



# SEARCHERS



DEDICATED TO POLISH AMERICAN FAMILY RESEARCH.

"Preserving Our Past" Since 1988

No. 11 & 12, Summer/Winter 1994

## Osada Polska w Batawi, New York

By M. Drabik

**T**his year, the parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Batavia New York will mark it's 90th year of service to the Polish community in that town. Founded in 1904, by the Rev. Piotr Pitass, Sacred Heart has an interesting history, linked with the progress of the business of agriculture and weapons, the local source of revenue.

Poles began arriving in the area as early as the 1870's just a few miles away at Albion, N.Y. Drawn to the area by the farming industry and canning companies, the Poles made their home here. Many of these early Poles were from the Prussian sector of Poland. Batavia's Poles were mainly composed of those coming from Russian Poland and some from Galicia.

Batavia, a rural area appealed to the Poles in general, from the description available in the histories of the parish,

the land is fertile and picturesque. The first church was located on Jackson street, in a small wooden structure which served as the church and rectory. An adjoining barn was later converted into use as a school. As the parish began to grow, the need for a large facility was seen, under the pastorate of Ks. Franciszek Radziszewski, property was purchased on Swan and Sumner streets in the town. Radziszewski is also credited with securing the services of the Felician sisters for the parish school.

It was under the pastorship of Ks. Stanislaw Cichowski, that the parish church was destroyed by a flood, when the Tonawanda Creek overflowed. For the next twelve years, the parish would have no church building. The present church and school building were constructed under the direction of the Rev. Alexander Jankowski and blessed by Bishop Burke in December 1953.

Polonia in Batavia also had social outlets, some related to organizations within the parish, others outside. A Dom Polski organization was founded and located near the present Sacred Heart church, this locale served as a spot for dances, plays and other social events. Also in Batavia, was a Sokolnia or Falcon's Nest, founded in 1913. Later in the thirties, the Dom Polski organization was forced to sell it's building, the Falcons purchased it and still use it as their facility today.

Over the decades, the Polish community in Batavia has changed, no longer will you find Polish language masses or events where Polish is used, but the traditions brought by the grandparents of the present day Polish Americans in Batavia are still preserved today.

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### AN APOLOGY...

The P.G.S.W.N.Y would like to extend its apologies for the lateness of the SUMMER 1994 edition of the SEARCHER.. We have combined the two editions (SUMMER & WINTER) because of time constraints and will be back on track for the SUMMER 1995 edition.

Thank you for your patience.

**Due to the large amount of mail received, please take note when writing us for assistance:**

The PGSWNY will answer ONLY correspondence that includes a self addressed, stamped reply envelope. All correspondence should be directed to:  
**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WESTERN NEW YORK, 299 Barnard Street, Buffalo, New York 14206.**

If you wish to contact one of our committee's, please write the committee name on the front of the envelope.

*Thank you.*

**For submission to the Searchers, deadlines are as follows:**

Summer Edition- April 15 for June mailing; Winter Edition- October 15 for December mailing

**For submission to the Bulletin:** Deadlines are February 15 for March mailing and August 15 for September mailing.

**Membership Dues... A reminder from the Treasurer:**

Dues are \$12.00 a year. This entitles you to 2 editions of the Searchers and 2 Bulletin updates. New members receive an information pkg. to help them get started. Annual membership dues are to be received in January. Thereafter, your expiration date will be listed on the upper right hand corner of the mailing label. Please refer to this date when paying dues the following year. Please notify us of any change of address.

<b>Officers:</b>	<i>President</i>	Ted Smardz	<i>Secretary</i>	Florence Witul
	<i>Vice President</i>	Dr. Robert Pantera	<i>Founder</i>	Mike Drabik
	<i>Treasurer</i>	Dorothy Krantz		
<b>Directors:</b>	Edward Potera	Brian Stanish	Lynn Mycek-Rzepecki	
	Edward Bialoglowicz	Dorothy Cook		

**Committees:****Correspondence/Advertising**

Mike Drabik Replies for member & non-member inquiries/  
Advertising to media for special events

**Bookstore**

Frieda Petko All purchases must be made at meetings,  
Laurel Keough accepting ideas for items to be sold  
Helen Skarbek

**Photocopy**

Brian Stanish Intercommittee use only

**Guest Speakers**

Joan Serafini Submission of names for guest speakers

**Surname Index**

Leo Majchrzak To submit new membership listing in our index,  
Jim Glowney update of current membership surname index

**New Membership**

Brian Stanish Applications/New membership packets to  
help get started

**Attendance/Roster**

Leo Majchrzak Master lists/labels, address changes  
Jim Glowney

**Library**

Laurie Bialoglowicz Donations to library and general info on holdings,  
Dorothy Cook welcome ideas for books and reference materials  
Richard Zielinski needed for purchase in our library

**Travel/Tours**

Dorothy Krantz Trip info, reservations and deposits, welcome ideas for  
Lynn Rzepecki travel and local tours.  
Ted Smardz

**Picnic**

Rita Prabucki Sign up list/organization of our annual picnic  
Ted Myers

**Searchers/Bulletin Update**

Mike Drabik Deadline for Searchers: April 15 & October 15  
Lynn Rzepecki Deadline for Bulletin: February 15 & August 15  
Laurie Bialoglowicz Also accepting member and non-member surnames for  
William Radlinski publication; Letters to the Editor

**Archives**

Richard Zielinski PGSWNY - photos, letters, etc. to be saved in the name  
of the society

**Christmas**

Edward Potera Sign up list/organization of annual Christmas party

**Villa Lawn Fete**

Florence Witul Sign up list/organization of our participation in this  
annual event

**NYSCOGO**

Delegate, Jim Lyons PGSWNY Rep. to the New York State Council of  
Genealogical Organizations

**Awards**

Edward Prabucki Submit names for annual awards to membership for  
Ted Smardz outstanding participation. Deadline for submission  
September 01.

**Registrar Tapes**

Laurel Keough Accepting Tops register tapes for society

**Fund Raising**

Edward Bialoglowicz Monetary donations, gifts to and events for extra  
funding of the society

**Oct. Workshop**

Mike Drabik Sign up list/organization of committees of this annual  
event. All committees are encouraged to volunteer to  
participate. Initial meetings to take place in March.

**MEETING REMINDER:**

The PGSWNY meets the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria College cafeteria, 240 Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga, at 7:00 p.m.

## New Rules For Researchers At The Family History Center

1424 Maple Road, Williamsville, New York

*The staff of the Family History Center requests that the following guidelines and procedures be followed by all who use their facility.*

Please hang coats on the racks provided and bring only 1 notebook and a pencil into the library. Leave your valuables and purses locked in your cars. Briefcases may be left on the floor under the coat rack. There will be no smoking in the building at any time. If you need a place to eat a lunch, one of the staff members will be happy to direct you. Restrooms are located on the west side of the building.

All microfilm must be pulled and signed out by a staff member. Only one film will be signed out at a time. This now also includes microfiche. No orders or renewals will be taken over the phone. If a film you are using is routed back to Salt Lake before you get the chance to renew it, you will have to reorder it. If you would like a photo-copy of film, fiche or printed material, please ask a staff member to help you. Only staff members are allowed to use the photocopy machines. Copies for printed material are 10 cents each and 25 cents each for microfilm/fiche copies.

When we are busy, there is a 1 hour time limit on the readers and on the computers. There are times when due to a large number of patrons, we will be in the position of asking you to relinquish your machine. Please be gracious in doing so and we will immediately put you on the list to get back on. No research materials including books, film and fiche are ever allowed to leave the family history center.

*Please note the following times and prices below:*

### Hours of operation:

Monday	10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Thursday	10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday	Closed

### Rental Prices:

3 - week film rental	\$2.75
6 - month renewal	\$1.50

*The records of the following Polish parishes in Western New York have been microfilmed by the Mormons and are available to be viewed at their Family History Centers:*

**Assumption of the BVM**, Buffalo, B 1888-1906, M 1890-1911  
**St. Adalbert's**, Buffalo, B 1889 - 1916, M 1887 - 1910, D 1889 - 1907  
**St. Casimir's**, Buffalo, B 1891-1914, M 1891-1914, D 1891-1967  
**St. John Kanty's**, Buffalo, B 1899-1913, M 1893-1917, D 1893-1982  
**St. Stanislaus**, Buffalo, B 1874-1903, M 1873-1917, D 1874-1917  
**Transfiguration**, Buffalo, B 1893-1903, M 1893-1919, D 1893-1917 & 1934-1982  
**Sts. Peter & Paul**, Depew, B 1896-1900, M 1896-1916, D 1896-1917  
**St. Mary of the Assumption**, Albion, B 1891-1917, M 1891-1917, D 1891-1917  
**Holy Cross, Salamanca**, B 1892-1917, M 1893-1917, D 1896-1917  
**St. Hyacinth's**, Dunkirk, B 1875-1906, M 1875-1917, D 1879-1902

*Some of these microfilms can also be found at:*

*Canisius College Archives, Buffalo, Erie County's Buffalo Public Library, Main Branch- Downtown and the Historical Society.*

*The latter will only have microfilms for Erie County.*

## Proposal of Local Archive Facility

Memorial Auditorium could possibly become the site of a shared archive and research facility in a plan to create a major regional document and image bank, the Buffalo News reports. Erie County and the City of Buffalo have won a \$31,000 research and development grant. "An indication that the state archives views this as a project that could have statewide implications" said James Tammamro, state archives regional Local Government Records Advisor.

An estimated 70,000 square feet of space at the front of the Auditorium, scheduled for conversion to a combined Aquarium and Technology Center after the new Crossroads Arena is completed is being considered a prime possibility for the records depository. The Horizons Waterfront Commission has joined in on the discussion since the Aud is in their plans for Buffalo's proposed Harbor Center.

The archives could draw together city and county records as well as privately held historic and research documents. The goals being that public access would improve, historical resources preserved, and records damaged from age restored.

Under the grant a consultant will be hired to explore the hurdles faced by such a large project.

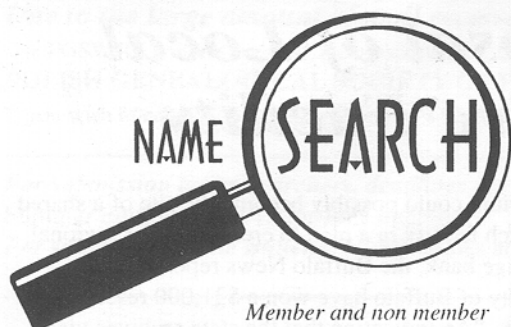
The P.G.S.W.N.Y. will keep you informed on this matter as we are in contact with the County Clerk, David Swarts, who is Director of this project.

### Something Old, Something New...

If you've noticed, the Searchers now has a new look. We have decided to move from typewriter to computer to enhance our newsletter and to save our volunteers some of that precious time they dedicate to our society.

In making these changes we hope to save that personal touch Ted Smardz had incorporated into the Searchers, knowing we must keep the window open to the importance of sharing information with one another, yet not forgetting the friendships that have formed in the society because of it. Since we value our membership's input, your comments or suggestions are always welcome. If you have any news worthy articles you would like to share with us, deadlines for publication in the Searchers are April 15 and October 15.





Member and non member researchers wishing to submit surnames for this page are asked to send submissions to the Searchers Committee.

To submit listings for publication, please send your name and address, the surnames your researching and location if known.

Please keep limit to- six surnames of research. Non members please include \$3.00

Apczynski, John  
97 Hirschfield Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

Researching Surnames	Location
Apczynski	Poznan
Janik	Rzeszow
Abczynski	Poznan
Stasik	Kielce

Bartoszek, Janice  
60A3 Garden Village Drive, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Researching Surnames	Location
Bartoszek	Galicia
Jarocki	Kielce
Dziolko	Kielce
Wisniewski	Kielce
Stramka	Kielce
Dziulko	Kielce
Lesniowski	Kielce

Bialoglowicz, Edward  
1064 Reynolds Road, Corfu, NY 14036-9516

Researching Surnames	Location
Bialoglowicz	Prussia
Bucholtz	Frankfort
Wawrzynczak	Prussia
Bonczyk	Poznan

Blakowski, Harry  
5285 Lower Mountain Road, Lockport, NY 14094

Researching Surnames	Location
Blakowski	Bydgoszcz
Kosieracki	Bialystok
Blokowski	Bydgoszcz
Kosieradski	Bialystok

Bruno C. Syzdek  
4625 Rip Van Winkle Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89102

Researching Surnames	Location
Zabawa	Texas or Austrian Poland
Dykas	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Gocal	East Chicago, Indiana
Syzdek	Grand Rapids, Michigan
Sorana	Grand Rapids, Michigan

## POTPOURRI

### Coming Soon...

Among the interesting documents that have been preserved in Poland are from the years 1388-1420. They contain the accounting books of the everyday expenses of the needs of the palace of King Jagiello and Queen Hedwig.

The accounts give a very good notion of the foods and plants that were grown on the king's estate. Besides the usual grains of oats, wheat and rye, it is interesting to note that lentils were also grown. Fruits from the king's orchards yielded pears, plums and cherries. Vegetables included pumpkins, carrots, beets, cabbage and onions. Herbs listed were bishops weed, black mustard, hemp, dill, poppy, parsley and radish.

From "Herbs, Flowers and Folk Medicine of Poland"  
by Sophie Hodorowicz Knab.

Coming in Spring 1995 from Hippocrene Books, Inc. Look for future announcements.

### Keep an Eye Open For...

For your convenience a copy of the latest revisions to your "Getting Started" Booklet is included in this edition of the Searchers.

### Donations to our Library... Thank you !!!

75th Anniversary Album, St. Adalberts; City of Buffalo maps 1891, 1918-20; Index to Searchers Newsletter...*Dorothy Cook*; 60th Anniversary Album, St. Florian Social and Athletic Club...*Simon Homa*.

### Congratulations...

Dr & Mrs. Robert Pantera were presented with the 1994 President's Medal at a dinner honoring their dedication to Villa Maria College. The special event took place on May 12, at the Transit Valley Country Club.

### Best Wishes...

Are extended to our sister society in New Britain, Connecticut on their 10th Anniversary and to their president Jonathan Shea who is now an accredited genealogist.

A 50th Anniversary was celebrated by member Louise Manning and her husband Thomas in June, also Louise celebrated a special birthday this year, she is 80 years young.

### Get Well Soon...

Special wishes for a speedy recovery after surgery go out to members Jenny Wolski and Edward Prabucki.

### PGSWNY's 4th Annual Picnic

In lieu of the July meeting, members of the society met to celebrate summer at the annual picnic held in Cheektowaga Town Park. The well attended function has many people to thank for its success. In order not to omit anyone, a sincere Bog Zaplac to them all!!! Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs were supplied by the organization. Members brought a dish to pass and no one went home hungry, Ted Myers was an excellent chef. The Prabuckis came up with a trivia game that entertained us as well as taxed our facilities. If you haven't attended a picnic yet, plan to do so next year.

### Villa Maria Lawn Fete (submitted by Florence Witul)

1994 is the third year the P.G.S.W.N.Y. members and their families participated in the Villa Maria Lawn Fete. The volunteers worked in several areas, such as the outdoor kitchen, car raffle booth, go-carts, pony rides, camera booth and porcelain dolls. The Felician Sisters expressed their appreciation with a spaghetti supper on August 31st.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



**Oldest at 34** (submitted by Dorothy Krantz)

The oldest White Eagle living in captivity died recently on the Baltic island of Wolin at the age of 34. The bird was a baby when it first arrived and spent its life in a cage. Only after 20 years did the eagle lay an egg, making its keepers realize it was a female. Only about 500 white eagles, on which the country's emblem was based, have survived in Poland, most of them on the rather desolate and wind-swept Wolin Island.

**News Release**

The Polish Genealogical Society of America located in Chicago, has presented the Society's Wigilia Medal to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints during the United Polish Genealogical Society Conference held in Salt Lake City in May. The Wigilia Medal is awarded annually to individuals or groups that have provided extraordinary contributions to Polish and Polish-American genealogical research. President Stan Schmidt presented the award to Elder John Fowler who accepted the award for the Church.

**Seminars and Workshops**

This fall Villa Maria College will be conducting a two semester course, **Polish 101-102** on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. It will include instruction in language history and culture and will be taught by Sr. Ellen Marie Kuznicki, CSSF. For more info, please contact Villa Maria College at 896-0700.

The **United Polish Genealogical Societies** held this Year's biennial Conference in Salt Lake City May 11th to the 15th. Its tremendous success can be greatly attributed to Jacque Penstone, president of the PGS of CA and her able assistant Dorothy Pancoast, a director of the PGSA. The conference attracted over 100 attendees from 20 states and Canada. All agreed doing research in Salt Lake was so much faster and easier, plus meeting fellow Polish researchers and exchanging ideas was an added plus.

The PGSWNY set up shop again this year at the **Polish American Festival in Cheektowaga Town Park** in August. A special thank-you goes out to all who helped staff the booth. It was nice to see everyone so busy helping others to find their roots. As you could tell it is an election year and everyone came out for the Pulaski Parade even Gov. Marioski with his saying of the day "No more bologna in Polonia"...

*Let's see.*

**Polish Room Lockwood Library acquisitions July 94**

Of possible interest- Prinke, Rafal. *Poradnik Genealoga Amatora/Warszawa*: Wyd. Polonia, 1992, cs 12 p75 1992

**Cleveland or St. Paul?**

If you are looking for the addresses of parishes in the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio or St. Paul, MN.

Write to:

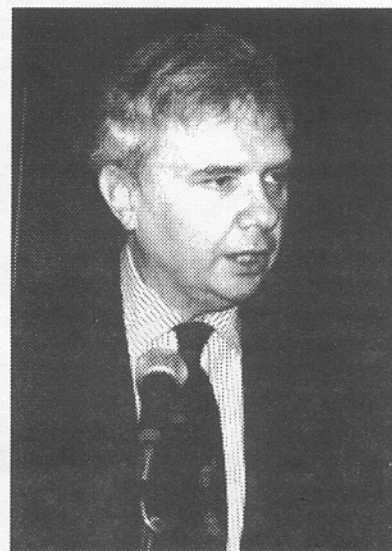
The Cleveland Catholic Diocese  
1027 Superior Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

The Archdiocese of St. Paul  
226 Summit Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55102

**FEEFHS Info**

A federation of Eastern European family history societies was formed in 1992. Presently it is comprised of some seven German genealogical societies and three Polish, three Slovak, two Hungarian and groups representing Galcians, Lithuanians, Rusins, Ukrainians and Volhynians.

They can be contacted at: FEEFHS  
P.O. Box 13774  
Sacramento, CA 95853-3774



*Guest speaker of the month of April was Mr. Henry Pogodzinski. His presentation was entitled "The Poles In The U.S. Civil War".*

*(Photo by R. Bystrak)*

**RESEARCH ASSISTANCE****For Hire:**

Willing to research documents in the Kalisz area, specializing in Lutheran Evangelical parish records and if necessary other towns and villages in Poland. For a list of services and fees contact:

Maria Banert Genealogia  
62-800 Kalisz  
ul. Niecala 10, Polska

**For help with Slovak Surnames:**

For a fee of three dollars will send you a detailed report of the family name. Please also include the village and possibly county (zupa) for further assistance contact:

Mr. Joseph J. Hornak  
5223 Eastview  
Independence, Ohio 44131

Mr. Roy Rushka of Fairborn, Ohio

Is willing to do **Family Research** in the following areas of Eastern Europe:

The Ukraine, Belarus, Slovakia and Poland, also the Czech Republic. You can contact him at the following address:

Rush Associates  
Att: Roy Rushka  
1455- C Holly Bush Drive  
Fairborn, Ohio 45324-6586

**Editor's Note: THE PGSWNY DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY RESEARCHERS, THE ABOVE IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY.**

## Once Upon A Time

by D. B. Cook

Fifteen years ago, I acquired an early 1940's Buffalo street map complete with a guide book supplement describing bus and trolley routes and local points of interest. The realization this week, that slightly over half a century had passed since its publication, prompted me to treat it with the respect due such a venerable antique and take the time to finally read it. Included in the guide was data on the entire city, but I thought it might be interesting to extract that information which pertained to the Polish East Side and Black Rock, so as to gain some insight into the commercial and social fabric of these neighborhoods fifty years ago.

Perhaps some PGSWNY members who lived in these communities around 1940 or visited grandparents there, may recall some of the buildings and social entities described.

The 1940's were the hey-day of the motion picture industry and there was no dearth of theatres on the East Side. The BROADWAY was at 512, the ROOSEVELT at 887 and the RIVOLI at 1111 Broadway. The COLONIAL was located at 773 Genesee and the GENESSEE at either 1000 Genesee near Fillmore or 1600 near Doat as it is illegible in the book. Depending where one resided on the East Side, it wasn't too long of a trek to 625 William, the address of the ROXY. There was also a radio station at 820 Fillmore, its call letters were WHLD.

Black Rock's community movie house was the UNITY at 1063 Grant Street. This superseded the GRANT theatre which had been on Amherst, just west of Grant Street. The Grant, affectionally known as The Garlic, began operating during the silent film era and included a live act in its program. Usually the owner, an amateur vocalist, sang.

In the early 1940's, there was an abundance of meeting or social halls on the East Side. DOM POLSKI was at 1081 Broadway, the POLISH UNION OF AMERICA at 761 Fillmore and EVERYBODY'S at 916-928 Broadway. Five additional halls or clubs were associated with Roman Catholic parishes in the area. The ST. JOHN KANTY's LYCEUM at 27 Swinburne, ST. JOACHIM'S AUDITORIUM at 17 Empire and the ST. STANISLAUS' ATHLETIC CLUB at 387 Peckham. There was also the CORPUS CHRISTI ATHLETIC CLUB at 169 Sears and ST. MARY OF SORROWS' CLUB at 26 Rich Street. On a smaller scale, Black Rock had and still has, the POLISH CADETS at 927 Grant Street.

The East Side also had its share of cultural organizations. Among them, the ADAM MICKIEWICZ DRAMATIC CIRCLE at 612 Fillmore, the MONIUSZKO SINGING SOCIETY, 570 Fillmore and the CHOPIN SINGING SOCIETY at 19 Kosciuszko Street. Clubs appealing to the hobbyist included the SUNRISE HUNTING AND FISHING CLUB at 14 Sienkiewicz (sic) Street, the BUFFALO RACING PIGEON CLUB at 27 Guilford between Sycamore and Genesee and the BUFFALO REVOLVER AND RIFLE CLUB at 1105 Genesee between Fillmore and Mills.

If the East Side resident of fifty years ago was an avid reader, he or she might have borrowed books from the WILLIAM IVES LIBRARY at 617 Fillmore or the ADAM MICKIEWICZ at 612 Fillmore. In 1940, the local POLICE PRECINCT was No. 8 at 647 Fillmore. In the event of a fire, HOOK AND LADDER No. 11 at 638 Fillmore, ENGINE No. 8 at 1039 Fillmore and ENGINE No. 22 at 1528 Broadway were probably most likely to respond.

Book lovers in Black Rock patronized the GRANT LIBRARY at 945 Grant street near Amherst and contacted PRECINCT No. 13 at 346 Austin when in need of police assistance. HOOK AND LADDER No. 12, at Amherst and Grant housed this areas fire-fighters.

Twelve department stores were considered important enough to be listed in the guide, ten downtown and two on Broadway. Those were SATTLER'S at 998 (who can forget "998 Broadway-Go there today") and JAHRAUS-BRAUN at 1021 Broadway. The WINCH BUILDING at 939 Broadway was also included. (Possibly because of some unusual architectural features????) The BROADWAY MARKET at Broadway and Gibson was included in the directory as was the BLACK ROCK MARKET at 432 Amherst, apparently still in operation.

Fifty years ago, city children could find a playground not associated with a school without much searching. The DOLD PLAYGROUND was at William and Fillmore, the KNOERR at Sycamore and Gittere, the LINDBERGH PLAYGROUND at the Central Terminal, the SPERRY at Peckham and Krettnr and the EMERSON at Koons and the Belt Line. The only city playground in Black Rock was the ALLISON ( REES) at Rees Street and Scajaquada Parkway.

If dad or gramps was a war veteran or friend of one, he may have spent many a pleasant evening at the ADAM PLEWACKI POST #799 at Paderewski and Lindbergh or the POLISH ARMY VETS ASSOCIATION POST #1 at 1159 Broadway, the AMERICAN LEGION ADAM PLEWACKI POST 761 Fillmore, the PULASKI FOXHOLE CLUB at 492 Fillmore, the R.P. PAWLOSKI VETERANS POST #15 at 1015 Fillmore or the REGULAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION at 1286 Broadway. The two veterans organization in Black Rock were the NIAGARA FRONTIER AMERICAN LEGION POST #1041 at 930 Grant Street and the BLACK ROCK GARRISON #302 at 962 Grant.

For the young, or young in spirit East Side resident, it was a walkable distance or a short street-car ride to the 50 acre HUMBOLDT PARK with its massive wading pool, which was frozen in the winter and became a top-notch rink for ice skaters. Adults could view the NIAGARA FRONTIER ROSE GARDENS on the grounds or check the exhibits at the BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, built in 1929 for a million dollars, which offered "science in brief for busy people".

Not to be outdone, Black Rock residents had their counterpart in the 365 acre DELAWARE PARK complete with a nine hole golf course and a lake that provided boating in summer and ice skating in the winter. Admittance to the ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, the ALBRIGHT ART GALLERY and the HISTORICAL SOCIETY on the park grounds was free!

With a predominately Roman Catholic population in these areas, its hard to recall that there were churches of other denominations here. These were not so much in the heart of the Polish communities but more on the periphery.

The BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED stood at E. Parade and Genesee, GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN at 427 Goodyear, CHRIST LUTHERAN at Broadway and Fox and the LINCOLN MEMORIAL METHODIST at Howard and Monroe. HOLY MOTHER OF THE ROSARY PNC was located at 150 Sobieski and the BAPTIST CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR was located at 821 Fillmore. There was a RUSSIAN BAPTIST CHURCH at 780 William Street.

ST. JOHN LUTHERN was located at 85 Amherst Street in Black Rock, the HUNGARIAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR at 1035 Grant, ALL SAINTS PNC OF BLACK ROCK at the corner of Grote and Peter and the BLACK ROCK MISSION (2nd Polish) met in the IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED at 69 Military Road. Buffalo appeared to be a very spiritual community fifty years ago. There was listed, a total of 298 temples and churches of all denomination in the city alone. They ranged from the more familiar Episcopalian, Catholic and Baptists sects to less familiar Universalist, Swedenborgian and the Friendly Bible Presbyterians.

In the year 1994, one wonders about the tangibles and intangibles that helped enrich the lives of first, second and third generation families in Black Rock and the East Side. What has become of these theatres, societies, stores and other places of culture, commerce and amusement over the past half century? Are they still in existence, playing the role for which they were intended or have most survived only in the memory of the elderly who pause, as they pass a second hand store with an unusual facade, and see not the crude graffiti, peeling paint and cracked windows. Instead, reality falls victim to nostalgia, and they visualize a brightly lit marquee, a ticket booth surrounded by eager patrons, smartly uniformed ushers and recall, for a brief moment, the fun of Saturday nights at this "once upon a time" neighborhood theatre.



# BOOK REVIEW

Book Review  
by Martin S. Nowak

## The Keys Of This Blood

*The Keys Of This Blood: The Struggle For World Dominion Between Pope John Paul II, Mikhail Gorbachev And The Capitalist West.* by Malachi Martin (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1990)

In this book by Malachi Martin, respected theologian and expert on the inner workings of the Roman Catholic Church, the author puts forward his theory that in a few years, perhaps by the end of this century, the world will live for all practical purposes under one single authority.

The reader who is interested mainly in Polish affairs and history can be forgiven if he or she does not read the entire text of this 700 page book. Reading the introductory chapter to get the book's main theme, then skipping to chapter 26 will be rewarding enough.

Beginning at that point, Martin delves into the background of Pope John Paul, postulating that his worldwide geopolitical agenda as pope is a direct result of his Polishness. The author then goes on to show how Polish history shaped the character of John Paul and every Pole of his generation and before, through the "Three Pacts of Polishness": Mieszko's acceptance of Roman Christianity, the power of the Primate of Poland to act as head of the Polish nation when no legitimate Polish government exists and the firm belief that the Virgin Mary is the protector and Queen of Poland.

The Poland that this pope knew was a conglomeration of Roman Catholic Poles and other substantial ethnic groups and religions including Lithuanians, Jews, Ruthenians, Ukrainians, Russians and Germans living in the same country in relative peace (though not fully integrated) centuries before the United States or any other country became so tolerable. As such, the author argues that a one-world government is not an impossible dream to John Paul, but a goal quite easily and naturally accepted by him.

There is a great deal of admiration in this book for the Poles' ability to preserve their culture and heritage through 200 years of what the author calls the "Pacts of Extinction": the 18th century partition of Poland among Prussia, Russia and Austria which was sanctioned by the great powers of Europe in the Congress of Vienna in 1815, the Nazi-Soviet occupation during World War II and the U.S.-British-Soviet agreement to betray Poland following the war by handing it over to the Soviets and changing its borders.

Also, it is in this book that the author reveals that John Paul II is not the first pope of Polish descent. That distinction belongs to Italian born St. Pius X, whose parents were natives of Poland but fled to Italy to escape the occupation of their homeland by the Austrians. St Pius X was pope from 1903 to 1914 and was canonized in 1959.

Whether or not one agrees with Martin's assessment of the current state of the world and church, and his warnings about their future, a Polish-American will come away feeling proud of his heritage after reading this book, for the author does an outstanding job of presenting the pride and pain of Polish history.

*The Keys of This Blood can be borrowed from the downtown branch of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.*

## Golembiowski Speaks At May Meeting

*Andrzej Golembiowski, president of the East Side Historical Association spoke at the May meeting on the importance of preserving our past. He also brought us up to date on the Transfiguration Church situation.*

(Photo by R. Bystrak)



Donor names on windows at Transfiguration Church as seen on April 5, 1994. This list was furnished to members by A. Golembiowski at his presentation.

### Large Transept Window - Mills Street Side

1. Bukowscy, Feliks i Michalina
2. Malecki
3. Koncikowski
4. Hoppa, Wojciech

### Lower Nave Windows - Mills Street Side (South to North)

1. Slinkier, Tomasz
2. Bobowicz, Jozef i Marianna
3. Towarzystwo Osiwaty Imienia Slowackiego
4. Ciszek, Maciej
5. Zakrzewski, Jozef i Zona (stairs to choir)

### Clerestory Windows - Mills Street Side (South to North)

1. Marcinkiewicz, Nikodem i Wiktorya
2. Kotowski, Franciszek i Joanna
3. Piotrowski, Piotr
4. Lubecki, Antoini

### Choir Loft - Facing Sycamore Street (East to West)

1. Czerwinska, first name panel, boarded (missing ?)
2. Large Middle Window inaccessible
3. Inaccessible

### Lower Nave Windows-Convent Side (South to North)

1. Name panels boarded (missing ?)
2. Kurek, Wincenty i Marianna

### 3. Smyczynski, Leonard i Anna

4. Jankowski, Jozef i Jadwiga
5. Majewski, Franciszek i Marianna (stairs to choir)

### Clerestory Windows - Convent Side (South to North)

1. Derfert, Wladyslaw i Konstancja
2. Gwardya Huzarow Sw. Gwalberta
3. Hodkiewicz, Edmund i Katarzyna
4. Witkowski, Antoni i Katarzyna

### Transept Window - Convent Side

1. Szkodowski, Michal i Julianna
2. Mioducki, Wojciech i Balbina
3. Kuczkowski, Jakob i Katarzyna
5. Smeja, Marcel i Marianna

### Alter Windows - Convent to Mills St.

1. Brejski, Jozef i Jozefina
2. Schunke, Henryk i Antonina
3. Lipowicz, Stanislaw i Julianna
4. Winiewicz, Wawrzyniec i Barbara
5. Kuczkowski, Michal i Weronika
6. Name panels boarded (missing ?)
7. Przewozniczek, Wladyslaw i Bracia
8. Bilski, Kazimierz i Agnieszka , Glinki, Antoni i Antonina
9. Szlagowski, Jozef i Tekla



## Destination Poland September 1993

by Jenny Wolski

Delving into genealogy is one thing but actually seeing our ancestral homeland is quite another. Helen Skarbek and I made a decision to visit Poland and much to our surprise we found out that Florence Witul was going on the same tour, so we became a threesome.

Our quick two week tour of Poland included Warsaw, Czestochowa, Krakow, Zakopane, Auschwitz, Wroclaw, Poznan, Toran, Gdynia and Mabork. We departed on Saturday, September 18, 1993, on Boeing 767 from Kennedy Airport in New York via Lot Airlines. Of interest on this smooth flight was the bulletin board on the plane with instructions in both English and Polish, not just pre-flight instructions but throughout the entire flight a map would flash showing where we were at a particular time, the number of hours we were in the air, number of miles we covered, ground speed, altitude, temperature outdoors and of course time. We were wined and dined throughout the entire flight. In approximately 8 hours we arrived at the newly opened Okecia Airport in Warsaw where Buffalonian Stan Franczyk greeted our group briefly.

My initial reaction to Warsaw, I must admit was disappointment- just another city, but once we began our tour I changed my mind. Our arrival coincided with the last of the Russian troops leaving Poland. It was also "Dzien Wybory". We made our way to a local school where balloting was taking place and viewed their process first hand, 300 names to chose from and that was just for parliament.

Warsaw is located in the Mazovian lowlands on the banks of the Vistula River. It is built on five hills and is the greenest European city, about 80% was of the city was destroyed by the Nazis. Its current population is 1,800,000 inhabitants. The city grew as it was being re-built after WWII. Its first subway should be completed in 1994. The most prominent symbol and official crest of Warsaw is the militant mermaid. Legend has it that a mermaid spoke to young twins, named Wars and Sawa who were playing on the banks of the river and told them that a city would be founded here. Thus the name Warszawa.

We toured Old Town, the site of the Ghetto Memorial and the Popieluszko Monument, motor toured to Embassy row, Lech Walesa's presidential home and Wilanow Palace with its lush gardens and beautiful grounds. Provisions were always made for a good lunch stop, the krupnik soup was delicious. Lavatories, though not what we are accustomed to, were available with the every ready attendant waiting with plate as we departed.

Next morning we boarded the bus for Czestochowa via Ochota. Poland's countryside is beautiful. As we traveled along we would see peasants working the fields and horse drawn wagons, it was potato harvest time. This brought back childhood memories for me, having grown up on a farm, it reminded me of the times that we would throw the potatoes into the fire to roast, the blacker they were the tastier. In Poland small farms with various crops are privately owned, the large farms with a single crop are state owned.

In approximately 3 hours we reached Czestochowa. This is Poland's most important town for Roman Catholics. The walk up the hill to the monastery is very, very steep. The original icon of the Black Madonna is venerated hourly between 6a.m. and 12:00 noon. A tour by one of the Pauline monks led us behind locked doors where the crowns, jewels, etc. are kept. A brief stop was made at the Franciscan convent in Checiny as we proceeded to Krakow.

Krakow is vibrant and exciting with its numerous buildings and monu-

ments of historical and architectural interest. Wawel Castle is beautiful with it's Gothic cathedral, the royal chambers and tapestries. Everything in the royal cathedral is original. Sobieski, Sikorski and Kosciuszko are buried in the oldest part of the cathedral. We witnessed the appearance of the trumpeter- Hejnal, in the tower of St. Mary's Church in the square. Krakow was most memorable for us, as Helen's cousins whom she had never met personally, came to the hotel as did my cousin, who is a student at the university.

We toured the Auschwitz concentration camp as well as Berkenau, the labor camp in Brzezinka. Although this was not a pleasant part of the tour, I would recommend that if in Poland, by all means make an effort to see first hand the horrors where millions lost their lives.

We traveled on to view the "Raclawice" panorama of the Kosciuszko Insurrection. This panoramic painting is 120 meters in circumference and took 9 months to paint. It signifies the 1794 Uprising led by T. Kosciuszko to prevent the third and final partition of Poland.

As we headed toward Poznan we saw oriental style brick homes which were owned by gypsies from Germany. Windmills can be seen as we approach the city, although they are no longer operational, they are a beautiful sight to behold. This is also the area where we were stopped for speeding!! Poznan is located on the banks of three rivers, the Warta, Odra and Notec. It is known for its domestic and international furs. The first Polish railroad was built here. We attended Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, the 15th Century church of Wladyslaw Jagiello who was married to Queen Jadwiga. This marriage established the Jagellonian dynasty and united Lithuania and Poland. No pictures were allowed in this as in many other churches, palaces and castles in Poland. The altar in this church is pure gold and 200 years old.

That evening, we boarded horse driven buggies lit by toches. We were driven to a forest glade for an open air kielbasa roast. As we boarded we were treated to pieprznówka. On arrival gaily attired musicians greeted us with a large bonfire. Long tree branches were used for holding the kielbasa and everyone roasted their own. This was served with rye bread, horseradish and Zywiec beer. A jovial time was had by all.

Next we moved on to Torun, a medieval town associated with Copernicus, then onto Gdynia for three nights. Gdynia is part of the tri-city complex of Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia. This is the amber capital. We took an excursion to Westerplatte where the first shots of WW II were fired.

That evening took us to a Kaszubian community near Gdansk for an evening of dinner and entertainment. The Kaszubians are a group of approximately 360,000 mostly fishermen and craftsmen. The dancers and musicians performed between dinner courses and during intermission purchases of crafts and handiwork could be made.

On to Warsaw for one more day. We toured the Royal Palace which was completely destroyed by the Nazis in 1944. Restoration of the palace took ten years and was completed in 1981. That final evening we had dinner, dancing and entertainment at the Polonia Restaurant. Everyone was in a jovial mood and we were in no hurry to leave. However, as all good things must come to an end, it was back to the Forum Hotel to pack for departure home the next morning. We had a brief glimpse of the tourist side of Poland. Its now time to go back, knowing that we have joined hands with our relations and shared with them the Poland that we too are a part of.

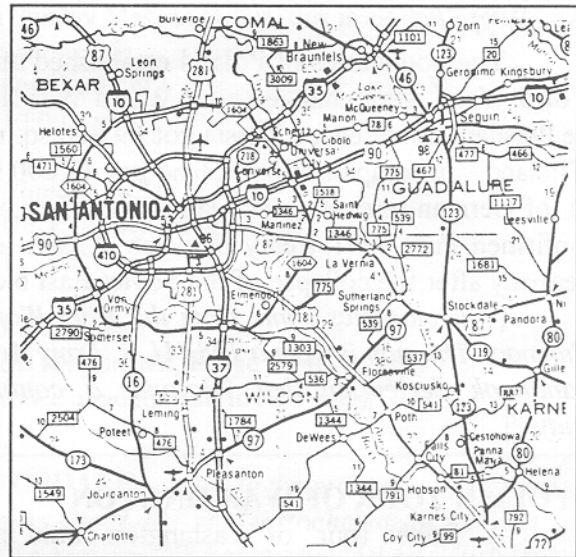
# POLISH BITS & PIECES (Summer) by W. A. Radlinski

## A POLISH TOUR OF WASHINGTON

A "Polish" tour of Washington, D.C. could include visits to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to see the beautiful chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa, patron saint of Poland; the headquarters of the American Center of Polish Culture at 2025 O Street, NW, an organization dedicated to preserving Polish ethnic culture in the United States; the statue of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko in Lafayette Park across from the White House; the statue of General Casimir Pulaski in Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue across from the National Theater; and the Jefferson Memorial at the Tidal Basin to see the 19-foot statue of Thomas Jefferson wearing knee britches, a waist coat, and a fur-collared great coat said to have been given to him by his friend Kosciuszko.

## PANNA MARIA, TEXAS

Panna Maria, Texas, about 55 miles southeast of San Antonio, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the oldest permanent settlement of Poles in the United States, established on December 24, 1854. It was founded by a group of 800 Polish immigrants from the southwestern part of Poland (Silesia) which was then under Prussian rule. They landed in Galveston, Texas after a nine-week sail from Bremen on the ship *Weser*, walked to Indianola, then to San Antonio, and ended their journey on a hill in Karnes County overlooking the junction of the San Antonio River and Cibolo Creek, a total distance of 308 miles. They were looking for a Father Leopold Moczygemba who had invited them to settle in Texas but who unavoidably could not meet them when they landed. Father Moczygemba was a Franciscan missionary who had been working among the German colonists in Texas since the 1850s. In the Polish party were four Moczygemba brothers as well as nephews and neighbors from Moczygemba's home village. They named their settlement *Panna Maria* (Virgin Mary) after the famous St. Mary's church in Krakow. Other groups of Polish immigrants arrived in the area in 1855, 1856, and 1857. Near Panna Maria are places named Kosciuszko [*sic*] and Cestochowa [*sic*]. [Source: Panna Maria Historical Society, 1994.]



## PULASKI DAY

Casimir Pulaski was born in Poland on March 4, 1747 and died on October 11, 1779 on the U.S ship *Wasp* after being wounded in the defense of Savannah during the Revolutionary War. "Pulaski Day" in this country is celebrated at different times. A New York State law in 1988 established March 4, the day of Pulaski's birth, as "Pulaski Day." In Illinois, it is celebrated on the first Monday in March. In some other areas "Pulaski Day" is celebrated on October 11, the day of his death. In Washington, D.C. the ceremonial laying of a wreath at Pulaski's statue is usually done on October 11.

## PIEROGI

Pierogi (pyehrogee) are Polish pocket noodles containing any number of different fillings ranging from meat to fruit. They are similar to Italian ravioli and Chinese won tons and are eaten plain or sprinkled with melted butter mixed with bread crumbs, salt, and pepper. Typical pierogi are half-moon shaped and are cooked in boiling salt water. Any Polish cookbook will have recipes for pierogi as well as for several fillings. Pierogi became commercially available in 1952 under a "Mrs. T's" label. The company, founded by Ted Twardzik, produces six million pierogi a week in its Shenandoah, Pa. plant according to the March 1994 issue of the *Polish-American Journal*.



## POLISH BITS & PIECES (Winter) by W. A. Radlinski

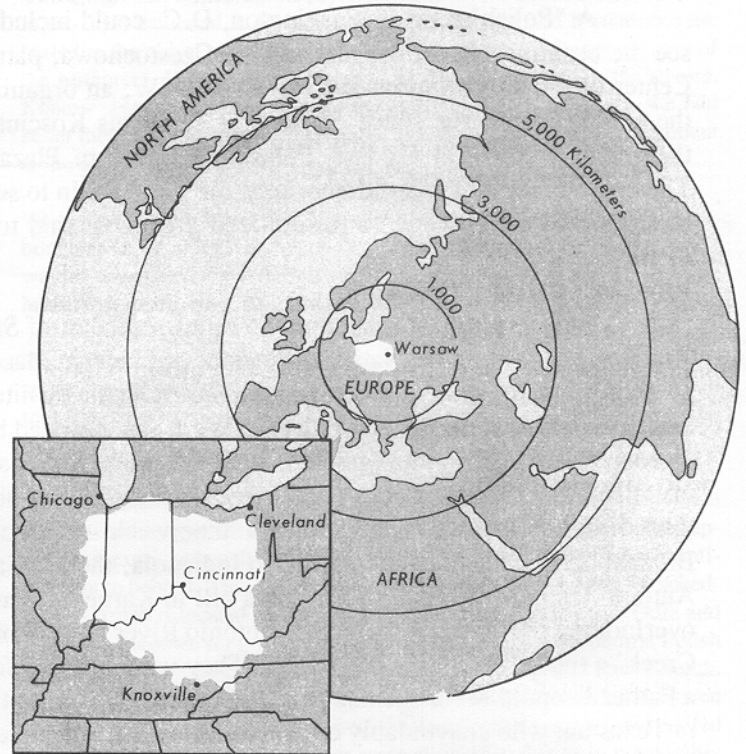
### THE SIZE OF POLAND

The area of Poland is 120,727 square miles. A comparison of its relative size is shown on the map to the right. Also shown are distances from Warsaw to other parts of the world. Warsaw is at 52 degrees, 15 minutes north latitude, on the same parallel that goes through northern Ontario.

A 1991 population estimate for Poland is 37,779,000. Warsaw has 1.6 million, Lodz 851,000, Wroclaw 831,000, Krakow 748,000, and Poznan 570,000.

The boundaries of Poland established after World War I were changed after World War II at the Potsdam Conference. Russia got 69,860 sq. mi. of Poland. In compensation Poland got 40,000 sq. mi. of German territory. The latter accession was confirmed in a 1991 treaty between Poland and Germany after the collapse of the Soviet East bloc.

[The statistics came from the 1993 World Almanac. The map is from a 1983 U. S. Army Area Handbook Series entitled "Poland, a country study."]



### A POLISH TOUR OF WASHINGTON

A "Polish tour" of Washington could include visits to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception where one can see the beautiful chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa; the headquarters of the American Center of Polish Culture at 2025 O Street, NW, an organization dedicated to preserving Polish ethnic culture in the United States; the statue of General Kosciuszko in Lafayette Park across from the White House; the statue of General Pulaski in Freedom Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue across from the National Theater; and the Jefferson Memorial at the Tidal Basin to see the 19-foot statue of Thomas Jefferson wearing knee britches, a waist coat, and a fur-collared great coat said to have been given to him by his friend Kosciuszko.

### CHRISTMAS EVE IN POLAND

Observances of Christmas vary from one region to another in Poland but all Poles celebrate a special Christmas Eve supper, the *Wigilia* (pronounced vee-geel-ya) from the Latin word "vigilare," meaning to watch or to wait. It is a meatless meal consisting of about 12 different dishes. When the first star appears on December 24, families gather for this most important of meals. Before sitting to eat everyone in the family shares a traditional paper-thin wafer called *opłatek* (pronounced o-pwa-tek from the Latin word "oplatatus" meaning sacred bread) which is often embossed with a religious scene. As the wafer is passed from person to person, each member of the family offers good wishes to every other member, starting with eldest. After supper and the singing of *kolędy* (pronounced ko-len-dy meaning Christmas carols), everyone goes to *Pasterka* (Midnight Mass) to welcome the birth of Jesus. As people travel to Mass in jingling sleighs, all the churches and chapels of the city (there are about 100 in Krakow and Warsaw) ring their bells festively for 15 minutes. Then, sharply at midnight, choirs greet the worshipers with the centuries-old carol: *Bóg się rodzi - moc truchleje* (God is born - the mighty tremble). The singing of carols helps to develop a feeling of warmth and exhilaration otherwise known as "the Christmas spirit." [Extracted from *The Living Celebration Series*, the Smithsonian Institution, 1982.]



## At The Diocese Urging...

The Catholic diocese of Buffalo with its New Visions 2000 program urges parishes to consolidate their masses if they do not have at least 50% of the church's capacity in attendance. As a result there are fewer masses and of most concern fewer masses in Polish, since these masses have lesser attendance.

If we say that we care about our Polish heritage, let's do something about it. One way is to start attending those parishes that celebrate masses in Polish. We are not advocating you to change parishes, only to help preserve a special part of our tradition in the faith.

Father David Bialkowski recently sent a very moving letter to Bishop Head on the loss of the Polish language mass at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, in which he quotes **Pope John Paul speaking to the Polish Clergy** -

*"Remain faithful to your heritage. Make it the foundation of your formation. Be nobly proud of it. Keep this heritage and multiply it; and pass it on to future generations".*

The following is a list of area parishes that still have a Sunday Mass in Polish, this is all that's left!!

### Buffalo

**St. Stanislaus, Peckham and Wilson St.**

8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon (radio mass)  
also weekdays at 8:00 a.m.

**Corpus Christi, Clark and Kent St.**

7:30 a.m. and 10:30 High mass / choir  
also weekdays at 8:30 a.m.

**St. John Kanty's, Broadway and Swinburne St.**

7:30 a.m.

**Assumption of the BVM, Amherst St. in Black Rock**

10:30 a.m.

### Cheektowaga

**St. Josaphat's, William St. near Harlem**

9:00 a.m.

**St. John Gualbert's, Doat and Gualbert St.**

10:30 a.m.

### Tonawanda

**Our Lady of Czestochowa, Center St.**

10:00 a.m.

### Niagara Falls

**Holy Trinity, Niagara St.**

11:00a.m.

### Lackawanna

**St. Hyacinth's, Ridge Road**

(once a month, call to find date)

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**\*UPDATE:** Due to the protests in the Polish community, Our Lady of Czestochowa on Clinton Street in Cheektowaga, NY, has reinstated their Polish Mass on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. for one year. (11/94)

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On June 12, 1927 at the blessing of the new Franciscan convent in Hamburg, NY, Fr. Justyn Figas said, "Przemawiam do was, wielobne siostry nie jako wasz prowincjal, lecz jako franciszkanin, zakonnik jak i wy, w pracy waszej doznacie bogoslawnienstwa bozego tak dlugo jak zostaniecie siostrami polkami". "Macie uczyc dzieci po polsku i nie sluchac zlych podszetow". p56 "Ach, Te Chamy w Ameryce" by Wacław Gasiorowski

## Local Polish / Polish-American Media Guide

The Am - Pol Eagle (weekly newspaper)  
3343 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Polish American Sunday Program WHTT AM Radio  
1120 on the dial - Sun. 12:00 noon-5:00 p.m.

The Polish American Journal (monthly newspaper)  
1275 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14206

### Polish Language Radio Programs:

Polonia Varieties, WHLD AM Radio  
1270 on the dial - Mon, Thur, and Fri. 1 - 2 p.m.  
Polonia Review, CIAO AM Radio  
530 on the dial - Mon thru Fri. 7:30-8:30 p.m. and  
Sun. 8:00-10:00 p.m.

### Local Polka Programs:

WHLD AM Radio, 1270 on the dial, Mon-Fri. 5-7 p.m.  
WBFO FM Radio, 88.5 on the dial, Sun. 6-9 p.m.  
WHTT AM Radio, 1120 on the dial, Sat. 12-3 p.m.  
WDOE AM Radio, 1410 on the dial, Sat. and Sun. 10-12 p.m.  
WXLN AM Radio, 1300 on the dial, Sun. 9-11 a.m.  
also 88.9 FM Radio, Sat. 2-4 p.m.

*Listen and read, it is a great way to show your Polish and Proud  
and to stay informed on what is going on in Polonia.*

## GENEALOGY: NOT ONLY NAME COLLECTING

by Mike Drabik

A phone call back in 1981, from a second cousin's wife first got me involved in my family history. Since that time I have actively researched our history, including a genealogical trip to Poland to obtain records and photograph historical items of interest to our genealogy. Beside gathering personal data on my ancestors, I also tried to locate photos wherever possible, this enhances the reading material.

My paternal side of the tree was my first endeavor, Busia Kurgan Drabik's branch was relatively easy to trace since we still corresponded with relatives residing in the ancestral villages around her birthplace. Dziadzia Drabik's branch was much more challenging. He was rather mysterious in all sense of the word. Little did I know what revelations this search would provide.

Onufry Drabik was born in 1884 according to his grave stone, we also knew he was a "Galicijok", someone born in the Austrian partition of Poland. He had a brother and a sister in the Buffalo area, there was never much contact with their children once the parents died. There also was Stryjek Michal who was left in the old country, he was too young to immigrate with the others and then the war broke out, so Michal remained in Poland but kept in contact with the family in America. By 1955, his brothers and sister were deceased, but Ciocia Leosia and Stryjek Stasiu kept in contact with him till his death in 1970. Thus ended for the most part contact with the Drabiks in the old country.

It was when Ciocia Leosia passed away, that a treasure house of information on the Drabik family sur-

faced. She was a saver, in a small wooden box found in a clothes closet were found her parent's birth certificates, old photos, an old survey of the family farm in Ebenezer, N.Y. and other bites of information. There was an old letter written to her Mother, my Busia, from her sister and brother thanking her for the clothes and cash sent to them after the war, also a letter from Dziadzia's brother Michal. This letter was very interesting because it described their fate after World War II. From the birth certificate and the letter, I realized that Dziadzia was not an ethnic Pole! He was baptized and confirmed in the Greek Catholic Church of Zawadka, Powiat Lesko. His family after the war was removed during "Akcja Wisla" and resettled in the village of Helenkiw in the Soviet Ukraine in 1946, because they were Lemkis, all this was a shock to me. I never heard any of this mentioned before.

Taking it upon myself to find out about my Dziadzia's family, I wrote a letter to the Drabik family in Helenkiw, Ukraine. I waited a long four or five months before I received a reply. Stryjek Michal's grandson Stepan, answered my letter, he was a young unmarried man of about 19. His mother Katarzyna, was the daughter of Michal, she was born in the ancestral village of Zawadka as were her 5 brothers, 4 of them still alive. Stepan informed me of the family members living in the Ukraine, their names and their occupations, he also sent a few old photos of the family. Over the years we continued our letter correspondence and in one letter he wrote and invited my family and I to a wedding, he was getting married. Stepan later sent us a photo of him

and his new bride and photos of the wedding reception. As time went by, Stepan and his wife Swetlana, had a daughter named Irena. They wrote that the child became ill shortly after she was born and the information seemed to have ended here. In each letter they wrote that they were taking her to this hospital and that clinic for help.

Early in 1991, a letter came from Swetlana pleading for me to help them. Little Irena, after spending a year in a full leg cast, was still not better and hopes for any improvement looked grim. They truly believed that only in America could their daughter be cured. Understanding their plea, I wrote back explaining that I am a father of three daughters and in my heart I knew how they felt about a sick child, but financially it was impossible for me to help them, I explained medical treatment here is extremely expensive, but I would try to find an organization that might be able to help.

I remembered hearing about the good work done by the Shriners and decided to call and ask, I was put in contact with a Mr. Clarence Hopper at the West Seneca Temple of Ismailia. Mr. Hopper told me that certainly they would see if they could help once a packet of medical information was received and reviewed. The Shriners have their own chain of hospitals that specialize in burn and bone disease treatment. I was mailed the required medical packet and forwarded to my cousin. They were required to have the forms filled out by the hospitals and doctors who attended to Irena, this simple request for information turned out to be a nightmare for the

*Continued NEXT PAGE*



## GENEALOGY: NOT ONLY NAME COLLECTING

*Continued from page 12*

family. They were refused time and time again this information as they were told "Why do you want to go to America for treatment, they will only experiment on Irena, here we can cure her." Finally paying off one of the doctors, the forms were mailed to the Shriners for evaluation. In the meantime, Mr. Hopper contacted the National Headquarters in Florida to seek permission to treat a foreign child as only a certain number are permitted per year. After about 6 months of waiting, we were able to write back that the Shriners would help. Now the big question was, would the authorities release them and how would they be able to afford such a trip. The necessary papers required from our side were forwarded to Stepan, they wrote back that the trip would cost more than they anticipated and there was still no word as of yet whether the U.S. Consul would grant them a visa.

Finally, the letter came stating they can come, but the expense was too great even with the help of their parents, they still did not have enough. Hearing this sad news, my mother decided to finance the trip to

bring Irena and her mother here for treatment.

Our guests arrived almost a year after the first contact was made, it was

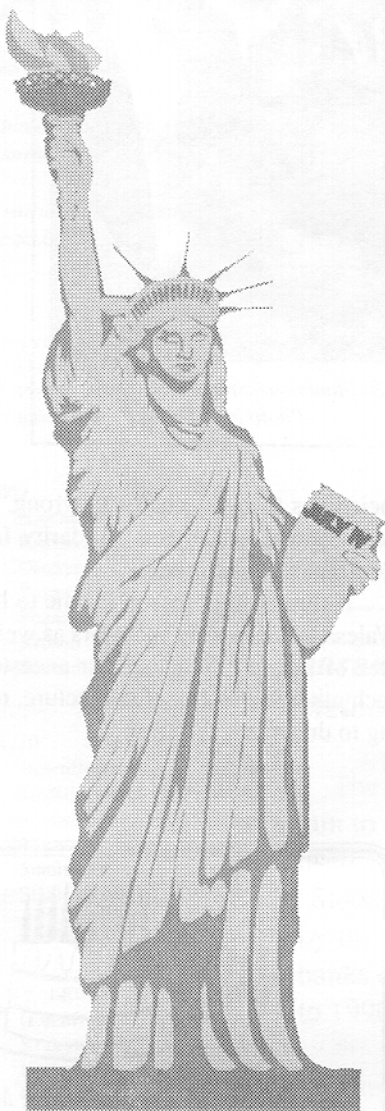
truly a touching moment when we stood at the Buffalo airport and greeted them. The first Drabik descendant to come to America in over 85 years. They spent the Easter holiday with us before they were scheduled to go for the first appointment at the Shriners hospital in Erie, PA., after two visits the hospital staff decided on a plan of treatment. Irena's condition is known as osteomyelitis with angular deformity, not uncommon the physicians explained, but the most serious problem was that Irena's growth plate in her left leg was almost completely destroyed from a

childhood infection in her knee, her leg would never grow properly in size. After performing the needed surgery, a lifter was made on her shoe to compensate for the shortness. The staff estimated that by the time she will be twelve years old, her leg could be as much as 12 inches shorter than the other. A lifter to compensate for

such a difference just would not be possible. Their plan of action at that point would be to break the femur in two places and place two pins into it to compensate for the lack of growth, these pins over time would calcify and enable her to walk alone without the aid of any devices.

So for a year and a half Swetlana and little Irena lived with us, with the use of the Polish language we were all able to communicate with each other. Somehow, it was a blessing that my three daughters were also able to converse with their little cousin, because their first language was Polish. Irena was lucky to have been able to attend Pre K at St. Bernard's School for almost the whole year, Msgr. Juchnowski arranged that the tuition was taken care of. The weeks she was hospitalized, the hospital saw to it that an instructor tutored Irena in English. What she saw, the places she went and the things she did, hopefully will be lasting memories for Irena. When they returned home, they left with more than just a photo album of memories, two new languages (English and Polish) and some new clothes. Hopefully the medical treatment received gratis from the Shriners, will improve the quality of life for this sweet little girl and her family.

It is now more than a year after they have departed from the States, in Swetlana's last letter she wrote of having difficulty finding a place to have a new pair of shoes made for Irena, they were still searching for someone who could make a lifter for her. We pray that everything will be better and they can find the help they need now in their independent homeland.





# Lech Walesa Visits Buffalo

by Edward Prabucki

Lech Walesa honored Buffalo with a visit on the mild weekend of October 22, 1994 and those in Polonia devotedly and ceremoniously returned that honor at many gatherings for this notable man. I felt emotionally proud as I had witnessed his arrival at the Convention Center for he was and still is a poignant reminder that Poland through plundered and brutalized for centuries is an indelible part of Europe.

The following day, viewing him the second time, President Lech Walesa continued to be an overwhelming presence and as he entered St. Stanislaus, the church was visibly manifested by his appearance. I felt a certain reverence attending this mass in the presence of several bishops including Buffalo's Bishop Head. A combined choir sang during the Polish Mass.

The homily, paying deep respect to the past and present members of the Polish American Congress and the victims of Solidarity during the 1980's. However, an innocent oversight was personally noticed by the lack to mention Father Jerzy Popieluszko. In many homilies in early 1980, Father Jerzy Popieluszko intensely promoted Solidarity and thru this, unfortunately brought the wrath of the Secret Police and eventually his death on October 18th, 1984. During the mass, the melodious hymns of the infallible choir, ones I personally haven't heard in years, compounded my pleasure of that day. One of the hymns I never tire of hearing was "How Great Thou Art", a very moving hymn. At the completion of the mass, the Polish and American national athenms were sung.

As President Lech Walesa made his exit and strolled down Wilson St. his charisma and elegance was very obvious, he has touched many lives not only here but also in Poland, Canada and many parts of the world. However I am of the opinion the lavish accolades are all appropriate as it does not go far enough for, I see him as a revolutionary, but in a class with Marshal Jozef Pilsudski- one very forceful in promoting the interests of Poland. Others are General Tad Kosciuszko, General Casimir Pulaski, Thomas Jefferson, General Simon Bolivar- all revolutionaries, seeing the wrongs in their countries and dedicated their lives to right them. Though fate, fortune and the sign of times placed them on the world stage, it was their fervor, their desire to head a revolution against arbitrary rule and so it was with Lech



President and Mrs. Lech Walesa outside St. Stanislaus church in Buffalo.

Photo by Edward Prabucki

Walesa to play a leading role for Solidarity.

In conclusion, I must add, President Lech Walesa, father of eight children, dismissed as an agitator in a Gdansk shipyard, no doubt felt depressed over his ever increasing privation despite the ostensible independence from his daily routine, but he never deviated from his goals. I do relate the hardships of the unemployed Lech Walesa with the hardships of the Polish families of the 18th and 19th centuries as many of our ancestors dedicated

their lives to right what was wrong. Such was the struggle of Lech Walesa as he lead Solidarity from the Harsh rule of the Communist government.

If for no other reason for me to be proud of President Lech Walesa is the fact his ancestors as well as mine lived in the same area of Poland. Whether our ancestors in centuries past knew each other is a matter of conjecture, nevertheless it is great feeling to dream so.



To The Following Members:

**August-17th:** Laurie Bialoglowicz; **22nd:** Loral Keough  
**September-2nd:** Stephanie Gaiek; **13th:** Laura Dory;  
**28th:** Walter Kloc  
**October-3rd:** Leo Majchrzak; **18th:** Helen Sosnowski;  
**19th:** Brian Stanish; **23rd:** Mike Drabik; **28th:** Ted Myers  
**November-24th:** Dorthy Krantz  
**December-7th:** Edward Bialoglowicz; **28th:** Janice Bartoszek; **30th:** Dorthy Cook

NAME

SEARCH

*Member and non member  
researchers wishing to submit surnames  
for this page are asked to send submissions to  
the Searchers Committee.*

*To submit listings for publication, please send  
your name and address, the surnames your research-  
ing and location if known.*

*Please keep limit to- six surnames of research.  
Non members please include \$3.00*

Brandon, Donald  
238 Brentwood Drive, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

(Researching Surnames)	(Location)
Suwinski	Prussia
Brzezinski	unknown

Buckley, Camille  
31 Fairway Dr., Elma NY 14059

(Researching Surnames)	(Location)
Wozniak	Rzeszow
Ornawski	Olsztyn
Kowalczewski	Poznan
Jaszcz	Poznan
Byk	Krosno
Skrzypczak	Poznan

Castiglione, Nancy  
90 Milford St., Buffalo NY 14210

(Researching Surnames)	(Location)
Pidskalny	Stanislawow
Maksymilin	Stanislawow
Kowalsuk	Stanislawow
Bajcer	Stanislawow
Pochkalny	Stanislawow

Cirincione, Denise  
3445 Howard Road, Hamburg NY 14075

(Researching Surnames)	(Location)
Pantera	Krakow
Rymarski	Krakow
Balon	Galicja
Toman	Krakow
Furmankiewicz	Krakow
Bogacz	Galicja

Postula, Robert  
14197 Bangor Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48313-5407

(Researching Surnames)	(Location)
Postula	Rzeszow
Dluzen	W. Seneca NY or Erie PA
Postula	Batavia, NY
Postula	Portage Township, St. Joseph, IN
Ksiczek	Lackawanna, NY

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

### Proud Pulaski Honorees

Ted Smardz, president, and Dr. Bob Pantera, vice president, proudly accepted the General Pulaski Award presented to the Polish Genealogical Society of WNY at the General Pulaski Association awards dinner which was held at the Radisson Hotel on August 21st.

### Dedicated Service Awards

During the 1994 PGSWNY October Workshop, the awards committee presented the following members with awards for their outstanding participation and dedication to the society:

Mr. Walter Kloc  
Mr. Edward Prabucki  
Mrs. Dorthy Cook  
Dr. Robert Pantera

### *Surname Directory, On Order, Will Be Welcome Addition To PGSWNY Library*

The Polish Instytut Języka Polskiego of Krakow, Poland has begun to publish a very comprehensive directory of Polish surnames used in contemporary Poland. The 10 volume work entitled "Słownik Nazwisk Współcześnie w Polsce Używanych" is edited by the renown Kazimierz Rymut, and compiled mainly from data banks of the Rzadowy Centrum Informacyjny, based on records up to 1990.

Our society has placed an order for this series of directories; so far 8 volumes have been released. The information you will be able to obtain from these volumes will pertain to the distribution of a particular surname among Poland's 49 provinces or wojewodztwa. We are all looking forward to using this new society tool.

### MEETING REMINDER:

The PGSWNY meets the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria College cafeteria, 240 Pine Ridge Rd., Cheektowaga, at 7:00 p.m.



## A VISIT TO POLAND *(July 23-31, 1994) by Kathy & Dean (Jerry) Rojek*

As our plane began to approach Warsaw we were filled with excitement. To finally have the opportunity to visit the land of the Rojek-Prusinowski family was a dream that was finally to be fulfilled. However, we were disillusioned by the pollution and the drab Soviet-designed buildings that dotted the landscape of Warsaw. We stayed three days in Warsaw and were immediately confronted with Poland's enduring quest for survival. While Poland has only recently come out from the communist cloud, the anticipated euphoria of a capitalist economy has not been realized and there is some pressure from a group referred to as post-communists to return to a form of socialism. On the other side is pressure from the Catholic Church to address a set of issues it feels are important but the government of Lech Walesa is trying to steer a course that does not seem to satisfy any group. We found no one who had words of support for Walesa and unless significant economic strides are made it is doubtful that he will be reelected in 1995. The inflation and interest rates in Poland are around 30 percent and the exchange rate is currently \$1 U.S. equaling 22,100 Polish zlotys. Our son, Eric, proudly held six million zloty when we first exchanged money in Warsaw. The standard quip is that everyone is a millionaire in Poland!

From Warsaw we ventured into the Polish countryside to try to find the birthplaces of Jerry's grandfathers. Were it not for the assistance of a guide, a friend from Lublin, we would have not been able to travel anywhere. The highways are not clearly marked, no one speaks English and our Polish was limited to about ten words. We made it to the town of Gniezno where the Cathedral of St. Adalbert, which dates back some 700 years, houses the diocesan archives. Our Polish friend thought that rather than looking for tiny parishes that the diocesan archives for the area of Poznan and Bydgoszcz would be an easier way to begin. Unfortunately the archivist was on vacation and a stern-looking sacristan was not moved by our pleas to just look at the record books on our own. We were dismayed to think that we came so close but were foiled by a vacationing archivist.

From Gniezno we headed north hoping to find the general area called Obiecanowo where Stanislaus Prusinowski was born. Obiecanowo is no longer found on any Polish map so we stopped and asked several different people if they had heard of the place but most people if they had heard of the place but most had not. We wandered the back roads of the Polish countryside when suddenly a sign on the side of the road said "Obiecanowo". When our Polish friend asked where the local church was, we were directed to a town five or six kilometers away called Zerniki. Thinking that the parish church would be much closer, we were convinced that driving to Zerniki would be a waste of time. We found the church and went to the door of the rectory. A young priest invited us in and told us the parish records went back several hundred years. We gave him the birthdate of Stanislaus Prusinowski and in a matter of minutes he found in the baptismal book the entry of Stanislaus Prusinowski, the son of Jozef Prusinowski and Antonina Dzil dated May 1, 1870. We then went into the church named The Nativity of the Blessed Mary, which was over 500 years old, and saw the baptismal font where Stanislaus Prusinowski was baptized. The priest and my Polish friend said that this parish church would have been the last place Stanislaus Prusinowski visited before leaving Obiecanowo for the United States. We left a copy of A History of Holy Cross Roman Catholic Parish, Salamanca, New York with the local pastor in memory of Stanislaus Prusinowski. We returned to Obiecanowo and counted ten houses and looked in amazement at the endless fields of wheat, barley and oats. We asked the oldest resident of Obiecanowo if he knew of any Prusinowski but he said none existed in this area.

From Obiecanowo we drove about 20 kilometers to Kcynia to visit Jerry's 80 year-old cousin, Jadwiga Pawlowska. Her grandmother and Jerry's grandfather, Walenty Rojek, were brother and sister. In fact, her grandparents came to the United States around 1892 and encouraged Walenty Rojek, his wife and two young children to come to the U.S. in 1893. Although we spoke no Polish and Jadwiga spoke no English, we were greeted warmly by Jadwiga and her family. We looked through her family album and discovered a picture of Jerry's First Communion and another picture of Neil and Shirley Rojek with their infant son, Jay. Jadwiga said the pictures were sent to her by "Antonio", who turned out to be Jerry's father. After a delectable Polish meal, Jadwiga's son drove us out to the parish church in Smogulec which was the parish church serving Chwaliszewo where Walenty and Agnieszka Rojek lived in 1890. The priest was very gracious but indicated that his records only went back to 1880 and we would have to write to the archdiocesan archivist in Gniezno for help in locating Walenty Rojek's baptismal records. However, he was quite certain that Walenty and Agnieszka Rojek were married in this church of St. Catherine in Smogulec, and that their daughter, Mary, and son Joseph, were baptized in this church. As in Zerniki, the church in Smogulec was over 400 hundred years old. Again we left a copy of the history of Holy Cross Parish in memory of Walenty Rojek.

We headed south for Krakow, stopping for the night in Czestochowa. The drive was long and exhausting. Polish highways are more like country roads, sometimes there is a line down the middle and other times there is nothing. The roads can be clogged with pedestrians, bicyclists, horse-drawn wagons, trucks belching black exhaust fumes, tiny Polish 126 Fiats struggling to go 35 or 40 miles an hour, and an occasional BMW or Mercedes flying down the middle of the road. Driving is nerve-racking and painfully slow. We stayed in a retreat house in Czestochowa for \$9.00 a night.

The next day we drove to Oswiecim, which is better known by the German name of Auschwitz. This is the site of a German concentration camp where 1.5 million were murdered. We walked into the prison buildings, the gas chamber and the crematorium. We saw thousands of shoes, piles of shaving brushes, suitcases and pieces of clothing taken from the victims. In a short film shown at the concentration camp, one of the few survivors was a lady with the last name of Prusinowska, perhaps a relative. Man's inhumanity to man is nowhere depicted with greater horror than at Auschwitz.

Next we visited Krakow and were charmed by the local artisans and the beauty of the town but concerned about the pollution. The magnificent buildings of Krakow are taking a severe punishment from acid rain. From Krakow we took our Polish friend home to Lublin which is less than a 100 miles from what was formerly the USSR but now is the Ukraine. Finally, we drove back to Warsaw on our own and did one last bit of sightseeing.

The future of Poland is difficult to predict. It has always struggled for its existence and in 1944 this struggle seems as precarious as ever. Industrial pollution is present in all the cities; there is growing anti-clericalism because some feel the Catholic Church is not exercising effective leadership; the current government seems to be unable to build a stable economic system; and there is the ever-present distrust of the Germans to the west and the Russians to the east. The country is predominantly agricultural but trying to jump into the industrial era regardless of the cost to the environment. The Polish national anthem, *Jeszcze Polska nie zginela* (Poland is not yet lost), seems most appropriate.



# POTPOURRI

## Workshops and Seminars

### PGS of Michigan

Held a workshop on Saturday October 15, 94 at Madonna University. Guest speaker was Jonathan Shea, speaking on Linguistic Aspects of Polish Research and Strategies for Translating Documents of Genealogical Value From Poland.

### Climbing The Family Tree

The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society presented a workshop entitled "Your Ancestors Voyage To America", on Saturday, October 15, 94. Guest Speakers included Benjamin Harrison Trask, Director of the Mariners Museum in Newport News, Virginia. Mr. Trask spoke on, "Immigrant Trade Business in the Early Nineteenth Century". Also Buffalo native, Glenn Atwell spoke on the topic of "Sources for Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor - Here and Abroad".

## PGSWNY Upcoming Meetings

### October,

Sr. Ellen Marie Kuznicki presented a lecture on her research dealing with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Felician Sisters and its impact on Polonia. Sister, a Dunkirk native is on staff at Villa Maria College.

### November,

Sophie Hodorowicz Knab gave a slide presentation on "Chaty Chlopskie", peasant cottages. Sophie's program gave insight into a typical peasant's home and the type of furnishing and utensils that were once used. Mrs. Hodorowicz Knab is a columnist with the Polish American Journal. Look for her new book due out this Spring.

### December,

Elections, Our Annual Christmas Party and a update on our trip to Ellis Island coming up in May of 1995

### January 1995,

Joan Serafini of the Guest Speaker Committee has announced that member Leo Majchrzak will give a slide presentation and speak about his recent trip to Poland with the Summer School of Language and Culture at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

### Chautauqua County Genealogy Society

The Chautauqua County Genealogical Society presented their 1994 Seminar entitled "Where Do I Go From Here" in September 1994, at the Church of Latter Day Saints. Some topics included, What the Historian Expects From the Genealogist, Genealogy for Beginners and Establishing Time Periods From Photographs.

### Czechoslovak Genealogy Society

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, sponsored its 4th genealogical conference held on October 7-8th, 1994 at the Best Western Downtown Hotel in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Information may be obtained from their headquarters: Czechoslovak Genealogical Society P.O. Box 16225, St. Paul, MA 55116-0225

### PGSA

The Polish Genealogical Society of America (Chicago), scheduled their annual workshop for October 21st, 1994 at the Ramada O'Hare Hotel, in Chicago IL. For further info contact: Dr. J. Gazda, 280 Forest Trail Drive, Oak Brook, ILL 60521

### Happy Anniversary

50th Anniversary of the founding of the Polish American Congress, founded at a meeting held in Buffalo in 1944, the Congress is the lobby group for Polish affairs in the United States, held it's anniversary in Buffalo this past October 21st. In attendance was the President of Poland, Lech Walesa and his wife Danuta. They also attended mass in the historic Mother church of Polonia, St. Stanislaus, founded in 1873. Edward Moskal was re-elected as national president of the Congress.

Fellow members Sigmund and Laura (nee Ostrega) Dory celebrated their 65 wedding anniversary on September 4th. We wish you both many more happy years.

### In Memory Of

Condolences are sent to the family of society member, the late Eugene F. Chmura, who passed away October 27th, 1994. Gene is survived by his wife Helen and three children. Mr. Chmura was a retired IRS Agent, a member of Queen of Martyrs Holy Name Society and the Polish Arts Club.

### Congratulations

Pope John Paul II has elevated American Archbishop Adam Maida of Detroit to Cardinal. Also, the Pope has named Msgr. John Yanta of San Antonio, Texas as the auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

### Retirement

Best wishes go out to Rev. Msgr. Casimer Zak of St. Hyacinth's in Dunkirk on his retirement this year.

### Wanted

Church Bulletins from our area's "Polish" parishes. Please save and give to Mike Drabik, who in turn mails them to Orchard Lakes, Polish Studies Archives. Thank You.

PGSWNY library is always accepting donations of books, reference materials, church albums. Please contact the Library Committee for further info.

### Addresses

The names and addresses of all Poles now living in Poland are on file at the Central Address Bureau in Warsaw. The address is: Centralne Biuro Adresowe, Ul. Kazmierzowski 60, 02-513 Warszawa, Poland

The Center for Documentation of Polish Emigration can be found at the Polonia House in Pultusk. Established in 1992, its collection includes a wide range of documents pertaining to the lives of Poles in Exile. Genealogical research is free of charge, but limited to materials available at the center's library. It has a comprehensive list of Poles who emigrated to the U.S. since 1918, also a list of draftees from the U.S. to Gen. Haller's Polish Army units. The address for more info is: Osrodek Dokumentacji Wychodztwa Polskiego przy Domu Polonii w Pultusku, 06-100 Pultusk- Zamek, Poland

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# BOOK REVIEW

Book Review  
by Dorothy Cook

## Polish Parish Records of the Catholic Church

By Gerald Ortell

Of special interest to the genealogist who has finally traced his Polish ancestors back to Ellis Island, Castle Garden or some other port of entry, the Polish Parish Records Of The Catholic Church by Gerald A. Ortell is a highly recommended research aid.

From the genealogist lucky enough to visit Poland and do his research on site, to those of us who must be content with frequent visits to our L.D.S. Library, Mr. Ortell's book helps show us, in a clear and concise manner, the way to proceed.

A partial run down of chapters is as follows: Evolution of Parish Records which covers Bishop's Transcripts, L.D.S. microfilms and Special Collections in Poland. Farmers and Serfdom includes class and status of individuals, as they pertain to a person's occupation, Land Estimations, Fuedal Dues and the Nobility.

There are two chapters on Polish given and surnames, the Polish alphabet, handwriting, Americanization of given names and diminutives. Also listed is a chapter on Occupations (both in English and Latin), Military References and Methodologies.

The section on Marriage, Baptism and Death Records give much in depth information on each of these three subjects. Mr Ortell concludes his book with a brief history and research advice in regards to the Greek Catholic Church plus Additional Research Suggestion and two indices, one on Polish Saint Days and the other a Glossary of Terms.

*Polish Parish Records Of The Roman Catholic Church is available for your perusal, in the PGSWNY Library.*

## WITAMY

*The P.G.S.W.N.Y. would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members:*

Mary Ann Niswanger TX  
Joseph Briggs NY  
Constance Kosakowski NY  
Marion Baronich NY  
Robert Sobaszek NY  
Robert Postula MI,  
Barbara Pawlowski NY  
Jaunita Martino TX  
Joan Kulka MI  
Alfred Kinbaum NY  
Antoinette Kasprzak NY  
David Cetmar AZ  
Joan Davies NY.

## NYS Council Of Genealogical Organizations

By Lorraine Lebaron , NYSCOGO Sec.

NYSCOGO is three years old. We continue to make progress towards our goals and long range plans.

State Archivist, Larry Hackman stated at one of our early membership meetings that "Formation of the New York State Council of Genealogical Organizations is potentially one of the most important thing that's happened for historical records since I've been in New York State." At that time he outlined the different programs that exist in New York State that give wider access of NY state historical records to researchers. He also outlined projects in progress or about to be developed that will help us all. Two board members of NYSCOGO have been invited to sit on the Bureau of Archival Services (SARA) Advisory Committee. We have a conduit to a very important group which wants to hear what we have to say and some progress already has been made.

NYSCOGO sponsored a conference in 1992 "On Becoming An American: Naturalization Records in NY State County Courthouses." Our '93 conference concerned the Migration in NYS, Who, When, Why, and How. We have an exciting program in the making for our October 21-21 '95 meeting in Watertown.

For further information on NYSCOGO, contact PGSWNY representative Jim Lyons.

## Just Passing Through

by Lois Barris

Through communication with Adeline Sopa, 2711 Danbar Dr., Greenbay WI 54313-7022, a member of the Polish Heritage Awareness Society, we have learned about a Chautauqua County NY Portage County WI connection. A history of Portage County has several biographies of people born in Dunkirk or who lived there for a time. Several obituaries make mention of birth or residence in Dunkirk. Adeline concludes that about the year 1857 several Polish families immigrated from Gdansk (German Danzig) and settled for a time in Dunkirk NY and in the 1860's moved to Portage County. These families seem to have come from the Bydgoszcz (Bromberg) and Poznan (Posen) provinces of West Prussia.

Most of the families from Dunkirk bought farms in the rural areas outside of the Portage county seat, Stevens Point. Adeline is collecting more data on Chautauqua County families who moved on to Wisconsin, but below are the Portage County families so far identified who lived for a time in Dunkirk.

Thomas and Catherine **CZERWINSKI**  
John **GOLLON**  
Lawrence **KIELISZEWSKI** and son Martin  
Nicholas and Catherina **KOSTRZEWSKI**  
Valentine and Catherine **KUEHN**  
John **LIGMAN**  
Valentine and Nepomucena **LIGMAN**  
Nicholas and Catherina **MACIEJEWSKI**  
Frank and Mary **MENCZEWSKI / MANCHESKI**  
John and Agnes **PYTEREK**  
Stanislaus and Catherine **PETEREK / PYTEREK**  
Vincent and Mary **PRZYBYLSKI**  
Theodore **RUTTA**  
Josephina **SKALSKI**, a widow with a son, George  
Stephan and Julius **TETZLAFF** and their parents (?)



## P.G.S.W.N.Y. Trip To Toronto August 17, 1994

by Ed Prabucki

On August 13th, a very unimpressive day with on and off showers, the Polish Genealogical membership gathered at the Villa Maria parking lot for a hopeful, entertaining as well as a informative trip to the city of Toronto.

Kevin Walsh, our assigned loquacious Blue Bird bus driver surprised us over his personal knowledge and his determined attempts to trace his roots in Ireland even though disappointed due to his common surname. Departing at 8:35 a.m., relaxed with adrenalin flowing in our veins, we arrived at the Lewiston Bridge at 9:10 a.m. undergoing our first of many treats thru the initiative of Kevin Walsh. We waited patiently though some were skeptical, others indifferent, soon before our eyes we observed Jay Wells strolling up the steps of our bus with the genuine Stanley Cup, symbol of a great many NHL hockey championships. Needless to say, pictures of same were taken many times over.

Traveling thru St. Catherine, Hamilton, Burlington and Mississauga our group were treated to games, handled expertly, by Dorthy Krantz and Rita Prabucki, our entertaining chairpersons. Arriving in the heart of Toronto at 10:40 a.m. Lynn Rzepecki and Dorthy Krantz assigned for our disposal a very informative guide, Beryl Sayers, who incidentally tantalized us by singing the Polish National Anthem. Notwithstanding many members knowledge of Toronto, Beryl Sayers added information let alone some spice to our tour of the city - one example the Sports complex, Skydome, original cost of 160 million skyrocketed to 600 million at its completion, another the history of the purchase of Royal Alexandra Theatre, the Museum, Warehouse, Restaurants covering huge sections of Toronto, President Reagan's entourage in 1980's renting 1000

rooms for whatever reason, the life of Raymond Massey and Don Sutherland, actors, at the University of Toronto, the birthplace of Mary Pickford on University Ave., the development of Insulin and Space Suits at its Medical Laboratories, our brief stop at its renowned St. Lawrence Market, a trip thru Chinatown down Spadina Ave., the military history of Fort York and finally the highlight of our trip to the Polish town of Toronto.

With time on our hands, we dined at Stara Polska, Old Poland, at 299 Roncesvalles, then shopped and browsed from one end to another of Polish town.

At 4:30 p.m. we were chauffeured to Izba Moda, 748 Queensway and treated to a sumptuous Schnitzel dinner, exploiting our tastebuds to meals unknown to many. Sitting with Mr. Blakowski and Mrs. Lipiec, we exchanged our knowledge on our family research in the United States as well as Poland.

Returning to Polish town our pacified gathering acquiesced to attend a mass at St. Casimir's at 156 Roncesvalles Ave., a mass sung in Polish, unheard and uncommon to many of us. Lacking no surprises, a very solemn moment became aware to me, as the right altar of the church was dedicated not only to the Polish prisoners of Auschwitz but also contained ashes of one unfortunate assigned to that concentration camp. With these irrefutable facts, some of our group became disillusioned and hardened by this tragedy.

Then on this final note at 8:05 p.m. enlightened immensely let alone very fortunate that we came to know so much in so little time, our group boarded the Bluebird Bus for the trip home, treated to many witty riddles by our driver, Kevin Walsh, arriving at Villa Maria parking lot at 10:40 p.m.

### Potpourri: CONTINUED from PAGE 17

We have had some inquiries as to where the records for the PNCC Cathedral on Sobieski Street in Buffalo are now kept. The parish has relocated, ground breaking for a new cathedral complex is slated for this fall in Lancaster, NY. The parish is using the old Annunciation church building on Clinton Street in Elma presently. Records are now found at: 5776 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

**\*note:** All Saints Cathedral in Chicago also was sold about the same time that the Buffalo cathedral was closed and sold. Address is: All Saints PNC Cathedral Parish, 920 Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, IL. 60068 or Chancery Office, 5201 Hazelwood Court, South Bend, IN. 46619

The Most Rev. John Swantek was re-elected Prime Bishop of the PNCC at its 19th General Synod held in Buffalo in October. The Synod covered a variety of topics, one being that the delegates decided upon was that the church may now be referred to as the National Catholic Church for popular usage, and can be posted as such on their buildings, since the church includes members of various backgrounds. The official title, however will remain the Polish National Catholic Church.

## All Aboard For ELLIS ISLAND

The PGSWNY is arranging a group bus tour to Ellis Island the second or third week of May 1995. Plans are incomplete at this time, updates will follow. The price range will be around \$300.00 p/p for double occupancy.



Some of the highlights of the itinerary will include; Guided tour of Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty, Dinner Cruise on the Hudson River, Sights in Greenpoint, Mass and tour of Polish church, Night light tour of NYC and Empire State building, will also include 2 dinners and 2 full breakfasts.

Make your reservations A.S.A.P. as we have 30 people who have signed up so far, a \$25.00 deposit will secure your reservation, for more information please contact the Travel Committee.

**Dunkirk Area Information:**  
**Genealogical Indexes to the Evening Observer**

*By Lois Barris*

This is a daily newspaper published in Dunkirk NY. The one line format of these indexes present information in six columns, giving name, type of event ( birth,death,marriage), date of event, location, family information and publication date. The family researcher can gain vital information from the books alone, these indexes make it possible to locate on microfilm and photocopy the entire article as published.

Each volume contains an index to collateral surnames. Each volume is \$25.00, now available are the following, 1900-1905, 1906-1910, 1911-1915, 1916-1920, 1921-1925, 1926-1930, 1981-1985, 1986-1990.

**Genealogical Index to the Evening Observer, 1941-1945**

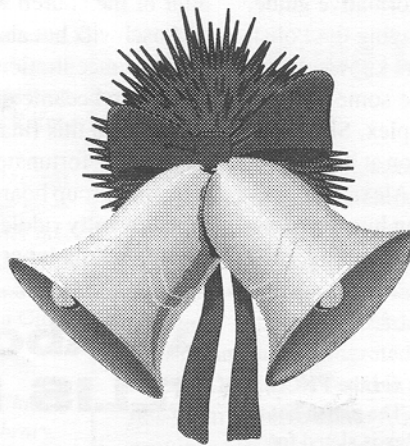
*By Donna Mills*

Genealogical information gleaned from this local paper similar to the indexes described by Lois Barris except that it does not have a collateral name index. Also \$25.00

**St. Mary Cemetery, Dunkirk**

*By Lois & Norwood Barris \$25.00*

For more information on these publications, contact;  
Chautauqua County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 404, Fredonia, New York 14063



Have A Safe &

Joyous Holiday

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF WESTERN NEW YORK**

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