

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
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"I Think I Married a Polish Girl!" ... The Sequel

by Joe Evanko

In the Apr./Jun. 1997 edition of "Our Polish Ancestors" I wrote about my quest of proving that my wife, Sarah, the editor of this newsletter, has real Polish blood flowing through her veins. I commented on the frustration of tracing genealogies from the Middle Ages. After months of searching the books written on Polish history, I was unable to link the so-called Richenza, the Polish princess which showed up in my wife's genealogy. All the printed genealogies I reviewed in the Polish books left out female children that had no significance in the royal lineages.

"All the printed genealogies I reviewed in the Polish books left out female children that had no significance . . ."

Then I decided to work backwards through various English genealogies to see if there were any Polish links. Well, my patience has been rewarded!

While browsing at the Fairview Park regional library's genealogy section I found a book titled: "The Plantagenet Ancestry of King Edward and Queen Philippa". It is a copy of the handwritten genealogies researched by George Andrews Moriarty, published by the

Mormon Pioneer Genealogy Society. Since Sarah is a descendent of the Plantagenet's, I figured it couldn't hurt checking it out. Fortunately, the book was able to be checked out of the library. After only a couple of hours of trying to read the small script writing - BINGO! Starting from Edward I, Longshanks, I traced backwards to Richilde, not Richenza, the daughter of Wladislaw II, King of Poland.

Richilde had two brothers; Boleslaw I Wysocki of Silesia and Mieszko II Platonagi of Opole. Wladislaw II's father was Boleslaw III Krzyousty, the Wrymouthed, King of Poland. His father was Wladislaw I (Ladislas Hermann). From there we go back to Kazimierz I Odnowiciel (the Restorer), Mieszko II and then to his father, Boleslaw Chrobry, the Brave. His father was Mieszko I, the first christian king of Poland. Mieszko I was born in the year 922 and was the son of Ziemomysl. There is no further information from this point backwards.

Still puzzled by the name Richenza which showed up in Sarah's genealogy (and started this whole journey in the first place), I decided to do further digging in this interesting book. I found a Richenza (Rixa) who was Bela I's, (King of Hungary's) queen.

Tracing her forward, I discovered an entire Hungarian and eventually French line that was missing in Sarah's family tree. This line led

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October 7th:

Fellow member Joan Uniatowski will present a slide presentation on the Polish people while under communism and afterwards. These slides were taken during her trip to Poland in March 1996.

November 4th:

As of when we went to print, this was To Be Announced.

December 2nd:

Our annual Christmas Party! Did you miss last years'? Well, don't delay - make plans now to attend. Cost: \$6.00/person plus some goodies to share for dessert. As always, fellow member Virginia Luty of The Polish Peddler will offer her wares for your holiday gift-giving. The food is always great, and the fellowship unbeatable! Richarda Jambrozky will be collecting at the next two meetings.

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: December 2nd

Contributors for this issue: Joe Evanko, Sarah Evanko, John Szuch.

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

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"I Think I Married a Polish Girl!" . . . The Sequel

to Edward II of England's queen, Isabel of France, thus linking Richenza to Sarah. Tracing Richenza backward, I discovered that she was the sister of Kazimierz I (Casimer the Restorer) and the daughter of Mieszko II, whose wife was also named Richenza. This makes Richenza (Bela's wife) the great-great aunt of Richilde, the daughter of Wladislaw II. Confused yet?

Mieszko I is Sarah's 34th great-grandfather, making her a direct bloodline to the royal families that "made" Poland. Even though I am jealous of Sarah's ancestors, I am proud that she is Polish, just like me! Rumor has it that my paternal grandmother's family, Klimkiewicz, is related to Kosciuszko. So guess what my next research project is going to be? Until then, this humble peasant will just have to learn to live with royalty!

"He that has no fools, knaves, or beggers in his family, was begot by a flash of lightning."

English Proverb



Dear fellow members -

I have a number of things to report to you in this newsletter. First, our Vice-President Ben

Kman has resigned due to his leaving to attend graduate school in Budapest, Hungary! He will be truly missed by myself and the Society. We wish him the best of success and look forward to the time he rejoins us. In the meantime, Lynn Vizdos, our Secretary, will also be acting Vice-President until the elections in December.

Secondly, I am proud to report that our society membership total has gone over 100 members for the first time.

Thirdly, my thanks to those who participated in the joint meeting in Erie, PA with the group from The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State. (See the article and photographs elsewhere in this issue)

Next, we are making available copies of the second edition of William F. Hoffman's book *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*. If you have looked through this book, you know that it's an interesting book to have. If you had a copy out at a family function, it would generate interest. Copies can be had for \$25.00 each, postpaid and would make a great Christmas present. (It's worth getting the book just to see what it said about my last name!)

Last, but not least, our sympathy goes out to the family of our recently deceased fellow member, Nicole Striegl. Though living in Hawaii made it impossible to attend meetings, she enjoyed receiving our bulletin. Please remember her in your prayers.

Before I close, let me once again remind you to make plans to attend our Christmas Party on December 2nd. It's always a great time!

John F. Szuch



Cleveland Meets Buffalo

(in Erie, Pennsylvania!)

Some time ago, Dan Kij (the acting President of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State) suggested that our group from Cleveland, OH and their group from Buffalo, NY should try to hold a joint get-together in Erie, PA. This was a pretty logical choice as it is equal distance from both cities.

Several months ago I attended one of the Buffalo group's meetings and told them I would try and line up someplace in Erie for us to meet. On my way back to Cleveland, I stopped in Erie and went to the Rectory of St. Stanislaus Church. I discussed what we wanted to do with Fr. Bernard J. Urbaniak, the Pastor. I received his permission to use their school library. He gave me several open dates in August.

After coordinating with the Buffalo group, I made plans to both groups to meet on Saturday, August 9th at 1:00 p.m.

The two main objectives of the meeting were to have some interaction between the two groups and then hopefully bring out some Erie, PA locals who might be interested in starting a group with our help or joining one our groups.

To the first end, we were very successful. The two groups got along very well (I believe there were a total of 19 people in attendance). Each group brought some reference material that they shared with each other. Fr. Bernard contributed greatly to the meeting as he gave us a history of St. Stan's Parish which had been founded in 1885. He also told us that there are three other active Polish parishes in Erie.

To the second end, we fell flat on our faces. Unfortunately, no one local showed up. I'm sure that it was not due to lack of interest, but rather to the fact that we didn't get the word out locally. We will be planning another meeting and will rectify the lack of local advertising.

At approximately 3:30, the meeting broke up and we all went out to eat. Afterwards, a majority of the group went back to St. Stan's Church for Mass.

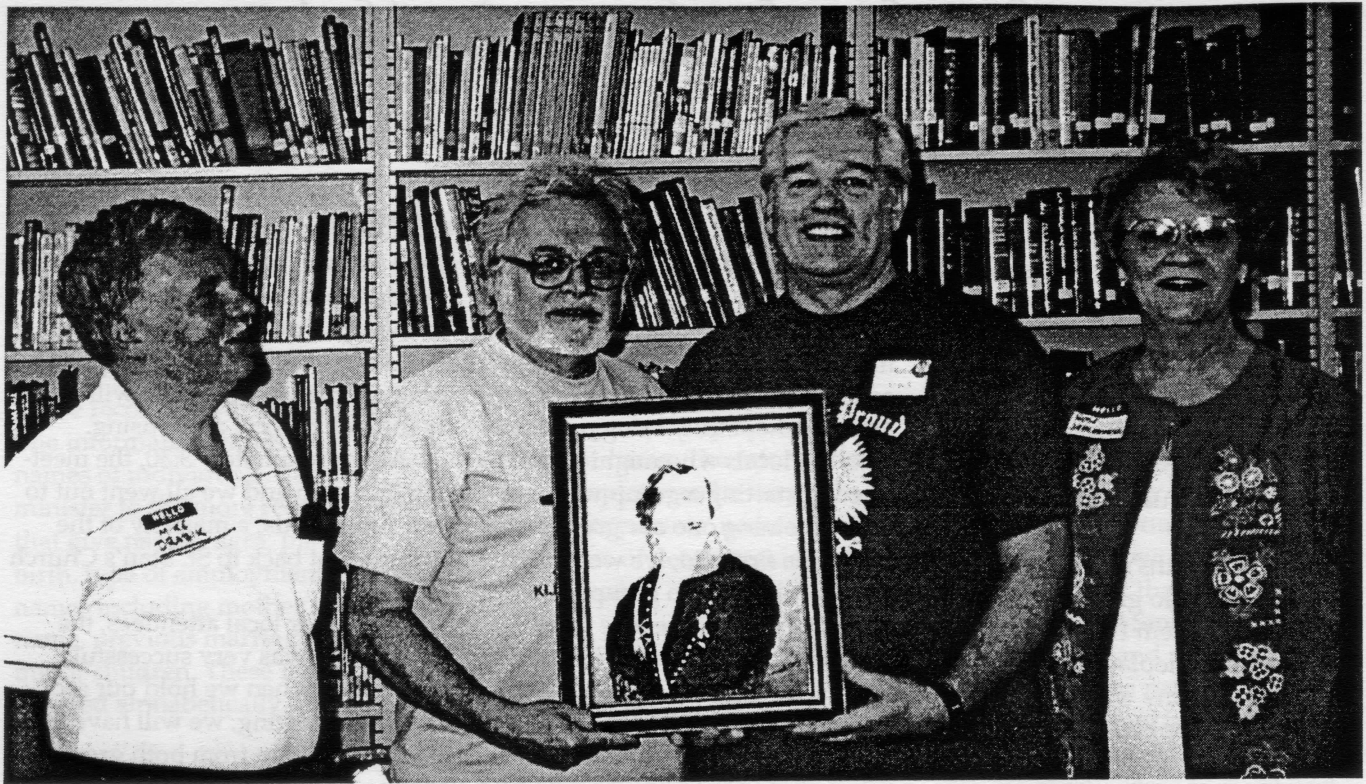
Except for local attendees, the experiment was very successful. Hopefully, when we hold our second joint meeting, we will have better participation from both groups as well as from Erie, PA.

John F. Szuch



The happy attendees who met in Erie, PA on August 9th. (Unfortunately, we do not have the names of everyone present in this picture for this caption.)

More pictures on the next page!



Dan Kij (second from left) presented a painting of Casimir Pulaski to John Szuch. The painting was done by elderly member Laura O. Dory from Buffalo, NY.

L to R: Mike Drabik (Founder of PGS of NY), Dan Kij (Acting President), John F. Szuch (President of PGS of Gr. Cleveland) and Rose Jablonowski (Buffalo, NY)

NEXT MEETING:

Join us in Erie, PA when we meet on Saturday, October 25th at 1:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Stanislaus Church.

For more information, contact John Szuch at: (330) 769-4603

RIGHT: At the September meeting, Vice-President Ben Kman announced he was leaving for a year's study in Budapest, Hungary. The Society presented Ben with a gold Cross pen "attached to the wrist" to help in his studies and also so he wouldn't forget to write to us!



SURNAME RESEARCH LISTINGS - PGSGC MEMBERS

Look this list over carefully - you just might have a cousin that you didn't know about! *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.*

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Dr. James & Anita Ryba
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SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED:

Evans, Malak, Maller/Maler

Bajor, Basara, Chachalek, Chochalek,
Czajka, Hacholski, Koza, Michnal, Trznadel

Balogh, Dziengelewski/Dolega, Kapallo, Kopera,
Kovacs, Kuntz/Koncz, Kusnyir, Marcinkiewicz/
Marcin, Palko, Paluch, Saganiewicz, Swiednicki,
Toth, Yanusewicz.

Cigan, Dibish, Gorzkowski, Kocis, Komorowski,
Mrozek, Nabozna, Parisi, Rychlicki, Wegrzynowski

Mekosh, Pelczar, Pogaczoik

Lampiska, Pianka, Piascik, Plona, Tomazewski,
Zaleski

Kzowca, Ryba, Sedlak

Findurova, Grencher, Hlebak, Janosik, Kaminski,
Mikolaj, Molitor, Scott, Zdrojewski

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

Clyde Evans Jr. – Novelty, OH

Wayne Hacholski – Orange, CA

Allan & Cynthia Kuntz – Cleveland Hgts., OH

Gary & Nancy Gorzkowski Parisi – Knoxville, TN

Jim & Carolyn Pelczar – Mt. Gilead, OH

Raymond & Karen Pianka – Cleveland, OH

Lawrence Pruchnicki – Cleveland, OH

Dr. James & Anita Ryba – Huntington Harbour, CA

Dawn & Lee Scott – Ft. Wayne, IN



The History of St. Stanislaus Church – Erie, PA

The word "Polonia" is used to designate a "colony" of Polish immigrants, wherever they may settle. The word can be used to describe accurately the grouping of Polish people who began to settle together on the East Side of Erie in the early 1800's.

These immigrants brought their strong Catholic faith with its many traditions and devotions with them. These early immigrants were first served by the German Benedictine priests of St. Mary Parish which was founded in 1840.

By 1880, the number of immigrants continued to grow. By 1883, there were 85 Polish families, most of them living in the area of 12th and Wallace Streets. Bishop Tobias Mullen gave permission to Father Carl Lenz, OSB, of St. Mary Parish to assist the people in soliciting funds to build a church to serve the Polish people. A wooden church was completed in the summer of 1885 marking the beginning of St. Stanislaus Parish, the first Polish Parish in the Diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania.

St. Stanislaus was Bishop of Cracow, Poland, martyred by King Boleslaus on April 11, 1079. By tradition, the first Catholic Church in any Polish community is named after the saint.

The first pastor of the parish was Rev. Andrew Ignasiak, a native of Poland, who arrived on August 22, 1886, only months after he was ordained a priest. He died on December 29, 1934.

During his many years as pastor of the parish, he served as a true "shepherd" of his people. As wave after wave of immigrants arrived, he tended to their spiritual needs as well as helped the people preserve their Polish heritage while assisting them to become productive American citizens.

As the influx of immigrants continued, it became necessary in 1903 that Holy Trinity Parish at 22nd

and Reed Streets be established. Accordingly, in 1911, St. Hedwig Parish was founded at 3rd and Wallace Streets. In 1914, St. Casimir Parish was founded at 7th and Hess Avenue. Saint Stan's Parish, as it affectionately was known, remained the "mother parish" of the other Catholic Parishes of Polonia in the city of Erie.

The Parish Hall and The Catholic Young Men's Association (the former "East-Side Boy's Club Building") of St. Stan's Parish served as focal points for the many social and cultural gatherings of the Polish-Americans.

Through the next several decades, the sons and daughters of the parish provided vital leadership in the civic, religious and social life on a local level as well as on a national and international level.

Following Monsignor Ignasiak, Monsignor Wladislaus Stanczak was the pastor from 1935 until 1962; Rev. Joseph Radziszewski was the pastor from 1962 until 1989; and Monsignor Bernard Urbaniak has been the pastor since 1990.

Even though the immediate neighborhood surrounding the physical structures of the parish has changed over the years, a core of Polish people still live in the area around the Church, school, rectory, convent and Parish Hall. Many Catholic people throughout the metropolitan Erie area still retain membership in the parish.

The Faith Community of St. Stan's, retaining its Polish roots and Catholic foundation, continues to respond to the needs of parish members as well as to the changing cultural and social needs of the people in the immediate neighborhood.

May 30, 1868: The first Polish immigrants arrive in Erie; Andrew and Catherine Mendlewski and their six children.

1883: There were 85 Polish families living in Erie. They purchased

six lots at the corner of 13th and Wallace Streets for the site of a future church. Rev. Carl Lenz, O.S.B., of St. Mary Parish, under the direction of Bishop Tobias Mullen, helps organize the fledgling parish.

October 11, 1885: The original wooden church is dedicated, 40 feet by 80 feet.

August 22, 1886: The Rev. Andrew Ignasiak (ordained on June 19, 1886) is installed as the first pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish. For his residence, he rents space at a private residence on E. 7th St.

April 1, 1887: The newly built rectory is occupied; two rooms are set aside for classrooms.

Sept. 2, 1888: The two-story wooden structure is dedicated.

Jan. 1892: The Felician Sisters assume leadership of the school.

July 1894: The old wooden church is moved; work begins on the present church - 66 ft. wide, 147 ft. long.

Feb. 1895: Fire destroys the original rectory.

Jan. 1, 1900: Fire destroys the Church sacristy and damages the church interior.

June 1902: The first outdoor Corpus Christi procession is held.

1905: The present Parish Hall (Kosciuszko Hall) is built.

Sept. 1915: The Sisters of Nazareth assume leadership of the school; the present convent is built.

Sept. 14, 1921: The C.Y.M.A. Club (Eastside Boys Club) building is dedicated. It housed the Parish High School from 1921 to 1938.

(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

May 9, 1928: Fr. Ignasiak (ordained on June 19, 1886) is named Monsignor by Pope Pius XI. He is the first Monsignor of Polish descent in the Erie Diocese.

Dec. 29, 1934: Monsignor Ignasiak dies. He is succeeded by Rev. Wladislas J. Stanczak.

May 23, 1949: Fr. Stanczak (ordained on May 18, 1918) is named Monsignor by Pope Pius XII.

Sept. 25, 1962: Monsignor Stanczak dies and is succeeded by Rev. Joseph Radziszewski (ordained May 18, 1939).

Sept. 25, 1985: The parish celebrates their centennial.

May 30, 1989: Closing of Forty-Hours Devotion and the 50th Anniversary celebration of Father Joe's ordination.

July 5, 1989: Rev. Joseph Radziszewski retires.

July 6, 1989: Rev. Bernard J. Urbaniak (ordained May 18, 1968) is appointed administrator of the Parish.

Summer 1989: A select committee is asked to respond to the Neil Meitler recommendation to close both the Parish and the School.

Jan 6, 1990: After reviewing the Select Committee's report, Bishop Michael Murphy decides that both the Parish and the School shall remain open. Father Urbaniak is appointed as the fourth Pastor.

March 1990: The Three Year Capital Improvements Fund Campaign is announced for the necessary repairs to the parish buildings, except the "Boy's Club" building.

(This history of St. Stanislaus Church of Erie, PA was taken from a pamphlet of theirs published in 1990)

Open Letter from The Polish Genealogical Society of America

August 21, 1997

Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland
c/o St. John Cantius Church
906 College Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44113

Dear PGS of Greater Cleveland:

Two of our members, Joseph Dressel and Stanley Schmidt are planning to meet with Dr. Nalecz, the head of the Polish Government Archive system, later this fall. We are trying to open up better lines of communications between the Polish Archive System and researchers in the United States. Please help us with your Society's input.

We would like to present as much data supporting the needs of American researchers via the ten (10) Polish Genealogical Societies located in the United States. Tell us what experiences your membership has had with research and using the archive system in Poland, both success stories and failures. Let us know what can be done to improve the exchange of information so that we can present views not only from Chicago, but the entire United States.

You may contact either Stan Schmidt or Joseph Dressel via the PGS-American e-mail address: pgsamerica@aol.com, or contact either Stan Schmidt at SchmidtSR@aol.com or myself at paval56@aol.com. You may of course send normal letters to PGSA's address listed below.

They are planning to visit sometime in late October, so please respond as soon as possible with any and all input. If we show a united front, we stand a better chance of having the Polish Archive System listen to us as a group representing the views of thousands of American researchers. There is talk of eliminating LDS microfilming in Poland in the near future. Let's not see that happen!

Thank you for your consideration in this manner.

Paul S. Valasek, DDS
President

The Polish Genealogical Society of America
984 North Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL, USA 60622



Genealogy Pointers for . . .

Cleveland Public Library

1st Floor

General Reference:

Multiple on-line catalogs for public use, some with printers. [Biography and Genealogy Index](#) and [World Biographical Index](#) on CD-ROM. Biographical newspaper clipping files on *prominent* Clevelanders.

1st Floor

Map Collection:

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of Cleveland; atlases of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County from the late 19th century; plat maps of Cleveland 1886-1972/3; plat maps of Cuyahoga County 1886-1966/68; ward maps of Cleveland and some suburbs from 1874. Historical atlases and pre-WWI maps of Europe. Reproductions of British Ordnance Maps circa 1820-1850's.

1st Floor

Newspaper Room/ Microform Center:

Ohio Census 1820-1920 with Soundex Index for 1880-1920. Necrology file of paid obituaries from Cleveland newspapers 1850 to the present. Cleveland newspapers past and present. Ethnic newspapers. Cleveland City Directories 1837-1980. Cleveland telephone directories from 1880 to the present. File of Cuyahoga County soldiers who served in WWII and Korea compiled from local newspaper columns during those wars; usually includes a small photo and 1 or 2 lines about the serviceman. Index to the official roster of Ohio soldiers in the Civil War. [Cleveland Blue Book](#) from 1888 to current.

2nd Floor

History and Geography:

Coats-of-arms index, arranged by family name, to one of the largest

heraldry collections in the country. Index to British Parish Registers. English county histories. Pennsylvania Archives. PERSI. Civil War regimental histories. Genealogy how-to books. Cleveland/Ohio Index to periodical and newspaper articles of local interest, as well as to older Cleveland histories. Newspaper clipping files on Cleveland subjects from local papers. Cleveland City Directories 1936-1980 and Haines Criss-Cross Directories from 1960 forward. Morton Allen Directory. Indexes to published passenger lists. Meanings of names, often in English translation. Cleveland Blue Book from 1888 to current. Official roster of Ohio soldiers in the Civil War. Ohio county histories. Printed indexes to Ohio Census from 1820-1880. (The only 1870 Ohio Census index is for Cleveland).

2nd Floor

Foreign Literature:

Meanings of names, usually in original language; language dictionaries; basic translation help.

3rd Floor

Photograph Collection:

Over one million photographs, including 60,000 of Cleveland. Approximately 150,000 photographs on Optical Disc Database. This is a non-circulating collection but copies can be obtained for a fee.

3rd Floor

Business, Economics and Labor:

Cleveland Corporation File of clippings on local businesses, plus files from the Greater Cleveland Growth Association going back to the turn of the century which trace ownership of companies, products made and some biographical material; includes annual reports.

ON-LINE and available on all public catalogs throughout the Library and on the Dial-Up Catalog:

CLEVELAND NEWS INDEX:

Cleveland Press 1975 - June 1982
Plain Dealer 1975 - present
Cleveland Magazine July 1982 - present

ANNALS OF CLEVELAND, an earlier index to local newspapers which covers 1818-1876 and 1933-1938, is available in General Reference, History & Geography, and Public Administration Library.

Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114-1271
(216) 623-2800

HOURS: 9 am - 6 pm Mon-Sat.
1 pm - 5 pm Sunday (during the school year)

The Cleveland Public Library does not collect family histories or vital records. There are no trained genealogists on staff. Staff is available to instruct individuals in the use of our resources.

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 First Noel...

A Holiday-Time Look at Christmas Carols

It's in the air. It's all around us. The holiday season is filled with images, with music, and with light. Christmas time is alive with jingling sleigh bells, frosty snowmen, sugar-plumb fairies and little drummer boys.

Even the least sentimental among us stop once or twice this time of year to listen to Bing Crosby sing "White Christmas". And who hasn't gotten even a little misty-eyed when Jimmy Stewart finds Zu Zu's flower petals as "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" plays at the end of Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life". Familiarity may have taken away some of the power and beauty of our favorite Yuletide carols and songs, but the images they bring to us every year tie Christians to their past and bring all of us together in a season of hope.

Author and historian

Marguerite Ickis says the word "carol" is thought to have referred to a dance accompanied by singing. She considers 13th century Italy the birthplace of Christmas carols, with St. Francis of Assisi the likely father of the custom.

Tim Palmieri, news editor of the Duquesne Light News, went a little further in his look, a few years back, at where some of these carols came from, and how they have become such a large part of our holiday celebrations today. Here is some of what he discovered:

"Good King Wenceslas" (1582)

There really was a ruler named Wenceslas. He was actually a Bohemian, 10th century duke, who, it turns out, was murdered by his brother. But despite his untimely death, the memory of the goodness of his life led to his canonization. Originally an ode to spring, the song was changed by Sussex, England, Rev. John Mason Neale to

a St. Stephan's Day (December 26) carol in the mid-1800's.

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (Date unknown, maybe 16th century)

Charles Dickens, in his 1843 story, "A Christmas Carol", writes that Ebenezer Scrooge hears a lone caroler singing, "God bless you merry gentlemen." True to his nature, Scrooge scared the singer away. The song was published by E. F. Rimbault in 1846. About the song's title, Palmieri says, "Historians point out that 'rest' means 'keep' in this instance, and that the comma in the title is often misplaced."

"Joy to the World" (1692)

Bored by the music he heard in church, 18-year old Isaac Watts, complained to his father, a deacon in Southhampton, England. Deacon Watts told his son, that if he didn't like the music to come up with something better. So with the 98th Psalm as his starting point, the young Watts brought us one of our most enduring carols.

"Deck the Halls" (Date Unknown)

Of Welsh origin, the song is a carry-over from the old British Yule festival. The festival was celebrated with Wassail Bowls and Yule logs. The song was a favorite of composer Wolfgang Mozart, who used parts of it in his work.

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (1739)

The Reverend Charles Wesley,

brother of Methodism founder John Wesley, wrote this, his most famous hymn. A prolific writer, he produced over 6,000 hymns in all. Originally called "Hark, how all the welkin rings, Glory to the King of Kings," the words were altered in 1753 to those we know now. The melody followed in 1855, when organist Dr. W. H. Cummings adopted the second movement of Mendelssohn's "For a Tercentenary of the Invention of the Art of Printing."

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" (1742)

It isn't clear exactly where the origins of this latin hymn lie. Palmieri says, "Some attribute it to St. Francis or his colleague, St. Bonaventure." But it is known that French monks used it in the 17th century. A British Roman Catholic music copyist working in France, John Francis Wade, may have been the first to write the words. It became known as "The Portuguese Hymn" because its debut in England was in the Portuguese Embassy. Canon Frederick Oakeley translated the Latin lyrics to English in 1841 - first as "Ye Faithful, Approach Ye"; changing it in 1852 to "O Come, All Ye Faithful." It has since been translated into over 120 languages.

"Jingle Bells" (1857)

Palmieri calls "Jingle Bells," "Arguably the first pop Christmas song." J. Pierpont wrote what was originally called "One Horse Open Sleigh" for a Boston Sunday school choir.

(Originally printed in the I.B.E.W. Journal, Dec. 1993)



Records of Interest in the Probate Court of Cuyahoga County

by Therese C. Spellacy

Marriages:

These records cover 1811 to date. The information varies from the names of individuals, date and minister to the more recent forms that give names, ages, place of birth, type of employment, parents' names including mother's maiden name, previous marriages and any minor children. These records are indexed alphabetically on microfiche.

Estates:

Estate records include both testate and intestate estates. The records are indexed from 1852 to date on microfiche. 1811 to 1852, the index is in book form. The forms used in estates list the next of kin, surviving spouse and anyone included in the will. There are also accounts and inventories that are interesting.

Birth Records:

These are different than birth certificates. The years cover 1868 to 1908 when the Bureau of Vital Statistics was created. The information is sometimes complete and sometimes sketchy. Often the first name of the child is unknown and is noted as FNU. The index is in alphabetical order in card files.

Death Records:

These are similar to the births and cover the period from 1868 to 1908. The indexes are located in the front of the first five volumes. They are grouped by first letter of the last

name. The last five volumes have separate indexes that are grouped by the first letter of the last name, then sub-grouped by the first letter of the first name. The information when complete can be very valuable. It lists parents' names, place of birth, cause of death, residence and place of burial.

Cleveland City Directories:

From the years 1857 to 1921. Although these are not records of Probate Court, they are very valuable to the researcher trying to link family members. Often members of the same family would have the same occupation and live in nearby neighborhoods.

Cuyahoga County Probate Court is located in the Cuyahoga County Courthouse at 1 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, OH. Although the court covers three floors, researchers will be interested in information housed primarily in the basement. The court is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays).

There is parking available in the garage behind the building, and street parking is also available. When you visit, please be prepared to spend some time with us. An hour often is not enough to really produce results. Clothing should be comfortable and since many of the

documents or books you may be handling are old, there will be a level of dust involved. Please use pencils during your research; pens may inadvertently leave marks.

If you have any information on the individuals you are researching, please let us know. So often it is the smallest remark that brings the greatest results! Since we are a working court and not a research facility please be patient, some of the clerks may not be as familiar with the 1874 death records as others. When you come to court, feel free to ask for me, Therese Spellacy, or Yvonne Flowers. We both work in the Microfilm Dept., Room 31 in the basement. If we can't help, at least we will point you in the right direction. During the research remember that it is important for you to check the indexes yourself as much as possible. Frequently you will spot a name much faster than the clerk. When you have lost the trail on an individual, try finding a sibling.

Editor's Note: Have you done research in Probate Court? What were your experiences? Was it helpful or a waste of time? What tips would you give to a "newbie"? We would like to do a future article detailing various members experiences in doing research in Probate Court (primarily Cuyahoga County, though general tips from other areas of the country would also be helpful), so write and tell us all about it!

This and That . . .

(The following items were recently posted on GenPol; another valuable resource on the Internet)

In my quest for Polish maps, I contacted the Polish embassy. They suggested the following two vendors:

Polish Cartographic Enterprises
/Polskie Przedsiębiorstwo
Wydawnictw Kartograficznych/
Solec 18
00-419 Warszawa, Poland
ph: /4822/ 628-3251

Polart
http://www.polart.com
e-mail:polart@polart.com
or you can write:
4583 Clark Rd., Suite B
Sarasota, FL 34233-3423
ph: /941/ 927-8873
fax: /941/ 927-8239

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Hello Genpolers!

I have just returned from a trip to Poland, where I found out that one of my grandfather's brothers served in the US Navy towards the end of WWII. Is there any way of finding out about him?

It is my understanding that many many records that were housed in Saint Louis were destroyed by fire. But I have found another source for WWII records.

When a soldier returned after the war, they registered their discharge papers with the County Clerk in the county they lived in. I have my uncle's discharge papers and they are stamped with Erie County, NY Clerk's Office stamp.

So contact the County Clerk's Office where the relative lived and see if his discharge papers are there. These papers tell quite a bit of information on the soldier. When

an individual separates or retires from the military, his/her records are maintained by their respective service for a short while, then they are sent to a huge warehouse in St. Louis. They maintain all of these records indefinitely, all that is, that still exist. The following addresses are the important ones for any old military records request. As always, provide as much specific information as is possible.

You can request information on GSA Form R6-7231 (Genealogical requests)

National Personnel Records
Center (MPRC)
9700 Page Boulevard
St Louis, MO 63132

All other inquiries use Standard Form 180:

National Personnel Records
Center (MPRC)
9700 Page Boulevard
St Louis, MO 63132

To get these forms you can request a packet from the:

National Archives at College
Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

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Subject: Ancestry HomeTown
Daily, September 18, 1997
Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 16:15:28 -
0600

From: Ancestry <hometownad-
min@list.ancestry.com>
Reply-To: hometown@list.ances-
try.com

Now Available! Searching for Cyber Roots

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To order your copy of Searching for Cyber-Roots for \$16.95, call Ancestry Sales at:
1-800-ANCESTRY.



**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

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



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7897 GILDERSLEEVE CIRCLE
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*"Twas the night before
Christmas . . .*

When all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even my spouse.

The dining room table with clutter
is spread
With pedigree charts and with let-
ters which said...
"Too bad about the data for which
you wrote;
Sank in a storm on an ill-fated
boat."

Stacks of old copies of wills and
such
Were proof that my work had
become too much.
Our children are nestled all snug
in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums
danced in their heads.

And I at my table was ready to
drop
From work on my album with
photos to crop.
Christmas was here, and such
was my lot
That presents and goodies and
toys I'd forgot.

Had I not been busy with grand-
parent's wills,
I'd not have forgotten to shop for
such thrills,
While others had bought gifts that
would bring Christmas cheers,
I'd spent time researching those
birthdates and years.

While I was thus musing about

my sad plight,
A strange noise on the lawn gave
me such a great fright.
Away to the window I flew in a
flash,
Tore open the drapes and yanked
up the sash.

When what with my wondering
eyes should appear,
But an overstuffed sleigh and
eight small reindeer.
Up to the house top the reindeer
they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys and 'ole
Santa Claus, too.

And then in a twinkle, I heard on
the roof
The prancing and pawing of thir-
ty-two hoofs.
As I drew in my head, and
bumped it on the sash,
Down the cold chimney fell
Santa—KER-RASH!

"Dear" Santa had come from the
roof in a wreck,
And tracked soot on the carpet, (I
could wring his short neck!)
Spotting my face, good 'ole Santa
could see
I had no Christmas spirit you'd
have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went
straight to his work
And filled all the stockings, (I felt
like a jerk).
Here was Santa, who'd brought
us such gladness and joy:
When I'd been too busy for even
one toy.

He spied my research on the table

all spread
"A genealogist!" He cried! (My
face was all red!)
"Tonight I've met many like you,"
Santa grinned,
As he pulled from his sack a large
book he had penned.

I gazed with amusement—the
cover it read
Genealogy Lines for Which You
Have Plead.
"I know what it's like as a geneal-
ogy bug."
He said as he gave me a great
Santa hug.

"While the elves make the sleigh-
ful of toys I now carry,
I do some research in the North
Pole Library!
A special treat I am thus able to
bring,
To genealogy folk who can't find a
thing."

"Now off you go to your bed for a
rest,
I'll clean up the house from this
genealogy mess."
As I climbed up the stairs full of
gladness and glee,
I looked back at Santa who'd
brought much to me.

While settling in bed, I heard
Santa's clear whistle,
To his team, which then rose like
the down of a thistle.
And I heard him exclaim as he
flew out of sight,
"Family history is Fun! Merry
Christmas! Goodnight!"

*(Originally posted to GenPol on 12
Dec. 1996 - Author Unknown)*