



Jan Pawel Drugi Wielki

by Ron Marec

Prior to his death, in some Catholic circles John Paul II was being designated “the Great”. With his funeral the title, “The Great”, became an immense outcry. Unfortunately, much of the secular news media stated that if the title became fixed, John Paul II would be the third pope so honored. In fact, he would be the fourth pope so acclaimed.

Other Great popes include Leo I the Great, 440-461; Gregory I the Great 590-604; and Nicholas I the Great, 858-867. Each of these popes had their individual accomplishments, but one characteristic they all shared was that in a critical period of European history, they all strengthen the papacy and the Roman Catholic Church. So it would be with John Paul II the Great 1978-2005.

It is interesting to note that the first three popes to be cited have all been declared saints of the Roman Catholic Church. At the funeral mass of John Paul II, shouts of “Santo Subito”, (Let him be called “a saint immediately”), were clearly heard.

In Poland and in American Polonia the cult of sainthood for John Paul II has already sought to have the Polish Pope proclaimed a saint by the most ancient and democratic process of popular acclamation.



The parish church in Wadowice, Poland. It was in this church that the young Karol Wojtyla received his religious instruction. He lived in an apartment building behind the church. The apartment is now a museum.



Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, Cleveland, OH
photo by Bogdan Peniak
See story on next page.

Santo Subito

by Ron Marec

At the funeral mass of Pope John Paul II shouts of “Santo Subito” rang out from the audience. For many people in attendance and in the world wide audience this seemed to be an example of the ancient practice of declaring a saint by popular acclamation, (Let him be “a saint immediately”). Some observers, however, noted that the signs that were held all seemed to be made by the same source, and that the shouts seemed to be orchestrated and not spontaneous. These same observers even suggested that a conservative Catholic organization had coordinated the demonstration.

It would seem a review of the process of declaring a saint in the Roman Catholic Church would be in order. It was believed that to be a saint a person had to live an exemplary, virtuous life. Further, it was believed that all persons who had entered into heaven were saints. Thus, there could be large numbers of undeclared saints.

On Earth, in the first four centuries of the Church, meritorious persons could be declared a saint by acclamation by a local popular cult who supported a person considered to have led an exemplary good life. At first only the Virgin Mary and martyrs were numbered among the saints. It was felt that persons who had died for the faith had demonstrated that they were entitled to be called saints. Later, those considered worthy of sainthood included others who had led virtuous good lives. Gradually, it took not only a local popular cult to declare a saint, but the approval of the local bishop was also required.

While sainthood by popular acclamation was the most democratic of processes, it also became evident that real historical proof of a proposed saint was not always carefully investigated, but that popular myths and legends about the proposed saint often were accepted by a gullible populace.

Note: In 1969 the Vatican studied the Roman universal calendar to verify the claims about saints listed there. For example, some popular saints such as St. Christopher and St. Valentine were found to have scant historical evidence of their existence, and stories about them, while pious, seemed to have no basis in reality. In cases such as St. Christopher and St. Valentine, while they were removed from the universal calendar of the Church, they were allowed to remain on local calendars for veneration. For some others, it was denied that they ever existed.

In the 12th century, a major change occurred. Alexander III became pope in 1159. In 1173 Alexander III sent a scalding letter to the King and bishops of Sweden who had supported the sainthood of a monk whom Alexander III believed had been killed in a drunken brawl. In his stinging rebuke to Swedish King Canute and the Swedish bishops, Alexander stated they should refrain from venerating such a man as a saint even if miracles were attributed to him. Further, Alexander III made approval of the pope necessary for the formal canonization of a saint. Canonization became the exclusive province of the pope. Alexander and his papal successors drafted a strict and complex process for the canonization of a saint. this process was periodically ammended, most recently by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

While under the current rules of canonization Pope John Paul II has been declared

Blessed, and therefore can be venerated on regional or local Church calendars, only when he is formally canonized a saint by the pope can he be placed on the Universal calendar of the Church.

In Poland and in American Polonia the cult of John Paul II is actively seeking formal canonization. In Poland, literally every place and location linked to John Paul II has become a focus of veneration. Statues of John Paul appear throughout the country. In Polish homes on the walls can be found pictures or representations of Our Lady of Czestochowa and John Paul II. Polish tours have the pope's home town of Wadowice and the apartment where he spent his youth on most of their itineraries. Near Zakopane, the Gorale have constructed a fantastic wooden church dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima and in front of it a large statue of John Paul II. At every opportunity Polish tour guides point out some item about the Polish Pope. For example, in Wroclaw, guides point out the local bishop's residence where John Paul had rested for four hours on one of his visits to his homeland.

In Cleveland, Ohio, the Church of Saint Stanislaus was declared a shrine church by Pope John Paul II. He had given a relic of the Polish Saint to the Shrine Church. His private secretary, Cardinal Dziwisz, now archbishop of Krakow, has presented a MITRE of Pope John Paul II to the Shrine Church where it is displayed as a holy relic. In Poland, the Polish Roman Catholic Church, and in American Polonia, it appears the cult of Jan Pawel Drugi Wielki will not rest until the Polish Pope is declared a saint on the universal calendar of the Church.



Mitre of Pope John Paul II in the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus. Venerated as a holy Relic.
photo by Bogdan Pieniak



Icon of St. Stanislaus and Blessed John Paul II. First icon to show Pope John Paul II with halo.
photo by Bogdan Pieniak

Applying for Lineage Society Membership

by Patricia Bakaitis

Applying for a Cuyahoga County's Centurion Lineage Society membership for both my husband's and my family has been an idea I have been considering for several years. Our family's ancestors came to the United States in the late 1800's. My concern was whether I would be able to obtain all the documentation needed, since several of the marriages and births were in Poland. I attended a workshop to learn more about the process, and at its completion I felt I would be able to do so.

The workshop stressed the importance of correctly following the instructions. Each document needs to be photocopied (as they are not returned) and cited. When photocopying the document enough space needs to be left on the page to include the citation information since pages can not be stapled together. I researched how to write a citation correctly. Documents obtained on Ancestry.com can be printed out using their one page format which includes both the document and the citation. The citations for documents obtained from vital statistics agencies, archives and churches will either be hand printed or typed.

Additionally, the document needs to be numbered. An example - Document #1 is a census form. These forms show the person's ages (approximate date of birth) and some list their relationship such as husband and wife (a marriage). This documentation can be used for the birth and the marriage of both the husband and wife. The number (#1) can be listed as documentation proof for both events. This is allowable if no other proof can be obtained.

I am finally starting to work on the project and I thought I would let you follow me in this journey to see how hard or how easy it will be. The decision was made by me to enter my children into the lineage society. Membership in one of the Cuyahoga County's genealogy organizations that sponsor this lineage society is required.

I need to research back to at least 1912, to reflect the family's residence in Cuyahoga County, as that is 100 years prior to the current year. I filled out the forms, in pencil, putting in the names, birth, marriage, and death dates of my children and their ancestors. A five generation pedigree chart is to be included. This proved to be easy. The first three generations of the families being submitted for acceptance were born in the United States with the remainder born in Poland.

Obtaining the documentation is my task now. I have collected birth, marriage and death certificates for most of the people. But for some persons these certificates are unobtainable and I am going to use other documentation to fill in these gaps. Census, naturalization papers, city directories - to name a few.

After I submit everything it will be reviewed. If no further documentation is needed, and I have cited and filled out everything according to the instructions, the lineage application is approved. All approval must be completed by December 31 for a spring admission into the society. If the approval is not completed until after that date it will be another year until membership is awarded. Then after admission in the lineage group, all the paperwork submitted will be filed at the Archives of Cuyahoga County.

I don't know if I will accomplish everything this year but at least I will start. Wish me luck. I will tell you if I am successful.

Polish Sisters

by Cindy Spikowski

The newly-arrived Polish immigrants wanted to be “free to practice the religion and preserve the language that was oppressed in their native land.” (“Send sisters...”, Ohio History, p. 50). Survival in America, however, required them to be able to speak English and to adapt to American manners and customs. A group of women, the Catholic sisters of Polish descent, accepted the challenge to Americanize the children of these immigrants.

By 1909, Ohio law required that a child could not be employed until the child could read and write English. The law was an effort to guarantee literacy and Americanization, as well as to reduce the number of children in the labor force. It was not easy for the Polish to give up their language – they considered it essential to their identity. Since Polish was spoken at home, the children entered school unable to speak or understand any English. Polish parents tended to send their children to parochial schools – Polish parochial schools. In 1874, Father Józef Dąbrowski, a Resurrectionist Father, who had been born in the Lublin region of Poland, was serving in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. It was Father Dąbrowski’s idea to invite the Felician Sisters of Krakow to come to Stevens Point to teach Polish children in his parish. In 1887 there were fifty Polish parochial schools in the United States. By 1921, there were 511 such schools in the country, educating 220,000 students. In 1930, the number of Polish parochial schools had increased to 560, and 272,287 students were being educated.

The Polish parishes in Cleveland, as well as throughout the United States, recruited sisters from Poland, as well as second generation Polish immigrant sisters to teach in the Parish schools. These sisters facilitated the transition of the children to the ways of American culture, while allowing them to retain their ethnic traditions. The 1920 Federal Census for St. John Cantius Parish in Cleveland, Ohio lists fourteen sisters residing at 2270 College Avenue. Seven of those sisters were born in Poland; the parents of thirteen of the sisters were born in Poland. The 1930 Federal Census lists sixteen sisters residing at St. John Cantius and teaching in the school. Four of the sisters were born in Poland. The remaining twelve sisters were born in the United States, but their parents were born in Poland. These sisters were members of The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Third Order of Saint Francis (founded at Stevens Point, Wisconsin).

In order to educate the children, the sisters in the Polish parish schools often chose textbooks in the United States by Sister Mary Cyryla (Magdalena Tobaka), a Felician sister of St. Felix of Cantalice. The books emphasized ethnic pride among the Polish children. She wanted the children to be proud of the merits and glory of the Polish people, and believed that Polish schools “should remain shrines of Polish spirit.” (Adam Walaszek quoting Sister Mary Cyryla, p. 19 of *Polish American Studies* Spring, 2007). The Polish sister became a bridge between the parents’ desire to retain their national culture and language and the government and the Catholic Church, which were requiring Americanization. In 1907, Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore said:

Our Catholic schools afford a much easier pathway for the foreigner to enter the American life than is the case in the public school. There a child must enter at once upon the use of the English language – perhaps under the guidance of one who does not know the habits and customs of the immigrant child, and hence cannot enter into complete sympathy with his work...

In Catholic school they come under the instruction of those who know the respective language and can understand their peculiar idioms of thought and speech. With English language as a constantly enlarging part of their course, they are gradually, almost unconsciously, brought into complete sympathy with American manners and customs. ("Send Sisters..." Ohio History, p. 53)

Therefore, the change would be gradual. Some subjects were taught in Polish (catechism, Biblical and church history, reading and writing, Polish history and literature), while others were taught in English (English language, arithmetic, United States history and geography, calligraphy and drawing). Singing would be taught in both Polish and English.

Sister Mary Rosette, a founding member of our genealogy society, was a Sister of Saint Joseph Third Order of Saint Francis. She was born in 1909 in Borownica, Poland, and entered the Order from St. John Cantius parish, professing her final vows in 1933. When she died in 2008, she had served for 81 years, and had taught in many Cleveland parish schools, including St. Josephat, St. John Cantius, Transfiguration, St. Hyacinth, Sts. Peter and Paul in Garfield Heights and Nativity in Lorain.

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- Obituary for Sister Mary Rosette Rospotynski, SSJ-TOSF. *Catholic Universe Bulletin*. June 27, 2008. P. 21.

B. Droziński (Bronislaw Joseph Drozyński)

by Cindy Spikowski

Introduced by S. M. Cyryla

Sister Mary Cyryla was a Felician sister who wrote textbooks that were used in Polish parochial schools. One of these textbooks, *Polska Część II* (c. 1933) is part of the library of the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland. While leafing through the book, one notices biographies of Marja Kościuszko Curie, Fryderyk Chopin, Ignacy Paderewski, etc., but also included is a short biography of B. Droziński of Cleveland, Ohio! The Google translator provided an English version of Sister Mary Cyryla's entry from the textbook. B. Droziński is described as the inventor of a new type of airplane, equipped with four engines which will carry 40 passengers. It has 150 parts and 130 horsepower. This brief entry in an elementary school textbook begged to be researched. Who was this inventor, and why had he remained so anonymous? How did a Felician sister in Chicago learn about his invention?

Using Ancestry.com one is able to obtain the 1913 Baltimore passenger list for Bronislaw Drozynski, age 19, who is traveling to Scranton, Pennsylvania to stay with his father, Felix. According to the *Ohio Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, World War, 1917-18*, "Bronslaw Drozynski" enlisted February 22, 1918 and served in the Air Squadron until he was honorably discharged on January 21, 1919. His address is listed as: 3872 E. 65th St., Cleveland, O.

The 1920 United States Census, Bronislaw and his father were living on East 76th Street in Cleveland, Ohio. Bronislaw is working as a clerk in a mill. In July, 1920, Bronislaw John Drozynski, a naturalized citizen, who is working as a mechanic, applied for a United States

passport in order to accompany his father, Felix, to Poland. There is no record that Bronislaw made that trip to Poland, but there is no further reference to his father Felix being in the United States after 1920.

A visit to the Cleveland Memory Collection and the files of the *Cleveland Press*, located at Cleveland State University, resulted in finding exciting information concerning the inventor. On page 36 of the May 16, 1929 *Cleveland Press* is an article entitled "Four Motors in New Airplane - Cleveland Inventor's Ship to Have Three Fuselages and Hold 40 Passengers". The inventor is B. J. Drozinski, and the article mentions that the airplane will be built by the White Eagle Aircraft and Motor Company in California. Drozinski hopes to have a model on exhibit at the Aeronautical Exposition. The wording of the newspaper article is very similar to the entry Sister Mary Cyryla included in her book. Could this article also have appeared in a Chicago newspaper, where it was noticed by the Felician sister?

From August 24 until September 2, 1929, Cleveland, Ohio was the site of the National Air Races and Aeronautical Exposition. It was quite an event. Participants included Charles Lindbergh, Eddie Rickenbacker and Amelia Earhart. After releasing 5,000 pigeons, the parade, which featured 200 floats, 21 bands and 1,500 marchers, began down Euclid Avenue, and was watched by 300,000 spectators. There was even an appearance by the Graf Zeppelin. The actual races, however, took place at Cleveland Municipal Airport (now Cleveland Hopkins International), which had opened for the first time July 1, 1925 and for many years after was the world's largest airport.

The activities at the airport somewhat overshadowed the Aeronautical Exposition, which was a \$3,000,000 display of planes located downtown at Cleveland's Public Auditorium. On page one of the August 29, 1929 edition of *The Plain Dealer* does mention that "biplanes, monoplanes, seaplanes, amphibians, single-motored, two-motored, tri-motored ships of the air" are included in the "spacious arenas of the Public Hall...there is so much that is new to see. This is the first opportunity that most Clevelanders have had to get really close to an airplane and examine it part by part..." There is no mention, however, of B. J. Drozinski, or if his airplane is included in the exhibit.

Although there are no records that could be located concerning Drozinski's work with White Eagle Aircraft & Motor Corporation of California, several patents are listed as being owned by Bronislaw J. Drozinski, Cleveland, Ohio. One patent for an Airplane Brake was issued September 30, 1952. The young man who had immigrated from Poland when he was only 19 years old, became a citizen, and joined the air force during World War I, seems to have continued his interest in aeronautics. He died in Florida on March 30, 1976, six days after his 79th birthday. He is buried at Barrancas National Cemetery and his gravestone is a simple memorial "Bronislaw Drozynski PVT, U S Army, World War I, Mar. 24, 1897 - Mar. 30, 1976". Sister Mary Cyryla is to be thanked for making us aware of this Polish American inventor from Cleveland.

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www.clevelandairshow.com/press_room/natlairraces.htm.

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Ralph Modjeski by **Cindy Spikowski**

Rudolphe Modrzejewski (Ralph Modjeski) was the son of the famous Polish Shakespearian actress, Helena Modrzejewska (Modjeska). Born in 1861 in Krakow, Poland, Rudolphe immigrated with his mother to the United States in 1876. They visited the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, where he viewed new technological exhibits. In her book, *Memories and Impressions*, Helena said that the idea of their trip to America originated with her son Rudolphe:

...one morning during the Christmas holidays my son Rudolphe, whom I had sent to Cracow with my mother in order to place him in a Polish school, came to Warsaw to spend his short vacation with us. He was even then determined to become a civil engineer. The first thing he spoke of was the coming exposition in America; and the lad looking at the maps, declared that some day he would build the Panama Canal. He said it would be so nice if we could come to America now, see the great fair, and then cross Panama to California. He looked so happy planning this journey that both my husband and myself began to look upon the crossing of the ocean as a possibility.

Although a skilled musician, Rudolphe decided to study engineering in Paris at the *Ecole Nationale des Points et Chaussées*, the top engineering school. He graduated in 1885 at the head of his class, returning to the United States after graduation. The country was at that time experiencing the greatest period of railway expansion and civil engineers were in great demand. In 1890, five years after Rudolphe's graduation, the first bridge made entirely of steel was completed - the Firth of Forth Bridge in Queensferry, Scotland. A new era had begun and Rudolphe, who now referred to himself as Ralph Modjeski, would make a major contribution. Like other Polish immigrants, he maintained his love for his old country, but also demonstrated his love for his new country by contributing his skills and talents.

In all, he built 125 miles of bridges among the greatest being the 1917 Quebec City Bridge, the 1926 Benjamin Franklin Bridge in Philadelphia and the 1936 Oakland Bay Bridge. These three bridges even appeared on postage stamps: The Quebec Bridge on a Canadian postage stamp in 1929, the Oakland Bay Bridge on a United States airmail stamp in 1947 and The Philadelphia Benjamin Franklin Bridge on a 1999 Republic of Poland postage stamp. Other bridges built by Ralph Modjeski include the 1912 Cherry Street Bridge (now Martin Luther King Bridge) over the Maumee River in Toledo, Ohio, The 1920 Cincinnati Southern Railway Bridge in Cincinnati, Ohio and the 1927 Ambassador Bridge over the Detroit River between Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario.

The *Cleveland Press*, November 5, 1928 and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, November 6, 1928 both mention that Ralph Modjeski had been appointed by Cuyahoga County Engineer Frank A. Lander as a consulting engineer for the new Lorain-Central (Hope Memorial) Bridge at a fee of \$50,000. Although the two newspaper articles are the only references to Ralph Modjeski's Cleveland contribution, how interesting it would be if the man whose mother had brought such wonderful plays to Cleveland in the 1890's would contribute to Cleveland's landmarks.

(See "Helena Modjeska Comes to Cleveland" in *Our Polish Ancestors*, Oct./Dec. 2010 p. 4.)



Quebec City Bridge completed 1917



Oakland Bay Bridge completed 1936

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Note: *A Man Who Spanned Two Eras*, written by Józef Głomb, and translated by Peter J. Obst, is now available in the library of the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland, or see <http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/exhib/modjeski/modj.html> for an online article by the translator.

Plain Dealer Historical Archive Using an Address

Here at Cuyahoga County Public Library, we’ve seen a trend in house history research. Besides deed research and information found at local Historical Societies, we’ve found the Plain Dealer Historical Archive database to be a resource worth checking. Searching an address with quotation marks will not only bring results regarding happenings at that location, it can also lead you to the people who lived in those homes. In one particular case, a customer was searching for the death notice of her ancestor, without success. Instead of using a name we searched her ancestor’s address using quotation marks and found the death notice the customer sought. The PD Historical Archive did not find the death notice by a name search because the name was smudged rendering it unreadable to the OCR. When you think your ancestor has not been mentioned in the newspaper, try again using his or her address, you might be surprised at what you find!

Joni Mihelich

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

1919 - Braddock, Pennsylvania to Cleveland, Ohio

by Cindy Spikowski

1919 was an important year in the history of the country and our family. The country was at peace after a World War, and the flu pandemic was subsiding. Jan and Franciszka Spikowski welcomed a new son, Raymond John on August 17. Raymond had two older sisters: Helena (age 8) and Janina (almost 5), as well as an older brother Frank who was almost 3. Raymond was baptized at Sacred Heart Church in Braddock.

Jan Spikowski had arrived in the United States in July, 1912 and traveled to Braddock to visit his sister's husband, Jozef Rusin, who was living at 1130 Washington Avenue, above the grocery store of his cousin, Stanislaw Pokrzywinski. Franciszka arrived in New York on June 25, 1913 with their daughter, Helena, and continued to 1130 Washington Avenue in Braddock.

On his World War I draft card, filed June 5, 1917, Jan indicated that he worked for the Carnegie Steel Company in Braddock, Pennsylvania, located just a few blocks from his home, which he listed in 1917 as 846 Talbot Avenue. Jan was never drafted into the First World War, since he was not granted citizenship until September 11, 1919.

On September 22, 1919, five weeks after the birth of Raymond, the steel strike began. There is no record of Jan being in the steelworkers union, but the strike would have an impact on the family. According to Ann Hagedorn in her book, *Savage Peace: Hope and Fear in America 1919*, the minimum income required for subsistence living for a family of five in America in 1919 was \$1,575/year and the comfort level was \$2,024/year. Unskilled steel workers in 1919 earned @ \$1,466/year and a typical work week was 69 hours/week. Some worked 12 hour days, while others worked 18 hour days. Many worked every day of the week. The steel workers had maintained wartime production levels, but now that the war was over, they were asking for better conditions, higher wages and the right to bargain collectively, but the critics of organized labor blamed Bolshevism.

Jan had to keep working to support his young family. The riots in Braddock on October 21, 1919 may have been the reason the family left Braddock for Cleveland. Fifty strikers attacked workmen leaving the steel mill. One person was shot and twenty were hurt. According to the front page article in the October 22, 1919 *New York Times*, "the disorders today covered an area of fifty city squares."

Frank, only three years old at the time, always remembered riding the train to Cleveland. The trip must have occurred before January 15, 1920, since the family is listed as living at 1031 Literary Road in Cleveland, Ohio in the 1920 census taken that day. The steel strike ended in January, 1920. No concessions were granted to the workers, 112 million dollars in wages are lost, as well as twenty lives. In that census, the family members are now listed as John, Frances, Helen, Jane, Frank and Raymond. They were Americans now, and would not return to Poland. The Spikowski family remained in Cleveland.

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Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

by Georgene Jasinski

Dec: Christmas Party

Jan: Sandra Rozhon, "Hidden History of Brooklyn Center" (rescheduled)

Feb: Ted Minier, Fund Development Chairman & Past President & Treasurer, Ohio Genealogical Society, "Ohio Genealogical Society"

Mar: Sonia Chapnick, Lucia Dominak & Georgene Jasinski, "Digging for Our Family Roots in Poland"

A Visit to Pulaski, Ohio

by John F. Szuch

On October 13th I had the pleasure of setting up a Casimir Pulaski display in Pulaski, OH in conjunction with the unveiling of a Ohio Historical Marker honoring the Revolutionary War General and the town's namesake.

Because of my interest in Pulaski, I first visited the town (located in NW Ohio, 5 miles NE of Bryan) back on 3-28-1991. It is just one of the many places I have visited (towns, townships, counties) that are either named after Pulaski or has a monument, painting, historical marker or something else honoring him. This interest was all generated by my Polish Grandfather, John (Jan) Malicki, with whom I was raised. I went shopping with him circa the end of 1944 and he stopped at the Chambers Bakery on E.131st (just north of Miles Ave.). When he came back to the car he handed me a beautiful full colored calendar that had a portrait of Casimir Pulaski on it along with a drawing of his fatal charge at Savannah, GA on 10-9-1779. Excitingly showing it to my Grandmother Bernice (Bronislawa) when I got home, she told me stories about Pulaski. That event changed my life as almost 70 years later, I still am hooked on him even more so than ever! I wouldn't be surprised if I have the largest collection of Pulaski memorabilia in the world.

Over the years I have had numerous displays and given many talks and interviews in regards to Pulaski. The one question that always comes up is: "Are you related to Pulaski?" As much as I wish I was, I have never found any genealogical link to him! Who knows, if I keep digging I may find that missing link SOMEDAY?



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by John F. Szuch

With this issue, we bid a fond farewell and a big thank you to members Cindy and Ken Spikowski. Cindy has given up her duties as the organization's librarian and also as the newsletter editor. In regards to the latter, she was assisted by her husband Ken who also did the mailing labels and badges at the meetings. I personally wish them well and thank them for their years of dedication to the PGSGC. I would hope that they will still visit us at meetings.

Immediately replacing Cindy as librarian is member Elizabeth Joy. Elizabeth has a MSLS from Case-Western Reserve University. Starting with the first newsletter issue in 2013, Trina Galauner will be the new editor. Trina has done newsletters for other organizations that she is active in and has contributed articles in the past two issues of OUR POLISH ANCESTORS. She welcomes any articles you would like to submit to future issues. VP Ron Kraine will be handling the mailing of the newsletter by email or USPS.

2013 will be a new year for us and I believe that our focus should be on getting new members signed up. If you have a friend or relative that might be interested in knowing more about their Polish heritage, please bring them to a meeting to get a feel for Polish genealogy.

I WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR, BUT OUR FIRST MEETING WILL MOVED TO JANUARY 8.

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
C/O ST. MARY'S PNC CHURCH
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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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