



Corrections and Additions—

Ms. Judith Freels of Ketchikan, Alaska has a new email address, j_freels@yahoo.com. She also wishes to update her surname research list. Surnames being researched: BARTUNKA, BUDZOWSKI, HAPTAS, HOPCHAS, KOZINA, MALIK, MAZUR, PIERGES, PIERGIES, SMYRAK, SPYRKA, SURZYN, SZCZUREK, TOCZEK, WOJTAS, ZAJAC, ZAREBA.

Hope that all the name are spelled correctly. If not, let me know. Judith is going to Poland for the first time. Have fun!

Charles & Madeline Grimes of Cleveland, Texas have renewed their membership and we thank them for their continued support. The surnames they're interested in: CHRZAN, KRAKOWSKI, KUPSZTA, KURCZESKA(I), MIKOLAJCZA(I,E)K, MOTISK, SETLOWICZE, SOKOLOVSKY, SOKOLOWSKI, WALENTOWSKA(I), ZUREK.

Howard & Alice Gillihan's email address is: alice6731@aol.com. They would also like to add the following surnames to the list that they are researching: BARTNICKI(A), MOWINSKI, OLSZEWSKI, RASZKOWSKI

Larry & Mary Bender's email address is: ljandmary@aol.com.

For All You Internet Explorers—

Free historical/contemporary maps are available for the asking from the Library of Congress. They are scaled, 1:75,000 and give the longitude and latitude of the villages that you are interested in. Address your email to: maps@loc.gov. Mark it to the attention of Dr. Stephen Paczolt. Make sure that you have the correct spelling of the villages and pinpoint them as much as you can since there may be other villages by the same name. Remember to include your name and postal address. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery. Hopefully you won't be disappointed.

The Cleveland Public Library (internet address: www.cpl.org) has just established an online necrology database. The time frame that it covers is from the mid-1800's to 1975. The information for the obituaries, for the most part, is taken from the local newspapers. The data is only as accurate as the source. One should realize this when working with the file. It may not be complete nor totally accurate. Still and all, it is another tool for us to work with and we should be grateful to the library for providing it.

And for those of you who have been trying to find the church records of villages in the Przemysł Diocese online at the Family History Center, forget it. They have not been photographed. This is from the priest in charge of the Przemysł Archives.

There is a new website, <http://www.ellislandrecords.org> where you can examine ship manifests. This site just came online recently. You might have some trouble connecting but just be patient and persistent. It might be worth your while.

New Additions To Our Library—

We've purchased two copies of Chorzempa's *Polish Roots*. It's probably the standard for Polish genealogists. To help in translations, we got an additional Polish-English, English-Polish Dictionary by Pogonowski. Required reading for all Polish-Americans should be Kuniczak's *My Name Is Million*. We've purchased a copy of this book for our library. It should be available at your local public library as well and we highly recommend it for all our members.

Rest in Peace—

Our deepest sympathies go out to the Wientczak family on the passing of Dorothy Wientczak. Dorothy was a long time member of our group. Stanley Jackowicz also passed on in June of this year and we shall miss him. God rest their souls.

Welcome—New Members—Witamy

Ronald & Linda Jean Ellis, interested in surnames: DUVALL, ELLIS, LINES, LOMBARD, McKEE, MILLER, MOTRICH, SAGORSKI(Y), SZCZEPANKIEWICZ, ZAGORSKI(Y)
1587 Edgefield Rd.
Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124
ljellis_2000@yahoo.com

Ronald & Judith Marec, interested in surnames: ALBRECHT, JAGODZINSKI, MAREC, PIWINSKI, RAJCZEWSKI
3316 Elsmere Rd.
Shaker Hts., Ohio 44120

Roy & Marjorie Rushka, interested in surnames: GRUSZKA, HEINDL, HRABI, HRUSKA, HUSNIK, KELLNER, MARTINOVSKY, MIKOLAS, NEJEDLY, OURADA, ROBEL, RUSHKA, SCHERLOWSKI, SOJKA, TOCHOR, URZADA, WESELAK, ZAVIDOWSKI
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The Poles of Cleveland

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Under the Direction of the
Cleveland Americanization Committee
Mayor's Advisory War Committee

A Snapshot of the Polish Community in 1919

In our first newsletter this year, there was an article entitled, *Poles*. The author of this excellent article was John J. Grabowski, Ph.D., of The Western Reserve Historical Society. The article was reproduced from a book entitled, *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, which was published in 1996.

In this newsletter, we'll take a look at the Polish-American community in Cleveland from a much earlier time, 1919. This article was published by the Cleveland Americanization Committee to acquaint Clevelanders with their Polish neighbors and by doing so, to dispel some of the fears that they might have toward this different, foreign element in their midst.

Some Clevelanders with long memories, remembered the violent strike at the Rolling Mills in 1885 when the emigrant Poles were branded by the local press as strikebreakers, socialists and troublemakers. One must also remember that in 1901 Leon Czolgosz, who resided in Cleveland, assassinated President William McKinley. On Sept. 7, 1901 a Cleveland Press reporter wrote, "The city is a hotbed of anarchists and has been for years. Newburgh has hundreds of them and they are bloodthirsty fellows, too." Newburgh was where the majority of Poles lived at the time.

This negative image of the Poles was lessened somewhat, during WW I. Some Poles joined the American Armed Forces and some enlisted in Haller's Army, but

all were determined to defeat the Central Powers. Paderewski's continued lobbying for the Polish cause helped to better acquaint the American public with Polish history and culture. And when President Wilson included the Polish cause as one of his Fourteen Points for the reestablishing of peace in Europe, there were many more Americans, including Clevelanders, who knew a little more about the background of their Polish neighbor.

The article has pictures and maps which are not included here. Only the text is reproduced and that will be in two parts. The second part will appear in our next newsletter. Enjoy—

The Poles of Cleveland

Forward

The Cleveland Americanization Committee has now published pamphlets describing five of the national groups of this City. The preceding ones in the series described Slovaks, Jugo-Slavs, Magyars and the Italians of Cleveland. The purpose of these publications is to bring to Americans a knowledge of the life and customs of their foreign born neighbors. In so doing there will be developed an appreciation of the splendid contributions which the foreign born are making to American life. It is going to be a real gain to America if our foreign born neighbors retain as many of their wholesome old-world customs as is possible. America should not mean uniformity but rather the rich mixture of custom and culture which is the predominant characteristic of every great civilization that ever existed. Not in the somber, disciplined uniformity of Sparta, but in the free cosmopolitanism of Athens did Greek civilization flourish. Americanization to our Committee does not mean the melting pot where differences are all obliterated; we believe that it is the putting together of vastly diverse elements into a splendid but complex harmony.

This great work cannot be done by force. The use of coercion will only make this diversity a discord instead of a harmony. The story here told of the Poles is the best kind of a lesson in Americanization. In 1870 the Prussians started the forced Germanization of the Poles of Posen. Up to that time they had been rapidly adopting German language and customs. But the blood and iron policy of the years following 1870 made the Poles stubbornly cling to their own culture. In 1914 Posen was less German and more Polish than before 1870. Force had failed to Germanize.

And so must force fail to Americanize. Espionage, coercion and repression by well-meaning but unwise Americans must fail as Prussia failed. America means the adjustment of many interests and desires through a fair recognition of the value of toleration. To Americanize effectively, we must recognize that a nation worthy of the name must be big enough to welcome many diversified customs, many religions, even many languages. And now that serious external danger has passed, we must seriously put into practice that American principle which allows men to entertain diversified political ideas without encouraging the all too common accusation of treason. Descendants of Pilgrims, revolutionists and abolitionists should remember that it is not un-American to differ from the majority.

It is hoped that many Americans may read this description of the Poles of Cleveland and recognize that though their culture is different, it is most worthy. In so doing we shall teach them to recognize our culture, too. And when this mutual appreciation has been accomplished, true Americanization has won another "Chateau Thierry".

RAYMOND MOLEY,

Chairman of the Cleveland Americanization Committee

THE BACKGROUND

The Background

From the sixth century of the Christian era the land about the Vistula, the Oder and the Niemen rivers in the eastern part of Central Europe has been inhabited by Poles. These lands have been divided and redivided by ambitious neighboring nations and the partitions have successively blurred the political frontiers, but ethnic Poland stands today substantially as she did at the beginning of Europe's eventful History.

The attitudes, ideals and character of the Polish people in America, their peculiar racial traits are so much the product of their unique history that a bird's eye view of the latter will form a fitting background for a discussion of

their place in Cleveland's social life.

Early in the sixth century countless Slavs burst out of the Russian plains and deluged Central Europe, penetrating Germany as far as the Elbe, turning out the Teutons and making eastern Germany solidly a Slavic country. The natural Teutonic resentment expressed itself in an extended campaign against the Russian immigrants who were expelled or absorbed.

It was the ancestors of the modern Poles who checked the Teuton's eastward movement. A dynasty of able chiefs, the Piasts, welded the Slavic tribes into a state which completely halted the German. For two centuries the Piast kingdom was strong and the Polish race was united within the bounds of one great state. In the 12th century the Piast dynasty became decadent, the state broke up into several principalities and the terrible Tartar invasion which followed left Poland weak and depopulated.

Threatened with the loss of their very national existence, the Poles sought the help of the "Teutonic Knights," a German crusading order pledged to the subjugation of the Lithuanians. The invaders were completely annihilated, but a danger threatened Poland even more when the Teutons resettled the conquered lands with Germans, and built up a formidable military state with the ultimate object of conquering both Poland and Lithuania.

By the marriage of the Prince of Lithuania to the daughter of the Polish king Lithuania and Poland united to break the German yoke. A terrible struggle followed which lasted for nearly a century, and ended in a complete victory for the Jagiellon monarchs of Poland-Lithuania.

The Jagiellon dynasty produced a succession of mighty rulers under whom the Polish state rose to the first rank among European powers, and comprised the vast land stretching from the Black Sea to the Baltic.

The extinction of the dynasty in 1572 marks the decline of the United Kingdom. The crown became elective. Foreign princes were chosen who had nothing in common with the nation, but whose interests were those of their hereditary country. The royal prerogative weakened, the kings became mere shadows, and the constant broils among the nobility brought the country into a state of anarchy, an easy prey to foreign powers.

In 1772 Poland suffered the first partial dismemberment at the hands of her three strongest neighbors, Russia, Germany and Austria. Two other partitions followed in 1793 and 1795. By then Poland was entirely broken up and ceased to exist as a state. The Vienna Congress of 1814 drew the lines of division as they were to stand down to 1914. In this settlement Russia obtained by far the largest share, while Prussia and Austria got comparatively small portions.

Throughout the past century one could scarcely speak of the Austrian, German and Russian Poles as a single people. The treatment which they received at the hands of these three great powers brought about differences in reaction, aspiration and character.

Under the domination of Russia, Poland lost almost all political independence. The burgomaster of the small town and president of the large were appointed by the state and responsible to no one else. It was only in the rural communities that the people had any share in the administration. At their head was a mayor, elected by the landed proprietors in the commune, but absolutely dependent upon the president of the district. Russian was made the official language. Juries were non-existent, all crimes being dealt with by magistrates appointed by the crown. Having no voice in the administration of justice, the Poles were completely at the mercy of the magistrates who interpreted the law to suit their own caprice.

Religiously as well as politically, the Poles have been absolutely dependent upon their Russian masters. The government has treated the churches as subordinate administrative bodies and made them subject to its order. Indeed, it is only since 1905 that religious liberty has been allowed in Russia, and that to a very limited extent.

The administration of the Kingdom had more or less kept its Polish features until 1870, but thenceforward it became more and more Russian in character. Events took the opposite course in Galicia. Until about 1870 Galicia was administered by Austrian Germans, who introduced their language and customs; but after this date the life of the country became Polish again, and autonomy was established.

A "Statthalter" was at the head of the country, dependent on the government at Vienna. He was always a Pole and

the other state officials were also Poles or Ruthenians. Polish was the official language, both in the courts and in the army and the Polish soldiers of Galicia were the only ones of the three Polish districts to perform their military service in their own country.

Galicia appreciably benefited by fifty years of autonomous government. Good roads were built, great public works, institutions for public relief and hospitals were established and elementary instruction was made obligatory. Great landed properties were parcelled out by creating moderate sized farms, which could be purchased on the yearly installment plan. Labor exchanges were instituted and protection extended to emigrants.

In Prussian Poland, the people were deprived of all national and partly even of civil rights—in spite of formal guarantees from the kings of Prussia. In 1868 a manifesto was issued giving the assurance that no restrictions should be imposed on the rights of the Poles nor the use of their language. But in the face of this, the use of Polish was banned in the administration, law courts and schools six years later. The exclusion of Polish from religious instruction caused notorious outrages and resulted in the strike of one hundred thousand school children in 1906. Thus Polish was almost eliminated. All public offices were given to Germans whom the government attracted to establish in Poland by additional pay and free homes. These German officials were expected to oppose the Poles in every possible way. Polish trade was boycotted, the use of the Polish language in public assemblies was forbidden and war was declared upon Polish societies of every kind. This anti-Polish spirit was to be found in every phase of life and even penetrated to the church where certain Catholic-German bishops fought in the cause of Germanization as resolutely as the Prussian officials, and this was all the more painful for the Polish people who were deeply attached to the religion of their fathers, in Prussian Poland even more than elsewhere.

Galling under the hated yoke of foreign domination, deprived of civic and religious rights, practically reduced to the status of slaves, it is not surprising that Polish emigration to America which until 1870 had been so slight as to be practically negligible, has assumed since that time a tremendous volume. During the fifteen years before the war, it is estimated that America's annual increase by Polish immigration alone has been from 75,000 to 125,000.

Resources and Industries

Though many industries flourish in Poland, the chief from earliest time has been agriculture. Grain is produced in tremendous quantities and it is said that seventy per cent of the population are tillers of the soil. Cereal and fodder crops are the principal agricultural products. Tobacco is raised to a considerable extent and bee-keeping is largely followed, especially in the southeastern section.

A most notable feature of the modern economic history of Poland and especially of Russian Poland has been the development of its mineral wealth and the growth of its industrial life. Before the war the production of coal placed Poland second in Europe, immediately after Germany. Iron is very common, but of an inferior quality. It is therefore smelted with imported higher quality ore and a raw material is produced which is used in the foundries all over Poland. Lead, zinc, copper and silver are also produced. The Wieliczka salt mines said to have been worked at the beginning of the eleventh century, are still one of the sights of the country. In addition Poland has the unique distinction of being the only European country to export amber.

This wealth of raw agricultural and mineral materials has produced the great industries of Poland. The metal industry ranks as one of the first and the great iron works of Silesia deserves special mention. Sugar refining is the most widespread of the industries based on agriculture. The textile industries, cotton-spinning and wool and linen works employ the largest number of hands and have the greatest financial value.

It is unfortunate that these great industries have not a really national character. For though established in Poland, worked by Poles with materials drawn from Polish soil and motive power supplied by Polish coal, the exploitation has been accomplished by foreign capital and the cause of Poland receives no support from the powerful class of the great capitalists.

If there is any one immediate cause for Polish immigration beyond a disrupted country, a hostile government an exploiting class interested in keeping wages low, the peasant ignorant and docile as well as in rooting out the racial language and reducing the people to economic serfdom, it lies in the glowing letters and tacit invitations to the broad fields of Brazil, Argentina, Western Canada and more particularly the United States. From 1910 to 1914, they

were surpassed in numbers, immigrating to America only by the Italians., Well informed Poles estimate that there are more than 3,500, 000 of them in the United States. Here their nationalism grows as it never could amid their ruthless nationalizing neighbors in Europe. Here their language, literature, traditions, and ideas have scope and opportunity for development. Here they remember they are of the race of Copernicus, the great astronomer, Kosciuszko, the peerless patriot, Chopin, the composer, Pulaski, Sobieski, Modjeska, De Reszke, Sienkiewicz, Madam Sembrich, Madam Curie (nee Sklodowska), Paderewski and the artists Matejko and Siemieradzki. Indeed it is difficult to estimate to what degree American Poles are responsible for the establishment of Polish freedom in Europe after a century's lapse.

Distribution in the City

There are few accurate statistics regarding the Polish people in Cleveland. They have been listed as Russians, Germans and Austrians, according as they have come from one or another of these countries. They suffer under the handicap of our American system of classifying immigrants, not as a people, but as citizens of a nation.

Estimates by their leaders as to their numbers in the city and its immediate environs approximate 80,000. The census tables help us little here. Mr. David Green, in a little pamphlet "The City and Its People", written for the Federated Churches, says there are at least 50,000 Poles who, if they were set off by themselves, would lack nothing in social life. Mr. Avery in his "History of Cleveland", a 1918 publication, probably following Mr. Green's estimate, conservatively restates the above figure. The police census and recent parochial reports indicate a total of between 55,000 and 60,000. On the other hand there is no question of the correctness of the statement "The population of Cleveland today is made up one-tenth of Polish natives and descendants", and might add the descendants have a large sympathy and feel a surprisingly close solidarity with their native born kinsman. However loyal an American, the Pole is proud of the traditions of his oppressed but freedom loving race, with its galaxy of matchless artists, poets, musicians and patriots. Many of Cleveland's most prominent Poles have never been in Poland.

They are now located principally in four sections of the city. The oldest district includes all the streets from Fullerton north to Mound and Ackley, and from Broadway west to 51st. The second section was formed in the neighborhood of the manufacturing plants on Superior and St. Clair Avenues. It includes most of the streets within the square mile east of 79th Street and between Superior and St. Clair. The third settlement is on either side of 71st Street from Harvard Avenue to the city line. The fourth is on the west side of the river, and includes much of the territory in the old Lincoln Heights neighborhood, including Professor, Literary Road, College and Jefferson Avenues.

The first settlement comprises the parish of St. Stanislaus and that of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; the second the parish of Casimir, the third the parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the fourth the parish of St. John Cantius. There are other small groups in the city such as the parish of St. Hyacinths, on either side of Francis Avenue, between E. 55th and 69th Streets, that about Superior Avenue and East 33rd Street, also that of St. Josaphat and a considerable settlement over the city line south of Madison, between West 117th and 130th Streets in Lakewood. With prosperity and other things considered, there is a noticeable tendency for the second generation to scatter through the city, but streets on which they settle rapidly become prevailingly Polish.

The first considerable Polish group was brought to Cleveland by the owners of the Newburgh Steel Mills in 1882. These mills were started by Mr. Chisholm and Mr. Jones, employing the Scotch and Welsh workers in their home towns. Mr. Chisholm knew every employee, and as long as he lived the relations between employer and employee were ideal. After his death, the new management precipitated a strike in 1881. This was before there were Contract Labor Laws and the officers of the company went to Europe and brought back boat loads of Poles. They came directly from the ships to Cleveland to the district between East 71st and 55th Street. They built their own homes with lumber which they could carry on their backs from the lumber yards across Broadway; both men and women would carry piles of boards on their backs, and both helped in the actual building of the houses. These cottages turned out to be surprisingly good looking; they were all single houses, usually with a vegetable garden fenced in to protect it from the geese which ran all over the common and hissed at pedestrians.

Industry

The Polish people are workers. It has been said that the Pole does not care for an 8-hour day; he would rather have a

6-hour day with 6 hours overtime. This is remarkable in view of the exhausting physical labor in which more than 90% of these people are engaged.

It must be remembered that the first Poles coming to the city were peasants for the most part from Galicia where through years of toil they had been familiarized with the work of the most flourishing steel mills of Western Europe. They were brought in specifically to do such work in Cleveland. As increasingly greater numbers came they have prevailingly undertaken the heavy labor in the metal working plants. The laborers in the American Steel and Wire Mills in this city are more than 50% Polish. Approximately 1500 of them are found in one of the factories of the company alone. The Superior Foundry, the Crucible Company, the Co-Operative Stove Foundry, the Union Rolling Mills and the Foster Nut and Bolt Company depend largely upon Polish labor, and speak of the men in highest terms.

It is a notable fact, however, that the Pole in these foundries has no overmastering ambition for advancement even to the position of boss or foreman. He is proud of his prowess, keenly so of a job well done, but the ambition for dominance, even over his own countrymen, is the exception rather than the rule. He forms the sinews of the city's life. These laborers make no advertisement or boast of their place, labor and functioning in the city's industrial life, but few ethnic elements contribute more.

The girls and women, on the other hand, are in more widely scattered occupations,. Formerly they comprised the backbone of the city's domestic service but later drifted into the laundries, the Peerless Paper Box Factory, the tailoring establishments and textile mills. A few are to be found in the Buckeye Electrical, and the Foster Nut and Bolt Works. More than 600 girls of Polish origin and nearly 200 Polish men are operatives in the "Cleveland Worsted Mills", where they are regarded as most reliable and efficient help.

Two hundred and fifty of them are to be found in the Kaynee Blouse Factory. Although the majority are in the laundrying section, many are found in the pressing and cutting departments and a few in the offices. Here insistence is laid upon the use of the English language, in fact, few of the Polish operatives remain for any length of time without a thorough training in the language of their adopted country. Here also dances and other recreation are arranged for the benefit of the employees.

It ought to be said that no industry in the city is entirely under Polish ownership or operation. In this the Pole differs from the Italian, Greek and Germans. There are Polish manufacturers, just as there are Scotch and Irish, although in much less proportion, but these are scattered through the industries. The Smolensky Valve Company, for example, is owned and operated by Poles. Michael Smolensky, the inventor of the Smolensky valve and manager of the company, was born in Austrian Poland. In Europe he worked as a mechanic and continued to do so when he arrived in this country 15 years ago. Since that time he has devoted his energies to perfecting his invention and is now beginning to realize the fruits of his labor.

One of the most prominent business men of Polish birth in Cleveland is Telesfor Olstyn. Educated in the old country, he learned the blacksmith's trade there and at the age of 18 came to America to escape military conscription. In Cleveland he worked for several years in wagon shops, and in 1891 established his own factory. In 1908 the business was incorporated and Mr. Olstyn continued as president and manager for 9 years. He is now president of the Wanda Furniture Company and has numerous other business interests. Mr. Olstyn is a director of the Polish-American Realty Trust Company, director of the Warsaw Building and Loan Association, and director of the Eller-Olstyn Motor Sales Co.

Stanley J. Olstyn, the oldest son, has continued the development of many business projects initiated by his father, and is president and general manager of the Truck Engineering Company, to which his father's business was sold in 1917.

David C. Haber, president of the United Knit Goods Company, is the son of a native of Poland who came to America in his young manhood and has become a thorough American in spirit as well as by adoption.

The Pole is unique in that he is not a renter. He may board on his arrival, or until he can send and bring his family to the city. He may live in overcrowded housing conditions through the interval, but he never loses the intense desire engendered through generations of peasant life to own a house and lot. In the majority of cases he came from a section where the chief values were in real estate. To his family, if they are reared in America, his thrift assumes

almost the proportions of a vice, but however restricted in the city, it satisfies his ambition to own a house and garden; in fact, Polish homes can be distinguished by their gardens. The house, if he builds it, is of unassuming proportions at first; as his means permit, it is demolished to give place to a more imposing structure. With the first venture paid for, immediately he invests in another nearby property.

Business

It might be said that every Pole is measurably engaged in the real estate business, and that he never loses his hunger for the land. The tax duplicate of the Poles in Newburg alone in 1918 was more than \$20,000,000, a holding for the most part in real estate; and it must be remembered that this section comprises by no means the wealthiest third of Cleveland's Polish population.

The majority of this business is financed first by bank savings accumulated from a laborer's wages and paid down on a land contract to be gradually liquidated.

Such is his thrift and conservatism, his elemental honesty, promptness and dependability, that he seems to have little difficulty, even in times of economic stringency, in obtaining credit for his home financing ventures. The Pole is a keen and careful buyer, and is to be found most largely in the pioneer work of breaking ground and building on the edges of the city, sometimes just across the city line where values are low but potential. Brecksville, Independence and other promising suburbs have recently been receiving many Poles—men, who, with their families, have taken land and by indefatigable effort established paying truck farms which help supply the city's home market needs.

Naturally, against such a background, we would expect to find springing up a flourishing Polish banking and real estate business. Such is the case in every section where these people are to be found. Whether organized as a steamship agency, a bank or other business, it is incipiently an agency for the disposal of real estate. Many of these businesses have assumed creditable proportions.

Among the best known and oldest is the agency of M. P. Kniola on East 65th Street, near Broadway, built up through the last 30 years on the sympathy, keenness and integrity of Mr. Kniola, who came to Cleveland in 1880, attended our night schools, labored in the Newburg Wire Mills, and familiarized himself with our commercial methods in connection with the grocery business before he organized the "Warsaw Savings and Loan Association", a foreign exchange, steamship and real estate enterprise, which because of its very character has become the only banking agency which many of the Poles of this community know.

Perhaps next in importance is S. Lewandowski, a large real estate dealer, who conducts a creditable foreign exchange business and is in addition the superintendent of second-class matter at the post office. He is an accepted leader whose moral integrity, business success and influence as a citizen render him of tremendous usefulness and help.

One of the oldest Polish business men in the city is Mr. Joseph Tetlak, 2221 Professor Ave. Mr. Tetlak came to America about 30 years ago and worked himself up to foreman in a bolt and nut factory; educated himself in spare time and for the past 19 or 20 years has been engaged in the foreign exchange, steamship and real estate business. He is also the owner of one of the largest hardware stores on Lincoln Heights, and a director of the Pearl Street Savings & Trust Co.

Of somewhat similar character is the American Realty and Trust Company on Broadway, near 70th Street; the establishment of Stanley Klonowski, banker and real estate agent, on Broadway, near East 71st Street; that of J. M. Rutkowski on Fleet, near 63rd; of Mr. L. Czekalski on 65th, of Mr. John Polak, president of the Polish National Home; and the business of Alexander M. Nowakowski, the best known contractor and builder in this region.

While the Broadway Savings and Trust Company at Broadway and 55th Street is not a Polish organization, it has as teller a prominent Polish business man, Charles Orlikowski, a native of Danzig, who came to America at 15 years of age, worked in our mills and helped to pave our roads. After attaining his majority he attended our night and later our high school. While still in the latter institution he obtained a position in the bank where through the past 23 years, he has remained a faithful and trusted employee not to mention his influence in stimulating the savings and safe-guarding the investments of many of the Polish people. Their confidence in his business acumen is evidenced in his election as President of the Warsaw Savings and Loan Association.

There are nearly a score of these Polish foreign exchange or investment brokers, real estate or banking agencies in the city. It is perhaps the most outstanding activity among them, and strongly attests the thrift of these industrious people.

This is not to say that the Poles are not found in other lines of business. Of grocers and druggists there are not a few, most of whom, however, are of American birth and foreign parentage. W. J. Nowak is typical of the latter. Born in this city in 1879 he attended the parochial school until after his first communion, started work at 75c per week as a presser, was employed successively in a dry goods store, shoe store, wrapping paper business and latterly as a traveler for a wholesale grocery firm. Fourteen years ago he established the Nowak Wholesale Grocery Company which has since become the largest Polish business enterprise in the city. The company sells exclusively to the Cleveland retail trade and has an annual turnover of well above \$300,000—a splendid evidence of enterprise and keen commercial sagacity.

L. S. Dewoyno, in the drug business, is the most outstanding of the licensed Polish druggists in the city. Emigrating from Russian Poland where he was born and educated, at 24 years of age, he worked as a pharmacist in New York and Buffalo successively. He became editor of the Polish "Echo", the Cleveland "Polonia", and served 8 years in Cleveland's Civil Service. Gradually acquiring one drug store after another, he operated them through his son and other clerks. Later he gave his time to the management and correlation of the four Dewoyno pharmacies.

Z. Dziedzicki, near Lansing and 66th Street, the Kobylanski Brothers on Professor Street, John H. Jarmuszewski on Broadway, Zygmunt Kobylanski on Superior, J. A. Usewicz on 79th, J. Slezak on Fleet St. and J Sternicki are other Poles, each of whom has built up a creditable drug business in the city.

A number of Polish women also are taking their place in the ranks of this semi-professional business. Of the licensed pharmacists Misses Twarogowski, Grabski, Dora, Jean and S. M. Savage and Mrs. Agnes Marie Kobylanski (nee Agnes Posekany) are Polish. This is a larger feminine contribution to this particular business than perhaps any other foreign speaking group in Cleveland's cosmopolitan life.

Out of thirty-five registered in the School of Pharmacy of Western Reserve University, in 1918-1919, three were Polish.

Also in the hands of Poles of the second generation is the large Coal and Feed Store at 6431 Broadway. Mr. Max Ziolkowski is the head of this business.

There has been a concentrated effort to stimulate the Polish people in the city to engage in business enterprises, by the establishment of a Polish Chamber of Commerce, technically known as the Polish American Chamber of Industries. Judge Joseph F. Sawicki, its initiator and president, has been untiring in his efforts to increase and diversify, establish and correlate, the business holdings and activities of these people in the city. Much of the credit for the building of the 65th Street bridge, the 79th Street railroad extension and the high level Brooklyn-Lorain bridge, not to mention other public improvements, is due this local Polish chamber.

It is said that out of a constituency of 80,000 Polish-Americans in the city, approximately 80% pursue a professional career; less than 8% are engaged in business, while the remainder form the backbone of our industries. The professional men are the more outstanding because of their culture and efficiency.

Lawyers

Of the thirteen Polish lawyers in Cleveland, the oldest in point of service is Mr. C. J. Benkoski, who has been an active member of the Cleveland bar for 20 years. Coming to Cleveland at the age of 6 years, Mr. Benkoski was educated in St. Stanislaus Parochial School, St. Ignatius College and Western Reserve University Law School, from which he was graduated in 1898. In 1918 he was chosen by the Council as Clerk of the City of Cleveland.

Another outstanding Polish lawyer is H. DuLaurence Niedzwiedzki, formerly a student at the University of Vienna, when, acting on a sudden impulse, he decided to accompany a friend on a visit to America. Here, short of funds, rather than appeal to his parents who had not forgiven his truancy, he went to work for himself. After many varied experiences he reached Cleveland, where he worked during the day and studied law at night, becoming a member of the first class of the Western Reserve Law School. From the time of his graduation Mr. Niedzwiedzki has risen steadily in his profession and has become one of the well known lawyers in Cleveland. He was the first Pole admitted to the bar in the State of Ohio.

Another prominent and much respected member of the bar association is John M. Pindras, who has risen steadily in his profession and has become one of the leading lawyers in the city. Formerly he was a leader of the Democratic party. He enjoys the unbounded confidence of his compatriots as is evidenced in his election as President of the Polish National Alliance No. 6.

Next in point of service is Judge Joseph F. Sawicki, one of the rising young men in public affairs of foreign birth and Cleveland training, who has thoroughly absorbed the best spirit of the times. Mr. Sawicki was brought to this country at an early age, and was educated in St. Ignatius College and the law departments of Western Reserve and Baldwin Wallace College, securing his degree in 1904. He was admitted to the bar the same year, and in 1905 was elected to the State Legislature, the first Pole to be elected to that body. Mr. Sawicki served twice in the Legislature, and during that time established a splendid record through his energetic labors on behalf of his constituency. During the past six years he has devoted himself to the practice of his profession, and early in 1919 received the appointment of Judge of the Municipal Court. Judge Sawicki has been selected chairman of the Board of Trustees in the recently organized Polish National Business Organization, a \$7,000,000 concern known as the Union Liberty Company.

Hon. J. S. Backowski is an American of Polish parentage, educated in St. Stanislaus Parochial School and in South High School. In 1913 he was graduated from the Law School of Western Reserve University and in the same year began practice in the Society for Savings building. Since his graduation Mr. Backowski has been active in Democratic politics, and in 1916 was elected to the State Legislature, in which he is now serving his second term, a matter of satisfaction to his loyal constituents and the country at large.

Likewise Mr. A. Kujawski on Professor Ave. has built up a large practice.

Other lawyers of Polish birth who have achieved measurable success and are properly the prideful boast of Cleveland Poles are Felix T. Matia, Assistant County Prosecutor; Joseph Kraszewski, Victor Conrad, S. Titus, A. Fronckowiak, A. F. Kotowski and Edward Russick, Assistant City Prosecutor.

Mr. J. P. Jaglinski is typical of the younger Poles entering the legal profession. He has brought into law a business experience in real estate resulting from association with his father, a successful real estate operator of the city. Mr. Jaglinski is a product of the Cleveland schools, and in 1916 was graduated from the law department of Baldwin Wallace College. He immediately began the practice of law and is now senior member of the firm of Jaglinski and Mueller, which is rapidly growing in experience and reputation.

Physicians

There are eighteen Polish physicians and surgeons in the city, which is a proportionately larger number than the members of the legal profession. Unquestionably the most notable in achievement, popularity, and in point of service, is Dr. P. S. Smigel at 72nd Street and Broadway, well known to Poles and Americans alike. Perhaps a larger proportion of Poles than could be found among any other ethnic group have come into the profession from other vocations in which they saved from the daily wage until they had sufficient to pay their way through a medical school, and late in life studied with a dogged determination until they had qualified to practice. Thus many of them came into the profession with a delightful sympathy and knowledge which endear them to the people to whom they minister. The lives of some of the city's Polish doctors in this respect read like a chapter of fiction. Dr. Frank J. Kuta, for example, a few years ago was in the stone quarries at Berea. Before satisfying his own ambition for an education he labored until his brother had been prepared for the priesthood, then entered medical school, working his way through the long and doubly difficult courses. Dr. E. K. Zaworski was formerly a tailor, until, through his thrift and purpose, he had undertaken a medical training. Dr. K. G. Cieslak was a photographer in Pittsburg, who, even with the handicap of a wife and family, successfully completed the medical course. Dr. W. Peters was for years a druggist in New Jersey, then graduated from the New York Medical University and Bellevue Medical College and is now on the staff of Lakeside Hospital. Dr. I. M. Jarzynski was a librarian before entering medicine. Others of the medical men in the city are: Dr. G. C. Konrad, throughout the war a captain in America's army overseas; Drs. A. F. Ciegotura, S. J. Spotanski, J. Helminiak, B. A. Rosinski, Ignatius Jasienski, H. E. Szczytkowski and E. Sternicki. Dr. Valentine Kocinski, a product of the Old World, with his son, Chester H., is practicing on Fleet Ave. and 66th Street. The latter is typical of the younger generation—a product of St. Ignatius and Western Reserve Medical School, who,

since his demobilization from the United States Army Medical Corps, has opened a second office on Professor Ave.

Two Polish women are listed among the city's medical doctors, Drs. Amalia Miller and Frances Konrad-Filipiak. The latter was the first Polish woman physician to be graduated in the city. Eighteen years ago Miss Konrad secured her diploma from Western Reserve Medical School and built up a successful practice among her compatriots until the time of her marriage to Boleslaw Filipiak, since when she has been a resident of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. She is still proudly looked upon as a member of Cleveland's Polish community.

Miss Eleanor A. Wasielewski, during the war, served as secretary to Dr. Konrad, who had charge of the Gray Samaritans, a Polish nursing organization similar to the Red Cross. She is a graduate of the Minnesota University and the Gregg Normal School of Chicago.

These doctors are assisted by many accredited licensed and expert midwives, who perform no small service among the poorer people, whose conservative European traditions strongly favor the persistence of this institution in America.

Dentists

Five dental surgeons of Polish origin are practicing in the city. This number includes two Polish women dentists; Drs. A. Marlewski, E. Marlewski, W. Twarogowski, Owskiak, and Dora.

Other Professions

One should not fail to mention here a member of a profession which is not readily classifiable, Joseph Pelcinski, the Polish Democratic leader who has for years been appraiser of United States Customs, and bears an enviable reputation for his staunch integrity, uprightness and public spirit.

For two years the Americanization Bureau has had the energetic work of a reliable young man, Mr. Joseph F. Trinastic, a product of our High Schools.

In photography, monumental designing and other of the semi-professional businesses, Poles are to be found in increasing numbers. Anthony F. Wasielewski, 3259 East 55th St., is one of the most prominent Polish architects and contractors. He was born in Poland and was educated there. He came to this country at an early age and for the past 26 years has been engaged in the building business. He specializes in building churches, cathedrals, parish schools and buildings connected with churches. During his career he has designed and built about 35 churches throughout the United States, including a cathedral in Oklahoma and a pro-cathedral in Minnesota. During the war he was manager of the foreign division of the War Savings Stamp Committee and held positions with other patriotic organizations.

John F. Jasienski and E. S. Kujawski are also well-known among Cleveland's young architects. The former is a man of wide experience. His father came to Cleveland in 1872, where he married and his children were born. Mr. Jasienski attended in Cleveland the parochial and public schools, and in 1907 was graduated from Case School of Applied Science as a Civil Engineer. After his graduation he spent some time in public work where he gained a valuable experience. For several years he has been conducting an architectural studio independently, and has designed and supervised many important works, such as the Cedar Theatre, St. Stanislaus Nuns' Home, Salisbury Ball Bearing plant, besides a number of churches, residences and apartments.

To be continued in our next newsletter.

Mark Your Calendars—

There will be no meetings in July and August as we take our summer break. Meetings will begin in September, September 4th to be exact. For our October 2nd gathering, we have prevailed on Eugenia Stolarczyk to be our guest speaker. Ms. Stolarczyk has been in radio broadcasting for many years and is the "Voice of Cleveland's Polonia Community." She has been the recipient of many awards including the *Cross of Merit* award from Poland for her cultural work. So, mark your calendars and bring a friend.

Congratulations—

The *Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis* celebrate their 100th anniversary this year. God bless them all for their devotion and dedication. *Sto Lat, sto lat..... niech żyją nam!!!*

**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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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 \$20.00 a year.

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