

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
 JAN./MAR. 1997 - VOL. 5, No. 1 906 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.

January 7th:

Ben will present a taped lecture on Polish genealogical research by Thaddeus Obal.

February 4th:

John Bellamy of the Fairview Park Regional Library will speak about the genealogy resources available at this library.

March 4th:

Come join our general genealogy discussion among fellow members. We'll share tips and clues on how to find information on their families. If you have any updates for the Village Location Project on our map of Poland, please bring along the village name and exact location so we can place "your" pin. If you cannot make it to a meeting, send a note to our vice-president, Ben Kman and he will do it for you.

Ellis Island - A Brief Retrospect

(Printed by permission of The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY 10017)

Ellis Island stands as a constant reminder of our nation's immigrant heritage. Just a few hundred yards north of Liberty Island in New York Harbor, Ellis Island is a monument symbolizing the great American traditions of freedom and opportunity.

Ellis Island was once the nation's major federal immigration facility, processing 17 million men, women & children who came to the United States from 1892 to 1954. This was the largest human migration in modern history, and today, more than 40%, or over 100 million, of all living Americans can trace their roots to an ancestor who came through Ellis Island.

Through the years, Ellis Island grew almost as dramatically as the nation. Its land area quickly expanded from three acres of slush, sand and oyster shells to 27 man-made acres housing 33 buildings. The landfill was provided from the ballast of the ships that brought the immigrants to America, and also from the excavated materials removed during construction of the New York subway system.

In 1965, Ellis Island was designated part of the Statue of Liberty Nat'l Monument, which is administered by the National Park Service (NPS) of the Department of the Interior. Ten years later, Congress authorized funds to clean up and renovate a small portion of the island, but the years of neglect had taken their toll.

Ellis Island Restoration

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan asked Lee Iacocca to set up an organization, The Statue of Liberty Ellis Island Foundation, that would raise

funds and oversee construction for the restoration and preservation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, and plan for the centennial celebrations of each.

The restoration of Ellis Island, which began in 1984, cost approximately \$140 million. It is the largest restoration project of its kind in American history. Its scope is comparable to the restorations done on the Palace of Versailles in France and Leningrad's Hermitage.

The Ellis Island Museum

The Ellis Island Museum is a major institution dedicated to the promotion, advancement, and understanding of America as a nation of immigrants. Located in a 200,000 sq. ft. Main Building, the museum is the most historically significant structure on Ellis Island. Here, in various rooms of the building, many new arrivals - many fearful of rejection - were processed, inspected and ultimately granted permission to enter the country. Half of the museum's space is devoted to telling the story of Ellis Island, and the remaining areas include displays that portray the immigrant experience. The Great Hall, with its soaring barrel-vault ceiling and clerestory windows, is exhibit-free.

Reliving the Immigration Experience

When visitors disembark from the ferry to Ellis Island, they find themselves directly in front of the Main Building, standing under the recreated historic canopy - the same point where immigrants began the process toward American citizenship.

(continued on page 3)

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



Editor:	Sarah Evanko	221-7506
	1422 Wyandotte Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107 ih004@cleveland.freenet.edu	
President:	John F. Szuch	769-4603
	105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, OH 44273	
Vice President:	Ben Kman	278-2693
	4 Bellus Road, Hinckley, OH 44233 kman@multiverse.com	
Treasurer:	Richarda Jambrozy	226-1548
	1492 Lewis Drive, Lakewood, OH 44107	
Secretary:	Lynn Vizdos	749-7951
	3912 Behrwald Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109	
Membership:	Joe & Gloria Hadbavny	734-7839
	3889 Edgepark Drive, North Olmsted, OH 44070	

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: March 5th

Contributors for this issue: Sarah Evanko,

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



Your newly re-elected Officers for 1997:

(Back): John Szuch (President), Ben Kman (Vice President) (Front): Lynn Vizdos (Secretary) and Richarda Jambrozy (Treasurer).



Dear fellow members –

I'd like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. Secondly, I'd like to say that if any of you missed

our recent Christmas party, you really missed a treat! I don't think we have ever had such a selection of food. There was everything from pierogies to stuffed cabbage, with most everything in between. If you couldn't find something you liked, then you didn't like Polish food. And the tables of desserts – yes, I said tables! Let's just say it wasn't a good night to be counting calories.

The success of such a party (attended by 60 people) not only goes to the people who prepared the various dishes and desserts, but also to the people who unselfishly gave of their time to preheat and serve the food to the rest of the members. My hat is off to them in thanks.

Preceding the Christmas Party, we held a brief business meeting which included elections. My fellow officers and I are very appreciative of our unanimous re-election for 1997. We will continue to try and make this organization a fun and successful one for you. As I have mentioned in the past, I am always open for suggestions or criticisms.

Our membership currently stands at 80. For 1997, I'd like to see every member set a goal for themselves to recruit at least one new member. With a fair degree of success, we could easily break the 100 barrier.

As always, I encourage members to send in articles for publication in this bulletin. We would also like information and pictures for the "Branch News" department. This is a good place to share family happenings with club members, particularly for out-of-state members who don't have the opportunity to attend our meetings.

May God bless and keep all our families throughout 1997. Best wishes from your President,

John F. Szuch

(continued from Front Page)

Entering the museum, visitors walk in the footsteps of their ancestors as they enter a vestibule that opens to the Baggage Room, where displays and audiovisual programs re-create the Ellis Island experience.

The American Immigrant Wall of Honor is a special exhibit that evokes the deepest emotional impact for millions of Americans who visit Ellis Island. It features the names of those ancestors who first came to America. Sons and daughters of immigrant heritage have honored their forefathers in a public display at this national monument. With a contribution of \$100 or more, donors can place a name of their choice on The American Immigrant Wall of Honor. Immigrant names are entered, together with country of origin and name of donor, in a computer register located at Ellis Island. In addition, donors receive an official certificate honoring their ancestor.

Ellis Island – Historic Dates

1630 The Colonial governors of Nieuw Amsterdam purchased a small, 3.5 acre mudbank in Upper New York Bay, near the New Jersey shore. The Indians called it Kioshk, or Gull Island, after the birds that were its only inhabitants. The Dutch settlers called it "Oyster Island", after the many surrounding oyster beds. The Island barely rose above the surface at high tide.

1700's During the Colonial period, the Island was known Dyre's, then Bucking.

1776 By the time of the American Revolution, the Island was owned by Samuel Ellis, a New York merchant and owner of a small tavern on the Island catering to fishermen.

1808 Samuel Ellis' heirs sold the Island to New York State. The name Ellis Island stuck. Later in the year, the Federal Government bought Ellis Island for \$10,000.

1812 Ellis Island served as an arsenal during the War of 1812.

1834 By the terms of an interstate agreement, Ellis Island and neighboring Bedloe's Island (renamed Liberty Island in 1956, site of the Statue of Liberty) were declared part of New York State, even though both islands are on the New Jersey side of the main ship channel.

1890 The States turned over control of immigration to the Federal Government. The U.S. Congress appropriated \$75,000 to build the first Federal immigration station on Ellis Island. Artesian wells were dug, and landfill doubled the size of Ellis to over six acres. While the new immigration station was under construction, the Barge Office on the Battery on the tip of Manhattan was used for immigrant reception.

January 1, 1892

The first Ellis Island Immigration Station was officially opened. The first day, three large ships were waiting to land, and approximately 700 immigrants passed through Ellis Island. In the first year, nearly 450,000 immigrants passed through the Island.

June 15, 1897

A fire completely destroyed the wooden structures on Ellis. No one died, but most of the immigration records dating from 1855 were destroyed. In five years, some 1.5 million immigrants had been processed. While a new, fireproof immigration station was constructed on Ellis, processing was transferred back to the Barge Office.

December 17, 1900

Opening of the present Main Building, an impressive French Renaissance structure in red brick with limestone trim. It cost some \$1.5 million and was designed to process 5,000 immigrants a day. This was scarcely big enough for the surge of immigration in the pre-World War I years. The Island was continuously enlarged with landfill, remodeling, additions and new construction.

1907 This was the peak year at Ellis Island with 1,004,756 immigrants received. The all-time daily high was 11,747 on April 17th.

1908 The Baggage and Dormitory Building was completed and capacity of the hospital was doubled. A dining room for 1,000 at a sitting was built on the top floor of the Kitchen and Laundry building.

July 30, 1916

Explosions severely damaged the Ellis Island Buildings. The most notable addition included in repairs was the new ceiling over the Great Hall, a barrel vault constructed by the Guastavino Brothers.

1918-1919

The U.S. Army and Navy took over most of Ellis for use as a way station and treatment of returning sick and wounded American service men. During the war, there was a sharp decline in immigration as numbers of newcomers passing through Ellis decreased from 178,416 in 1915, to 28,867 in 1918.

1921 Post-war immigration quickly revived and 560,971 immigrants passed through Ellis in 1921. The first Immigration Quota Law passed U.S. Congress.

1924 The Immigration Act of 1924 further restricted immigration to 164,000. This marked the end of mass immigration to America. The buildings at Ellis Island began to fall in disuse and disrepair.

1939-1945

During WWII, facilities were used by the Coast Guard to house and train recruits. After the U. S. entered the war in Dec. 1941, it was used as a detention center for suspected enemy aliens and as a hospital for returning wounded service men.

1950 A brief flurry of activity occurred after the passage of the Internal Security Act, which excluded arriving aliens who had been members of Communist and Fascist organizations. Remodeling was done to accommodate 1,500 detainees at a time.

1952 Detainees dropped to less than 30 as a result of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952.

November 1954. Ellis Island, with its 33 buildings, was closed and declared excess Federal property.

1954-1965 Ellis Island was under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration.

May 11, 1965 Pres. Johnson issued Proclamation 3656 adding Ellis Island to the Statue of Liberty National Monument.

1976 Ellis Island was opened to the public for visits. 50,000 came in 1976.

1984-Present Visitation reached 70,000/yr. when restoration began. Funds were raised by the non-profit Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., and it opened as a major immigration museum in 1989.

"Branch" News



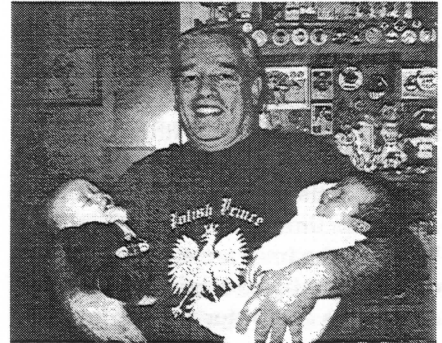
Founder & Past President Edward Mendyka (left) and current President, John F. Szuch (right) during our Society's 5th Anniversary celebration, complete with cake!

Congratulations to Christine Mata Collins on becoming a grandmother recently. In addition, Christine's daughter Amy was recently wed to double her pleasure.

Norman and Edna Braun recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Congratulations on reaching such a wonderful milestone!

We have our FIRST International member; Richard Sredzinski, who is from Guelph, Ontario, Canada. May he just be the first of many more.

Norman Braun was the guest speaker for a local genealogical group at the Fairview Park regional library on September 16th. He was very well received and gave an excellent presentation on his genealogical efforts on behalf of his family.



John F. Szuch with grandsons Michael James Szuch (left) born 6 Sep 1996, and Jonathan Grant Szuch (right) born 7 Oct 1996. Michael is the son of John's son James, and Jonathan is the son of John's oldest son, John Jr.

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

Trudy & Richard Burkhart – Brunswick, OH

Jim Cupedro – Lakewood, OH

Madeline & Charles Grimes – Cleveland, TX

Charlotte & Henry Karolewski – N. Royalton, OH

John & Rosalie Ryan – N. Royalton, OH

Richard Sredzinski – Guelph, Ontario, CANADA

Marysue Zehms – Green Bay, WI

Edwin & Connie Zelek – Parma, OH

If you have news to share, just send it to the Editor.

Are YOU "Past Due"??

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!*



The faces behind the names. . . Who, you say? (left to right): Wanda Slusarski (refreshments), Sarah Evanko (Editor), Gloria and Joe Hadvavny (Membership Co-Chairmen).



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. *By the way, if you've discovered a "new" surname that you didn't know about when you were originally featured in this column, please send it in and we will post it.*

RESEARCHER'S NAME & ADDRESS:

Trudy & Richard Burkhart
488 Mohawk Trail
Brunswick, OH 44212

Madeline & Charles Grimes
19635 Hwy. 105
Cleveland, TX 77327-2433

Charlotte & Henry Karolewski
15930 Ridge Road
North Royalton, OH 44133

Richard Sredzinski
15 Peter Avenue
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1E 1T5

Edwin & Connie Zelek
3148 Alden Drive
Parma, OH 44134

Marysue Zehms
Box 564
Green Bay, WI 54305-0564

Martin Paul Wolke
7663 Cecilia Drive
Parma, OH 44134

SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED:

Burkhart, Dudzinski, Glus, Johnston,
Kantarski/Kientarski, Kapla, Klaehn, Knecht,
Lewandowski, Lubowicz, Majerczak, Major,
Meyers, Milak, Nicol, Sivanich, Tramsak,
Walthour, Wentrup, Wilczynski, Wolfe,
Wysmilak/Wipmilak.

Chrzan (later changed to Cone),
Krakowski (later changed to Kresh), Kupszta,
Kurczeska, Mikolajczak, Motisk, Setlowicze,
Sokolovsky, Walentowska, Zurek.

Lasota, Magiera, Mikus, Nedza, Ptak, Ryba,
Siokora, Szurga, Zaba

Sredzinski

Bryk, Dorenkott, Kuehn, Zelek

Zehms

Dombrowski, Jankowski, Klonowska, Majewski,
Radziszewski, Wolke

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

The History of St. Adalbert's Parish of Berea, Ohio

(From the 100th Anniversary Book, "Our Faith & Heritage" published by St. Adalbert's Church, Berea, OH, in 1972)

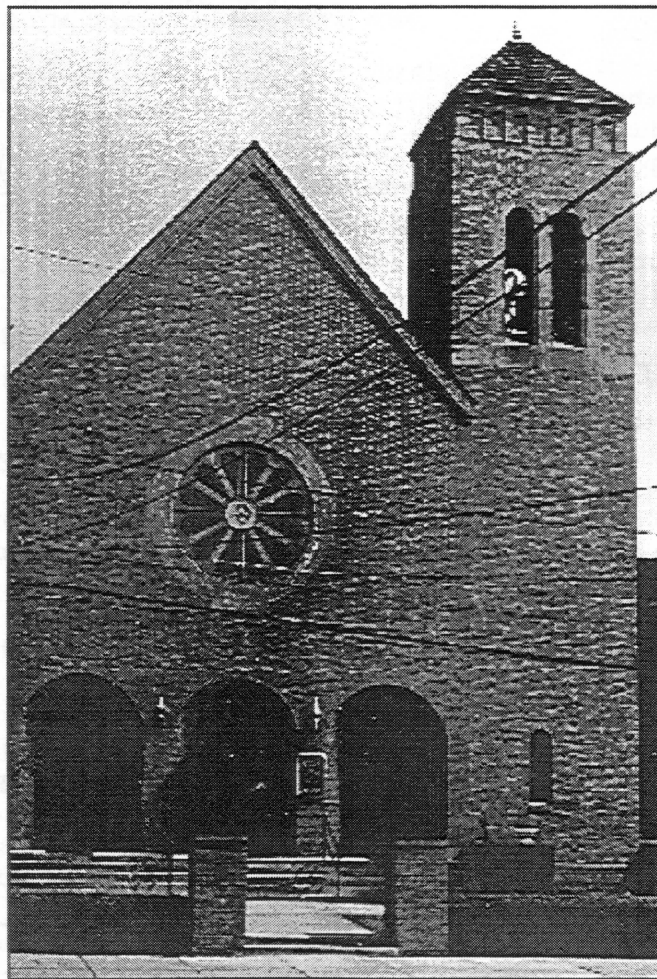
In 1865, a small group of Polish immigrants came to Berea, Ohio. Most of the men found jobs at the quarries, The Cleveland Stone Co. Encouraged by good pay, they sent for their friends and relatives living in their partitioned country across the ocean.

By 1873, the Polish colony numbered around 100 families. They longed for their own Polish church, where they could pray and hear the gospel in their own language. They were attending the Irish church of St. Mary's and twice a year, Father Szulak, S.J., of Chicago, Ill., came to Berea to give them an opportunity to fulfill their religious obligations and hear a sermon in their native tongue.

They decided to petition Bishop Gilmour of the Diocese of Cleveland for a church. He understood their feelings and appointed Father Victor Zareczny as Pastor and organizer of the Polish Church in Berea, and the first Polish Church in the State of Ohio.

On the 4th day of December 1873, Father Zareczny, who was educated in Lwow, then Austrian Poland, and in Austria, arrived in Berea to assume an active role as Pastor and build a church. After a thorough study and survey of the area, he decided on the site for the church. He received a donation of one and one-fourth acres of land, the donor's name was not recorded in the church history. He made a loan of \$1,000 from each

of three German parishioners: Frank Grospitch, Albert Basch, and one other family. He laid out a street and lots and sold them for homes to parishioners. His name still appears on some tax duplicates. Two of these acres, he reserved for parish property.



Construction of the House of God was begun on April 1, 1874 at a cost of \$6,000, borrowed from the Bank on the recommendation of Mr. Neubrand.

By June 29th, Fr. Zareczny was ready for the laying of the cornerstone of what is today, one of the oldest Polish Parish Churches

between New York and Chicago.

According to an account in the Catholic Universe Bulletin of July 1874, all of Berea joined St. Adalbert parishioners in their celebration. The shops were closed for the day. Everyone gathered at the depot to meet the clergy who were arriving by train for the ceremony.

Two bands, one from Elyria and one from St. Joseph's were there. The Hiberian Society of Berea and St. Joseph's Benevolent Society of Rockport, all joined Fr. Zareczny and the now 150 parish families in greeting Fr. Westerhold, who was to lay the cornerstone. With him were Fr. Filiere of Berea, Fr. Murphy of Olmsted Falls, Dr. Quigley of the Seminary, Fr. Hynek and Fr. Reichlin of Cleveland, Fr. O'Brien of Rockport (St. Mary's on Brookpark Rd.), and Fr. Heidegger of Avon. These reverend gentlemen were led by the children of the parish in a mile-long procession from the railroad station, along Front St. to the site of the new church. The girls were dressed in white and the boys in uniform.

By special permission of his excellency, the Bishop, Fr. Westerhold performed the

ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone. Following this, Fr. Westerhold preached in German, Dr. Quigley in English and Fr. Zareczny in Polish.

The church was completed and in use by December, 1874. School classes were begun immediately in

(continued on Page 7)



*Pelagja Szweda
Dziedzikowska at the age of
18. She was the first baby
baptized in St. Adalbert
Church on Dec. 8, 1873.*

the choir loft with Julius Krygier, the organist, as teacher.

The church was made of brick and covered 45 x 80 feet of land. The roof was made of slate shingles. Imported stained glass windows were purchased by August Janke and wife, Joseph Tymek, Martin Tymek, Frances Helwich and son. The pulpit was purchased by Frank Helwich, the Eternal Light by Elizabeth Helwich and the statue of the Madonna and the church linens by Mary Helwich, wife of Frank. The beautiful altars were carved in Poland and shipped piece by piece.

The same year, 4 acres of land was purchased for a cemetery for \$520. On Sept. 26, 1875, the Church was dedicated by the very Reverend Administrator, Boff.

The school was constructed two years after the church was built. Each parishioner paid \$10 and the balance of \$177.75 was given by Fr. Zareczny, who purchased many necessities for the church and school from his own money. There were 60 pupils in the school. In

1878 the first rectory was built.

After the building of the church, there came an unexpected depression, unemployment, lack of finances, strikes; brought the people to great need and poverty that lasted approx. eight years. That is why many of the people left for the west or other parts of the country to seek better fortunes. That left a bigger load to carry on the church debt for those that were attached and faithful to their church. In spite of the need and lack of money, many Poles remained in the church of St. Adalbert of Berea. With Pastor Fr. Zareczny's administration, the church debt was reduced to \$2,300 before December of 1880. After 10 years, Fr. Zareczny left Berea in February 1884.

The next Pastor was Fr. N. Kolasinski, who added a lofty spire to the church and enlarged it by adding the Sanctuary and building the Sacristies, making its dimensions 45 x 132 ft., all at a cost of \$5,000. In March of 1889, Fr. E.J. Slowikowski became Pastor, stayed one year and was followed in 1890 by Fr. Benedict Rosinski. In his administration, he reduced the debt to \$1,300, but also spent \$1,000 on church vestments.

The next year in 1891, he purchased half an acre of land for a new brick schoolhouse. Its dimensions were 71 x 78 feet. With interior furnishings, the cost was \$11,000.

In December 1891, Fr. Rosinski brought the venerable Felician Sisters from Detroit, MI as teachers. There were 80 pupils. Before the nuns arrival, the children had been taught by lay teachers. The following year (1892), the convent was built. Fr. Rosinski left St. Adalbert in June, to become the Pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Cleveland.

Father Feliks Motulewski came for one year in 1892. The Rev. Dr. T. Misicki was Pastor until July of 1894, when Fr. A. Suplicki arrived. Under his administration, the debt was reduced to almost zero. The youth and their problems were nearest his heart. He began

organizations and sodalities for them, especially the boys. Not only did he found the St. Aloysius Sodality for them, but he promoted football and baseball teams for their athletic instincts.

He increased the number of teachers in the school and in 1897 started the building of a beautiful stone rectory which was completed in 1898 at a cost of \$6,000.

In December 1900, the school had an enrollment of 200 and four Felician Sister teachers.

When Ft. Suplicki was transferred in 1901, the church was



Anthony Wesolek in the uniform of the St. Adalbert's Band in 1891 with his wife Agnes holding their first child Mary (Skortz).

(Continued on Page 8)



St.. Adalbert's 4-voice choir - about 1908. Organist Niemczura is sitting in the center of the front row.

Top Row: (left to right) Michal Ulandowski, Franciszek Szejka, Ludwik Marcinek, Jan Ksiazkoiewicz. **2nd Row:** Wladyslawa Ksiazkiewicz, Jadwiga Dziedzikowska, Zuzanna Tamas, Jadwiga Tamas. **3rd Row:** Andrzej Dembowski, Roman Wasielewski, Helena Durecka, Franciszka Mielcarek, Klara Wieczorek, Franciszka Wieczorek, Anna Mielcarek and Leokadia Dziedzikowska. **4th Row:** Leon Walinski, Marcin Teperowicz, Edmund Mikolajczyk, Organist Niemczura, Gertruda Szejka, Domicela Konarska, and Cecylia Sztukowska.

served by Rev. L. Kuzins, from May until Sept. when Rev. Dr. Paul Cwiakala arrived as Pastor. He bought a pipe organ for the church for \$1,500 that is still in use today. He also bought a lot next to the school, had a steel fire escape built on the school, and installed steam heating in the church and school.

The Golden Jubilee was celebrated in 1924 with the parish free of debt. The first history of the Parish was written by Fr. Piotrowski for the 50th Anniversary in 1924. Without him, none of the details from the early years would likely have survived. Fr. Piotrowski celebrated his own Silver Jubilee on May 29th & 30th, 1927. He left St. Adalbert's on Dec. 10, 1931 after 20 years of service.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Schrembs then appointed Fr. Stanilaus Rogosz temporarily, followed by Fr. J.

Szpanowski who stayed until June 17, 1932, when a permanent Pastor, Fr. Francis Duda was appointed. The following year, the Bishop sent an Assistant - Fr. M. Krajdzieski who stayed until July 22, 1938 and was replaced by Fr. Casimir Grabowski.

Fr. Duda proceeded to renovate the church and school. After paying the debts in 1935, there was \$3,000 left in the treasury. A year later, the new Convent was built. The Contractor, Peter Filarecki, and most of the workers were from the Parish. They worked so hard that in three months, the house was ready. It was paid for by the donations of the parishioners who gave enough to enlarge the treasury to \$5,000.

The people now started thinking about a new church, since the Building Commission of The State advised that the steeple of the

church had to be taken down and the church foundation strengthened. This would cost from 20 to 25 thousand dollars. It was evident that the repairs would be too expensive, and it would be more beneficial to build a new church. However, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Schrembs said that \$5,000 is not enough to start a building; that at least half of the cost had to be raised first. The people decided to ask for pledges, and in 3 weeks, the sum was raised. With the approval of the Bishop, The Diocese Cemetery Fund loaned \$20,000 at 4% interest.

The interior, such as pews, linoleum, and the landscaping and sidewalks were all done by the parishioners. The architect was Thaddeus Badowski from Cleveland, and the Contractor Leon Schmidt, also from Cleveland. The church was 48 x 121 ft., and the front, with the two steeples of 60 feet, looked very presentable. The value of the church, without the furnishings, was \$55,000.

The dedication of the land under the new church was on June 27, 1937 by Monsignor A. Radecki of Cleveland. Dedication of the cornerstone was made by Monsignor M. J. Orzechowski, also from Cleveland.

At first the work went very slowly. Because of strikes by iron workers, it took nearly two months to get steel. The church was completed in March of 1938 and the first Mass was said during the Easter holidays on the 17th of April.

On the 11th of September 1938, Rt. Rev. Bishop Schrembs dedicated the church at the 10:00 A.M. mass. The sermon was given by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. J. Orzechowski of Cleveland.

The next year in 1939, Fr. Duda was transferred to St. John Cantius Parish in Cleveland, and a former "boy of the parish", Fr. John W. Solinski who, in his own words; served Mass, received his first communion and was confirmed there, was sent back to St. Adalbert's as

(continued on Page 9)

Pastor. On June 18, 1941, Asst. Fr. Casimir Grabowski was replaced by Fr. Casimir R. Filatowski. He in turn was replaced by Fr. Casimir J. Sitko as assistant in March 1942.

By this time our country was engulfed in second World War and our boys were leaving to serve their country. Because of the war, Fr. John passed up the celebration of his silver Jubilee of ordination in June 1942, but gave out memento cards as a souvenir of the sacred day.

On February 22, 1943, the last of our founders, Mrs. Lucy Tadych age 95, was buried from our church

Father Sitko. The following year, stained glass was installed in the church at a cost of \$7,124.

A plot of land was set aside in 1946 in St. Adalbert's Cemetery, honoring all servicemen from the parish who served in the wars.

In May 1948, through the efforts of Roman J. Siodla, a parishioner, and veteran of WWI, a monument was erected. It was dedicated by Fr. John Solinski. The parish is proud of its boys in service, 98 of whom served in WWI, eight of them paid the supreme sacrifice. In the second World War, 259 answered their Country's call,

enacting their roles, we saw the different characters in the history of St. Adalbert's church from the beginning to 1948. The children danced "Krakowiak" in Polish costumes, and finally concluded with singing "Jeszcze Polska nie zginela." (Poland is not dead yet, as long as we are living.) Those that were present described the play as very beautiful.

In the years past, to help defray expenses of the church the parishioners were asked to pay "Pew Rent". It was \$10/year for one seat, \$15 for two. This was discontinued in 1948. The small envelopes for



In 1911, Father Ignacy L. Piotrowski became the Pastor of St. Adalbert. He was a scholar and stressed higher education. He increased the grades until there was a full elementary school of 8 grades. The first graduating class of 1920 had nine members.

They were: (back row): Cecilia Siodla, Berniece Basinski (Zalewski), Frank Thomas, Cecilia Dembowski (Mack), Victoria Yanke (Klekotta) **(front row):** Andrew Kandrac, Salomeja Kabat (Nun), Father Piotrowski, Rose Thomas (Kaspar) and Leon Belter. By 1924, there were 300 pupils and 6 Felician Sisters.

and laid to rest at St. Adalbert's Cemetery. She and her husband Adalbert, were among the first Polish settlers in Berea.

The new church needed some repairs at this time, the two towers on the church were buckling and cracking. The Gaspard Co. was hired to demolish and rebuild them in Sept. 1943. The new design left the church with one tower. In June 1945, Fr. Casimir Cudnik was appointed assistant to replace

including 4 women (2 nurses in the Navy, 1 a Marine, and 1 WAC). Another eight had died. For a parish with 400 families, this was a good show of patriotism.

On Dec. 4, 1948, the parish of St. Adalbert was 75 years old. That evening, under the tutoring of the Felician Sisters, the whole school took part in a play "This is your life story". As the children came on the stage through a beautiful archway, dressing according to the period,

Sunday and monthly collections continued to be in use. Parish picnics and raffles were held from time to time to help with the revenue of the church.

On August 11, 1949, Fr. John P. Kusiak was appointed assistant to replace Fr. C. I. Cudnik.

St. Adalbert's Parish has had only one Centenarian; Marcel Zurek who turned 100 years old on

(continued on Page 10)

(continued from Page 9)

January, 1950 (This was as of the writing of this history in 1973). A skilled shoemaker, Marcel Zurek came to this country from Poznan in 1880 with his wife and three children. For the first few months he worked in the quarries for 10 cents an hour, 60 hours a week. Then he made shoes in Cleveland for a year and for George Neubrand in Berea for 4 years. In 1886 he opened a shoe repair shop in Berea and worked until he was 92 years old. His wife, who had 18 children, died at the age of 76 in 1934, shortly after their 60th wedding anniversary.

He enjoyed playing cards, especially Pinochle. He didn't drink liquor, drank one cup of coffee a day and smoked two cigars a week, on Wednesday and Sunday.

He was a deeply religious man and prescribed a daily family Rosary for a long happy life. Before he died, he prayed through 78 years of the daily rosary – "that he might live to see his children's children". And he lived to see 11 of his great-great grandchildren.

Until he was 95 he attended

daily mass. An operation at the age of 96 years limited his worship to Sundays and Holy Days. A precious story that his family cherishes and chuckles about happened when Marcel was over 100 years old. He went to mass one morning and seeing that there were no altar boys, went into the sacristy and talked to the Priest who allowed him to serve mass. He knew exactly what to do, answered all the Latin responses, and made no mistakes! An Altar Boy at 100!

The grand old man lived to be 102 years old and died from shock after he fell in his home and broke his hip. He left 133 direct descendants, 11 children out of 18, 44 grandchildren, 67 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great grandchildren.

On March 1, 1952, a Solemn High Mass was said for his burial by Fr. Solinski, and Fathers Kusiak and Sitko in attendants. Simultaneously at the side altars, masses were said by Fr. Podbielski and Father Cudnik. Office of the dead was chanted: a beautiful tribute to our oldest parishioner.

On Oct. 23, 1952, Fr. Walter Dobosz replaced Fr. John Kusiak as assistant. The parish was growing, and realizing the need for expansion, Fr. John addressed the parishioners on May 14, 1953, regarding the need for building an addition to the school. The next day 75 members of the parish ventured on a campaign of calls on parishioners; working towards a goal of \$150,000. By May 23rd, the pledges received were for an overwhelming amount of \$63,314.50. A loan from the bank was made for \$100,000. Ground was broken for the construction of 4 classrooms, cafeteria and kitchen on July 5, 1953. Building of the addition was done by Floreske and Son, Inc. The beginning of that school year (Sept. 1953) the Felician Sisters from the Pittsburgh province replaced those from the Detroit province. On Sept. 12, 1954, The Most Rev. Archbishop Edward F. Hoban blessed the two-story annex following the 10:00 A.M. Mass.

(The conclusion of St. Adalbert's History will be in the next issue of "Our Polish Ancestors".)

PBS Ancestors Series To Air in January 1997

(Originally posted to the Internet in July 1996, this is a copy of the brochure that PBS distributed.)

The Ancestor ten-part television series is scheduled for national release on PBS in January of 1997. The series is an introduction to genealogy and family history, focusing on the impact that connecting with ancestors has on individuals and families. Powerful stories of people who have made the connection to their family's past are followed by practical instruction on how to begin this journey of a lifetime.

Episode One: *Getting Started*

Victor Villasenor grew up alienated and ashamed as a Mexican-American in Southern California. He felt disconnected, not American

nor Mexican. He started to look to his past for answers and in his journey became whole. The episode dispels common misconceptions about genealogy and family history and introduces the pedigree chart as one of the most important tools that is used in searching for ancestors. Expert Desmond Allen explains how a pedigree chart is used to begin your family history today. It is as simple as starting with what you know.

Episode Two: *Looking At Home.*

An Oregon farmhouse full of seven generations of artifacts held clues for divorcee Shannon Applegate who was looking for missing pieces to her life. In this ancestral home

she found a pioneer heritage that gave her renewed strength and understanding about herself. What to look for at home, and how to organize these bits and pieces of your past is explored with expert Antonia Cottrell Martin.

Episode Three: *Gathering Family Stories.*

A recent immigrant to the United States, Fabiana Chiu had a mixed feelings about her Chinese-Peruvian heritage. Wanting to know more, Fabiana traveled with her parents to Peru to interview living relatives. In her journey, she discovered traditions and links to her Chinese heritage that awakened a new understanding of her person-

al identity. Our expert, Bill Zimmerman will focus on how the novice can successfully interview and document living relatives.

Episode Four: *The Paper Trail.* Rafael Guber shares with many Americans the knowledge that his family first came to America through Ellis Island. Rafael's respect for this event in his ancestor's lives compelled him to recreate the Ellis Island experience with 100 descendants of immigrants in period clothing. This episode helps us understand how the records that we find are witness to important events in our ancestors lives. Our experts share the different types of records that are found in genealogical research.

Episode Five: *Libraries and Archives.* Tom Madrid found records of his Hispanic heritage in the United States dating back hundreds of years by starting at his local library in Colorado. Our hosts will tour the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, where people from around the world come to do genealogical research. They will introduce you to the different places to find genealogical records after you've exhausted resources at home, including city, state and national repositories that are most commonly used in genealogy.

Episode Six: *Military and Census Records.* Garry Bryant was in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. Instead of feeling patriotic towards his service, he felt removed, depressed, and ashamed. Through family history he discovers 27 ancestors who served their country in battle. As he learned of their sacrifices to serve, his image of country and self were forever changed. Our expert, Curt Witcher will introduce two major American records that are commonly used in genealogy searches. Census and military records and what you can find in them will be explained in this episode.

Episode Seven: *African American Families.* An unlikely

bed of genealogical activity is found in South Central L.A. Collette DeVerge and the members of the California African American Genealogical Society share what family history and genealogy means to them. This episode focuses on the distinct challenge of researching African American records. Our expert, Tony Burroughs, will dispel myths about African American records and will introduce new information to help begin a successful search in this area.

Episode Eight: *Your Medical Heritage.* Carol Krause never imagined that her family history would save her life. Because Carol created a family medical pedigree documenting her ancestor's health, she was able to save her life and the lives of her sisters with the knowledge she found. Our experts will help you learn how to begin building your own medical pedigree.

Episode Nine: *High Tech Help.* Hardened criminals and genealogy? We take you inside a prison to meet inmates who do genealogy with the help of computers and microfiche. Their stories will surprise you. Our expert will show you how you can find family history easier and more fun than ever with some high tech help.

Episode Ten: *Leaving A Legacy* tells the stories of three different legacies left by families in our country. The More Family has held reunions every five years since 1889. What is different about this family is that since 1915 they have preserved each family reunion on film. The inspiring legacy that Talula Bottoms left for her family in quilts is a quiet testament to her humility. Finally, Jazz Musician Hannibal Peterson who finds the lost grave of his slave ancestor celebrates in the discovery with his family in a musical tribute of dance and African ritual at the ancestral grave.

Ancestors Hosts— Jim and Terry Willard. Jim and Terry Willard

never imagined when they attended the Sesquicentennial Conference of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in the Summer of 1995 that they would soon be hosting a television series for PBS.

Executive Producer, Sterling Van Wagenen, attended the conference to look for an engaging host for *Ancestors*. "I was at the conference looking for the right combination for a host. I was moving through the conference to sample speakers and I came across a pleasant voice in the dark at a computer session. The lights came up at the end of the session and I sat down while the meeting broke up to eavesdrop some more. What caught my attention was the complete attention and total generosity that Jim Willard gave to every person he met and the energy and vitality that Terry brought to their presentation. The day progressed and I watched this gift unfold to us." After an initial meeting with Sterling, Jim and Terry soon found themselves flying to Utah to meet with the rest of the *Ancestors* team.

Jim and Terry were both born and raised in Maine where they met in high school and married. They both went on to earn Bachelor and Master degrees from the University of Maine in Orono, Maine. Jim has taught History, and Terry has taught French at the Leavitt Area High School in Turner, Maine. When they met Sterling Van Wagenen at the Genealogical conference, they had just retired from a combined teaching career of 51 years.

Jim and Terry have shared a love of genealogy since their high school days together. They have researched their genealogy back 15 generations on both sides. Jim has found ancestors who fought on opposite sides of the French and Indian War, and both found that they were 6th cousins through their French-Canadian heritage. The Willards look forward to sharing their hobby and learning more with you on the series *Ancestors*.



**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**For Your Info:
The PBS
Ancestors Series. . .**

Is being produced by a group called Ancestors and KBYU-TV in Provo, UT and is not a product of the LDS Church or the Family History Department.

Eastman Kodak is the production corporate funder and additional support for outreach and promotion will be provided by Broderbund Software, Inc., Ancestry, Inc., Lineages, Inc., AGLL, Palladium Interactives, and Infobases.

For those who may not be aware, Ancestors went online with a homepage in Aug., 1995. Their address is:

<http://www.kbyu.byu.edu/ancestors>.

The page provides info about the series, links to serious and cool sites for genealogists to visit on the WWW.

Grandma's Cheese Pierogi

This is my grandmother's family recipe from central Wisconsin. Mary Gesicki, Wisconsin (posted on Genpol)

Filling:

2 lbs. dry cottage cheese
2 eggs
salt & pepper
1/2 onion, diced

Dough:

3 eggs
4 Tbsp milk
salt

Mix all ingredients.

Flour the dough, like for noodles - stiff but not dry.

Once the pierogi are formed, boil until they float to top, remove each individually, and drain on broiler pan; then fry in buttered frying pan until golden brown. Mmmm...

Mary Gesicki

*Do you have a recipe you would like to share? If so, please send it to the Editor, Sarah Ewanko at:
1422 Wyandotte Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107*