



SEARCHERS

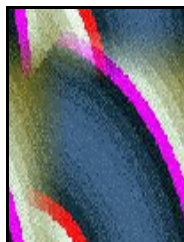


Number 27

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE

Winter 2000

PRESERVING OUR PAST SINCE 1988



Our Days In Black Rock

by *Don Kuciewski*

Black Rock, Buffalo, New York. A Polish American enclave whose name dates back from the building of the Erie Canal. When it was dug, the rock was black, hence the name Black Rock, or so the story goes.

Black Rock is situated in roughly the northwest corner of the city of Buffalo, the only further northwest area is Riverside. It is considered to be centered around the Grant-

Amherst intersection and continuing to the St. Florian, Hertel Avenue area. Bounded by Hertel Ave. on the north, Delaware Ave. on the east, Forest Ave. on the south and the Niagara River to the west. Settled mostly by Poles, it's life centered at first around Assumption Church and it's school. Around this I will unfold my story.

My mother was born on Amherst Street near Grant, in 1912. Some of the things she told me stuck in my mind to this day. The area was know as "Piekło", "Hell" in those days because of the many saloons on literally every corner, even in the middle of side streets. The Polish men liked their beer and whiskey, frequenting as many saloons as they could before reaching home, after working in the nearby factories. My Grandfather worked in the Pratt and Letchworth factory, on Tonawanda Street near Amherst.

It was a very dirty and noisy place to work. So, after work, he and others went to the nearest tavern, then making his way to the next one and continuing

the stops until the money ran out or they cleaned their throats from the dust and dirt, getting pretty drunk in the process. Thank God that grandmother knew how to sew and became the local seamstress for the women in the neighborhood. This way, she at least had enough money to take care of herself and her two children. By the early 1930's, after Grandpa died, she bought a house on Germain Street, near Assumption church, for the sum of \$1,500.00.

My Dad told me that there were many fights between ethnic gangs, around Forest Avenue. These gangs usually carried weapons, bats, chains and rocks with them whenever a fight was to occur. You see, back in those days, the 1920s, people kept to their own neighborhoods, and didn't dare cross the street into another neighborhood.

For entertainment, the kids of my era went to the local movie house, the Grant, located on Amherst Street near Grant. This was a silent movie house, before talking pictures came into being.

For food, besides the many grocery

Inside This Issue

Our Days In Black Rock

President's Message
Każda Pyta Co Się Dzieje?

New Members
Spolka Clothing Sold After 110 Yrs.
St. Stanislaus B.M., Amsterdam, NY
Photo's You Thought Were Lost
Name Search

Letters To The Editor
Breaking Through Brick Walls
Dziennik, Lost Now Found

A Helping Hand
European Town Photographs
Buffalo's Polonia Misses Out

pg. 1, 4-5
& 8-9
pg. 3
pg. 6-7

pg. 7
pg. 10
pg. 11-12
pg. 13-14
pg. 14

pg. 15
pg. 17-18
pg. 19

pg. 20-21
pg. 21
pg. 22-23

(Continued on page 4)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The PGSNYS meets the second Thursday of each month in the Villa Maria College cafeteria,
240 Pine Ridge Road, Cheektowaga, New York, at 7:00 p.m.

Membership Dues... A reminder from the Treasurer:

Dues are \$15.00 for the year. This entitles you to 3 editions of the Searchers. New members receive an information package to help them get started. Annual membership dues are to be received by your expiration date which will be listed in 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.

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

Spring Edition - April 15th for June mailing

Summer Edition - June 15th for August mailing

Winter Edition - October 15th for December mailing

Contact: **Lynn Mycek Rzepecki** articles@pgsnys.org

Mail

Due to the large amount of mail received, please take note when writing us for assistance: The PGSNYS will answer ONLY correspondence that includes a self-addressed, stamped reply envelope. All correspondence should be directed to:

The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State

299 Barnard Street

Buffalo, New York 14206

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

PGSNYS Officers For Year 2000:

<i>President</i>	David E. Newman	president@pgsnys.org
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Frank Wilczak	fdw62@adelphia.net

All meeting cancellations due to bad weather will be announced on News Radio 930, AM WBEN

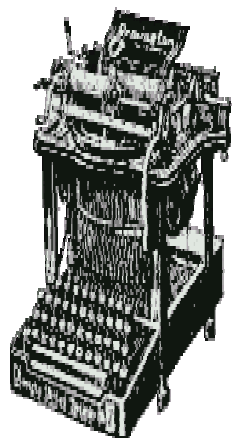
Please Visit The Polish Genealogical Society Of New York State's Web Site:

www.pgsnys.org

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Presidents Message



Winter 2000

Any network of people with a common interest like ours takes countless unpaid but fulfilling hours to make the or-

ganization operate. The PGSNYS has just the right blend of members that go beyond a just operating society but a successful one.

It's been an honor to serve as President and be part of the success for the year 2000. I recognize and thank the following contributors for their dedicated efforts and look forward to their continuing support in the future.

INDIVIDUALS

Mike Drabik – Founder of the PGSNYS. Mike acts as a historical advisor of the society ensuring the societies continuity doesn't stray too far off the beaten path. Mike also writes several articles for the Searchers and has embarked on a couple of personal projects that are now found on the PGSNYS Website such as the Przewodnik Project.

Keith Kaszubik – Keith is a new PGSNYS member this year. He has submitted many well written articles for the Searchers. He also has acquired yet another micro-fiche reader for the society.

Ed Kornowski – Vice President of the PGSNYS. Ed keeps the president on track. Ed also is the Director of the Dziennik dla Wszystkich Project. In this capacity he not only oversees the project but also personally answers all incoming surname requests for our 26,000 record database.

Lynn Mycek-Rzepecki – Has a seat on the Board of Directors. Her big contribution to the society is Editor of our Searchers newsletter. I've learned this year that much effort is needed to produce a quality newsletter. Lynn has what it takes to make this happen.

Ed and Rita Prabucki – Ed is a frequent article submitter to the Searchers. Ed is our official photographer and Rita is at every meeting taking care of the coffee and refreshments. She also organizes the catering at our picnic.

Walter Kloc, - Walter a past president of our society, is a dedicated member who frequently arrives at meeting with suitcase in hand, full of various maps of Poland to help membership in finding locations in their research.

REGULAR MEMBERS WHO ATTEND MEETINGS

(Forgive me if I missed someone)
Donald Bartus, Michael Drabik, Rita Hider, Laurel Keough, Daniel Kij, Walter Kloc, Edward Kornowski, James Lyons, Daniel Domino, Alfred Karney, Frank Martin, David Newman, Ed and Rita Prabucki Mr & Mrs Bronislaw Prabucki, Chuck Pyrak, Lynn Mycek-Rzepecki, Mary Ann Sandoro, Ronald Sobczynski, Frank Wilczak, Mr and Mrs Goliber-such, James Harlos, James Long, Monicka Rzepka, Linda Gould.

OUT OF STATE MEMBERS

Our society has 120 members on the average. Of the number 43 or 35% of the PGSNSY are members who reside out-of-state. This is a big percentage. We receive quite a bit of correspondence from out of state members. Their passion for Polish Genealogy is as strong as local members. We appreciate their support.

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Polonia is not just in Poland and New York State. Polonia is in every county and state in the union. Thanks to our sister organizations for their exchange contributions. Throughout the year virtually all known Polish Genealogical Societies send a copy of their newsletter and materials. This is a great asset to any genealogical society. Thanks for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Dave Newman, *Your President*



Black Rock Continued from page 1

stores in the area, we went to the Black Rock Market, on 341 Amherst Street. I still remember going there with Grandma, on a Saturday, to get fresh vegetables, potatoes and meat. Next to The Polish Cadets building, there was a tiny shack, the poultry shop. Grandma and I would go there for fresh chicken. You would pick the chicken you wanted from a cage, and the butcher took it out back, butchered it, and wrapped it up for you to take home. Now, that's what I call "fresh". His white apron was always stained with blood and the shop smelled somewhat awful from chicken droppings. Sometimes I think that today's supermarkets are too clean and sanitized; one does not get the aromas we had back then. At home, we would pluck the feathers off and then clean it and get it ready to cook or bake, depending on whether you were going to have soup or baked chicken the following Sunday. Another thing I did with Grandma was get "fresh" fish, lake perch, at the Black Rock Market. These had to be cleaned, by scraping off the scales. Boy, those scales flew every which way when I scraped them. This food was "indeed fresh" and tasted delicious.

During the week, I would go to the nearby store, Peszko's, at 81 Howell Street, this was near where I grew up. All this was before and during World War II. I also lived in other places in the Black Rock area, one of which was above the Bugaj's delicatessen, at 566 Amherst. My first memories of life stem from this address. This is where I was "potty" trained here and also got the chicken pox and measles. One of my old friends still has his "potty" as a remembrance.

I remember the year 1937-1955, the

best. In 1937, when I started school at Assumption, the neighborhood was a vibrant place to live. There were so many stores selling all the articles a family needed, right within walking distance of home. Along Amherst St., from Elmwood to Tonawanda, there was the Market of course, Schunke's at 463, Kubala's at 295, both furniture stores. Frontier Radio was at 459 Amherst, and Mroszczak's hardware at 491 (Recently I was in this closed up store, it still has the old bins and shelving with drawers that once held numerous items for sale).

*You would pick the chicken
you wanted from a cage, and
the butcher took it out back,
butchered it, and wrapped it up
for you to take home.*

Continuing on, Urbanski's Drug store was at number 411 and the Biernat Cleaners and Tailoring at 358 (the Biernats are cousins of mine). Then the bakeries, Krasinski's located at 412 Amherst while Kowalkowski's was not far away at 499 Amherst and Glegota's on Reservation Street. The Liberty Bank was at 415 Amherst, Korona's Jeweler's is at 360 Amherst and is still in existence today. Jachimiaks ran a funeral parlor at 392 Amherst and the Dombrowski family had one at 447. Mr. Czarciniak had a used car dealership at 259 Amherst near Military Road.

On the northwest corner of Elmwood and Amherst still stands the Volker Bowling Alleys, a neighborhood institution. Across the street from the bowling alley was located Foschcio's Service Station, where I worked as a teenager. I washed cars for the price of 50 cents and made 25 cents for each one washed. There also was Chet and Al's Service Station at 608 Amherst, across from the old Morrison Steel Co. Oh yes, next to the service station was Giba's dairy.

Further down Amherst was a business that sold coal for heating. There was an icehouse 501 Amherst near Bush Street, where you could buy ice for cooling the ice-boxes in your home, before refrigerators came into use. At the corner of Peter Street you could go to Klementowicz's Sweetland an Ice Cream Parlor after the movies for a great treat.

Along Grant Street, 971, was Ed. Wrobel's Hobby Lodge. This business is also still in existence and run by old "Rubbs" himself. We'd go there to buy models to build.

Further down Grant was the "Unity" show. It took the place of the Grant, once talking movies came in. I spent many nights there, first as a youngster, then as a teenager sitting with girls in the darkened theater. I did go to see a "silent" movie there, accompanied by a piano player. Staley's was a hamburger place at 1042 Grant across from the show. It was a place that I spent many good times. We also had two Greek soda shops, one next to the show the other Amherst near Grant. There, one could buy goodies and if you didn't have enough money, which most of

(Continued on next page)

us didn't, you'd buy a cheap phosphate, that is, water mixed with a tasty, sometimes fizzy flavoring, for a nickel.

For summertime activities we had the Rees Street playgrounds and three swimming pools, all within walking distance. The pools were, a little one for small children, a four foot deep one for those who were older and could swim or almost swim, and the 15 foot deep diving pool. They were open six days a week and closed one day for cleaning. When that day arrived and it was too hot, we'd go to the "casting pool" on Scajaquada Parkway for our swim. This pool was primarily for the use of fishermen, who practiced casting with their rods, but it served our purpose quite well. Of course, we didn't go there when the men were casting; they only cast in the evenings. One day "Iron Talun" the wrestler, came there to swim and we all watched the big man in the pool. At the Rees Street playgrounds we played handball against a tall concrete backdrop. There also were baseball diamonds and the usual swings and slides for children. We had no organized sports for ourselves, but formed whatever teams we could and played sandlot baseball on the empty lots in the neighborhood. There also were the games of hide and seek, marbles, and nip, played on these empty lots. On the side streets, we roller-skated.

On Amherst near Grant there was the Hook and Ladder #12 firehouse. It was fun to see the fire engines pull out of the house, siren blaring, going to a fire call. When it returned, we'd watch it being backed into the house, the man at the "tiller" in the rear, steering his wheels to get in straight.

At the corner of Amherst and Grant Streets, next to the firehouse a one

story building that housed three important establishments. The local branch of the library was supervised by Mrs. Lonczak. I spent many hours here, getting books to read at home. It also held the clinic; here children were brought by their parents for check ups and immunizations against various diseases. This building also housed the community bath. For fifteen cents you were able to take a shower, purchase a bar of soap and a clean towel to use to dry off. Remember; at this time most private homes did not have bathtubs. Today the building is gone, now it is a parking lot owned by the Polish Cadets.

We had no organized sports for ourselves, but formed whatever teams we could and played sandlot baseball on the empty lots in the neighborhood.

The Polish Cadets, located at 927 Grant Street, celebrated its centennial last year. For one hundred years, it has served the community of Black Rock, providing valuable meeting space for various social organizations and a place for so many wedding receptions. The third floor hall, it was quite a walk up, no elevators until recently, I suppose many an inebriated wedding guest must have had a hard time coming downstairs after the festivities were over. One place I remember well was the "Club Bar, at Austin and Clay Streets. There, as a young man, I went with my friends to meet

girls and get somewhat "soused" on their beer. Singles often met there, and I imagine that many of them married afterwards.

Across the Cadets, on Grant Street, stood Dorywalski's (Dory's) Hall, a wedding reception place, later bought out by the American Legion Post 1041 and used for their meetings and also for various receptions. The Post eventually moved to Amherst Street near Reservation, where they built a new modern facility on the site of an old coal yard. The old Dory's building, the Black Rock Market along with several homes were torn down to make room for the Burger King and Tops Supermarket. Just what we need, ha ha.

As stated in the beginning of this essay, I wish to remember my days at Assumption Church and school. This was the center of my early life, and still is, because I've again become an "altar boy" and server at my parish. Years ago, the parish complex was surrounded by an iron fence, during the War, there was a call for iron to be used in the war effort. It was torn down but never replaced. During this time, the church parking lot was used as a collection site for scrap iron. I remember once, a drive was on and a huge pile of iron scrap was collected, a tall pole stood in the middle of it with a German helmet on its top. The purpose was to go over the helmet with iron scrap. Our Church has changed over its one hundred and twelve years of existence. Our altar has been removed and the communion rails are gone, a more modern look has replaced them. For four generations, my family has belonged to this church, members of the family were married in front of the high altar and many members were also buried

(Continued on page 8)

Każda Pyta Co Się Dzieje ?

by Mike Drabik

As the Christmas holiday approaches, we ready ourselves and homes for the coming of Christ. Kolędy are one of the things we will all hear during this festive time. In particular the carol, "Z Narodzenia Pana", asks the question "Każda pyta co się dzieje..." everyone is asking what is going on... and a good question to be asking ourselves in light of what has happened over the last week of November and beginning of December.

On the 20th of November, Buffalo and the immediate northern suburbs were hit by a tremendous winter storm. Snow was falling faster than could be dealt with, adding to it was the fact that everyone was on the road during the blizzard making snow plowing impossible and travel at a snail's pace.

Unusual weather for November, even for us! Another hazardous feature of this storm was the lightning and thunder. Sometime during the late afternoon, a lightning bolt hit the west steeple of the Mother Church of Polonia in Western New York, St. Stanislaus. Msgr. John Gabalski, pastor was in the rectory accompanied by his pets, heard the lightning looked out and did not see anything but the falling snow went about his business at hand. In the early part of the evening, one of his dogs needed to go out for his potty run, while outside in the blustery weather, Msgr. John looked up

and to his horror, he saw sparks flying out of the open steeple tower! Quickly he ran to the rectory to phone the fire department, but by the time he made the call, he heard the fire trucks approaching the church structure. For about 10 hours the three engine companies poured water on the smoldering blaze that erupted when lightning hit the west tower, igniting the wooden frame work of the steeple tower. The firemen dressed in the heavy raincoats and boots, equipped with helmets, gloves, masks and oxygen climbed the stairs to the belfry (120 feet) in order to get access to the tower to extinguish the blaze. Added to this already tiring load was a water hose, each fireman carried up a section, which were then connected to start the long ordeal of extinguishing the fire. Msgr. was immediately ordered to cut the power to this part of the church.

On Tuesday morning, the fire was out, the water had flooded the tower and west side of the church, damages resulting from the fire and water was estimated at around \$100,000. Certainly insurance will cover most of the cost, but what about the difference? At his time of the year, when we are most charitable, please consider restoring St. Stanislaus Parish to its splendor by sending a donation to help defray costs. Should you decide to do this, please mark your donation as "from a member of the PGSWNY" so the parish knows we care.

For your information: The Rev. Jan

Pitass, later known as Dean Pitass was founded the parish, in June 1873. That year a wooden church was erected where the present rectory stands. As the number of Poles increased to swelling numbers, Fr Jan had to make plans for building a much larger church. He visited the parish of Rev Wicenty Barzynski, St. Stanislaus Kostka in Chicago to get an idea for the new structure. Chicago also was being flooded with new immigrants. Fr. Barzynski's new church could accommodate large numbers of people by utilizing both the main floor and the basement for religious services. Pitass returned home and incorporated this idea into his church. Work began on the present church building in Aug 1882 and the cornerstone was blessed in May 1883. By the fall of that year services were held in a basement church readied for that purpose. The church took three years to complete; Rev. Pitass was known to have been involved in ALL aspects of the construction including physically working with the construction crew. There were also tragedies, two men were killed when they fell to their deaths from the scaffolding, one was a Pole. A magnificent outpouring of Polonia occurred on October 17, 1886, when Bishops Ryan of Buffalo and Burgess of Detroit, MI, solemnly consecrated St. Stanislaus Church. This was preceded by a colorful and lengthy procession escorting the Bishops to the church for the ceremonies. Uniformed divisions, marching bands, parish societies along with patriotic organizations

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took an active part. A delegation of Poles arrived by train from Dunkirk to attend this momentous occasion.

Note: At the beginning of December, as another storm hit Buffalo, NY, two other Polonia parishes were damaged. Assumption Church on Amherst St., lost one of their crosses atop one of the steeples, the steeple and the roof of the church were also damaged during the high winds that accompanied the storm. St. Florian Church, on Hertel Ave. suffered extensive damage to their Social Center, formally the old parish, as three floors were water damaged due to the sprinkler alarm going off, damaged was also done to the roof of the social center.

Between Nov. 10th and Dec. 31st, Bflo. received over 90 inches of that white stuff. To date we have received a total of 153 inches.

Thank goodness not all at once!



Interesting Web Sites

Searchable online foreign language dictionaries

<http://www.yourdictionary.com>

Online atlas of cities, towns and villages. You can choose Polish, English or German.

<http://www.ambient.com.pl/gminy/en/index.htm>

Polish specific search engines also worth trying

<http://www.altavista.pl>

<http://szukaj.arena.pl>

<http://www.info.pl>

<http://pl-info.com/pl>

<http://www.onet.pl>

Did You Know?

November 2000

Sir John Gielgud, considered one of the great actors of his generation, passed away at age 96. "National Review" magazine noted that Gielgud liked to proclaim that he came from a long line of Polish cavalry officers. Gielgud's parents were also actors. They immigrated to Great Britain before World War I. Speaking to Elizabeth Taylor and not knowing who she was, Gielgud said, "I don't know what happened to Richard Burton. I think he married some terrible film star and had to live abroad."

Izabella Scorupco, a Polish beauty, who most recently starred in the Polish mega-production "With Fire and Sword" stars in Martin Campbell's "Vertical Limit".

An exhibit of the deceased Polish-born artist **Stanislaw Szukalski**, painter, sculptor and writer, was held in November at the Laguna Art Museum in California. Leonardo DiCaprio, the star of Titanic, contributed \$15,000 to sponsor "Struggle: The Art of Stanislaw Szukalski". Szukalski was a family friend of DiCaprio

From Polish Cultural News



Price\$ From The Past

1950 Hors d'oeuvres with caviar at Brown Derby Restaurant in Hollywood \$2.25. **1936** Birth at California Hospital, in L.A. including 10 day stay \$16. **1957** same hospital with 3 day stay \$156.00. Year **2000**, overnight stay about \$4000. **1916** in Albany, NY. Cost of a complete funeral \$113.00 and that included embalming.



A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED THE PGSNYS IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS

SZYPERSKI RAYMOND H.

LAUREL MD

WIERZBOWSKI FRANK

ORCHARD PARK NY

BAZLEY MICHELLE ANN

SYRACUSE NY

GEMBALA WILLIAM

REDMOND WA

HEJNA MARY ANN

DEPEW NY

STELMACK DARLENE

ERIE PA

SMARDZ TED

BUFFALO NY

JAMULLA JOHN D.

WILLIAMSVILLE NY

BIELAWA MATTHEW

STRATFORD CT

PHETTERPLACE MADE-LINE

COCOA FL

SIPIOR ALPHONSE SR

NORTH TONAWANDA NY

PELCZYNSKI GLENN

CHEEKTOWAGA NY

GRACE THOMAS

PUYALLUP WA

Black Rock continued from page 5

from this parish.

Some things I remember most about the Church include serving Mass as an altar boy, along with about 30-40 others, the ringing of the church bells for weddings and funerals. (The janitor often needed help with the bells and would call us from school to assist with the ringing of the bells.) What an experience, when we had to stop the ringing, we would hold on to the rope and fly up and down until the bells came to a halt. Today the bells are rung electronically, and set by the panel in the sacristy. I was also lucky in being able to climb the tall tower of the church to see the bells and clock works, and had the opportunity to gaze out onto the city from this vantagepoint, what an experience!

In the basement of the church were several meeting rooms. The choir rehearsed here, the various societies of the parish also held their meeting in these rooms. Boy Scout Troop 142 held their weekly sessions here too. The Troop had a drum and bugle corps that practiced in the church basement. Although smaller in numbers, the Troop still exists but the drum and bugle group has long been gone. I do remember that the Corps marched in many parades in the "Rock" and led the parishioners into church on special occasions.

The long time pastor, Rev. Brejski was a talented wood craftsman and had his workshop in the church basement. He enjoyed working here and made many useful pieces of furniture until he became ill. The church basement has been remodeled and now holds a large hall used for parish functions and Bingo. An interesting feature about Assumption Church is that it has a tunnel

connecting the church and the school. The choir uses it every Sunday to come into the church. In my youth, the tunnel was a dark and spooky place.

Assumption School, now known as Our Lady of Black Rock, was a very busy place all year around. Besides being a place of learning, the school building was open evenings for various functions, such as dances and bowling. In the school basement were three bowling alleys, they were always busy until the Roc Mar

Many youngsters drowned there trying to cross the "dam" built near Grant Street. I remember clearly a small body being pulled out of the creek, this was 1944, it was a terrible sight.

Alleys were built. I worked the school alleys for a while, earning a nickel a game, sticking pins. On the third floor was a large hall, it was open for dances during the summer. Bands came in to play the favorite tunes of the teenagers of this period, there was a small refreshment bar set up where you could purchase something during the dance. On occasion a fight would break out, most often over a girl. I served in the Marines, I had a good friend who was in the Navy, once, we were both home on leave at the same time and we decided to attend one of the dances at Assumption. There was a girl we both knew whom also was at the dance. A fight almost occurred

when my friend got involved with her, she now had a boyfriend at home. I wanted to go over to help him when a soldier saw this and thought I was going to start a fight with the Sailor, knowing the Marines and Navy did not get along well. The girl and her boyfriend disappeared leaving the three of us almost getting into a fight.

Assumption School had a "Crystal Beach Day" for the students each year. Shortly before the end of the school year, the school loaded onto buses and rode to downtown Buffalo to board the Canadiana, the Crystal Beach boat. After an hour ride on the ferry we landed in Canada at the amusement park. For the five-dollar fee, you could ride just about every amusement in the park, and have something to eat included. This was an all day event, we returned in the evening as we came, but now tired but excited from the fun park.

As teenagers, some of us would spend summer evenings as a group, just standing around the corner of Amherst and Germain, in front of Kwiecien's (Anna's) Delicatessen. We'd go into the store to buy a bottle of pop to drink and continued to hang out. We never caused any trouble for anyone in the neighborhood. I think the worst thing we ever did was wax up the store windows on Halloween. In fact, a few of that gang became prominent citizens. One has become a judge and another a well-known businessman.

On Wednesday nights during the summer, we'd walk along Scajaquada parkway to the Albright Art Gallery at Delaware Lake where the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra gave concerts. We liked to play around the Historical Museum,

(Continued on next page)

because it had canons on the grounds, so we could play "war". At the lake, you could rent rowboats and canoes and during the winter we ice skated or sledged down the embankment behind the statute of David. The ice was cleared of snow by a horse pulled plow, the weight of the horses ensured the lake was well frozen. To warm up you to run into the casino and purchase a hot chocolate. Ice skate sharpening was also provided here.

So far nothing has been mentioned about the Scajaquada Creek, which runs next to the parkway. This was a place of many tragedies. Many youngsters drowned there trying to cross the "dam" built near Grant Street. I remember clearly a small body being pulled out of the creek, this was 1944, it was a terrible sight. Upstream, behind the school was a wooden train bridge. The kids to get to the Rees Street pools and the Scajaquada parkway used it. In the hot summers the bridge would sometimes catch fire. The wood was coated with creosote and occasionally after a train passed over, a hot coal would fall on the bridge causing a blaze. The bridge never burned down; it remained part of the neighborhood until it was removed during construction of the new Expressway. I had once seen a painting of the old bridge, but don't know has it.

During the War years, a company of soldiers was stationed in Delaware Park. They had their tents set up and operated anti-aircraft searchlights (the lights could light up the sky and enemy planes if they should fly over the city). Of course, we never had any enemy planes fly over, but it was nice to see them there for our protection. The Niagara Frontier was vulnerable during this time due to the fact that there

were many aircraft factories and a power plant located at Niagara Falls.

During the War, we had many nights of "black-out" drills, when all lights were to be extinguished until the "all clear" sounded. I remember one night, in particular, when I was at a birthday party. The candles on the cake were lit and the "black out" siren blared. The lights were put out but we did not extinguish the birthday candles because we did not think it would harm anything. Well, the next thing we heard was knocking on the door, it was the air raid warden telling us to put out the candles now! The candles went out and just then someone swung their hand and hit me in the face, wow, do I remember that night.

From 1951 to 1955, I served in the US Marines. When I was finally discharged and came home, I found the old neighborhood had changed. The WW II veterans were marrying and moving out into the suburbs. My parents also had moved, to Riverside, so I didn't get to go to Black Rock often, but we continued to attend Assumption Church each Sunday. As my friends got married, they too moved away, as I did once I was married. We did on occasion come back to the "Rock", and noticed a new mixture of ethnic peoples in the neighborhood. The old timers were dying off; absentee landlords were buying up properties. Over the Expressway, Buff State was constructing new buildings, stores were closed and the neighborhood I remember was disappearing.

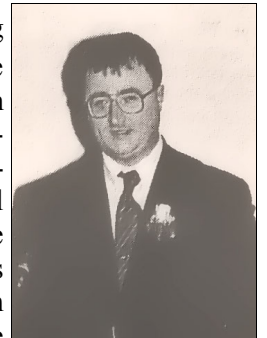
Today the "Rock" is not what it was back then. I still have family and friends living there, but only a few. I continue to attend Assumption

Church because this is my home parish. But otherwise, the "Rock" will never be the same, though in my heart it will always be "my" Black Rock.



*Congratulations
Mr. Newman*

On receiving the Heritage Award, from Buffalo's Am-Pol Eagle Newspaper's Annual Citizens of the Year Awards on March 18th at the Creekside Banquet Facility in Cheektowaga, NY.



David had three tables of family and friends to celebrate the special day. Packed to a full house of Buffalo and Western New York's "Who's Who in Polonia", David graciously accepted his award and thanked all who had voted for him to receive such a special award.

Some others who also received awards were Bishop Henry Mansell, Les Kuczynski, Art Wander, Judge Donna Siwek, Ted Pietrzak, Michael Zachowicz and Halina Jawor

The Am-Pol Eagle stated about our president, "The future of Poland's past is in good hands indeed under the stewardship of this 33 year old professional computer specialist, making him especially deserving of the 2000 Citizen of the Year Award for Heritage."

SPOŁKA CLOTHING SOLD AFTER 110 YEARS OF SERVICE

by Keith A. Kaszubik

The Broadway-Fillmore District of Buffalo's East Side has lost an icon of Polonia in that of Spolka Clothing Inc., located at 1058 Broadway. Owned and operated for three generations and 110 years by the Szczukowski family. The last Spolka building is now sold. Such a long and illustrious history deserves some recognition and reflection on our part as Americans of Polish descent.

We begin our story with a pioneer Polish immigrant who made the American dream a reality.

Alexander Szczukowski was born in 1871 in Lubowo, Poland in the Russian partition (now Liubavas, Lithuania) a son of Stanislaus Szczukowski and Victoria nee Martynowicz. In 1887 at the age of 16 he immigrated to Buffalo by himself. After his father died in Poland he sent for his mother to also come to Buffalo where she died in 1893. Alexander married in 1892 at St. Stanislaus Church to Antonina Nochowicz, daughter of John Nochowicz and Marianna nee Hopa of Welna, Poland. That union produced 7 children.

Originally Alexander started his tailor business in 1890 out of the family home in Buffalo. His tailor business turned more to retail and became the Polska Spolka Akcyjna [Polish Stock Company], later Spolka Clothing Inc. The list of directors in 1907 included: Andrew Nowacki (vice president), Albert Nowak, Francis Ruszkiewicz, Lawrence Winiewicz, Joseph Nowacki, Roman Laurentowski, Constantine Nowakowski and Felix Zielezinski. At one time he employed as many as 75 workers and built his business up

to include a total of 8 stores with 3 in the Buffalo area (the others in Black Rock and Niagara Falls); 1 in Binghamton, New York; 3 in the Detroit area; and 1 in Erie, Pennsylvania. He worked side by side with his son and grandson at Spolka. He only had one son who in turn only had one son too. Alexander was known for telling stories after business hours which would keep others amused for hours.

He was involved with the establishment of the Dom Polski on Broadway of which he served as its first president in 1905. A member of the Polish Businessmen and Industrialists Association, Polish National Alliance, Polish Aid Society, founder of the Polish Tailor's Association in 1910, organizer and past director of the Polish Savings & Loan Association (later known as Kasa Savings & Loan Association), life member of the Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City and an honorary member of the Polish Singing Circle. He was also avidly involved in activities for the youth and organized the first Polish Boy Scout troop on the East Side. Alexander died in 1950 from a heart attack and is buried at St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Cheektowaga, New York. It was a dual funeral since tragedy struck the Szczukowski family when, within 17 hours, Alexander's son-in-law, William Borowiak, also died from a heart attack.

Louis Stanislaus Szczukowski Sr. was born in 1900 in Buffalo and baptized at St. Stanislaus Church. He was educated at Masten Park High School in Buffalo and Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania (a

PNA school). He married in 1921 in Buffalo to Lavina Hoffman, daughter of Paul Hoffman and Lillian nee Josett. That union produced 4 children. Early in his life he was involved in boxing and used the stage name of "Lew Thomas." In the 1930s he rescued three people from a flood in Depew, New York due to the overflow of Cayuga Creek. He also played baseball and was an avid gardener. He retired from Spolka in 1972. He died in 1985 and is buried at St. Stanislaus Cemetery in the family plot in Cheektowaga, New York.

Louis Stanislaus Szczukowski Jr. was born in 1925 in Buffalo. He started working at Spolka in 1941. At that time it was long 14 hours days working with perhaps 8 other clerks in the store. During the war he served in the Navy. He also attended Canisius College where he obtained his B.A. He married in 1949 to Pearlene Banaszak, daughter of John and Josephine Banaszak. That union produced 8 children. Sometime after the business was passed on to him from his father in 1972, Louis Jr. began to sell the stores in Detroit because of poor business there. In an article from the Buffalo News from 1990 Louis commented on how generations of young boys in the Buffalo area remember buying their First Communion suits from Spolka. He also reflected how he was "born into the business." This past October he died at his home in Elma, New York at the age of 75 due to cancer. Besides being a businessman he was also an accomplished musician who would play numerous instruments for the enjoyment of his large extended family.

With the closing of Spolka we find another living aspect of Polonia has passed away from our community for good.

Amsterdam, New York St. Stanislaus B.M.

by Michael Drabik

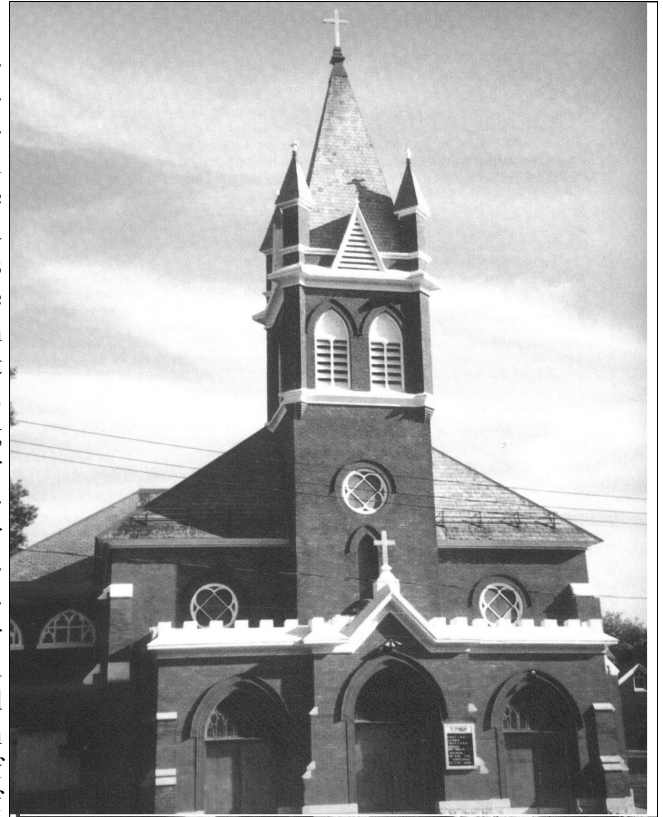


located on the banks of the Mohawk River, in Montgomery County, Amsterdam is an old Dutch (1783) settlement, known as Veedersburg until 1804. With a current population around 20,000, Amsterdam is primarily a manufacturing center with good a transportation system located in an agricultural region. Because of these factors, it attracted Poles to the area. St. Stanislaus parish in 1994 celebrated its centennial anniversary of founding.

The first Polish settlers began arriving to Amsterdam circa 1880, working in the rich farm fields and stone quarries around the area. Soon they found better paying jobs in manufacturing plants and spread the word to their brethren, their numbers increased. Being devote Catholics, they attended religious services in the two Catholic churches in the city. The German parish of St. Joseph was preferred by most since they had some knowledge of that language. But as the population of Poles increased, more were non-German speaking and they requested the Bishop of Albany to send them a priest who was able to hear their confessions and preach sermons in Polish. A Polish missionary, Ks. Feliks Orzechowski, attended to their needs and encouraged them to organize a mutual aid society to look out for their own people and then petition the diocese to form a parish.

In 1888, the Poles organized the St. Stanislaus Mutual Aid Society, but it was not until 1891 that the initiative was made to form a parish. A census was taken to determine the number of Poles in Amsterdam, the result indicated that 118 families were living there. It was further decided that an assessment of 1 dollar per month would be collected from each family to raise funds for the purchase of land on which they could build a church. With the able assistance of the Rev. Józef Dereszewski of St. Mary's Church in Schenectady, NY, a parish committee was formed.

The good Father, seeing the hard work of the Poles and knowing their desire to have their church, came to Amsterdam on a regular bases to administer to them. Because of the unfriendly treatment toward the Poles at St. Joseph's, Fr. Dereszewski suggested to the Poles to move forward in purchasing land and erect their own house of worship. In January 1894, two homes were purchased on Cornell St. and converted into a temporary chapel and rectory for the priest. Bishop Burke was able to secure the services of a young Polish priest, Rev. Antoni Górski, who he dispatched, to Amsterdam in the fall of 1895.



The energetic young priest worked with his flock in raising funds for a new church. The number of Poles was increasing but many were unable to find employment because of lack of work in the area. Soon the situation improved and progress was

made in improving the parish property. The priest's rectory was updated and property was (1896) purchased north of the city to be used as a parish cemetery. The tiny wooden chapel could no longer accommodate the numbers, so a decision was made to begin to build a new larger church structure. The parishioners themselves went about digging and removing the rubble for the basement. Hauling was done by horse and wagon a long and hard job, but necessary in order for the contractor,

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from Page 11)

Mr. M. K. Neil to begin construction of the brick edifice. By February of 1897, the outer walls were raised and the roof completed, the basement of the new structure was readied to serve as a church until the upper floor was completed. The old chapel was now free to be used for a school, where Fr. Górski taught religion classes and with the arrival of the Felician sisters, day school began in 1903. With hard economic times in 1897, progress on the church had to be halted, parishioners dug deeper into their pockets, some mortgaging their homes to help. Finally when enough collateral funds were raised, the parish applied for a mortgage from the Amsterdam Savings Bank in the amount of \$ 10,000. During the Octave of Corpus Christi 1897, the Rev Bishop Thomas Burke, bishop of Albany arrived at St. Stanislaus parish to bless the church's three bells (St. Antoni, St. John and St. Joseph).

With the new church completed, the sights were now on the overcrowding in the parish school. Property was purchased on Cornell Street and Mr. John Kane hired to build a modern schoolhouse for the parish children. It happened that during this time (1905), Archbishop Simon., the papal legate was in the States visiting the Polish communities and blessed the corner stone of the new school. Within 10 years the school building was too small to accommodate the number of students, a third floor providing education from first through the eighth grade. An addition was also needed to accommodate the parishioners in the church, in 1912 seating capacity was expanded to 1,000. This was the last project completed by the First pastor, Fr. Górski. He was transferred

to St Casimir's parish in Albany, NY, and replaced by Fr. Antoni Pinciurek who served until 1931. Fr Pinciurek was able to reduce the parish debt of \$35,000 and beautified the parish cemetery. After an absence of 17 years, Fr Antoni Górski returned to the parish, he would remain at St. Stanislaus for the next 6 years, where he again ably managed the parish, building a new sister's convent in 1934. While dressing for Mass on December 10, 1937, Fr. Górski suddenly took ill and died. He was laid to rest in the parish cemetery he founded 41 years ago.

Six months later the bishop appointed the Rev. Stanisław Gospodarek as new pastor of St. Stanislaus parish. Fr. Stan made beautifications to the interior of the church, including murals and stained glass windows, done by renowned artist Guido Nincheri, who had done art work at the Vatican. Understanding the future of the parish being in the children of the day, Father, organized groups for the youth of the parish, began a parent teacher organization and ensured the school building was updated with the best technology of the time. For his deep concern for his parishioners, church and the community in general, he was elevated to Domestic Prelate in 1957. Msgr. Gospodarek retired in 1971 proud of his accomplishments, especially the fact that five young men from the parish were ordained to the priesthood during his tenure at St. Stan's.

Serving for short periods of time were the Fr. Bolesław Dobrzynski, who made the changes in the church liturgy and appointments dictated by Vatican II as well as purchased the sisters a car for transportation needs

and instituted an envelope system for parish support. The Rev. Raymond Piechocki, a native son of the parish, followed him. Fr. Ray instituted the parish council and established parish ministries such as lectors and Eucharistic ministries. In 1976, Fr Ignacy Dziarnowski was appointed pastor, he worked diligently and hard with the parishioners to improve the parish plant. He spent many hours with his team of workers renovating the hall and kitchen. He died suddenly in Sept 1978.

Since October 1978, the Rev. Walter Czechowicz has directed the parish. He took measures to conserve on energy in the parish plant and installed devices to help cut and conserve energy. Handicapped access was made at this time to both the church and parish hall. Structural damage in the church were addressed and corrected as well as the purchase of a new organ console. Fr. Walter also involves himself in the education of the parish youth and oversees the needed improvements in the school's technology department and programming. In 1994, the parish observed its centennial anniversary, the parish has a long and colorful history. The community has changed, no longer a predominant Polish parish, it has members from various ethnic groups, but still observes the traditions, prayers and sings the hymns of its founders.

Niech żyje Stanisławowo!



Did you know that contrary to Polish American custom, Mitchell, Walter and Stanley are not the linguistic equivalents of the similar sounding Mieczysław, Władysław and Stanisław. Their true equivalents are Miecislaus, Ladislaus and Stanislaus.

Photos You Thought Were Lost

by David Newman

A genealogical goal of mine is to obtain a photograph of every individual in my family tree. Ideally I know this is an impossible task. Wouldn't it be great to be able to go back in time and collect all the photos and/or negatives of your ancestors?

I've come across an awesome genealogical find locally in Western New York that has the potential to do just that. This find is overlooked by many as a source of genealogical information. In the Spring of last year, Daniel J. Kij (PGSNYS Treasurer) told me that a photographer who has been in business for more than 50 years in the City of Lackawanna, has saved all the negatives he's developed throughout his career. The

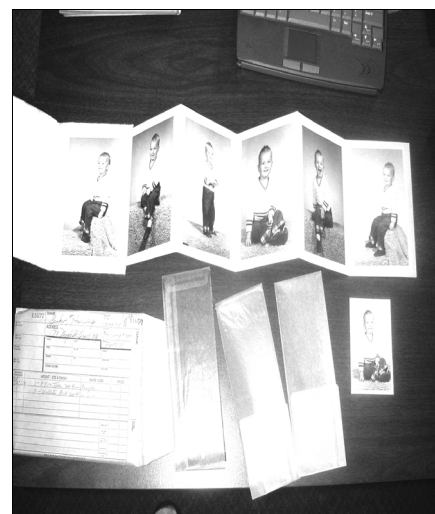


negatives have been stored in cardboard boxes in the basement of his business. One problem, there is no index to these negatives. Dan said to me that this is a genealogical goal mine and suggested we index the negatives. I agreed.

In August, Dan introduced me to Richard Sterling. Richard gave us a tour of his photo shop and showed his negative archive in the basement. What a sight! I never have seen so many negatives. It never dawned on me that photographers kept archives of their work. Inspecting the contents of a couple of the boxes revealed hundreds of manila envelopes. On the outside of each envelope are the names and addresses of the customer, date of sitting and the type of sitting (communion, wedding, baby picture, etc). Inside of the envelope are the negatives: sometimes as many as 6 sets of proof photos used in selecting which photos the customer wanted. I estimate there are 500 boxes with 100-150 envelopes in each box.

Richard Sterling, Dan Kij and I discussed the indexing of the negatives. The following week Dan Kij and I brought the first box of negatives from the basement and started the indexing. We've spent a few Saturday's since then indexing about 400 envelopes.

The surnames we've indexed run the spectrum of ethnicity. Italian, Polish, German, Irish, Russian, Dutch... This is no surprise from a photographer in Lackawanna where the city



boasts 50+ ethnic groups. The negatives depict a variety of occasions: weddings, communions, family portraits, serviceman in uniform, as well as group photos of community organizations.

There are no plans at present to make this index available on the Internet. Perhaps, after we've indexed a larger portion of the negatives this should be possible. If you would like us to check the index, send an e-mail request to sterling@pgsnys.org with no more than 5 surnames. We'll send a reply of the findings within 48 hours.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of a photograph:

Richard Sterling
Sterling Photography
Lackawanna, NY 14218
716-822-7904

**Please see Page 14 for some of the surnames currently indexed*



*Indexed Surnames of
Sterling Photographers
Lackawanna, NY*

Walter	Antecki
Phyllis	Antonik
Mrs	Balcernak
Dama	Brazdes
Jacob	Cwick
Fr. Bernard	Czechowicz
Charlotte	Czosnyka
Walter	Czosnyka
Stanley	Daszewski
George	Druzbik
	Dzek
Darlene	Gawera
Joseph	Gmerek
Adele	Jablonski
Mrs.	Jakubowski
Art	Janiga
Edward	Janiga
Pearl	Janik
M	Jankowski
Edward	Kaczka
John	Kaczorowski
	Kaitanowski
Robert	Kaminski
Jimmy	Kaminski
John	Kasperek
William	Katra
John	Kogut
Stanley	Kogut
Walter	Kottas
Joseph	Kowalski
Mathew	Kowalski
Richard	Krzyjewski
Herbert	Kujawski
Elizabeth	Kuroski
Joseph	Kuryak
John	Lesinski
Henry	Lesinski
Daniel	Lewandowska
Leonard	Maciag
Thomas	Majcher
Stefan	Matisz
Edmund T.	Mazurek
Leo	Michalek
Stephan	Mikac
Stephan	Mikac

Stephen	Musiak
John	Obstarczyk
Leon	Olenzak
Robert	Opiel
John	Ostapowicz
Chester	Owczarczyk
	Palczewski

Michael	Panko
Edward	Parucki
Donald	Pejler
	Penczkowski

Angeline	Peszko
Joseph	Pieczynski
Edward	Romanowski
Robert	Settleowski
Mitchell	Siniarowski
Henry	Skrwronski
Bodgan	Sliwinski
Pete	Solja
Steve	Soroka

	Stackowiak
Bronislaus	Susz
Jane	Susz
Walter	Swiatkiewicz
Theodore	Swietlik
John C.	Szematowicz
Peter	Szewczyk
Anton	Sandora Sztojka
Michael	Szyper
Robert	Szyper
Dorothy	Tomaka
Gregory	Trzyna
Ann	Uliaszek
Julino	Urban
John	Wajcla
Edward	Wisniewski
Louis	Zak
Richard	Zelawski

If you know of any other old photo studios that covered Polonia in NYS and still have their negatives, or the location of their archives, please contact the PGSNYS.



The Pole listening to Chopin listens to the voice of his whole race.
Ignace Paderewski

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 researching and location if known. Please keep limit to- six surnames of research. Non members please include \$3.00

Walter Kloc

**33 Brauncroft Lane
Snyder, NY 14226-4946**

whiteniko@email.msn.com
Cudecki, Podesick, Chlopecki, Kloc, Kepa,
Kloc, Kaczamowski, Kitrys

Catherine McKay

**1573 Cottage Grove
San Mateo, CA 94401-3405**

cmckayus@yahoo.com
Dauksza from Vilnius Gubernia
Pogorzelski from Vilnius Gubernia
Piotrowski
Bartoszewicz from Vilnius Gubernia
Polcznski
Slomski from Vilnius

Frank Wilczak

**224 Shanley St.
Cheektowaga, NY 14206
fdw62@adelphia.net**
Wilczak, Biencik,

James Long

**9170 Hillview Drive
Clarence, NY 14031-1415
JLong@Adelphia.net**

Rojek, Orzechowski, Janoske, Janowski,
Kmieciak, Zaworski, Wilk

Ron Sobczynski

**85 Angela Lane
Cheektowaga, NY 14225-4407
RSobczyn@gw.safety-kleen.com**
Sobczynski, Sieczkarek, Malinowski

Letters To The Editor



Unless you should choose to relate my tale to them. I simply want to know my roots. I'd love to have a photo of my biological father, even if it's and obit photo. I think I've stated my case as well as I can. If there is a photo that you can/ will obtain--my e-mail is brendathode@yahoo.com. I've my own fax .is 714-525-.1019. If you have any problems with my request, either morally, ethically, or whatever, please give me some sort of feedback on my e-mail. I can live with, and respect your decisions, whatever they may be. But, for 60 years of my life, I've never seen a photo of my biological father, and I've never known anything about him, except what my mom has told me---but that is/has been colored by her age, and her first love. Thank you for reading my epistle thru to is line. Any information you can/will research out for me will be greatly appreciated. But, please, do let me know something--if it's nothing--due some moral, clerical, or whatever. After 60 years, I really need to find my roots.

Most sincerely,

Brenda Thode

brendathode@yahoo.com

fax--714-525-1019

Looking For

I am searching for an airman, my father, who originally came from Lvov and served in the RAF in England in 1942-1943. His name is BORISLAV TRZASKOWSKI or TRZANKOWSKI and he would have been born about 1920. He was billeted with Les & Joan Hancocks in Exeter, Devon, England. He returned to Exeter in 1944/45 as a married man having married in February 1944. We believe that he settled in Canada and was probably married there. I am sorry the spelling may not be entirely accurate but I am hopeful.

Sincerely

Frances Butt

francesbutt@hotmail.com

Good Work

I was fascinated by the great links on your site, -including one to my website: holocaustforgotten.com. I am going to return to your site to look at more of the pages.

I created a link to your site from mine just now. Also wanted to let you know that I have a Search Registry on my site now allows people to search and or register to locate people lost during the Holocaust years. www.holocaustforgotten.com/search.htm I also added a free search engine to my site from ATOMZ.com. It's a great way for people to search my site which now has over 57 pages. Good job on your site. I am going back there now.

Terese Pencak Schwartz

In Search Of

" I am the grandnephew of Fr. Frances Bolek who died in Buffalo in 1958. Somehow all relatives that might have known about him are gone and all I do know is that his sister, my grand aunt, Anastasia Solecki, was his housekeeper and heir. I am into genealogy of the Bolek family & I would like to make contact with anyone who knows about Fr. Frank or any Soleckis who may still be in the Buffalo area. "

John Cagney

18026 Oakley Avenue

Lansing, IL 60438

(708)474-4854

JECAGNEY@aol.com

Kudos To Mike Drabik

I wanted to thank you for including the history of these "churches of Polonia". My family has a long connection to this particular church, St. Adalbert's in Buffalo, going back to 1901, when my great-grandmother was baptized here. It has seen the baptisms, marriages, and funerals of members of my family since the turn of the century, including my grandmother, who worked closely with the Sister's in the Response to Love Center.

Leslie Peck

Hello,

Just a short note to thank you for your web site. I'm interested in searching our family history, and hope to use this web site as a research source. I was born in Buffalo, and my parents both were born and raised in the Black Rock section of Buffalo. My mother (Elizabeth Golonka) and her parents were members of Assumption church. Both of my grandparents immigrated from Poland in the 1910's. Thanks again for your web site.

Sincerely,

Conrad Mowczko

After much thought we decided to print the following plea as it was received thru our website from the Parish pages, in hopes that a member might be able to help. Why it was addressed this way ??

Dear Rev. Kadryna,

Found your site on the web. I'm 60 yrs. old,

and looking for my roots. My father's name was Stanislaus, and I'm not sure of the spelling of his last name, since my mother changed it with my birth. I do know he had a brother named Ladislaus, they were Polish Catholics, which was why my parents couldn't marry, as mom was a Protestant. My dad's father gave him an ultimatum,: pop would continue to pay for medical school--my father was a junior in Washington, D.C. or my dad would get not support, if he chose to marry my mom. My father chose medicine. About '59-60--I researched a national directory of M.D.'s. Discovered that there were two doctors in Buffalo, one named Stanislaus, the other, Ladislaus with the same last name Makarowitz, or Mackowitz or some such spelling. Not too long after I discovered this information, I wrote to the postmaster in Buffalo, explained I was looking for my father. The postmaster replied back that Dr. Stanislaus had died two years prior to my note. There is this great void in my life, as I'd like at least a photo of my natural father. I'm sure he married a Polish Catholic wife, had a family, and I've got half-brothers, sisters there in the area. However, at my age, I'm fully aware how unwise it would be to let my father's children and grand-children to be made aware of my existence. Though I'm not Catholic, I did go to a Catholic nursing school. I have the highest respect of the cloak of the confessional. And, as I stated, I'm now 60 years old, my mom is 87. Yet, anything I'm able to learn about my father, I'd never relate to her. She almost dropped dead in 1960's, when I told her that the postmaster had replied that Stan had died. Morality was sooooo different in '40's. And I feel that Mom will go to her grave loving Stan. But, as the old saying goes, "Life goes on". I've no idea as to how long you've had this parish, nor how familiar you may be with the Polish history of Buffalo, and with the old Polish families. I think that Stan's family escaped from Warsaw not too long prior to the German occupation. Mom has told me that Stan was upset about uncles and aunts that were there, and by the time I was born, they may have ended up captives--possibly crematoriums we later learned about. I know this is the strangest letter you've ever received, regardless of how long you've had this parish. But, I'm grateful for your web-site. If you could snoop around in the archives of the Buffalo newspapers to confirm my father's death, if there was an accompanying photo, I'd be most grateful. What a kick in the head it would be, if some of my half-siblings are in your parish. But, please, rest assured, I shall never in any way, shape-or form, try to contact them.



Potpourri



Yet Another Buffalo, NY Polish Parish???

Could it be true that another Buffalo Polish Parish is being planned behind the scenes to close. Word has it that Corpus Christi in the city, is on the list. Watch out for a group called the Parochial Concerns Commission, the New Visions in disguise?? How simple it would be to import those priests from Poland! Oh where, Oh where do our records go, Oh where, Oh where will they be?? and will we have access? The diocese of Bflo., could use a people friendly archivist. Remember, it was our ancestors who built those Polish parishes with their sweat and hard earned, meager wages.

Can You Help?

Following is a letter received and thought we'd include, possibly some members might be willing to help.:

My father is publishing a book entitled an "Ethnic Study of an East Side Neighborhood". The book focuses on the area between Metcalfe & Babcock St. in Buffalo, NY. Its primary focus is the stockyards and meat-packing industry that built Precious Blood Church. Looking for early photos of stockyards, Broadway Market, Polonia, etc...I know your group is active in Polonia and may be able to spread the word. Dziękuję Bardzo,
Piotr Jabłoński
PH. 716-834-2249

Conference

FEEFHS announces the 8th International Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 5-7 October 2001. The convention will deal with tracing ancestry into the vast realm of east and central Europe, only open within the last decade for genealogical research. Conference details, as they become available, will be posted at: <http://feefhs.org/conf/01mil/01mil-hp.html> or by return mail from:
FEEFHS, PO Box 510898, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-0898

Text Translations

Ectaco, Inc., a handheld electronic dictionaries manufacturer and software developer, announced today that it had launched new websites with unique English-Polish LingvoBit (TM) bi-directional online full text translation system. The websites - <http://www.poltran.com> and <http://www.translate.pl> are the only Internet resources that can offer their visitors full text translation for both languages, together with full text translators Ectaco, Inc. also offers English-Polish bi-directional dictionaries. Moreover, the online translation and dictionary forms are given away for free, visitors may choose from several designs and place the translators and dictionaries on their sites. This is Ectaco, Inc. gift to the Internet community. [Http://www.translate.pl](http://www.translate.pl) is targeted at Polish Internet users

while <http://www.poltran.com> is designed for English speaking Internet audience.

PanAm Help Needed

To the Editors:

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on the quality of your publication. I am really impressed with the articles and the amount of research, thought, and just plain hard work behind them. I also think that some of the members of the PGSNYS have missed their true calling as librarians! Special thanks are due to Mike Drabik for indexing the Album Polonii Buffalowskiej i Przewodnik Handlowy and to the whole group that is indexing the Dziennik dla Wszystkich obituaries.

My second point in writing is to mention that UB's Polish Collection also has a copy of the Album Polonii Buffalowskiej, the 1906 edition. It has a lot of interesting material in it.

Third, as question: are there any students in your organization (who can read Polish well) that would like to help out with a research project? I'm hoping to find out how the Buffalo Polonia felt about the Pan-American Exposition in 1901, as indicated by the local Polonian press. As I'm sure you know, this may be a very time consuming proposition.

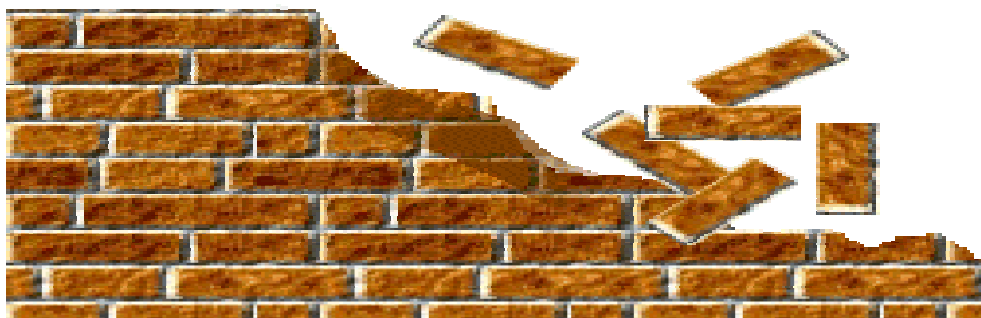
Last, I would like to thank you for helping many of the researchers who have contacted me with Polish genealogy questions beyond the scope of our Polish Collection, and invite you to come and use the collection again. If you would like to set up another class on using Lockwood's collections, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Jean

dickson@acsu.buffalo.edu

Breaking Through The Brickwalls



Source: *Daily News*
(<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews/>)

BODY TRANSIT RECORDS

In an effort to stem the spread of communicable diseases, local governments in many states required that bodies arriving in their jurisdiction be registered. The resulting records cover a large number of individuals.

As B-Ann Moorhouse, CG, FGBS, suggested in an article in "The NYG&B Newsletter" (Moorhouse, 1992), "The Board of Health of the City of New York required that any body arriving in Manhattan via ship, train, or even local ferry be registered. Thus, the vacationer who died out West and whose body was being shipped back for burial in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, the New Jersey resident or Staten Island housewife whose body was being shipped across the river for burial in upstate New York, the Civil War soldier and sailor whose bodies were being shipped back to New England for burial, all were registered with the City." Moorhouse also notes that the registrations also applied to bodies being shipped in the opposite direction. An example given in this article is that of the transit of Abraham Lincoln, whose body passed through New York City on 24 April

1865. Biographical information included in the Lincoln record includes his age (52 years, 2 months), nativity (Kentucky), place of death (Washington, DC), date of death (15 April 1865), disease (pistol shot), place of interment (Springfield, Ill.), and name and address of person having charge of the body (P. Relyea). "Bodies in Transit," the records for New York City covering the years 1859 to 1894, have been microfilmed and are available at the Municipal Archives of the City of New York, and through the Family History Library. Body transit records are also available for a number of other locations. Transit permits may also be interfiled with death records in the place where the burial took place.

Selected Reading:

Moorehouse, B-Ann. "Little-Publicized New York City Sources." "The NYG& B Newsletter." New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (Summer 1992, p. 11).

[**Editor's Note:** For more on burial and transit permits, see George Morgan's article "Using Burial Permits as Resources" in the Ancestry.com Library at: <http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/george/27.asp>]

CORONER'S INQUESTS

Although coroners are often associated with murder, their records should not be overlooked. A coroner may have been called in to investigate deaths occurring under the following circumstances: accident, suicide, sudden death when in apparent good health, unattended by a licensed physician at time of death, suspicious or unusual causes, poisoning or adverse reaction to drugs or alcohol, disease constituting a threat to public health, employment related illness or injury, during medical diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, in any prison or penal institution or while in police custody, dead on arrival at hospital, unclaimed bodies, any body brought into a new medico-legal jurisdiction without proper medical certification, or any body to be cremated, dissected, or buried at sea. As with most records, the contents and condition of an individual's inquest file may vary greatly from county to county, and even from year to year.

Many inquest files contain sworn statements made by family and friends of the deceased and any other witnesses present at the time of death or when a body was discovered. A 1935 Chicago inquest, for example, included a form requesting the full name of the deceased along with the person's address, age, sex, marital status, color, birthplace, length of residence in the United States, length of residence in the city, occupation, employer, past occupation, wages or salary due, amount of life insurance and to whom it was payable, value of personal and real estate property, level of education, number of dependents, and 10 questions regarding the decedent's

(Continued on next page)

physical and mental health at the time of death. Personnel in the county coroner's office should be able to provide information on the location of files.

Selected Readings:

Naanes, Ted, and Loretto Dennis Szucs. "Dead Men Do Tell Tales." 'Ancestry' Magazine 12 (2) (Mar-Apr 1994): 6.

Roebuck, Haywood. "North Carolina Colonial Coroners' Inquests, 1738-75." 'North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal' 1 (1975): 11-37.

Scott, Kenneth. "Coroners' Reports, New York City, 1843-1849." New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1991.

Insurance Company Records

Insurance companies traditionally keep extensive records of the people they insure. The most commonly issued policies include life, health, dental, automobile, property, unemployment, and disability.

Life insurance records, including applications, history cards, and renewal cards, are often kept by the issuing company for many years. To protect themselves legally, some companies even keep original applications permanently or microfilm them. Due to the nature of the insurance, such records may provide information regarding the policyholder's lifestyle, health, age, residence, and beneficiaries. By 1865, medical information on diseases or health conditions was included, and in 1889, Mutual Life began attaching a medical examination to the policy.

Insurance certificates, policies, or payment books held by a relative, or found in family files may help determine the company that insured an ancestor. Fraternal organization should not be overlooked, since many, such as Woodmen of the World, offered insurance benefits to members. While most companies will not search their files for a genealogist, some may allow individuals to see them, provided they can prove a relationship to the policyholder in question.

Insurance companies regularly rely on computer databases for obtaining past health and insurance histories on nearly everyone who has been insured. While every contemporary insurance company has safeguards in place to protect privacy rights, some will release information on older policies, especially those of the deceased. The addresses for two insurance reporting agencies follow.

Medical Information Bureau
Box 105 Essex Station
Boston, MA 02112

American Warranty Life
Insurance Co.
1433 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201

Selected Readings

Clough, Shepard B. *A Century of American Life Insurance: A History of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, 1843-1943*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1946

Directory of Health/Life Insurance Companies. Modesto, CA: HRS Geriatric Publishing, 1989.

Galles, Duane. "Using Life Insurance Records in Genealogical Research." *Genealogical Journal* 20 (1992): 156-71

Larkin, Harold F. "Retention of Life Insurance Records." *American Archivist* 5 (April 1942): 93-99

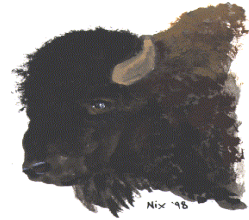
Laura Szucs Pfeiffer holds a B.A. in finance and a B.S. in economics from Saint Joseph's College (Rensselaer, IN). Her educational background led her to a career as a banker and a trainer with the Northern Trust Company in Chicago. In 1997, she left her position as an officer to devote more time to her three daughters and to pursue her interest in family history research. She has been actively involved in researching her own family history for 10 years and is also currently working on her husband's family. Laura was also involved in the compilation of "Family History Made Easy" (Ancestry, 1998), "They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins" (Ancestry, 1997), and "The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book" (Ancestry, 1997).



Some Polish Saint Days

January 03	St. Genowefa
January 07	St. Rajmund
January 28	St. Tomasz
February 10	St. Scholastyka
February 17	St. Aleksy
March 03	St. Kunegunda
March 04	St. Kazmierz
March 21	St. Mikołaj
April 02	St. Franciszek
April 11	St. Stanisław
April 25	St. Marek
May 04	St. Florian
May 16	St. Andrzej
May 22	St. Helena

Dziennik dla Wszystkich w Buffalo "Lost Now Found"



by David Newman
akdave@pgsnys.org

The PGSNYS embarked on a glorious adventure in April of 1999 by indexing the death notices found in Buffalo's Dziennik dla Wszystkich

To date we've gathered 24,000 plus entries, which cover the years 1911-1941. Little did we know what we were about to find out. The microfilm copies for the years 1941 thru 1957 are not the local edition of the Dziennik dla Wszystkich of Buffalo but rather the national edition.

Actually, we found sporadic days of the Buffalo Dziennik mixed in with the national, but no set pattern was found.

The Library of Congress did the microfilming of Buffalo's Dziennik in 1964. We have determined that they were unaware of the two dif-

ferent editions. We are indexing ancestors of Buffalo's Polonia. Our intent is to index the local edition and also record those death notices



found in the national edition void from 1941 through 1957.

To correct this travesty I've made it my mission to arrange to copy the Buffalo Dziennik on microfilm.

I first attempted to located paper copies of Buffalo Dziennik anywhere I could find it. In September I sent an e-mail to the Polish Museum of America. Richard Kujawa responded telling me that he does have paper copies. He also asked if I was attending the Polish Genealogical Society of America's Fall Conference. I informed him I was

attending and we agreed to meet and discuss the Dziennik then.

At the Conference I met with Richard Kujawa. He was kind enough to drive me to the Polish Museum to verify what the archives holdings were. The Museum does indeed have paper copies of the Buffalo Dziennik dla Wszystkich.

Rich Kujawa is in favor of allowing the copies found in the Museum to be microfilmed. He has put me in contact with someone from the Library of Congress who can assist in getting the microfilming done.

I have sent a message to this contact and am waiting a reply.

I'm grateful the Polish Museum of America has the missing Dziennik's we are seeking and thankful of their generosity in helping to get them preserved on microfilm. I will keep all informed of the progress of this project.

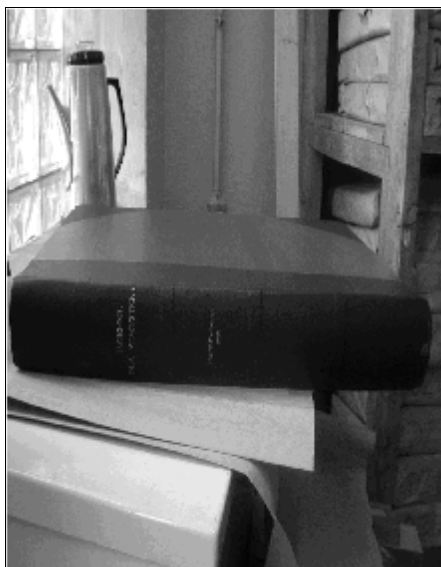
(If anyone has information as to where there might be further editions –possibly located within NYS, we'd be happy to hear from you.

***Or** if you can answer the mystery as to why the **Buffalo** editions for these specific years have disappeared from this area of Polonia and we must seek them out in Chicago, please let us know.)*



*The tavern will not spoil the virtuous,
nor a church improve the wicked.*

Old Polish Proverb





A Helping Hand

by Ed Kornowski

Editor's Note: The following is an article that appeared in the Buffalo News in late Oct. 2000 and Ed's comment on the search that followed.

**Note: As usual with the Bflo. News they have no sense of direction, Ritt Ave. is on the outer fringes of Black Rock and not in Riverside. Nor do they have any sense to do a follow up on such a touching ending to their original story. But we do...*

With only a few letters written in the 1950s and old photographs to guide her, a woman has traveled from Switzerland to Buffalo to find the father she never knew.

Elisabetta Calonder-Prenner is her name, and she's looking for a man named Michael Perczak. Born in Poland, Perczak spent several years in Switzerland during and after World War II.

His last known address was on Ritt Avenue in Buffalo's Riverside neighborhood, near the Village of Kenmore border. A letter from him, found among Prenner's late mother's belongings, was postmarked Feb. 24, 1957.

So far, the search has come up empty.

Prenner arrived in Buffalo early Tuesday morning with Marianna Tscharner, a relative who speaks English and serves as the ears for Prenner, who is deaf.

Why did they come?

"He's her father. She's never seen him," Tscharner said, stating their mission simply.

Prenner's parents met in Engadin, a village in the Swiss Alps, where her father was a member of the Polish military. Her mother refused her father's proposal of marriage and later married someone else; she never spoke of Perczak to their daughter.

But after moving to Buffalo, Perczak didn't forget about the girl. His letters, in German, were written to both mother and daughter.

After her mother died two years ago, Prenner found four of those letters and some old photographs.

Now 49, Prenner is married with three children: a son, 20, and two daughters, 19 and 16. It was Prenner's husband who urged her to make the journey.

After arriving in Boston, the women planned to drive a rental car to Buffalo. But overwhelmed by the distance and the swarms of vehicles they already had seen - Tscharner said less than 200 people live in her Swiss village -- they opted for a connecting flight instead.

They took a taxi to Perczak's former residence. It turns out he hasn't lived there in several decades; neighbors referred the two women to City Hall.

They caught a bus downtown and wound up in the office of Bruna Michaux, senior tax administrator. Michaux took up the challenge of finding Perczak, as well as the roles of tour guide and ambassador for Buffalo. "She's our angel," Tscharner said. "Without her, we couldn't do nothing (sic)."

Michaux has reached out to several agencies and organizations that may have information about Perczak or his heirs. Police Commissioner Rocco J. Diina has offered whatever help his department might provide. A downtown hotel is putting them up for free.

"We have lots of angels in this country," Tscharner said. The women are puzzled why Perczak apparently never tried to contact Prenner directly. If he or members of his family are out there, Tscharner related this plea from Prenner: "She would like just to see her father," Tscharner said, as both wiped tears from their eyes.

Hi Gang,

Just a story I'd like to share. I don't mean to brag, but I had a day every genealogist dreams about.

First off The Buffalo News printed a story in the Saturday paper, section "C" page one, entitled "Swiss woman hopes to find father she never knew" The father was from Poland, mother from Switzerland.

I read this article over breakfast and was moved to try to help. A few minutes on the computer I located the Father listed in SSDI, sadly he died in June 1987. I went to the library and scoured a whole month of the Buffalo News for his Death Notice. Wouldn't you know it, he died on June 30th, I had to scan the whole roll! It was worth it because I got a few names from the notice. I made a few calls and found the man was buried at St. Adalbert's in Lancaster, since the office closes at noon, I asked the Supervisor Terry Gladkowski to leave a map of the gravesite in the mailbox.

Now came the hard part, how do I find these people in the paper? I called the police dept. and they didn't know, couldn't find out till Monday. I called the News, and the receptionist called the reporter at home. She then told me they were staying at the Hotel Lenox. I called the Lenox and got an answering machine. No luck.

(Continued on next page)

After my Polish classes I stopped by the Hotel Lenox but was told the women checked out. They did have a cell phone number of the lady escorting them. I called her and found out they were sightseeing at the falls. We made arrangements to meet in an hour.



My presentation was to show them Transfiguration Church where her fathers funeral was held, then to the house he last lived in, and then a trip to Lancaster to see the gravesite at St Adalbert's Cemetery.

When we arrived at the house for pictures, I decided to knock on the door to see who lived there. Low and behold it was the stepdaughter of the person we were seeking. She had Michael Perczak's citizenship papers, complete with photograph. When the Swiss woman saw it she began to cry, the signature was exactly the same as on the letters she had from 1957. Since the woman could not speak, (she is mute) her translator had to tell her in German that she was actually in the house her father lived in. On the wall was a picture of her father's American wife (deceased also). The emotions of finally ending the journey

overflowed with tears. The whole room couldn't help but cry.

We then drove to Lancaster, stopping to buy flowers, and a visit to the gravesite.

I'm in tears as I type this story. I feel so honored to have participated in this emotional event. Elizabeth was here for *almost a week* with no results, and by virtue of the News article, I was prompted to get involved.

At 6 am tomorrow (Sunday) Elizabeth boards her flight home, having accomplished what she came here to do, "Find her father."

I had a great day, I hope that every genealogist will someday experience this kind of reward. It's such a great feeling.

Kudos to Ed, he accomplished something wonderful in a few hours, that the city could not do in 5 days.

Though we're quite sure if it had something to do with taxes, they could find YOU, in a New York minute.



Polish Vodka

Moët Hennessy, the French luxury goods company, has secured the worldwide rights to distribute two of the world's most lucrative premium vodkas, Chopin and Belvedere. Belvedere vodka is produced by Polmos Zyrardow. According to other Polish sources the deal has been signed in conjunction with the US's Millennium Import company who have been selling the brands in the US for over four years now. Current sales are in the region of 2.5 million bottles at a retail price of around \$30 a bottle.

INFO From FEEFHS

European Town Photographs from European Focus, Inc.

James Derheim, owner of European Focus, Inc., has completed many photographic projects for members of FEEFHS over the past three years. In 2000, he photographed 114 villages and towns in seven countries for genealogy enthusiasts. For 2001, he already has plans to photograph 98 towns and villages in Poland, the Ukraine, Scotland, Germany et al. All photographs are completed on a commission basis with individual clients.

If you have a connection to a town that is listed in the extensive archives of European Focus, Inc., high quality reprints are available for as little as \$10 each. Hundreds of towns and villages in Eastern Europe have been photographed. To see a listing of towns, visit www.eurofocus.com. While there, review the new section which inventories localities scheduled for 2001. This special section can be found on the "Archives" page along with the town listing. Potential clients are encourage people to get together on projects, splitting costs and potentially bringing the investment per person down to a cost that anyone can afford.

Towns in Poland Sch'd for 2001

Alt Popielau (Popielow)
Boleslaw
Brzeznicza
Dammratsch (Domaradz)
Falkowitz (Falkowice)
Krakow
Medrzechow
Priemhausen (Przenocze)
Tonie
Wielopole
Wozniki

BUFFALO'S POLONIA MISSES OUT ON THE KASZUBY PERFORMANCE

by Keith A. Kaszubik

On Saturday, September 30th, 2000 at 7 p.m. three to four hundred people filled the church hall in the basement of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in St. Catharines, Ontario, awaiting the performance of the *Kaszuby z Kartuz* [Kaszuby (Kashubia) from Kartuzy, Poland] Folk Song and Dance Ensemble of over 30 performers, both young and old. Among those attending were just two people from the Buffalo Polonia, the author and David Newman - president of our locally based Polish Genealogical Society of New York State. The group was unable to give their performance in Buffalo after two attempts at setting up tentative dates which both fell through due to typical bureaucratic nonsense from our do-nothing government officials.

The Kaszuby group was founded in 1946 by Marta Bystron. They have toured all over the world but have not yet made their premier debut in the United States, which Buffalo was intended to be. They made their premier North American debut in Canada in 1997 on the occasion of a millennium of recorded history for Gdańsk. The group has been presented numerous awards including the Stolem's medal for their contributions to regional culture (another recipient is author Günter Grass). The group has been managed by Franciszek Kwidziński since 1960. Instructors include Antoni Nogajewski (accordion) and Celina Rubin-Leszczynska (soloist). Their repertoire consists almost exclusively of songs performed in the Ka-

shubian dialect. In addition they have several unique instruments, namely the devil's fiddle (primarily a percussion instrument) and the *burczybas*.

The show began following a Polish language mass after which parishioners filed in downstairs. The curtains opened to reveal the sharply dressed performers. The men in high black boots, white trousers, blue overcoats and dashing black hats with red ribbons. The women were outfitted in attractive multicolored dresses laced with Kashubian embroidery, black shoes with a red ribbon, and a traditional Kashubian headdress.

The first song echoed the famous words of the great Kashubian poet, Hieronim Derdowski (1852-1902), "There can be no Kashubia without Poland, nor a Poland without the Kashubians." The song *Kaszëbsci Nute* [Kashubian Notes] was hilarious as Franciszek Kwidziński worked the audience in an attempt to approximate the sounds unique to the Kashubian dialect (with the help of a picture chart). The song *Na Kaszëbach* started out sounding almost identical to the American Folk Song *Oh My Darling Clementine*. *Mój tata kupił kozã* featured a distinctive "Eeeeeyoe!" giving the song a sort of Polish hillbilly type sound with the foot-stomping fiddle



work. Several songs were performed with the appropriate costumes and props depicting the fishing with nets etc. Nothing could compare to the intoxicating, almost psychedelic, dancing that accompanied the musical numbers.

The real highlight of the evening was the instrumental featuring the *diabelskie skrzypce* [devil's fiddle] and two *burczybas* [a small barrel with a horse's tail in one end of it]. Mr. Bronisław Brylowski played the devil's fiddle (see illustration) in center stage flanked by three people on each side needed to play each *burczybas*. One holding the barrel, one pulling the tail, and a young Kashubian girl wetting the tail with water to help produce the "music" (of which the sound could only be compared to that of passing gas!). They say laughter is the best medicine, and we certainly received our dose. Just when I thought I had seen it all, three brave volunteers were pulled from the audience to give these strange instruments a try.

Their attempt was even more hilarious and brought laughter to the point of tears from the audience.

Another highlight was the number *Dobró je tobaczka* during which Franciszek Kwidziński swiftly walked through the audience with a *róg* [a snuffbox made from a cow's horn] filled with snuff placing a little of it on the back of people's wrists. The use of snuff among the Kashubians dates back at least three hundred years. The smokeless tobacco gained usage among the Kashubian fishermen because of the danger of fire associated with their fishing boats. Those who tried the snuff soon followed the use of it by a sneeze (which the Kashubians consider healthy). My friend, David Newman, was hesitant about trying it but quickly overcame that hesitation when a lady parishioner helped him bring his hand to his nose! He should have had his eyes on the snuff instead of his eyes on the beautiful female fiddle player! (who played through the whole performance with a dazzling smile).

After the performance was finished we were invited to stay and visit with the performers. Out came the *kawa*, *pączki* and *piwo* of which everyone had their fill. The



Kaszuby group still had the energy to sing a few more numbers while they sat taking their much deserved break. They seemed happy yet tired as we communicated a little through an interpreter. They were somewhat taken back by the fact that I was a 5th generation American of Kashubian descent yet able to sing the main refrain from *Kaszëbsci Jezora* [Kashubian Lake]. Their organizer, Ted Kay, from Mississauga, Ontario informed me that the next show was in Oshawa, Ontario. Soon the group boarded their bus and departed.

Over all it was an experience one will never forget. Let us all hope that the Kaszuby group is able to perform in the United States in the near future and that several of our more populous Polish communities are able to experience the remarkable show.



WWII Mines are Found

After failing for years to convince the military that a cache of World War II explosives was buried near his village, an elderly Polish

mayor was vindicated Tuesday, October 10, 2000 when soldiers uncovered dozens of rusting land mines.

Police said several homes were evacuated and a road was closed outside Machnica, 185 miles southwest of Warsaw, while the mines and other explosives were taken away to be destroyed.

"Everybody thought I was fantasizing about the explosives," the Polish news agency PAP quoted the 70-year-old village mayor, Anton Gawlica, as saying.

He said he remembered as a child seeing German soldiers dumping the mines in a ditch near his house, but previous efforts by the Polish military to check his claim turned up nothing.

This time army engineers used stronger detection equipment.



ORIGINS

Potter's Field

It comes from the Bible (Matthew 27:6-7). After Judas had hanged himself for betraying the Savior for thirty pieces of silver, the chief priests picked up the silver which he had cast down. They said, "It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood." And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

Acre

The word "acre" originally meant a field, any field. But in the reign of Edward I of England an exact definition was set as the amount of land a team of oxen could plow in a day, 40 poles long by 4 broad, or 4840 square yards.

Jog The Memory

"Jog" means to "shake" and when we "jog a person's memory, we shake it up.

Kick The Bucket

The man about to hang himself will mount a bucket or other support, tie the rope, and then "kick the bucket" out from under.



