

Plain Dealer Research

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In Memory

We sadly report the deaths in February of two of our members.

Rosemarie (Nowogrocki) Jess had been a member of our genealogy society since 1995. Her obituary can be seen at:

http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=rosemarie-jess-nowogrocki&pid=148427253

Richard Jasinski had been a member since 2000 and had served as the vice-president of our group in 2002, 2003, and 2004. He enjoyed attending, with his family, the many Polish cultural events in Cleveland, and helped his wife Georgene arrange for speakers for the monthly meetings. His obituary can be viewed at: http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=richard-w-jasinski&pid=149041808

We also report the death of Jerzy Maciuszko, PhD., writer, librarian, teacher and Polish scholar, who died March 3, 2011. A memorial service was held May 15, 2011 at the Polish American Cultural Center, 6501 Lansing Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44105. An article about Dr. Maciuszko may be seen on page B5 of the March 12, 2011 edition of the Plain Dealer, or at:

http://www.cleveland.com/obituaries/index.ssf/2011/03/jerzy j maciuszko promoted lib.html

An interview with ideastream's David C. Barnett can be heard at http://www.ideastream.org/news/feature/28051

Library Additions

We appreciate these generous donations to our library:

Polish Settlers in Chicago by Joann Ozog and Kathryn Rosypal, as well as various directories and newspaper clippings - donated by Miecia Kowalski

Wybór Pism by Adam Mickiewicz, as well as a 1943 edition of *Biblija Świeta* - donated by Edith Orszyzki "Warsaw on the Rise" (Smithsonian Magazine, February 2011) - donated by Steven Jambrozy.

Welcome--New Members--Witamy

Joanne Bolas GARNCARZ KAMPCZYK LOS SADKO SYTNIAK

Miecia Kowalski KOWALSKI

Juliana Szucs Smith BORUCKI CUKRAS GONSKA HARSANYI MEKALSKI

MENKALSKI PAL SKOKAN SZKOKAN SZUCS

HOLY SATURDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY FROM AN IRISH-POLISH FAMILY

by Bud Brady

Holy Saturday was looked forward to because of the ending of the Lenten fast at 12:00 noon. The foods for Easter morning and the traditional Easter basket (which was blessed on Holy Saturday) was made ready. These foods consisted of ham (Shunka), sausage (Kolbassy), smoked bacon (Slanina), egg cheese roll (Cirak), bread (Paska), salt, cooked eggs either white or colored, beets mixed with horseradish, butter and pastries and rolls filled with poppyseed and nuts (Kolach).

BASKET OF MEANING AND BLESSINGS

Cheese — Represents the moderation that Christians should practice in all things.

Bread — Symbolizes Christ, who is the Christian's True Bread of Life.

Ham, Lamb or Veal — The richness denotes the great joy and abundance of Easter. It usually is precooked so the cook is not burdened on the holiday.

Sausage — Indicates God's love and generosity.

Salt — Reminds Christians of their duty to others.

Eggs — Stands for new life and resurrection.

Horseradish — Symbolizes the Passion of Christ but is sweetened with sugar because of the Resurrection, When colored red with beets, reminds us of the suffering of Christ.

Bacon — (uncooked and cured with spices) — Symbolizes the great abundance of God's mercy.

Butter — (often shaped into a lamb or cross) — Reminds Christians of Christ's goodness, which they should show toward all people.

Easter morning the food is served from the blessed Easter Basket. All the food is to be eaten, nothing thrown away. Even the egg shells from the blessed eggs were burned or buried. The foods of the other meals on Easter Sunday were of general nature depending on the locality and customs. Along with the general foods served, often times, food from the blessed basket was also served. These notes are taken from the cook book issued by Our Lady of Mercy Church, 2425 West 11th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

The Sroka-Bradys have always had their basket or baskets blessed for fifty years at St. Hedwig's Church in Lakewood, Ohio. Also included in the baskets beside some of the above are: Wine, Easter Candy (Chocolate Bunny and Jelly Beans), a butter Lamb, Sweet Bread, and sometimes Irish Whiskey. This was all placed in a wicker basket made in Poland and covered with special clothes made by Grandma Anna Sroka and Mary Ann Sroka Coleman. Now that St. Hedwig's Church has been closed we'll go to St. Clements to have our baskets blessed on Holy Saturday.

Details on Polish Easter customs may be found at:

http://annhetzelgunkel.com/easter/basketdia.html

http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=1064

http://www.polishcenter.org/polish_easter_traditions.htm

Permanent Population Register Breakthrough by Ken Spikowski

When I was trying to locate the Permanent Population Registers of the city of Łódź for information on my grandfather Jan Spikowski that was mentioned on his passport (see my article in the previous PGSGC newsletter), my wife Cindy found an article in the Winter 2011 issue of *Rodziny* titled "The State Archives -- a Handful of Information". It mentioned the ELA database, a collection of population lists at http://baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/ela.php. I clicked the British flag for the English version, clicked Info, and printed the list of classification symbols of registers. I typed town: Lodz (Polish diacritical marks not required), selected symbol: lst (permanent inhabitants), and clicked Search. To translate the lists of register titles into English, you can use Bing Translator at http://www.microsofttranslator.com/. Copy the URL of the results page to the clipboard and paste it into the box on the left and click Translate.

Not finding what I wanted in the box on the right, I searched the second page of results for "ludnosci" (the first term suggested on page 341 of *In Their Words*, *Volume II: Russian* by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman) found "Księgi ludności stałej i niestałej 1827-1931", "books of population permanent and temporary". This was translated as "The book is not of a fixed and constant population" by Bing Translator, which works better on sentences typed into the large text box on the left, suprisingly well in both directions compared to earlier translators available on the Internet. I find it helpful to copy what you just translated into Polish and paste it into the box on the left for retranslation into English as a check to avoid misunderstandings involving words that have multiple meanings. I have found it useful in email correspondence with the Polish archives, in addition to the "Guide to Writing Letters in Polish" section on pages 134-149 in *In Their Words*, *Volume I* by Shea and Hoffman. That book is available in the PGSGC library and the genealogy reference section of the Fairview Park branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

I clicked More on the original page, which provided mailing and email addresses. Editing a previous email to the Polish archives that produced negative results, I sent the following, which is shown below:

Szanowny Panie!

Piszę rodowód rodziny, i chciałbym otrzymać informacje z księgi ludności stałej Łodzi. Paszport Jan Spikowskiego wyjść 4 Listopad 1908 na podstawie księgi ludności w Łodzi:

D. No. 11 stronica 147

Z 22 Czerwiec 1911 Jan Spikowski rezydowac w budynek pod numerem 9 nad ulica Żob 6 ei w dzielnica 6 od policja w Łodzi.

Interesuję się następującą osoba. Podaję wszystkie dane moja babcie jakie posiadam:

imię i nazwisko: Franciszka Hetmanek

data urodzenia: 29 Listopad 1889 albo 24 Grudzień 1889

miejsce urodzenia: Zelów, Piotrków imię i nazwisko ojca: Pawel Hetmanek imię i nazwisko meza: Jan Spikowski data zgonu: 26 Październik 1948 miejsce zgonu: Cleveland, Ohio, USA

data emigracji (w przyblizeniu): 13 Czerwiec 1913

wyznanie: rzymsko-katolickie Chciałbym otrzymać informacje: data urodzenia imie i nazwisko panienskie matki zajęcie

noty

Proszę o przesłanie fotokopia księgi ludności stałej. Jeśli Pan nie posiada tych aktów, proszę mnie zawiadomić, co z nimi mogło się stać, czy zostały zginione, czy też zniszczone.

Proszę o poinformowanie mnie jakie będzą koszta związane z otrzymaniem tej informacji i w jaki sposób mogę to uregulować.

Dziękuję uprzejmie za pomoc w odnalezieniu wszystkich informacji odnośnie do historii mojej rodziny. Za wszelką pomoc będę bardzo wdzięczny.

Z poważaniem,

PGSGC vice president Ron Kraine has reported that some Polish archives will accept emails written in Engish, but answer them in Polish. Five days later I received the following email: Wiadomość jest gotowa do wysłania wraz z następującymi załącznikami (plikami lub łączami) img769

The attached img769.jpg was a low-resolution scan of a letter, requiring typing the text into the Bing translator with Polish diacritical marks using the Polish keyboard, installation details for which are found on our website www.freewebs.com/pgsgc. The image contained the following text:

 Pismo z dnia:
 Nasz znak:
 Data:

 06.03.2011 r
 843-121/11
 10.03.2011 r

Archiwum Państwowe w Łodzi informuje, że w Księgach Ludności Stalej m Łodzi - Stara Wieś lat 1903 - 1931 nr 11 strona 147, odszukani zapis rodziny Spikowski. Zapis ten informuje o miejscu i dacie urodzenia, ślubie i zgonie, wyznaniu i składzie rodziny.

Jeżeli jest Pan zainteresowany odbitkami kserograficznymi odszukanego dokumentu, prosimy o wpłacenie kwoty **8 USD** na nasze konto:

Archiwum Panstwowe w Lodzi
PL.Wolności 1
91 - 415 Łódź
NBP O/O Łódź
BIC/SWIFT: PBPLPLPW
IBAN: PL 53 1010 1371 0024 2422 3100 0000

Kalkulacja kosztów kwerendy:

2 odbitki kserograficzne A3 x 6 zl = 12 zl
 zryczaltowana opłata bankowo - pocztowa = 12 zl
 Razem: = 24 zl

Średni kurs NBP USD z dnia 09.03.2011 r. wynosi 2,86. (24 : 2,86 = 8,39 = 8 USD)

Prosimy o wpisanie na przelewie znaku sprawy.

The Bing translator produced:

The State archive in Łódź, Poland indicates that in the books the population Stalej m Boats - Stara Wieś years 1903-1931 No. 11 page 147, looked up the entry family Spikowski. This entry informs you about the place and date of birth, marriage and death, religion and the composition of the family.

If you are interested in prints kserograficznymi found in the document, please contact the payment of the amount of USD 8 to our account:

Please type a can mark the matter.

Guessing that the last line in bold type was important, I used a Polish dictionary to translate it word for word to: "Please at entry for transfer mark matter." Guessing that **znaku** refers to "Nasz znak:" or "Our mark:" at the top of the letter, it must be a reminder to include the numbers 843-121/11 with the payment so

they would know what it was for.

The \$8 cost was low, not involving hourly charges for searching since the record was found on the page that I mentioned. There seems to be no way to use a Visa card to wire money into the IBAN account number mentioned in the email, so I went to my bank and was pleased to learn that they could perform the transfer, and that my checking account allows a limited number of such transactions without charge. When I sat down to provide the information, I was told that in addition to the BIC/SWIFT and IBAN account numbers, I needed the name and address of the bank. I suggested that "NBP O/O Łódź" looked like the bank name to me, but there was no address, so I went home and surfed the web to find www.nbp.pl/home.aspx?f=/grupy_docelowe/dni_otwarte/lodz/lodz.html for Narodowy Bank Polski with address:

Oddział Okręgowy NBP

al. T. Kościuszki 14, 90-950 Łódź

I returned, and the banker said I also needed the account number. I said that the IBAN number looked like an account number to me, and a call to their international department confirmed that was indeed the case. The form was submitted, and the next day I got a call informing me that the minimum amount for foreign wire transfers was \$50. I called Kniola Travel Agency, who said they had a similar limit and suggested mailing cash. Since that gets lost too easily, I was eager to get the records, and I hoped that they might apply the balance to future requests, I returned to the bank, where they had to fill out another form just to change the amount. I asked to see both forms together for a visual comparison, and found that one of the copies of the IBAN number had dropped a digit. That was corrected, and I received a confirmation letter from the international department.

Two days later I got this reply:

Informujemy, że na nasze konto wpłynęła wpłacona przez Pana kwota w wysokości 50 USD. W związku z tym, że w naszym piśmie z dn. 10.03.2011 r. prosiliśmy o wpłacenie kwoty 8 USD, prosimy o wskazanie za co jest ta powiększona kwota.

Please note that our account was paid by the amount of USD 50. In this connection, that in our letter of 10.03.2011, we have about the payment of the amount of US \$ 8, please indicate by what is this increased amount.

Having read on page 149 of "In Their Words, Volume I" that "Any sums paid to the State Archives' account for work that cannot be performed will be refunded, minus bank handling costs." I replied: Please send kserograficznymi found documentu 843-121/11, and return the rest, minus merchant-mailbox. Proszę wysłać kserograficznymi odszukanego documentu 843-121/11, i zwrócić reszta, minus bankowo-pocztowa.

Three days later they replied:

Uprzejmie informujemy, że zgodnie z przepisami wszelkie wpłaty przekazywane są tego samego dnia na Skarb Państwa. W związku z powyższym nie jesteśmy w stanie zwrócić Panu nadpłaconej kwoty. Nadpłata ta może zostać rozliczona przy następnym Pana podaniu.

We kindly inform, that in accordance with the provisions of any payment shall be communicated on the same day at the Treasury. Therefore we are not able to reimburse overcharged amounts. An overpayment may be applied the next time Your application.

That was what I had originally hoped for, so I replied:

Thank You. Please send kserograficznymi found documentu 843-121/11, and apply the overpayment for my next request.

Dziękujemy. Proszę wysłać kserograficznymi odszukanego documentu 843-121/11, i stosuje się nadpłaty do mojego następnym żądaniu.

Eight days later the doorbell rang, and I signed for a certified letter from Poland. I found that, folded once inside an 8.5x11" page protector, the kserograficznymi were two 11x17" high-quality photocopies on plain paper of forms just like the ones on pages 338 & 340 of "In Their Words, Volume II: Russian" by Jonathan D. Shea & William F. Hoffman. The documents in Russian Cyrillic script with printed headings are shown on left sides of the following four pages, with my attempt at English translation with transliterated Polish proper names on the right sides, with heading translations from pp. 339 & 341 of that book. For words I was unable to decipher, I have written my best guesses in Cyrillic italics, which look similar to the script.

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House #	FIRST AND LAST NAME		Parents' names Date of birth.				
Seq. #	MEN.	WOMEN, maiden name and name by previous marriages	and mother's maiden name.	Day.	Month.	Year.	Place of birth.
11 ^{cb}	Andrżej Spikowski		Jan & Anna Markiewicz	26	Novem- ber	1845	Kwiatkowa
2		Eleonora Spikowska née Ciolkowska	Wojciech & Scholastika Ryturska	11	February	1841	Żuchecz
3		Antonia Spikowska	Andrej & Eleonora Celkowska	11	May	1870	Łódź
4	Jan Śpikowski		Andrej & Eleonora Ciolkowska	6/ 18	October	1886	Łódź
5		Franciszka Śpikowska née Hetmanek	Pawel & Józefa Dordowicz	12/ 24	Novem- ber	1889	kol. Zelewch Laskalo Giau
6		Irena Śpikowska	Jan & Franciszka Hetmanek	11/24	Septem- ber	1908	Łódź
7		Marianna Spikowska née Wiślicką	Walenty Agnieszka Sabiegra	25	May	1870	ь. Гауки н. Шидловь Стопниукаш Уцдза
8		Helena Śpikowska	Jan & Franciszka Hetmanek	11/ 24	July	1911	Łódź

Женать, за- мужняя или нѣтъ.	Происхожденіе.	Вѣроисповѣ-		Мѣсто прежняго жительства.	ПРИМ В ЧАНІЕ. (Здѣсь записываются всѣ происшедшія съ жителями перемѣны, какъ-то: смерть, переселеніе, переходъ въ другой домъ и т. п., согласно ст. 15-й).
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Married, or not	Descent [i. e., so- cial class]	Religion.		Previous residence.	NOTES. (Enter here all changes that occur with residents, such as death, moving away, moving to another house, etc., as per. statute 15).
Married §7	Peasant	Catholic	Laborer	11 ^{cb} 20	19/11 903 .бс зср. пас кн
Married	Peasant	Catholic	with husband	21	Died 11/24 April 1908. <i>Лолу</i>
unmar- ried	Peasant	Catholic	with family	24	
married single citizen 4	Peasant	Catholic	with family	80	<i>Izae. хн.</i> 4/10 1907 Soldier II class 1908, Passport 4-Nov-08
married	Peasant	Catholic	with husband citizen 4	Gm. Zelewch	Заім chief at л емов. cert. of marriage and change see in # 3294 year 1908 15/4-1908, глт е. хн.
unmar- ried	Peasant	Catholic	with family		
Married §1	Peasant	Catholic	with husband citizen 1	Генлсаса Шлідхевъ	Deputy <i>слана</i> at <i>o егсов</i> cert. of marriage and change in <i>x</i> # 6522 year 1909
unmar- ried	Peasant	Catholic	with family		

I replied:

Today I received in good condition kserograficznymi found documentu 843-121/11, which contain information exceeding My greatest expectations. Thank you very much.

Dzisiaj otrzymałam w dobrym stanie kserograficznymi odszukanego documentu 843-121/11, które zawierały informacje przekraczającej Moje największe oczekiwań. Dziękuję bardzo.

The Permanent Population Register listed my grandparents with dates and places of birth, including my great grandmother's until then unknown first and maiden names. They were also living with my paternal paternal great grandparents, so the records included their birth dates, places, and the names of their parents. Still living with them was Antonina Spikowski, my grandfather's oldest sister, whose existence my late aunt Eleanor Urbanski had mentioned without knowing her first name. Also listed was Irena Spikowska, my late father Raymond Spikowski's previously unknown firstborn sibling, who probably died young before my grandmother Franciszka immigrated with her second daughter Helena in June 1913, about a month before her second birthday. The 1845 birth date of my great grandfather disagrees with the 1842 written on the back of his picture shown in my previous article, probably the result of a misconception or miscalculation by my grandfather, who was named for his grandfather Jan Spikowski. Somewhat disappointing was the blurring in the upper right corner of the left page, obscuring the end of the birthplace of my great grandfather, which I guess is Kwiatkowice (Łask), which is close to Łódź.

The 1841 birth date for Eleonora Ciolkowska implies that my grandfather was born when his mother was 45, not 50 as suggested by my late aunt Eleanor. Unfortunately my transliteration of the Cyrillic script for her birthplace is Zuchecz or Rzuchecz, neither of which shows up on Internet searches or is listed on the CD-ROM containing *Słownik Geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego 1880-1902*, which is available in the PGSGC library. Since the right page has a column for "Previous Residence", mentioning the same 11 with Cyrillic superscript "cb" that appeared on my grandfather's passport with different page numbers, I requested the records on pages (or house numbers) 20 and 21 for my great grandparents, hoping that transliteration by a different person might yield more accurate place names.

The previous residence records might also provide a birth date for my grandfather's other sister Eleonora Rusin, born about 1878 and probably married by the date that the rest of the family moved there (perhaps 19-Nov-1903 with the second 1 missing in the note in the box in the upper right corner). The faint note in the box below that states that my grandfather's mother died on April 11/24 1908, while my grandmother was expecting their first child.

The note for my grandfather has his marital status "single" crossed out and replaced by "married", and his notes box contains three dates. Preceded by illegible words "*izae. xh.*", 4-Oct-1907 is probably his marriage date, consistent with their ages at first marriage from the 1930 Census. Then comes Soldier II class 1908, and Passport 4-Nov-1908.

The note for my grandmother Franciszka Hetmanek starts with four mysterious words that I read as "3aim chief at .π emos.", followed by "cert. of marriage and change see in #3294,. 1908 15/4-1908, followed by "επme. xh.". She probably moved in a few days after the death of my grandfather's mother. Hopefully #3294 refers to a record of their marriage, which would be valuable if it contains the age of her father, Pawel Hetmanek, since threee men with that name born in Zelów have birth years that make them likely candidates as her father. Also useful for further research would be the age and birthplace of her mother, Józefa Dordowicz.

Helpful Web Sites

At our April meeting, Marcia Benko, secretary of the Cleveland Carpatho-Rusyn society, suggested genealogy search engine http://mocavo.com and Cleveland news and events site www.clevelandpeople.com.

In addition to the ELA database mentioned on page 3, the article "The State Archives -- a Handful of Information" in the Winter 2011 issue of *Rodziny* provided other useful links to Polish archives: Virtual directory to metrical records: http://baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/pradziad.php
Database of record sets for all Polish archives: http://baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/sezam.php

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

Jun: Eleanor Welling, Author, All Because of a Maidservant

Sep: Bill Barrow, Special Collections Librarian, Michael Schwartz Library, Cleveland State University, Special Collections and the Cleveland Memory Project – History Resources available through

Cleveland State University

Letter from the President by John F. Szuch

Our summer break will soon be upon us. For many, it is an opportunity to get out and visit our family and friends that maybe we don't see during the winter months. When you visit family members, don't forget to mention to them about your family genealogy interest. Ask them if they remember relatives ever talking about incidents when they lived in Poland, or of their early years in the US. They might also remember some small fact that might open up some new doors of exploration. Mentioning some facts that you already know may help trigger a memory that they may have. Also, have them dig out any old family photos or documents that they may have in their possession. In regards to photos, see if they can ID any people that you don't recognize. Also, please keep in mind that we may be the only ones to ID photos in our possession and should do so for future generations.

Another summer project that I've mentioned before is to visit the cemeteries and photograph relatives' tombstones and ID the exact location of the stone on the reverse side of the photo.

Most of all though, on behalf of my fellow officers, I would like to wish all the members a safe and healthy summer and I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.



Sonia Chapnick-Secretary Ben Kman-Treasurer

John F. Szuch-President

Ron Kraine-Vice President.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland c/o St. Mary's PNC Church 1901 Wexford Ave. Parma, Ohio 44134

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc

FIRST CLASS MAIL

OUR POLISH ANCESTORS

is published by

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND



Everyone who is interested in Genealogy, and more specifically Polish Genealogy, is welcome to join our group. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from September thru June at St. Mary's PNC Church; 5375 Broadview Rd. (corner of Broadview & Wexford); Parma, Ohio. Parking is available in the parish lot, the entrance of which is on Marietta Ave. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and usually end at 9:30-10:00 PM. Membership dues are \$25.00 a year.

President: John F. Szuch (330) 769-4603

105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, Ohio 44273

Vice-President: Ron Kraine (440) 838-5743

9810 Greenhaven Pkwy., Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Treasurer: Ben Kman (216) 469-9670

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