

SEARCHERS

Polish Genealogical Society
of Western New York
Buffalo, New York

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS OF THE
POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK
Dedicated to Polish American Family Research

"Preserving Our Past" since 1988

No. 9 June 1993



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Buffalo, New York

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HAPPY 5th BIRTHDAY

It does not feel like five years since our Society became involved in the ancestral-finding hobby called genealogy. The original officers were involved in all phases from correspondence to public relations to setting up speakers for the monthly meetings.

I personally have noticed present members that did not have any knowledge of their ancestors' village, now appear at meetings carrying several of our designer binders titled "MY ROOTS ARE IN POLAND".

As I scan the roster, I notice that there is room for expansion and recognition. The list includes a lot of members who first appeared at the original meeting and should be congratulated for "Hanging in there".

The expansion part should include more information at each meeting as to what more can be available to us. Genealogy is fun, so meeting should be in the same vein.

As the Editor, I have seen this journal rise from a one-man operation to the present situation where "everyone wants to get into the act". This makes me feel proud. Some members did not know that with a little coaxing they have become assistant editors. Well, they can't say I didn't help them when they begin writing their family histories. I wonder how many of them will include me in their memoirs?

For those members who feel that little has been accomplished, all I can say is: "Your time will come". No one has achieved much by attending one meeting and sitting alone. The help is there and if you can't find us, eventually we will find you.

MEETINGS

Location: Villa Maria College (Cafeteria)
240 Pine Ridge Road
Cheektowaga, New York 14211

Day: 2nd Thursday
of each month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Dates:

July 8, 1993 (Picnic in Park)
August 12, " in cafeteria
September 9, " " " "
October 14, " " " "
November 11, " Nomination of Officers
December 9, 1993 Election of Officers

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Dues are payable to Society Treasurer.
Pay earlyAvoid complications.
Fiscal Year is from January to December.
Dues accepted from January to April.
Treasurer also accepts donations.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the June 10, 1993, meeting, an amendment was accepted by three-fourths of the attending members to have five members appointed to comprise a Board of Directors. The following have been chosen to have general supervision of all the interests of this Society:

Antoinette Grote: she enrolled several years ago and has shown an interest in updating our library donations and office supplies. She has served on several committees through the years and is a welcomed addition to our staff of officers.

Ed Potera: Ed is a charter member of our organization and has shown us his skills, particularly "Crowd Control". Ed has served on several committees the last five years: picnic, election, clean-up, nomination, new location and information handouts.

Ed Bialoglowicz: Although he joined only three years ago, Ed is always ready and willing to assist those that need help in their research. He has served on several committees such as: picnic, handouts, attendance awards, and most recently, along with his lovely wife, Laurie, were contributing editors about their adventures on Ellis Island. Ed also served on that committee and played an important part by preserving that tour on film.

Mike Drabik: Besides being the Founder of our organization, it is only proper that Mike be in a position to see that all aspects of the Society are taken care of. Mike played a big role in the early years, by seeing that each meeting was of some value to all members. He contacted speakers and made sure the smallest detail was not overlooked. We call them committees but Mike saw them as duties, did them, and made us stronger as this Society is the only one of its kind in Western New York.

Ted Smardz: What else can be said about this member. A charter member since 1988, Ted has been involved in all aspects of our Society. He created the newsletter, logo, sweatshirts, handbags, binders, awards and what else?

WHAT I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

by Ed Prabucki

As my brother's family and mine dined one summery evening at the Polish Villa Restaurant in 1990, my brother, aware of my frustrations in my research for the last resting place of our brother, Bernard, - lost over Keil, Germany in World War 11, acted with moderate influence to motivate me into a different direction. He recommended the Polish Genealogical Society to **work** not only on our family research but also of our Uncle Frank Prabucki, lost to the winds of World War 1.

Though I was strongly averse to more frustrations, I accepted his counsel and exerted my next efforts by being a guest at the Society's next meeting, held at that time, at the Reinstein Public Library.

As aspirin is the medicine for a headache - in due time I became aware that family research is the medicine to boredom. However, I must say my wife, Rita, came to measure family research by the same standards as many others do of sports. In regard to sports - though the presence of frustrations is there - I am of the opinion that Genealogical Research surpasses every sport, every activity in its exhilaration, in its excitement to the sight of one's surname in the Civil or Church's records from ages past but much more it imparts a profound meaning to our lives.

This leads me to an incident that occurred one evening while I was present at the Mormon Library. As this party arrived, he began browsing from one shelf after another - a female clerk observing this, approached him offering assistance. His next remark, I regard as one taken from the context of Amos and Andy's stage show from the burst of laughter it produced. Obviously his desires were of the same design as any other family researcher however he asked for the prison records of the last Century, claiming his **past** resource is in prison records, for it was there his relatives spent most of their lives. Needless to say, none were found in the Civil or Church records that were available.

Later, I did become cognizant of the fact that prisons do keep records of all inmates, for Centuries. If this party, as I had witnessed, with a troublesome unassuming, unacceptable family considered it acceptable to seek its past history, I can only say I recommend a family research for everyone, if for no other reason than that it offers a pleasant contentment, a gratifying compensation for their exerted efforts.

Fortunately, more often than not, I was justified in my long and enduring search of my family's history - much thanks must be given to my ancestral family in being active in the Civil and Church affairs allowing them to record every Birth, every Marriage, every Death in explicit detail.

It would be remiss on my part if I didn't credit the diligent members of our Society that offered me help with their characteristic knowledge on that subject. To name a few: Ted Smardz, Mike Drabik, Joe Kryniski, Laurel Keough, Helen Skarbek, Dr. Bob Pantera, Ted Myers, and Lynn Mycek are some I know by name.

To those that never attempted Genealogical Research - though disappointments may prevail - I say don't deny yourself this activity. In ones initial efforts hopes might be unfulfilled but in persistence I am certain it can be fulfilled. If one is lost and taxed in desire, change course and occupy yourself with dedication for it is in this persistence a profound meaning will come to ones life.

Notwithstanding the fact that I had attained so much of my personal family history that dates back to the early 17th Century, I may never find

the answers of the last moments of the lives of my brother, Bernard, and my Uncle Frank Prabucki. However, it is with a sense of personal convictions that I feel I had made attempts.

Who is there that can say, he has answers to everything?

* * * * *

ELLIS ISLAND RECALLED

by Rita Prabucki

First of all I must bestow credit where credit is due and my thanks goes to the Polish Genealogical Society, for it has stirred my concern - has illuminated my dormant interest but much more enlightened me on the cultures of my forefathers - cultures dedicated to the strong moral fibres of faith.

So as Julius Caesar once said - "I came, I saw and I conquered" so on the weekend of April 24-26, 1992, the members of the Polish Genealogical Society, they came, they saw and they conquered, some of the past of our grandparents arrival to an unknown land - a land with a questionable future, in times of uncertainty in Europe but much more very emotional since many arrived here without any relatives.

Needless to say, this trip opened to many of us a window of opportunity as we would walk on the same ground that our venturesome ancestors did, a trip undeniably of strong emotions. As we arrived at the Day's Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey, we did not catch our second wind - when our group was advised to dress for a dinner-cruise up the Hudson River. The excitement, the adrenalin became evident as we moved deliberately in the proximity of the Statue of Liberty. On deck, we sat with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Nowak, to enjoy a sumptuous dinner that included a Floor Show by dedicated and exceptional performers that doubled up as waiters and waitresses.

The following day, a Saturday, our group were the recipients of both worlds in the enlightenment of the Old and New. Our Guide, Edith Callen, in her articulate and informative display of adjectives explained how the pervasive U.S. Customs Officers scrutinized everyone as they strolled from one area to another with their burdensome carrybags. This itinerary was ordained by our pleasant guide, Edith, to include a short film on our grandparents tribulations prior to leaving Ellis Island as well as a short trip to the Statue of Liberty.

It would be a miscarriage of our past if I would omit our trip to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and an afternoon mass by Father Maryanczyk that included an informative and a historic tour of the church grounds, yet it was much more a welcomed and a desirable moment personally as I had a significant dialogue with Father E. Diurczak of Poland over the present life in the village of Ostrow Mazowiecki, an area of my forefathers.

The emotional, pleasant and meaningful day came to an end when our guided tour had selected to stop at Chandler's Restaurant for dinner, in Bayonne, New Jersey on West 5th Street and Broadway. There we sat with Mrs. Aurea Drzewiecki and thanks to my healthy capacity for inquisitive dialogue, I became aware that Aurea was the 1983 recipient of the Am-Pol Eagle Award for Education, the same year our son, Bernie, received the Am-Pol Eagle Award for Sports.

Among the many on our tour, and we were fortunate to meet so many pleasant ones, included Sharon Schlicht, who fondly recalled our tour of

the Chinatown district of New York City that culminated with a visit to the Empire State Building as the highlight of the trip, - one she will retain forever.

Relaxed and filled with promises of better tomorrows on our family research - we returned to our rooms and slept the sleep of the pure of heart - until we were awakened, the following morning, and reluctantly had to embark on our trip home.

With happy memories, we were chauffeured on a Bluebird bus by a pleasant and witty, David Colvin. As we drove down I-17, Walter Kloc offered us another bonus by the showing of a video tape on the "Life in Poland" and its transition from the Middle-Ages to the contemporary life styles of its people. Towards the late afternoon hours, games were played, and on the recommendation of Ted Smardz and Dr. Bob Pantera (Our Committee), we had a R&R stop at Corning, New York.

Finally arriving at the Holiday Inn on Niagara Falls Boulevard, group pictures were taken to be shared and exchanged with fellow members. A sadness prevailed over this pleasant end.

To those that missed that trip, I can only say - take advantage of it, if it is offered again, if for no other reason, than for its relaxation.

Who is there that can say - that it isn't a good reason?

I N MEMORIUM

REGGIE KOCIECKI

d. May 1, 1993

Charter Member

Assistant Editor

WALTER J. DOMINIAK

d. Apr. 17, 1993

father of member

Joan Serafini

NOW YOU KNOW

by Ted Smardz

At the turn of the century, Buffalo, New York, had a large German population. One of the many businesses this group became involved in was the manufacture of beer. In 1899, a recent arrival, a Polish immigrant, decided that he too should give it a try. He knew that a beer with a German name would sell better but his name held him back. A short time later, everything fell into place. To keep his old world culture, Antoni Pisarz became Anthony Schreiber, the creator of "Manru" lager beer. He located his brewery in the vicinity of Broadway and Fillmore.

Now you will also know that Pisarz and Schreiber have the same meaning ---- "writer".

POLES TO CLEVELAND

The Call for Workers at the Newburgh Rolling Mill

by Laurel Myszker Keough

As I turn the pages of the old family photo album and study the faces of my immigrant ancestors, I suddenly wish I lived in the century of the time traveler. In a millisecond, I could be transported to my grandfather's small village in 1880, not far from Gdansk, to walk the cobbled market square and listen to the men talking. Would I overhear them sharing treasured letters received from America? Letters that sent words of encouragement and descriptions of opportunity for a new and better life. Or perhaps a weary traveler, covered with dust from the long trek from Gdansk would pull some crumpled notices from his pocket and post them in the square..... advertisements for passage on the Hamburg-Amerika Steamship Lines or offers for jobs in places like Chicago, Buffalo, Detroit or Cleveland. I could ask..... was there any one particular reason or event that pushed them to the final decision that now was the time to leave their beloved families and homeland? But these questions will forever stay unanswered for time travel is not a reality; and so, we can only imagine.

History books may give us some details but are written mostly in generalities and so when I read a very specific description about events that induced a large number of Polish people to emigrate to the Cleveland area, I was intrigued. My grandfather had an older brother who settled in Cleveland right around 1882 and so there is a slight possibility that one of my own relatives may have answered the call for workers at the Newburgh Rolling Mill in Cleveland, Ohio.

Here is the story.....In 1876, Cleveland's first great steel mill was the Newburgh Rolling Mill. The owner, a wealthy Cleveland citizen, Amasa Stone, employed a labor force of approximately 1700 men and almost all of the unskilled jobs were held by Irish immigrants. These men worked 14 hours a day, 6 days a week and earned \$11.75 a week. The first rumblings of worker-management discord was being heard. In 1877, the first major steel strike in the United States occurred in Homestead, Pennsylvania. The strike was broken up by hired Pinkerton agents and achieved nothing for the workers but it set an example. In 1880, the Irish workers at Newburgh notified management that unless they received a 25¢ weekly pay increase they would go on strike. Management, however, was one person, Amasa Stone. He refused to be intimidated by the strike threat. Instead of negotiating with the would-be strikers, he declared the mill closed and said it would stay closed while he took a trip around the world in his private yacht. In addition, he made it clear to the workers that if they wished to seek reemployment at the mill when it reopened, they would be rehired at \$11.25 a week to compensate him for all the trouble they had caused by forcing him to close the mill.

POLES TO CLEVELAND

The Call for Workers at the Newburgh Rolling Mill

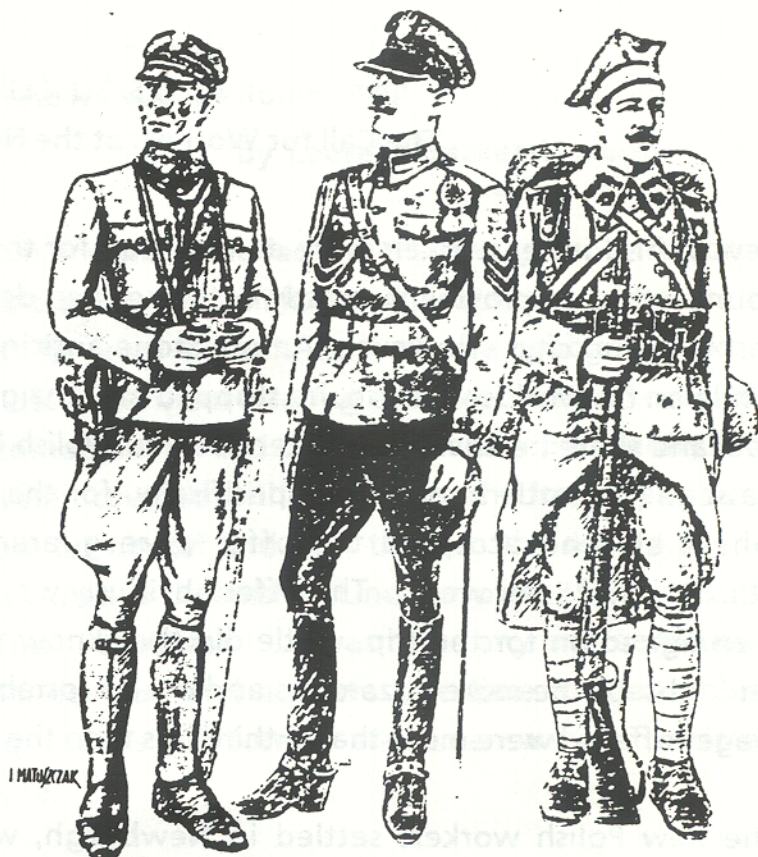
Few of his former workers were able to wait for the mill to reopen and in fact many of the men found other employment, mostly with the then developing Fire and Police Departments of the fast growing city. However, Amasa Stone anticipated the need to replace these workers and while on his world-wide trip, he stopped at Danzig (Gdansk), then a Polish seaport on the Baltic Sea, and there he advertised extensively for Polish labor to man his steel mill. His offer was free passage (in cattle boats hired specifically for the journey) to New York and on to Cleveland where all who accepted the offer were guaranteed jobs in the Newburgh Rolling Mill at.....\$7.25 per week. This offer obviously was hard to resist and hundreds of young Polish men signed on for the trip. Little did they know that the ocean journey by cattleboat would undoubtedly be more hazardous and uncomfortable than even a steerage passage, or that the wages offered were more than a third less than the former workers at the mill had earned.

The new Polish workers settled in Newburgh, where Amasa Stone owned large tracts of undeveloped land, and began to work in the mill which reopened in 1882. Once the workers were established in the community, they sent to Poland for their families. With his newly acquired cheap labor, Amasa Stone was able to underbid, and eventually wipe out, all other steel mills in the area. Although it was the sweat of the new Polish immigrants that further increased Amasa Stone's financial empire; these Poles along with other Eastern and Southern European immigrant groups could take great pride in their contribution to the massive industrial and economic growth of the city of Cleveland.

Source: The Polish Community of Cleveland by John J. Grabowski (1976)

The HISTORY of GEN'L. HALLER'S POLISH ARMY in CANADA

by
Fred Ciszek



POLISH ARMY - 1ST WORLD WAR

MARSHAL PILSUDSKI'S
LEGIONS, ARTILLERY
OFFICER

1ST LANCERS
1ST EASTERN CORPS
SERGEANT

POLISH ARMY IN FRANCE
GEN. HALLER'S ARMY
RIFLEMAN

After reading the Ted Smardz article "World War 1 Draft Records" and the additional piece titled "Buffalonians in Polish Army" in our Society newsletter, in January, a thought occurred that possibly I could increase or expand the articles by researching available material nearer my residence, which is only several minutes away from the final resting place of the participants in Haller's or Blue Army of France, in near-by Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Our Public Library, the Niagara Historical Society, and St. Vincent de Paul's Cemetery is where my material was located and researched.

A book, located at the NHS, written by Lt. Col. A. D. Lapan, gave me an insight into the formation of this Army. His official report "POLISH ARMY CAMP" also includes little known facts that can be useful to future researchers.

The military staff for the Polish cause dates back to January, 3rd, 1917, when 23 Polish men were recruited and sent to Infantry School in Toronto, Ontario, to be qualified as officers. The class grew to 250 men.

As enlistment figures rose, the construction of billets of canvas and wood began. These huts held a total of 1,200 men but did not provide sufficient accommodations so lodgings in town in the form of disused hotels, unoccupied residences, old canning factories and even the Town Hall was occupied by Polish troops. These lodgings were obtained free of all costs from the citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

A numbers report by Lt. Col. Lepan of the total troop enlistment of the camp and their disposition was:

Total number of recruits received	22395
Sent on draft to France	20720
(a) Discharged (Physically Unfit)	1004
(Compassionate Grounds)	129
(Subject to United States S.S. Law) ..	193
(Undesirable)	5
(Other Causes)	91
(c) Died	41
(b) Deserters	212
	<hr/>
Total ...	22395 22395

Of the total about 221 or slightly less than 1% were enlistments from Canada, the balance coming from the United States.

A majority of the men gave their nationality as:

"Russian Poles" approximately	62%
"Austrian Poles" approximately	31.5%
"German Poles" approximately	3%
Miscellaneous approximately	3.5%

Maximum camp strenght occurred on November, 21, 1917 when 4,279 men were in camp. With the exception of 1,573 Polish troops who sailed from Halifax, Canada, all Polish troops embarked at New York for shipment to France.

The breakdown of the organization was as follows: Headquarters; First Depot Battalion, Polish Army; Second Depot Battalion, Polish Army; Third Depot Battalion, Polish Army; and Probationers' Detail or School of Infantry, Polish Army.

The Commandants' report has a paragraph where he praises the Canadian Government for its credibility to discharging its obligations to a foreign power.

The training of the soldiers in camp used several languages. English and Polish were used at the beginning and later French commands were applied.

The bulk of the training was carried out by acting Polish officers and N.C.O.s under the supervision of Canadian officers. Training was limited on account of the short period the men were in camp. Probationers Infantry School had been almost entirely Polish, and totaled 295 qualified personnel. All appointments in the Polish Army were made in French Orders in every case.

For a four month period, another camp was needed because of overcrowding, so it was decided to open one at St. Johns, Quebec, as a Depot. From November 1917 to February 1918, 2,400 men passed through this depot, after having passed through the camp at Niagara-on-the-Lake. About the same time another camp was needed, and instructions were received to open another depot at Fort Niaga, New York. The first troops arrived in December, 13, 1917, and the last troops proceeded overseas on February, 18, 1918. A total of 1,722 men passed through this depot.

The Polish Military Commission was responsible for recruiting the Polish Army in America. All questions of enlistment and discharge were dealt by them, as the scheme was one of voluntary enlistment.

Colonel James Martin of the French Army attached to the French High Commission in Washington, D.C. was the senior officer of this project. The responsibility to the United States Government consisted in the fact that only certain men were eligible.

Upon arrival all recruits were given medical examinations by Canadian Medical staff officers with guide lines by French Medical Services. Those found unfit were sent back to where they enlisted. During the Influenza epidemic 24 recruits died. All deaths in the Polish Army were recorded with the Polish Military Commission and the bodies either sent to their homes or buried here. Those buried here were all buried in a plot in the Roman Catholic Cemetery there, and each grave was indicated by a stone marker and the plot was indicated by a large cross.

The pay was a meager .05¢ per day. Each man was entitled to a premium of \$150.00 per year. Money for these payments came direct from Controller Johannet, French High Commission, 65 Broadway, New York City, and statements of pay vouchers were rendered each month.

When word was sent to prepare to close the camp the nearby citizens were sentimental toward the Polish troops because they would be missed. Several glowing articles were found in the local Niagara Advance newspaper where an editorial by the publisher and several business people gave outstanding credit to the Polish soldiers for their discipline and behavior. The camp was closed on March, 11th, 1919.

POLISH MILITARY CEMETERY - ST. VINCENT de PAUL CHURCH

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO, CANADA

* * * * *

The following soldiers are buried here

<u>First Row</u> <u>Left to Right</u>	<u>Second Row</u> <u>Left to Right</u>	<u>Third Row</u> <u>Left to Right</u>
JOZEF DOLWA Aug. 19, 1918 Private MARTIN ADAM 24 Dec. 1917 Private JAN SIATKOWSKI Feb. 10, 1918 Private MATEUSZ WISNIEWSKI 15 March 1918 Private NOWAK 17 Mar. 1918	JAN KOCIA Sep. 22, 1918 JOZEF SZTOPKA Sep. 22, 1918 WALENTY WITALEC Sep. 23, 1918 MICHAEL BYSZEWSKI Oct. 8, 1918	WAWRZYNIEC JAKUBAS Oct. 12, 1918 WOJCIECH RONCZKA Oct. 10, 1918 STANISLAW KRIDKOWSKI Oct. 22, 1918 KSIADZ PUIKOWNIK JAN JOZEK DeKOWSK VIRTUTI MILITARIA B.A. 1882 - 1949
KAZMIERZ KOZLOWSKI Sep. 18, 1918 JOSEPH ZYBCZYK Sep. 18, 1918 STANISLAW PTAK Sep. 19, 1918 ANTONI SKOP Feb. 18, 1919	PIOTR LOZINSKI Sep. 26, 1918 ADAM HURAWSKI Sep. 29, 1918 FRYDERYK GLOWACZ Sep. 30, 1918 ADAM KEMPINSKI Feb. 16, 1919	BARTLOMEI CIUPAK Oct. 21, 1918 JAN MAPOWICZ Jan, 4, 1919 WLADYSLAW BORUSZYOWSKI Jan. 21, 1919 WAWRZYNIEC BESTER Jan. 25, 1919

CROSS IN RIGHT CORNER

DEDICATED TO

GEN. BRONI JOZEK HALLER
1873 - 1960

DIED FOR POLAND

Above markers researched by:
Frederick Joseph Ciszek
April, 14th, 1992

Sources:

Polish Army Camp by Lt. Col. A. D. Lepan March, 26th, 1919 Report
St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada
Niagara Historic Society, Niagara Falls, Ontario
Niagara Advance Issue of June, 29, 1967
Niagara-on-the-Lake newspaper dated Nov. 2nd, 1922
Niagara Advance Issue of March, 13, 1919

MAILING ADDRESS

In order to avoid confusion, disorder and misplacement of correspondence and communications in the future, the following address should be used.

Polish Genealogical Society of Western New York
299 Barnard Street
Buffalo, New York 14219
ob

GENEALOGY CLASS

submitted by Sally Bruckheimer

Williamsville Community Educational Program announces that a 5 session course on Genealogy will begin on October, 5th.

The courses will be held at the Mill Middle School on each Tuesday evening, and will be scheduled for 2 hours beginning at 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The fee charge will be \$23.00.

The school is located on Mill Road near Sheridan. If further information is needed, please call 626-8080.

ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY

Bill and Terry Radlinski
of
Herndon, Virginia



Ed and Alice Kiedrowski
of
Cowlesville, New York

50 th

DONATIONS

Rosemary A. Chorzempa donated her book "POLISH ROOTS" - Korzenie Polskie
Ed Bialoglowicz donated a book entitled "Poland A Historical Atlas by
Iwo Cyprian Pogonowski

ARE ALL POLES ROMAN CATHOLIC ?

by Mike Drabik

When we think of Polonia, we too often think in terms of it's association with the Roman Catholic Church. From statistics we know that the vast majority of Polish Americans adhere to the Roman church, but what about that small majority, where did they worship??

The first organized religious society of Poles in the Buffalo area, was the St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Society. This group had it's beginning back in 1872, when a visiting Czech priest, Fr. Gartner, helped organize the small group of Poles. With the arrival of young Fr. Jan Pitass in June 1873, the Polish parish of St. Stanislaus, B.M. was established, the first Polish parish in WNY.

By the late 1880's a large number of Eastern European Jews began arriving into the Buffalo community. These new immigrants established themselves along William Street and its vicinity. By 1890, they founded their own Shul, named Ahavas Achim, on Fillmore Ave. Over the next thirty years most of this Jewish population resettled with other European Jews already living in North Buffalo. The Jewish community not only developed their own Hebrew schools, libraries, charitable societies and cemeteries, but also a well established and lucrative business network.

(Editors Note: see December 1991 issue for further Jewish history.)

The largest and most influential group outside the Roman Catholics are the Polish National Catholics. Their history is certainly very interesting and rather controversial. The movement broke away from the local diocesan authorities to form "Independent" or "Nie Nalezny" parishes in the early 1890's throughout the Polish communities in America and Canada. The most significant centers of "Independency" appeared in Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Buffalo and Scranton. When we speak of their leaders, they are known as "the Big 5 K's". In Chicago was, Ks. A. Kozlowski; Detroit had Ks. Dominik Kolasinski; Cleveland had, Ks. Franciszek Kolaszewski; in Buffalo was, Ks. Antoni Klawiter and Biskup Stefan Kaminski. The Scranton "break" was headed by the young Ks. Franciszek Hodur. It is due to his capabilities that the "Independent" movement solidified and formed the Polish National Catholic Church in September, 1904. At their synod, held that year, the representatives elected Ks. Franciszek Hodur as their Bishop and church administrator.

In Buffalo, an "Independent" parish was established in 1895 after a conflict arose at St. Adalbert's Polish parish on Stanislaus street. Bishop Ryan appointed the young Ks. Tomasz Flacek, a relative of Dziekan Jan Pitass of St. Stanislaus, as pastor of the parish, and angered the parishioners. A minority group of the congregation demanded possession of THEIR church. The Bishop sided with his old friend, Ks. Pitass, and later ordered the church closed after it was reported that Ks. Flacek's life was threatened.

The struggle with Bishop Ryan, over the control of parish property, eventually led to a riot and brought about the secession of hundreds of parishioners, who established an "Independent" parish that was dedicated to the Holy Mother of the Rosary. The congregation wrote to a former pastor, Ks. A. Klawiter, then assigned in the state of Washington, to take charge of their new parish. In the meantime, Ks. Franciszek Kolaszewski, of Cleveland, attended to their needs. Ks. Klawiter arrived in Buffalo in 1895, and remained until 1896. A short time later, Ks. Stefan Kaminski, arrived from Freeland, Penna. to administer to the young, but growing parish. Under Ks. Kaminski's leadership, the number of "Independent Parishes" increased. He called a synod of his parishes in 1896, at which time he was elected Bishop.

In March, 1898, Ks. Kaminski was installed as a Bishop in Buffalo, by Archbishop Joseph Vilatte of Wisconsin. Ks. Kaminski, a strong but short man, is well remembered for his colorful character. An interesting article about the bishop appeared in the January 1992 issue of "Horizons". His jurisdiction extended to the Atlantic coastline. He is responsible for the construction of the Cathedral on Sobieski street, and establishing the parish school and also the cemetery on Dale road in Cheektowaga.

After his death, in 1911, the parish struggled through two successors, during which the title to the property and church were taken over by the Roman Catholic Diocese. From 1913 to 1915, the congregation was without a church. They invited Ks. Walenty Gawrychowski of Rochester, N.Y. to be their pastor and help them regain their church. In 1914, the congregation and their new pastor affiliated with the Polish National Catholic Church, and its leader, Bishop Franciszek Hodur. Following a lengthy court battle, the Cathedral church was finally returned to the congregation. After 80 odd years of strife, the PNCC and the R.C. began a dialogue that may lead to re-unification of the two faiths. Our own Buffalo-born Bishop Stanislas Brzana, heads the Roman Catholic Church's Commission in this regard.

Another faith that some Poles affiliated themselves with was a small

prayer group known as "Badaczy Pisma Swietego", which I believe are the Jehovah Witnesses. Their meetings were held in a building at 692 East Utica street for several years. The congregation was headed by F. Tarnawski and K. Letki during the late 1940's and 50's. During this period they also featured a radio program every Sunday morning on station WHLD. The main office for this group was located in Chicago, Illinois.

Sources:

Broadway-Fillmore Newsletter, Aug-Sept. 1990

"The Area's Jewish History"

Polish American Encyclopedia, Rev. F. Bolek....1954

Polish American Studies, "The Rev. A. Klawiter" by S. Cuba..Autumn.1983

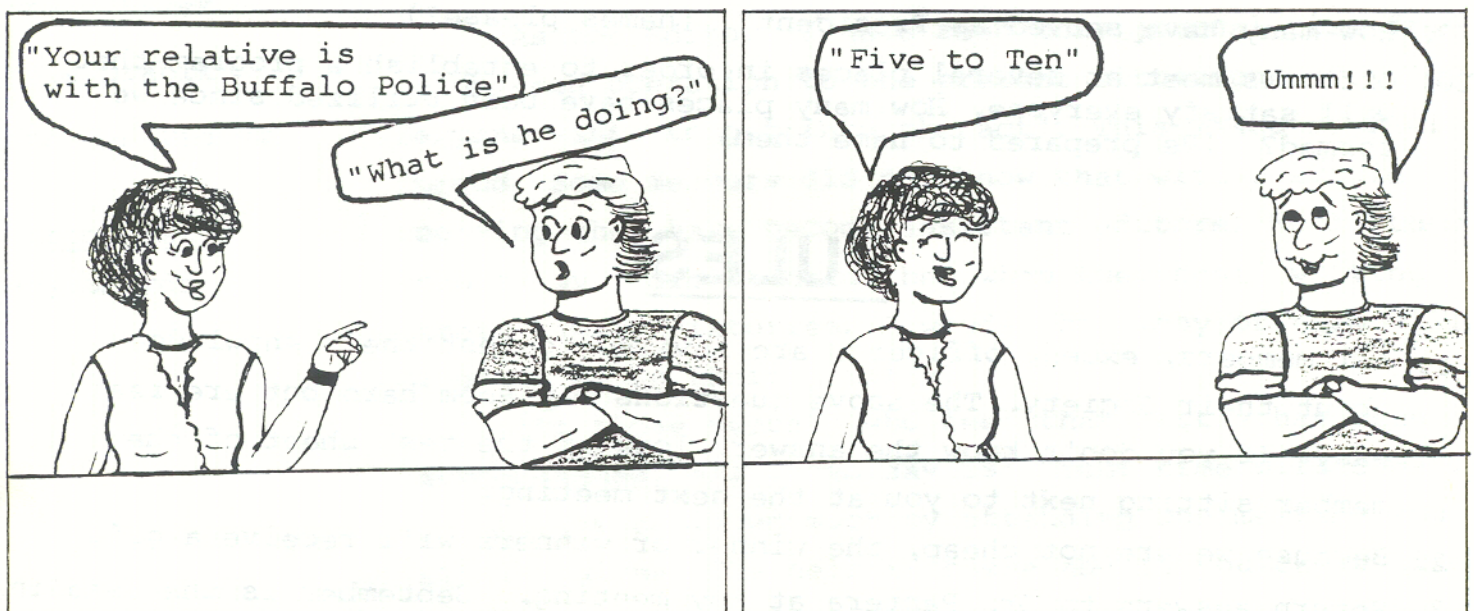
The Horizons, "The Real Stephen Kaminski" ...January.1990

90th Anniversary Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, Buffalo, N.Y.
1985

The Polish National Catholic Church in America and Poland,
Theodore Andrews 1953

Shoulder to Shoulder, Kathleen Urbanic ...1991

PUTTING ON HEIRS ^{b_y} AMY SMARDZ



TRIVIA QUIZ FOR MEMBERS

by Dr. Robert Pantera

1. The first person invited to speak at our monthly meetings was _____ .
2. Our first workshop speaker was _____ .
3. Name three items that were originated by Dorothy Cook.
4. Name the speaker that holds the attendance record for a meeting.
5. Society members were also asked to speak, name the first speakers.
6. The first member to purchase our designer sweatshirt was _____ .
7. Since our founding, only one member has attended every meeting, can you name him? (Imagine 58 meetings without a miss.)
8. Name the two members who brought in the most profitable committee, since we formed.
9. Our second workshop speaker was _____ .
10. Name the winner of our "Oldest Ancestor" contest of last year.
11. Our meetings are held at Villa Maria College. What member lives the closest ?
12. What member has held one title longer than anyone.
13. One member has held three different titles, name please?
14. What member is responsible for our calendars and membership cards?
15. Name the monthly speaker who has traveled the farthest. He is also a member of our society.
16. Prussia, Russia, and Austria partitioned Poland. The rulers of these countries (Frederick 11, Catherine 11, and Joseph 11) had one thing that was common in their background. What was it?
17. Name the shortest member.
18. Name the tallest member.
19. How many have served as President? (names please?)
20. Officers meet at several places in order to establish a program that will satisfy everyone. How many places have been utilized since we formed? (Be prepared to name them)

RULES

1. All members, except officers, are invited to test their knowledge about their Society. The above questions may seem hard but are real easy. If you don't know the answer, look at the test sheet of the member sitting next to you at the next meeting.
2. Because we are not cheap, the winner or winners will receive a gift.
3. Return answers to Dr. Pantera at any meeting. September is the deadline.