

Our Polish
ANCESTORS

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
 JAN. / MARCH 2003 VOL. 12 No.1



Father Jan Leaving St. Mary's—

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jan Dawidziuk, better known to his congregation and our group as Father Jan, is leaving his pastorate at St. Mary's PNC Church to become Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church and Pastor of All Saints Cathedral Parish in Chicago. His assignment begins as of March 1, 2003.

He received his theological training at seminaries in Siedlce, Lublin and Warsaw. In 1967, Father received his Doctoral Degree in Theology from the Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw. From January to June of 1969, he did some research work in biblical studies in Rome.

Father Jan came to the USA in 1981 and was accepted into the Polish National Catholic Church. After a couple of assignments in St. Louis and Wisconsin, Father Jan came to St. Mary's in 1986 where he has served until now.

We shall miss him. He has been a friend and supporter of our group. We wish

him the very best and God Bless.

Welcome—New Members—Witamy

Virginia L. Richardson, interested in surnames:

7571 Apollo Dr.
 Parma, Ohio 44130
 virgjack@con.net

Donald & Emily Griffiths, interested in surnames:

1013 Bradford, Dr.
 Winter Park, Fl. 32792

Peter & Helen Palshook presented her cousin with a gift membership to our group.

Ervin & Irene Parzych, interested in surnames:

2975 S 50th St.
 Milwaukee, Wi. 53219-3319

Eugene & Wanda Slusarski presented each of their three children with gift memberships to our group.

Edward & Yvette Slusarski, interested in surnames:

1203 Gordon Rd.
 Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124

Jean M. Slusarski, interested in surnames:

200 Chatam Way #404
 Mayfield Hts., Ohio 44124

HENDRICKSON, MENZER, MUNZER,
 PRESTIEN, RICHARDSON

BAGINSKI, CHRZCZONOWSKI,
 DANOWSKI, FILIPKOWSKI, GRIFFITHS,
 MSCICHOWSKI, SARN, SARNECKI,
 ZAWISTOWSKI

DZIELINSKI, HUMIECKI, KRASNIEWSKI,
 KRUCZYK, PARZYCH, WYCZALKOWSKI

ANDERSON, DARUS, JEMIOLA, KAMCZYC,
 LIPOWSKI, MENDYKA, NORRIS,
 SLUSARCZYK, SLUSARSKI, THOMAS,
 TOTH, TWARDZIK, URBAN, WINOWICH
 ANDERSON, DARUS, JEMIOLA, KAMCZYC,
 LIPOWSKI, MENDYKA, NORRIS,
 SLUSARCZYK, SLUSARSKI, THOMAS,
 TOTH, TWARDZIK, URBAN, WINOWICH

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Ronald & Lori Slusarski, interested in surnames:
4327 S. Fall Lake Rd.
Avon, Ohio 44011

ANDERSON, DARUS, JEMIOLA, KAMCZYC,
LIPOWSKI, MENDYKA, NORRIS,
SLUSARCZYK, SLUSARSKI, THOMAS,
TOTH, TWARDZIK, URBAN, WINOWICH

Richard and Georgene Jasinski have referred a new member to our group.

Mary Louise Brower, interested in surnames:
1701 Sheridan Dr.
Parma, Ohio 44134

BROWER, CWIKLINSKI, KUCZMARSKI,
MANTIFEL, SKOWRONSKI, STAWASZ,
WESOŁOWSKICH, WISNIEWSKI

Thank you to our loyal and supportive members for promoting our Membership Drive of 2003.

Speakers for Uncoming Meetings—

March—**Iwona Gutowski**, Cuyahoga Community College Instructor, will speak on “Life in Poland under Communist Rule”.

April—**Dorota Sobieska**, Executive Director of *Opera Circle*, will present “A Short Program of Music and Background of the *Opera Circle*”.

May—**Christy Wiggins**, Regional Reference Specialist in Genealogy, Fairview Park Regional Library, will speak on “The 1930 Census”.

Interesting Websites—

Member **Chuck Cwiakala** informs us about an interesting website, originating in Poland, that provides Polish language greeting cards for just about every occasion. Check it out at, “<http://kartki.wp.pl/odbierz.html>”. Probate Court of Cuyahoga County has a website at, “www.cuyahoga.oh.us/probate/”. Among the many interesting things the website has to offer is a Cuyahoga County Marriage License Index from the years 1808-1989. The website for the Cleveland Public Library is “www.cpl.org”. It contains a Cleveland Necrology File which is a collection of obituaries from the: The Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1850-1975, The Cleveland Herald, 1833, 1847-48, 1876, 1878-79 and The Cleveland Press, 1941-1975. For more recent deaths, go to “www.cleveland.com/obits”. This site connects you with the Cleveland Plain Dealer and contains the obituaries of more recent deaths.

Member Writes Autobiography—

Member of our group, **Ralph Lysyk**, has written an autobiography and presented a copy to each of his children on the occasion of **Ralph & Jean's** 50th wedding anniversary party. **Ralph** has also presented a copy to our library for which we are thankful. What a great gift to give one's children!

Western Reserve Historical Society Programs—

The Genealogical Committee of the Western Reserve Historical Society has announced its program for 2003 genealogy classes. There are classes for the beginner as well as for the more advanced researcher. There is also a “Lunch With Your Ancestors” program. For more information about any of these programs, go to “<http://www.wrhs.org>”, click on Genealogy and then click on Genealogy Classes.

Special Collections Div. of the Akron-Summit County Public Library—

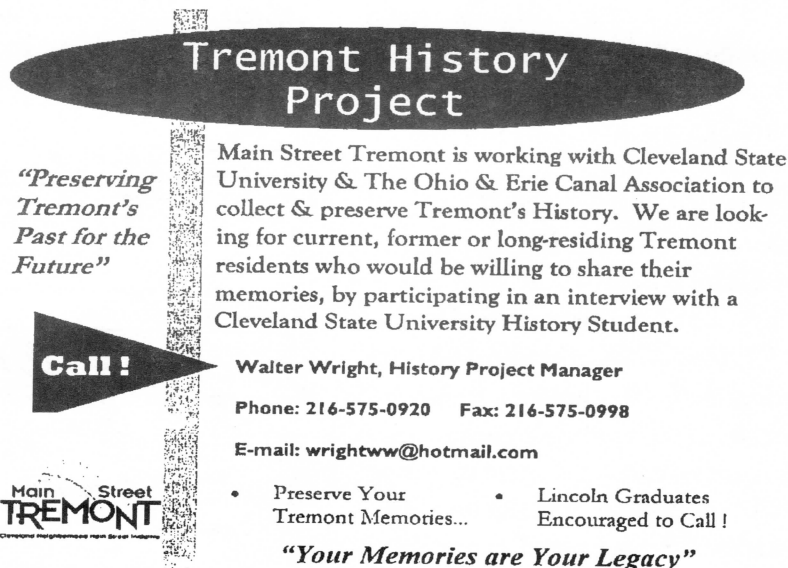
The Akron-Summit County area is looking forward to 2004 when they shall have a brand new library in downtown Akron. The library's Special Collections Division will be one of the “jewels” of the new library. It will be a state-of-the-art, climate controlled facility which will house the library's genealogical materials. The Special Collections staff has recently began publishing a newsletter entitled “Past Pursuits”. You can visit the temporary location of the Special Collections Division at: 1040 Tallmadge Ave., Akron or call 1-330-643-9030 or e-mail to “speccollections@ascpl.lib.oh.us” or e-mail to group member **Marie Herlevi** at “mherlevi@ascpl.lib.oh.us”.

Rest in Peace—

We mourn the passing of longtime member of our group **Jennie Smetanka**. **Jennie** passed away in September of last year. In December of last year **Walter G. Braun**, brother of member **Norman Braun**, passed away. **Andy**

Slusarski, brother of member Eugene Slusarski, passed away this month in California. In December of last year, the Rev. William Gulas O.F.M., went to his eternal reward. He was the beloved pastor of Cleveland's oldest Polish-American Roman Catholic Church, St Stanislaus located in Slavic Village. He was very active in parish and community affairs and will be sorely missed by all of Cleveland's Polonia. Keep them in your prayers and may they rest in peace, Amen.

Attention: All present and former residents of the Tremont Neighborhood and Lincoln High School Grads—



Tremont History Project

"Preserving Tremont's Past for the Future"


Call!

Main Street Tremont is working with Cleveland State University & The Ohio & Erie Canal Association to collect & preserve Tremont's History. We are looking for current, former or long-residing Tremont residents who would be willing to share their memories, by participating in an interview with a Cleveland State University History Student.

Walter Wright, History Project Manager
Phone: 216-575-0920 Fax: 216-575-0998
E-mail: wrightww@hotmail.com

- Preserve Your Tremont Memories...
- Lincoln Graduates Encouraged to Call!

"Your Memories are Your Legacy"



Interviews may be conducted by e-mail.

The Cuyahoga County Archives—

The Cuyahoga County Archives has new hours when they are open to the public. They will be closed on Tuesdays. Monday, Wednesday thru Friday they are open from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM.

New Mailing Address—

As of February 1, 2003, our new mailing address will be:

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

Good Reading—

Polish Roots by Rosemary Chorzempa (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1993)

For those interested in Polish genealogy, this work is a must read. The author has twenty-five years of experience in genealogical research and offers the reader the benefits of her work. Loaded with useful suggestions. Large, easy to read print.

Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings by William F. Hoffman (Chicago: Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1992, Second Edition revised and expanded, 2000)

Written by one of America's leading Polish genealogists and a member of the Board Of Directors of the Polish Genealogical Society of America. Large readable print.

God's Playground: A History of Poland by Norman Davies (New York: Columbia University Press, 1981), 2 vols.

This work set the standard by which all other histories of Poland in English will be measured. The author has been criticized for errors of fact and controversial interpretations. Nevertheless, if one had to choose one history of Poland in English to own, this would be it.

WW I Draft Registration Cards

In our last newsletter we featured an article by Ben Kman entitled, *How Do I Find My Cleveland Ancestor in the WW I Selective Service Draft Cards?* With this information at hand, I thought that it might be a small but worthwhile project for me to see if I could find my father, Adam Mendyka, among those who had registered for the draft. My father was born in 1885 so that by 1918, he would have been 33 and been required to register. He came to the USA in 1910 and settled in the South Side of Cleveland around the St. John Cantius area. This was Ward 7 at the time.

Glancing at the tables supplied in the article, Cleveland City Wards 7 & 13 were combined into Selective Service District 5. The films of District 5 that I was interested in were: FHL US/CAN Film 1831702 (for surnames beginning with "B through J"), FHL US/CAN Film 1831703 (for surnames beginning with "K through Reinhart, Elmer"). Film number 1831702 wouldn't contain my father's name but I got it anyway to see if there might be any familiar names listed. And so I ordered the two films from the FHC in Westlake. After a wait of about three

REGISTRATION CARD				
SERIAL NUMBER 6073	ORDER NUMBER A 1796			
1 Name in full <i>Andrew Hadbavny</i>				
2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS 2603 W. 7th Cleveland, Cuyahoga, O.				
Age in Years 42	Date of Birth Sept. 8 1876			
RACE				
White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Negro	Oriental	Indian	
U. S. CITIZEN				
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Age 21	Declared	Non-declared
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? <i>Austria</i>				
PRESENT OCCUPATION				
16 <i>Grocery & Butcher for himself</i>				
17 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 2603 W. 7th Cleveland, Cuy. Ohio				
18 NEAREST RELATIVE Name: <i>Anna Hadbavny</i> Address: <i>2603 W. 7th Cleveland Ohio</i>				
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE				
P. M. G. O. <i>Andrew Hadbavny</i>				
Form No. 1 (11-14)				

REGISTRATION CARD				
Form 1 4631 REGISTRATION CARD No. 3123				
1 Name in full <i>Frank Lysyk</i>				
2 Home address <i>1714 Wiley Cleveland</i>				
3 Date of birth <i>January 27 1890</i>				
4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <i>Alien</i>				
5 Where were you born? <i>Czahary Galacia Austria Hungary</i>				
6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? <i>Austria Hungary</i>				
7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <i>Salesman</i>				
8 By whom employed? <i>Mike Marecz</i>				
Where employed? <i>2506 Ontario, Cleveland</i>				
9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <i>none</i>				
10 Married or single (specify which)? <i>Single</i> Race (specify which)? <i>Caucasian</i>				
11 What military service have you had? Rank <i>none</i> branch				
12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?				
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.				
<i>Frank Lysyk</i>				

weeks, I was notified that the films had arrived. Viewing the film with surnames "B through J" did indeed yield familiar names. There was a card for member Joe Hadbavny's uncle who was a butcher at the time and whose shop was located on W. 7th St. There was a registration card for Frank Lysyk who most certainly is related to member Ralph Lysyk. There were also cards for a number of Hadams, who are ancestors of member Julia Kusek. Viewing the film FHL US/CAN 1831703 (surnames "K through Reinhart, Elmer") for the first time was quite an adventure. The cards were to be arranged alphabetically by surname. There was no "Mendyka" in alphabetical order. Going a little further into the roll, I came upon a "Meneyka, Thomas". Viewing all the information on the card, it had to be my uncle. The surname had been misspelled. And it wasn't only the surname that had been misspelled. For the question, "Where were you born?", the interviewer had put down "Golica". This I took to be "Galicia". For some reason, my uncle's signature on the bottom of the form had been blacked out. I felt that this was enough research for one day and left the FHC, wondering why my father's draft card wasn't on the roll.

REGISTRATION

1 Name in full *Thomas Mendyka* 75

2 Home address *604 Jefferson Cleveland Ohio*

3 Date of birth *December 21*

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? *Alien*

5 Where were you born? *Golico Austria Poland*

6 If not a citizen of what country are you a citizen or subject? *Austria*

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Laborer 30*

8 By whom employed? *A. Silberman Co Cleveland Ohio*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)? *No one*

10 Married or single (which)? *Single* Race (specify which)? *Caucasian*

11 What military service have you had? Rank _____; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption (specify grounds)? *No*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

(Signature of mark)

Did he purposely not register? Was his card lost? Going back to the FHC for the second time, I determined that I would go through all the "M's" and see what came up. Starting with the "M's", I went through card by card until I found a "Mendicka Adam". Sure enough, here was my dad's card. Again, the surname had been misspelled. My father's signature on the bottom of the form was correct but evidently, the interviewer had not asked my dad how to spell his name but spelled it phonetically the way it sounded in English. Further on in the roll, I came across another uncle, Marek Mendyka, and the surname in this case was spelled correctly. The place of birth however, was given as "Golsowa" instead of "Golcowa" and "Galicia" was spelled "Galicia". This seems to be a continual problem in doing any genealogical research. And especially with the Polish surnames and place names. It is difficult enough for someone who knows a little Polish to spell them correctly. For someone without any knowledge of Polish, with all the combinations of consonants, it becomes a nightmare. This is true not only with this file of draft registration cards but with the database

on the Ellis Island website. So it behooves us to be more diligent, patient and thorough in doing our research. Everything considered however, I had a fine time with this little project. The information from Ben's article was accurate and on point and I have some additional information about my dad for my files. The two roles of film that I ordered are at the Family History Center at 25000 Westwood Rd. in Westlake, Ohio. I have extended the rental period so that they will remain there in case anyone wishes to view the films. They will be there until March 11, 2003. Anyone whose ancestors lived in Ward 7 (surnames beginning with "B" through "J" and "K" through "Reinhart, Elmer") or Ward 13 during this period (1914-1918), should view the films. They may come up with some information that they had been searching for. The FHC is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Tuesdays thru Saturdays, the Center is open from 10 AM until 2 PM during the day. Tuesdays thru Thursdays, the Center is open from 6 PM until 9 PM. The Center is open to the public and there is no admission charge. The staff is very friendly and courteous and willing to help whenever they can. Copies made will cost you 25 cents per copy. If someone has not been to a FHC, this would be

REGISTRATION

1 Name in full *Adam Mendicka*

2 Home address *604 Jefferson Cleveland Ohio*

3 Age in Years *33* Date of Birth *Dec 21 1895*

4 RACE: White Negro Oriental Chinese Indian Hawaiian

5 U. S. CITIZEN: Native Born Naturalized Alien Declared Non-declared

6 If not a citizen of the U. S. of what nation are you a citizen or subject? *Austria*

7 PRESENT OCCUPATION: *Laborer* EMPLOYER'S NAME: *Silberman Co*

8 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: *17th St. Cleveland Ohio*

9 NEAREST RELATIVE: Name *Mary Mendicka* Address *604 Jefferson Cleveland Ohio*

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

P. M. (C. O. Form No. 1 (revised) 01-4171 (Registrar's signature or mark) *Adam Mendicka*)

an ideal time to become acquainted with the facilities. Ed Mendyka

A Tragic Immigrant Story

We like to think and hear of the success stories of the immigrants who came to this country. They came for a better life, to work hard and raise a family. And hopefully, their children would be the beneficiaries of all their toils and troubles. In most cases, this was indeed what happened, but not always.

The immigrant who came to this country faced enormous challenges. In his native village, he was among his own. Everyone spoke the same language, there was a common religion, services were conducted in their native tongue and life went on as it had for generations.

For the most part, those that came over were farmers whose lives were ruled by the seasons. In the spring of the year there was much to do, the earth had to be made ready for planting and then came the actual planting. Later in the year, there was again a flurry of activity with the harvest. In between these times, there were certainly chores to do but there was also some free time for rest and relaxation.

When the immigrant came to his new country, all this changed. The common tongue spoken in this new land was not his native tongue. In the beginning, if he went to church, it was a church where services were conducted in a language other than his own. Later on, ethnic churches were built but congregations had troubles with the church hierarchy who were mostly of German or Irish extraction and who were not very sympathetic to the newly-arrived Poles, as well as to other Central and Eastern European immigrants. And his life style also changed. His life was no longer ruled by nature and the seasons but by the daily grind of a laborious job, if he was lucky enough to have one. All of these factors taken together amounted to something akin to a "culture shock" for the newly-arrived. Sometimes we fail to appreciate all the circumstances which prevailed at the time that our ancestors arrived in this country.

And then, the immigrant came over with his own mental baggage. If he had a propensity for drink in the Old Country, he brought that over with him. If he was accustomed to witnessing spousal abuse as he was growing up, or perhaps even engaging in it, that came with him.

The story below is a tragic one. It is certainly not the only one where alcohol and spousal abuse played a part. Reading through the Berea newspapers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, we find stories of Poles engaging in all sorts of fights, stabbings and other antisocial behavior. One would surmise that they had a hard time adjusting to their new life. So, is it any wonder then, that their neighbors didn't know what to make of this new, foreign element in their midst.

The following story is reprinted from *The Berea Advertiser*, Vol.XX-No.49 and dated April 20, 1888.

UXORICIDE

A Drunken Pole Shoots His Wife

Another Victim of the Drink Curse

While the ministers of the Cleveland Conference were discussing the needs of and planning for the evangelization of the Poles and Bohemians who form a large proportion of the population of our suburbs, beer-drinking, debauchery and carousing were rendering life miserable and wretched in the homes of these people. Almost under the shadow of the spire of the Polish Catholic church there was enacted one of the most brutal, heinous and repulsive crimes it has ever been our duty to chronicle—and all directly resulting from the drink curse. About 8:30 o'clock Wednesday morning word reached the village that a drunken Pole had shot his wife. When the Advertiser pencil-pusher arrived on the scene a large cosmopolitan crowd surrounded the house, each speaking and gesticulating to those about them in the wildest manner, three or four languages being heard at the same time. The tragedy occurred in a small story and a half framed house on the west side of Berea street about ten rods south of Howe's corner. Entering the kitchen door from the street the first thing that struck our horrified sight was a pool of blood which covered the space between the door and stove which stands in the middle of the floor, the room resembling a slaughter house. A deal table and two or three old chairs were the only articles of furniture observed in the room. In a small room in the front part of the house was a crowd of men,

women and children bewailing the terrible crime. On a cot in one corner lay the form of a woman perhaps fifty years old, whose life was fast ebbing away—the victim of a drunken husband's awful crime.

Dr. T. G. Harding had been called and found that a full charge from a shot gun had passed through the right arm near the elbow and entering the right side passed through the third rib, liver, and stomach and lodged in the left side. The victim was still alive but died in a few hours afterward.

The murderer's name is Andrew Basch, a man fifty-seven years old of inferior height and appearance. He is a shoveler in the quarries and having received his month's pay the day before spent the night in drinking, carousing and debauchery with a number of other Poles and convivial companions.


As soon as the murder became known the scene was visited by citizens anxious to learn the particulars of the tragedy. Ex-deputy Sheriff Freeman was among the first to arrive. He took Basch into custody and arrested another man who was present and supposed to know something about the crime. Later in the day Constable H. S. Hatch arrested a man named Dreski who was present when the shooting occurred, being a boarder in the family. All three of the parties were locked up in village prison to await the result of the shooting. Basch acknowledged the deed with stoical indifference and maintained a sullen demeanor throughout the day. Coroner Waltz was telephoned for and came out to Berea, but as the woman was still alive he returned to the city. Her death however occurred about eight o'clock in the evening.

County Coroner Waltz held an inquest over the remains Thursday morning. He was assisted in the examination by Drs. Harding and Worden of Berea. A number of eyewitnesses of the shooting were examined, among them Basch himself, who made the following statement: "My name is Andrew Basch. Have lived Berea six years and worked in the stone quarries. I went to bed Tuesday night at 10 o'clock and got up about 5 o'clock Wednesday morning. I first took a drink of whiskey and soon sent the girl to the saloon for a quart of beer of which I drank one glass. After this I took \$2 and wrapped them in a handkerchief, and put them into my pocket. My wife who was standing near the door came over to me and took the money out of my pocket. I got a gun out of the bedroom and shot her. I had frequent quarrels with my wife about every day."

Annie Hoehne, a married daughter of Basch, who was present and saw the shooting testified that the trouble was the result of a dispute over a two dollar bill. Basch had this money in his pocket and his wife got it away from him and ran into the pantry. He told her to give it back to him or he would shoot her. She said she would buy him a pair of shoes. She stayed in the pantry about ten minutes. When she came out Basch emerged from the bedroom with a double-barreled shotgun. Mrs. Basch ran around the stove and attempted to go out the front door but before she could do so, Basch fired the fatal shot. He then coolly sat down in a chair while other inmates of the house carried the woman to a lounge in an adjacent room. After being shot, she fell to the floor, the blood flowing freely, making a large pool on the floor. We learn that Basch had given his wife \$20 of his wages the night before. It is supposed she objected to his spending money for drink.


The doctors found most of the charge from the gun in the liver. There could be but one verdict rendered by the Coroner.

Basch was taken before Justice Watson for a preliminary hearing where he waved examination and was taken to Cleveland jail. The grand jury is in session and his case will be heard today or tomorrow.



Member, Ms. Karen Harris of Solvang, California comments on the story:

"I view the murder not so much as culture shock as a case of alcohol and domestic violence. What was surprising to me in reading the accounts in the newspapers was how the Polish people were perceived. It was particularly ironic to me to see a column adjacent to the article about another murder and the perpetrator had an English last name and there was no commentary about ethnicity. There seem to be a not so subtle undercurrent of immigrant bashing. I realize I am looking back on this sad and tragic episode with a 21st century mindset. To me, that is the interesting aspect to the story."



We'd like to hear what comments other members of our group have on this story. You can e-mail them to me at: edjmendyka@aol.com or drop me a postcard or letter to our group address.

ST. ADALBERT'S CHURCH PROPERTY*

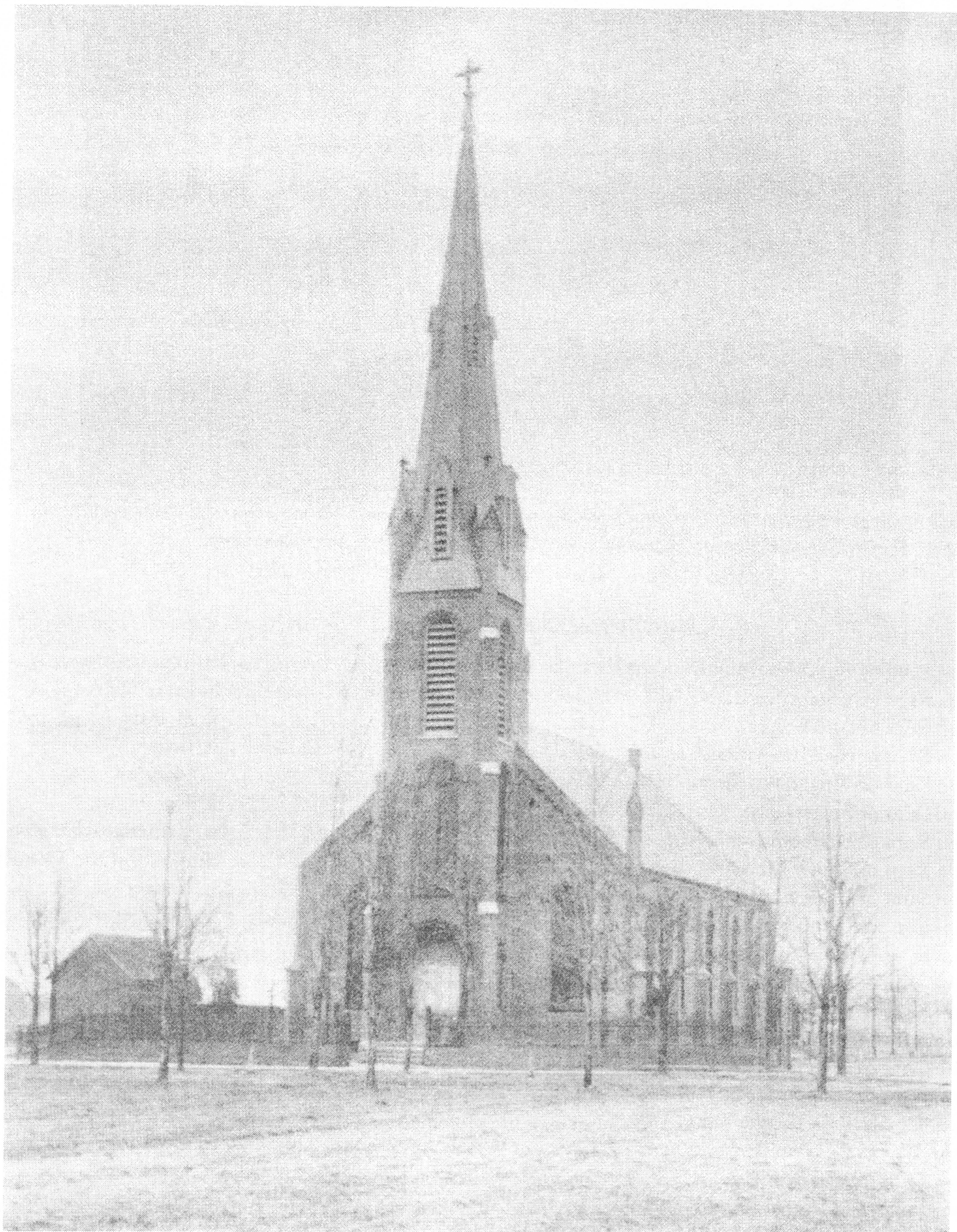
A Brief History of the Growth of the Society in Berea

It is an unquestioned fact that education and higher citizenship follow in the wake of church spires and that argues well for our town—Berea. In this connection, The *Enterprise* has before referred to St. Adalbert's church and their interests here, and this week we take pleasure in giving a brief history of their work, with pictures, through the kindness of St. Adalbert's resident priest, Rev. Dr. Paul Cwiakala. Some two years ago Rev. A. J. Suplicki was transferred from Berea to Toledo and Dr. Cwiakala has creditably administered to the Polish residents since. But a few days ago the last cent of debt was cancelled and there is much rejoicing over the fact. But a larger proposition is now before them. They want a new and larger church. In good weather, when there is a full attendance, some of the communicants cannot find room to be seated, and unless some unforeseen events should happen, to decrease the attendance, a new and commodious church edifice will have to be erected. They have outgrown their present quarters. There are three or four hundred Polish families in the parish, none wealthy, but all industrious. They are employed mostly in the quarries, but many have procured farms and are doing well.

THEIR HISTORY IN BEREa

About the year 1865 the current of emigration from Europe brought a number of Polish families to Berea to which place they were attracted by the good wages paid in the now celebrated stone quarries. Soon they induced many of their countrymen to follow their example, with the result that about the year 1873 the Poles at Berea numbered upwards of one hundred families. Up to that time they received spiritual attendance about twice a year from one of their own countrymen, the Rev. Father Schulak, S. J., then stationed at Chicago, Ill. At other times they depended on the Rev. Louis J. Filiere, pastor of St. Mary's, Berea. But as he did not know their language his ministrations proved very unsatisfactory to them. Finally, in December, 1873, Bishop Gilmour succeeded in securing a Polish priest, the Rev. Victor Zareczny, as their resident pastor. In April of the following year Father Zareczny commenced the erection of a brick church, 45x80 feet, on a parcel of land donated for the purpose, and containing a little over one acre. The slate roofed church was finished and used in December, 1874. It cost \$6,000, and was dedicated to St. Adalbert on September 26, 1875, by the Very Rev. Administrator Boff. In the same year Father Zareczny also secured four acres of land for a cemetery. The church was built during the financial distress that began in 1873 and lasted for over eight years. In consequence of the hard times and little or no employment, many Poles left Berea for the West, thus reducing the parish very considerably and making the debt all the more burdensome to those who remained. Yet, in spite of these drawbacks, the parish debt was reduced to about \$2,300 before December 1880. Father Zareczny left Berea in February, 1884 and was succeeded by Rev. Nicodemus Kolasinski. Under his direction a lofty spire was made to grace the church, which latter was considerably enlarged by the addition of a sanctuary and sacristies, making its dimensions 45x132 feet—all at a cost of \$5,000. In March, 1889, the Rev. Emanuel J. Slowikowski succeeded Father Kolasinski, but remained only till May, 1890, when the Rev. Benedict Rosinski was appointed his successor. During the first year of his pastorate the parish debt, amounting to \$1,300, was paid, and church vestments purchased at a cost of \$1,000. Till then the church had been almost devoid of even the most necessary articles for Divine service. Now St. Adalbert's Church is able to compare with the largest churches of the diocese in respect to vestments. In April of the following year Father Rosinski purchased a half-acre tract of land as the site for a new school, The handsome and well appointed brick school, 71x78 feet, was ready for occupancy by December, 1891. With furnishings and heating apparatus it cost \$11,000. In 1891 he engaged the Felician Sister from Detroit as teachers of the parish school which prior to that time had been in charge of lay teachers. A comfortable residence was built for the Sisters in 1892. In June 1892, Father Rosinski was transferred to St. Stanislaus Church, Cleveland and the Rev. Felix S. Motulewski appointed to the pastorate of St. Adalbert's, Berea. He remained one year, when the Rev. Thomas Misiecki succeeded him. His stay at Berea ended in July 1894 when the Rev. Andrew J. Suplicki was appointed his successor. During his incumbency the church property was put in excellent condition and the parish debt cancelled. Under his direction the present handsome and attractive stone

pastoral residence was commenced in December 1897 and completed in 1898, at a cost of \$6,000. In December 1900, the school had an enrollment of 245 pupils; it is taught by four Felician Sisters.
**From an article in the Berea Enterprise newspaper, dated January 6, 1905.*



The original St. Abalbert's Church of Berea, Ohio, circa 1874.

OFFICERS OF THE PGSGC FOR THE YEAR 2003—



Election of our group officers was held last December as is our custom. From left to right are: Richard Jasinski vice-president, Sonia Chapnick secretary, Richarda Jambrozy treasurer and John Szuch president.

On the Lighter Side—Not to be Taken Seriously

Contemporary Patron Saints

Patron Saint of Chocolate Milk Drinkers	St. John Bosco
Patron Saint of Wimps	St. Francis of Assisi
Patron Saint of Bald People	St. Hedwig
Patron Saint of Necklace Makers	St. Beda
Patron Saint of Weight Watchers	St. Josephat
Patron Saint of Boaters	St. Joan of Ark
Patron Saint of Ballroom Dancers	St. Catherine of Aragon
Patron Saint of Candy Makers	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Patron Saint of Causeway Users	St. Bridget
Patron Saint of Campers	St. Coleman
Patron Saint of Sweater Makers	St. Casimer
Patron Saint of Pool Players	St. Julie Billiart
Patron Saint of Travel Agents	St. Martin of Tours
Patron Saint of Non-Amateur Police	St. Prokop
Patron Saint of Oarsmen	St. Rose
Patron Saint of Shoppers	St. Francis de Sales
Patron Saint of RTA Garage Men	St. Barnabus
Patron Saint of Gas Pumpers	St. Phillup
Patron Saint of Lost Boys	St. Ladislaus
Patron Saint of Mortgage Payers	St. Bernadette
Patron Saint of Thrapists	Our Lady of Good Counsel

And finally: Old genealogists never die; they just lose their census.



**THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF GREATER CLEVELAND**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Applicant Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Date: _____ Referred By: _____

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND is an organization dedicated to encouraging interest in collecting, preserving and sharing genealogical information . We invite anyone to join who is interested in tracing their family history. Meetings are held the first

Tuesday of the month, (Sept. thru June) at St. Mary's PNC Church parish hall; 5375 Broadview Rd., Parma, Ohio at 7:30 PM.

Programs Include: Speakers, Member Participation and Social Hour. "**Our Polish Ancestors**" is our 12-page newsletter, published quarterly.

Your completed MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION will be filed with the Secretary and Membership Chairman upon payment of annual dues of \$20.00. Make check payable to: "Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland" and mail to Treasurer/Richarda Jambrozy, 1492 Lewis Dr., Lakewood, OH 44107.

Member Surname

LIST OTHER SURNAMEN WHICH
APPEAR IN YOUR FAMILY
RESEARCH TO DATE:

USE REVERSE SIDE IF NEEDED

Membership Drive of 2003

We're off to a good start in our Membership Drive of 2003. Five referrals have been received, four of them gift memberships. The members will receive membership extensions for their referrals.

Also, in the recent past, "Friendly Reminder" notices have been sent out to members whose membership has lapsed. Happily, 40% have responded and renewed their membership. We thank them for remaining active members and for their continual support of our group.

A number of members have renewed their membership and in addition, have made a donation toward support of our group. To one and all, a hearty thank you.

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
c/o ST. MARY'S PNC CHURCH
1901 WEXFORD AVE.
PARMA, OHIO 44134

FIRST CLASS MAIL

"OUR POLISH ANCESTORS"

is published by

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF GREATER CLEVELAND



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

Membership dues are \$20.00 a year.

President: John F. Szuch (330) 769-4603
105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, Ohio 44273

Vice-President: Richard Jasinski (216) 524-3907
3121 Parmalee Dr., Seven Hills, Ohio 44131

Treasurer: Richarda Jambrozy (216) 226-1548
1492 Lewis Dr., Cleveland, Ohio 44107

Secretary: Sonia Chapnick (440) 256-8392
7897 Gildersleeve Circle, Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Please submit all correspondence to: PGSGC Newsletter, c/o the return address above.
e-mail address—edjmendyka@aol.com