

*Our Polish*  
**ANCESTORS**

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND  
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Corpus Christi Parish, August 15, 1935 - April 17, 2010, photo by Edward Mendyka

Corpus Christi parish began as a result of the efforts of a “Polish-speaking committee of Brooklyn” who petitioned Bishop Joseph Schrembs for a new parish. After much discussion, permission was granted in 1935 and the new parish was named for the Holy Eucharist in honor of the 7th National Eucharist Congress, which took place in Cleveland that year. At first, Mass was celebrated in the Pearl Road Recreation Center until a church could be built. The first Mass was celebrated in the church on Stickney Avenue on Christmas Eve, 1936, by the pastor, Father Anthony Orlemanski. When the congregation grew after the Second World War, a larger church was built on Pearl Road and was dedicated on November 21, 1954. This year would have been the 75th Anniversary of the founding of Corpus Christi Parish.



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1888 - May 2, 2010, photo by Ed Mendyka

On May 6, 1951, on the occasion of the dedication of the first permanent Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church, Bishop Edward F. Hoban read a special message from Pope Pius XII. He said that May 6th was “a day that has crowned the sacrifices and the years of toil not only of the present congregation but of the pioneer members whose great faith inspired them to make the many sacrifices needed to lay the foundation of this structure.”

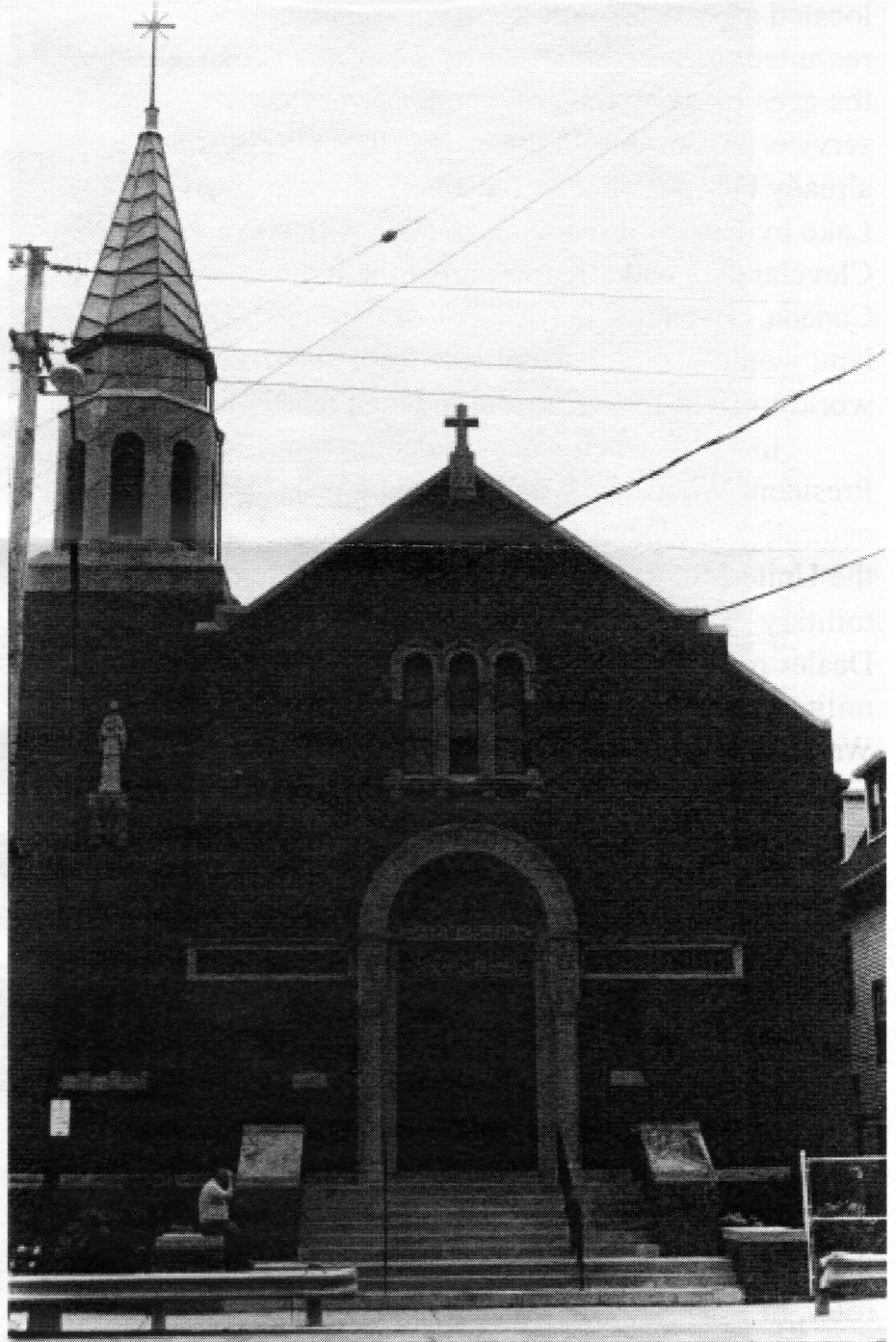
Sacred Heart of Jesus, the second-oldest Polish parish of Cleveland, began with the purchase of land in “the Orchard” on Marcelline Avenue (now East 71st Street) between Krakow and Kazimier Avenues. The first Mass in a frame church was celebrated on Christmas Day, 1889. By 1908, the parish had grown and a new church was needed. Construction began in 1908, but costs exceeded available funds and world events interferred - The Panic of 1907, the Depression of the 1930’s and two World Wars.

Finally, in June of 1949, the building of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church began on the foundation that had been laid in 1908. The parishoners who had attended Mass in a basement church for over forty years, would at last have a church of Briar Hill Stone, trimmed in Indiana limestone. The cost would be \$250,000.

On May 2, 2010, fifty-nine years after Bishop Edward F. Hoban read the special message from Pope Pius XII, the parishoners of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church attended the final Mass in their church.

In its 105 year history as a parish, St. Barbara's demonstrated a determination to continue, in spite of a fire and the construction to two major highways, which permanently altered the neighborhood. In 1905, the parish had used a firehouse for Mass, and after the 1916 fire, used a fraternal group's hall. At last, in 1952, the church we see today was built at Denison Avenue and West 15th street, overlooking the Steelyard Commons and route 176. The parishoners, rugged Polish workmen who toiled in the steel mills, rendering plants, tanneries, fertilizer factories, a wallpaper factory and a chemical plant raised \$250,000 to build the new church through festivals, donations and sacrifice. The church was of the Lombardic round arch style, built with dark red bricks and limestone trim. Halfway up the 65 ft. bell tower is the statue of the church's patron, St. Barbara. The school children raised the funds to purchase the stained glass window of St. Barbara, one of many beautiful windows in the church.

On Mother's Day, May 9, 2010 the bells of St. Barbara's called parishoners to Mass for the last time. Before it started, Bishop Lennon announced sadly that the last resident priest, Rev. Father Michael S. Dyrzcz, had been found dead. Father Dyrzcz had been retired for health reasons by Bishop Lennon in October 2007. His obituary appeared in the *Plain Dealer* for May 12-13 or online at <http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=michael-s-dyrzcz&pid=142694016>.



St. Barbara Parish, 1905 - 2010, photo by Edward Mendyka

# Clevelanders of Polish Birth to Fight Kaiser

by Cindy Spikowski

On December 20, 1917, on page 16 of the Cleveland Press was an article entitled "Clevelanders of Polish Birth to Fight Kaiser." There is a photograph of Lucjan Adamczak and Peter Wrobel, recruiters at the Polish Falcons Home, located at 7216 Broadway in Cleveland. The men recruited must be either under 21 or older than 31, the ages fixed by the government for selective service. According to the article, 10,000 Poles were already being trained at the camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake by British, French and Polish officers, and 250 Clevelanders had already joined the legion in Canada. Eventually, 1600 Polish men from Cleveland would join Polish patriots from all over the world to fight for a free and independent Poland.

In 1914, when war was declared in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation of neutrality. Polish Sokol (Falcon) organizations in the United States, however, conducted discreet military exercises, often disguised as picnics. The December 17, 1915 Cleveland Plain Dealer reported that United States government agents had discovered a fully-equipped military camp near Haverstraw, New York where Poles were being drilled for the European War. Cleveland attorney J. F. Sawicki deemed the reports "an exaggeration of actual conditions" and said that young Polish men were following "President Wilson's open appeal for national preparedness."

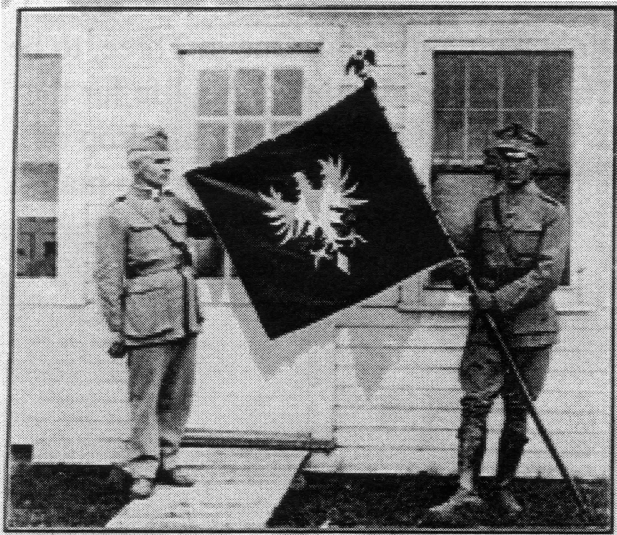
But conditions in Europe were getting worse as evidenced by a front page article of the Cleveland Plain Dealer on December 26, 1915 with the headline "Poland Now Land of Graves and Trenches." Since compulsory military service had been required of the Poles in Europe,

"It frequently happens when the Red Cross go out to collect the wounded from a battlefield, they lift from a heap one man in a German uniform, another in Austrian and a third in Russian, and discover that they are all---Poles"

At first, the Polish in America addressed the humanitarian needs of Poles in Europe. The Polish Central Rescue Committee provided financial and material resources to those in the "old country". The Polish in America, however, were anxious to play a more active role. In December, 1916, secret negotiations occurred between the Canadian War Office and the Polish Falcons of America. On January 3, 1917, twenty-three recruits from the United States arrived at the Canadian Officer Training School at the University of Toronto



Recruitment advertisement from  
*The Morning Star (Jutrzenka)*  
Rok XXVII Nr.27 July 1918



POLISH ARMY BANNER.  
SZTANDAR ARMIJ POLSKIEJ.  
BANNIERE DE L'ARMEE POLONAISE.

Photo Courtesy of the Niagara Historical Society & Museum

to be trained by Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur D'Orr Le Pan. French President Poincare signed a decree on June 4, 1917 which gave birth to a Polish Legion.

“All the future of a nation is wrapped up in the folds of your flags. The White Eagle can once more unfold its wings. It will soon float in the light of a sky once more serene and in the rays of victory.”

---French President Poincare

The Poles would form their own army, but be under the French Supreme Command.

On October 5, 1917 at the urging of Ignacy Paderewski, President Wilson, with the approval of Congress, signed a document per-

mitting Poles to form their own army. The army would train at Niagara-on-the-Lake and fight in France under General Józef Haller. The first recruits arrived from the United States on October 10, 1917. By November 27, 1917 the number of recruits had reached 4,279! The camp was called "The Tadeusz Kosciuszko Camp." Upon arriving at Niagara-on-the-Lake, the men found accommodations to be overcrowded. The four barrack buildings housed 300 soldiers each - more than 3,000 men were in the camp at any given time. Recruits slept in canneries, vacant barns and public buildings. Some local residents housed them free-of-charge. There were as many soldiers in town as residents. Privates received a uniform, 3 meals/day and a canvas cot. Their pay was 5 cents/day, which increased to 25 cents/day when they arrived at the front.

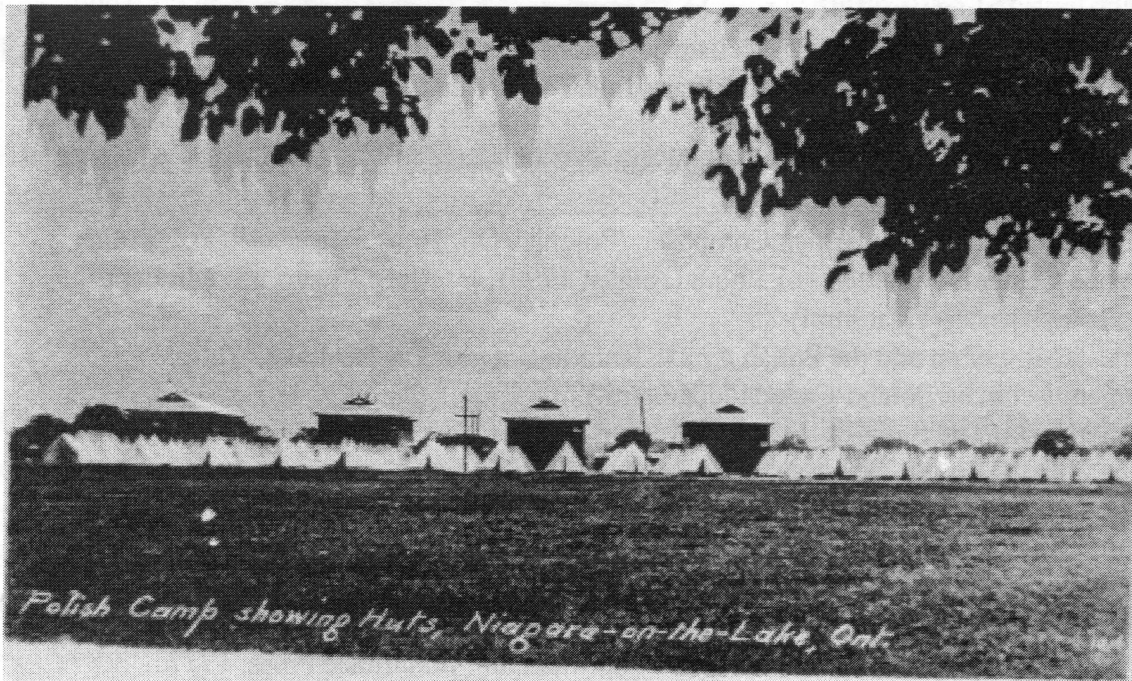


Photo Courtesy of the Niagara Historical Society & Museum

*Polish Camp showing Huts, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.*

They recited the following oath: "I swear before Almighty God, One in Three, to be faithful to my country Poland, one and indivisible, and to be ready to give my life for the holy cause of its unification and liberation. I swear to defend my flag to the last drop of my blood, to observe military discipline, to obey my leaders, and by my conduct to maintain the honor of the Polish soldier."

Every day, roll call included the name "Ignacy Paderewski." When his name was called, every man eagerly responded in tribute to the man who had worked so hard to raise awareness, money and support as well as an army for Poland. The men also sang "Hej, Orle biały" (Hey, White Eagle), the official hymn of the Polish Army in America, written by Paderewski.

Lieutenant Lucjan Adamczak, Peter Wrobel and others recruited Polish men from various cities in the United States. Of the 22,000 who trained at Niagara-on-the-Lake, only 150 were killed overseas and fewer than 1,000 were wounded. Twenty-five perished in the camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake as a result of the 1919 Spanish influenza pandemic.

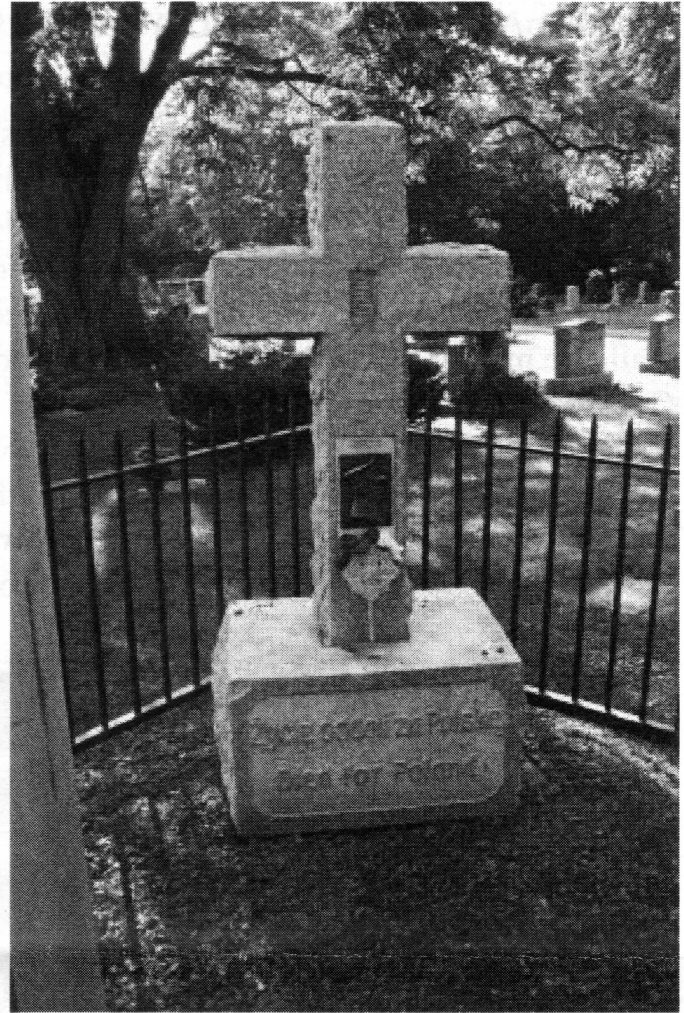


IGNACE PADEREWSKI AT THE POLISH ARMY CAMP

Photo Courtesy of the Niagara Historical Society & Museum

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A section of St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in Niagara-on-the-Lake that holds the graves of 25 Polish volunteer trainees who died from the flu epidemic before they could join their comrades in France. Every June, beginning in 1919, this graveyard has been the site of the annual *Pielgrzymka* to honor the members of Haller's Army who trained at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

An index to Haller's Army Enlistment Records for Cuyahoga County is available at <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc/transcribed%20records.htm> on the PGSGC website.

### **In Memory**

Christine L. Krosel, age 58, archivist for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and president of the Cleveland Chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators, passed away on April 24, 2010. Her obituary is available online at <http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=christine-l-krosel&pid=142311327>. It was in the *Plain Dealer* on April 28-30, and a larger article appeared May 7 on page B3.

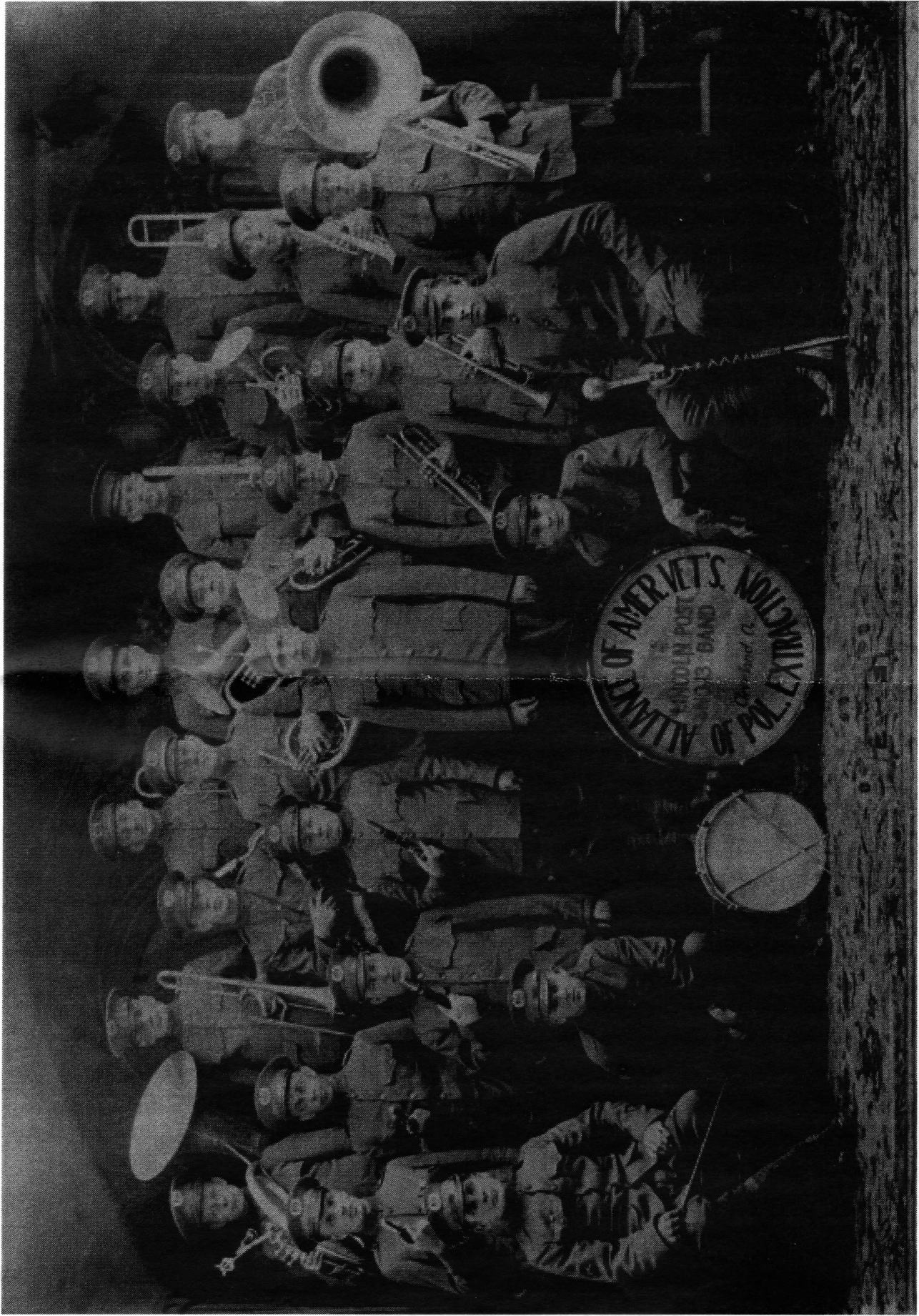
# Ohio's Kosciuszko Connection

by Georgene Jasinski

A trip to Columbus to visit our son inspired a search for the Thaddeus Kosciuszko marker. A librarian at the Dublin branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library gave us exact directions. On the east side of Riverside Drive (route 257) just south of the Columbus Zoo is the marker honoring the "Polish Patriot Thaddeus Kosciuszko." Placed there by the Franklin County (Ohio) Historical Society, next to a huge boulder surrounded by a stone wall, the marker indicates the northern boundary of the land given to General Kosciuszko by Congress as payment for his "services to the United States in the War of Revolution." Kosciuszko never visited the plot consisting of 500 acres adjacent to the Scioto River. The details of his contributions, which included the building of West Point, are detailed in the book *The Peasant Prince: Thaddeus Kosciuszko and the Era of Revolution* by Alex Storozynski. Our library has a signed copy of the book.







President John F. Szuch bought this picture on EBay. Can anyone recognize a relative or estimate when it was taken?

## Victims of the Nazi Regime -

### Database of Polish citizens repressed under the German Occupation

Main goal is to create a personal database containing all possible information about victims of the German repressions on Polish citizens during the Second World War.

The database includes: soldiers killed in action, imprisoned or died; prisoners of ghettos, labor and concentration camps; forced labor workers; resettled and deported; juvenile war victims; citizens murdered in pacifications or executions; civilians killed as a result of warfare; civilians forced to hide; people in whose case only the fact of repression can be stated (lacking any further information).

The database is owned by the State Treasury, represented by the Institute of National Remembrance.

It can contain a lot of personal information such as name, surname, place of birth/death, parent's names and facts about the "repression".

[www.straty.pl/index.php/en/project](http://www.straty.pl/index.php/en/project)

Sonia Chapnick noted the Polish site at the May 4 meeting and provided this description.

### CCPL Provides Free Access to Footnote from Home

In February I visited with the Polish Genealogy Society and talked about the Footnote database. Since that time Footnote has made a significant change. Cuyahoga County Public Library is now able to offer Footnote for home use to our customers. To search Footnote from your home follow these steps:

1. Go to the library's website at [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org)
2. Choose "Research" from the brown tool bar near the top of the page
3. Choose "Genealogy Research" from the menu
4. Click on "Premium Genealogy Electronic Resources"
5. Scroll down and click on "Footnote"

Some of the highlights for Cuyahoga County research are city directories, early birth returns 1867-1908, and some naturalizations.

You will need your library card and pin number to access this database. Check it out and let me know how you like it!

One of the biggest challenges in genealogy research is figuring out where to look for the documents your ancestors left behind. Polish genealogy research in particular is greatly affected by the number of changes the area has undergone. Understanding the many territorial changes in Poland's history will help your research be more effective and efficient. To gain a deeper knowledge of these changes I recommend the following Wikipedia site for a general knowledge of the changes back to the 1600's.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial\\_changes\\_of\\_Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_changes_of_Poland)

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

## Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

June - Amy Fellner, specialist in Eastern European genealogy

“Guidelines for Researching Polish Records at State Archives in Eastern Europe”

Sept. - Deneen Kassouf, supervisor of Public Outreach Department of the Office of the Cuyahoga County Recorder

“Property Deed Research and Services of the Public Outreach Department”

## Welcome--New Members--Witamy

Lawrence & Katherine Corridoni

CHABINKA, JAMBROZY, KSIAZEK, PEREK,  
TRACZYK, WORWA

Elizabeth Joy

BIHUN, FREJEW, GRODZINSKI (GRODY),  
HAWRYSCHEK, HIRIEN, KONOPINSKI,  
KRAJEWSKI, KRASOWSKI (KRAY), NOVAK,  
STRYZAKOWSKI (STRAUB), TROJANOWSKI  
(TRIONOFSKI, TROJINS), WOJNAROWSKI

## Letter from the President

by John F. Szuch

Our summer break (no meetings in July and August) gives us a chance to interact with our relatives. With the warm weather, there are usually weddings, picnics, and other family get-togethers where you will have an opportunity to bring up your interest in the family's genealogy. You can invite them to a Fall meeting, and also ask if any of them have any old family photos or documents you can copy.

Usually the best way to spark an interest on their part is to mention that while you were working on the family history you learned some tidbits about the family that they probably don't know. Such things as to exactly where in Poland their Polish ancestors were from, and when did they first arrived in the USA. These may now seem like common knowledge things to you, but to most relatives it will be a revelation! Such small sparks as these may light the fire to get them also interested in genealogy research.

I wish you all a safe and healthy Summer, and GOD willing, I will see you all in September. Remember, you are ALL in my prayers.

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>

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**OUR POLISH ANCESTORS**  
*W SZEŃKIE*  
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 \$25.00 a year.

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Vice-President:	Ron Marec 3316 Elsmere Rd., Shaker Hts., Ohio 44120	(216) 752-5713
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