hospital in Garfield Hgts., OH. He had been ill with cancer and still managed to attend most of our meetings. T. J. will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Emily.

**1995 CONFERENCE OF  
 FEEFHS (FEDERATION  
 OF EAST EUROPEAN  
 FAMILY HISTORY  
 SOCIETIES) TO BE HELD  
 AUGUST 4-5 1995**

at the Middleburg Heights Holiday Inn at 7230 Engle Rd., Middleburg Hgts., OH. This annual conference on East European genealogy will include speakers on all the major East and Central European ethnic and religious groups: Germans, Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Solvenes, Rusyns, Jews, Lithuanians, etc.

Thomas Edlund of the LDS Library, Salt Lake City, will speak on the library's holdings for several East European groups. John Grabowski of the Western Reserve Historical Society will present an illustrated luncheon lecture on ethnic neighborhoods in Cleveland. Czech, Slovak, Bohemian German, and Hungarian genealogy will be the topic of two talks by Duncan Gardiner.

The program will include up to thirty sessions presented by fourteen (14) speakers from all over the United States. **For more information, contact:**

**Duncan Gardiner, FEEFHS  
 P. O. Box 501  
 1380 West 117th Street  
 Lakewood, OH 44107**

# ERROR IN PULASKI'S BIRTHDAY UNCOVERED

by Sarah Evanko

**G**en. Casimir Pulaski, a Polish count who fought in the American Revolution, could have had his pick of two birthdays for many years. Either March 4, 1747 or 1748. No one seemed to really know which it was. Half of the things you would read would state he was born in 1747, and the rest stated 1748. Everyone agreed on March 4th, they just couldn't agree on which year.



PGS of GC President John F. Szuch placed a wreath at the Pulaski Memorial next to Cleveland City Hall on March 4, 1995.

Our Society's President, John F. Szuch has spent most of his life collecting Pulaski memorabilia and is planning on using his material to publish a pictorial book to coincide with Pulaski's 250th birthday. He wrote to Wociecz Pietrzak, director of the Pulaski Museum in Warka, the general's hometown just south of Warsaw, and asked which date the museum accepts as his birthday. The answer however, was neither; it was 1745. Pietrzak went on to explain that the

museum's researchers had found Pulaski's birth certificate at the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw, listing the names of the priest who baptized him, his father and several witnesses. He also noted that the 1747 date was published by a Polish historian and it was then used as a reference by later writers.

Needless to say, John was quite surprised. He thought he had 2 or 3 years yet to finish his book, and all of a sudden . . .

On March 4, 1994, John placed a wreath with the small banner "1745 Pulaski" at the Pulaski Memorial next to Cleveland City Hall.

John's book will contain photos of the various Pulaski monuments all over the country, and some 20-30 townships and communities that were named for the General. One photo sure to stand out is of the Pulaski statue in Utica, NY. They have a full figure standing monument of him, with the dates 1745-1779. John always thought it was funny that they seemed to be completely off compared to everyone else. But by either design or accident, they are probably the only ones who are accurate.

Mark Kohan, editor of the Polish American Journal in Buffalo, NY, plans to publish a story on the documentation. "I'll throw it out in the middle of the pond and see which way the ripples go," said Kohan. "I sure hope it's not a typo."

John is seeking information on statues, plaques, paintings, clubs, etc. honoring Casimir Pulaski from any part of the country. He is also interested in pins, medals, prints or anything else that depicts Pulaski. These items and information will be used in his forthcoming pictorial book on Pulaski. His address is:

John F. Szuch  
105 Pleasant View Dr.  
Seville, OH 44273-9507  
(216) 769-4603



## Poles face monetary revolution - swap old zloty notes for new coins

As of January 1, 1995, shop clerks and bank cashiers were taking quick glances at conversion sheets to figure out how the shiny new zloty coins will replace the old bills that have been battered by inflation.

As recently as December 1994 the exchange rate was about 23,000 zlotys to the dollar. Thus, you only needed about \$46 in your wallet to qualify as a zloty millionaire. The use of one and two-million zloty bills was confusing to both Poles and Americans alike however. Pocket calculators did not have enough zeros to calculate routine transactions, and errors abounded by trying to mentally calculate such multi-digit figures.

To simplify bookkeeping and banking operations, the National Bank of Poland issued a new currency on January 1st at an exchange rate of one (1) new zloty for 10,000 old ones. Within hours cashiers' hands were blackened from counting endless numbers of coins. They were promised counting machines, but until they arrive,

cashiers will have to do the counting manually.

Shaving four (4) zeros off the currency is the price of years of inflation under an inefficient Communist system and during the transition to a market economy. Inflation hit a peak of 1,183% between February 1989 and February 1990 before economic reforms were introduced.

Under the new system, the highest denomination will be 200 zloty notes, to be introduced later this year. One dollar is equivalent to 2.43 new zlotys or 24,300 old zlotys. The average monthly wage will be between 500 and 600 zlotys, instead of the 5 to 6 million in the past.

The old bills will remain legal tender until the end of 1996, but most Poles seem eager to use the new coins. The new currency will circulate in the form of five (5) different bank notes and nine (9) coin denominations. In line with the approach used by most Western European countries, paper bills will all have relatively high denominations, with the lowest one - 10 zloty - being equivalent

to about four (4) U.S. dollars at the current exchange rate.

After World War I, Poles needed a suitcase full of nearly worthless Polish marks to do their shopping. But in 1924, finance minister Wladyslaw Grabski introduced a currency reform that created a strong zloty, which ranked among Europe's most stable currencies. Whether the current redenomination plan is similarly successful remains to be seen.

At any rate, if you are one of those American tourists who took \$50 to Poland and enjoyed being a millionaire for a few days, you may find a repeat of the experience out of reach. To be a millionaire in Poland next summer, you will have to bring \$250,000 pocket money.

*(Information for this article came from two sources: GP Light in Stevens Point, WI, Dec. 1994 - Robert Strybel, reporter; The Cleveland Plain Dealer and The Associated Press, 1/3/94 - Monika Scislowska, reporter.)*

	Old Zlotys	New Zlotys	US Dollars
Average monthly wage	5,600,000 zl	560. zl	\$224.00
Purchase of one-room apartment	450,000,000 zl	45,000. zl	\$18,000.00
Cheapest subcompact car	80,000,000 zl	8,000. zl	\$3,200.00
Large home refrigerator	10,000,000 zl	1,000. zl	\$400.00
Tooth filled by dentist	400,000 zl	40. zl	\$16.00
Pint of Polish vodka	80,000 zl	8. zl	\$3.20
17-oz. bottle of beer	15,000 zl	1.5 zl	\$0.60
12-inch pizza	80,000 zl	8. zl	\$3.20
Cheap meal in low-cost diner	25,000 zl	2.5 zl	\$1.00
Good meal in medium-priced restaurant	250,000 zl	25. zl	\$10.00
Tube of toothpaste	20,000 zl	2. zl	\$0.80
Snickers candy bar	10,000 zl	1. zl	\$0.40
City bus fare	6,000 zl	6. groszy	\$0.24
Daily newspaper	5,000 zl	50. groszy	\$0.20



## *Once upon a time . . .*

*I*n 1894, a boy was born in Dobrynia, Poland. Four years later, in 1898, a girl was born in the United States of America in Fremont, Ohio.

When he grew up, the boy came to Ohio as an immigrant in 1913. He met the girl from Fremont, fell in love and married her. The law at that time stripped her of her citizenship because she had married an alien. Now they were both aliens.

Years passed, and in 1922 the man applied for citizenship. He

became an American in 1927. Now the lady, who was born in America, was still an alien; while her husband, born an alien, was now an American. This could only happen in America! She had to go to court and become repatriated to regain her citizenship.

This actually occurred to my great-uncle and aunt (John and Gertrude Klimkiewicz) who were long-time residents of the St. John Cantius neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio.

*Joe Evanko*

### **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

# 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.

**RESEARCHER'S NAME & ADDRESS:**

**SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED:**

Joseph & Gloria Sliva  
P.O. Box 39446  
N. Ridgeville., OH 44039

Sliva, Sliwa

George & Francis Zeglen  
1546 E. 256th Street  
Euclid, OH 44132

Lukasz, Wojnar, Zeglen

Gertrude F. Derr  
60 N. State Route 101, #45  
Tiffin, OH 44883

Wisniewski, Swiatynowska, Swiontomowska

## YOU ARE SOMEONE SPECIAL

Birthdate	Number of generations	Ancestors
1975	0	1 YOU
1950	1	2 Parents
1925	2	4 Grandparents
1900	3	8 Great grandparents
1875	4	16 Great-great
1850	5	32 Great-great-great
1825	6	64
1800	7	128
1775	8	256
1750	9	512
1725	10	1024
1700	11	2028
	12	4096
	13	8192
	14	16,384
1600	15	32,768
	16	65,536
	17	131,072
	18	262,144
1500	19	524,288
	20	1,048,576
	21	2,097,152
	22	4,194,304
1400	23	8,388,608
1300	27	134,217,728
1200	33	8,589,934,592
1100	37	137,438,953,500
1000	43	8,796,093,022,000

### Are you late?

Are YOUR dues delinquent ?  
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 Treasurer (Richarda Jambrozy, 1492 Lewis Dr., Lakewood, OH 44107), and she'll take care of it for you. Thanks!

### PageCrafters



Publishing Solutions For:

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For More Information, Contact:

*Sarah L. Evanko*  
1422 Wyandotte Ave.  
Lakewood, OH 44107

(216) 221-4040



# Did You Know?

## 1994 Family History Library Catalog Available:

If you have a microfiche machine, this Catalog from the LDS Church is now available to the public on microfiche. To order, obtain Form 31874 from:

Family History Department  
Attn: Microform Sales Unit  
50 East North Temple St.  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

A new booklet, *Using the Family History Library Catalog™* teaches about both the FamilySearch© and microfiche compact disc editions of the catalog. The instructions can be ordered for \$.75 from the Salt Lake Distribution Center (Item 30966).

## U.S. Passport Records:

The Family History Library now has more than 2,150 microfilms of United States passport records from the National Archives and Department of State. These records are travel documents "attesting to the citizenship and identity of the bearer."

The first extant passport given to an individual is dated July 1796. Passports generally became more popular in the late 1840's. Until the outbreak of WW I in 1914, U.S. citizens were generally allowed to travel abroad without passports. After that, people from all walks of life used passports. The applications may contain information about the applicant's family status, birth date and place, residence, naturalization (if born in another country), and other biographical information. 20th century applications often include marriage and family information as well as dates, places and names of ships used. Each series is arranged chronologically. To find a particular applica-

tion, use the registers and indexes to identify the application date and number (where applicable).

## Records Available:

The microfilmed passport records, registers and indexes are at the LDS Family History Center. These are arranged in sets and listed in the Locality section of the catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Applications for 1925 and later can be obtained from:

Passport Office  
Department of State  
1425 K Street  
Washington D.C. 20520

(Excerpted from the Polish Genealogical Society of America Winter 1994/95 Bulletin and from the *News of the Family History Library*, Salt Lake City, Utah, Summer 1994.)

## Polish Museum of America Library Research Service

The PMA library has added items to their limited research service. The search fee is only for determining if the records are available for reproduction. The search categories are as follows:

1. Search for an individual name from the following sources: \$5.00. (Give surname variations, date of death and where from)

*Dziennik Chicagoski*, Obituary Index 1890-1953  
PRCUA Insurance Records Index 1887-1936  
Chicago Area Polish Telephone Directory 1934-1940  
Haller's Army Records Index

2. Search for a Polish town, village or parish location: \$5.00 (Give county, province, or nearest large town or city)  
Location (copy of map of coordinates)  
Description of town or village (in Polish)  
Information on parishes in Poland
3. Search for information on an individual surname: \$5.00  
Origin or meaning  
Frequency and distribution in current Poland  
Listing from current Polish telephone directories  
(Give town and province)

If records are found, you will be notified of the photocopying cost. Many of the records are in Polish. The cost is based on the time that is required to locate and duplicate the records. Please send requests to:

Librarian  
Polish Museum of America Library  
984 N. Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60622



# SAINT STANISLAW

Long, long ago when Prince Boleslaw ruled the land, the pope named Stanislaw of Szczepanow as Bishop of Krakow had led the people of Krakow, teaching, praying, and helping them, and people loved him very much. When he was appointed Bishop, a man named Piotrowin sold his estate to the diocese of Krakow, and Stanislaw acted as his agent. When the gentleman died, his family complained that the Bishop never paid for the property. The case was taken to the King, where Stanislaw declared that he had paid the man, but had no written proof.

"Well," said Boleslaw, "How are we to settle the matter?"

"Give me three days and I will bring you proof," begged the Bishop.

When it was granted, he and a group of clergy went to the place where Piotrowin was buried and prayed at his grave. Then, standing before it he called out to the dead man, "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, come forth." The dead man rose from the grave and stood before them.

"Come," beckoned the Bishop. And he led the dead man to the King.

"Tell him," the Bishop simply said.

And Piotrowin solemnly declared he had been paid in full for his property by the Bishop. So the matter was settled, and Stanislaw became even more beloved by the people.

Bishop Stanislaw continued to preach the laws of the church, urging men to be brothers. The King, on the other hand, demanded loyalty from his subjects, but cared little for their welfare. No amount of urg-

ing could get the King to change his ways. The Bishop continued to be a thorn in Boleslaw's side, and soon he ordered his priests to stop saying the divine office if the King entered the church.

Boleslaw was so furious at this insult, he decided something had to be done. On May 8, 1079, he confronted the Bishop



The King then drew his sword and murdered the saint himself, chopping his body into pieces.

on the steps of the "Skala" church, in the outskirts of Krakow. He ordered his guards

to kill him, but they were afraid to hurt the saintly man. The King then drew his sword and murdered the saint himself, chopping his body into pieces. But a divine light shone down on the scene and restored his body to a whole again.

Amidst much mourning for the holy man, Bishop Stanislaw was buried in the chapel of the church.

Boleslaw was so hated for his act against the saintly man that he was forced into exile shortly after the murder, and died two years later.

**THE MARTYRDOM OF Stanislaw** is observed on the national feast day, May 8th. He is revered as the Patron Saint of Poland, being the first Polish saint. A second feast day is celebrated in the Krakow area on September 27, to commemorate the transfer of his body from the chapel to the Cathedral crypt in Wawel castle.

A generation late, during canonization, it was recorded: "Just as the power of God reunited the holy remains of the martyred Stanislaw to a whole, so in the future it will restore the divided kingdom of Poland to its former unity."

Generally, it is accepted that Saint Stanislaw has become a symbol; of the Church's independence from the nation. This independence from the ruling powers of the land remain as strong today as it was a thousand years ago.

(Reprinted with the permission of Panagraphics, Inc./ Polish American Journal and Florence Waszkelewicz-Clowes. Art work by Daniel Haskin. From "Polish Folk Legends")



# GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SERVICES IN POLAND

*Helen Boczek passes along this information she received from the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. The Embassy's address is: 2640 16th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009 (202) 234-3800*

"Piaŝt" Genealogical Research Centre offers two kinds of services - library and archival investigations. The library search query gets its information from published sources and genealogical elaborations concerning families, who bear particular names. The results are usually quite substantial, containing a packet of xerox copies with quite a bit of information concerning the family name requested. Archival investigations are more specific, obtaining information concerning particular, direct ancestors of the applying person and will allow you to compose a family tree.

## LIBRARY SEARCH:

1. First Stage: This is centered on the 10 most meaningful genealogical elaborations (these comprise 18 different family registers) and enables the researcher to determine whether they contain information about a particular family name. The results of this investigation and a bibliographic specification of all the publications used amounts to \$15 USD.

2. Second Stage: This constitutes a continuation of investigations from the First Stage and is grounded on 30 further elaborations (these comprise 35 registers in alphabetical order). Cost of investigations and bibliography amounts to \$35 USD.

If the results of the library investigations prove to be positive, they send, on request, a packet of xerox copies of all the elaborations which contain information about a family of a

particular name. They are packed together with a bibliography, provided in a cloth-binding and with a gilded name of the family on the cover. The price of the packet depends on its contents and amounts to: \$30 USD up to 5 pgs. (+8 pgs. of bibliography and front pgs.) \$50 USD up to 10 pgs. (+8 pgs. of bibliography and front pgs.) \$80 USD up to 20 pgs. (+8 pgs. of bibliography and front pgs.) \$20 USD for every 10 additional pgs. (front pgs. are free). The library investigations take 1-3 months.

## ARCHIVAL INVESTIGATIONS:

The archival investigations are centered on manuscript register resources and require highly qualified experts. A visit to the register office (parish, diocesan, the State Record Office or the Registry) is usually necessary. This is the only way to retrieve detailed genealogical information about the family and about your direct ancestors.

Investigations are started from examination of an indicated person, whose EXACT PLACE and approximate date of birth, marriage or death are known. Charges for this work which includes fares, hotel fees, investigations, drawing up of proceedings, etc., amounts to \$10 USD for each hour. The charge for every extract of a register document (namely - birth, wedding or death certificate) amounts to \$8 USD. The investigations start after receipt of an initial payment of \$50 USD. The payment includes examination of archival resources and a statement of which register sources have been used for the matter in question. A possible negative result has no effect on the initial fee.

The first stage of investigations takes about 5 to 15 hours.

Results can range from 0 to as many as 12 or so families. NOTE: These archival investigations are made in register offices located in the territory of Poland (some of the register offices keep their certificates in respect to former Eastern Borderlands, especially the present Ukraine and Byelorussia). These investigations take from 2 to 8 months.

## Other Services:

- You can order a colored picture of armorial bearings.
- New and antiquarian books on genealogy and heraldry may also be ordered.

Services can also be ordered in either Polish or English. (English for 1st stage is \$20 rather than \$15, and for the 2nd stage, it is \$45 rather than \$35. Apparently the earlier quoted prices were for replies in Polish)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THESE SERVICES, WRITE TO:

Genealogical Research Centre  
"Piaŝt" (Osrodek Badan Genealogicznych "PIAST")  
ul. Podchorzycznych 89  
P. O. Box 9  
00-957 Warszawa 36  
Poland

tel. 4822/410-234

The Polish Embassy also included the address for the MAIN NATIONAL ARCHIVES. It is:

Main National Archives  
(Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych)  
Prof. Jerry Skowronek, Director  
ul. Długa 6  
00-950 Warszawa

tel. 4822/313-206  
fax. 4822/317-563



## - Our Family Pictures -



Taken in Dobrynia, Poland (Galicia) in approximately 1918-1919, shortly before **Marya Klimkiewicz**, grandmother of Joseph Evanko (back row, left) left in 1920 to immigrate to the United States. Seated are Marya's parents (Joe's great-grandparents): **Katrazyna (nee Sroka) and Jakub Klimkiewicz**. (Brothers are Eugene and Paul, although it is unknown which is which. Sister's name is unknown.)

*NOTE: Marya was the sister of John Klimkiewicz, featured in "Once upon a time" on page 5. He had already left Poland when this picture was taken, and sponsored her so she could come to the United States.*

# NEIGHBORS & NUMBERS

by Joe Evanko

**G**enealogy . . . a hobby, a job, an adventure, fun, frustrating, or all of the above? If you are like me and decided to seek your family roots years after the last immigrant relative passed away, welcome to "all of the above"!

I come from a large Polish family with all immigration roots in Cleveland, Ohio. Since I live in Cleveland, and have countless resources available here, my hunt should be easy. I have cousins throughout the area; 1st and 2nd cousins as well as those "removed" ones. So with all these relatives and resources, why am I having such a hard time putting the family history together? Prior to my curiosity, no relative ever wanted to take on this task. Now I have an uncle and two cousins "hooked" on genealogy. The rest of the family thinks we're either crazy or are enthused as long as we do all the work. Well, I accept the challenge!

I have accumulated mountains of paper over the past five years. From birth and death certificates, to immigration papers, to marriage papers, they are all piling up. I've gone from a 100 piece puzzle to a 1,000 piece puzzle. I even entered the computer age and have invested in a genealogy program. Now it is time to put the puzzle together, except that I'm missing some crucial pieces. I've decided to start with the information I retrieved from the Cleveland City Directories. Yes, I'm using the pre-phone age "phone books".

There is a lot of information in these countless pages, but you have to look closely, and over and over again. One plus is that everybody is already in

alphabetical order. That had to be a lot of work for someone back then!

I started in the earliest books I could find, 1893-1910. I looked up every possible last name and wrote down the information. It took me almost two years to realize I could use the copy machine! (No ethnic joke implied)

After gathering all this info, I've sat back and studied it over and over. I compared addresses found that they told a story. You can see where the new immigrants moved to when they arrived in Cleveland. Most commonly they moved in with a relative, or next door, or upstairs – in most cases, near someone close. You can see how marriages came to be. From the girl next door, to the neighbor's cousin or sister-in-law; you can start putting ties together. Start comparing addresses on marriage licenses or naturalization petitions. You can almost figure out who introduced who to who. Even check the addresses of naturalization witnesses – they are usually neighbors, relatives, or co-workers. In most cases, the directories list occupations and in some cases, the employer.

This is what I discovered about my family via the city directories. I found the only printed proof that my great-grandfather came to America and lived here for one year in 1904. Was he checking out the "New World" before he allowed his children to immigrate? He returned to Poland and never came back. But my great-uncle came over in 1913 and in return, sent for his sister (my grandmother) in 1920.

My grandfather was residing with an uncle at the time,

who just happened to be a neighbor of my grandmother's uncle. Coincidence? If not, my grandmother's cousin lived next door to the two men who signed as witnesses on my grandfather's naturalization papers. Also, both grandparents went to the same church, St. John Cantius. All in all, they had plenty of places to bring them together.

Ironically, my mother, who is of German descent, had ancestors who immigrated to Cleveland and lived on the same streets as my Dad's ancestors. And this was years before my parents were born! Yes, it's a small world after all.

In the process of doing all this, I've linked up with many cousins. If they lived together and had the same last names, they must be related somehow – right? Other resources will tie the pieces together eventually.

Cleveland City Directory collections can be found at the Cuyahoga County Archives, the LDS Family History Centers, Western Reserve Historical Society and several city libraries. Fortunately, my local library in Lakewood has a large collection and I've spent many hours tying my family together there.

There are many resources for genealogy research in Cleveland. The City Directories are just one of them. If your ancestors resided here from 1890 to the 1960's, these directories could be valuable to you.

One last note: In 1905 the city of Cleveland changed many of the street names to numbered streets and/or new names. Therefore, a change of address in 1905-06 does NOT necessarily mean your ancestor moved.



**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

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



1/96  
EDWARD MENDYKA  
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## National Archives News

The National Archives is now beginning the second year of what's believed to be the biggest archival move in history, transferring massive amounts of files from its main building in Washington, D.C. to its new building in College Park, Maryland (Archives II). Most records used by genealogists will remain in the main building. Census, pre-World War I military, immigration, naturalization and Bureau of Indian Affairs records are among those remaining downtown.

Depending upon your research needs, Archives II may contain records of interest to you. Aerial photographs, still photographs and maps of the United States and foreign countries are now at Archives II. Record Group 77 includes 1:50,000 scale maps of Europe (and elsewhere) made by the Army Map Service in the 1950's. These maps show small villages and other details not found on most commercially-available maps. Aerial photographs dating to the late 1930's may show the family farm and surrounding countryside as it once was.

For more information about these records contact:

Cartographic and Architectural  
Branch (NNSC)  
National Archives at College  
Park  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

(Excerpted from "The National Archives and Genealogical Research" by Claire Prechtel-Klusgens in "The Record, News from the National Archives and Records Administration", November 1944)

NOTE: Tours of the new Archives II facility are given on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Advance reservations may be made by calling the Volunteer Tour Office of the National Archives at (202) 501-5205. Behind-the-scenes tours of the main building in Washington are available Monday through Friday at 10:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. by calling the same number. (Excerpted from *Line Upon Line*, the newsletter of the Genealogy Club of the Montgomery County Historical Society, February 1995)

### Are You Interested in a Nobility & Heraldry Publication?

The Polish Genealogical Society of America mentioned in their November 1994 newsletter *Rodziny*, that they'd had quite a few requests for a separate periodical devoted to Polish nobility and heraldry. They responded that they would publish a separate periodical on heraldry and nobility if they heard from at least 200 people willing to pay an extra \$15.00 a year, over and above the cost of a PGSA membership. So far, the response has been less than overwhelming. But it's not too late, if this interests you. Mail a note with your address to:

William F. Hoffman  
60 Old Northville Rd.  
New Milford, CT 06776-2245

You can also send E-mail to:  
wfhpffmanct@delphi.com  
(or, on Prodigy, to MDPF98A).