

## Letter from the President

by John Szuch

Hello fellow members. Shortly after you receive this bulletin we will be having our December 2nd meeting which is traditionally also our annual Christmas party. For those of you who aren't able to make it to many meetings throughout the year, this is one you should make an effort to attend. Cost of the dinner is \$10.00 per person and can be paid at the meeting. Richarda or I would appreciate a phone call though to let us know if you are attending so we can plan accordingly for the food. DON'T miss an evening of great food and camaraderie.

Also at our December meeting, there will be a short business meeting with election of officers for the year 2009.

Let's see if we can make 2009 an even better year than 2008. Bring a friend or relative to a meeting and see if we can get our membership total to grow beyond its' current 115 members.

Wishing you all, **A MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### PGSGC MEMBERS & FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 2, 2008

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Reservations: 1-330-769-4603 (John) or 1-216-226-1548 (Richarda)

Location: St. Mary's PNC Church, 1901 Wexford, Parma, Oh.

Times: Brief business meeting at 7:00 PM & dinner afterwards (7:30)

Please come and join us for a fun evening with friends and great food!

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

JOHN F. SZUCH

PRESIDENT

### Welcome--New Member--Witamy

Stanley J. & Aldona A. Witkowski

KRAJCZYNSKI, PRZEVIKOWSKI

GUDINAS, GRINSAVAGE, PAC

# *Andrew & Josephine Zagorsky*

## *Their Lorain Love Story*

By: Linda Jean Limes Ellis



Everyone loves a love story! Please join me for a glimpse of how this one began a little more than a century ago in Lorain, Ohio, and spanned 41 years in the lives of my maternal grandparents.

As a young lad living in the 1880's and 1890's, Andrew Zagorsky roamed Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and France as an orphan. Born in an area that later became Czechoslovakia, he learned to speak several languages and along the way taught himself to play the button box. After Andrew matured into a young adult, he became a miner by trade to earn a living. In 1904, America beckoned him to its shores, and specifically, Lorain, Ohio, where his brother-in-law was already living. There he met and married a young illegitimate Polish immigrant girl who spoke only her native tongue. Together, they watched their family grow during one of the darkest decades in American history – a time forever defined by its name - “The Great Depression.”

Andrew Zagorsky's driving desire was to renounce his allegiance to Franz Joseph I, (later Charles – 1916 - 1918), Emperor of Austria and Apostolic King of Hungary by becoming a naturalized American citizen. His mind must have swirled with such thoughts when he disembarked from the ship, S. S. Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse, after it docked in New York from sailing its final voyage of the year from Bremen, Germany.

It was almost the end of the year - December 14, 1904\*. Andrew, with the sum of \$18.00 in his pants pocket, was ready for his next step. He boarded a westbound train and headed for his final stop, Lorain, Ohio, where he would spend the rest of his life.

American citizenship for Andrew Zagorsky would not come for 33 years, however. After all, he was still a young man just turning 24. Without a doubt, finding a suitable wife who cherished raising a family, and who faithfully practiced Roman Catholic teachings, came first with Andrew – but he would have to wait a bit

longer. Another three years would pass before she would enter his life.

Early Twentieth Century progress brought the hard labor industries of steel making, ship building, and railroad work to Lorain, Ohio and transformed the entire community into a manufacturing hub. Many Eastern European immigrants, among others, knew their skills would be needed by these employers making Lorain a popular destination. Andrew Zagorsky quickly gained employment there as a car repairman with the B&O Railroad Company. Later, he switched to the Lake Terminal Railroad at the National Tube Company which had bought the Lorain Steel Company in 1902. He welcomed the opportunity to learn his new trade, and learn it well he did. Andrew stayed with Lake Terminal Railroad throughout the Great Depression and until his retirement.

Meanwhile, Josephine Szczepankiewicz's life in America began on July 2, 1907 when she made her way alone through the masses of immigrants who had arrived that day at Ellis Island. She had traveled on the passenger vessel, S.S. Statendam, which had departed from Rotterdam ten days earlier for its long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. Josephine's entry appears on Line No. 5 of the ship's manifest which lists the following: Name - Jozefa Szczepankiewicz, Age - 18, Marital status - single, Occupation - servant, Last residence - Kasimiro, Russia\*\*. Her ethnicity was "Russia Polish." Barely readable, the writing states that she was coming to live in Lorain, Ohio with her uncle. His name was Anthony Szczepankiewicz who worked as a laborer in the car shop of the National Tube Company.

The Szczepankiewicz household of Anthony, his wife, Victoria (nee Krokos) and their four small children had become noticeably more crowded after the arrival of his teenage niece. My Aunt Irene revealed to me that her mother's uncle, Anthony, and her father, Andrew, met through a connection with a co-worker at the National Tube Company. Did Anthony 'play cupid' so Josephine would find a husband and thus move her out of his house? I cannot prove he did, but if true, he was highly successful in the role!

Young Josephine quickly won Andrew's heart as he was said to be "quite smitten" with her after their first meeting. His marriage proposal to her came shortly afterward and Josephine accepted. The couple exchanged their wedding vows at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, a Polish parish, in Lorain on January 8, 1908; just six months after her arrival in America.

By today's standards, this might be considered an "arranged marriage", but for Andrew and Josephine the ensuing years proved theirs was a union meant to be.

Josephine's mother was still living in Poland. The identity of her father was, and remains to this day, unknown. Since birth, she had taken her mother's maiden name as her own surname.

When Josephine became Andrew's wife her isolated world as an only child of a single mother changed forever. Their first child, Joseph, was born in October of 1908. Their second son, Frank, was born on March 4, 1910. Anthony Szczepankiewicz was the child's godfather. Within a few years Josephine's mother, Antonina, left Poland to come and help with raising the fast growing Zagorsky family. She died in 1918, however, at age 56.

Andrew Zagorsky filed his first Declaration of Intention for citizenship on March 17, 1919, however seven years then passed and the record became invalid so he began the process again on January 3, 1935. Ultimately, Andrew took his Oath of Allegiance to become a naturalized American citizen on December 7, 1937. By then, though, the Austro-Hungarian Empire no longer existed. Aunt Irene vividly remembers her father expressing to her how important that day was in his life. Ironically, December 7 is also her birthday.

Yes, Andrew Zagorsky's life had come a long way in 30 years. He had good reason to feel pleased with his accomplishments, not the least of which was supporting a wife and eleven children. That became much

more difficult, however, as the Great Depression of the 1930's relentlessly dragged on. Lake Terminal Railroad reduced Andrew's schedule to a three day work week; yet he felt thankful because many friends of his were unemployed.

Andrew did not drive or own an automobile, but that fact mattered little to the younger children who eagerly waited for him to step off the Lorain Street Railway streetcar after work on his pay day. They knew their daddy would be bringing them candy!

The older children began working as they entered their teens and early 20s. Helen and Mary, the two oldest daughters, took jobs as dishwashers and cooks at the Park Restaurant and Antlers Hotel in Lorain. Joseph, the eldest son, began working as a drill press operator at the Thew Shovel Company. By the mid 1930's, Irene gained employment at a West Virginia tobacco factory and was joined by Virginia and Helen who found work at the Central Glass Factory in Wheeling. Whatever earnings the trio could spare were sent back home to help support the younger children still living with their parents. Unfortunately, this meant the girls had to move away from home and did not graduate from high school.

Josephine contributed to the family circle by sewing most of the children's clothes including their underwear. She was the household's shopper and known to 'drive a hard bargain' with the neighborhood merchants, many of whom were Polish Jews. While browsing at a haberdashery to buy a better suit for one of the younger sons, Josephine might find the prices were more than she could afford. If so, she abruptly took the little boy by the hand and led him out of the store. Mother and son did walk far down the street when the sales clerk bolted out of the doorway and pleaded: "Mrs. Zagorsky, please come back; let's talk about the price!" The shop owner knew there were more sons at her home, and he hoped she would return. Josephine cooked traditional Polish fare and made such dishes as dandelion soup that cost little money. She enjoyed crocheting and hardanger embroidery – when there was time.

Andrew and Josephine owned their modest three bedroom home at 2715 Apple Avenue in Lorain during the 1940's when their sons Floyd, Stanley, and Alex joined the U. S. Navy, and Edward entered the U. S. Army. Theresa, their youngest daughter, served in The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). Like millions of American families during WWII, the Zagorskys in Lorain fervently prayed and patiently waited for their loved ones in uniform to return home safely to them. All five did come back in good health after the war ended. Everyone was reunited, and the family photographs taken during this time prove how happy they were to be together again.

Andrew Zagorsky died at home on November 20, 1949 at age 68. His funeral was held at the family residence with religious services conducted at Holy Trinity Church in Lorain prior to his burial at Calvary Cemetery.

Josephine lived until June 7, 1960 with most of her children nearby in her final days. Andrew's railroad pension check of \$66.00 a month helped to provide for Josephine until her death. She never mastered speaking the English language but was said to have understood it quite well. Because the children had attended parochial schools at both St. Stanislaus (Polish) and Holy Trinity (Slovak) churches in Lorain, they had no trouble communicating with her.

Today, all of the Zagorsky children are deceased except for my Aunt Irene who has so warmheartedly shared many of her special childhood memories with me. Without them, I could not have come to understand and appreciate the sacrifices Andrew and Josephine made for each other and their children.

On June 10, 1960, Josephine was laid to rest by Andrew. In death as in life, she was together with her husband, and it was the last time he would have to wait for her to begin a new journey with him.



**The Andrew and Josephine Zagorsky family – about 1924  
Lorain, Ohio**

**Front Row - Left to Right:**

**Small girl standing at far left, Veronica Irene**

**Father – Andrew, boy standing between father and mother – Edward**

**Mother – Josephine, baby in her lap - Theresa, tallest daughter – Helen, Virginia Harriet,  
and Floyd standing at far right.**

**Back Row - Left to Right:**

**Girl with large bow in her hair - Mary Stella, Frank, and  
tallest boy in the back - Joseph.**



**The Andrew and Josephine Zagorsky family – about 1945  
Lorain, Ohio**

**Seated -Left to Right:**

**Mary Stella, Joseph, Father – Andrew, Mother – Josephine, Frank, and Helen**

**Back Row Standing - Left to Right:**

**Floyd, Stanley, Theresa, Veronica Irene, Virginia Harriet, Alex, and Edward**

### **Footnotes**

\*December 14, 1904 appears as the date of arrival on the National Archives microfilm information. Andrew Zagorsky's Declaration of Intention #10258 dated January 3, 1935, lists arrival date of December 14, 1904. However, The Ellis Island version of this ship's manifest has "15" penciled in between December and 1904.

\*\*Kasimiro most likely was Kazimierz Biskupi. On my mother's baptismal record at St. Stanislaus Church in Lorain, dated October 4, 1914, written in Latin: "Josepha Szczepankiewicz - "e loco Kazmierza, ? Kalisz Russia." Kazimierz Biskupi is about 50 to 60 km north of Kalisz.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to.....

of whom (which) I have heretofore been a subject (or citizen); that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: SO HELP ME GOD. In acknowledgment whereof I have herunto affixed my signature.

*Andrew Zagorsky*  
(Signature of petitioner)

Sworn to in open court, this 7 day of Dec A. D. 1937

M. E. AGATE, Clerk

By *Julius W. Scjwell*, Deputy Clerk.

NOTE—In renunciation of title or subject, add the following to the oath of allegiance before it is signed: "I further renounce the title of (give title or titles) an order of nobility, which I have heretofore held."

Petition granted: Line No. 4 of List No. 78 and Certificate No. 4100106 issued.

Petition denied: List No. \_\_\_\_\_

Petition continued (from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Reason \_\_\_\_\_)

under the name of \_\_\_\_\_ on the vessel Kaiser Wilhelm Der G

I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce state, or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the power of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States; I certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and to the original of this declaration is a true and correct likeness of me.

No 74561



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*Andrew Zagorsky*

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Top: Oath of Allegiance for Andrew Zagorsky to become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America.  
Bottom: Partial page of Andrew Zagorsky's second Declaration of Intention dated January 3, 1935 showing his photograph - Lorain County, Ohio.

## CZEPEK - MARRIAGE CAPS

By Cindy Spikowski

When Josephine Szczepankiewicz married Andrew Zagorsky on January 8, 1908 at The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Lorain, Ohio, she wore the beautiful wedding dress and veil that we see in their wedding photograph. Josephine probably made her own dress, since she was an accomplished seamstress. Although there is no photographic record, Josephine probably also had a czepek.

The most important of all Polish wedding customs was the *Oczepiny*, which occurs on the last night of the wedding celebration, and was observed by both the rich and the poor. The custom was also observed in Slovakia, where the czepek were called *Ciepec*. The *Oczepiny* was the removal of the bride's veil and the placement of the czepek her head, signifying that she was now a married woman. The czepek was usually a gift from the bride's godmother and after the wedding the new wife would wear it to church and to special folk festivals. Polish women were also buried wearing their czepek.

The style of these caps and their fabric and embellishments vary from region to region. Velvet, lace, satin, silk, brocade, damask, tulle or even simple homespun were fabrics used, and embellishments might include ribbons, embroidery, sequins and beads.

Sophie Hodorowicz Knab in a 2006 article in *Piecework* magazine states that:

"The marriage cap from the Zywiec region in southwest Poland was so densely embroidered with gold metal threads, sequins and glittery beads that the ground fabric was invisible". She also mentions that: "In the Kurpie region of northeastern Poland, the cap, of white tulle, was striking due to its simplicity."

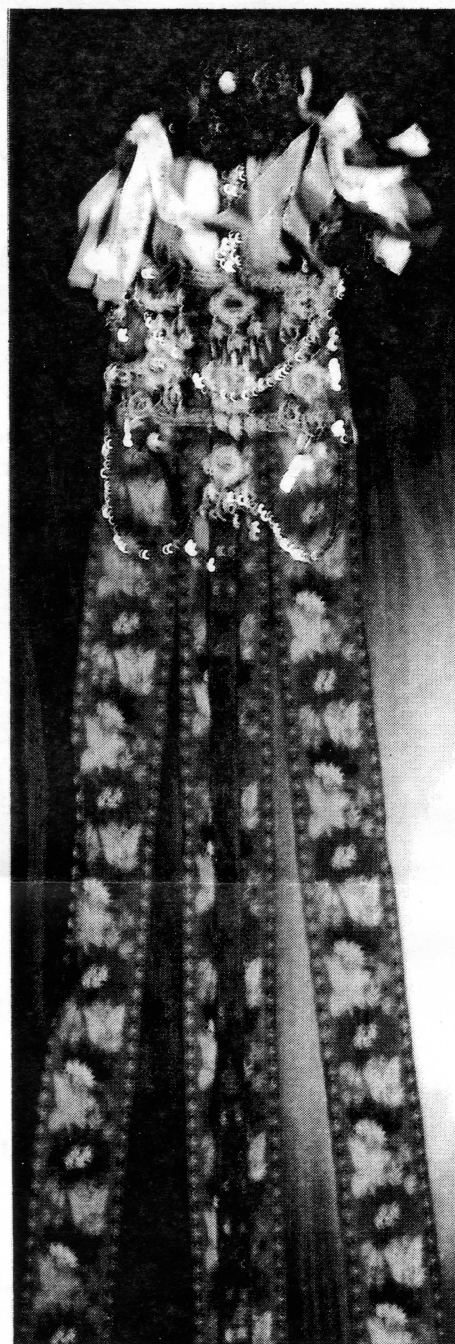
One can imagine that the godmothers spent a lot of time making these special caps and probably included personal and meaningful materials and embroideries. These caps marked a new stage in a woman's life.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. "Ciepec: Bridal Bonnet". Fraternally Yours, *Zenska Jednota*, April, 1994.

Knab, Sophie Hodorowicz. "The Marriage Cap of Poland." *Piecework*, XIV:3, May/June 2006.

Knab, Sophie Hodorowicz. *Polish Wedding Customs & Traditions*, New York: Hippocrene Books, 1997.



Wedding cap worn by Mary Foyta who married Martin Hadbavny about 1880 in Hrabkov, Slovakia near the Tatra Mountains a few miles southeast of Poland.

Courtesy of Gloria & Joe (grandson of Martin & Mary) Hadbavny.



## USING ALIEN REGISTRATION FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

An alien registration number (A-number) is a number assigned to a person as part of the Alien Registration Program or to a person who was not naturalized and can be a valuable genealogy resource for our immigrant ancestors. Your immigrant ancestor was required to register with a local court from 1802-1828. From 1929 to 1944 the laws governing alien registration changed; these records referred to as registry files. As of July 1, 1940, every alien resident (over the age of 14) was required to register at a post office. Aliens who were entering the United States registered when they applied for admission. Each alien filled out a two page form and received an Alien Registration Receipt Card. Aliens were required to carry the card at all times and notify Immigration and Naturalization Services of any address change within five days. If your ancestor was never naturalized or was a part of the Alien Registration Program, chances are he/she received an A-number. These registration forms can provide information about your ancestors' immigration, employment, military service, court records, arrests, club memberships and other activities. To learn more about Alien Registration Cards go to: [http://www.naturalizationrecords.com/usa/alien\\_reg.shtml](http://www.naturalizationrecords.com/usa/alien_reg.shtml)

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

## FREE online access to OHIO DEATH CERTIFICATES

As part of an ambitious indexing project, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has indexed and digitized the Ohio Death Certificates from Dec. 20, 1908-1953. This FREE resource may be accessed by visiting [www.familysearchlabs.org](http://www.familysearchlabs.org), clicking on the "Record Search" link and choosing "Ohio Deaths" from the list of records available. You will be able to search by the name of the deceased, as well as by the names of his or her spouse and parents.

The Akron Public Library Special Collections Division will continue to offer copies of these records for a minimal fee. For information about their research and correspondence services, please visit their web site at [www.akronlibrary.org/main-sc.html](http://www.akronlibrary.org/main-sc.html).

For information about the Family Search Indexing Project, visit [www.familysearchindexing.org](http://www.familysearchindexing.org).

An index to Ohio Death Certificates from 1913-1944 by partial name of deceased and optional county is online at <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/death//>, providing Volume and Certificate numbers to locate images on microfilm at the Akron and Cleveland Public Libraries, both of which have indices for 1908-1953 on microfilm.

## In Memory

With sadness we report the death of Ted Luty Sr. on August 7, 2008 and his wife Corrine on June 9, 2008. Ted is the brother of Chet Luty. Chet and his wife Virginia are founding members of the PGSGC. The obituary for Ted and Corrine Luty appeared in the August 10, 2008 *Plain Dealer*.

## Thank You

We would like to thank the following members who so generously supplied us the delicious bakery and goodies we have enjoyed this year:

Martha Bergman  
Joan Chermely  
Lucia Wicinski Dominak  
Joanna Gaba  
Bonnie Glance  
Joan Green  
Gloria Hadbavny  
Richarda Jambrozy  
Georgene Jasinski  
Louis Jurkiewicz  
Elaine Marec  
Connie Murphy  
Berni O'Malley  
Cindy & Ken Spikowski  
John Szuch  
Charlotte Welch  
Carole Zanath  
Connie Zelek

## Concerts at the Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus

See the beautiful Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus while enjoying Not-Your-Usual Holiday Concert, performed by City Music Cleveland on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 7:30 PM:

James Gaffigan, Music Director  
Jean Baptiste Lully: March of the Turks  
Giacchino Rossini: Overture to *Cinderella*  
Charles Gounod: Petite Symphonie Jean Sibelius: *Belshazzar's Feast*  
Ludwig van Beethoven: Turkish March from *The Ruins of Athens*  
Arcangelo Corelli: Christmas Concerto  
Franz Schubert: *Andantino* from *Rosamunde*  
Engelbert Humperdinck: *Knusperwaltzer* from *Hansel and Gretel*

Another concert will be on Friday, February 13, 2009 at 8:00 PM.

James Gaffigan, Music Director  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Divertimento and Symphony No.41 (Jupiter)  
Samuel Barber: Cello Concerto with Matt Haimovitz (cello)

This beautiful, historic church is located at 3649 East 65th Street in Cleveland's Slavic Village. Free will offering.

# What's Happening

## Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings--

January - Norm Davis, researcher for Cuyahoga County Archives, Lake County and past vice president of the Lake County Genealogy Society:

*Where Are They Hiding*

February - Jann Pflieger, affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints:

*How To Break Through Brick Walls*

March - Dr. Deborah Abbott, from Cleveland State University:

*Collateral Lines*

## Calling All Members -- PGSGC Website News

Click the Greater Cleveland Polish Neighborhoods link on <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/>.

Maps and places of interest are currently provided for:

Warszawa, Poznan, Krakowa, Kantowa, Barbarowa, Jackowa, and Berea.

## Membership Renewal

**Your membership expiration date is at the top of your mailing label. To renew your membership in the PGSGC, please pay the treasurer \$20 per year at a meeting or use the form below.**

.....Cut Along This Line.....

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover my membership dues for the year(s) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Mail to: PGSGC, 1901 Wexford Ave., Parma, OH 44134**

**Make checks payable to *Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland.***

**Thank you!**

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

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc>

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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 105 Pleasant View Dr., Seville, Ohio 44273	(330) 769-4603
Vice-President:	Ron Marec 3316 Elsmere Rd., Shaker Hts., Ohio 44120	(216) 752-5713
Treasurer:	Richarda Jambrozy 1492 Lewis Dr., Cleveland, Ohio 44107	(216) 226-1548
Secretary:	Sonia Chapnick 7897 Gildersleeve Circle, Kirtland, Ohio 44094	(440) 256-8392

Please submit all correspondence to: PGSGC Newsletter, c/o the return address above.  
e-mail address—[cspikowski@oh.rr.com](mailto:cspikowski@oh.rr.com)