

The following article from Jul/Sep 1994 issue of *Our Polish Ancestors* was written by Richarda Jambrozy, PGSGC charter member and past treasurer, who passed away January 23. See <http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=richarda-jambrozy-ksiazek&pid=155622782> or January 24 *Plain Dealer* page B4. She contributed her memories of attending St. Hedwig school to *Celebrating 100 Years 1905-2005* by St. Hedwig Church and *Founded in Faith, Cleveland's Lost Catholic Legacy* by Debra G. First. Her daughter Kathy Corridoni provided the photographs for the next page.

## **The Feast of Corpus Christi - 50 Years Later**

**by Richarda Książek Jambrozy**

I would like to share a heartwarming experience that I had while visiting Poland with my daughter Kathy in 1980.

For the first two weeks, we went on a tour of Southern Poland. During the third week, Kathy and I visited with the different families that I had been corresponding with over the years. We were in my mother's village, Bejsce, on the feast of Corpus Christi. This was still considered a holiday of obligation in Poland, despite being communist at the time.



Richarda H. Jambrozy  
 December 21, 1931 - January 23, 2012

My mother had told me many times how it was celebrated in her village. After attending the Mass in Church, the congregation would march in a procession to the outdoor altars the parishoners would have set up in front of their homes in the village.

And so it was, on this morning fifty years after my mother left, in communist Poland. The men and women donned their Sunday clothes to attend Mass. Afterwards, the procession included men with their instruments. They played during the procession and also as the hymns were sung in front of the altars.

As they started playing the beautiful hymn, *Badze Pozdrowiona Hostio Żywa*, it dawned on me that we were walking in my mother's footsteps - fifty years after she had last walked in the same procession. (Mom left Poland in 1930, just after this feast day.) She had already passed away without ever having returned to Poland for a visit. I could imagine her smiling down on us that day, and it warmed my heart.



Richarda Jambrozy and daughter Kathy in Rome, Italy for an audience with Pope John Paul II in 1980.



Richarda Jambrozy with daughter Kathy and Polish cousin Aldona in Kraków, Poland in 1980.



Tour group in Warsaw, Poland in 1980. In front at right are Richarda Jambrozy and daughter Kathy (now PGSGC member Kathy Corridoni)

# Steve Morse Web Pages

by Ken Spikowski

At the PGSGC meeting on January 2, speaker John Stoika, Editor & Special Events Coordinator for the Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society, gave an informative presentation on the One-Step search tools available via <http://stevemorse.org>. He showed how he used the Ellis Island Gold Form to locate the immigration records for his numerous Italian relatives despite an incredible assortment of surname spellings. He pointed out that names were not changed at Ellis Island, but where they were recorded at the ports from which they departed. If you cannot find the immigration record for an ancestor by searching for the name they ultimately adopted, but have other information such as year of immigration from the 1900 through 1930 Census or an approximate year of birth, try entering those years +/- 1 year and using either the first few letters of the surname or clicking the “sounds like” or “is phonetically” button. Selecting the gender will reduce the number results by half, but the search may take a few minutes or return an excessively large number of results. Checking Ethnicity boxes, entering the name of a companion, or a ship name from a Petition for Naturalization (from Fold3 via [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org) research databases) will often reduce the number of results to a page or two. If you get no results worth examining, click “starts with” and remove trailing characters from the first name and surname one at a time until you get more.

If you find a manifest for which you want a printed copy, John Stoika suggested that instead of paying the high prices for copies from the Ellis Island web site, capture the image with the Snagit program described on <http://www.techsmith.com/snagit-features.html>. After the downloadable 30-day free trial expires, the program costs less than two 11x17 manifest pages.

The tree structure of <http://stevemorse.org> can be expanded by clicking on the + signs to open folders or - signs to close them. John Stoika recommended exploring all that is available there. Although most immigrants to Cleveland came through Ellis Island, earlier arrivals passed through Castle Garden, and many arrived via Baltimore, Boston, or Philadelphia, and some crossed the border from Canada. If you do not have a subscription to Ancestry.com, you can search these other ports from Ancestry at Cuyahoga County or Cleveland Public Library. If clicking on the results tells you to subscribe to Ancestry.com, to avoid the need to print search results pages for manual entry later, enter Ancestry first, examine the URL to determine the subscription type, and at the end of the “Other Ports of Immigration” folder click on “[Ancestrylibrary.com/Ancestryinstitute.com](http://Ancestrylibrary.com/Ancestryinstitute.com): Using Ancestry from a library or institute in One Step”. From CCPL, select AncestryLibrary.com and click “Use for this Session only”.

A significant discovery under “US Census (1790-1940)” was “1880-1940 Census ED Finder”. If searching for a name is unsuccessful and you know the street name or address where an ancestor lived in a large city (in Cuyahoga County you can use the Census ED maps in the Genealogy department at the Fairview Park branch of CCPL), use [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) to locate the nearest cross street, then use that tool to list enumeration districts for both streets. Any districts that appear on both lists might contain that address, and the convention for odd/even house numbers will probably narrow it down to one enumeration district in which you can browse the census images for street names and house numbers in the left margin, hopefully discovering the misspelling that made your text searches unsuccessful. If your computer has Windows 7, or Windows XP with recent video drivers, you can press Ctrl+Alt+Right arrow to rotate your desktop 90 degrees clockwise so street names in the left margins of the images appear right side up at the top. Press Ctrl+Alt+Up arrow to return screen orientation to normal. If you have a mouse, rotate it similarly.

On a laptop with a touchpad it will be hard to move the mouse pointer. To fix this, see <http://softwaretopic.informer.com/windows-rotate-touchpad>. Click [EeeRotate](#), then [Download EeeRotate](#). If your download did not start, click [from the developer's site](#), then click [here](#) to download your attachment. After enduring the usual Windows warning about how “This type of file could harm your computer”, click Save or Run. After “The publisher could not be verified”, click Install. On Windows 7 Home 64-bit it worked until Windows was restarted, after which I found it necessary to create a desktop shortcut to C:\Program Files (x86)\EeeRotate\EeeRotate.exe, which can be double-clicked before rotating the screen.

## Cleveland Worsted Mills

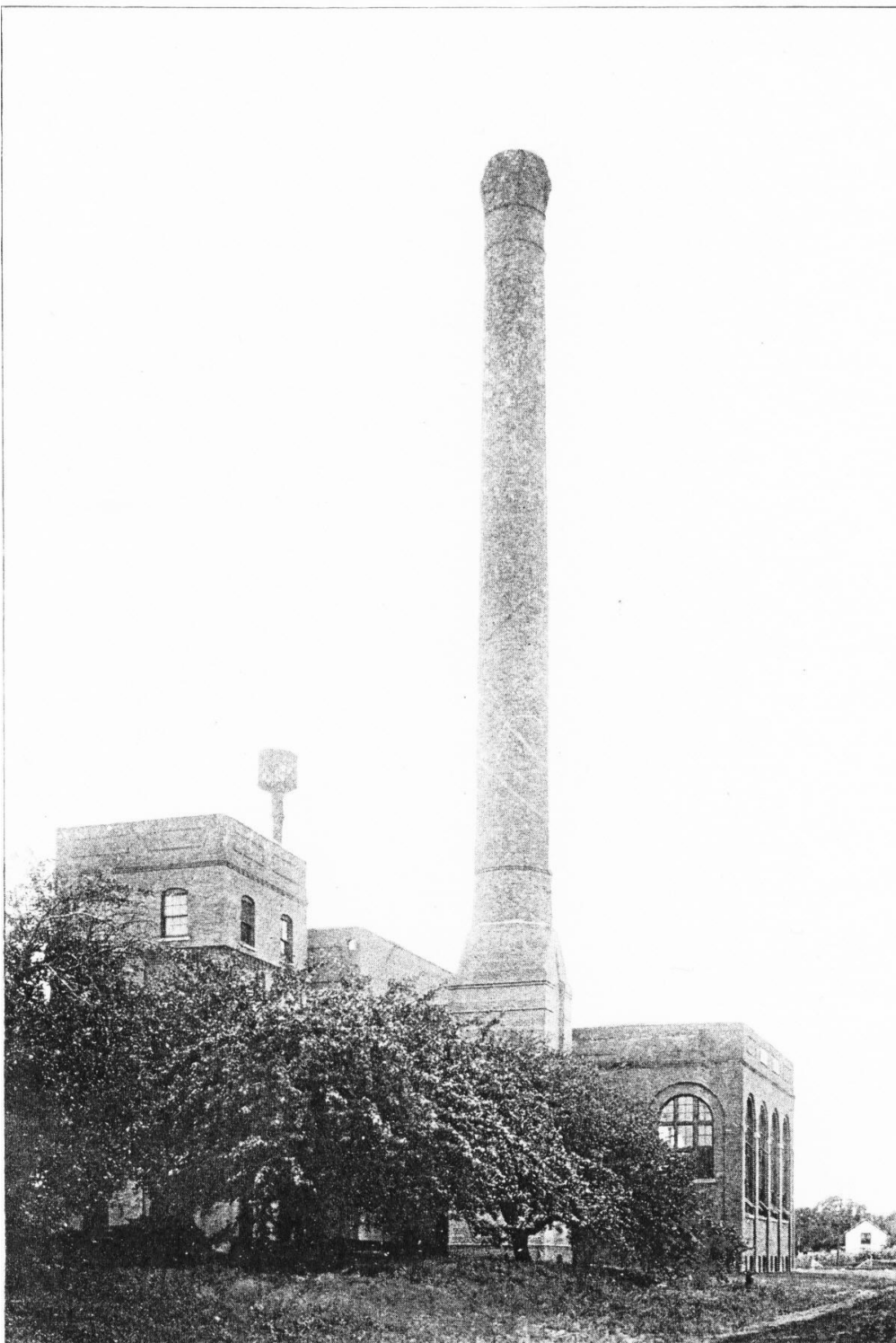
by Cindy Spikowski

SOUVENIR, OLD HOME WEEK

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On Friday, April 29, 2011, the 175-foot smokestack of the Cleveland Worsted Mills was demolished, the final remnant of the nineteen-building complex which encompasses over twenty acres and employed many neighborhood residents. The Slavic Village community eagerly anticipates the new Mound School and already enjoys the baseball field and the Broadway Boys and Girls Club, all of which are located on the land once used by the mill. Few remember the reason for the mill's closing.

Picture at right is from *Ravenna Beautiful*: containing official programme of *Old Home Week Celebration, August 24th, 25th and 26th, 1909*: a history of the beautiful city of Ravenna, sketches of a few of its many industrial plants, view of prominent Ravenna streets, portraits of Ravenna's prominent business men, views of some of its principal buildings and homes.



Cleveland Worsted Mills Power House

The Cleveland Worsted Mills Company was established in 1902 by Oliver M. Stafford and George Hodgson. They had purchased the mill from Joseph Turner, who had started the Turner Mill there in 1878, after moving to the Broadway area from Kent, Ohio. Textile manufacturing was a labor-intensive industry which required only a small number of skilled workers, but demanded a large unskilled labor force. In order to be competitive, the mill owners needed inexpensive labor. The Broadway neighborhood provided conscientious unskilled laborers who lived only a few blocks from the mill -- middle-aged Polish women. They could be trained immediately to tend machines. In the early days of the company there were no unions. The women thought of their work as supplemental to their husband's earnings.

While Oliver M. Stafford and George Hodgson were running the mill (1894-1931), they thought of themselves as strong, kind patriarchs and they felt that their employees should consider the mill their home away from home. In George H. Hodgson's booklet "The Clothing of the People," copyright 1922, he defines "The Ambition of the Cleveland Worsted Mills Company":

- To Produce worsted fabrics that stand squarely on the rock of quality
- To Overcome obstacles and meet successfully the requirements of the trade
- To Make our name and reputation a standard of progress
- To Give our employees a pleasant, healthful and profitable place to work
- To Render efficient service to all

In 1902 Stafford and Hodgson added three buildings to Turner's original building. Designed by Hunkin-Conkey, Cleveland architects, the buildings were six-story brick structures with good light and ventilation. Unfortunately, however, textile mills required a warm, moist atmosphere in order to keep the fiber pliable and often workers suffered from respiratory and rheumatic conditions.

When Louis Oliver Poss became the president of the Cleveland Worsted Mills in 1931, the company no longer had the funds to continue to make the mill seem like a home away from home. Poss was fighting to keep the company solvent in the midst of a depression. Poss, like his predecessors, was against unions, but unlike Stafford and Hodgson, Poss refused to appease his workers with recreational facilities and parties. Poss thought of himself as a modern cost-conscious businessman. On August 22, 1955, 1,452 employees of the 1,950 member workforce went on strike against the Cleveland Worsted Mills. They had recently joined the Textile Workers Union of America (CIO). The average worker at the Cleveland Worsted Mills was earning \$1.40/hr. which was 6½ cents lower than one Cleveland Worsted Mills plants in Ravenna, and 14¾ cents lower than the other Ravenna Mill. Both of the Ravenna plants were union shops.

Only one incident was reported during the eighteen week strike, and that occurred on the first day, when one of the picketers, 63-year-old Frances Trzaska of East 73rd Street, an employee of the Cleveland Worsted Mills for thirty-seven years, was knocked down by Louis Poss as he escorted two women, who were not on strike, through the picket line. Mrs. Trzaska was treated at St. Alexis Hospital for a bruised elbow, and the strike continued.

On October 15, 1955, a special devotion was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church to pray for an end to the strike. The pastor, Reverend Francis Maruna, offered the use of his church for negotiations between the textile workers and the Cleveland Worsted Mills president, but Louis Poss refused to speak to community leaders, employees, or Howard Metzenbaum, the labor union's attorney. Poss considered the strikers an ungrateful mob. The December 21, 1955 *Plain Dealer* noted that Christmas hams would be distributed to striking employees of the Cleveland Worsted Mills by the Textile Workers Union and a Christmas party would be held on Christmas Eve for children of the striking members at the Alliance of Poles Hall.

On December 31, 1955, the 134th day of the strike the front-page headlines of the *Plain Dealer* read, "Worsted Mills to be Dissolved, Says Head of Strikebound Firm" -- the strike had reached a climax. The shareholders would meet on January 18, 1956 to consider liquidation. Louis Oliver Poss met with his fellow stockholders and it was decided to liquidate the Cleveland Worsted Mills. Poss felt that a quick liquidation was the best way to reward his loyal followers, the stockholders. The employees learned about the closing in the newspapers - there was no employee meeting, no offer of severance pay or job placement, even to those who did not participate in the strike. Poss retired comfortably on his own stock dividends. Workers lost their jobs. The neighborhood had a deteriorating warehouse.

### **Bibliography for Cleveland Worsted Mills**

Bevan, John E. "Worsted Mills to be Dissolved, Says Head of Strikebound Firm." *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. December 31, 1955. page 1.

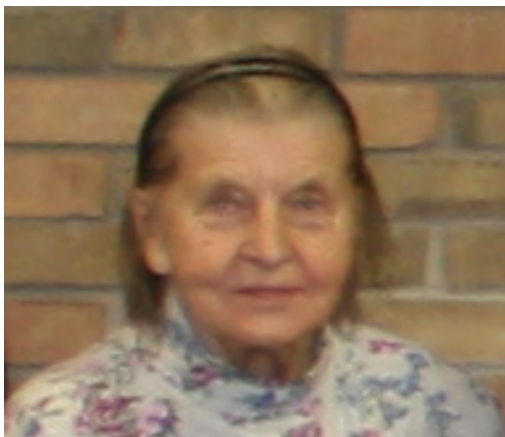
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"Lower Wollen Mills site ready for new opportunities." *The Neighborhood News*. May 4, 2011. page 5.

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"Service for Strikers." *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. October 15, 1955. page 2.

"12 Accept Loans at Westinghouse." *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. December 21, 1955. page 19.



This article was inspired by a recent clipping from *The Neighborhood News* that was submitted by member Nettie (Miecia) Kowalski, who is shown here from the group photo at the October meeting. She last attended the PGSGC November meeting, when she helpfully translated some letters from Polish for a friend. We are sorry to report that she unexpectedly passed away on January 18 and will be missed. Her obituary is in January 22 Plain Dealer page B8 or on:

<http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=nettie-kowalski-lada&pid=155607243&fhid=2314>



Strikers picket Cleveland Worsted Mills, August 23, 1955 from The Cleveland Press Collection. Used with permission of Special Collections, Michael Schwartz Library, Cleveland State University.

# **Birth Records from Poland**

**by Ron Kraine**

You can obtain the birth (baptism) records for your Polish ancestors, directly from the archives in Poland by following these easy steps:

1. Send an e-mail to “[NDAP@ARCHIWA.GOV.PL](mailto:NDAP@ARCHIWA.GOV.PL)”, requesting the address of the archive that would hold the records you seek and the approx. year that you believe he/she was born. You may send your e-mail in Polish OR is English.
2. In 4-8 weeks, you will receive an e-mail advising you where to send your request.
3. Send an e-mail to the address provided in their e-mail, requesting the following:
  - a. State that you seek a birth/baptism record.
  - b. Name the village and district you believe ancestor was born, and year of birth.
  - c. Spell the name of your ancestor, and the names of his parents (if known).
  - d. Provide your complete name and address, including your e-mail address, and be sure to put “U.S.” with your address.
4. In 4-8 weeks, you will receive a reply from the archive, stating that they have OR have not found the record you have requested and in what years they searched. IF they found your record, they will tell you only in what year they found it. They will give you the following instructions:
  - a. Exactly where to electronically wire the money.
  - b. How much money (PLN) to wire.

Note....You can request that they e-mail or snail mail the record to you.  
I find that snail mail is best because the e-mail is not always the sharpest and easy to read.
  - c. Your complete name and address so they can snail mail it to you, Again, be certain to note “U.S.” with your name and address.

To find someone to electronically wire funds to Poland, contact a travel agency that does this type of work...They are less expensive than your bank...I deal with “Aaron’s Int’l. Travel” located at 3807 E. 71<sup>st</sup> street....1-216-641-5555. They charge \$10.00 to wire PLUS the actual cost for the record. Most of the time, the record costs less than \$5.00.

Now, you just sit back for 3-6 weeks, awaiting the mail man to deliver your critical record. If you have any questions, you can e-mail Ron Kraine at “[ronkraine@aol.com](mailto:ronkraine@aol.com)”.

Good luck

## **Finding Nearby Towns in Poland**

**by Ken Spikowski**

Since Polish birth records usually do not include the birthplace of either parent, tracing backward is difficult unless they are found in the same parish. A useful tool for locating nearby towns for which the LDS Library has microfilms is available at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/poland/ldsdist.htm>. This only lists towns with Jewish records, which are often mixed with Catholic records but contain keyword starozakonny.



# **St. Leo The Great Catholic Church**

## **Columbus, Ohio**

**by Cindy Spikowski**

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church is located just south of German Village, at 221 Hanford Street in Columbus, Ohio. The church was closed July 1, 1999 for all the reasons that bishops close old churches: dwindling enrollment, too many nearby parishes, expensive needed repairs, etc. The parishioners petitioned the Vatican, and the church remains, but it is only opened for special liturgical events. On December 29, 2011, there was a celebration of a family Christmas Mass, followed by a brief organ concert to celebrate the restoration of the church's German Romantic pipe organ.

As we sat in the old pews and viewed the altars, statues, ceiling decorations and the beautiful stained glass windows, all of which had been meticulously restored by former parishioners, one could not help but feel a connection with the past and the ancestors who preceded us. They had celebrated many significant moments of their lives there – Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Marriages and their funerals. We thought of the little girls who had walked in May processions in the church, wearing daisy wreaths as they sang the beautiful hymns to the Blessed Mother. There were the hundreds of altar boys who had served Mass at St. Leo's since the church had been opened in 1903. Until the changes of the Second Vatican Council, those young servers had learned the responses in Latin. They also wore rubber-soled shoes to avoid scratching the marble floors of the sanctuary – a seemingly insignificant footnote to the church's history, but indicative of the pride the parishioners took in their church.

My parents, aunts and uncles had received their First Holy Communion at St. Leo's when they were seven years old – Pope Pius X had changed the required age to “the age or reason” for First Communion in 1910. One could almost see the rows of little children, dressed in white, struggling not to faint in those days when the fasting requirement began at midnight. We treasure the photograph of my parents on the steps of St. Leo Church being showered with rice after their marriage in 1937, while the bells of the church pealed joyfully. My mother and her father had been present in the church when the bells rang for the first time in 1915, as the new church was being constructed. I looked at the names of those who had donated the stained glass windows and read familiar names from my childhood.

We all know that our faith is not a building, statues, stained glass windows or a pipe organ, and that keeping old churches open is not cost-effective, but being able to visit St. Leo's Church this Christmastime gave me an unforgettable gift – a connection with my family and my heritage. I could almost hear my father singing “Adeste Fideles” again.

## **Corrections to Oct-Dec 2011 Issue**

We apologize to Louis Jurkewicz and Edwin Zelek, whose first names were listed incorrectly below the group picture taken at the October meeting.

In the “Metrical Records from the Polish Archives” article, the agency attributed to Ron Kraine for wiring money to Poland was an alternate that provides the same service. See his article on page 6 for the agency that he used.

## **PGSGC Library Additions**

We appreciate Rosanne Ewazen’s donations to our library:

*Did the Children Cry* by Richard Lukas

*Where Eagles Lie Fallen* by Gary Collins

A CD of Polish Christmas Carols recorded by local musicians and sung by local children, purchased at the December 27, 2011 Pasterka at St. John Bosco Church, was added. Singing of the Polish Christmas Kolędy at 6:45 PM followed by a Polish Mass at 7:30 is an annual event at a different west-side church each year during the week following Christmas.

A complete list of PGSGC library holdings may be found on the inside of the leftmost cabinet door in the library or on our website: <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/library.pdf>

## **Plain Dealer Historical Archive Database**

Cuyahoga County Public library has added the Plain Dealer Historical Archive Database, 1845 - 1991 to the list of genealogy databases available through the library homepage. The Plain Dealer Historical Archive Database provides access to digital reproductions of full page and article images from every available issue, with searchable full text. Article Types include News/Opinion, Advertisements, Birth Notices, Matrimony Notices, Death Notices, and more. Library Cardholders can access the Plain Dealer Historical Archive Database, 1845 – 1991 from their home computer or by visiting any of the Cuyahoga County Public Library Branches.

To access the Historical Plain Dealer database from home:

- Go to: <http://cuyahogalibrary.org/>
- Point your cursor to “Research” and choose “Genealogy Research” from the drop down menu
- Click on “Premium Genealogy Electronic Resources” (on the right side of the page under Online Resources)
- Choose the Plain Dealer (Historical) from the database list

For more information, please contact the reference desk of the Fairview Park branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library at 440-333-4700.

**Joni Mihelich**  
**Subject Specialist - Genealogy**  
**Cuyahoga County Public Library**

## Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

- Mar: Martin Hauserman, Chief Archivist for Cleveland City Council Archives, Polish Genealogical Sources in the Cleveland City Council Archives
- April: Carolyn Vigneulle, Remembrance with Government Records (Japanese Internment Camp and National Archives)
- May: Irmgard Feth, My Life in Poland

## Recommended Web Sites

by Georgene Jasinski

On [www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/453/transcript](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/453/transcript) click [listen to the audio](#), then the right arrow at the left of "ACT ONE. SOLIDARITY FOR NEVER." Then listen to the broadcast of this program re: recent politics in Poland. Quite interesting!

<http://zieba.wroclaw.pl/kpg/kps.html> Old wooden Church in Southwest Poland . Use the pointers to look all the way round the church. It's incredible! Best viewed full screen. Do zoom in to get detail:

## Revised Dues Schedule

by Ron Kraine

As of the first of this year, we have changed the time when membership dues are scheduled for payment. We have GONE AWAY from renewal dues being payable 12 months after the original enrollment date. Now, all memberships will expire each December, and renewals begin in January and extend thru the following December. This may take some time to get everyone on this schedule, but we hope that you will help us accomplish this change-over in a timely fashion.

We are asking that you check the mailing label on your quarterly newsletter, "Our Polish Ancestors", and note the digits above your name. This is the month and year that your membership is CURRENTLY due to expire (I.E. 6/12). This means that your membership dues was scheduled to expire in the sixth month (June) of 2012. In order for you to extend your 2012 membership thru December of 2012, you will need to pay \$2.00 FOR EACH MONTH LEFT IN THE 2012 YEAR,( June, July, August, September,October, November and December). In this example, the member would need to pay 7 months of dues at \$2.00 per month, for a total of \$14.00. This gets the member paid through December and the next dues will be due for payment in January of 2013.

You may wait to pay your membership extension until your current date of expiration, or IF POSSIBLE, send it in now to extend your membership through December 2012. You can pay in cash or check at our monthly meetings or mail your check to:

Ben Kman, Treasurer  
170 Bellus Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by John F. Szuch

It's hard to believe that 2012 marks my 20th year as President of the PGSGC! It has been a real pleasure for me as I have made many personal friends amongst the membership over the years. As I have repeatedly stated, we are like one big family!

On a sad note though, we lost two of our member within a couple days of each other in January. Nettie Kowalski passed away on January 18th and Richarda Jambrozy on January 23rd. My wife Marlene and I visited Richarda at her home on January 17th and are thankful that we were able to work that visit in before Richarda left us. Richarda was an original PGSGC member from day one, and sat at my left side for over 10 years as Treasurer. Both Ladies will be sorely missed by those who knew them.

Our condolences go out to their families and friends.

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
C/O ST. MARY'S PNC CHURCH  
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VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc>

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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 \$2.00 per month until January, then \$24.00 per year.

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