

Our Polish ANCESTORS

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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Family History Lost and Found

By Lizz Pehotsky Dregne

It was May 2020 and the reality of the COVID pandemic had become painfully clear. With most businesses on stand-by and everything else closed, I started catching up on my genealogy work. I've been researching my ancestry since 1999, but even after all these years a brick wall remained standing between me and my paternal grandfather's family. I decided to use the open-ended stay-at-home directive as an opportunity to knock that wall down.

As for my ancestry, I knew their names from obituaries, census records and other legal documents. My ancestors immigrated from Kovno in 1873 and settled in Cleveland a few years later. My great-grandmother, Katherine Slavinski (b. 1864), married a Polish man who had immigrated from Germany, Frank X. Pehotsky (1861-1915). Katherine was a midwife who died in 1940. My grandfather, Milton W. (1899-1941), was an inventor who died young. Milton had five sisters and one brother who had long since left this earth, leaving no children behind to remember they were here. Milton's son James M. Pehotsky (1929-1978), my father, also died young. He passed when I was 10 years old, and what stories he might have known went with him. Because of all this, I didn't have any Polish-side family narratives to start with. No one left in my immediate family had ever met them.



Barbara Slavinskie ca. 1890s

I was working at my computer late one night when I received an email. It had come from an address I did not recognize with the subject line, "Barbara Slavinskie". I found it curious because Barbara Slavinskie was my great-grandmother's sister. My first thought as I clicked on it was, "Who could this be?"

"Dear Ms. Dregne," the letter began, "My name is Kazimierz Bem and I am the pastor of First Church in Marlborough United Church of Christ (UCC) in Massachusetts. I am also Polish by birth and nationality. "I am writing to you because I am preparing an article about your great-great aunt, Barbara Slavinskie (1875 – 1958). You may know that she was the pastor of the First Congregational Church in Shenandoah, PA." I did know this, but I did not have many details about her life there. "What

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Welcome

If you are not already a member of the PGSGC and would like to become one and receive this quarterly newsletter (cost is \$24.00 per year), please contact Michael Speare at pgsgc@yahoo.com for more information.

The Polish Genealogical Society





Letter from the President

It is only mid-year, and we see good things happening at the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland. We are at a three-year membership high with a total of 76 members as of the end of March. We added nine members since January 1, 2023 and sixteen since April 1, 2022. Continuing to make our Polish community aware of our presence, we exhibited at the Polish Constitution Day event in Parma. Additionally, Bernadette Berger, Ron Czarnecki, Lucia Dominak, and Kim Demor have been looking for ways to expand our social media presence.

Growth in membership aids our viability but as important is the interaction and learning that goes on at our meetings. Learning and sharing from each other is an important part of the value we bring to our membership. If you haven't made the effort to attend meetings in person, give it some thought. You will learn, share, and be inspired. It was heartening to hear about personal discoveries made by members at the May meeting. So many wonderful stories about discoveries beyond just vital dates. For those of us doing genealogical work, it is these stories that spur us on. So many would be Hollywood movie worthy. Make the effort to share these stories with family members.

It's been slow in coming but I trust by the time you read this summer will have arrived. It is often the time when we put our genealogy quests aside. Yet, summer can be a good time to attend some of the many Slavic festivals in Northeast Ohio and imbue yourself with great food and music. Visit the streets where your family lived and the cemeteries where your ancestors now rest.

In the Fall, we will be seeking nominations for our officer positions with the election to be held in November. Please consider volunteering to serve. The nominating committee is being led by Kim Demor (kimdemor@gmail.com). The PGSGC is only as strong as our members make it. Do you want to volunteer but are not up to an officer's role? There are several committees in need of members and others that could use additional help. Let our officers know what your talent or interests are and we will find a fulfilling role for you.

I wish you an enjoyable summer and look forward to meeting again in September.

Michael E. Speare, President

Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland

c/o St. Mary's PNC Church
1901 Wexford Ave.
Parma, Ohio 44134

<https://pgsgc.org>
www.facebook.com/groups/pgsgc



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Secretary:	Don Demor	(330) 437-5937	secretary@pgsgc.org



Family History Lost and Found continued from page 1.....

you may not know,” he continued, “is that as someone ordained in 1910, she is the first Polish woman ordained into a Christian ministry.” By contrast, Polish Presbyterians ordained their first woman almost a hundred years later in 2003.

My passion for genealogy runs deep and I was amazed and thrilled by what I was reading. Rev. Dr. Kazimierz Bem was a Polish historian, and his interest in my great-great aunt Barbara was academic. He planned to write an article to introduce her to those who were completely unaware of her existence. Kazimierz had found my information on Ancestry (my family tree was public). This was the first time a stranger had contacted me for information about any relative in my family tree. I was humbled by his request for research assistance, but I did not think I would prove very useful. I knew I could at least verify Barbara Slavinskie’s vital information, but unfortunately, I did not have any of her sermons, letters or other writings that he could use for his article. And yet, I was captivated by the story of Reverend Barbara Slavinskie. Kazimierz’ letter opened a new chapter of family history, and I was eager to unwrap this very special gift. “Kaz” helped me find more genealogical and archival resources than I could ever hope to read, and that brick wall came tumbling down. Working together, we uncovered artifacts long thought lost. Each discovery sparked a flurry of excited text messages between us. Despite my fears that I would not be useful, my knowledge of Barbara’s ancestry anchored her backstory and added greatly to his published work.

Rev. Bem published the findings about Barbara in the *The Bulletin*, a publication of the Congregational Literature and Archives which is the source of some of the information cited here. He points out that in the fifty years beginning in 1870, over 26 million immigrants came to America. These immigrants were mainly from southern, central, and eastern Europe with a mix of Catholic, Orthodox, and Jewish religions and, of course, didn’t speak English. Polish Americans presented a unique challenge as they were somewhat separated by their countries of allegiance, Russia, Austria, and Prussia due to the many years of foreign dominance. Protestant churches had previously been focusing on foreign missionary work but soon came to realize that the need was closer to home. In 1915, these groups were sponsoring over 400 domestic missionaries.

Thanks to this research experience and Kaz’s generosity in translating hand-written notes from my great-great grandmother Łukomski’s Polish prayer book, I uncovered records that surprise me to this day. Such discoveries unwrap the intriguing saga that was my family in the early 20th century. Barbara Slavinskie (1873 – 1954) was born in New York City, just days after her family first set foot on American soil. Both of Barbara’s parents were highly educated. In fact, her father, Theodore Alexseyvo Slavinski (1826 – 1907) was an ex-Orthodox priest who had fought alongside Grand Duke Constantine in the Polish Rebellion of 1864. Her mother, Esperance Nadzieja (1841 – 1905), was a noblewoman of the landed Polish family Łukomski. The events that led to their unlikely marriage and subsequent exile to America make a captivating tale for another time, but it directed Barbara’s life before she was even born.

The family moved to Cleveland in 1880, where there was already a sizable portion of Slavic immigrants. Barbara’s mother Esperance immersed herself in social work almost immediately and brought up her daughters to devote themselves to those struggling to adapt to the American way of life. Rev. Bem pointed out that although most Poles were loyal to the Roman Catholic church, the Slavinski family joined the Episcopal church in which Barbara was confirmed at the age of 12.

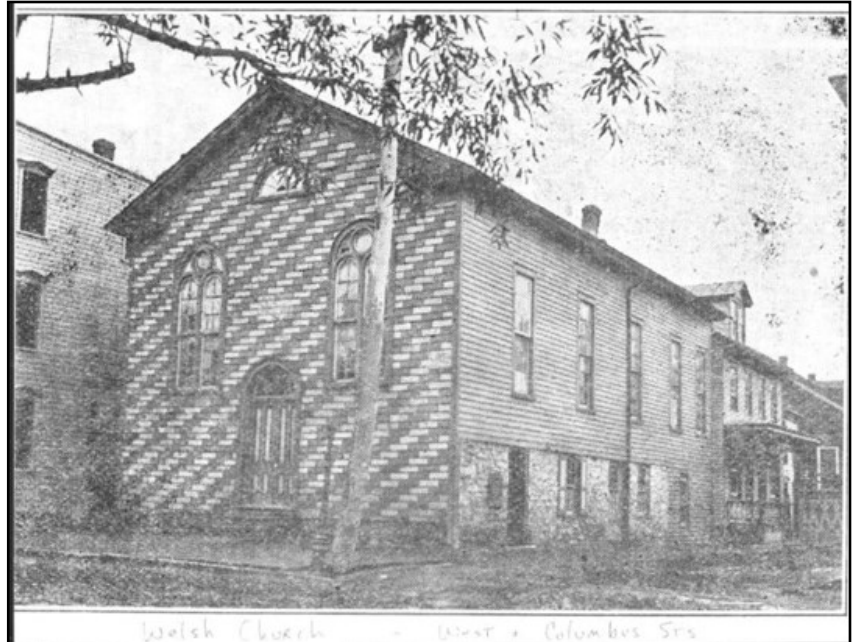
Barbara had long desired to become a foreign missionary when she met Reverend Henry A. Schauffler (1837-1905). Under his guidance, she became the first native Polish-speaking graduate of the Bethlehem Bible & Missionary Training School. Schauffler was a former American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions missionary to Istanbul. He had founded the Bethlehem Bible and Missionary Training School which was not an official seminary but offered its all-female students a three-year course in bible, parish and church work. The school became well-known within the Congregational Church and was often mentioned in articles in CHMS publications. However, graduates found few opportunities to use their education.



In time, Barbara was commissioned by the CHMS to become a missionary to Poles in Bay City, MI. A local conflict had broken out between the Polish priest and many parishioners in the Roman Catholic Polish Church. The opportunity for Christian missionary work among the faithful during the hostilities was a chance that neither CHMS nor Barbara wanted to pass up. The local congregation did not pay her, but she was supported by patrons and benefactors of the Mission school. Her initial success was tempered when a new priest was appointed that stemmed the defections from the Catholic parish.

Her dedication was recognized in 1908 when she was assigned to serve in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. It was a coal mining town where 36% of its residents were Polish immigrants. There she served as pastor, pastor's assistant, and church visitor all in one. Her congregation did grow and, in 1910, the Wyoming Association of Congregational Churches ordained her as a pastor making her the first Polish woman ordained into a Christian ministry in the United States.

Even in 1919, she was one of only 67 female pastors out of 5,695 ordained Congregational ministers in the US. The challenge of ministering to the Polish immigrant miners, and their families who lived there, seemed insurmountable. Their needs were not just spiritual. The men were physically exhausted from working in the mines all week, and their wives just as exhausted from their daily tasks of cooking, cleaning, washing, and raising the children. Those who had neglected church and their spirituality since coming to America began to feel indifferent about attending weekly sermons. Without the hope and inspiration of the community, the entire family unit strained to keep from breaking apart. To these families, Barbara brought her faith and personal support. Along with her pastoral duties Barbara taught cooking, sewing and homemaking. She worked hard to establish support between the local community and church. What a whirlwind she must have been.



First Congregational Church in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania

Reverend Barbara did meet with early success in growing her church, but changing times were coming. Ethnic group assimilation into American society, along with changing priorities and values within the Congregational network, stagnated the missionary efforts focused on just a few years hence. Add the declining number of coal mines with the subsequent loss of population and the depression of the 1930s, this left little opportunity for an aging female pastor. New opportunities for ministry did not become available beyond Shenandoah where Barbara spent 42 of her 55 years in ministry work. In 1957, the Bethlehem Bible School graduated its last class. The organizations that formed her life were passing away. In retirement, she returned to Ohio to live with her niece, Ruth Pehotsky-Friend (1885-1965), in Huron. Reverend Barbara Slavinskie died on September 5, 1958, and was buried at Riverside Cemetery in Cleveland. There was no marker on her grave.

Barbara Slavinskie offered an inspirational example of someone dedicated to their faith in God and focused on bringing that message to the Polish people in America. She was a trailblazer for women in a vocation dominated by men. She accomplished in 1909 what has just recently come to so many Protestant denominations. The story of her history and life was introduced to the world through the writings of Dr. Rev. Kazimierz Bem, and her amazing story forever remains cherished by me, her great-grandniece.



Remember When: The Eighth Grade Finale (May Crowning, the School Picnic & Graduation Day)

By John Prokop

I remember when “May Crownings” were very big and important school, church and parish events, especially for the eighth grade class. It was something looked forward to because it was one of those life-changing milestone events that indicated you were growing up and moving on from middle school to high school. It was a sort of “coming of age” event of leaving behind childhood and entering adolescence where you were given more responsibility and expected to act more grown up. The “Eight Grade Finale” started with May Crowning on May 1st, followed with the last school picnic at Geauga Lake Park and ended with Graduation Day.

May Crowning was a combination of a beauty pageant and popularity contest with the task of identifying the one Eighth Grade girl who exemplified the behavior of the ideal Catholic Girl who did all the right things the right way. The selection was made by a vote of her fellow students. The voting took place during the last week in April, on a Friday afternoon, when all the Eighth Grade girls walked into the each classroom all dressed up and holding a placard at their waist with their name on it. They walked into the room, lined up in the front and along the sides, and every eligible voting student was given a ballot to cast their vote. It was like voting for our very own “Polish American Girl Idol” candidate!



Many times I remember voting for the Eighth Grade girl who I had an undeniable crush on. It was a secret how I felt about her and the only way I could express those feelings was to vote for that special girl. Sometimes my vote was conflicted, especially when I had the same feelings for more than one girl. The result of the election was announced over the Public Address (P.A.) System by naming the May Queen and the runner-ups. Everyone welcomed, applauded and celebrated, the results of this election.

On the day of May Crowning, the May Queen looked radiant and beautiful and would be bestowed lifelong recognition for her new found fame. Following the May Crowning event, there was always a dance and reception for the Eighth Grade Class, usually in the school hall, cafeteria, or at someone’s nearby home.



The School Picnic at Geauga Lake Park was an event enjoyed by everyone. It included all the students, many parents as chaperones, and, of course, our teachers, nuns and sometimes parish priests. The bus ride seemed like an eternity and we sang every song we knew going there and sometimes coming back. We had the park and grounds pretty much to ourselves, except for maybe another grade school group or two, because it was during the week. It wasn’t really crowded so we didn’t have to wait too long in lines to ride the attractions. It was always fun to watch people get sick on the



“Dutch Shoes,” laugh and scream on the “Bug” and see who went in the “Laff In The Dark,” together! The test in the dark would be “who didn’t kiss and tell.” I, of course, never told, as my lips were sealed just like they say in Las Vegas. What happened on that ride, stayed on that ride!

The 7th and 8th Grade nuns were frequently patrolling the “Laff In The Dark” ride all afternoon long. I was sure they were tabulating who was riding that ride, how many times they rode, and who they were riding it with! The nuns’ mere presence and stares were like saying to you, “don’t let this ride be a new occasion of sin!” What could possibly go wrong with holding hands or sneaking in a quick smooch in the dark?

Graduation Day was the main event which completed your years at St, Casimir School and it called for dressing in our best clothes, suits for the boys and fancy dresses for the girls. We knew how to put forth our best behavior and manners to impress our families, friends, nuns and teachers. We donned our caps and gowns, for the second time (remember Kindergarten caps and gowns) and following mass we went into the school hall for a graduation program and celebration. If your class was lucky, a mimeographed class graduation booklet was compiled which contained and captured class mementos and memorabilia of that final year you spent at St. Casimir School.

After the church and school celebrations, you went home for a family one, which included a feast of food, gifts and a cake. The journey was long and hard, but you completed all your requirements to move on to your next challenge and that next road you had to travel would seem much harder and longer. However, because it was your Graduation Day, you took a bow, congratulated yourself, and basked in the glory of your accomplishment!



John A. Prokop is a freelance writer and has published articles about growing up on Cleveland’s East Side Polish neighborhood (Poznan) in the 1950s and 1960s. He attended St. Casimir Grade School (Class of 1962) and then Cathedral Latin High School (Class of 1966). He is also the Prokop Family Historian and Genealogist and has studied Genealogy for about 5 years. John tries to capture and record his feelings of the times, culture, food, religion, people and relationships, as he perceived and lived them. He also chronicles personal information about his family genealogy, which is often rarely recorded or documented. John currently is retired and lives in St. Petersburg, Florida with his wife, Laura, and their two married daughters, Holly and her husband, Hamlet, and Jennifer and her husband, Robert. John and Laura are also the proud grandparents of Jennifer and Robert’s son, Robby.

Welcome — New Member — Witamy

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Ron Czarnecki | North Royalton, OH |
| Patricia Czarnecki | North Royalton. OH |
| Lizz Dregne | Brooklyn, OH |
| Mary Ann Jaworske | Lutz, FL |
| Beirne Konarski | Fairlawn, OH |
| Thomas & Natalie Kaschalk | Seven Hills, OH |
| Kimberly & Darren Kemp | Massillon, OH |
| Kathy Lamancusa | Columbus, OH |
| Irene & Emile Mechail | Mentor, OH |
| Michael & Denise Mierzwa | Brunswick, OH |
| Melanie & Reuben Miguel | Medina, OH |
| Julie Minkunas | Seven Hills, OH |
| Francis & Gary Motz | Streetsboro, OH |
| James Polaczynski | Parma, OH |
| Ingrid & Bob Sledz | Rocky River, OH |
| Dennis Yarmesch | Garfield Heights, OH |

See the PGSGC website for the most up-to-date list of surnames being researched by our members.



Bisko, A Memory of My Grandfather

By Michael Speare

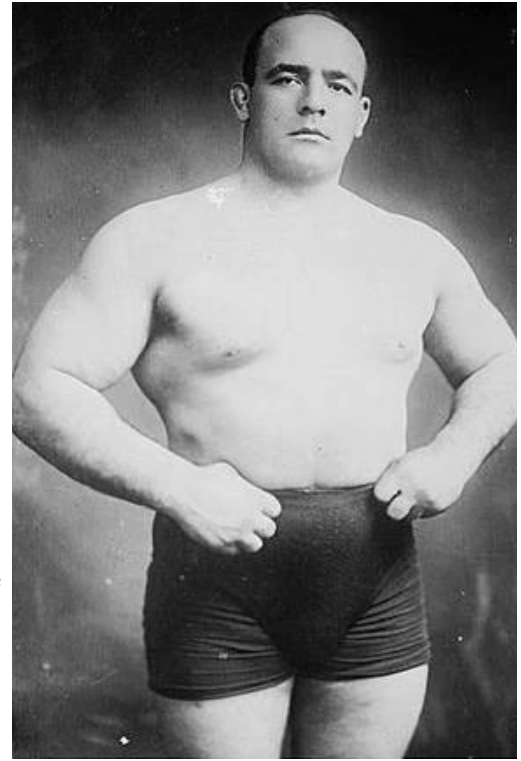
My grandfather immigrated to the United States in 1910 and, initially, worked in the coal mines of eastern Pennsylvania. He was a short (5' 5") man but powerfully built. He was very strong and proud of it. I remember many of his friends from the coal mining days spoke of examples of that strength. He eventually left the coal mines of Pennsylvania to become a carpenter in Detroit. I watched him help my father put an addition on our home and carry 2X10s up the ladder to form the roof. Only many years later did I realize that he was in his 60s at the time. One of my recollections of him was how he would jam an 8 or 10 penny nail with his bare hand and then finish the job with one of two blows of the hammer.

He was quick to notice any signs of strength in his grandchildren. If one of them lifted or pushed something heavy, he would say "another bisko". I never gave that much thought at the time but many years later I came to wonder; "What the heck is a bisko?" Eventually, I came to know that "bisko" referred to two brother wrestlers famous in the 1920s and 1930s. They were born Stanislaus (1879-1967) and Wladek (1891-1968) Cyganiewicz. They adopted the name Zbyszko given to Stanislaus as a child because of his bravery. It is said the name comes from a fictional medieval knight in the novel "The Knights of the Cross."

Stanislaus and Wladek were professional wrestlers in a time when wrestling was actually wrestling. They practiced the art of Greco-Roman wrestling which survives today as an Olympic sport and is based on wrestling primarily with the upper body. Each brother held the general title of World or American champion at least once in their careers. These brothers and others barnstormed the country holding matches with local champions and other professional wrestlers in their group. In a time before television, these were big events when they came to town. These groups toured the United States, Canada, Europe, and even South America. Over time, wrestling degenerated into the staged matches seen in today's WWF spectacles. Stanislaus resisted this movement but the change was inevitable as purses and attendance grew. In one of his last matches, he was said to have grappled before 60,000 fans. He eventually played the role of a wrestler in the 1949 movie "Night and the City."

So the mystery was solved about the word "bisko", but why did my grandfather and some of his friends so often use that "bisko" phrase when none of them seemed interested in wrestling or sports in general? My theory is that new immigrants, like many ethnic groups before them, tried to adapt and fit in their new country. These famous brothers, at the time, were in the news. They became a source of Polish pride. They showed they could "hold their own" in the new country at a time when ridicule of foreign accents and strange customs was common.

Wrestling and their strength were skills that they could easily appreciate. I know there are many other Poles who contributed much to the United States over the years but for my grandfather and some of his friends the Zybszko brothers were special.



Stanislaus Zybszko
Courtesy of Pro Wrestling Fandom



Libraries, a Good Source of Genealogical Information

By Kim Demor

Libraries are a great source for help and information when pursuing your genealogy questions. Libraries all over the country may have the resources you seek. Some libraries have genealogy departments, such as Fairview Park, Akron Library Main branch and Cleveland Public Library (there are a few locations). The genealogy specialists can help you find what you are looking for. Every library is different as to what sources they offer but most of their reference material is about their area. They may also have specific sources pertaining to other counties or states such as Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York.

Many libraries have access to subscription sites such as Ancestry, Fold 3, American Ancestors, etc. that you may be able to access from their computers. One of the best things about libraries, besides the help from the genealogical librarians, is the undigitized resources that they may have in their collections. Manuscripts, maps, private letters, books, microfilm, and newspapers, are just a few items you may not find anywhere else. You will have to search their websites to see what they offer.



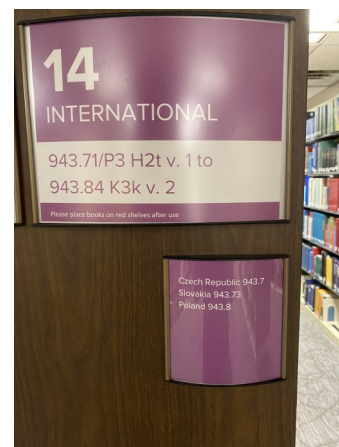
Libraries, like historical and genealogical societies, offer genealogy programs that may show you how to use a particular website or resource. Some libraries offer “lock-ins,” times that groups of genealogists can get together to help each other or just spend time researching their own family histories, knowing help is a few steps away.

You can reach out to the libraries that are located in the counties where your ancestors lived. When contacting a library, ask them what other libraries might have information. In Pennsylvania, for example, every library has a “Pennsylvania Room” that has information about the area they are located in and may have family information. The libraries in the small towns may have information the main library does not. In one small town library, I found the list of people who attended the local church. From this list, I found how my 2x great-grandparents knew each other. Their families were both listed on the roster even though they lived several miles apart. During this time period there were no cars, people walked or traveled by horse and buggy.

There are a few nationally known libraries for genealogy that have a wealth of information. The websites are pretty extensive. Some offer webinars and may be able to help you over the phone. Once you have visited local libraries, reaching out to one of these nationally known libraries may help you. This would be especially helpful if your family did not originate in your local area or they moved around.

Here is a list of nationally known libraries you may want to look at.

- **Library of Congress** (Washington DC) <https://www.loc.gov/>
- **The DAR Library** (Washington DC) <https://www.dar.org/library>
- **The Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library** (Fort Wayne, IN) <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>
- **Family History Library** (Salt Lake City, UT) <https://www.familysearch.org>





How to Use the Necrology Files at Cleveland Public Library

By Ben Kman

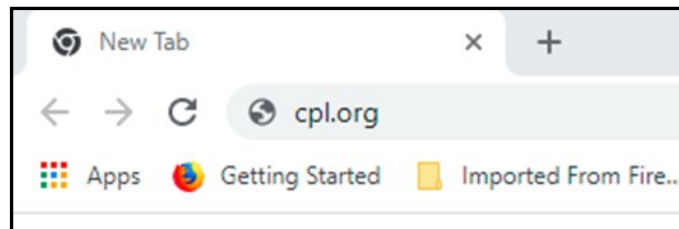
Even though most newer obituaries and death notices are posted by funeral homes online now, the older ones that only appeared in print in newspapers are generally difficult to access. However, the Cleveland Public Library has a very useful tool for genealogists with family in Cleveland. It's the Necrology Files database.

The database contains the following information:

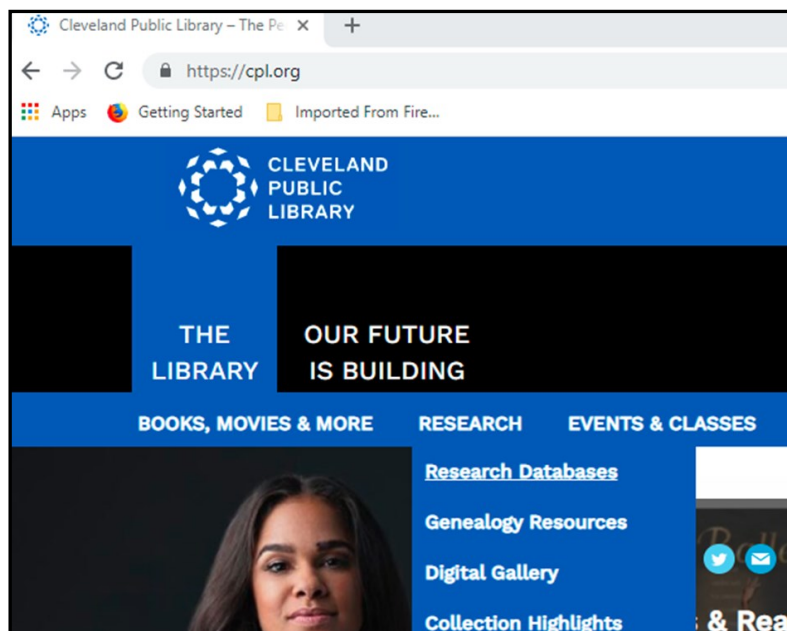
- The Cleveland Plain Dealer (1850-1975)
- The Cleveland Herald (1833, 1847-1848, 1876, 1878-1879)
- The Cleveland Press (1941-1975)

It is not complete. Despite that, it is still a very useful tool. Here is a short tutorial on how to access and use it.

1. Enter CPL.org in your internet browser address bar then hit enter.



2. Place your mouse over "Research" to open an drop down menu.





3. Click on “Genealogy Resources.”
4. Scroll down to “Death Notices & Death Certificates.”

Guide to Genealogy Resources & Records at Cleveland Public Library (CPL) and in Cuyahoga County

- [Old & New Street Numbers: A Guide to Cleveland's 1905 Plan for New Street Names and Address Numbers](#)

Death Notices & Death Certificates

- [How to Obtain Cleveland Death Notices \(1830s to date\) and Ohio Death Certificates \(1908-1953\) from CPL](#)
- [Cleveland Necrology File & News Index](#)

5. Click on the link “Cleveland Necrology File & News Index.”
6. Enter a surname of interest or a surname and a given name (e.g. Ben Kman) into the search window and click SEARCH (hopefully you don't find me....)

The Cleveland Necrology File and News Index

Select a source for your search:

Necrology File and News Index
 Necrology File only
 News Index only

SEARCH Q

7. A list of names should appear. If several people with the same name are listed, you will need to click through each result to find your target person. Please note, if that name appears in someone else's obituary, the obituary for that other person will be included in the list of results. This can be helpful with finding collateral family members. With less common surnames, it can be valuable to look through all the results. Please be aware that the spelling of many of the names has been butchered and you may need to try different spelling variations for your relative.

Results for oust:

- [Brocco, Maria \(Bosso\)](#)
- [Burda, Paul](#)
- [Dorow, Carl H.](#)
- [Miller, Sophia E.](#)
- [Oust, Dominic](#)
- [Oust, Josephine F](#)
- [Oust, Mary \(Urso\)](#)
- [Oust, Nick J](#)
- [Oust, Tony](#)
- [Tenebria, Benedetto](#)
- [Tenebria, Mary](#)
- [Yodice, Loretta L.](#)



8. If the full obituary is not provided, for example:

Title: Oust, Josephine F: Wife Of Nick J-obit
Date: 1997-03-16
Source: Plain Dealer
Notes: pg. 9 sec. B

According to the library's website, they offer a couple of options.

- a. To request a digital scan of this death notice or news article, email the Center for Local & Global History at clgh@cpl.org and provide the citation information provided above or complete the News Index and Necrology File form providing the citation information. Scans of the newspaper articles, including death notices, will be sent as PDFs unless otherwise requested. You can request up to three digital scans of newspaper items per day.
- b. You can also access Cleveland newspaper microfilm at the Center for Local & Global History during regular Library hours.

If you have a Cleveland Public Library Card, you can use the Plain Dealer Historical database to access full-text copies of the Plain Dealer from 1845 to 1991. Happy hunting!

Newsletter Submissions

The due dates for article submission and consideration for *Our Polish Ancestors* are the 15th of the month before newsletter publication. These dates are February 15th, May 15th, August 15, and November 15th.

Articles, with or without images, need to be complete and submitted as MS Word or PDF documents to be considered for publication at the discretion of the PGSGC Newsletter Editor or PGSGC President. An article may be published in the next newsletter, however, due to space constraints and other factors, articles may be held for a future newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding article submission and whether your topic is appropriate for publication in our newsletter, please contact Trina Galauner (galauner@yahoo.com) or Michael Speare (president@pgsgc.org).



Schedule of Presentations for Upcoming Meetings

Sep: ***Sanborn Fire Maps***
Don Demor

Oct: ***St. Adalbert's 150th Anniversary***
Dennis Kushlak

Nov ***Annual Holiday Party***
Food, food, food!

Dec: ***DNA for Dummies: Practical, Non-Technical Tips for Dealing with DNA Matches***
Ben Kman

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



**Polish Genealogical Society of
Greater Cleveland**

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Visit us on the web at:
<https://pgsgc.org>

Please submit all correspondence to:
PGSGC Newsletter
c/o the return address above

About Us

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month (except July and August) at St. Mary's PNC Church parish hall, 5375 Broadview Rd., Parma, Ohio. We have summer break in July and August. St. Mary's is located on the corner of Broadview Rd. and Wexford Ave. in Parma, Ohio. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are usually over by 9:00 PM. There is ample parking in the parish parking lot. The entrance is on Marietta Ave. Membership dues are \$24.00 per calendar year.

At many of our meetings, we have guest speakers who address the group on subjects in which we have an interest. The subjects may include genealogical matters, Polish history, heritage and traditions. When we do not have a guest speaker, we have "**Show and Tell**" nights when fellow members discuss their genealogical problems, ask for advice from anyone with a similar problem, tell us of their discoveries, or let us know what they've learned about their ancestors.

Our group maintains a library which is a popular resource our members enjoy. It contains various books, maps, pamphlets and newsletters from other genealogical groups. Materials can be borrowed from the library for a period of one month. We employ the honor system with regard to borrowing of books and other related materials.

We also keep a surname research list. This list includes the surnames of our ancestors which our active members are researching. In the past, members have discovered that they were investigating names that other members were also researching.

We publish a quarterly twelve page newsletter entitled, *Our Polish Ancestors*. Articles for the newsletter are selected that are of interest to our membership. Many are based on materials gathered from the many fine research facilities in and around the Greater Cleveland area, such as: The Cleveland Public Library, The Western Reserve Historical Society, The Cuyahoga County Archives, The Family History Centers and the many Polish-American churches in this part of northern Ohio. Articles written by our membership are always welcome.