

Everything you wanted to know about . . .

Cuyahoga County, Ohio

by Maggie Stewart-Zimmerman (73777.25@compuserve.com)

Editor's Note: This is just one example of the wealth of information you can obtain from the internet. Posted on the OHIO-ROOTS website and maintained by Maggie Stewart-Zimmerman)

Date Created: February 10, 1807

Parent County: Geauga

County Seat: Cleveland

SURROUNDED BY:

North: Lake Erie

Northeast: Lake County

East: Geauga County

East-Southeast: Portage County

Southeast: Summit County

South: Medina County

West: Lorain County

Cuyahoga County Court House-Probate Division

1 Lakeside Ave NW
Cleveland, OH 44113
216-443-8764

Cleveland Vital Statistics

601 Lakeside Ave E
Cleveland, OH 44114
216-664-2315

Cuyahoga County Board of Health

1375 Euclid Ave
Cleveland, OH 44115
216-443-7500

Cuyahoga County Archives

2905 Franklin Blvd
Cleveland, OH 44113
216-443-7250

Cleveland Public Library

325 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114
216-623-2800
Email - info@library.cpl.org

Western Reserve Historical Society

10825 East Blvd.
Cleveland, OH 44106
216-721-5722

The Cleveland Press Collection

Cleveland State University
Library
Clippings - Photographs

Cleveland Union Terminal Collection

Cleveland State University
Library

Cuyahoga County was formally organized in 1810. Its name comes from the Indian word meaning "crooked" and

continued on page 4

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

January 5th:

Fellow members Tom Ollie and Joe Evanko are teaming up for a Computer Night Show-n-Tell. Tom will bring his desktop computer to show how easy it is to "surf" the internet while doing genealogy research. There is an amazing amount of material available from around the world, and Tom will demonstrate how to find it. Joe will bring his laptop computer to demonstrate the genealogy program he uses Reunion by Leister. (This is the Macintosh version; Generations is the PC version). He will discuss the features he finds most useful and what he looks for in a genealogy program.

February 2nd:

To be announced.

March 2nd:

To be announced.



Dear fellow members -

By the time you read this, I hope that you have recovered from the Holidays, and that they were good ones for you and your families.

For those of you who attended our December meeting and Christmas party, I think I can safely say that you had a great time (see photos elsewhere in this bulletin)! It never ceases to amaze me what a great selection of Polish foods we have to pick from. Thanks to all who brought a dish. Once again, our hats off to our founder, Ed Mendyka, who did a lot of cooking in the kitchen and coordinated the kitchen workers. All I can say to those of you who missed the party, is you've got from now until Dec. 1999 to plan to attend the next one.

We had a short business meeting in December, and it was decided to postpone the elections as we still need a candidate for the office of Secretary. Also, Sarah has agreed (after much pleading by yours truly) to do this issue of the bulletin. She agreed that because of the holidays it would have been difficult to train someone to do the bulletin. We will, however, have to come up with someone to do the future issues. If interested, please contact myself or Sarah.

As we start the new year of this Millennium, let us strive to make it the best year so far. Technologically, we can make it a good year by starting to do (if you haven't already) the little things that will pay off for your future generations. Your interviewing, even if on a casual basis, of elderly relatives and then writing down as soon as possible what they told you. Or better yet, if you can, tape record the talks. The other thing to do is to start dating your photos and identify the people in them. There's nothing more frustrating than to get some old family photos and you can't identify the people in them. I know

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OF GREATER CLEVELAND**



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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: March 2nd

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

... it's happened to me and I'm sure it's happened to you. Often there is no one left from a previous generation to help you identify the photos. There's nothing you can do about those photos, but there is something you can do about your personal photos. Start taking the time (as I am currently) to identify and date your photos as best as possible. I know someone down the line will thank you. Speaking of photos, see my story elsewhere in this bulletin about a gem of a photo I recently acquired.

I look forward to seeing you at future meetings, or write if you're out of town. We'd like to read your family stories, etc. in the bulletin.

Sincerely,

John F. Szuch

Chuckles . . .

My family tree is a few branches short!

My ancestors must be in a witness protection program!

Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall!

Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards, as progress

Any family tree produces some lemons, some nuts and a few bad apples

Genealogists are time unravelers



Interviewing Family Members

by Matthew M. Bohn (originally posted in the *Ancestry Daily News*, 6/17/98)

My first experience with asking an older relative questions about the family happened when I was 14. For years I had heard my grandmother and my mother talk about this uncle and that cousin and I never understood how these people were related. So I started to ask questions. And I started to get very fascinating answers. And I started to write down these stories and tape my conversations with my grandmother. Seven years later, I'm still at it.

I'm lucky. My grandmother is the first person I asked my questions of, and she is very willing to share what she knows. She was born in 1910 and her memory is sharp. She can recall in vivid detail an event that happened 70 years ago. She makes it very clear how she felt when certain events happened and what her worries and concerns were at the time.

With other relatives, I haven't always been as lucky. Sometimes I've felt like I have to use a crowbar to pry any stories or information out of some older relatives. Sometimes, a younger person like me might not know which questions to ask and the older person I'm talking to might not know what kind of information I'm interested in. Sometimes, it's helpful to get

2 or 3 older relatives together. Getting relatives together who have a lot of shared memories may bring forth stories that have long been forgotten or that they thought might have been unimportant.

Before my grandma's cousin Barney died in 1997, I took my grandma with me to visit him. During the course of the visit, Grandma said something to Barney about, "when you lived at our house." Here was something Grandma had never mentioned and I would have had no way of knowing about. I started to ask questions about the circumstances and the details. If I hadn't put the two of them in the same room together, I probably would never have learned this story.

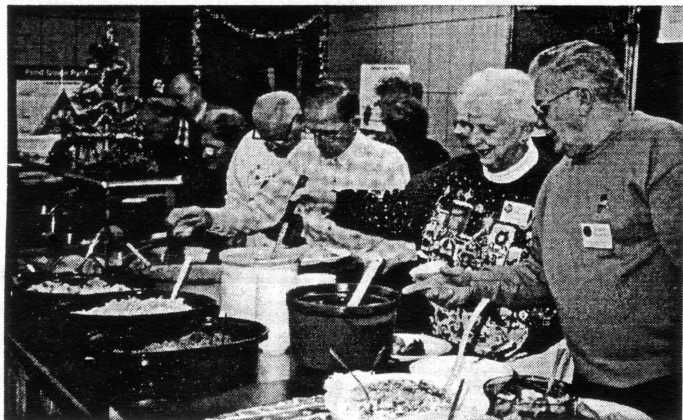
Sometimes asking the questions that seem obvious gets the most interesting answers. Since my grandma had never mentioned anything about her sister having any beau except the man she married, I assumed that Aunt Amelia only had one boyfriend. One day I asked Grandma whether Aunt Amelia had had any boyfriends besides Uncle Pete. Since Grandma never mentioned any of Amelia's boyfriends in the hundreds of conversations she and I had had, I was expecting her to tell me that

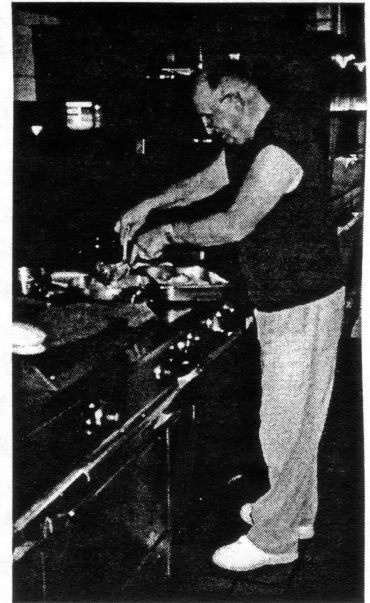
Pete was the only man in Amelia's life. I was stunned then when Grandma proceeded to tell me that Amelia was engaged and was going to marry a man in May 1925—but then the man went crazy in February and had to be taken to a mental institution! I had never heard this story before. I was expecting a simple answer and instead got an amazing story about something nobody in my family had ever heard about.

Other obvious questions that I use are the basic ones used by reporters: Why, when, how, where, and who? Asking these questions can make a story much clearer and give a lot of more detail to the anecdote. Not all older people are as willing to talk as my grandmother is. I've had some hang up on me, telling me that they don't want to talk about people who are dead and can't defend themselves. But for the most part, older relatives are willing to share their stories. Most of them are flattered that someone is interested in what they have to say. Most of them are willing to help preserve their memories. They're just waiting for someone to ask.

Matt Bohn
mmbohn@tardis.svsu.edu

Christmas Party – December 1998





Continued from page 1:

refers to the winding Cuyahoga River, which runs through the county.

The first settlement in the county was made in 1796 by General Moses Cleaveland and named in his honor. It is said that the first "a" was dropped from the name by an early newspaper editor who found "Cleaveland" too long to fit into headlines.

Cleveland, the county seat, is an important steel manufacturing city, a world port, and a transportation crossroad. The city is a center for service, and educational activity in northern Ohio. By 1900 Cleveland had passed Cincinnati as Ohio's leading city.

The chief industries in Cuyahoga County include; machinery, metals, transportation equipment, printing and publishing, chemicals, food, apparel, motor vehicles, aircraft, electric motors and generators, plumbing fixtures

and health related industries. Vegetables, greenhouse and nursery products are the agricultural industries.

Probate Court has birth records 1859 to 1901, death records 1868 to 1908; Western Reserve Historical Society has marriage records 1810 to 1941 & tax records 1819 to 1869; Marriage License Bureau has marriage records from 1810; County Courthouse has naturalization records 1818 to 1906, probate records from 1810; Clerk of Courts has divorce records 1837 to 1925; County Administration Building has land records 1810 to 1971.

**INFORMATIONAL LINKS
ON THE WEB PAGE FOR:**

**MAGGIE'S SKELETON CLOSET –
AKA PLACES TO SEEK YOUR
ANCESTORS**

Bibliography (Includes detailed sources for all the information on this and the connected pages.) Vital Statistics (Includes Birth,

Death, Marriage, Divorce, Land, Will & Estate Records.) This is an area that explains where to look for vital records in the state of Ohio.

Ohio Network of American History and Research Centers (This is a description of the central storage places for groups of Ohio counties.) Researcher Page (Here you will find researchers willing to do lookups in books/information that they own.)

Join the Maggie_Ohio Mailing List! (This list is designed to provide a discussion forum for anyone who has an interest in Genealogy in the State of Ohio. This list will also be my way to contact you directly with any updates, changes, and other news about my page. When you join the Maggie_Ohio Ohio Discussion/Mail List, you can share your research tips, get help from others and discuss ideas on research and resources for the state.)

"He never complained!"

by John F. Szuch

Recently, after a Garfield Heights High School football game (where my oldest grandson, Gregory Szuch, was a starter), I stopped at my son John's home for a brief social visit. My son John lives within walking distance of the football field so it's more convenient to park there and walk to the game. If you live in the Cleveland area, you know what beautiful weather we had for the high school football games this past season.

At my son John's house, Margaret (my previous wife) approached me and said "I have something for you". Like myself, she had parked at John's but walked to the game with our daughter Valerie (Greg's mom). She went to her car and came back with a little box like those that checks come in. I'm thinking that after all these years (16), she's giving me some old cancelled checks!

Opening up the box, I found little leather, two-pocket coin purse that my grandfather, John Malicki had carried in his pocket. That was pretty

nice to get, but the real treasure was a photo pack of eight; spiral-bound with the photos in a white cover with red winter graphics and the salutation, "Season's Greetings!".

Inside, the eight photos depicted workers at the Ohio Forge Company which was



located on Woodhill Road in Cleveland, OH. As a youngster growing up in the same house with my Mom and my grandparents, I would often ride with my Grandfather to work (he worked second

shift). Then I would wait a little while for my Uncle Steve (who worked first shift) to come out the gate and ride back home with him.

Getting back to the photos, the first one showed the boss in his office. This photo, like the rest of them, does not have a name or date on the back.

The second photo shows seven workers sitting on and standing by a bench in the locker room.

Sitting on the extreme left of the bench, and closest to the camera, is my grandfather, John Malicki. He is in a typical pose for him, taking a drink of wine. My, how he liked his wine and beer! When I was a youngster and we would go grocery shopping, we would always stop at one of the neighborhood taverns for a glass of wine and a bottle of pop . . . obviously, the bottle of pop was for me!

Speaking of beer, my grandfather would always have a case of beer in our fruit cellar on Avon Ave. As I got a little older (I would imagine about 11 or 12), I would sneak down the basement and go into the fruit cellar room,

continued from page 6

which was under our front porch. I would carefully open a bottle of beer (usually a POC or Old Timers), take a couple swigs and then put the top back on. I did this for a short while until my grandfather called me aside one day and said, "I don't mind you taking a drink of my beer, but put the bottle in the refrigerator when you're done". He explained how the beer goes flat when recapped and is no good later. You had to love the guy - in fact, I'm getting misty writing this! Photo 3 shows the men working, but does not include my grandfather. He is, however, in photo 4 which has six men posing in a line; my grandfather being second from the

right. This photo has him in another typical pose for him - that is, with his pipe in his mouth. I'll skip photo 5 for now. Photos 6, 7 & 8 show the other men at work.

Getting back to photo 5, it shows my grandfather doing his work. I looked at the photo and was stunned. I knew his job was hot (he was a heat treater, which meant he put gears into a furnace of sorts to temper the metal), but I didn't realize how DIRTY it also was!

As I drove home alone that night, I thought about the men in those work photos, how sweaty and dirty they were from their work. I can't speak for the other men in those photos, but I never heard my grandfather complain about his job! Here, 29

years after his death in June of 1969, the man I personally admire most in my life, was giving me a message. As sure as if he were still alive, he was telling me "Don't complain about your job - just do it because your family depends on you!".

I've been in sales for years and drive a lot, covering all (or at least parts) of nine states. Often I spend four or five nights a week away from home. There are times I complain about my work, but since I hung a copy of my grandfathers' work photo on my car visor, I look at it and think . . . "you've got nothing to complain about". Thanks, Jacko.

*Your everloving grandson,
Janusz*



This postcard was found at a flea market by John Szuch, with the caption: **4th grade, Room 24. Tremont School, Cleveland, OH. (ca 1920)** Are any of your ancestors here? Let us know!



Locating Ship Passenger Lists

by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG

Probably more time is spent hunting for our ancestors on ship passenger lists than any other type of research. In our naiveté we assume these records will reveal exactly where in the "old country" our ancestors came from. It is not always that simple.

Depending on when your immigrant ancestors arrived, American ship passenger lists may or may not provide this information. In some instances determining the ancestral home can be discovered by tracking down naturalization papers, rather than ship passenger lists.

To be sure there is nothing quite like finding your ancestor on a ship passenger list. But be prepared to do some serious digging. There are three major time frames important to researching American ship passenger lists.

They are: 1891-1954, 1820-1890 and pre-1820. The two major repositories for these microfilmed records are the National Archives and the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library (FHL).

If your ancestors arrived between 1891 and 1954, Immigration Passenger Lists are valuable. Immigrants were asked to provide information such as:

- * Marital status
- * Last residence
- * Final destination in the U.S.
- * If ever in the U.S. before, when, where and for how long.

* If going to join a relative, the relative's name, address and relationship

In 1906 and 1907 more questions were added to the above list, including:

- * Personal description: height, complexion, color of hair and eyes, identifying marks
- * Place of birth — the exact city, town or village.
- * Name and address of closest living relative in native country.

However, if your ancestors landed between 1820 and 1890, you will need to search what's known as Customs Passenger Lists. These contain only the following data:

- * Name of ship
- * Name of its master
- * Port of embarkation
- * Date and port of its arrival
- * Each passenger's name, age, sex, occupation and nationality.

Contrary to popular belief, the National Archives does not have copies of all ship passenger lists. It does have a microfilm copy of the passenger lists that were turned over to it by the Customs Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service when this federal repository was established in 1935. Inbound federal ship passenger arrival records at the National Archives date back to 1820 for most East Coast and Gulf Coast ports and a few lists dating back to 1800 for Philadelphia. The

archives staff will search available indexed lists for you (first request NATF Form 81 from Reference Services Branch (NNIR), National Archives, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20408). Charge is about \$10 per search — if the records are found. You also can search indices and passenger lists yourself through the Family History Library system. When requesting a search by the National Archives you must supply the following information on NATF Form 81:

- * Full name of the passenger
- * Port of entry
- * Approximate date of arrival

Major indices exist for the ports of:

- * Baltimore, 1820-1952
- * Boston 1848-91, 1902-20
- * New Orleans 1853-1952
- * New York City, 1820-46, 1897-1943
- * Philadelphia 1800-1948
- * Minor ports, 1820-74 and 1890-1924

There were no federal laws requiring ship passenger lists be recorded prior to 1820. However, some lists exist and have appeared in print in various publications. The best source for these pre-1820 records is the multi-volume series, edited by P. William Filby, entitled Passenger and Immigration Lists Index — widely available in public and academic libraries. These volumes give information about passenger lists which appear in

books and periodicals, and your librarian can help you locate such references.

Additionally, many passenger lists and emigrant lists have been compiled and published in recent years by Genealogical Publishing Co., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897. Its current catalog contains nine pages of information on books compiled from various immigration/emigration lists and ship passenger lists. Especially valuable are the various collections pertaining to Colonial ancestors, as well as later immigrants — particularly the Irish and Germans.

For additional guidance on finding and using American ship passenger lists, read John P. Colletta's *They Came in Ships*, available from:

Ancestry, Inc.
PO Box 476
Salt Lake City, UT, 84110-0476.

About the Author

Myra Vanderpool Gormley is a syndicated columnist and feature writer for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate. Additionally, she writes articles on the subject of genealogy for Colonial Homes magazine and is

contributing editor for American Genealogy Magazine. She is the on-line genealogy expert for Prodigy, Inc. and is the co-editor of its Missing Links, a weekly e-zine genealogy newsletter. A certified genealogist, she has written two books, Family Diseases: Are You at Risk? and Cherokee Connections, and is currently working on a children's book and some genealogical research guides. In her spare time she searches for her own elusive ancestors.

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The heart of Tremont . . . LINCOLN PARK

(Excerpted from The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History)

Lincoln Park is a small, rectangular public park located between W. 11th and W. 14th Streets and Kenilworth and Stark-weather avenues in the Tremont section. In 1850 Mrs. Thirsa Pelton purchased about 70 acres on Cleveland's south side with the idea of founding a girl's school. She died in 1853, before the school could be built, and her heirs surrounded "Pelton Park," as it was called, with a high fence and locked the gates. Local residents, however, had come to regard the park as a public recreation ground and repeatedly tore the fence down. The trouble stemmed from a map of the property filed in the courthouse in 1851, containing a notation indicating that Pelton Park "is occupied as a

pleasure ground and is to be so kept and used forever." In 1868 the city council's committee on judiciary declared the park to be "under private control but yet a public playground." Bitter litigation followed until 1879, when the city finally purchased the property from John G. Jennings for \$50,000. Residents celebrated the opening of the park on 4 July 1880 with a barbecue. By 1896, restored with new walks, a fountain, and a bandstand, the park was renamed Lincoln Square, later Lincoln Park. In 1913 brewer Otto I. Leisy donated \$50,000 to build a playground in the park, and in 1936 Lincoln Park was graded and landscaped under a WPA project. In the early 1950s a swim-

ming pool was installed; in 1981 a new "tot lot" was built. In 1989, a community-based effort to revitalize the park and the Tremont area resulted in the construction of a \$25,000 gazebo in the center, approximately on the site of the old bandstand.

Posted on <http://ech.cwru.edu/>

Maintained by Case Western Reserve University.

Editor's Note: This is a VERY interesting site with LOTS of Cleveland History. Other topics of interest to fellow members are:

*Lemko Hall
Polka's and the Polka Hall of Fame
Poles
Immigration*



The Process of Becoming a U.S. Citizen

(originally posted on POLAND-ROOTS@rootsweb.com, Dec. 14, 1998)

There are THREE documents to obtain for Naturalization.

(1) Declaration of Intent filed first and called First Papers. Here renouncement to a foreign government and intent to become a United States citizen were pledged. This was usually two years before application to become a citizen was done. Even if the alien never became a citizen, the Intent Papers should be on file.

(2) Petition for Naturalization was the second step filed with the court. The alien would have to had met residency requirements of five years in the United States, one year in the state, and declared intention to become citizens.

(3) Final Papers or Certificate granting citizenship. Be sure to get all three. The first two contain the most information, such as, full name, date of birth, place of origin, date of arrival, ship arrived on, who their sponsor was, where they were living at the time of petition.

The address to write for citizenship/ naturalization papers, from September 26, 1906 on:

Immigration/Naturalization
FOIA/PA Officer,
Chester Arthur Building
425 I Street N.W., ULLICO
Bldg. 2nd Floor
Washington D.C. 20536

Ask for Form G-639 or in a letter "RE: Freedom of Information Act", give Name, Date of birth, and place of birth, date of Naturalization if you know it. Note that the Naturalization Act of June 29, 1906 required issuance of a "Certificate of Arrival" for aliens filing a Declaration of Intention. Be sure to request this document...it will give you the name, date, and port of arrival.

For citizenship documents before September 26, 1906 you should write to the INS Regional Archives, if done in a federal court; OR write to the state court, OR county clerk's office.

The federal census can also help you with year of arrival, especially the 1900 and 1920. The 1900 Federal Census was done on 1 June. It provides the names of each person in the household & their relationship, race, sex, month & year of birth, age at last birthday, marital status, years married, number of children born & living, if foreign born, place of birth of each person and parents, year of immigration & number of years in US, citizenship status, occupation, read/write, language, home rented/owned, address, home/farm. It is soundexed. Has some Indian records at the end. 1900 & 1920 are the best census records to use to start your research.

1920 Census taken in January. Available for every State and territory. Usually it's the best starting point for your research. It is Soundexed. The census contains... Name of each person, relationship to head of family, home owned/rented/mortgaged, name of street, house number, sex, race, age at last birthday, single/married/widowed/divorced, year of immigration to US, naturalized or alien, year of naturalization, attended school, able to read/write, place of birth, mother tongue, father/mother's place of birth, speak English, profession, working.

You can find Census records at all LDS FHC libraries, (call 800-346-6044 for a location).

To Write for Passenger Arrival Documents:

General Reference Branch
National Archives and Records
Admin.
7th & Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20408

Form 81 - for Ship
Passenger Arrival Records
Cost \$10.00 or go to your local
LDS FHC library and look up
the document on microfilm for
about \$3.25 a film. You must
know the arrival date, port,
and ship though.

Good luck on your searching!

Our ancestors neighborhood in the New World . . .

TREMONT

by Charles Hendry, *Between Spires and Stacks* (1936) - *Posted on <http://ech.cwru.edu/>*

TREMONT is an industrial/residential neighborhood on Cleveland's near west side. Its boundaries include the CUYAHOGA RIVER to the east and north and Valentine Ave. to the south. Originally part of BROOKLYN (Old Brooklyn) Twp., the area was a section of OHIO CITY (CITY OF OHIO) from 1836-54. In 1851 a group of prominent citizens founded CLEVELAND UNIVERSITY in what was then called Cleveland Hts. The institution lasted only until 1853 but its buildings were later used by 3 other educational endeavors, including the HUMISTON INSTITUTE and Western Reserve Homeopathic Hospital, predecessor to HURON RD. HOSPITAL. Lincoln Hts. succeeded Cleveland Hts. and Univ. Hts. as the name for the neighborhood; only with the construction of Tremont School in 1910 did the neigh-

borhood officially get its most recent name. Tremont's industrial base began with the establishment of the LAMSON AND SESSIONS CO. in 1869 on Scranton Rd. It and numerous later enterprises provided employment to many new immigrants who settled in the area, including IRISH and GERMANS in the 1860s; POLES, 1890s; GREEKS and Syrians, 1900s; displaced UKRAINIANS, 1950s; and Puerto Ricans in the 1960s. A total of 30 nationalities have lived or were living in Tremont as of 1994.

Complementing the neighborhood's ethnic variety is its architecture. Many churches are on state and/or national historic landmark registers, including ST. THEODOSIUS RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL (1912), Pilgrim Congregational (1893), St. Michael the Archangel (1888), and St. Augustine Roman

Catholic (1896). By the 1980s, however, Tremont was a run-down, isolated neighborhood in which 68% of the housing had been built before 1900. The population shrank from 36,686 in 1920 to 10,304 in 1980. Closing of the Clark Ave. Bridge and construction of highways I-71 and I-490 cut the area off from the rest of Cleveland. MERRICK HOUSE SOCIAL SETTLEMENT, founded in 1919 as a neighborhood settlement, served as a community focal point for Tremont, and the Tremont West Development Corp. was organized in 1979 to revitalize the area through rehabilitation of housing and neighborhood economic development. Citizens also helped to renovate LINCOLN PARK in the 1980s. By the early 1990s, Tremont was also known for its diverse restaurants and a growing artists' community.

A warm welcome to our new members!

Caroline & Carl Veninshek
319 Monticello Dr.
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
Surnames being Researched:
**Banas, Chojnacki, Lewandowski,
Mazur, Pawlowska**

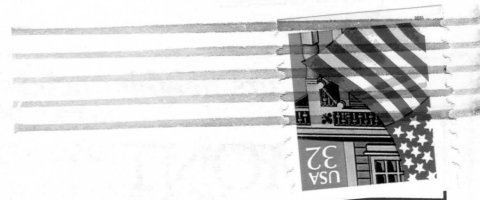
Joan & Christian Chermely
29002 Sherbrook Dr.
Wickliffe, OH 44092
Surnames being Researched:
**Herkenrider, Karwowski,
Rutka, Salkowski, Waniewski**

Jeanette & Donald Swift
21350 Arbor Avenue
Euclid, OH 44123
Surnames being Researched:
**Karas/Karash, Kuchnicki,
Makowski, Pawlowski,
Perekla, Yusko**



**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

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



12/98
SONIA CHAPNICK
7897 GILDERSLEEVE CIRCLE
KIRTLAND OH 44094

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Michael Kniola – Kniola Travel Agency

by Charles W. Coulter, The Poles of Cleveland

(posted on The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History at <http://ech.cwru.edu/>)

Michael P. Kniola (16 Sept. 1859-17 Sept. 1944), prominent businessman in Cleveland's Polish community, was born in Samostrzel, Poland to Peter and Anna Nowakowski Kniola. He immigrated to Spotswood, N.J. in 1873 and moved to Cleveland in 1880, working at Cleveland Rolling Mill Co. He continued his education at Broadway Night School, and eventually became a mill foreman. In 1886 Kniola opened a grocery store and, using the store as a base, provided other services to the Polish community: advancing credit, renting lodgings, selling insurance and real estate, and, working as a labor broker, finding jobs for immigrants. He sold money orders and arranged steamship passages, organizing Kniola Travel Bureau in 1890, which was so successful by 1900 that he sold his grocery and concentrated on the travel business until the late

1920s, when he turned it over to his son, Raymond.

Kniola helped organize Cleveland's first Polish newspaper, *Polonia w Ameryce*, in 1892. In 1893 he began the Polish Republican Club; he also was a director of the Polish-American Chamber of Commerce, an administrator of probate court, and ran for city council in 1909.

Kniola helped organize the Knights of St. Casimir, and was a director of both the Polish Alliance of America and the Polish Roman Catholic Union of the U.S. He was a purchaser, incorporator, and president of Polish Falcon Hall and was director and treasurer of Polish Falcon Nest 141 (see SOKOL POLSKI). Kniola was also an organizer and trustee of ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH. In 1880 he married Mary Skarupski and they had 7 children: Caroline, Benjamin, John B., Raymond J., Celia,

Casimer, and Joseph M. Kniola died in Cleveland and was buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

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