



Aunt Minnie Saw the Titanic?

by Trina Galauner

“Aunt Minnie saw the Titanic.” That’s what I was told by my grandmother. As if she saw the ship actually sinking. Well, that made me wonder what was the story behind that story. I had always been interested in the history of the Titanic, it’s passengers, especially those that were intended immigrants to the U.S.

So I wondered then, were there any Polish immigrants on the Titanic? If so, did any survive? Reviewing the passenger list images, there was no one listed of Polish heritage but there were some Austrians and Russians. And at that time, when Poland was ruled by Germany, Austria and Russia, immigrants many times did not list Poland as their country of origin. I came up with 54 people listing their ethnicity as Russian or Austrian. The few I found as German were definitely German surnames so I discounted the possibility they were Polish. Of those Austrian and Russian passengers, only ten were survivors having travelled in 2nd and 3rd class. Many were of Jewish ancestry. Here are the stories of the few passengers born in Poland.

Mrs. Leah Aks (nee Rosen) was born in Warsaw, Poland in 1894 and a third class passenger travelling with her 10 month old infant son, Frank Philip Aks. She had been living in London prior to her trip. She was going to Norfolk, Virginia where her husband, Samuel Aks (a tailor) was waiting for them. On the night of the tragedy, Leah made her way up to the boat deck with her son. It is said Mrs. Madeleine Astor (young wife of millionaire John Jacob Astor) saw the baby in Leah’s arms and wrapped her shawl around him to keep him warm. In the panic, as lifeboat #11 was about to be lowered, the baby was taken from Leah’s arms and tossed into the arms of Elizabeth Nye. Leah struggled to get him back but was held back by crewmen who thought she was trying to rush the boat. As crewmen continued to fill lifeboats, Leah was pushed into lifeboat #13. Aboard the rescue ship Carpathia, Leah was reunited with her son when she was able to prove his identity by describing a birthmark on his chest.

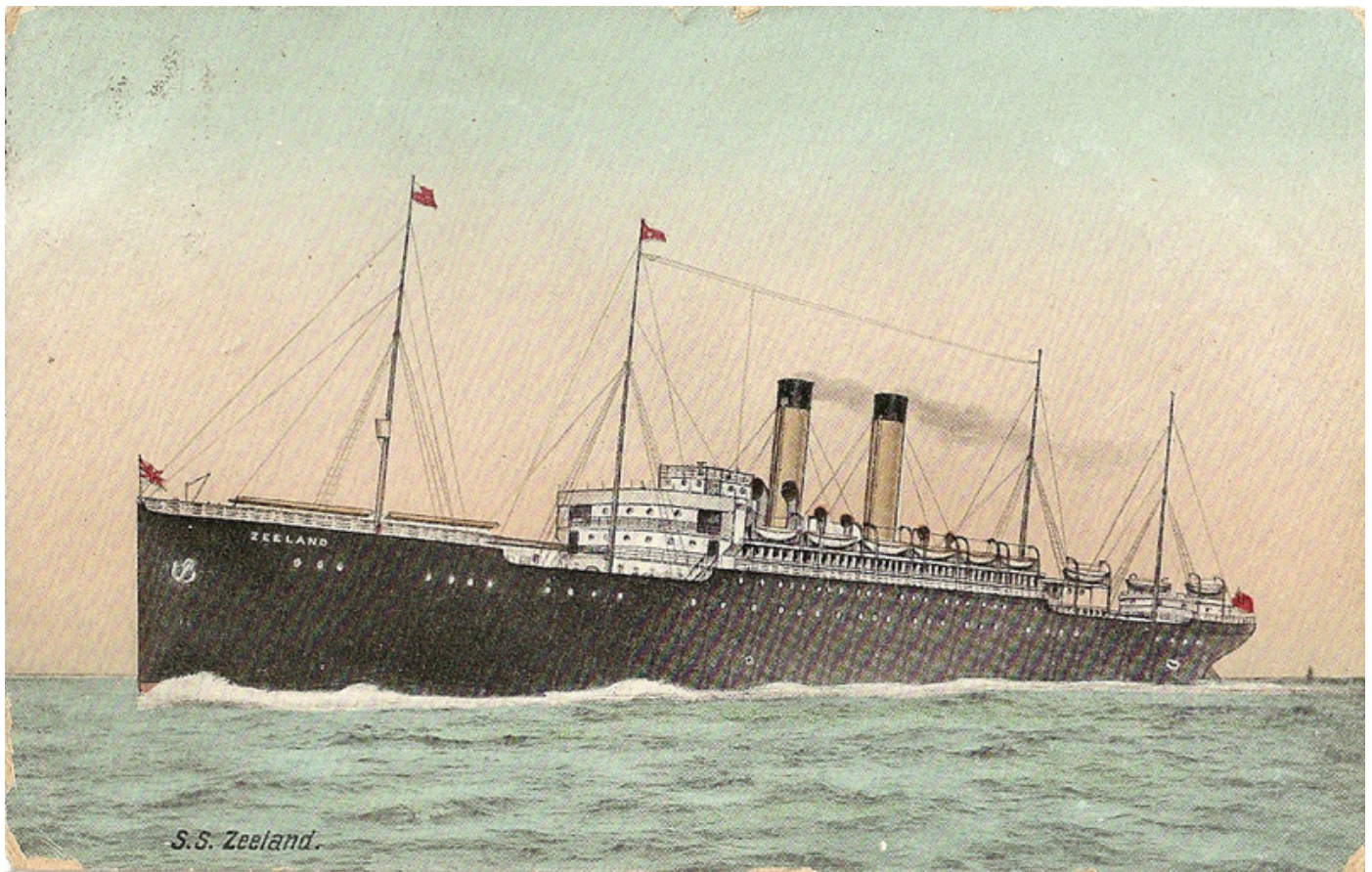
Mrs. Rosa Pinsky, age 32, was born in Warsaw, Poland but was living in Brooklyn, New York. She was a widow travelling 2nd class and it appears she had gone back to Warsaw to visit relatives, possibly for a wedding. She was returning to her home in New York when the tragedy occurred. She was rescued from lifeboat #9.

Mr. Berk Trembisky (aka Pickard) was a 32 year old leather worker and 3rd class passenger from London bound for San Francisco, CA. He had been born in Warsaw but had

lived in France for several years where he had assumed the French surname, Pickard. Berk had been sleeping and was awakened when the boat collided with the iceberg. Berk found his way up to the Boat Deck. Lifeboat #9 was being loaded and there were no other women and children around so he and some other men climbed in.

Mr. Moses A. Troupiansky, age 23, was a 2nd class passenger on the Titanic. Claiming he was Russian, it is believed he was originally from what is now Lithuania. Moses was a retailer who had been working in South Africa and was going to relatives in New York to start a business there. His body was never identified or found.

Getting back to Aunt Minnie (Michalina Muniak from Przeclaw, Poland), when I finally found her on a passenger list, it turns out she sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on May 18, 1912 on the Zeeland and arrived at Ellis Island on May 29, 1912. The Zeeland, was a Red Star Line ship that followed the same route as the Titanic. In the British Wreck Commissioner's Inquiry, the testimony of Gerhard C. Apfeld, Marine Superintendent of the Red Star Line, indicates that the Zeeland also passed by icebergs on route to New York that April and was in the vicinity of the Titanic wreckage on April 14th. The Titanic sailed along a main North Atlantic shipping route and it is believed that several ships had observed bodies and wreckage. So I guess the real story is Aunt Minnie came to the U.S. on a ship that had sailed the same route and at the same time as the Titanic sinking. And thus the tale that "Aunt Minnie saw the Titanic".



S. S. Zeeland

Cleveland Disasters in Our Ancestor's Lives

by Trina Galauner

We all remember certain disasters that happened within our lifetimes. Some of them are major disasters, such as the terrorist attack on 9/11 or the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor in 1941. But many are small, lesser known tragedies that influenced our lives. I remember when I was little, everytime I stepped on one of those old wooden escalators I thought of a story my grandmother told me about a woman's high heel shoe getting stuck and the escalator didn't stop. I always feared those escalators! I'm not sure if that was a tall tale just to scare me to be careful or a valid story. But I do know that my grandfather and my father were greatly affected by the automobile crash on the Dunham Road bridge in June 1936. My father who wasn't even alive when it happened, always talked about the crash. It obviously had a profound affect on my grandfather, enough to affect my own father! I don't know if alcohol played a roll in the accident but my father was never a drinker and very proud of the fact.

The biggest disasters that our ancestors may remember are train collisions, fires and explosions. In my own family history we have a mother that was killed while crossing the train tracks, another mother who was burned to death when her dress caught fire while she was burning leaves and a 12-year old boy who drowned in the Cuyahoga River. Explosions that your ancestors may remember are the East Ohio Gas Co. explosion in 1944, the W. 117th St. gas explosion in 1953 or the Cleveland Clinic explosion in 1929. Many will remember stories of the Collinwood School Fire in 1908 or the Ringling Bros. Circus fire in 1942. The most fatal tornadoes in our area were in 1893, 1909 and 1953. My in-laws claim there was a tornado the day they were married in 1956. I can't find any verification on this, so I'm guessing this was more an analogy of their marriage!

Here is a list of some Cleveland disasters and tragedies. You may find yourself saying "I remember my mother telling me about that."

Sep 1872	Newburg Lunatic Asylum Fire
Feb 1881	P. C. Maner & Co. Coal Mine Explosion
Jun 1882	Lake Erie Tidal Wave
Nov 1882	Forest City Iron Works boiler explosion
Jan 1884	Park Theatre explosion and fire
Jul 1885	Broadway Ave. Tenement House Fire
Dec 1886	J. F. Sieberling & Co.'s Empire Mower and Reaper Works Boiler explosion
May 1887	Violent thunderstorm damages Glidden & Joy Varnish Works
Jan 1888	Central Viaduct collapse
Sep 1888	National Milling Co. Fire
Sep 1889	"Leo" launch boat wreck at Rocky River
Sep 1890	Train and street car collision on Wilson Ave.
Oct 1891	U. S. Mine Supply Explosions on Wilson Ave.
Apr 1893	Cleveland Saw Mill & Lumber Co. fire

May 1893 Tornado damages Cleveland Rolling Mill and homes at Erie & Superior
 May 1893 Willoughby Chagrin River/Cheyenne River floods
 Oct 1893 Storms wrecks Lake Erie schooner "Riverside"
 Feb 1895 Deaconess Hospital fire
 Nov 1895 Elevated train wreck on Central viaduct; plunges through open draw
 Jul 1896 Ferry Boat capsizes while crossing Old River channel
 Jun 1897 Bessemer Steel Works scaffold accident
 Jun 1897 Euclid Beach Park Boat people crushed as they rush to board the boat
 Feb 1899 Fatal house fire on Brooklyn Street
 Jul 1901 Lake Shore RR passenger train wreck
 Mar 1902 Cleveland Gas Light and Coke Company Power Plant Cave In
 Mar 1902 Cleveland Baking Powder Co. collapses
 Jan 1903 YMCA Fire
 May 1903 Thor Manufacturing Co. Fireworks factory explosion
 Aug 1904 Sheets Brothers Grain Elevator fire
 Sep 1904 Streetcar/Buggy Wreck
 Sep 1904 Runaway Horse Tramples Children Watching Parade
 Sep 1904 Politician killed by train at C. & P. tracks at Cooper street
 Sep 1904 Street car/Ambulance Wreck
 Sep 1904 "Butterfly" Launch capsizes
 Sep 1904 Nicola, Stone & Myers Co. Lumber Yard fire
 Sep 1904 Man drowned in Newburg well
 Nov 1906 Lake Shore & Michigan Southern RR power house boiler explosion in
 Collinwood
 Mar 1908 Collinwood School Fire
 Apr 1909 Tornado and Wind Storm
 (Damage to Cooperative Stove Co., Salvation Army, Kinsman Ice Cream Co.,
 E. 49th & Central, E. 46th & Central, General Cartage & Storage Co., Domestic
 Hand Laundry, Central & E. 16th, E. 65th, E. 43rd & Skovill, St. Stanislaus
 Church, S. Brooklyn)
 May 1910 Koch & Henke Furniture Factory Fire
 Nov 1910 Koch & Henke Store Collapse
 Jul 1912 Luna Park daredevil motorcycle wreck
 Nov 1913 Great Lakes Gale
 Oct 1916 Great Lakes storm
 Oct 1916 Street cars collide on W. 3rd bridge
 Jun 1924 Tornado destroys State Theater in Lorain
 Jul 1925 Quarry drownings
 Jan 1929 State Barrel Co. plant fire
 May 1929 Cleveland Clinic explosion
 Jan 1930 Berea train and school bus collision
 9 children killed at Sheldon Rd. 22 Jan 1930...including 3 children of Valentine

- Zelinski and Tillie Kachelein, Vincent George age 6, Rita Margaret age 8,
Dorothy Mary age 11
- Oct 1930 Trains collide beneath Fulton Road bridge
 - Jun 1932 Ellington Apartment Hotel Fire
 - Apr 1934 Truck and bus accident
 - Oct 1936 Lake Erie gale sinks Canadian sand ship "Sand Merchant"
 - May 1938 United Airlines airplane crash in Seven Hills
 - Nov 1941 Streetcar Fire
 - Aug 1942 Ringling Bros Circus Fire
 - Dec 1942 Cuyahoga River flooding in Valley View and Independence
 - Apr 1943 Tornado causes war plants in SE Cleveland to shut down
 - Oct 1944 East Ohio Gas Co. explosion
 - Nov 1946 Hotel Belden Fire
 - Jan 1947 Streetcar/Gas truck crash at E. 105th Street at Chester Avenue
 - Feb 1948 Sherwin Williams Co. Linseed Oil Plant Fire
 - Dec 1949 Central Market fire
 - Jun 1953 West Park tornado (W. 130th -W. 117th, W. 28 & Franklin)
 - Sep 1953 W. 117 St. Gas explosion
 - Aug 1963 Avis Rent A Truck Co. propane truck explosion
 - Apr 1965 Tornado tracks from Oberlin through Strongsville
 - Aug 1971 Mail plane crashes into Fairview Park home

Stories of these disasters and more can be found at <http://www3.gendisasters.com>.

Cuyahoga County Marriage Records

by Ken Spikowski

The old "Courtview 2000 Marriage License Index" URL now goes to a site for marriage license applications, making it more difficult to locate historical marriage records.

The index on microfiche at Fairview Park branch is alphabetized by last name only, but on <http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/> click on Research, Genealogy Research, Genealogy in Cuyahoga County, Historical Marriage License Index, Yes. It no longer allows you to search for partial combined first names and surnames of brides and grooms, but allows searching for partial names. The first name may be omitted, but at the last name must contain at least two characters. Do not confuse it by typing wildcard characters. For Party Role select Bride or Groom, but the drop-down list has many more options, making it possible to see what other cases involving your relatives have been heard in Cuyahoga County Probate Court. Click Search by Party. In Search Results, click on a name to get the Volume and Page for the record. The Fairview library has records through part of 1942 on microfilm, which are also available online from Ancestry.com. The Western Reserve Historical Society has records through 1960, but later records require a trip to 1 Lakeside Ave. in Cleveland.

For short-form records (Banns) not listing a church but only the name of a pastor, see <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~officer/pastors.html>. That site also contains a "Cuyahoga County Marriage Records Index guide (Volumes vs years)" that can provide approximate marriage dates without looking at the records.

Genealogy vs. Family History

by Cindy Spikowski

Census reports, social security death notices, draft cards, and birth and marriage records all provide information concerning ancestors. The tree becomes filled with names and dates of direct ancestors and their siblings. Photographs are often rare and very few of our ancestors left any personal record of their lives. Most of them were too busy just surviving and raising their families to write down an account of their lives, much less reveal their hopes and dreams.

Articles in *Piecework*, a needlework magazine, about Polish embroidery gave me an idea as to how I might connect with Polish women of the past. I decided to try to replicate a “Snutki” doily. We have a photograph of my husband’s grandparents and their children taken about 1919. I admired the beautiful



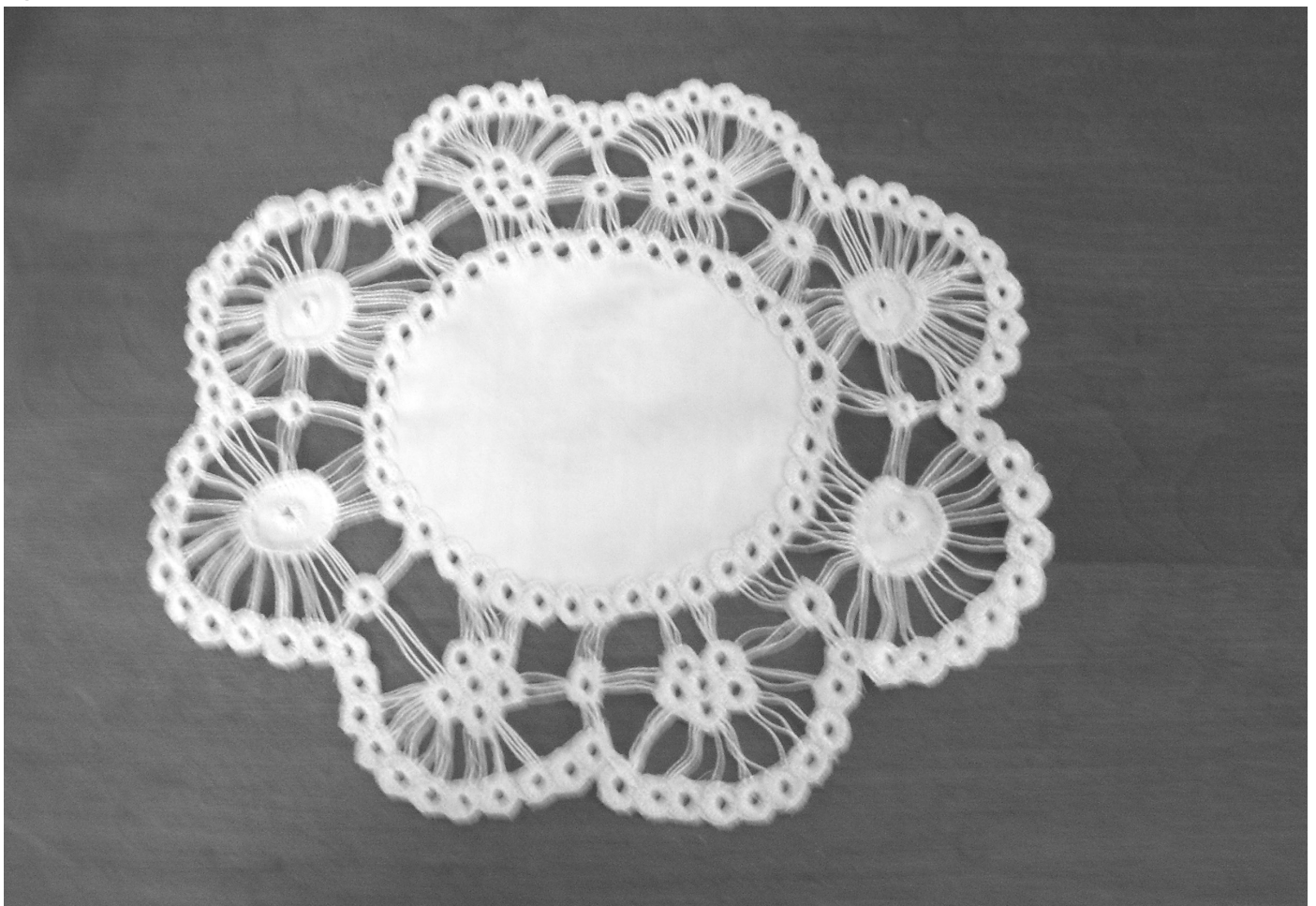
lace-trimmed dresses on the little girls, as well as the lace collar on their mother and the lace-trimmed Baptismal dress on the baby. I wondered if that lace could have been made by my husband’s grandmother, or at least been made in Poland. The family had lived near Poznan, where “Snutki” embroidery originated. A close-up photograph of the baby’s dress shows the similarity to “Snutki” embroidery.

According to the magazine article, and to other books I found at the Cleveland Public Library, “Snutki” or “spiderweb” Lace embroidery developed near Poznan in the eighteenth century. Although it resembles lace, it is actually embroidery. An intricate pattern is traced on cotton fabric. Holes are punched with a stiletto and each hole is surrounded by the buttonhole embroidery stitch, using #30 crochet yarn. The holes are connected by strands

of the same yarn, giving the piece a “spiderweb” appearance. After hours of embroidery (I spent approximately 14 hours on the small doily) the design is completed and one then carefully cuts the fabric away from underneath the connecting lines of the “web”.

The ingenious women of the Poznan region were trying to duplicate the Italian lacework that they admired. According to the various sources, Snutki was done for the most part by unmarried women or by poor women who were trying to supplement their income. It was used on bonnets, collars and sleeves, but also on altar cloths and tablecloths for the wealthy. One source said that the elaborate altarcloths were embroidered and offered to the churches in hopes of receiving special blessings, such as a family member returning safely from war.

I cannot prove that the lace in our photograph is Snutki or even that Frances Hetmanek Spikowski made that lace to decorate the clothing for her children. Making the small Snutki doily did give me a real appreciation for the women who fashioned such items all those years ago.



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- Lenart-Malinowska, Irena. *Wybrane Hafty Ludowe*. Warszawa: Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne, 1993
- McMillan, Peta. “Snutki Lacy Embroidery from Poland.” *Piecework*, 13:6, November/December, 2005. <http://www.interweave.com/needle/projects/snutki.asp>

Finding 1940 Census EDs, Locating Streets, and Printing Readably

by Ken Spikowski

On <http://stevemorse.org>, the “Unified 1940 Census ED Finder” is an excellent tool when it works correctly. However, its database of street names contains errors, and you may find that, after selecting the street name for an ancestor's address and examining the MapQuest or Google map to which it links to determine the nearest cross and back streets on the block, the drop-down list of cross and back streets does not include the ones that you need. When this first happened to me, I assumed that the neighborhood had changed between 1940 and present. After searching all the suggested EDs for the address, I found that none of them came close. A better approach is to pick the desired house number + or - 1 on the back street, (to put it on the same side of the block as the desired house), then make sure that the map provider places it on the same block. The list of EDs for that back street will hopefully include a drop-down list that allows selection of the actual desired street and the side streets, leading to the correct ED for the address. If the back street house number does not result in the correct list of back and cross streets, resort to an adaptively refined search of cross street addresses using the map provider until you locate the desired street nearby. Note that even addresses are on the right when moving away from the center of town. The “Unified 1940 Census ED Finder” will then hopefully list the desired street as a side street. If not, try a similar adaptively refined search on the other original cross street.

Searching an ED for a street name is much faster if you rotate the screen 90 degrees clockwise as described in my “Steve Morse Web Pages” article in the previous issue, especially if your screen is wide enough to fit the left edge of the form across the top of the window to avoid scrolling while reading the handwriting. If your operating system and video driver do not allow this, the Ancestry.com Advanced Image Viewer on has the ability to rotate its image window. Click U.S. Census Records, 1940 United States Federal Census, “Already know the cross streets?”. Select the State, County, Populated Place, Home Street, and Cross Streets until only one ED remains, then click it. Maximize the window, move the cursor over “Actions”, click “Image Controls”, and click “Rotate Right”. Click and drag the zoom slider bar up slightly until the image expands to occupy most of the width of the screen. Click and drag the image downward until you can see the left margin of the form across the top. The zoom and position are retained as you move from page to page looking for the desired street name.

After you locate the desired household, instead of printing a barely readable entire image on 8½x11 paper in Landscape orientation, adjust the zoom and position until the left edge through column 18 fills the window vertically. Move the cursor over Actions, click Print, “Print Only Current View”, and Continue. When “Preparing to Print...” is displayed, the Print dialog box should appear shortly, allowing you to select Landscape orientation (and perhaps higher resolution such as 1200 dpi instead of 600), then click Print. Click and drag the image upward until everything from column 18 through the right edge of the form is displayed. Then repeat the print operation to print the right half of the form. The headings will still be unreadable, so click Home, U.S. Federal Census, Download blank census forms, US 1940 Census Part 1. Click the Ancestry Print button, click the back arrow in the upper left corner,

click US 1940 census part 2, and click the Ancestry Print button.

Although the new Advanced Image Viewer works well for the 1940 Census, when used for the 1930 Census it causes Image-only printing of the entire image to occupy only about half the page area compared to the old Advanced Image Viewer. Click Options, "Use the Advanced Image Viewer (old)" to print readable full-page Landscape mode images for the 1930 Census. If that is not installed on the computer, make sure the zoom is 100%, click "Use the Standard Viewer", and follow the instructions to set the orientation to Landscape and margins as suggested. This wastes a little space, but prints a header and footer.

PGSGC Web Site URL Change

by Trina Galauner

Our web site is now hosted by rootsweb, where site searches by other researchers can more easily find it. The new URL is <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/>. Visit it to check out new stories I found at www.clevelandseniors.com significant to Polish Cleveland.

Family Reunion Planning

by Joni Mihelich

Planning a family reunion? Why not make your next family reunion an event to help further your genealogy research. Creating a Family Member wall chart is a great way to add to your family tree. Ask family members to fill in any blanks and correct inaccurate information. Family reunions are usually an occasion featuring lots of good food. Invite attendees to submit their favorite family recipes from their own family or from an ancestor. The recipes can be compiled to create a "food history" of your clan. Have you ever wished you had a photo of Great-Grandpa Alexander? Someone in your clan might! Ask attendees to bring their old, historic family photos labeled with the names of the subjects of the photograph, the date of the photo and their name. Each photo can be assigned an ID number. With a portable scanner, photos can be scanned and burned on CDs to take home. If you are planning a family reunion, and would like more hints and tips, visit Cuyahoga County Public Library and check out one of the books available for family reunion planning.

New Classes for June 2012

The Genealogy Department at the Fairview Park Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library has been offering the Genealogy Workshop series at the Fairview Park Branch for exactly one year. In that time more, than 800 customers have participated in the three classes that comprise the workshop series: Beginning Genealogy, Genealogy Databases and Searching the Census. Due to the tremendous response to the series, we will be offering in depth classes beginning in June 2012. In addition to the workshop series please look for specialized classes on effective use of Ancestry Library Edition, Family Search, Fold3, Heritage Quest and the Plain Dealer Historical Archive Index. Each of these classes will offer more in depth training on these popular research tools. For more information please visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call 440-333-4700 to speak to a librarian.

Joni Mihelich

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

From the Library

We thank Mrs. Lottie Hotz for her generosity in donating *Poles in America: Bicentennial Essays*, edited by Frank Mocha. Mrs. Hotz also donated the school textbook, *Polska*, written in Polish by Sister Mary Cyryla, a Felician sister.

Roseanne Ewazen, a founding member of our group, has made yet another generous donation to our library:

In the Religion section, all written by Pope John Paul II:

Crossing the Threshold of Hope (230.2 - J)

Rise Let Us Be On Our Way (282.092 - J)

In My Own Words (282 - J)

Easter Vigil and Other Poems (891.8 - W).

In the History section:

Forgotten Survivors, compiled by Richard C. Lukas (940.53 - For)

I Have Lived a Thousand Years: Growing Up In the Holocaust by Liva Bitton-Jackson (940.53 - Ja)

Clara's War by Clara Kramer (940.53 - Kr)

World War II through Polish Eyes, by M.B. Szonert (940.53438 - Sz)

A History of Poland by O. Halecki (943.8 - H)

Poland: an Illustrated History by Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski (943.8 - Po).

In a lighter vein:

Polish Herbs, Flowers and Folk Medicine (autographed copy) by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab (581.6 - Kn).

Please join Roseanne in reading these and other interesting titles in our library!

Bakery Volunteers

by Anthonette Baciak

Thank you to all persons who have volunteered by donating bakery that is shared at our monthly meeting this past year. Also my sincere thanks to those who have brought in all types of treats. Often, I find candy, snacks, beverages, and fruits appearing as if by magic on the serving counter. Dziękuję. Thank you to the Polish angels whose spirit is so generous. Bóg zapłać.

Elaine Marec

Lucia Dominak

Louis Jurkiewicz

Dorothy Szczepinski

Edith Orszycki

Cathy Kraine

Mary Ann Bogan

Georgene Jasinski

Cindy Spikowski

Gayle Palshook Lopez

Gloria Hadbavny

Clarice Zelek

Pat Bakaitis

Marlene Szuch

Marilyn Krasnodemski

Bernie O'Malley

Richarda Jambrozy (deceased)

Kathy Corridoni

Carol Zanath

Virginia Tomon

Joan Green

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

by Georgene Jasinski

- June: Margaret Cheney, *My Ancestors Talk to Me*
Sept: David Simmer, *Polish Churches* (Subject Title to be decided)
Oct: Visit to the Polish Cultural Center, Lansing Ave.
Nov: Timothy Daley, Executive Director - Cuyahoga Soldiers & Sailors Monument and the Masonic Library, *The Soldiers and Sailors Monument - Restoration of a Victorian Gem*
Dec: Christmas Party

Welcome--New Member--Witamy

Jane Manghillis GOMOLKA KRZAK

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by John F. Szuch

Member Ralph Lysyk sent me an email greeting on May 3rd to wish me a Happy Polish Constitution Day! What the email did was to jog my memory of a kid growing up in the 1940's in Cleveland, OH. I used to look forward to the Sunday in May closest to the 3rd because I knew it would be a family outing trip to the Cleveland Art Museum grounds for the annual parade (when we just had one) to honor the Polish Constitution of May 3, 1791. The Art Museum grounds was a natural location for holding the parade because of the statue of Thaddeus Kosciuszko which still stands to the left of the main building..See <http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/classroom/kosciuszko/cleveland.html>. Great crowds turned out for the annual parade which featured various Polish veteran's groups, but prominently the Haller's Army WWI vets in their sky blue uniforms. It was always a thrill to see that part of the parade, but unfortunately they are now all gone.

Like the Haller's veterans, so too are most of our older relatives now gone. While we try to trace their history through our genealogical endeavors, we should keep in mind that many of us have replaced our older generations. Fortunately for our younger generation, we have an interest in genealogy and are in a position to give them the fruits of our labors through our genealogical research.

As summer approaches and we have contact with our children and grandchildren, I would encourage you to ask each and every one of them to give you a list of questions that they would like to know about you or your older relatives. I'm sure there will be some overlapping of questions, but this will put you in a position to log that information for their future use. And in each and every case, I pray that the future date is far off for all of you!

PS. Do any of you happen to have one of the Haller's Veteran's uniform I refer to in my letter? I have never seen one for sale and wonder where they all disappeared to?

2012 PGSGC officers at April meeting, from left to right:
Ben Kman, Treasurer
Sonia Chapnick, Secretary
John F. Szuch, President
Ron Kraine, Vice President



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.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohpgsgc/>

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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 through January, then \$24.00 per year.

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