

Our Twelfth Anniversary Photo



Kneeling, sitting in front row, left to right: Elaine Marec, Frank Kaminski, Juanita Fortuna, Walter Fortuna, Ed Mendyka, Lucia Dominak, Mary Louise Brower
First row, sitting on chairs, left to right: Georgene Jasinski, Richard Jasinski, Richarda Jambrozy, Sonia Chapnick, John Szuch, Dorothy Rollin, Julia Kusek, Dorothy Hudson
Second row seated, left to right: Berni O'Malley, Joan Chermely, Roseann Ewazen, Joan Stahlhut, Norman Braun, Lorraine Lipinski, Carol Prusak, Martha Bergman
Standing, left to right: Ron Stelmarski, Christian Chermely, Robert Lynch, Len Pryer, Ron Marec, John Talkowski, Sophia Talkowski, Leroy Kostecki, Ed Jambrozy, Stanley Tatko, Jane Tatko, Joe Hadbavny, Gloria Hadbavny, Rolf Bergman, Ken Green, Joan Green

A special "Thank You"

To begin our thirteenth year, we received an unexpected present. Mr. Raymond Vargas brought his Polish dancing troupe, *The Syrena Dancers*, to our November meeting. The young people modeled authentic Polish dress from the various regions of Poland. The costumes were quite varied, depending upon which region they represented. They were also very colorful. While the young people strolled among the tables to allow our members to get a better look of the embroidery and workmanship of the attire, Ray commented on each of the costumes. It was one of the most entertaining meetings we have ever had. To Ray and his group, a very special "Thank You".

Welcome—New Members—Witamy

Steve & Laura Cook, interested in surnames: MENDYKA, TWARDZIK
3328 N. Loma Vista Dr.
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004
seakind@aol.com

In addition to a two year membership, Steve & Laura made a donation to the group for which we thank them.

Diane Karpinski, interested in surnames: GRABOWSKI, KARPINSKI, OLSZEWSKI
2897 Ludlow Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44120

Henry Cameron, interested in surnames: JONIAK, LUCAS, LUKASH, YONIAK
10496 Easy River
Columbia Station, Ohio 44028

Raymond D. Vargas, interested in surnames: KAPOWSKI, KUBIT, TATARA, WOLNIK
4555 Pearl Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44109
gorale@msn.com

Timothy J. Stoll STOLL
4555 Pearl Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

wilczeboy@yahoo.com

Louis J. Jurkiewicz JURKIEWICZ
2435 Grantwood Dr.
Parma, Ohio 44134

Our membership drive for 2003 proved to be a resounding success. We have a number of new members. The expiration date of our current members who referred new people to our active membership roster was extended by three months for each new member. And the renewal rate of current membership has been gratifying. Thanks to all for their efforts. After twelve years we continue to thrive and grow.

Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

December—Election of officers for the coming year and Christmas Party.

2004

January—Julie Graf Skinner from Busch Funeral Homes will address the group on the topic:

How Your Funeral Home Can Assist with Genealogy and Preparing for Your Family's Genealogical Needs
She will bring booklets to distribute to our members.

February—Christine Krosel, Director of Archival Research for the Cleveland Catholic Diocese, will address the group on the topic: *19th Century Sacramental Research of the Catholic church.*

She will bring printed materials for distribution to our members.

March—Therese Spellacy from the Cuyahoga County Probate Court will address the group on the topic:
Researching Probate.

May—Judge Raymond Pianka, a member of our group, will address the group on the topic: *The Kurpie Region of Northeast Poland.*

If any of you have any suggestions as to speakers or topics which you'd wish to hear or know about, please contact Georgene Jasinski.

The Internet

Hey Group—we're on the Internet! Go to: <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc> and check it out. We needed to have a presence on the Internet and now we have one. It's nothing fancy but it does meet our objective. In no way can we compete with the web sites of the Polish Genealogical Society of America or the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. Still and all, it is something we can build on for the future. Comments, critiques are welcome.

In a previous issue of our newsletter, we ran a story of a Polish immigrant who had killed his wife in the town of Berea, a suburb of Cleveland. It was intended to show that the immigrant, coming into a different culture, was not always able to adapt to his new surroundings. We asked for comments from our members. Ron Marec had this to say:

"They (the community) would have viewed the man as a mean, vicious 'pijak' who had committed the crime and sin of murder, and who should be punished accordingly.

*One result of American nativism's attack on immigrant Poles as being violent, unruly and criminal was to make leaders of the Polish-American community and ethnic historians to over-react and present a picture of Polish immigrants as nothing but hard-working, law-abiding, peaceful people characterized by orderly humility. As a result a vital part of the history of Poles in America, their fight for social justice, has been overlooked. Polish workers in the hundreds of thousands were a driving force in the rise of Organized Labor in the United States. The reason according to W. S. Kuniczak in his book *My Name is Million* is that leaders of the Polish-American community and ethnic historians consider "it insufficiently conservative for the docile 'respectable' image they wish to project."*

The story below is taken from a book entitled: *Then There Was None: A History Of The Berea Sandstone Quarries* by Mickey Sego. The book is available for sale at the Berea Area Historical Society. It is with the kind permission of that group that we are able to publish this story. It is a story of immigrant Poles, fighting for a living wage and a decent working environment. They too, in their own little corner of the world, wished to make it better for those who came after.

The Strike of 1896

This is but one of the beautiful spots, and that perhaps the most unpromising at first thought, as a bit of beauty, and I assure you that if you but use your eyes with care, you will find many others and perhaps when you leave us, your mind may still retain pleasant pictures...

—Anna M. Nokes

Although the first strike in the history of the Berea quarries lasted for six weeks in 1896, the stage was set in the economic turmoil of 1893. In June of that year the New York stock market crashed, gold reserves fell causing a run on the federal treasury, and the country soon found itself in one of the worst depressions in its history—The Panic of 1893, which was to last for four years. In 1893 alone 74 railroads fell into receivership, 600 banks closed, 15,000 commercial houses collapsed, and thousands of farm mortgages were foreclosed.

By the early 1890s unrest dominated the labor scene as the country moved from an agrarian to an industrial society. Workers, especially those in mines and railroads, began joining together in unions to protest against poor working conditions. Companies began to retaliate against strikers by hiring strikebreakers or using convict labor and well-armed security forces, such as Pinkerton "detectives," for whom at that time violence apparently was the chief weapon to end strikes.

In addition to dangerous working conditions, workers also were speaking out about reduced wages (in some cases rents for workers' homes or prices in company stores were not lowered correspondingly), 12-14 hour workdays with a six-day workweek which were common (in 1891 Nebraska was the first state to pass legislation requiring an eight-hour work day), and the use of "sweat shops." Workers complained they were nothing more than "economic slaves" for wealthy industrialists.

During the Panic of 1893 The Cleveland Stone Company in Berea, in an attempt to keep the quarries open and provide continued employment for all its workers, asked for wage concessions in the amount of 10 percent. The company promised a return to previous wages once the economy strengthened. But by early 1896 wages had remained stagnant and the workers, sensing the company had actually had no decline in orders, were becoming restless. Rumors circulated among the quarrymen that wage cuts three years before had been up to 50 percent and by early June there was talk of a strike.

Due to the conflicting statements about wages a reporter for *The Cleveland Leader* was given the opportunity to investigate payroll records at the quarry office. His findings give insight into pay levels in May 1896 and also give credence to the company's version of its actions in 1893:

The men in the mills received from \$1.87 to \$2.50 a day according to skill and responsibility; sawyers

from \$1.87 to \$2; sawsetters from \$2.25 to \$2.50; foremen in quarry, \$2.40; quarrymen, \$1.50 to \$1.80; derrick men the same; engineers \$1.88 to \$2.75, and boys 50 cents to \$1, according to age. The wages of grindstone cutters, who are paid by the ton, ranged from \$65.32 to \$71.29 for May; eye cutters, who are paid by the piece, from \$57.25 to \$72.45 a month. Many old men unable to do hard work are paid \$1.25 per day.

A statement was not long ago publicly made that in 1893 the wages were cut 50 per cent. The facts are that in that year they were cut as follows: those receiving highest salaries, 10 per cent; next lower, 8 per cent, and medium salaried men, 6 per cent. Those receiving under \$1.50 a day were not cut. Since this cut many have had their wages raised.

There is evidence that the quarrymen began organizing a union early in 1896. Two young men were among the most outspoken in their determination to form a local union at the quarries: George Dorsch, a 36-year-old skilled sawmill worker who began working at the quarries as a waterboy at age 12, and 23-year-old "Pop" Marcinski, who was born in Poland and had come to this country at a young age with his parents. "Pop" Marcinski's father, Kasper, worked in the quarries while "Pop" started to carry water and picks at the age of 12, for 50 cents a day.

Both men ultimately were fired. Dorsch was fired by quarry superintendent Patrick Morrissey in March 1896, months before the strike began. In testimony before the state *Board of Arbitration* after the strike was well under way Dorsch stated he had questioned his dismissal and was told the superintendent believed he was a leading member of the union. After the strike "Pop" felt he was a marked man and soon was dismissed from the quarries. By 1935 he was a cement block manufacturer and saloon keeper on West Bagley Road.

The strike against the Cleveland Stone Company developed in early June 1896, but not without outside help. Frank W. Prentice, organizer for district Assembly No. 47, Knights of Labor of America, had been working in Berea to convince the quarrymen to unionize in order to present a strong united front to the company.

The first evidence of violence accompanying the strike occurred on Friday, June 5, 1896 when one of the strikers, accompanied by several other union men, approached a policeman on duty at a grindstone factory. After threatening to kill the policeman at his first chance, the striker moved on to a saloon where he was tracked down by several deputy sheriffs. There he resisted arrest and had to be subdued before being taken to the local jail. While the policeman was positive he had seen a revolver in the striker's pocket the deputies found only stones.

In an attempt to persuade other workers to join them to force the company to recognize the union, striking quarrymen from Berea had begun to camp out along roads leading to quarries and mills outside of the area. Things did not always go according to plan for the strikers, however. In one case they arrived late at a quarry and decided to leave since work was already under way.

On Friday, June 12, 200 workers, under the direction of the Knights of Labor, walked from Berea about two-and-one-half miles west to the quarries at West View. There they convinced the workers to follow them to other quarries where additional workers were asked to leave their jobs. The June 13, 1896 issue of *The Cleveland Leader* described the situation: "Not content with the stagnation of business already caused by their actions, the men, under the leadership of Knights of Labor officials, proceeded to Columbia and Olmsted Falls, where about 300 men are employed, and persuaded them to quit work. It was said last night that fully 1,600 quarrymen were idle in Berea, West View, Columbia, and Olmsted Falls." By mid-June the strikers had idled 14 of the company's quarries, including ten in Berea and two at West View.

Throughout the month of June strikers visited the mills and quarries of The Cleveland Stone company in an attempt to convince non-union employees to join them and totally shut down the company's operations. They were not completely successful. Attempts to close the Amherst quarries failed, allegedly because most workers were German. (One newspaper account stated, "The Amherst quarrymen are mostly Germans, and are a law-abiding people." Nonetheless Lorain County Sheriff Lord stayed at the Amherst quarries with a contingent of his deputies.) While there was talk of marching to the LaGrange quarries, 18 miles from North Amherst, this too failed when the strikers decided it was too far to walk. As the month progressed there were reports of scattered violence and on June 24 one of the strikers was arrested for assault and battery.

The workers wanted more than simply a restoration of wages cut in 1893; recognition of the union was of primary importance as well as rehiring workers who had been fired apparently without just cause. Other issues on the strikers' minds were the company's holding back several weeks' pay, taking money from paychecks without authorization, and the treatment of workers in the quarries.

The company's preliminary reaction to the strike was to load a large steam shovel from the Berea quarries onto a railroad car and ship it to the east away from the strike area, which delighted the strikers since they felt it had taken jobs away from many quarrymen. Company officials made sure policemen, and eventually deputy sheriffs, were on duty at strategic locations to deter strikers from causing damage to company property.

One Monday morning in late June, quarry superintendent Patrick Morrisey took it upon himself to fill an important order for curbing from a contractor in Wooster. Accompanied by a town marshal Morrisey entered one of the closed quarries and, working a derrick by himself, was able to get the order on its way—under the watchful eyes of strikers who made no attempt to interfere.

Rumors abounded. There was talk of dynamite being placed under St. Adalbert Church School where striking quarrymen were going to meet. Taking this as a serious threat, a committee of men was established to guard the school at all times. (There never were explosives; it was thought a practical jokester was responsible for spreading the rumor.) The Knights of Labor eventually developed rules for maintaining order among the strikers and it was said one of the strikers was roughed up for disobeying one of the rules.

Then, the evening of Tuesday, June 30, strikers drove the non-union men out of Mill No. 3, the grindstone factory located on Rocky River near Bagley Road in the northwest section of Berea, one mile from the post office located in the main part of the village. Concerned about the actions of the strikers, Cuyahoga County Sheriff Leek put in a request for four companies of the Fifth Regiment, Ohio National Guard, to assemble at their armories in Cleveland, ready to move when needed.

Early the next morning (July 1) the sheriff and 150 of his deputies surrounded Mill No. 3 to protect workers when they arrived and stay throughout the day to provide protection while they worked. At the same time the strikers gathered at their headquarters at the Polish school house (on what is now Adelbert Street), one-half mile from the mill in the northwest section of Berea, to discuss their next move. By 9:00 a.m. approximately 150 strikers, mostly Polish, were walking toward Mill No. 3; to the amazement of the deputies stationed there the strikers continued walking past the mill, turning west onto the Big Four (Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad) tracks. Deputy Sheriff Holliday decided the men were headed to the West View quarry as he got ten deputies onto a large horse-drawn wagon to gallop to the same location. Because they had to take the longer route by wagon road, they arrived at about the same time as the strikers. Sheriff Leek arrived shortly thereafter—as fast as his horse could carry him.

Cuyahoga County Sheriff Leek confronted the strikers and ordered them to leave. But as soon as he finished talking one of the Poles shouted in his native language and the strikers charged. The deputies were armed with guns and clubs and fought off the strikers, a few of whom also had guns (although after the encounter the strikers insisted they were not armed). With several of their number injured by gunfire, some seriously, the strikers withdrew to the local woods and then began a retreat toward Berea. Two-thirds of the men who had been working at the West View quarry left their jobs after the fracas to join with the Berea union men. (One of the deputies was injured after being hit on the head with a fence post.)

What happened next at West View was graphically detailed the next day, July 2, 1896, in the *Cleveland News and Herald*:

About fifteen minutes after the trouble was over and the strikers had retreated down the track, about thirty Polish women, armed with revolvers, hoes, rakes, clubs, broomsticks, and all sorts of weapons, appeared on the scene. When they saw the wounded strikers lying beside the fence the women became furious. They shrieked, cursed, and reviled the deputies and sheriff, and finally attacked them. Sheriff Leek and his deputies could fight men but they would not harm the women. So they ran before the irate and infuriated women and scattered in several directions. Sheriff Leek was chased by several women quite a distance, but escaped by dodging into underbrush. When the women perceived that they had routed the sheriff's force they left.



Back at Mill No. 3 in Berea that same day, about 100 men with 50 women in front of them marched on the factory at about 9:30 a.m. The women continued into the factory where they extinguished fires in the boiler rooms with water they had been carrying in pails, screaming constantly while trying to intimidate the deputies. The deputies took no action against the women, who left after a cadre of citizens from Berea arrived as reinforcements. By noon all was quiet.

The strikers' actions that day proved to be the last concentrated effort on their part. By noon 50 deputies had arrived from Cleveland on a special Lake Shore railroad train, bringing 50 Winchester repeating rifles and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. The train backed down the tracks to the grindstone factory where the sheriff had set up a command post. For the remainder of the strike Mill No. 3 was used to house the sheriff and his deputies. Rumors about an impending attack by dangerously armed strikers abounded that Wednesday afternoon, July 1. The sheriff was convinced that 500 strikers, armed with guns and revolvers, would attack the grindstone factory at Mill No.3 before the day was over. He also believed the strikers would again place

women in front of their lines, knowing the deputies would not fight the women.

A telegram was sent to Ohio Governor Asa S. Bushnell requesting that state militia be sent to Berea to help quell the "riot." With the governor out of state, a private secretary replied that Sheriff Leek should first use the military and civil authority he had at hand, namely the National Guard already on alert in Cuyahoga County. At 3:00 p.m., Company D of the Fifth Regiment, already located in Berea, was called to the Berea Armory to be ready for action.

By 6:00 p.m. Company K of the Fifth Regiment had gathered at the armory in downtown Cleveland. At 9:00 p.m. they received their orders to proceed to Berea. As *The News and Herald* in Cleveland reported, "Within fifteen minutes after the order was received the company was in marching order on its way to Berea. Shortly before 10 o'clock Company K arrived at the Lorain street car barns, at which place, a few minutes later, they boarded a car for Berea. There were fifty-eight members in the company." They joined with Company D at the Berea Armory, where they stayed throughout the strike.

Meanwhile, as deputies and militia were streaming into Berea, the strikers left the Polish school house at about 5:00 p.m. and peacefully went to their homes. The rumors of a violent attack were unfounded. Newspaper accounts on July 3 reported Berea's quarries remained quiet on July 2.

One of the strikers injured at the West View quarry, 38-year-old Vincent Maschinski, was reported to have fatal injuries, having been shot through the back and lungs. Newspaper accounts told of his impending death and the arrival of the Polish Catholic priest to administer the last sacrament to the dying man. The Cleveland Stone company sent one of its doctors, Dr. Coates, to assist Maschinski, but he was turned away by the strikers. Instead Dr. McConnell of Strongsville was called in to treat the serious wounds. The striking men and women vowed vengeance, although that turned out to be premature when Maschinski survived his injuries and was observed walking around just a few weeks later.

Rumors continued throughout the week. Since the majority of strikers were Poles it was believed they soon would be joined by at least 100 Polish friends and relatives from Newburgh as well as many Poles from the city

of Cleveland. Fearing damage to company property, officials from The Cleveland Stone Company, in consultation with Sheriff Leek, had attorneys from the Cleveland law firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey draw up a petition for a restraining order against all members of The Berea Stone Quarrymen's Union and Local Assembly, No. 1387, Knights of Labor. On July 2, Court of Common Pleas Judge Logue approved the injunction and the strikers were ordered to stay away from all company property and to refrain from interfering with the business activities of the company.

The company then announced its intention to reopen as many quarries and mills as it could on Monday, July 6, with the deputies and militia providing protection for the workers. (June 1896 had brought 6.10 inches of rain to the area, so some of the quarries filled with water, making quarrying impossible until the water could be pumped out.) The formal announcement of the reopening came on Saturday, July 4. That same day townspeople were delighted to hear that two members of the State Board of Arbitration, General John Little and the Hon. Joseph Bishop, had met with the pastor of the Polish Roman Catholic Church, Father A. Suplicki. After their meeting Father Suplicki was to meet with the strikers to urge them to take their grievances to an arbitrator. Board members would discuss similar issues with company officials. Their efforts to find common ground for the company and the strikers were not immediately successful.

All of Berea suffered from the effects of the strike. Business activity was practically at a standstill. Lumber dealer William Holmes, of Holmes & Johnson reported daily gross receipts at only one-sixth of their expenses. The presence of great numbers of deputies and militia made the scene all the more exciting, but frightening. Women were terrified and jumped each time they heard the sound of a Fourth of July firecracker. Rumors circulated that a holiday church picnic planned by the parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church on Front Street was going to be disrupted because so many quarry company officials attended their church. (Union strikers denied any such plan.) Many Polish residents of the South Side decided to distance themselves from their north-side countrymen by not joining in the strike. Citizens could not believe what was happening to their peaceful village.

By 4:30 a.m. on Monday, July 6, the deputies and militia were already eating breakfast. By the time the workers were expected, various law enforcement personnel were in place guarding the company's property at all quarries and mills. Non-union workers began returning without incident at Berea, West View, and Olmsted Falls and by the end of the week it was thought one-third of the workers were back on the job. Olmsted falls reported the usual number of men working with a description in *The News and Herald* that stated; "Since Foreman Tom Stokes climbed one of the derrick masts and nailed Old Glory to its top, daring anyone to take it down or interfere with any workmen under its folds, he and his men have had no strike trouble to contend with."

In many ways the back to work order for that Monday, July 6, was the beginning of the end for the strike. The next day negotiations started between representatives of The Cleveland Stone Company, the union, and a member of the State Board of Arbitration, although nothing was made public. All meetings were held in secret. Each day saw an increase in the number of men returning to work as more mills and quarries reopened, but each facility still was guarded by deputies and militia.

Sporadic violence remained the norm. At times deputies were fired upon at the company sites, mostly at night. The homes of men who returned to work were damaged by gunfire with occasional stones and pieces of metal being thrown at the houses. The sheriff and his deputies began to guard the homes of workers while the militia remained on patrol at the factories. One widow complained that her house had been stoned because her two sons had returned to the quarries. There were reports of mix-ups where militia arrested deputies or a member of one group fired upon someone from another law-enforcement group. Although there were injuries, no one was killed during the strike.

By mid-July the State Board of Arbitration began hearings in Berea. They heard testimony on July 15 from strikers, who spoke of hardships resulting from poor working conditions at the quarries and the issue of the pay cut in 1893. (Many of the working conditions have been delineated in the section on Workers.) However the greatest issue had become the need for recognition of the union.

T.B. McGuire, a member of the executive committee of the Knights of Labor, testified that he had met with company officials early in July to work out an agreement to end the strike. An offer, signed by general superintendent James Nicholl, stated: "We will employ as many of our men as our business will warrant, without

prejudice to those that went out on a strike. We will meet our employees at any time they may have any grievances as we have done before, and use every effort to settle the same." The *Cleveland News and Herald* reported on July 16, 1896 that the company also verbally agreed "to hire no out-side labor until all the old employees were first given work or a chance to work." But Knights of Labor officials declined the statement, arguing that the company had not made any concessions. The strike continued.

On July 16 the Board of Arbitration moved its hearings to the old courthouse in Cleveland, where it listened to the Cleveland Stone Company's side of the issues. Officials insisted employees had received pay cuts of no more than 10 percent in 1893 and that they would see those wages restored once the economy improved. They denied any money had been taken from wages without permission of the workers. Paying workers every two weeks instead of monthly would require doubling the bookkeeping staff and so was not economically sound.

With regard to the report the company had refused to rehire strikers, superintendent Patrick Morrissey replied that they had been given the opportunity to return to work; when they did not appear other men were hired to take their places. As soon as other jobs became available they would be rehired. The company insisted it would not recognize the union; they could not agree to having employees telling them what to do.

As more and more workers returned to work, still under the watchful eyes of deputies and the militia, the strike began to fizzle. By mid-July, just six weeks after it had started, the strike was over. The strikers again were promised that once business improved they would be returned to the wage rate of 1893 and the company agreed, as it had all along, that men who had been fired would be rehired once jobs became available. In effect nothing had changed, although within a few years the men did indeed return to their previous wage rate and began working ten hours a day rather than twelve.

Several side issues of the strike involved law enforcement personnel. It was estimated that the cost of the deputy sheriffs and militia, beginning June 30, would be \$700 a day. Most Berea residents, including the strikers, thought The Cleveland Stone Company would pay for their services, but the company refused. Payment fell directly upon the shoulders of taxpayers. *The Cleveland Leader* very bluntly stated that "every house and lot and every foot of land...in Cuyahoga County, as well as in the State, would be taxed to foot the bill."

Additionally, Sheriff Leek had promised his 115 deputies they would be paid \$6 for each 24-hour shift worked. But the Cuyahoga County Commissioners decided this was excessive so they cut the amount to \$3 for 24-hour duty. This did not set well with the deputies, especially in light of the fact the amount was less than what the quarrymen had been earning before they went on strike. Unfortunately for the deputies the Commissioners did not change their minds.



Cuyahoga County Sheriff Leek (with straw hat) surrounded by his deputies, quarry superintendent and quarry foremen pose in early July 1896 at Mill No. 3 (command post for the sheriff and his deputies) during the Cleveland Stone Company strike.

The summer of 1896 proved to be a busy one for local National Guardsmen. In addition to duty in Berea the men spent several months preserving order at the plant of The Brown Hoisting and Conveying Machine Company in Cleveland, where a strike had brought considerable violence and disorder, a stark contrast to that city's gala celebrations of its centennial.

Unbeknownst to the strikers in Berea during the most violent week of the strike, beginning with the march on West View June 30, another strike was taking place over five thousand miles away. In St. Petersburg, Russia, workers in ten or twelve cotton-spinning mills had been on strike for four days. According to the *London Mail*, "They do not ask for higher wages; their demand is for a shorter day—'eight hours' is a wild ideal to which no sane Russian will ever come; their demand is for a twelve-hour day, from seven to seven, with an interval for dinner. At present they are working fourteen hours, and in this terribly hot weather they have come to the conclusion that it is too much." Workers world wide were beginning to press for improved working conditions. A little closer to home the Democratic National Convention was taking place in Chicago on July 7. One of America's great orators, William Jennings Bryan, wrapped up the convention's nomination for president after delivering a thundering address which ended, "Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world supported by the commercial interests, the laboring interests, and the toilers everywhere, we will answer their demand for a gold standard by saying to them, "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this cross of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold." Despite his message Bryan lost the general election that year to William McKinley.

The Berea Quarryman's Union also lost that year, but not completely. They did succeed in getting the word out about conditions in the quarries and their sacrifices laid the groundwork for future improvements in working conditions, shorter work days, and better wages.



From The Cleveland Press, dated July 3, 1896

Berea, O., July 3—Rev. Father A. J. Suplicki, of St. Adalbert's Polish Catholic church and pastor of nearly all of the quarrymen who are on a strike in this city, returned from Erie yesterday in response to a telegram sent him, calling him to the bedside of Vincent Machinski who is supposed to be dying from a wound received Wednesday. Father Suplicki is a very intelligent native of Poland, speaking the English language very fluently, and his opinion of the West View battle has been awaited with a great deal of interest by every citizen in Berea. His countrymen are said to be influenced to a great extent by his advice and it is claimed by many that he originally championed the course that the strikers took.

Soon after Father Suplicki arrived in Berea he was waited on by a committee of the strikers. The parochial residence is situated within a few steps of the school house in which the strikers hold their meetings. The committee was with the priest for some time, after which he took a walk in the direction of grindstone mill No.3, the seat of the strike.

As the reverend gentleman crossed the bridge leading to the works, he was anxiously watched by a crowd of men and women, who stood at the top of the hill. He passed Sheriff Leek and his army of deputies, making observations all the time. On his return, he said to a "Press" representative:

"The Polanders in Berea are the best class of people of that nationality in Ohio. They are honest and industrious and they take a great deal of pride in their little homes. Had it not been for these so-called deputies, there certainly would not have been any trouble. My people never had the remotest idea that there would be any difficulty. The reason why they went up to West View was that there was a misunderstanding among the men there about returning to work. The West View men all belonged to the union and they returned to work because of a misapprehension.

There is a certain protective spirit among Polanders, which makes it improbable that they would seek to injure one another. They have been reared in adversity and being deprived of privileges as a distinct nation, they naturally look at America as a Mecca for prosperity."

J. W. Dunham, manufacturer of farmers' implements, was victimized by a sharper in a very neat manner yester-

day. The man approached Dunham and told him that his name was Sheriff Leek. He said that there was a strike at quarry No. 6 and he wanted to telegraph to Cleveland for assistance but was short of money. He asked for the loan of \$1.50 but Dunham had but a \$2 bill, which he gave him. Dunham soon learned of his mistake and filed a complaint. A man named Tarbull, an alleged United States deputy marshal, was arrested, fined \$25 and sentenced to 20 days in the workhouse.

Wm. Hassett, a deputy sheriff from Cleveland, enjoyed a quiet nap under the shade of an old elm yesterday afternoon. When he awoke he was minus his watch, chain, revolver and badge.

Deputy Sheriff Stegkemper arrived in town about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon for the purpose of serving papers in an injunction proceeding that had been instituted by the Cleveland Stone Co. against the strikers. He had notices to serve on 50 of the strikers but only located about half that number. F. W. Prentiss, the leader of the strike, was among the number.

Stegkemper found many of the men while they were attending a meeting in the Polish school house.



This story, and the one in our last newsletter, *Life as a Quarryman*, illustrate some of the hardships that our Polish ancestors had to endure. Yet none of this was brought out in the book celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of St. Adalbert's parish. That is sad. At least, they wrote a history, not many parishes do today.



St. Adalbert's 75th Anniv.
November 28, 1948

St. Adalbert's 75th Anniv.---November 28, 1948

Member Bernice (Sak) O'Malley welcomed Bishop Hoban in Polish and gave him flowers.

Kudos To Our Members

Norman Braun—Norman gave the group a copy of a beautiful poster. It was on the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the city of Cleveland, that is 1896, showing one hundred Polish-American businessmen and women, who were conducting their undertakings in our fair city. And it's strange to see how many of them were "saloonkeepers." Norman also gave us a fiftieth anniversary book of the founding of Sts. Peter and Paul parish. And he was kind enough to let us copy a twenty fifth anniversary book of the founding of St. Hyacinth's parish. The book was published in 1933. Thank you "Kind Sir." All these fine new additions to our library will be available for the perusal of our members.

Len & Hanna Pryer—A special "thank you" to this beautiful couple. They've donated many books to our library, both in the English and Polish languages. Recently, they've donated a new, autographed copy of, *A Question of Honor* by Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud. It is the story of the *Kosciuszko Squadron* of the RAF in the Second World War. It is good reading for anyone interested in Polish history and things Polish.

A Quiet Cleveland Renaissance

Anyone who has not visited *The Cleveland State University* campus recently should return for another visit. The campus now extends to the east along Euclid Avenue upto the Playhouse Square District. And there is more emphasis now in their teaching curriculum on Cleveland's neighborhoods, as evidenced by the current *Tremont Oral History Project*. The neighborhoods of Cleveland, the Slavic Village, St. Hyacinth's and Tremont neighborhoods, are seeing new constructions going up, something which hasn't been seen in these areas in a long time. There are more art galleries being established now than perhaps ever before. There is more emphasis being placed on the arts, in all forms, as witnessed by the founding of *The Opera Circle*. And perhaps one of the finest investments of taxpayers money, is what is happening at Cuyahoga Community College, at the western campus. Whether this is true of all the campuses of Tri-C, is unknown. However, last December, Tri-C West opened the TLC (Technological Learning Center). It is a brand new building just chuck full of computers, and classrooms. All someone has to do is present their student's ID or a valid Ohio State Driver's License at the desk and they're assigned a computer. And they can stay all day long if they wish. There is no charge for printing copies of materials. No one can say that we're not trying to educate our young people in today's technologies. What we need now for our young people is jobs so that they don't leave the Cleveland area. What we need now is a "Gates" and a Microsoft to provide some of these jobs. And Tri-C has what they call a Program-60 for senior citizens. Any person 60 years of age or older, can take any course that is available, on a space available basis, without paying tuition. Costs of books are paid by the senior citizen. So anyone who is interested in doing genealogical research on the Internet, here's your chance. You don't even need to have a computer. All you need is: some basic knowledge of computers, a valid Ohio State Driver's license, and time to do your research. Oh, it will cost you fifty cents to get out of the parking lot. What a great deal!

Get Well Wishes

Dorothy Hudson is in the Marymount Assisted Living facility. She fell in her home and spent some time recuperating at St. Michael's Hospital (formerly St. Alexis's) on Cleveland's east side. We wish her a speedy recovery.

On the Lighter Side—Some Great quotes

Eleanor Roosevelt—I once had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: "no good in a bed, but fine up against a wall".

Victor Borge—Santa Claus has the right idea—visit people only once a year.

Mark Twain—Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

Groucho Marx—I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

Zsa Zsa Gabor—I never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

George Burns—At my age, flowers scare me.

Bob Hope—I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

W.C. Fields—I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it.

Happy Holidays

To one and all, Happy Thanksgiving— a Blessed Christmas—and a Bountiful New Year. See you next year!

THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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OF GREATER CLEVELAND



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

Membership dues are \$20.00 a year.

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