



Our Polish ANCESTORS



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

Join Us

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. in the basement cafeteria of St. John Cantius School, 906 College Avenue, Cleveland, OH.

October 1st:

Our birthday party! Come join in having our group picture taken of the Society; individual copies can be ordered.

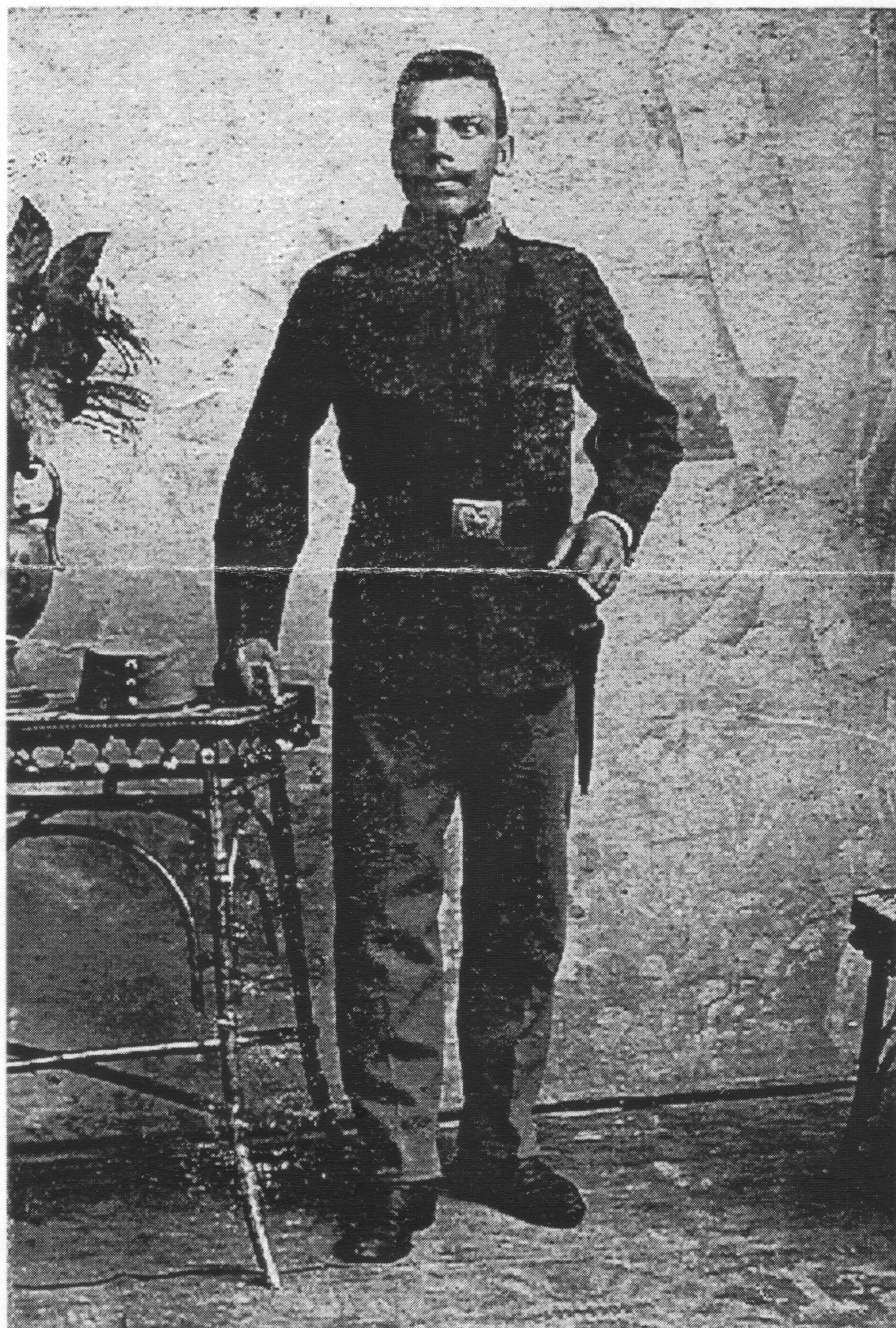
November 5th:

Leon Cholewa-Badzinski will speak on Polish genealogy and Heraldry/Armorial.

December 3rd:

Annual Christmas Party!!
(Members ONLY, please) Join us for traditional and festive holiday foods and traditions. Cost: \$6.00/person. (Send check to Richarda Jambrozy, Treasurer, 1492 Lewis Dr., Lakewood, OH 44107) Be sure to bring a favorite dessert to share.

The Polish Peddler (fellow member Virginia Luty) will once again have an assortment of items from Poland for that special holiday gift (or to just treat yourself!) Virginia will donate a portion of the profits to The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland.



Wojciech Sroka, circa approx. 1900, photo taken in Tarnow, Galicia (Poland). This great-great uncle of Joe Evanko was born on 6 Jan 1879 in Dobrynia, Galicia; and came to the United States in New York on 6 Mar 1904 aboard "Pretoria" from Hamburg, Germany. (see story on page 10)

Twin Currencies Can Be Confusing; Land of the \$2.00 Piece and \$86 Bill

(reprinted from The Polish American Journal, 1995)

Ever since the start of 1995, Poles have been earning and paying for things with two different currencies; the old one in which the US dollar is worth nearly 24,000 zloties and a new one where \$1 = 2.34 zloties or 2 zloties and 34 groszy (the 1997 zloty being divided into 100 groszy).

"Old bills. . . will still be around until January 1997"

future.

Unlike the aluminum coins that disappeared in the 1980's, when inflation made them all but worthless, the new ones can be quite valuable. The 5 zloty piece, for instance, may be roughly the size of an American quarter, but it is worth 8 times more. Since it is the equivalent of \$2, it makes a nice tip for baggage porters, bellhops, etc. The once mighty US dollar has lost its former magic. Naturally, everyone would prefer a \$5 tip than a 5 zloty one worth only \$2. But if someone were asked if he wanted a

and 5 zloty piece resembled a golden coin set within a larger silvery one. The 1 zloty coin down to the 10 groszy are made from a silver alloy, and the 5, 2 and 1 grosz coins are brass. The banknotes feature the portraits of Poland's kings and each displays a different color scheme. Also, the size of the bill corresponds to its value. The lowest denomination 10 zloty bill is the smallest and the 200 zloty bill is the biggest. Armed with this information, you should be ready to take Poland on money-wise. If you your-

NEW COIN OR BANKNOTE	EQUIVALENT IN OLD BANKNOTES	EQUIVALENT IN US DOLLAR	WHAT IT WILL BUY
1 grosz coin	100 zloties	less than 1/2 cent	
2 groszy coin	200 zloties	less than 1 cent	
5 groszy coin	500 zloties	2 cents	
10 groszy coin	1,000 zloties	4 cents	box of matches
20 groszy coin	2,000 zloties	9 cents	small candy
50 groszy coin	5,000 zloties	21 cents	1 paczek (doughnut)
1 zloty coin	10,000 zloties	43 cents	2 lb. loaf of rye bread
2 zloty coin	20,000 zloties	86 cents	17 oz. premium beer
5 zloty coin	50,000 zloties	\$2.15	inexpensive meal
10 zloty bill	100,000 zloties	\$4.30	pt. of vodka, haircut
20 zloty bill	200,000 zloties	\$8.60	men's tie or slippers
50 zloty bill	500,000 zloties	\$21.50	shirt, blouse or jeans
100 zloty bill	1,000,000 zloties	\$43.00	low weekly wage
200 zloty bill	2,000,000 zloties	\$86.00	good weekly wage

The old bills are gradually being phased out but will still be around until January 1997. In the meantime, handling two types of banknotes can be confusing, especially to visiting Polish-Americans.

The chart (right) should bring Poland's new monetary system into sharper focus for those contemplating a visit in the near

tip of the same value in dollars or zloties, most would prefer the latter, because that would save them a trip to the exchange booth. The thing to remember is that now a pocketful of Polish change can be a lot of money, anywhere from \$10 to \$20 or more.

Color-wise, there are three types of coins in circulation. The 2

self are not visiting Poland this year, pass this article on to someone who is. If you are planning a trip next year, save it for future reference, although by then the prices of the goods and services listed will undoubtedly be somewhat higher.

The Alliance Has Been Aiding Poles for Over 100 Years

(The Cleveland Plain Dealer, September 23, 1995, "New Worlds" by William F. Miller)

As some of the newest employees at Cleveland's steel mills, factories and construction sites a century ago, recently arrived Polish immigrants often were assigned the lowest paying and most physically demanding and dangerous jobs.

To make matters worse, the immigrants could not buy insurance from regular insurance companies because they were considered too great a risk.

In 1895, a group of Cleveland's Polish workers met in the basement of St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, off Fleet Ave., in a neighborhood known as Warsaw, after the Polish capital. The church basement was a popular meeting place for Polish organizations then.

The men, some still in their grimy work clothes because they had not time to get home to change after their shifts, gathered to find some way to protect their families. Out of these meetings grew the Alliance of Poles of America Fraternal Benefit Society. The members pooled their money, creating a

fund that paid benefits in the event of a worker's death.

The Alliance became a success and over a century saved the families of many workers who died.

At one time, members had to be Slavic to qualify, but now the membership is open to all, with the approval of the officers.

It built a fine social hall, at 6966 Broadway, for its members in 1926. It is a center not only for Alliance activities (whose offices are there), but also for many events of the Cleveland Polish-American community, including weddings and polka dances.

English classes for Polish immigrants and Polish classes for adults are offered. Some 100 youths, ages 4 to 16 attend Polish-language and Polish song-and-dance classes to carry on the Polish culture.

An all-Polish language library of 10,000 volumes is maintained and updated yearly at Alliance Headquarters.

The Alliance also gives at least 24 annual college scholarship awards of \$500 each.

"Branch" News

Congratulations to Sonia and John Talkowski, who recently celebrated 55 years of married bliss!

President John F. Szuch welcomed his 4th grandchild, Michael James Szuch, into the family on September 6, 1996. Michael's proud parents are James Szuch and Janni Watkins.



For 6 wonderful weeks this summer, Chet and Virginia Luty entertained Chet's cousin's, John & Teresa Nowak from Katowice, Poland. (Left to Right: John Nowak, Virginia Luty, Teresa Nowak, Chet Luty) While here, they visited the well-known Sokolowski's University Inn. The highlight of their trip to the United States was a visit to Disney World in Florida.

E-Mail Addresses for fellow members:

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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.

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Chojnacki, Dembski, Jaworski, Kowalczyk,
Kruwka, Kozlowski, Leguzinski, Pinarczyk,
Topolski, Trajbula, Wojtasinski

Korab, Krepski, Mandela, Sepple, Shepelovich,
Szewczyk, Unitas

Korab, Krepski, Mandela, Szewczyk

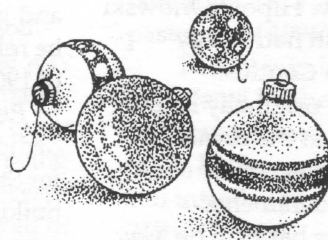
Czarnowski, Molenda, Okoniewski, Rogozinski,
Sekriska, Wengelska, Ziemba, Zmielska

Witkowski, Wodarski

Blazey, Brescol, Brescoll, Breske, Brzeski,
Frankowski, Jarczakowska, Jesionowska/i,
Jesjonowska, Kaminski, Kujawa, Sadlowski,
Sulewska, Szumigala, Wujkowski

Dembrowski, Jankowski, Klonowska, Majewski,
Radziszewski, Wolke

Chlopek, Grabiec, Kwapinski, Repsinsky



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

A Short History of St. John Cantius Parish of Cleveland, Ohio

(From the 90th Anniversary Memorial Booklet published by St. John Cantius Church, Cleveland, OH, in 1988)

The "Heights" area of Cleveland was a quiet rolling rural community ninety years ago; its quiet country lanes provided perfect sites for the school complexes that were planned. The city would remain by the Cuyahoga River, the people believed. The steel mill executives began building estates on the hillsides.

Many of Cleveland's steelworkers and other laborers

"They brought a burning faith with them from the old country . . ."

were Polish immigrants who had settled on the south side of the city. They brought a burning faith with them from the old country and felt a need for a priest who could serve them in their own tongue.

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Ignatius Horstmann readily agreed that, although their numbers were comparatively small, their dedication would surely support a parish of their own. And so he appointed Rev. Hipolit Orłowski to serve the Polish nationality parish of St. John Cantius.

Masses were originally held in a two-story barn at the corner of Professor and College Avenues. One of the first Sacraments bestowed was the baptism on May 7, 1898 of Stanislaus Sroka - the parish's first baptism (note: this is an ancestor of fellow member Joe Evanko). The first marriage in our parish united Adelbert Bilski and Catherine Misiak on May 30, 1898.

The hard-working parishioners immediately began remodeling - creating a pastoral residence, a school, and a Sisters' home in separate apartments behind the sanctu-

ary portion of the building. These poor immigrants knew the importance of a good education. Even more, they realized that religious training was an integral part of a Christian education. They wanted Catholic schools for their children and were willing to sacrifice to attain the best.

Accordingly, when the church was established, so was the school. The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis were appointed to teach. Their many years of service to St. John Cantius is gratefully acknowledged by today's parishioners. The Sisters' zealous devotion to their precious charges has borne a goodly harvest of Christian souls who have served the church and their community well. The many vocations to the Sisterhood from St. John Cantius attests to the inspiration provided by these dedicated teachers.

Building a Parish . . .

The parish's growth was rapid. Father Orłowski's health poor and the burden was growing greater and greater. Eventually, he asked to be relieved of his duties. In August of 1908, Fr. Orłowski was replaced by Rev. Francis Doppke, another dedicated priest who gave his all for St. John Cantius. He directed the building of a new church and school combination in 1913. He then arranged for the construction of a parish hall and a convent. Fr. Doppke's death came prematurely in March 1917 - before he was able to begin the new church he had hoped to build.

When Rev. Joseph P. Kocinski assumed the pastorate on April 24, 1917, the United States had just entered the World War. Industry was expanding in Cleveland. The

population was growing. More and more Polish-speaking Catholics were joining St. John Cantius School.

Almost immediately, Fr. Kocinski contracted for six classrooms to be added to the overcrowded school. In conjunction with this, the Sisters' resident was expanded also.

Then, the parish turned its thoughts to a new church building. This time it was to be a huge beautiful edifice - a monument to their faith and a sanctuary that would serve an ever-expanding parish for many decades into the future.

"Its' cornerstone was laid on July 6, 1924 . . ."

Architects Potter and Gable of Cleveland were chosen in 1923 to design the massive Romanesque church. Its cornerstone was laid on Sunday afternoon, July 6, 1924.

When the structure was completed two years later, it had cost \$245,000 excluding heat and electricity. The church is 184 feet long and 67 feet wide. At the point where it widens for side entrances, it is 97 feet wide. The bell tower is 135 feet high and its bells were added at a cost of \$6,000. These were fantastic expenditures for working people, many of whom were recent immigrants from a war-torn foreign country. But if they didn't have their faith to sustain them, they would not have had the inspiration to push on.

A Parish Priority: Education

In May 1932, a new pastor - the Right Rev. Monsignor Marion J. Orzechowski - was appointed to St. John Cantius Church. He came to a parish that was suffering from the

final phases of The Great Depression. Unemployment was widespread; bank failures were still occurring. Again the faith of their fathers proved to be a great spiritual haven for these first and second generation Americans.

Monsignor Orzechowski was a zealous worker who inspired his people both spiritually and socially. Parish activities knot the congregation ever closer as well as slowly but steadily decreasing the mortgage loan indebtedness. Monsignor Orzechowski's sudden death on May 1, 1939, was a heart-rending loss to his faithful flock.

St. John's fifth pastor, Right Rev. Monsignor Francis D. Duda, proved to be as dynamic a leader as were his predecessors. One of his first tasks was to clear the parish of indebtedness. He then turned his attention to the great need for a parochial high school on Cleveland's south side.

The area had again begun to grow. The Second World War was expanding industrial production; steel mills were creeping into the residential areas. The influx of workers caused overcrowding in the community's schools. One of the country's first housing projects was build in this area at the time and is still in the eighties serving needy people, The "Baby Boom" after the war ended promised a long-term need for increased educational facilities.

Monsignor Duda planned the remodeling of the parish auditorium into high school classrooms which opened in 1945. When his assessment of the demand proved true, he decided that a complete high school and recreation center would be a vital addition to the parish complex. Monsignor added English Masses to the Polish in the post World War II period.

In 1947, Monsignor Duda employed architect Ellsworth Potter of Cleveland to draw the plans which were later approved by his Excellency, the Most Rev. Bishop Edward F. Hoban. Contracts Woods and Chleva were hired and

the work began.

Cornerstone-laying ceremonies were held on Sunday, July 10, 1949, and when the building was completed, the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades were transferred into what

"... he decided that a complete high school and recreation center would be a vital addition to the parish complex."

had been the high school quarters. The old wooden frame building they vacated was moved from the parish property.

On Sunday, April 16, 1950, Bishop Hoban visited St. John Cantius to dedicate the new school and recreation center. The festivities also observed the church's Golden Jubilee. Again, the sanctuary was filled to overflowing with happy parishioners who were grateful for their many blessings over the years.

Changes and more changes...

After a long and vital pastorate, Monsignor Duda died on November 27, 1955. He was succeeded in 1956 by Rev. Francis A. Szudarek, who had served St. John Cantius as an associate pastor from 1936 to 1948.

In the parish and in the community, changes were still the way of life during Fr. Szudarek's pastorate. The city kept pushing out its boundaries. Highways were being cut through here, there and everywhere. Homes had to be moved or torn down to allow the "wheels of progress" to keep turning. Many parishioners had moved into the suburbs, and although most parishioners now spoke Polish as a second language, they commuted to St. John's rather than change to another church.

The high school - and the parish provided - additional laboratory facilities, a new cafeteria, and gym locker rooms. Then, 1969, after

24 years of service, St. John Cantius High School was consolidated with three other schools to form Cleveland Central Catholic High School. Its initial enrollment exceeded 2,000.

Also in September of 1969, St. John Cantius Parish welcomed Rev. Ralph A. Bodziony as their new associate pastor.

The church followed the dictates of Vatican Council Two; in moving the Altar to face the people, all Masses and the liturgy are conducted in the vernacular; lay people have become commentators, leading in songs and participating in the reading of scripture lessons. Other physical changes were also made in the sanctuary. Then in preparation for the 75th Anniversary celebration, the main body of the church was redecorated.

The grammar school was merged in the fall of 1972 with that of the neighboring parish - Our Lady of Mercy.

The people of St. John Cantius held a "Recognition Night" Banquet on December 30, 1972, for a beloved priest who had faithfully served them for a total of 28 years; 17 as pastor. Fr. Szudarek was retiring to the position of "Pastor Emeritus". Rev. Ralph A. Bodziony's appointment as pastor would become effective as of January 2, 1973 (Fr. Bodziony is still pastor as of 1996).

Then it was Fr. Bodziony's turn to be feted by the parish. Over 500 celebrants joined him at a banquet in his honor on the day of his official installation - Sunday, January 28th.

A parish that is still comprised of in some instances by parishioners of four generations of Polish-Americans, St. John Cantius is as active and vital as ever.

Because the Sisters of St. Joseph (Marymount) did not continue to staff the High School and did not reside at the Sisters' residence, the

(continued on page 8)



(continued from page 7)

convent became inefficient to operate for the number of sisters living there.

The residence of the sisters was changed to a newly renovated convent opposite the High School. It was more suited to the needs of the present staff and more economical to operate. The former convent became the Matt Talbot Inn, a half-way house for recovering alcohol and substance abuse residents.

The merger of the grade school with Our Lady of Mercy School lasted only a few years. In 1977, the grade school was moved to the High School building which wasn't being used much. The former grade school building housed a Spanish Day Center on the first floor for a brief period of time.

(In the next issue we will profile the history of St. Adalbert's Church in Berea, Ohio. This parish was started in 1865 by Polish immigrants who worked in the quarries of The Cleveland Stone Company.)

STRANGE EPITAPHS

"A victim of fast women
and slow horses"

. . . found on the marker of Milt
MacPhail in Teck Twp. Cemetery, Kirkland
Lake, Ontario, Canada.

"I told you I was sick."

Books on the subject:

"Over Their Dead Bodies: Yankee Epitaphs &
History" by Thomas C. Mann & Janet Greene.

"Old Burial Grounds of New Jersey: A Guide" by
Janice Kohl Sarapin, Rutgers Univ Press, NJ 1994

"The World's Funniest Epitaphs" by Ron Bremer

How Galicia Got Its Name

(from THE LANDS OF PARTITIONED POLAND, 1772-1918 by Piotr Wandycz)

GALICIA was the name given to the southern Polish territories annexed by Austria in the 1st and 3d Partitions of Poland. (1772, 1795). The region was regained by Poland in 1918-19. In 1939 East Galicia was annexed to the USSR; it remained part of the USSR after WWII. The official Austrian name for the region-Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria-derived from the medieval principality of Galich (Polish, Halicz), which was united with Bohynia in 1199. The region came under Mongol rule before becoming part of Poland in 1340. The Hungarians had earlier laid claim to the region, and the Austrian Habsburgs, who inherited the Hungarian crown, used this claim as a legal pretext for taking these lands in 1772.

Forming the northeastern part of the Austrian Empire, Galicia had a population of 7,316,000 in 1910; 59% spoke Polish, 31% Ukrainian and 10% Yiddish. Ukrainian predominated in eastern Galicia and Poles in western Galicia. In 1868, Galicia was accorded limited self-government, with Polish education and administration. It was the only part of partitioned Poland in which Polish political and cultural life could develop freely. Later, in the late 19 century saw the development of Ukrainian national consciousness which provided the pretext for the later Soviet annexation of eastern Galicia.

*(GENPOL Mailing List 8/10/96 :
Sam & Ann-Marie Kuczun
University of Colorado, Boulder
kuczuns@spot.colorado.edu)*

"Old genealogists never die, they just lose their census!"

Warning for all genealogists:

*The following article was reprinted in
the LaSalle County IL Genealogy
Guild's newsletter for Jul/Aug 1996:*

There is a potential firebomb in your house! Fire marshals across the country have been alerted. Between 1889 and the mid 1950's all film contained nitric acid. This means ALL FILM - negatives, slides, and home movies. With age, this film will self-combust, especially in attics and basements. What can you do about this very real danger? You can have each piece of film tested or do it yourself with a special "pen" from an archival products company. Your best bet with old film, however, is to have new copies made on modern film. Then the old film should be destroyed, carefully, because

nitric acid fumes are highly toxic. As an example of what could happen, that 1890 census we miss so much was destroyed by a fire caused by such old film. The National Archives now stores its old film in steel drums, immersed in water. Don't let old film destroy your treasures, your house, and even yourself. Take care of this hazard today. (Sources: VA DAR News 1995 and the McLean Co Gen Soc Newsletter, Vol 30, No 2, March 1996).

This subject was recently discussed on ROOTS-L with many varying opinions. The bottom line: use common sense in how you store your film/negatives. Keep them out of the attic, away from furnaces, etc.



COMPUTER CORNER

by SARAH EVANKO

Every once in a while I run across some web sites that sound pretty interesting to those doing genealogy. Here they are:

AIBIBL

AIBIBL is a private discussion list for those interested in libraries automation and connection of them to computer networks in Poland.

Contributions are mainly in Polish (sometimes in English).

Instructions: To subscribe, send a message to the e-mail address listed below, saying "subscribe AIBIBL Your Real Name".

E-Mail for owner:

rNK01@PLEARN BOGUMILA RYKACZEWSKA

E-mail: listserv@plearn.edu.pl

CIT\$W

The Cracow Institute of Technology's open discussion list.

Instructions: To subscribe, send a message to the e-mail address listed below with the message: "subscribe CIT\$W Your Real Name".

E-Mail for owner:

przybylo@cit.krakow.pl

E-Mail: listserv@plearn.edu.pl

CYFRONET, Cracow, Academic Computer Center

FTP to this site to access files from a significant collection of information.

Keywords: Poland

Resource Type: FTP Server

FTP: ftp://ftp.cyf-kr.edu.pl/

Donosy

Mailing list of a news bulletin from Poland.

Instructions: To subscribe, send a message to the e-mail address

listed below with the message: "subscribe Donosy Your Real Name".

E-Mail:

przemek@ndcvx.cc.nd.edu

Resource Type: mailing list.

Pigulka

Digest on the Net of news from Poland, in English.

Instructions: To subscribe, send a message to the e-mail address listed below with the text: "Pigulka".

Keywords: Poland

E-Mail:

zielinski@acfcluster.nyu.edu

Resource Type: Mailing List

Poland and its People

A Usenet newsgroup focusing on Polish culture, Polish past, and Polish politics.

Keywords: Poland

Resource Type: Newsgroup
pl.rec.travel

POLAND-L

Discussion list of Polish culture.

Instructions: To subscribe, send a message to the e-mail address listed below with the text, "subscribe POLAND-L Your Real Name"

E-mail for owner:

owocw@cuug.ab.ca

E-Mail: listserv@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu

Polish Culture

A Usenet newsgroup focusing on Polish culture, history, and politics.

Keywords: Poland

Resource Type: Newsgroup soc.culture.polish

Spojrzenia

A weekly e-journal devoted to Polish culture, history, politics, etc.

Instructions: To subscribe, send a message to the e-mail

address listed below with the text: "subscribe Spojrzzenia Your Real Name".

E-Mail: spojrz@k-

vector.chem.washington.edu

Resource Type: Mailing list.

Last but not least . . .

Polka Hall of Fame

The National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame is our last stop.

You can't hear accordians, but this site is jam-packed with info on the polka greats of all time. Famous names such as Frankie Yankovic will ring a bell. A little window has a Java marquee that flashes news headlines. Biographical notes and photos of hall of famers are given, as are backgrounds of trustees on the honor roll. The American-Slovenian Polka Foundation in Euclid, OH sponsors this site.

URL:

www.clevelandstyle.com/polka-hall

SARAH



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!



How to Open the Treasure Chest . . . Have a Family Reunion!

Joe Evanko

In the late 1800's my great-grandfather, Jacob Klimkiewicz of Cieklin, Poland married a young lady from the next village to the east, Dobrynia. Her name was Katarzyna Sroka, the eldest daughter of Wojciech Sroka and Agatha Brej. This introduced my bloodline into the Sroka family. As a result, I was invited to the Sroka family reunion on August 3, 1996 held at Lakewood Park in Lakewood, Ohio; ironically my home town. If they had an award for the closest distance to the reunion, I would have won hands down.

The reunion was organized by three Sroka sisters: Rita Brady, Frances Dalhart, and Mary Ann Coleman, all granddaughters of Wojciech and Agatha. Since Rita Brady's husband Bud and myself have been working for years on "our" genealogies, we found ourselves with a great opportunity to add to our research, especially with the updating of our newer relatives, spouses and children. When doing family research I feel that the present generations are just as important as those of the past, because it is for these younger members on our "tree" that we are doing the research as well as for ourselves. With our invitation was a request to bring photographs and information to share with the family. The possibilities of genealogical info was endless.

I prepared a family tree chart on my computer of all the relatives of Wojciech Sroka, a result of

. . . the chart I printed out (a descending top to bottom descendent chart) was 35 feet long. . .

8 years of research. With the help of two other family members (Bud Brady and the late Ambrose

Klimkiewicz), I had accumulated an impressive amount of family data. As a result, the chart I printed out (a descending top to bottom



The youngest family member at the reunion, 2 month-old Nicholas Andrew Burley.

descendent chart) was 35 feet long by 11 inches high. I had enough wall space in the pavilion to tape up the chart on one wall. Every five feet I added a sign, saying "feel free to alter, change, correct, and update any information on your immediate family", with permission to write directly on the chart. This turned out to be a great idea. Many relatives added birthdates, new children, name corrections, etc. Some family members seeing this grand chart, with their names missing, were encouraged to add themselves on. When I think of how many inquiry letters were unanswered in the past eight or more years from myself, Bud, and Ambrose, I felt encouraged to see the "pencil lead flying". Over 50 items, whether added names or corrections, were made on my chart that afternoon. I think our relatives, no matter how close or how distant, needed to see the "big picture" and how serious we are in our research before they will open up their lives to you.

Photographs were also a big plus at the reunion. Many of the older relatives brought treasured framed photographs of their past as well as several photo albums for relatives to page through.

Our hosts were smart enough to set up a table for this memorabilia in an area away from the food and commotion. This allowed space for discussion and reminiscing away from the hustle and bustle of the party. We also placed maps of Poland and blowups of village maps showing where our ancestors came from. I was surprised how few people knew the area and villages our relatives lived in only 3 to 4 generations ago.

When the party started, someone had set up a tape player with music playing. But once all the guests were present, it was turned off to allow family members to be able to talk and hear each other. Name tags and a sign in sheet were also set up at that front door. This was a great idea since probably 50% of the guests did not know the other 50%. Wojciech Sroka had six children with Agatha. Five of the children were represented at this reunion.

Everyone was asked to bring food for their family plus a dish to share. As a result we had more

. . . 50% of the guests did not know the other 50%.

delicious food than needed, but what a great selection! As a party, the reunion was a big success. As a reunion, it was even a bigger success! As Srokas' we had the opportunity to meet cousins we did not even know existed. It was interesting to see how family physical traits carried into the many branches. It was also neat to find out how far the family has spread out

and how close some family members lived to each other. Our hosts had door prizes for the relative who travelled the farthest, the youngest and oldest members, and the largest family group present at the reunion. It was really a great experience!

Now as a genealogist, what did this reunion do for me personally? Besides the additions to the family chart at the party, I am still receiving information from family members, including from those who could not be present but heard from word of mouth what they missed. Another big reward was photographs. When family members saw how serious I was in my research, they felt free to let me borrow their family pictures for copying. This was really special, since

... you know how hard it is to borrow these one-of-a-kind, prized-possessions ...

most of you know how hard it is to borrow these one-of-a-kind, prized-possessions from relatives.

This requires trust. And trust is hard to earn, especially from relatives that have just met you for the first time. Photographs can be copied in several different ways. One is photocopying. With the new state-of-the-art color copiers, the results can be excellent. Second, the photographs can be photographed by either yourself or a professional, and then have a print made. The advantage of this method is that you will always have a negative from which later copies can be made easily. I use this method for those real special photos, which will eventually get framed and hung on my wall.

The third way is to scan the photos on a computer and save on a disc. This allows you to print them, touch them up (remove dust specs and scratches) and crop them (isolate one person from a group). Later you can add a photo to a page of your manuscript to add life to a family history. I am fortunate to

own a scanner and computer and with these tools I scanned all the photographs my relatives lent me. Whatever process is used, the photographs will not be damaged. Make sure to handle anything you borrow carefully and return them to the owner as soon as possible. Upon returning some photos last week, a relative asked me if I wanted one more to copy...as he handed me the framed 1906 wedding photo of his dad, Wojciech, the son of Wojciech and Agatha. What a prize and what trust he had in me. I will have this picture professionally copied with an inter-negative and a print to frame and add to my collection. All this as a result of the reunion.

As far as how the Sroka family research is going, I have recorded 457 family members who are the result of the marriage of Wojciech Sroka and Agatha Brej. 328 are direct bloodline and 129 are spouses. The reunion helped me get introduced to relatives who



Eve Mary Sroka Colwell - The oldest family member in attendance, born in 1913.

eventually I'll contact for additional information on the family. At least I won't be a total stranger when I call on them. I thank those three Sroka sisters who took the time, effort, and expense to put this reunion together.

Queries

My name is Jaworowski, Paul N. 5116 37th St., E. Bradenton, FL 34203-3408. I am searching for information on the following names: Jaworowski, Paul (Powel), born 1859, in Mielewo-Zabielane (Koblin Parish). Stypukowski, Caroline (Karolina), born Dec. 24, 1866 in Makow, Poland (she had a twin sister that stayed in Poland). Jaworowski, Jan. Born in Poland (UNK). Siedlecka, Maryjanna, born in Poland (UNK). Stipulkowski, Jos. Born in Poland (UNK). Sikorska, Adolplina, born in Poland (UNK). I would appreciate information on any of the above names and any relatives as far back as possible.

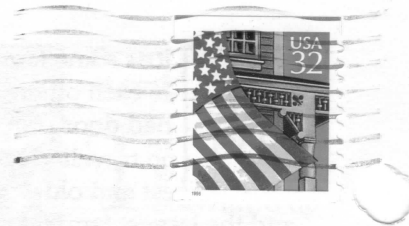
The following is a Polish translation of the above query:

Moje imie i nazwisko, Jaworowski, Pawel N., 5116 37th St. E., Bradenton, FL 34203-3408. Szukam informacje o nastepne nazwiska: Jaworowski, Pawel, urodzony w 1859 roku w Mielewo-Zabielane w Parafji Koblin. Stypukowski, Karolina, urodzona 24go Grudnia, 1866 roku w Makow Polska. Miala siostry blizniaczkie ktora pozostala w Polsce. Jaworowski, Jan, urodzony w Polsce (miejsce urodzenia nieznane). Siedlecka, Maryjanna, urodzony w Polsce (miejsce urodzenia nieznane). Stipulkowski, Jozef, urodzony w Polsce (miejsce urodzenia nieznane). Sikorska, Adolplina, urodzony w Polsce (miejsce urodzenia nieznane). Bardzo prosze o jakokolwiek informacje o tych osobach i takze o krewnych i przodkow.



**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

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



1/97
EDWARD MENDYKA
4330 JENNINGS ROAD - #233
CLEVELAND OH 44109

FIRST CLASS MAIL

How to Preserve Documents: A Recipe for Preserving Old Newspaper Clippings

Recipe:

- 1 capful Milk of Magnesia
- 1 bottle of Club Soda

Pour one capful of milk of magnesia into the bottle of club soda. Carefully replace the cap and SLOWLY invert to mix the two liquids. Store this overnight in the refrigerator. (Although not lethal, you could label the bottle so someone else doesn't move it.) Pour the new solution into a glass cake pan. Gently put a clipping into the solution for 2-3 minutes. Be careful not to tear or poke holes in the fragile paper. Carefully place between WHITE paper towels to extract most of the solution. Transfer and store overnight between two pages of white blotter paper with books used on top for weights.

*THIS METHOD IS NOT TO
BE USED FOR MANU--*

*SCRIPTS OR LETTERS AS
THE INK WILL BLEED!!*

"Wei 'To" is the name of an archival preparation to deacidify paperback books, newspapers and maps. It comes in a spray can or in a solution to paint or dip on the item to be preserved.

Archival Suppliers:

The following companies are said to provide Mylar sheet protectors and acid-free papers and boxes along with other items of interest to genealogists:

20th Century Plastics
3628 Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90016

- or -

P. O. Box 30231
Los Angeles, CA 90030
(213) 731-0900

Demco Inc.
Box 7488
Madison, WI 53707
1-800-356-1200

Everton Publishers
P. O. Box 368
Logan, UT 84321

Exposures
9180 LeSaint Dr.
Fairfield, OH 45014
1-800-222-4947

Gaylord Brothers
Box 4901
Syracuse, NY 13221-4901

Highsmith Co., Inc.
W5527 Highway 106
P. O. Box 800
Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538-0800
1-800-634-6307

Light Impressions
439 Moneow Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607-3717
1-800-828-6216

(The above info was posted
on America Online in Oct.
1995)