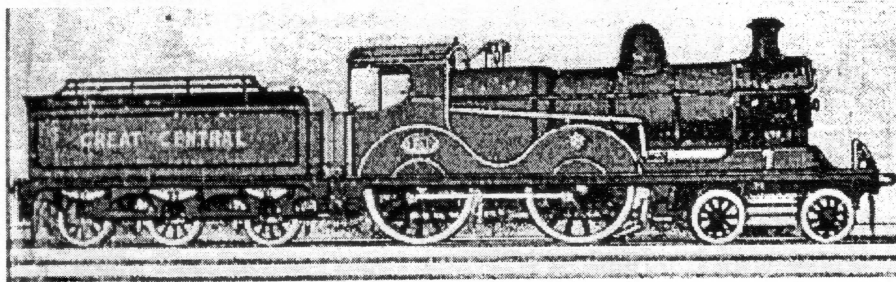


## The Great Central Railway and Migration from Europe to the U.S.A.

by Chris Tolley

Life is full of surprises. The particular surprise I have in mind at the moment is the fact that a lady in the USA asked me one day if I could let her know anything about the



Great Central Railway (GCR), because she was trying to trace the journey her ancestors made from Northern Europe to the USA.

She had found my web-site by searching on the Internet for information about the GCR, and it just so happens that I have a page devoted to a trip that I made to a preserved railway line (operated by volunteers for tourists and railway enthusiasts) which is called the "Great Central Railway" even though it only covers a very short distance of the former Sheffield to London main-line of that company.

The ancestral journey in question had taken place during the summer of 1903, and although I only have access to a handful of old timetables, by one of those amazing coincidences, I happen to own a reprint of the GCR timetable for 1903.

So, as I say, life is full of surprises! Anyway, we exchanged e-mails for a while, and learned a few things from each other (which is always nice when it happens). One of the things that I learned was that there were many people making more or less the same journey as her ancestors did, at more or less the same time. The GCR had obviously tapped into a popular market.

*(continued on page 4)*

*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 Ave., Cleveland, OH*

**October 6th:**

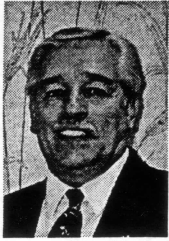
To be announced.

**November 2nd:**

To be announced.

**December 1st:**

It's that time of year again . . . our annual Christmas party (for members and their spouses only, please)! Join us for traditional Polish foods such as stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, eel, etc.). Come share an Oplatek with each other for the new year. Cost: \$6.00 per person. *Don't forget to bring a dessert to share!* Fellow member Virginia Luty of The Polish Peddler has graciously agreed to offer her wares again for your holiday shopping. As always, your purchases help this society as Virginia donates a percentage of the proceeds. Make your reservation with Richarda Jambrozy.



**Dear fellow members -**

Welcome back after our two month summer layoff. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and hopefully accomplished some genealogical headway. From the group discussion at the September meeting, I know that some of us did, myself included. Quite frankly, though, I didn't do nearly as much as I could have as evidenced by my daughter Valerie's reaction to looking at my suggestion in the previous issue about having your children give you a list of questions they would like answered about you. She read the letter, then asked me why she hadn't gotten a request from me. I was a little embarrassed to say the least. Here I come up with what I thought was a good idea, and then don't follow through on it myself! I guess I had better get on the ball and heed my own suggestions.

The St. John Kanty (Cantius) 15th annual Heritage Festival was held on the Labor Day weekend. The weather was beautiful and the attendance was great. Members of this society took care of the new "Heritage Room" and had some good traffic and interest in our organization. Hopefully it will generate some new members for us. Thanks to Ed Mendyka who set the room up.

Currently, our membership is just over the 100 mark. Sadly, I must report that fellow member Frank Tavrell passed away the end of August. Please remember him and all of our deceased loved ones in your prayers.

We are still looking for someone to do this newsletter in the future as this issue will be Sarah's last. She will train anyone who would like to take over this position, so don't be intimidated if you don't have the knowledge on how to do it. After all, she was a beginner once, too.

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



- Editor:** Sarah Evanko 221-7506  
1422 Wyandotte Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107  
sarahevanko@earthlink.net
- President:** John F. Szuch (330) 769-4603  
105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, OH 44273
- Vice-President:** Position temporarily vacant. How about you?
- Treasurer:** Richarda Jambrozy 226-1548  
1492 Lewis Drive, Lakewood, OH 44107
- Secretary:** Joe Evanko 221-7506  
1422 Wyandotte Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107
- Membership:** Joe & Gloria Hadbavny 734-7839  
3889 Edgepark Drive, North Olmsted, OH 44070

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: December 1st**

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

I also encourage all members to do some sort of write ups for future issues. Send us copies of articles printed elsewhere that you think will be of interest to our members, and we'll look into getting permission to republish them. Let's make our future Editor's job a lot easier by sending in material to publish. Putting it together is the easy part for the editor - getting the material is the difficult part. If you have some interest, please call either Sarah or myself.

In closing remember to mark your calendars for our annual Christmas Party on December 1st.

Sincerely,

*John F. Szuch*

## Fundamentals of Family Research

Where do I begin? Where do I go from here? Come learn essential primary research skills or refine your present research techniques.

The Cuyahoga County Council of Genealogical Organizations is sponsoring this 6th Annual One-Day Seminar.

**WHEN?**

Saturday - October 24, 1998  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**WHERE?**

Fairview Park Regional Library  
21255 Lorain Road  
Fairview Park, OH 44126

Pre-Registration: \$12.00

Walk-In's: \$15.00

For further information, contact Marilyn Carlson at (440) 356-1112

"Shaking Your Family Tree" . . .

## WWI and The Spanish Flu Touched Many Families

by Myra Vanderpool Gormley

*(First published in the Ancestry HomeTown Daily April 16, 1998)*

Two major events occurred early this century that probably affected your families. One was "The Great War"—also known as World War I—and the other was the Spanish Flu.

The latter, a pandemic disease in 1918-1920, affected 20 percent of the world's population, killing far more than the war did. It immobilized the armed forces, with more than 60 percent of the deaths in the U.S. Army in 1918 being attributed to the flu. Official estimates of flu deaths worldwide are 27 million. The total number of WWI deaths is estimated to be at least six million, but probably is higher.

Military records provide rich material for family histories, and are usually worth the effort to locate. If you have an ancestor who served, be sure to check at the county courthouse where he resided in about 1920, as WWI veterans were encouraged to file a copy of their discharge papers there.

Most state historical societies, archives or libraries have information regarding WWI veterans who enlisted from their particular states. Most often found are casualty

lists, "Gold Star" lists, rolls of honor, discharge records, copies of Selective Service records and regimental and unit histories. While no federal pensions were paid to these vets, some states issued what were called "bonuses," or paid claims, and they provided relief and issued loans.

On May 18, 1917, the Selective Service Act was passed. All males born between September 1873 and September 1900 (citizens and aliens alike) who were not already in the military service were required to register for the draft. During WWI there were three draft registrations, with about 24 million men registering. General information on the draft cards include full name, date and place of birth, race, citizenship, occupation, personal description and signature. Not all of the men who registered for the draft actually served in the military, and not all of men who served in the military registered for the draft. The draft registration cards are at the National Archives in East Point, Ga., and are available on microfilm at the Family History Library.

In July 1973, a fire destroyed about 80 percent of the records of Army personnel discharged between November 1912 and January

1960 that were on file at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, and as a result many WWI records were lost. Therefore it is usually necessary to turn to other sources for information about these veterans.

"The Great War: A Guide to the Service Records of All the World's Fighting Men and Volunteers," by Christina K. Schaefer, is a recently published 204-page book that provides a guide to WWI service records for soldiers of all countries that participated in this conflict.

The first part of the book provides background on the organization of the military in 1914, the order of battle, how to use the records and a general timeline of events, 1914-18. The second part concentrates on the combatants, describing each country's armed forces, conscription history and military and naval records, and their location. Those that have been microfilmed are available through the Family History Library system and are identified by roll number.

"The Great War" is available (\$26 postpaid) from the publisher, Genealogical Publishing Co., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; (800) 296-6687.



*Continued from Page 1*

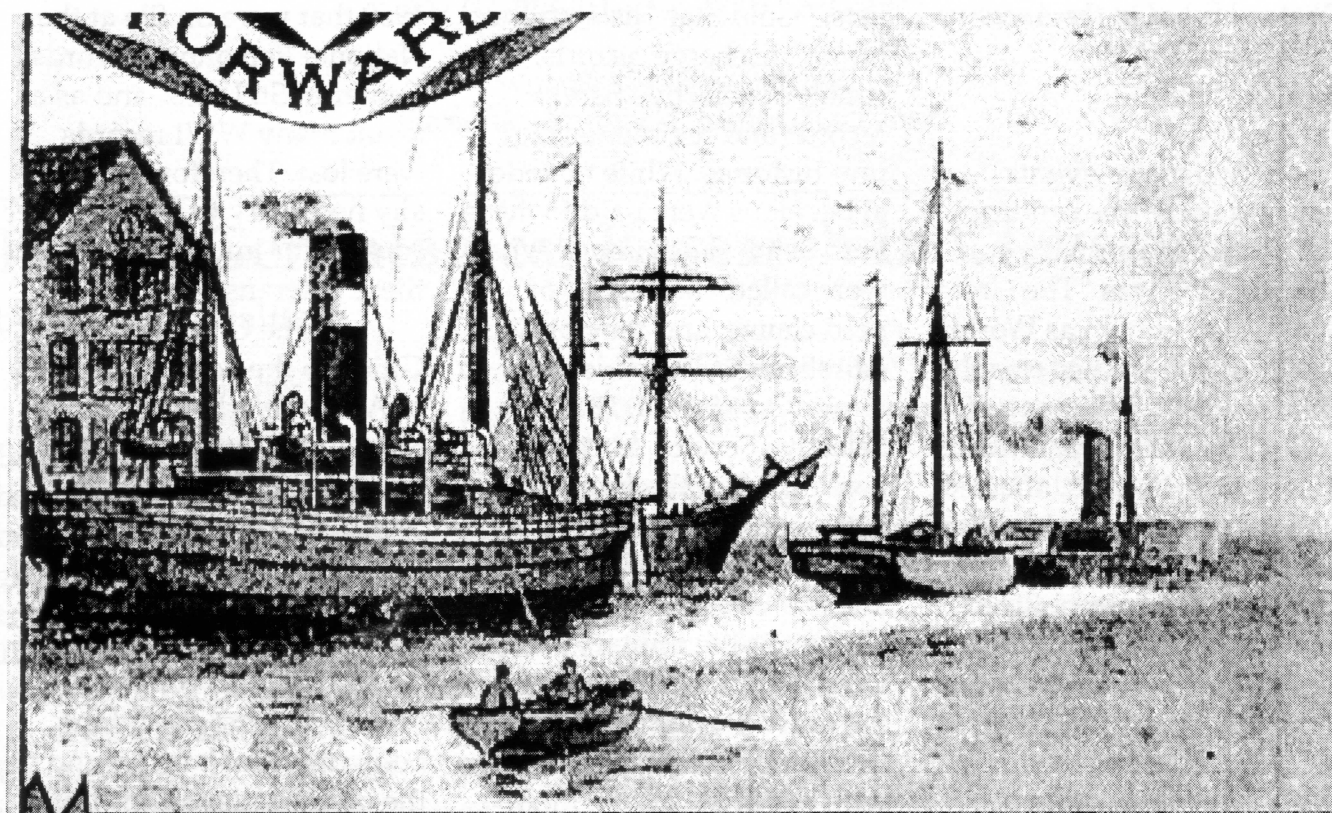
What made the GCR so successful was the fact that they operated ships from Grimsby

Liverpool where they would then journey on to the US.

As operators of both ships and trains, they also offered combined tickets, so

### **Background information about the GCR...**

Public passenger railways were a British invention, dating from the early 1800's.



**THE Company's New, Fast, and Powerful Steamers from GRIMSBY DOCKS to HAMBURG (every Week day); ROTTERDAM (Wednesday and Saturday); ANTWERP (Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday).  
SAM FAY, General Manager.**

(a port on the East Coast of England) to some important ports in Northern Europe, and also operated trains from Grimsby to Manchester and on to Liverpool, which was one of the main ports from which ships sailed to North America.

And more importantly (for the European Emigrant) a link by ship to the East Coast of England with connections on the GCR directly to

that people from, say, Hamburg, could visit the company's agent, and buy one ticket which would see them all the way to Liverpool. To assist those of you who may be researching in this area, I have collected together the significant pages from the timetable book, and reproduced them on my web page and another page linked to it for you to read at your leisure.

Many separate strands came together in England and Wales at that time, and the mood was right for railways to become successful. The first proper main-line railway was the Liverpool and Manchester, which was opened to the public in 1830, though some say that the honour of being regarded as the first public railway should really go to the Stockton and Darlington,





Continued from page 4

which offered passenger services in 1825. (In fact people first travelled on a locomotive-hauled railway in South Wales in 1804) By 1840, railways had become established, and there followed an explosion of railway building. The final years of the 1840's in Britain saw an astonishing number of schemes during the period known as the "Railway Mania". Most of the current network of railways in Britain was created at that time. At first, railway companies worked in competition with each other. As time passed, laws were enacted which made the railways co-operate. Nevertheless, it wasn't until 1923 that the hundreds of railway companies were amalgamated into four large concerns. In 1948, these were combined into British Railways, a nationalised enterprise. Since 1995, train services have increasingly been operated by private companies once more, though the rail network is still managed as a whole by one company called Railtrack.

The Great Central Railway originated in an 1813 scheme to link Manchester with Sheffield. Although as planned, that scheme never came to fruition, a railway was built in the early 1840's linking these two cities. Over time, this railway grew into the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, which

eventually operated in an area stretching roughly east-west from Liverpool to the Lincolnshire coast. The MS&LR had an ambitious management, and they embarked on a scheme to

schemes, meant that their shareholders went without dividends. When during the 1960's it became an economic necessity to close unprofitable railway lines, the former GCR line to London was one of

those which went. Some of it survives at the southern end, where a commuter service continues to operate between Marylebone and Aylesbury. Even the original east-west main line from Manchester to Lincolnshire is no longer complete, because the central part of the section between Manchester and Sheffield was declared "surplus to requirements" and closed in the



reach London, and renamed the company the "Great Central" as a result. The GCR terminus in London, Marylebone, was the last of the main-line terminals to be built there, the steamer/train opening in 1899. The extension to London proved too costly for the GCR. On paper the GCR should have been a profitable company, but the costs of construction of this branch, as well as other

1980's. Part of the London line has since been reopened as a preserved line. If you're interested in railway history, you might like check out my website to see what I've written about the history of railways in the Basingstoke area.

Copyright ©1996 to 1998:  
Christopher J. Tolley

<http://come.to/chris.tolley>

# She made a little list . . .

by Beth Maltbie Uyehara (buye@aol.com)

When I saw a flyer a couple of months ago advertising an all-day Internet seminar conducted by Cyndi Howells, I sent my check and registration off immediately and counted the days. The location was an hour's drive away, but I figured that was a small price to pay to hear what "THE" Cyndi Howells has to say about Internet genealogy.

Ms. Howells is, of course, the Cyndi of "Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet" (<http://www.CyndisList.com>) for many people, the starting point for Internet genealogical research. Her Web site is an awesomely well organized ("I'm obsessive/compulsive," she joked when I had a chance to meet her and ask her about it) compendium of more than 29,000 genealogy links, with about 1,000 new ones added each month.

The list started as the Howells' personal home page in March 1996. Since then, it has been awarded the Golden Web Award, and named a "Hot Site" by "USA Today," among dozens of other honors. "Newsweek" and the "Wall Street Journal" have both reported on it favorably, and some 13,000 visitors log on to her main index and 24,000 more visit at least one section of the site every day.

"Cyndi's List" is a deceptively innocent name for what should really be called "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Internet

Genealogy and How to Find It." I don't bother with genealogy bookmarks, myself; I just log on to Cyndi's List and zip to the link I need, figuring that she's a lot more likely to be accurate than a bookmark I set up a year ago. She updates her site on a continuous basis, whereas my bookmarks just vegetate on my hard drive, expiring 30 seconds before I try to use one.

In addition to her mind-boggling Web site — and her adorable new baby — Cyndi is the author of "Netting Your Ancestors" (Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 1998), an introduction to genealogy on the Internet, and is in charge of the Web page for the Tacoma-Pierce County (Washington) Genealogical Society. She is a member of that group's board of directors, and the listowner for the society's PSRoots L@rootsweb.com mailing list. Just typing all that out exhausts me. She actually does it all. I had not planned to buy Cyndi's book, but after listening to her presentation for a half hour at the seminar, I realized that if I could remember and utilize just half her computer tips, I would be light years ahead in my own computing expertise. It seemed more efficient to buy the book than frantically to scribble notes for six hours, so I did. She gives highly practical advice on such things as writing effective subject lines for e-mail — what to say to get your messages read instead of instantly deleted — and organizing your newsgroup e-mail.

I asked Cyndi some questions I've always wondered about — she provides a lot of background information on the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page of her site, but there is always something else you are dying to know, right? — both about herself and her Web site, and she gave me permission to write up her answers.

First, yes, she's always been a computer whiz, and, although she is still a young woman, she has been devoted to genealogy for years — since she was a teenager. Her list grew out of her personal research on the Internet, and an innocent 1995 "show-and-tell" at the Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogy Society.

"We don't have meetings in the summer," Cyndi said, "and in September, everybody tells what they'd done (in the way of research) since the last meeting. I hadn't done anything that summer except buy a new computer. I printed up one page of my bookmarks with 10 copies. I said, 'I don't know if anybody's interested in this,' and they fell on me like a pack of wolves."

There weren't many genealogy sites on the Internet when she started. "I was just looking to see what was there," she said. "We were looking for English things for Mark, and I was working on my own Civil War research." After the show-and-tell session, she continued to surf, amassing bookmarks, until one day, she and her husband, Mark, took a free HTML tutorial online. Then, like a million



*"She Made a Little List" cont'd:*

other people before and since, they decided to set up a home page.

"I started messing with Web sites. I said, 'What should we put on it?' We put up a couple of articles we had written and added these few links. Basically, it was all our bookmarks," she said. "It just grew. I kept adding links, then someone e-mailed me and said, 'The page takes too long to load,' so I said, 'Maybe I should break it up into smaller pages.' Now I have 270 pages.

She set up the Howells home page in March 1996. In August, the site abruptly took off. "I'm not sure what happened in August," she said. "I had worked on it steadily. I think that suddenly people realized that if you come back every day there's something added. It wasn't just a static site. But suddenly, I had a lot of e-mail (she now gets more than 200 message a day) and a lot of hits. And it hasn't let up since." The awards and the 1997 "Newsweek" article increased awareness of the site even more.

"All the attention has just come to me," she said. "I haven't solicited it or gone to anybody and said, 'Write about me.'" Maintaining the site has become a full-time job, consuming at least eight hours a day. She spends another two hours daily trying to keep up with her e-mail. It leaves her little time to surf the Web as she did when she started, and she now finds most new links through referrals.

Despite the steadily increasing work load, she has resisted getting help with the site

because she fears losing control over its organization "Up to 10,000 links, I could remember them all," she said. "I can still remember if I've seen a Web site before. I can remember where I've put something, and I haven't been able to figure out a way to delegate this." She is working with someone on the problem of keeping all the links current, however. "The one thing that bothers me are broken links," Cyndi said. "It doesn't make sense to put all this work into the site and add more and more links if half of them don't work. You can't just slap it up and leave it. I'm working on a project right now with a friend who has a software program that finds broken links. She's the first one I have had helping me."

The biggest problem, she said, is handling the e-mail. "There are days when I just want to scream, but that's because of the e-mail. I'm trying to make it less intrusive. Someone is working with me on programs that will allow people to send me information in the proper format. Right now, I have to sort through it all." She has recently added a sponsor ("Generations," a genealogy software program), but when asked if she would ever charge users for access, she replied, "Never! That is one thing that I stipulated in my relationship with the sponsor. I said this would never be something for charge. Even without sponsorship, I would work on it for free. People are always trying to find ways to make a buck, but this is always going to be free as long as my name is on it."

I asked what she'd like to see more of on the Internet. She

said that she'd like to see more how-to articles, but even more importantly, she'd like to see less duplication of effort and materials. "I'm seeing a lot of people putting up information and links that are available in many, many places. Not that there can't be competition, but if it already exists elsewhere, why do that? Why not do something original?"

Cyndi said that she sees an unfortunate trend happening in genealogy right now, and it's not necessarily because of the Internet, although the Internet is helping to make it worse.

"I'm afraid that a lot of people are just taking information at face value," she said. "People have been researching for two days and they put their Web site up. They copy information from somewhere and just assume it's factual. There are people who have been online for two minutes and they've done research for three minutes, and they think everything they find is accurate. Of course, long-time researchers are also putting up Web sites, and some of the information is OK, but much is not."

"You still can't find primary sources (on the Internet), and that's because there's an expense to it. What I've been trying to teach is that the Internet is a tool, like the Family History Center. Take time to learn the tool. It's like the card catalog in any library. You need to learn how to use the tool, then you can apply it to your research. "But you still have to do the research."

*(Reprinted with the permission of the author and "Missing Links" genealogy e-mail list, Vol. 3, No. 24 dated June 11, 1998)*



# Focus on NARA's Great Lakes Region - Chicago

(Ancestry Daily News, 3 Aug 1998: located at <http://www.ancestry.com>)

*Ancestry Daily News*  
"A Daily Dose of Genealogy"  
<http://www.ancestry.com>  
03 August 1998

The following information is from  
"The Archives: A Guide to the  
National Archives Field Branches,"  
by Loretto Dennis Szucs and  
Sandra Hargreaves Luebking (Salt  
Lake City: Ancestry, 1988)

National Archives-  
Great Lakes Region  
7358 South Pulaski Road  
Chicago, IL 60629-5898  
Tel: 773-581-7816  
Fax: 312-886-7883  
E-mail: [center@chicago.nara.gov](mailto:center@chicago.nara.gov)  
[http://www.nara.gov/region-  
al/chicago.html](http://www.nara.gov/region-<br/>al/chicago.html)

**HOURS**  
Services for the Public  
8:00 A.M. to 4:15 P.M., Monday  
through Friday.  
Tuesday evenings, 4:15 P.M. to  
8:30 P.M. (Microfilm research  
only). Closed weekends and fed-  
eral holidays.

The National Archives-  
Great Lakes Region serves the  
six Great Lakes states—Illinois,  
Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota,  
Ohio, and Wisconsin. Records  
created by federal agencies with-  
in this area contribute to this  
branch's having the second  
largest collection of original  
manuscripts in the National  
Archives Field Branch system. In  
addition to original records held  
at the branch there is an exten-  
sive microfilm collection pertain-  
ing to documentation of these  
states and the nation as a whole.

The microfilm includes all of the  
federal population censuses  
from 1790 to 1920 and other  
material of great interest to  
genealogists, local historians,  
and other scholars. At the end of  
this section is a listing of micro-  
films available at Chicago, but  
not necessarily found at other  
field branches.

The largest and most sig-  
nificant record group held by the  
Great Lakes Region is that of the  
United States District and Circuit  
courts for the Great Lakes states.  
These records consist of bound  
volumes including indexes,  
docket books, journals, order  
books, final record books, and  
case files. Court files are avail-  
able for Illinois, 1819-1982;  
Indiana, 1819-1961; Michigan,  
1815-1961; Minnesota (Duluth  
Division), 1890-1957; Ohio, 1803-  
1961; and Wisconsin, 1839-1961.

Court Records offer a  
host of potential research uses,  
both general and specific, and  
are an under utilized source of  
biographical and historical data.  
The case files on bankrupt firms,  
for example, contain much infor-  
mation on their organization and  
operation. Taken as a whole, one  
can create from these records a  
picture of the economic life of a  
city or a region. Bankruptcy  
cases range from petitions filed  
by individual farmers or work-  
ers to failures of major corpora-  
tions. Civil cases can also pro-  
vide detailed information on  
social and business activities.  
Land disputes, patent claims and  
counter-claims, suits for non-  
payment of debts, and violations  
of federal regulations are all doc-  
umented by records created in

civil proceedings. Criminal case  
files give a feel for the types and  
changing proportions of crimes  
heard in federal courts, as well  
as for the general trends of the  
times. Eugene V. Debs appeared  
as a defendant in a number of  
federal criminal proceedings, as  
did less well-known draft  
resisters. The government indict-  
ed Lem Motlow, proprietor of  
Jack Daniels, Inc., for violating  
prohibition laws; the thousands  
of charges filed against others  
for this same crime during the  
1920s show the depth of opposi-  
tion to the laws. Even the natu-  
ralization petitions, particularly  
if used with the Soundex index,  
offer data to students of ethnic  
history, genealogists, and  
demographers who can extract  
arrival, residential, and occupa-  
tional information from them.  
Court records can also provide a  
source of biographical data on  
numerous public figures.  
Thomas A. Edison, Jimmy Hoffa,  
Al Capone, Aaron Burr,  
Abraham Lincoln, Rutherford B.  
Hayes, and the Studebaker fami-  
ly are among persons whose  
lives and careers are document-  
ed in part in United States court  
files held by the branch.

The Great Lakes Region  
holds some naturalization index-  
es from federal courts both prior  
to and after 1906, for example:  
Detroit, 1837-1916; Cincinnati,  
1852-1942; Cleveland, 1855-1903;  
Toledo, 1875-1940; Peoria, 1905-  
54; Springfield, 1906-52; and  
Duluth, 1906-44. Of particular  
interest to family historians is  
the Soundex Index to Natural-  
izations that occurred in former  
Immigration and Naturalization





Service (INS) District 9, 1840-1950. The district included northern Illinois, northwest Indiana, eastern and southern Wisconsin, and eastern Iowa. The Chicago Branch also has photostatic copies of petitions and orders for naturalization filed in the local courts of Cook County, Illinois, between 1871 and 1906. The Soundex Index, created by the Works Progress Administration in the late 1930s, provides the only comprehensive index to naturalizations, both local and federal, filed in an area encompassing northern Illinois, southern and eastern Wisconsin, eastern Iowa, and northwestern Indiana. Listings do not exist for Chicago prior to 1871 because of the Great Fire, but entries for local courts outside of Cook County date from the 1840s. The photostatic copies of local naturalization records, also part of the records of INS, contain forms filed in the Circuit, Criminal, County, and Superior Courts of Cook County from 1871 to 1906. The information in these records is often sparse, but photostats can be copied, which is not true of the original records still in the custody of the Cook County Clerk of Courts.

In addition to micro-filmed pre-World War I military service and related records common to all branches, Chicago has the Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who Served in Organizations from the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Among the less frequently used records are those of the Internal Revenue Service. The Great Lakes Region has microfilm copies of Internal Revenue assessment lists (a special tax

levied to support the Union cause during the Civil War) for Illinois, 1862-66. In addition, the branch has bound volumes of tax assessment lists for the years 1867-73 and 1910-18. The former consists exclusively of business or excise taxes, while the latter include individual income tax lists. Excise tax lists generally give the name of the proprietor of the business, type of tax or the item subject to tax-assessed value, and amount of tax. Individual income tax lists may contain the name and address of the taxpayer along with amounts assessed and paid. These books are arranged by collection districts within the states for this region and chronologically by tax period. Taxpayer's names are entered alphabetically for each list. There are no name indexes, and the date span for a state may vary somewhat from the periods noted above.

Another unusual source of biographical information can be found in the Records of Marine Inspection and Navigation. These records include certificates of enrollment and licensing of commercial vessels and yachts; oaths taken by owners and masters, some giving naturalization information; records of mortgages and bills of sale of vessels; and correspondence regarding vessel documentation. Partially indexed by vessel name (not by individual), and arranged by port and thereunder chronologically, the Great Lakes Region holds records for Illinois, 1865-1952; Indiana, 1865-1968; Iowa, 1865-1939; Kentucky, 1851-1942; Michigan, 1831-1973; Ohio, 1850-1967; and Wisconsin, 1853-1954. These records mention names of owners and masters only, not crew lists.

For more information from "The Archives: A Guide to the National Archives Field Branches," including a Select List of Microfilm held at the Great Lakes Regional Branch, go to:

<http://www.ancestry.com/nara/greatlakes.htm>

Access to Court Case Files at NARA

<http://www.nara.gov/regional/courts/chicourt.html>

U.S. District Court Naturalization Records at NARA's Great Lakes Region

<http://www.nara.gov/regional/financial/chinatur.html>

*Other Great Lakes related sites:*

Great Lakes Lore Maritime Museum

203 S. Center Street

Sebewaing, Michigan 48759

Tel: 517-883-3225

E-mail: [lakes@ns.usa.k12.mi.us](mailto:lakes@ns.usa.k12.mi.us)

<http://www.usa.k12.mi.us/~lakes/index.html>

"Helping to Preserve the Life History and the Memories of the Individuals that work on the ships."

---

## HERE'S A LITTLE THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

Civilization is a stream with banks. The stream is sometimes filled with blood from people killing, stealing, shouting and doing the things historians usually record, while on the banks, unnoticed, people build homes, make love, raise children, sing songs, write poetry and even whittle statues. The story of civilization is what happened on the banks.

—Will Durant

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

Frank & Veronica Kaminski  
385 Hamilton Circle, Elyria, OH 44035

*Surnames being Researched:*  
Florkoski, Kaminski, Mipps, Raczynski

---

## Polish Genealogical Research in Cleveland

by Sandra J. Malitz

Even though Cleveland has a strong New England heritage, it has also been the gathering place for many different immigrant groups. This was especially true from the mid 1870's - late 1920's when the second great wave of U.S. immigration (from eastern and southern Europe) took place. The first involved the British in the early years of our history followed by the Germans c. 1830's, the Irish c. 1845, etc.

Unskilled and semi-skilled immigrants were attracted to Cleveland because of the heavy industry in the Cuyahoga River Valley. Ethnic neighborhoods were formed nearby. Polish immigrants congregated in areas such as Fleet Ave., Tod St., E. 65th and Tremont. People like Michael Kniola in the Polish community played an important role as travel agents, grocers, real estate agents, etc. to help new arrivals get settled.

Among the largest ethnic groups in Cleveland were the Poles. The Polish community was one of the largest in the United States behind

Chicago and Detroit. It hit its peak of 35,000+ foreign born in the 1920's.

The Kniola Travel Agency papers and personal papers of Michael Kniola in the manuscript collection at Western Reserve Historical Society makes Polish research in Cleveland fairly easy. The travel agency records include eastbound (to Poland) steamship ticket stub books from the early 1890's - mid 1920's, pre-paid westbound (to U.S.) ticket stubs, correspondence (English, Polish, Russian), and various money order stub books including American Express.

The steamship ticket stubs, whether inbound or outbound, can provide valuable information. Depending on the shipping company, the ticket will include name of purchaser, name of passengers and their ages, name of the steamer, date of sailing, ports of debarkation and embarkation, final destination, price of ticket, date of arrival in U.S., foreign address, type of passage and steamship line. The money

order stubs include the complete name and address of the sender and receiver. This may be the only place you will find the complete European address of an ancestor.

Besides being a travel broker, Michael Kniola was in the grocery, insurance and real estate business. He was also a notary public and executor of the estates of several people (120+) in the Polish community. He kept a ledger showing the details of all estates in which he was involved. The information includes name of deceased, date of death, survivors with ages and places of residence, description of estate, date all probate papers filed, description and date of settlement, etc. These two collections also contain a large number of deeds.

In addition to the Kniola records, several Polish newspapers were published in Cleveland. These include: *Jednosc Polek* (Apr 1923 to at least Aug. 1971), *Jutrzenka* (Sep 1893-Jun 1923), *Kuryer Zjednoczenia* (1923+), *Monitor*

*continued on last page*



# Identifying Old Photographs

Photographs can be identified as to time periods by determining the type you possess. There are several types including:

## 1. 1839-1857

### Daguerreotype

The Daguerreotype was invented by L.J.M. Daguerre in 1837. It is the oldest of commercially made photographs and is a positive picture that has a shiny mirror-like appearance. It has a fragile silver service on a copper plate. They were once enclosed in a case and they still need protection.

## 2. 1852-1863

### Ambrotype

The Ambrotype was invented by Archer and Frye in 1851. This image is a positive on glass and will have a coating of red or black paper or cloth behind the glass. These were also enclosed in cases.

## 3. 1856-20th Century Melainotypes, Ferro- types or Tintypes

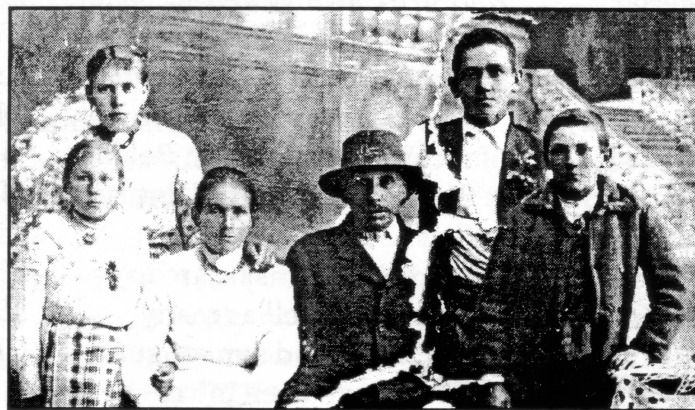
These images were positives. They were not shiny like daguerreotypes, nor like those on glass, but were an image on metal. They may be

in cases, paper frames, wall frames, albums or just loose.



If they are pasted in paper frames or slipped into cases they may be earlier. The more the pose is formal, the earlier the time period. Tintypes were taken in numbers

at fairs and amusement parks. Look for a photographer's name on the back of the pasted-on paper. Do compare the clothing fashions for an era time clue.



## 4. 1859-1914

### The Carte de Visits

These were invented by Disderi in 1854. They were the first paper photographs, 2-1/2 x 4-1/4 inches in size and called visiting cards. The earlier ones were thinner and

the later ones heavier and thicker. It was discontinued in the U.S. by the turn of the century but continued in Great Britain and Scandinavia. (If it was a tintype or Carte de Vista, it might have a revenue stamp on the back. This clue indicates the picture was taken during the Civil War.)

## 5. 1866-1914

### The Cabinet Portrait

The Cabinet Portrait was invented by Window in 1866. This was a negative 4-1/2 x 6-1/2 and is found in albums and wall frames. Study fashions for the time period. If the photograph is in an oval pasted on card or if it is surrounded by dark grey or a black mount, it was probably made after 1900.

## 6. 1905-1930

### The Postcard

These were very popular and sometimes were mailed. Look for the postmark as to the time period.

(Posted through [www.hometownancestry.com](http://www.hometownancestry.com)  
Written by The Iowa Genealogical Society  
Newsletter, Oct 1996.



**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**

(1923–1938), *Polonia W Ameryce* (1891–Jun 1923), *Wiadomosci Codzienna* (1916–1966). Check WRHS Library, Cleveland Public Library, and the Ohio Historical Society for the availability of issues. These newspapers included obituaries, club notices, wedding announcements, “gossip columns”, etc.

WRHS Library also has other sources to assist with general U.S. Polish research and background material: *Polish Americans and Their Communities of Cleveland* (John Grabowski, Judith Zielinski-Zak, Alice Boberg), newsletters of the Polish Genealogical Society (Chicago, 1981–1989), *Index to Obituaries and Death Notices in Dziennik Chicagoski*, 2 Vol. 1900–1919 (Thos H. Hollowak & Wm. F. Hoffman), *A Guide to Polish American Newspapers and Periodicals in Microfilm* (Frank Renkiewicz and Anne Bjorkquist), and *Locating Your Immigrant Ancestor* (James C. Neagles).

After thoroughly exhausting U.S. sources, hopefully

you have found the town your ancestor called home. It is absolutely necessary that you know this before you begin to use records that were created in Poland. Not only must you know the current name, but what the town was called when your ancestor lived there. The following books at WRHS will help with the location of villages: *Where Once We Walked* (Gary Mokotoff), *Polish and Proud. Tracing Your Polish Ancestry* (Jan and Len Gnacinski), *In Search of Your European Roots* (Angus Baxter).

The most important source of records generated in Poland is the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Records in the major archives of Poland as well as many local church and synagogue records, have been microfilmed and are available on loan through local Family History Centers. The Family History Catalog, which shows all the records that have been microfilmed, is available at WRHS on microfiche.

Immigrant research, whether in Cleveland or other

locations, can be a challenge. To minimize problems and increase the chance for success, don't be impatient to find the ancestral home. Be sure to make a complete search of U.S. records, including those in the ethnic community, before jumping the pond. Good Luck!

**Sources of Information:**

Kniola Travel Bureau 1884–1950. Manuscript #3678. Western Reserve Historical Society Library, Cleveland, OH

Michael P. Kniola Papers 1890–1960. Manuscript #3868. Western Reserve Historical Society Library, Cleveland, OH

Van Tassell, David D. and John J. Grabowski, compilers and editors. *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History (The)*. (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1987). Pages 540–545, 772–774.