



# Our Polish ANCESTORS

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
 JANUARY/MARCH 1996 - VOL. 4, No. 1 906 COLLEGE AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113

## Early Families in Cleveland Celebrate Cleveland's Bi-Centennial

**T**ake a few minutes to see if you can qualify for an Early Families in Cleveland (EFIC) certificate.

No, you don't have to have an ancestor who landed with Moses Cleaveland or shortly thereafter.

This program is designed to honor descendants of those early settlers of each ethnic group who arrived here no later than ten years after the formation of each ethnic group's earliest organization (e.g., religious body or mutual benefit society) in the Cuyahoga County area.

To qualify for membership in Early Families in Cleveland, your earliest local ancestor must have moved to Cuyahoga County no later than December 31 of the year established for the ethnic group of which your ancestor was a member.

Some examples of group arrivals are:

Germans	1843
English	1826
Irish	1850
Czechs	1872
Italians	1897
Poles	1883
Scots	1856
Hungarians	1862
Slovenes	1900
Chinese	1920
Slovaks	1895
Austrians	1899
Belorussians	1923
Carpatho-Rusyns (Little Russians, Galicians, Byzantines, Rusins)	1911
Romanians	1912

...and many, many more.

To obtain an Application Packet, send your request to:

Early Families in Cleveland Board,  
 Western Reserve Historical Society  
 Genealogical Committee  
 10825 East Boulevard  
 Cleveland, OH 44106

Applicants have two choices for receipt of the EFIC certificate. It can be presented at either the Family History Fair at WRHS on May 4-5, 1996, or WRHS Family Day on November 29, 1996. The certificate will be mailed to applicants who are unable to attend either of these affairs. The deadlines for submission of your materials are March 15, 1996, if you desire presentation at the Family History Fair, and October 15, 1996, if you want the certificate to be presented on WRHS Family Day. No applications postmarked later than October 15, 1996, will be accepted. The application fee is \$5.00. More than one ancestor may be submitted without increasing this fee, however, a separate descendency chart and application form is required for each ancestor.

Information used to obtain membership in this Early Families in Cleveland program will become the property of the Western Reserve Historical Society and will become a part of their permanent files. This information will be indexed using the name of the member and the ancestor(s). Both the index and the material submitted will be available to the public. If you qualify, here's a chance to help other genealogists.



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.

### January 2nd:

We will be showing a video on the Polish neighborhoods of Cleveland. In addition, Ben Kman is offering to research a telephone listing CD of the U.S. for members before the February meeting. Bring 1 surname you would like researched. If you are unable to attend this meeting, send your surname to Ben Kman. Include a SSAE envelope if you aren't going to be at the February meeting either. (see inside front cover for address.)

### February 6th:

We're going to have a letter writing party to people in the U.S. with the same surname as one we're researching. Come receive your listing from Ben (see January's meeting's details) We'll address and stamp the letters, and get them in the next day's mail.

### March 5th:

To be announced. We will also share our results from last month's letter writing campaign.

**"OUR POLISH ANCESTORS"**  
*is published by*  
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**OF GREATER CLEVELAND**



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**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: March 5th**

*Contributors for this issue: Laura Brandt, Sarah Evanko, Ralph Lysyk, Pat Schmidt, Lynn Vizdos*

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



**Dear Friends -**

I say it every year and I'll say it again; make plans to attend the Christmas party in December! Those of you who missed this year's party missed a real Polish feast! My sincerest thanks to everyone who contributed their help by either preparing food, serving it, or cleaning up afterwards. The foods were delicious and the pastries were to die for. Fortunately for us, when Fr. Ciolek said grace, he blessed the calories out of the pastries (don't we wish).

Prior to our Christmas party we had a brief business meeting in which after a "hotly" contested and bitterly fought election; the entire slate of current officers were unanimously re-elected. The truth be known, we ran unopposed. Either nobody wanted the jobs or you like us - I hope it's the latter.

A correction from my last letter, it should have read "a date with "Genie" for genealogical work.

In closing, I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Your President,

*John F. Szuch*

A warm *Welcome!* to our new members. They are:

Richard & Lucy Belill - Birch Run, MI  
 Thomas & Susan Ollie - Lakewood, OH  
 Mary Kay Moraski - Novelty, OH



**1996 Officers:** Lynn Vizdos, Secretary; Ben Kman, Vice-President; Richarda Jambrozy, Treasurer; John F. Szuch, President

**???**

**Did You Know...**

This issue (and all prior editions) of "Our Polish Ancestors" is designed to fit into a 3-ring binder. Just use a 3-hole punch (available at Office Max, Discount Drug Mart, etc. for approximately \$6) and insert in a notebook-type binder. Be assured that none of the type will be "eaten" by the punch. You will then have your issues organized and available for ready reference in the future, instead of "missing" somewhere in your house.

# Where to Write for Canadian Vital Statistics:

## PROVINCIAL OFFICES:

New Brunswick  
Registrar General  
Dept. of Health (Vital Statistics)  
P. O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B, 5H1

Nova Scotia  
Registrar General  
P. O. Box 157  
Halifax, NS  
B3J, 2M9

Newfoundland/Labrador  
Vital Statistics Div., Dept. of Health  
Confederation Bldg.  
St. John's, NF  
A1B, 4J6

Prince Edward Island  
Div. of Vital Statistics, Dept. of  
Health  
Box 3000  
Charlottetown, PE  
G1K, C1A 7P1

Quebec  
Gouvernement de Quebec, Ministere  
de la Justice  
Registre de Reference  
300, Boulevard Jean-Lesage, Rc. 20  
Quebec City, PQ  
G1K 8K6

Ontario  
The Office of the Registrar General  
P. O. Box 4600  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7B 6L8

(NOTE: In August of 1991, the following Ontario Vital Records were transferred to the Archives of Ontario, 77 Grenville St., Toronto, ON M7A 1C7: Births 1869-1895, marriages 1869-1910, deaths 1869-1920. Subsequent transfers of later registrations will occur at later dates. Other records are still in the custody of the Registrar General.)

Manitoba  
The Manitoba Office of Vital  
Statistics  
254 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B6

Saskatchewan  
Office of Vital Statistics, Dept. of  
Public Health  
3211 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 0A6

Alberta  
Social Services & Community  
Health, Vital Statistics  
10130-112 Street  
Edmonton, AB  
T5K 2K4

British Columbia  
Dept. of Vital Statistics  
800 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6Z 2C5



Richarda Jambrozy serves up the many varied dishes to a hungry group.



The Polish Peddler (Virginia Luty) showing her wares at the annual Christmas Party.



# Poland's Christmas Traditions

by Joan Bersie

**M**y mother, born in Limanowa, Poland, and the oldest of seven children, fondly remembers Christmas as a time she and her family celebrated the "Reason for the Season", the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth. The commercialization of Christmas as we know it today was unheard of in her poor farming village outside Krakow. Mom has shared many of Poland's Christmas traditions with me and I will share them with you.

Christmas and the Epiphany is a season abundant in ritual and tradition in Poland. The celebration begins at dusk, December 24, with the appearance of the first star of the evening. This is a signal for the family to gather for prayer and the traditional "Wigilia", the Christmas Eve supper. The Wigilia begins with the breaking and sharing of the opiatek (blessed wafer). The father, as head of the family, breaks the opiatek first with the mother of the household and then with the rest of the family. Every family member has a turn at breaking the opiatek with another while expressing love and wishes for health, happiness and success for the coming year.

The evening's feast table is covered with a thin layer of hay in remembrance of the manger where Jesus lay. Over this, a white tablecloth is placed symbolizing Jesus' swaddling clothes. A place is set for each person of the household and one extra, which is reserved for Christ or a stranger to share the feast. "A guest in the home is God in the home" is a Polish saying. A candle, placed in the window, is a

guide to Jesus as the Star of Bethlehem was a guide to the Wise Men.

The dinner, a meatless one in keeping with Advent, is served. An uneven number of dishes is prepared and offered. The number must be uneven to ensure good luck and good health in the household during the coming year. It is a tradition for everyone at the table to taste a bit of everything served and to leave nothing uneaten on one's plate.

After the feast, "Koledy", Polish Christmas carols, are sung and gifts are shared. At midnight all attend the "Pasterka," the mid-

night Christmas Mass, which recalls the shepherds who heard the angels and came at night to find the Christ Child.

Although Christmas and the Epiphany are a special time for Polish families, the children are more interested in December 6, which is St. Nicholas's day to arrive with gifts for the children. There is no Santa Claus in Poland, but St. Nicholas brought the same excitement to Mom and her siblings as Santa does for children today. Mom smiles when she recalls the morning she awoke to find her father (aka St. Nicholas) quietly placing candy under her pillow. Some things are the same regardless of tradition or nationality.

These Christmas traditions in Poland are as strong today as they were when Mom was a child. Through all the poverty of 50 years of communist rule, Poles have never lost sight of their faith. The 95 percent Roman Catholic Poles openly and defiantly practiced the "Reason for the Season", not only at Christmas, but all year through.



*Polish American Congress Appeals . . .*

## Call or Write the White House Today!

The Polish American Congress (known as PAC) is asking all Polish-Americans to send a message to President Clinton that he do all he can in his power, should he be reelected, to ensure that Poland be admitted to NATO before the end of his second term, i.e., the year 2000.

PAC is expressing deep concern over his Administration's failure to support NATO membership for Poland and other nations of East Central Europe.

Letters to President Clinton regarding NATO membership for Poland should be addressed to:

**The President, The White House, Washington, DC 20500.** You may also call **The White House Message Center at (202) 456-1111.** Those with access to email may send their message to The White House at:

**president@whitehouse.gov**

There is also a **Western Union Hotline at: 1-800-651-8274.** The cost of this Western Union Mailgram to the White House is \$7.00 and can be billed to your VISA or MasterCard or to your telephone number.

(from *Polish American Journal*, Vol. 84, No. 12, December 1995)

## Ben Franklin Says:

*"God helps them that help themselves."*

*"Half the Truth is often a great Lie."*

*"What signifies knowing the Names, if you do not know the Nature of Things."*

and though not said by Franklin, we can still enjoy the following . . .

*"It must be true. I seen it in print."  
- Favorite Proverb of Morons -*



# Special Foods for Your Easter Celebration

The following foods and other items listed, in addition to Easter eggs, often compose the main menu for an Easter celebration. Here's what they mean:

**Paschal Lamb:** May be made of butter, baked dough or cast plaster. It is the center of the symbolic foods and the centerpiece of the table. The lamb is central to the Exodus experience of the ancient Israelites, of whom we are spiritual descendants.

**Kielbasa, Ham, Pork:** All of these three types of pork were expressly forbidden under the former dietary code of the covenant encribed in the Old Testament (Levi 11:7). Since Christ came to fulfill and exceed the law, the old needs to make room for the

new. Thus, these heretofore forbidden items are now acceptable by Divine permission (St. Mark 7:19). They are part of the bounteous meal on Easter Day, a day of Divine fulfillment. The pig is also an ancient symbol of prosperity.

**Vinegar:** Reminds us of the gall (sour wine) that was given to Christ as He hung on the cross.

**Wine:** Wine reminds us of the blood of sacrifice which Christ spilled for us on Calvary.

**Horseradish/Pepper:** The bitter herbs of Passover and the Exodus, signifying first: the bitterness of spiritual exile; second, the bitterness of the sufferings of Christ; and third, a reflection on our human sufferings, reminding us that we must bear our cross, even as our

Lord bore His cross for mankind.

**Salt:** The most fundamental of all spices and preservatives. Salt reminds us, as the result of our Holy Baptism, that we are the "salt of the earth". Throughout history, salt was used as a medium of exchange and barter in trade. "Worth his salt" derives from the practice of paying soldiers and others in salt, as currency.

**Bread or Babka:** This is a round loaf of bread, topped with a frosting cross. It symbolizes the bread of the Eucharistic Meal.

*(from "The Signature of Spring", blessings of A Polish Easter. By Rev. Czeslaw Michael Krysa, SS Cyril & Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan. © 1992, CWB Press, Lewiston, NY)*

## 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:

Richard & Lucy Belill  
7778 Oak - Box 257  
Birch Run, MI 48415

Chester & Dorothy Chwalik  
P. O. Box 243 - 727 Park Ave.  
Fostoria, OH 44830

Thomas & Susan Ollie  
1627 Cohassett Ave.  
Lakewood, OH 44107

Mary Kay Moraski  
7681 Fairmount Road  
Novelty, OH 44072

### SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED:

Belill, Bezcpinska, Durecki, Grochowski,  
Hardoin, Kapala, Kazmierczak, Pankowski,  
Pierson, Romel, Schmidt, Schulte, Thiry

Chwalik

Byczek, Majka, Mliczek, Olejarczyk, Palider,  
Sajetowski, Sobiech, Stroncer, Suchecki,  
Tobiasz, Twardzik

Drozen, Kazalski, Kwasniewska, Moraski (Jos.),  
Mroz, Wozniak

### ADVERTISING:

Rates for camera-ready ads are as follows:

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

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

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

# Translating Letters from The Polish National Archives

by William F. Hoffman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Many people would like a guide for translating letters from the Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwow Panstwowych (Central Directorate of the National Archives). The following is a reprint from: "Rodziny," *The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, 984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60622 (An Illinois Not For Profit Corporation), Volume XVIII, August 1995, Number 2. Used with permission.]

One can write to the Naczelna Dyrekcja in English, but the answer is usually in Polish and can be difficult to read for anyone not fluent in that language. I've attempted to put such a guide together.

Compiling this kind of guide is feasible because letters from the Naczelna Dyrekcja, and from the individual Archives under its direction, feature certain stock phrases and expressions that appear again and again, so the amount of material a translation guide should cover falls within reasonable limits. Normal correspondence or prose, on the other hand, can include an enormous variety of ideas and expressions, too many for a mere article to cover. (A cynic would say a guide to translating normal correspondence already exists — it's called a "dictionary.")

Letters from the Archiwum Panstwowe system follow a basic pattern. (Note: See letter in last issue of "Our Polish Ancestors") In the upper left is the Archive's name, usually in boldface type, followed by its address. To the right (often somewhat lower) is the name and address of the person to whom the letter is directed. On a lower line, in smaller type, are the phrases "Wasze pismo z dnia," "Znak," "Nasz znak," and "Data." These mean, respectively, "Your letter dated," "Reference #," "Our reference #," and "date." Relevant data appears below these phrases.

Usually only the date and "Nasz znak" are filled in. Always note the combination of letters and numbers under "Nasz znak" — this is your file number, and citing it in all correspondence greatly improves the chances that your requests will be handled efficiently. This can be quite important, as requests are routinely kicked upstairs to the Chief Directorate, even if you sent your letter to a particular Archive, and the Chief Directorate routinely sends orders down to branch offices to do the actual searching in the records. These orders may involve searching in records kept in a number of different places. The "znak" is what identifies you and your needs so that all this activity can be coordinated and the results kept straight and reported back to you.

The letter often begins with the salutation "Szanowny Panie" [Dear Sir] or "Szanowna Pani" [Dear Madame]. The contents can vary quite a bit (although one constant feature is that you always seem to end up sending money). The first reply to your request usually lays out the ground rules by which the Archives work, with a "cennik" [price list] enclosed. Subsequent letters tell whether the search was successful, and, if so, will list what documents were found. This is done so that you can choose which ones you'd like copied — copying is expensive (see the fee schedule, following the word list) so you want to pay close attention to this part and avoid paying for copies of documents that are no use to you.

The letter generally ends with a polite closing such as "Z powazaniem" (Respectfully yours) and the signature of the Archive's director. You'll notice that the directors names usually are preceded by either "mgr." ("magister," holder of a Master's degree) or "dr. hab." (holder of a Ph.D.). This means you're usually dealing with educated Poles, and that is fortunate — the letter will be written in correct

Polish, properly spelled. One of the miseries of translating normal correspondence is trying to cope with non-standard spelling and dialect terms.

I compiled the following list of expressions by looking through actual Archiwum letters I have translated for various people. Please realize that the meanings given are those usually seen in the context of such letters. Many of these words have a lot of other meanings not indicated here; but when used in letters of this sort, these definitions apply. Also, don't be confused if you notice the translations don't always make sense word-for-word. "Prosimy o przeslanie do nas kopii" literally means "we ask for the sending to us of a copy," but "please send us a copy" is a much better way to render it in this context. Strict word-for-word translations tend to be hideous — to translate well, you have to understand what each word means literally, but then put the words together in expressions that sound as natural in English as the original did in Polish.

I have tried to give enough examples of phrases to help you without discussing grammar. If you want to understand why it's "oplatą wstepną" in one phrase and "oplaty wstepnej" in another, there are books on Polish grammar available, and I encourage you to study them. But I hope this list, while hardly comprehensive, provides just enough information to help non-Polish speakers who've found that you can always tell how much money these guys want you to send — it's just tough to figure out what it's for.

## Why Use the Polish National Archives At All?

Experienced members of our Society may be asking "Why on earth would anyone want to use the Polish National Archives?" After all, to get anywhere in your research you have to locate the parish where

your ancestors went to register their births, marriages, and deaths — why not write the parish directly and ask the priest to search the parish records? Many have had excellent results doing precisely that. Why bother with the bureaucrats of the Archives?

The short answer is, if you can get what you need by contacting the parishes directly, that's the way to go. It costs less, for one thing. As a look at the Archives' fees shows, the charges can mount up fast; their bill rarely comes to less than \$50, and often is \$100 or more. A reasonable donation to a parish, on the other hand, will often get you what you need, sometimes for no more than \$20 (the size of the donation depends on how much you're asking the priest to do). Just remember: you're not paying him to work for you. That money is a donation to his parish; he already has a job, an important one: serving the spiritual needs of his parish.

But there are disadvantages to approaching the parishes directly. For one thing, few Polish priests speak English; and when you're asking someone to do a favor, it's inadvisable to require him first to go hunting for someone who can translate your request. The "Polish Letter-Writing Guide" (available from the PGSA, the LDS Family History Library, and other sources) is very useful for writing comprehensible letters in Polish; but you can't express anything very complicated with it. Often there are circumstances you should explain to make the search as productive as possible, but that involves going into more detail than the Guide can accommodate. So the language problem can be significant. (Hint: you could always hire a translator).

Also, some priests are simply uncooperative. They figure their job description doesn't include slogging through dusty old books to find things for "nosy rich Americans." If you run into such a priest, your chances of getting anything useful from the parish records take a nose dive.

But the most important problem with writing to a parish is that the records you need may not be there. Over the years communities have changed, and so have parish jurisdictions. As some villages grow, new parishes are split off and records transferred. Other parishes diminish and disappear, and again records have to go elsewhere. Even if you know exactly what parish served your ancestors' village of origin in the 1800's, that parish may no longer exist, may have been subdivided, and so on. You may reach a pastor who is quite willing to help you but doesn't have the books you need searched. (And of course most Jewish records will not be kept at a Catholic parish at all!)

The Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych [Chief Directorate of the National Archives], the central office that runs the whole National Archives system, can often resolve these problems. They have staff members who can handle correspondence in English (although, as our lead article states, their response will usually be in Polish). And, if you'll pardon a rather bad joke, they know "where the bodies are buried." They can track where records of various communities for various time periods are kept and can coordinate searches that need to be done in several different places. If you "do it yourself," you might have to write one parish or USC (Urząd Stanu Cywilnego, Civil Registry Office) after another, trying to figure out where the records you need finally ended up — the Archiwum Państwowe system can usually avoid all that, conducting a search that is quicker and more efficient than you can do half a world away.

So the advantage of going through the Archiwum Państwowe system is that it's more efficient, especially if your research is complicated by the many changes of administration and jurisdiction the last century has brought to Poland. The Archives can read your letters in English, determine exactly where

your records would be — or, if they aren't available, tell you so up front and spare you a lot of time and frustration — and coordinate a reasonably efficient search.

The disadvantages? As I say, this help doesn't come cheap. You pay for the time the archivists spend searching, not for results — even if they find nothing, you still owe them for several hours of searching. Also, the Archives generally demand payment by bank transfer to their account at the Powszechny Bank Kredytowy in Warsaw. Many people find such bank transfers inconvenient. If push comes to shove, the Archives will often accept payment by other ways — some people use postal money orders, the Archives recently indicated that they will accept Eurocheques, and I suspect many Americans send personal checks without incident. The general feedback I get is that many researchers find the matter of paying for the Archives' services to be an irritation — not intolerable, but annoying.

If you have reason to think writing directly to a particular parish will suffice in your case, that is the first thing to try. But if that approach doesn't work, it is good to know that the Archiwum Państwowe system exists and can help — if you can afford their services.

The address for the central administration of the Polish National Archives system is:

**Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych**  
**ul. Długa 6, skr. poczt. nr 1005**  
**00-950 Warszawa**  
**POLAND**

*Selected Expressions Likely to Appear in Archiwum Państwowe Letters*

**adres:** address

**na adres Archiwum:** to the Archive's address

**akt:** record, document

**tych aktów:** of these documents

(continued on page 8)

w aktach stanu cywilnego: in the Civil Registry records  
akt chrztu: baptismal certificate  
akt malženstwa: marriage certificate  
akt slubu: marriage certificate  
akt urodzenia: birth certificate  
akt zgonu: death certificate  
archiwum: archive  
Archiwum Panstwowe m. st. Warszawy: National Archive, the Capital City of Warsaw  
babcia: grandmother  
bankowy: the bank's  
po otrzymaniu zawiadomienia bankowego o dokonanej oplacie: after receiving the bank's notification that payment has been made  
bardzo: very  
bedzie (< byc): will be  
brak: gap, omission  
sa pewne braki w ksiegach: there are certain gaps in the record  
brakuje: is missing  
brat: brother  
byc: to be  
moga byc przeprowadzone: [they] can be performed  
byl (< byc): was  
nie bylo: there was no[t]  
bylby: would be  
jezeli bylby Pan zainteresowany wznowieniem poszukiwan: if you would be interested in renewing the search  
calkowity: entire, total  
cennik: price list  
zgodnie z zalaczonym cennikiem: as per the enclosed price list

chrzest: baptism  
akt chrztu: baptismal certificate  
chrzestny [ojciec]: godfather;  
chrzestna matka: godmother  
ciag: pathway, course  
w ciagu 6 miesiocy: over the course of 6 months  
corka: daughter  
czek: check  
odbior czeku na kwote \$40: receipt of a check in the amount of \$40  
platnosc moze byc dokonana czekiem: payment can be made by check  
czerwca (< czerwiec): June  
czesto: often  
dosyc czesto: rather often  
czlonek: member  
dokumenty dotyczace czlonkow rodziny: documents dealing with members of the family  
dane: data, information  
znajduja sie wiele danych genealogicznych: there is much genealogical data  
data: date  
6 miesiocy od daty otrzymania: 6 months from the date of receipt  
dawny: old, former  
ksiegi metrykalne dawnej parafii ewangelickiej: registry books of the former Protestant parish  
dnia (< dzien) day  
z dnia: dated  
do: to  
dokonac: to perform, make, execute  
zaplaty mozna rowniez dokonac Euroczekiem: payment can also be made by Eurocheque

dokonac wybor: to make a selection, choose  
zawiadomienie o dokonanej oplacie: notification of payment made  
nadeslanie kopii dokonanej oplaty: sending a copy of proof of payment  
dokonanie: making, execution  
po dokonaniu wplaty: after payment is made  
dokument: document  
poszukiwania interesujacych Pana dokumentow: search for the documents that interest you  
koszt wykonania kopii tego dokumentu: the cost of copying this document  
dokumenty metrykalne: registry documents  
doliczyc: to add  
prosimy o doliczenie do kwoty \$90 po \$10 za kazdy dokument: please add \$10 per document to that amount of \$90  
dom: house, home  
z domu: nee  
dosyc: rather, quite  
dotyczacy: dealing with  
dokumenty dotyczace pozostalych osob wspomnianych: documents dealing with the other persons mentioned  
materialami dotyczacych wyznanczyk niechrzescijanskich: materials dealing with non-Christian faiths  
w wyniku kwerendy genealogicznej dotyczacej rodziny: as a result of a genealogical search dealing with the family

*(Look for continuation next issue . . .)*

## You Can Help Make Changes in the U. S. Census Info

There is a growing movement to ask the U.S. Census Bureau to require census takers to include the maiden name of all married women in the future when a census is conducted. If you ever wished this information was included in past censuses when you were doing your research, here's your chance to make a difference for future genealogists. Write to:

Mr. Henry Scarr, Acting Director  
of the Census Bureau  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC 20233

Send copies of your letter to all your Senators and Representatives in Congress, too. Make yourself heard!

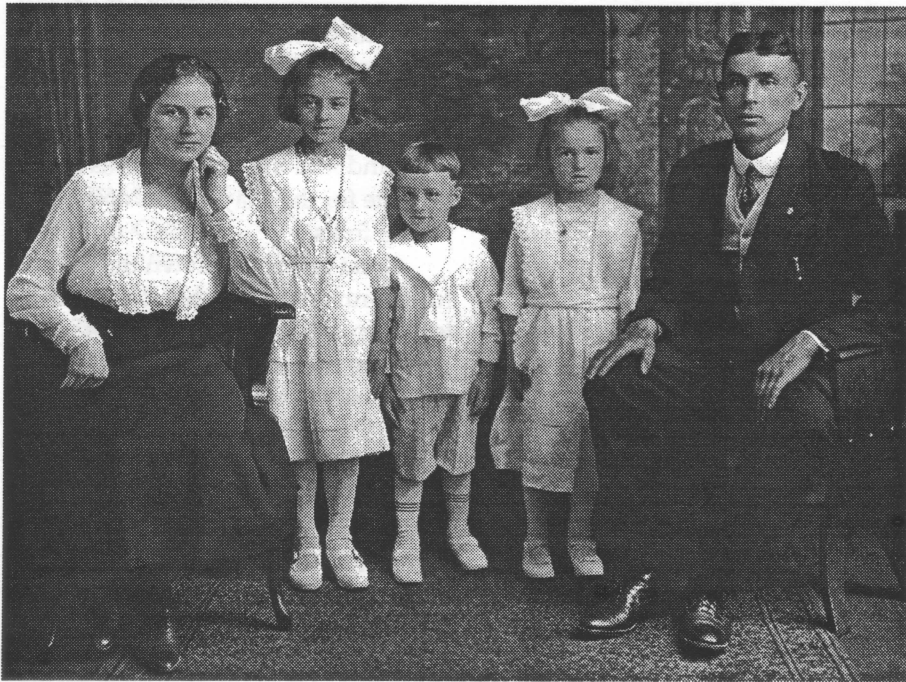
## Are YOUR Dues Delinquent?

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!





# - Our Family Pictures -



John F. Szuch's grandparents and their children, c.1924

Bernice Czaplicka Malicka, Mary Malicka, Steve Malicki, Sophie Malicka (John's mother), and John Malicki.



John F. Szuch's graduation from Benedictine High School, Cleveland, OH on 5 June 1955.

**BACK ROW, L TO R:** Mary Malicka Recko, Sophie Malicka Szuch Simalevitz (John Szuch's mother), John F. Szuch, Bernice Czaplicka Malicka (John's Grandmother), John Malicki (John's Grandfather).

**FRONT ROW, L TO R:** Steve Malicki, Alan Recko and Stephan Recko

# The Rebirth of the Tremont District

By Robert B. Larkin

(Originally published in The Cleveland Press, June 1, 1939)

TIME, master scene shifter, has again pointed its finger at Cleveland's Tremont area, that tight little community that covers 75 acres on the top of a bluff rising out of the Cuyahoga River Valley below Walworth Run.

Planned in the middle of the last century as the center of culture not only for Cleveland, but for the entire state of Ohio, the section carried for years the aura of refinement and higher education.

This Beacon Bill atmosphere melted before the inroads of industry and was smothered in the thick smoke that has made the Cuyahoga Valley an American shrine of steel, oil and manufacturing.

It was succeeded by abandonment of the old homes and gardens by the New England families who had settled in the Tremont area. A lusty, hard-working wave of immigrants took over the neighborhood.

These people were needed in great numbers for the heavy work of industry and the stately Tremont section became crowded with the small homes of workmen.

With the slack in business of the last decade (*Editor's note: from approx. 1929 to 1939*) things have gone badly with many of the families that came from Europe to work in the plants in the Cuyahoga Valley.

Some of the youngsters didn't behave according to the wishes of their parents whose motto had been to work hard and live frugally.

A Boy's Town was started in Tremont to keep the youngsters off the streets and aid the rejuvenation of the youth of the area already begun at Merrick House under Miss Helen Phelan.

**\$3,500,000**

## Housing Project

And now, the U.S. Government is stepping in to rejuvenate the face

as well as the soul of the area with plans for a \$3,500,000 housing project to be known as Valley View.

Valley View, modern and up-to-date in the extreme will look down from the high bluff out over the broad valley of the Cuyahoga from what once was known as University Heights.

University Heights was developed in 1850. It was then when the grandiose scheme of a Cleveland university was first born in the minds of some idealistic Oberlin College professors and the hard heads of early Cleveland settlers who saw the proposition would not hinder the sale of real estate at substantial prices.

## Gardens and Woods Then

The Rev. Asa Mahan, president of Oberlin at the time, was one of the prime movers in the plan to establish a great Cleveland university. Associated with him in the academic scheme were other professors and teachers at Oberlin and their plan had the hearty endorsement of the New England land owners. Seth Branch, Martin Kellogg, H. R. Hadlow, Hiram Aiken, Brewster Pelton and the Bieher family.

A tract of 75 acres was purchased atop the bluff and plans for the college and campus and surrounding neighborhoods were plotted and made under the wavering glare of oil lamps in pioneer homes of the valley.

One would have to have an incredible imagination to picture the river valley as it appeared in those days from the site of University Heights. I remember it as a boy, when my family moved there years later. Today it bears no resemblance.

The hill of University Heights arose rather abruptly from the valley in long green terraces, covered with gardens and heavily wooded in spots.

The valley was almost two miles

across to the foot of the old Broadway. It's floor was a green carpet of pasture land and woods. There were swamps in the low hollows and Malone's Woods was a favorite for the May walks of the young folks.

Great farms ran down the hills from University Heights to the valley. Two of the pioneers in the section who owned farms there were H. R. Hadlow and Hiram Aiken. It is on the site of Mr. Aiken's farm that the new Valley View Housing Project is to be built. The old Hadlow farm has become a packed and congested neighborhood. The old farms have been gone for many years but remains of the pastures may still be seen in the valley.

Clean and shining, the river sliced this verdant and lush farming valley. Alongside ran the Ohio Canal with its plodding miles, cumbersome boats and picturesque drivers. James A. Garfield was among the mule drivers who plodded their weary way along the banks of the canal in those days when they were planning a great university to overlook this garden spot.

A part of the plot was surveyed. Streets already laid out were given new names to fit the plan of culture and intellectual occupation that would distinguish the neighborhood from the crass commercial districts of W. 25th street and the East Side.

Herschel, University, Professor, College, Literary, Jefferson were among the names chosen for the new streets and some of them persist to this day.

Southern boundary of the section was Starkweather Avenue, then the city line. Across the street was Brooklyn Township.

The prestige of the university was used to enhance the value of the land on top of the level plateau where the buildings were to be located together with the homes of

the faculty members, student lodgings and the houses of those imbued with a taste for the occupations of the mind.

A stipulation was made in the deeds to real estate buyers that the university would be maintained for at least 10 years. This added a tacit promise of permanent peace, quiet and an air of perpetual refinement.

They didn't hear the locomotive whistles down the valley, the scream of tug and ore boats, or see the clouds of black smoke belching from tall stacks.

### *Wrangled Over Park*

This promise was later to call for much trouble when the university idea proved not so permanent along with plans for a public park at the triangle formed by Professor, Literary and Pelton (W. 10th St.) Avenues, which also were an inducement to purchase.

Mrs. Thirsa Pelton, wife of Brewster Pelton, planned to estab-

lish a girl's school adjoining the university grounds on the west as far as Jennings Avenue.

At one time a teacher at Oberlin, she gave a large plot for a "public playground and recreation spot" as part of the campus plan. That plot is now Lincoln Park (formerly Pelton Park). But her death in 1853 spelled the end of plans for the girl's school.

For the next 20 years this park proved a bone of contention between adjoining property owners because of a clause in the deed provided that while it be maintained as a public park it should remain under the control of the donors.

In 1870 the city ended the bickering by paying \$50,000 for the land and making it truly a public park.

On March 1, 1851, the Cleveland University was opened in a three-story brick building completed on University Street, a 90-foot roadway which was the main artery of the district.

Students came from Cleveland

and nearby towns. A resident faculty was appointed to assist the Oberlin professors, who each week made the long trip by horse and buggy from Oberlin to University Heights to teach classes there. President Mahan of Oberlin was a trustee.

But in spite of the heroic efforts of the promoters, students failed to respond to the academic lure of Cleveland University and the well-advertised quality of its educational program.

By 1856 it was deemed wise to sell the building and its land to an organization headed by R. F. Humiston for a preparatory school of men and women.

The original elaborate plans for University Heights were discarded as far as the university went. The Humiston School - later the Cleveland Institute was left to carry out in part the plan to make University Heights the Harvard of the Middle West.

## Strange Epitaphs

The epitaph of Dr. Isaac Bartholomew who died in 1750, and is usually ascribed to his wife, reads:

**"He that was sweet to mi repose  
Hath now become a stink unto mi nose.  
This is said of me:  
So it shall be said of thee."**

Evidently she addresses her husband in the first two lines, and he replies in the last two.

Or how about the cryptic epitaph of Cyrus Hotchkiss which reads:

**"Cyrus tho' pleasant in his day  
Was sudden seas'd and sent away."**

Or of Milly Gaylord, a five yr. old:

**"Soon ripe, soon rotten.  
Soon dead, but not forgotten."**

The epitaph of a young bride reads:

**"The saddest sight in all creation:  
A wedding turn'd to lamentation,  
A mourning groom in desperation."**

Or this one . . .

**"Here lies the Mother of eight:  
She might have had more, but  
now it's too late."**



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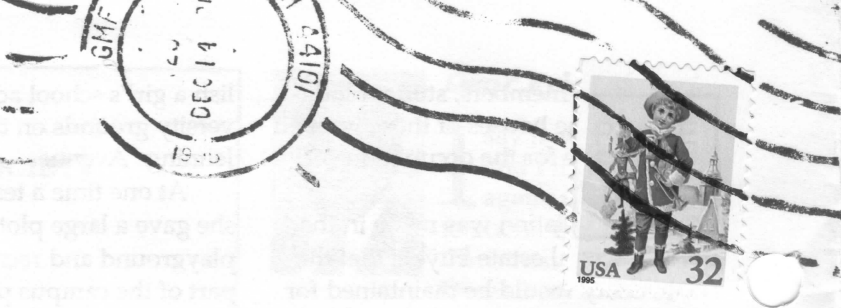
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**C O M P U T E R C O R N E R**

by Ralph Lysyk

I have recently discovered a super resource for finding long-lost relatives in the U.S. at The Cleveland Public Library. They recently put on line the "Select Phone" file which contains all listed U.S. phone numbers – both residential and business. In the comfort of your own home or office you can now search the file containing 80,000,000 entries provided you have the following:

- 1.) a personal computer (IBM or Apple/Macintosh)
- 2.) a modem with a communications package.
- 3.) a Cleveland Public Library card.

*To access the system you must:*

- 1.) Activate your communications software. Make sure the terminal is set to VT 100.
- 2.) Dial 623-0623. NOTE - Those outside the northeast Ohio area will have to precede the number with the 216 area code.
- 3.) With most software packages your computer modem will keep redialing until a linkup is established. I have had excellent response and usually "connect" on the 1st or 2nd dial attempt.

4.) The screen will display the question: Do you want information on compatible software? (Y/N)

5.) Type N, then hit Enter.

6.) The screen will display the command: Enter your library card number.

7.) Type in your 13 digit card number – then hit Enter.

8.) The screen will ask one of three questions:

- a) Your month and day of birth.
- b) Your last four phone number digits.
- c) Your last four SSN digits.

9.) Enter the requested numbers. Obviously, you will be denied access if your response does not agree with the information provided when you applied for your library card.

10.) The screen will display a long menu.

11.) Select item 13 – Ready Reference.

12.) The screen will display a much longer menu (7 pages).

13.) Select item 72 – Select Phone.

14.) The screen will ask: Do you want a session log (Y/N).

15.) Type N, then hit Enter.

16.) The screen will display the Select Phone initial screen which

gives instructions on using the database.

You will need a bit of practice, but soon you will easily have access to the addresses and phone numbers of any surname you desire, provided they have a listed phone number.

If you type in "SV:smith" you will get 792,694 listings. If you are lucky enough to have a name like "Lysyk", you will get a listing of only 9 listings. Enter all inquiries in lower case ONLY. Start with the last name followed by the first name and middle initial, if known. No commas to separate surname from first name or middle initial – just a space. If you want to limit a surname search to a known city, follow whatever name you have entered by a comma, then type the city (in lower case). The system will also display a listing for any phone number that is entered in the following format: PH: XXX-XXX-XXXX

I have been unusually successful searching for veterans that served with me in World War II for a forthcoming reunion.

*Ralph*

