
Searchers

The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State



Volume 42

PRESERVING OUR PAST SINCE 1988

Issue 1, 2006



Early view of Broadway ca. 1920 . Sattlers is in the center of the picture, with the old Market across the street.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...

MEETINGS

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

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues are \$15.00 for the year. This entitles you to three editions of the Searchers. New members receive an information package to help get them started. Please notify us of any change of address.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

All articles concerning Polish Genealogy, history, and information concerning Polonia are considered for publication in the Searchers. Articles are accepted for publication at any time.

Contact: James P. Harlos, Editor

harlos@adelphia.net

MAIL

Please note when writing us for assistance, that due to the large amount of mail received, 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
12645 Rt. 78
East Aurora, New York 14052

If you wish to contact one of our committees, please write the committee name on the front of the envelope. The committees are: General Correspondence, Searcher Editor, and Membership Chairman. Please visit The Polish Genealogical Society of New York State's Web Site:

<http://www.pgsnys.org>

PGSNYS OFFICERS

President	David E. Newman	president@pgsnys.org
Vice President	Ted Smardz	vicepres@pgsnys.org
Secretary	Dan Filipski	djf@adelphia.net
Treasurer	Chuck Pyrak	Cpytak@adelphia.net
Historian	Monica Rzepka	
Founder	Michael A. Drabik	1950-2001

PGSNYS TRUSTEES

Walter Kloc	whiteniko@email.msn.com
Frank Martin	
Patricia Neuland	
Ed Prabucki	prabucki77@aol.com
Frank Wilczak	

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Editor's Notes

Well, here we are again ready to send forth another issue of the Searchers. It's an interesting issue with a submission from an out-of-state member, an article on how a simple object can lead to genealogical investigation, our organization meeting minutes, and the continuing series about regions of Poland.

Our cover this issue is a result of visiting the Iron Island Community Museum, located at 998 Lovejoy Ave. This is an interesting place to visit to look over their collection of memorabilia and to walk down memory lane.

Sometimes you find philosophy in strange places. The other day I purchased a set of CD/DVD labeling pens. Many times I copy something to disk and either think it not worthy to print up a label; sometimes I'm just too lazy to do it. This product was a set of pens for writing on CD/DVDs from the Case-Logic company. What interested me was a part of the ad copy on the card. Here were four lines of a philosophy of life. They are:

It's your expression, own it.

It's your culture, live it.

What's protected thrives.

What's inside survives.

See you next time,

Jim Harlos

President's Message

With a decreasing church attendance and a shrinking population of priests, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo is currently working to downsize the number of churches to match the availability of priests and parishioners. In the history of Western New York there were 39 Polish parishes. Currently there are 36 active parishes. How many of these parishes will close is unknown. But there is something we can do to help genealogists research their ancestors.

The PGSNYS has started a historical parish project. Its purpose is to historically archive each church. We are taking external and internal photographs and video of all the parishes. This includes the Stations of the Cross, Organ, Altar, Stained Glass, Artwork, etc. So far we have completed St. Michael's parish in Lackawanna.

We are also looking to acquire all parish jubilee anniversary books. We currently have 24 books in our library. This collection is incomplete. On page 9 of the Searchers we have the list of parishes and the celebratory issues we have. If you have in your possession a copy of an anniversary book we don't have, we'd like to hear from you. Also if you would like to volunteer to help out with this project please contact by e-mail David Newman at niewczyk@verizon.net.

David Newman

THE JAN HUBNER FAMILY OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK

by Kenneth A. Merique

My second great-grandfather, Pawel Hubner, was born 30 June 1808 in Piekarzewo, Poland. He was the eighth and last child of Jan Hubner (1763-1813) and Rosalia Skierska (1774-1822), who were married 22 November 1790 at Kowalew, Poland. Rosalia Skierska Hubner was the daughter of Grzegor and Barbara Skierska.

Pawel Hubner married Marianna Bieniek, the daughter of Wojciech Bieniek and Marianna Kucharska, 17 July 1836, at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, Przygodzice, Poland. Marianna Kuchar-



Jan Hubner (1844-1912)
Son of Pawel (1898-1880)
and Marianna Bieniek
(1813-1894)

ska was born 24 June 1813 in Przygodzice.

My great-grandfather, Jan Hubner, was born 27 July 1844 in Gorzyce Wielkie (Ostrow WLKP), Poland. He was the fourth child (and second son) of the aforementioned Pawel and Marianna Bieniek Hubner.

He married Balbina Alojza Kluth 10 January 1870 in Wloki, Poland. Balbina was born 21 June 1844 in Jasna Gora, Poland, and was the daughter of Juliusz Kluth and Domicella Wojciechowska.



Helena Franciszka Hubner,
later Mrs. Franciszka Lark
(1844-1881)

The first known child of Jan and

Balbina Hubner was Antoni Hubner, born 12 June 1873 in Wloki. Their only other known child was my maternal grandmother, Helena Franciszka Hubner, who was born 20 May 1879 in Buffalo, New York. She was baptized at St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church 31 May 1879, the mother church of Buffalo's Polonia. Her godparents were Joseph Napiecek and Julianna Zulawska. The baptism was performed by Fr. John Pitass.

My great-grandfather, Jan Hubner, arrived alone at the Port of New York 20 June 1873 from Bremen, aboard the Helene. He so loved the name

(134.)
 List of Manifest of all the Passengers taken on board the Ship *Helene*
 Master, from *Bremer* , burden *327* Tons.

NAME	AGE		SEX	OCCUPATION	The Country to which they arrived	The Country of which they passed in former list	DIED ON THE VOYAGE
	Years	Months					
Carl Meyer	16		M	Merchant	Germany	U. S.	
Arthur Herman	16		M				
John Bohmer	27		M				
George	26		M				
John	10		M				
August Chicago	25		M				
John	22		M				
August	57		M				Died
John Hubner	45		M	Tailor			
August	37		M				
Marcella	3		F				
Paul	11		M				
John Polkowsky	34		M				
Juliana	34		F				
Henry Henschel	36		M		Poland		
Paula	30		F				
Anna Spiller	18		F	seamst			
Antonina	23		F				
Antonina Bart	14		F				
Joseph Binkowski	55		M				
William	53		M				
Joseph	22		M				
George	14		M				
August	10		M				
John	10		M				
John Fischer	29		M	Barber			
George Black	56		M				
Carl Polk	25		M				
John Heringer	24		M				
Joseph	22		M				
Carl Quatler	22		M		Germany		
William	22		M				
Henry	5		M				
Paula	4		F				
George	11		M				Died
John	1		M				
John Krutz	22		M	Steward			
Marcella Binkowski	53		F				
George	18		M				
August	15		M				
William	12		M				

Part of the Passenger Manifest for the Ship Helene. Jan Hubner (on the manifest as Johan Hübner) occupation Tailor.

Helene, he named his only daughter, Helena, after the ship on which he arrived in America.

In the mid 1870s, Jan Hubner's sister, Julianna, born in 1850, joined her brother's family in Buffalo and remained with them until her death in 1906. She was the only one of Jan's eight siblings to immigrate to America.

On 10 May 1881, Balbina Kluth Hubner died in her Townsend Street home after a long illness. Her father, Juliusz Kluth had undoubtedly received word of the gravity of his daughter's illness; and being recently widowed, decided to immigrate to America. He arrived at the Port of New York 23

May 1881 aboard the passenger liner Vandalia. Unfortunately he did not arrive in time to see his daughter who had succumbed two weeks earlier.

Balbina's funeral mass was conducted at St. Stanislaus Church and interment followed at the United German & French Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York. Her father, Juliusz Kluth, died in Buffalo 13 February 1890. He, too, was buried from St. Stanislaus Church and was laid to rest near his daughter at the UG&FRCC.

It is interesting to note that Julius Kluth's sister, Wilhelmina Kluth Binkowska (1823-1894), was the housekeeper for Fr. John Pitass, pastor of St. Stanislaus Parish. It was she who had provided vital genealogical information regarding Juliusz that was recorded in the church's funeral register. The discovery of this information enabled me to trace the ancestry of my Kluth/Klat/Klut family to the early 1600s.

Only six weeks after the death of his wife, Balbina, and with two young children needing the care only a mother can provide, Jan Hubner married the maiden Wiktorya Laferska, daughter of Szymon Laferski and Maria Majewska of Samokleski, Male, Poland. This marriage occurred at St. Stan-

Kenneth A. Merique is a member of many years of PGSNYS. He is also a member and Corresponding Secretary of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. As can be seen from his report, he has a deep interest in the Polish settlement in Buffalo. While he has no e-mail address, his address is:

Kenneth A. Merique
 21184 Parkcrest Drive
 Harper Woods, Michigan 48225-1710

islaus in Buffalo. Shortly after the family moved to Great Valley, New York, where Jan worked as a blacksmith,; a trade he had learned as a young man in Poland.

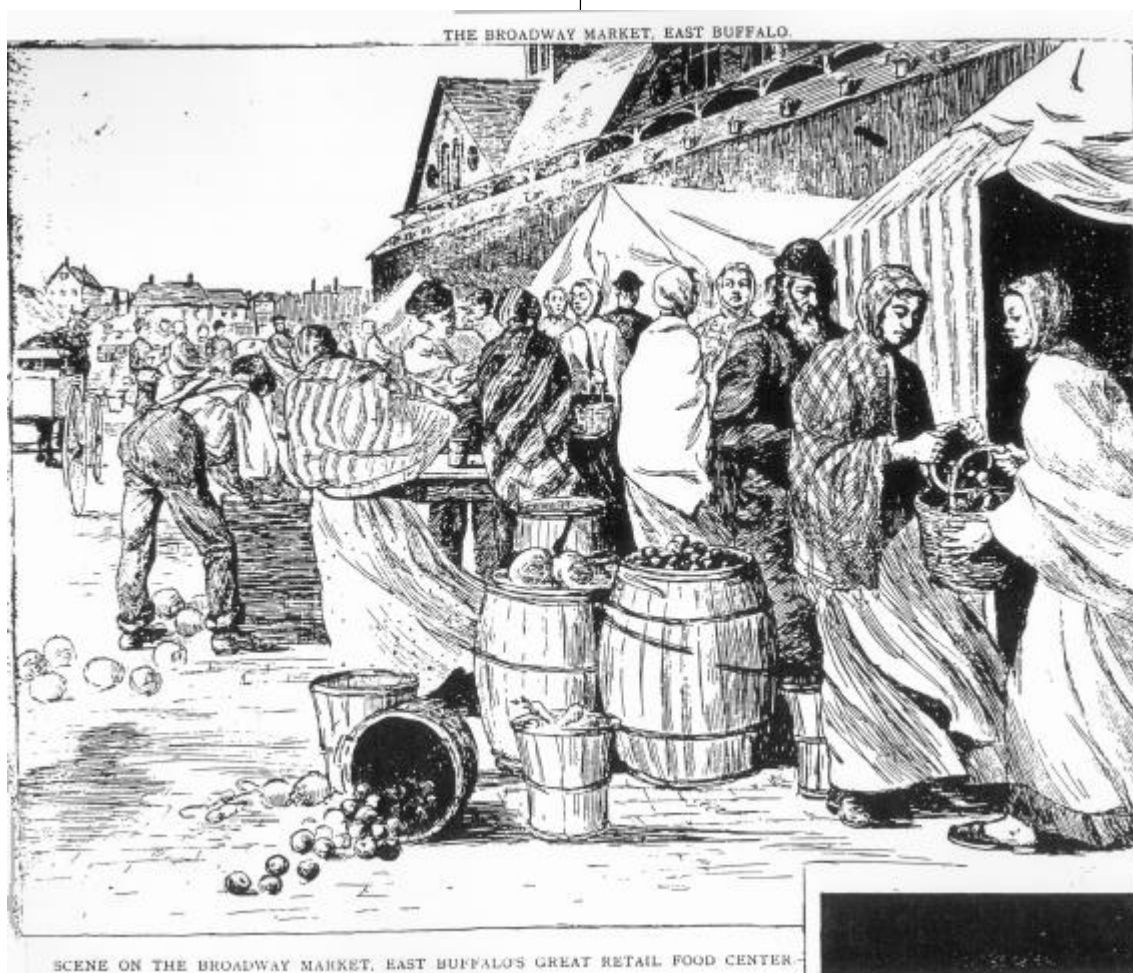
The union of Jan Hubner and Wiktorya Laferska produced four children: Anna Hubner Grabowski (1882-C1928), Pawel Hubner II (1886-1957), Jan Harold Hubner (1890-1956) and Franciszek Jozef Hubner (1894-1965).

The Hubner family remained in Great Valley until Jan's death in 1912. His widow, Wiktorya, died in 1940 in Buffalo.

Witamy

We would like to extend a welcome to the following new members of PGSNYS.

Billie Crump	Pueblo, CO
Anne Flynn	Augusta, MI
Catherine Fiolkowski	Hadden Heights, NJ
Arnold Guminski	Boulder, CO
Larry Laszynski	Rockwell, TX
Stanley Moskal	Buffalo, NY
Bernard Orzel	Buffalo, NY
Karen Sierra	San Jose, CA
Richard Wierzbicki	Cheektowaga, NY



How a Wine Bottle Could Lead to a Genealogical Search

by: Daniel A. Domino domino8@prodigy.net

The March 9, 2006, meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State included a show and tell activity. During this activity, I told the members of the society about my hobby of collecting beer bottles from each of the hundred or so different breweries that were once located in Buffalo. I told the members about a bottle club that I joined and how at the last meeting, one of the members brought in a wine bottle that he purchased at a bottle show in Baltimore. He purchased it because Buffalo, N.Y. was molded into the glass. He was able to determine that the bottle was made in the early 1900's since it was hand blown into a mold. He thought that one of the members might be interested in this bottle. The inscrip-

tion on the bottle actually read, "Wino Czestochowskie - A. Skarzynski & Co. - Buffalo, N.Y."

Since I am Polish and because I visited the monastery at Czestochowa in Poland, I decided to purchase the bottle from him for \$20.00. I began to wonder why Skarzynski chose to give the wine the name Wino Czestochowskie and who A. Skarzynski was. Therefore, I decided to do some research on the name Skarzynski. I entered the surname into Ancestry.com and limited the search to people living in New York State. The results from the 1910 Federal Census showed that only one Skarzynski lived in New York State, and that his first name was Anthony. I looked at the actual image of the census page and it listed Skarzynski's age as 43, and his occupation as a wine dealer.



Antoni Skarzyński

Skarzynski and his wife Mary and his two sons lived on Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga. He immigrated in 1900 from Austrian Poland. I looked at the 1920 Federal Census and found that Skarzynski was living at 109 Pine Ridge Road in Cheektowaga. This time, Skarzynski's occupation was listed on the census report as a manufacturer of medicine at his own house. Skarzynski's name did not appear in the 1930 Federal Census. I will continue to research Skarzynski. I am also looking for a medicine bottle that might have his name on it.

[Editor's Notes]

Dan's article inspired me to do a little research myself - actually just a one stop lookup in the on-line index of the PGSNYS index of *Przewodnik Handowy*. This is a "Chamber of Commerce" type of book that lists important people and businessmen (they may be in both categories). For obvious reasons I've never found any of my relatives there, so I looked forward to the search. Sure enough, there is was on pages 300-302 with a picture(!) on page 300.

Well you can see the picture on the previous page, which shows him to be a fine looking gentleman. There are 2 1/2 pages of text (in Polish) describing him and his progress in America. We also find out that "The Wine of Czętochowa is chemically pure and delicious in taste...". There is also a explanation for the name of the wine, but I leave that for others to translate.

Antoni Skarzynski was at the time of publication living at 785 Fillmore ave. In Buffalo, N.Y. He was born in Lwow in Galicia, raised in the Ukraine and was in St. Petersburg and Krakow. He immigrated to America in 1900.

There is much more information there and any descendents of Mr. Skarzynski would have an easy time tracing him out and developing a great verbal description of the man and his thoughts.

On TV

The History Detectives

PBS has been running a series lately entitled "The History Detectives". The premise of the series is that people write in questions concerning some artifact to which a question is attached. The History Detectives then proceed to investigate the question. I don't wish to discuss the show itself except to point out the lessons that we, as genealogists, can take away from the show.

Every segment starts with a showing of the artifact, with its owner giving any information he has. Then this is followed by the important part - the owner is asked to state what he wants to find out, in limited and specific terms. This is exactly the question we should be asking ourselves at each point of our research. Sometimes specifying "What" we want to know, tells us "How" to answer the question. The show gives us a view of the research being done. I wouldn't say that there isn't some staginess to the procedure, but watching how others do research and formulate ques-

Church List for Commemorative Book Collection Project

Church († = Closed)	Location	25th	50th	75th	100th	125th
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Albion					
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Buffalo					
Corpus Cristi	Buffalo			1		
Holy Apostles Sts. Peter & Paul	Buffalo					
Holy Cross	Salamanca			1		
Holy Trinity	Niagara Falls					
Our Lady of Czestochowa	Cheektowaga					
Our Lady of Czestochowa	North Tonawanda					
Precious Blood	Buffalo			1		
Queen of Peace	Buffalo					
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary †	Buffalo					
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Buffalo		1			
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Medina					
St. Adalbert Bascillica	Buffalo	1	1	1	1	
St. Andrew	Sloan					
St. Augustine	Depew			1		
St. Barbara	Lackawana					
St. Casimir	Buffalo		1	1	1	
St. Florian	Buffalo			1		
St. Hedwig	Dunkirk					
St. Hyacinth	Dunkirk					
St. Hyacinth	Lackawana					
St. John Gualbert	Cheektowaga		1	1		
St. John Kanty	Buffalo				1	
St. Josaphat	Buffalo					
St. Luke †	Buffalo					
St. Michael the Arcangel	Lackawana				1	
Sts. Peter and Paul	Depew				1	
St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr	Buffalo		1		1	
St. Stanislaus Kostka	Niagara Falls					
St. Stanislaus	Perry					
St. Valentine	Buffalo					
Transfiguration †	Buffalo		1	1	1	
Transfiguration	Olean					
All Saints PNCC	Buffalo					
Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral	Lancaster			1		
Holy Trinity PNCC	Lackawana					
St. Michael the Arcangel	Niagara Falls					
Cheek. Community Baptist Church	Cheektowaga					

PGSNYS

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2006 Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State

Meeting was held at the Reinstein Memorial Library, 2580 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga, NY.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by president David Newman. There were 24 members in attendance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Dan Domino read the minutes from the November 10, 2005 meeting. Ted Smardz made a motion to accept the minutes as read; seconded by Dolores Konopa. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Chuck Pyrak read the financial statement from November 9, 2005 - January 12, 2006. In that period PGSNYS had an income of \$390 and expenses of \$890. The major expenses were for the catering of the Christmas Party and the printing of the Searchers magazine. The new balance is \$2,732.86. Rita Hider made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Don Golibersuch. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Newman received a letter from the Blessed Virgin Mary of Czestochowa Parish in Latham, New York requesting a speaker for their Polish Festival on September 22, 23, and 24, 2006. Ted Smardz recommended forming a committee to determine if we can send someone. Dave will give them an answer next month.

Dave received a letter from the Buffalo and Erie County Library about our library that we plan to house at the main library. We have inventoried our library, but the books have to be catalogued

according to the Library of Congress numbering system. Dave contacted UB to have one of the library students help us but so far, he has not received a reply to his request. Cindy Kloss, who works at the UB library volunteered to contact someone at UB for help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pierre La Joie brought a book to the meeting that he thought would interest other members. The title of the book is *Polonian Legacy of Western New York*. It tells the stories of the lives, accomplishments, and contributions of four prominent Polish Americans.

The Guest speaker for February will be PGSNYS member Dr. Leonard Amborski. His topic will be, "How to write a book".

The tentative speaker for the March meeting is PGSNYS member Sue Jaros. Her topic will be, "Civil Records".

September 2006 will be the 18th anniversary of the founding of the society. The board will plan a special program celebration of that event.

The next Searchers magazine will be a double issue. Dave mentioned that our Searchers editor, Jim Harlos, said that he needs more articles. It was decided that we will form a committee to select topics for future Searchers magazines. Barb Golibersuch recommended an anniversary issue of Searchers.

PRESENTATIONS:

Ted Smardz gave a presentation on how members could have names of immigrants or family members inscribed in the Immigrants Wall of Honor at Ellis Island.

Monica Rzepka made a motion to end the meeting. Seconded by Rita Hider. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

February 9, 2006 Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State

Meeting was held at Villa Maria College, Cheektowaga, NY. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by president David Newman. There were 24 members and 2 guests in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Monica Rzepka made an announcement that the new play "Radiation" will premiere at the Lancaster Opera House on February 10th at 8pm with additional performances on February 11th at 8 pm and on February 12th at 2:30 pm. The play is about life and works of Marie Sklodowska Curie. Monica brought to our attention that Madame Curie was Polish and was the winner of two Nobel Prizes. Monica also told us that Madame Curie visited the Buffalo and Niagara Falls area in 1921 as part of a tour of the United States to accept a gift of one gram of radium that the people of the United States purchased for her for \$100,000.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Dan Domino read the minutes from the January 2006 meeting. Rita Hider made a motion to accept the minutes as read; seconded by Ted Smardz. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Chuck Pyrak read the financial statement from January 12, 2006 - February 9, 2006. During that time period PGSNYS had an income of \$154.00 from membership renewals and one new member. There were no expenses, which left the society a balance of \$2,886.86. Frank Martin made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Frank Wilczek. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave contacted Cindy Kloss about moving our library to the Buffalo Central Library. He will send her all the correspondence that he has and she will

contact Gene Dixon and try to get the books catalogued using the Library of Congress numbering system.

Dave announced that he has scanned 330 pages of funeral cards into his computer. There are approximately nine funeral cards per page. He also thanked PGSNYS member Pauline Gebura for the work that she did on the Funeral Card project. Pauline entered 326 funeral card records into a searchable database. (Yahoo Group - PGSNYS - Databases)

Dave stated that we will try to keep the business portion of our meetings shorter and that we will try to do more concerning genealogy. It was suggested that we could have seminars on how to do research or mini show-and-tells.

Next month our guest speaker will be Sue Jarosz. Her topic will be Civil Records.

Ted Smardz made a motion to end the meeting. Seconded by Jerry Dubiel. Motion carried and the meeting ended at 8:35PM.

PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Leonard Amborski gave an outstanding presentation on how to write a book.

March 9, 2006 Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State

Meeting was held at Villa Maria College, Cheektowaga, NY. The meeting was called to order at 7:xx PM by president David Newman.

This meeting was a problem solving meeting.

April 20, 2006 Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of New York State

Meeting was held at Villa Maria College, Cheektowaga, NY. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by president David Newman. There were 23 members in attendance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Dan Domino read the minutes from the March 9, 2006 meeting. Frank Martin made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Pauline Gebura. The members voted to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Chuck Pyrak read the financial statement from the period March 3, 2006 - April 20, 2006. During that time period PGSNYS had an income of \$176.00 from membership renewals and genealogy lookups. We had an expense of \$75.00 which was for tickets to the Polish Heritage Festival in June. This left the society a balance of \$3,248.86. Richard Wierzbicki made a motion to accept the report; seconded by Ed Prabucki. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Searchers magazine will be sent to the printers in three days.

Cheektowaga Polish Festival - Daniel Kij set up a three way phone conversation between himself, Dave Newman, and Nancy Vasques, coordinator of the festival. Dave filled out a form and this year, for the first time, our organization's name will be printed in the festival's booklet. The festival will be held this year on July 14th through July 16th.

Polish Heritage Festival - Will be held this year at the Erie County Fairgrounds on June 10th and 11th. Chuck Pyrak has tickets for sale at \$5.00 each. At the next meeting we will discuss what type of presentation we will have. Contact Chuck to volunteer with answering general genealogy questions from the public and doing computer generated surname lookups.

Funeral Card Project - Pauline Gebura talked about how to access the funeral card database and what information is in that database.
<http://yahogroup.com / PGSNYS/ Databases>

Summer Picnic - We will have our picnic this year at Dave's house on Saturday, July 22nd at 1 pm.

Church Closings - Dave had a discussion with the membership about the Polish Church closings in the Buffalo area.

Next meeting - Thursday, May 20, 2006 at Villa Maria College. Guest speaker: Susan Jaros

Chuck Pyrak made a motion to adjourn at 8pm; seconded by Jerry Inda. Motion carried.

Book Review:

Planting

Your Family Tree

Online by Cyndi Howells

This book was originally published in 2003 and has had many reprintings. The pertinent information about the book:

ISBN 1-4016-0022-0,
Publisher: Rutledge Hill Press
Price: \$19.99 (soft cover)

Cyndi Howells is a genealogist with over 20 years of experience. Moreover she has been involved for many years with the use of the Internet in genealogy. Anybody who has used the Internet for genealogical research should know her portal site <http://www.CyndisList.com>

This site provides an extremely useful way of locating other sites of genealogical interest, which is indexed in a useful manner. That said, what about the current book? I must state that I have a prejudice against this type of book. In general they tend to be superficial and not terribly pertinent to the topic of genealogy.

I am pleased to report that Cyndi Howells has escaped triviality and walked the thin line between too much technically and too little. Her book is organized remarkably well and leads the reader through the questions of why?, how?, and

Continued on Page 16 .

Areas of Poland: Małopolskie Voivodship

By James P. Harlos

In the last issue of **Searchers** I started this column on the areas of Poland with the Podkarpacie province. However, in the article I said I would cover two areas and I actually only covered one. This was due to the simple fact that with two areas the article was too large and in editing it the “two” got past my feeble eyes. However, not to fear, here is that second province. It is one of my favorites to visit, as it is for many tourists. This is the province of **Małopolskie**. The name means “Little Poland”. If you enjoy a bit of the old world presence, this is the place - though it is changing in modern Poland.

Małopolska Voivodship (Polish: województwo małopolskie) is an administrative region or voivodship in southern Poland that contains core areas of the historic and geographic region of Lesser Poland (Polish: Małopolska). It has an area of 15,100 square kilometers, and a population of 3,253,000.

It was created January 1, 1999, out of the former Kraków, Tarnów, Nowy Sącz and parts of Bielsko-Biała and Katowice voivodships, pursuant to the Local Government Reorganization Act of 1998. The voivodship's name recalls the region's traditional name, Małopolska.



It is bounded on the north by the Góry Świętokrzyskie (Świętokrzyskie Mountains), on the west by the Jura Krakowsko-Częstochowska (a broad range of hills stretching from Kraków to Częstochowa), and on the south by the Tatra, Pieniny and Beskidy Mountains.

It is an ancient region forming, together with Greater Poland (Wielkopolska) and Silesia (Śląsk), the early medieval Polish state.

Almost all of Lesser Poland lies in the Vistula river catchment area. The structure of the Tatra Euroregion allows border co-operation between areas of Poland and Slovakia. The Lesser Poland voivodship features diversified industries, a developing advanced technology sector, great scientific and cultural potential, diversified tourist and sports areas, an active population and a business-friendly environment. The city of Kraków, the ancient capital of Poland and for centuries the residence of Polish kings, is a convenient place for meetings, conferences, as well as for trade and cultural exchanges. It is a city where two Nobel Prize winners in the field of literature, Wisława Szymborska and Czesław Miłosz, lived. Following the decision of the European Union's Ministers of Culture, Kraków was one of the European Cities of Culture of the year 2000.

Kraków has convenient railway and road connections with Katowice (expressway), Warsaw, Wrocław and Rzeszów. It lies at the crossroads of major international routes linking Dresden with Kyiv, and Gdańsk with Budapest. The second largest (after Warsaw) international airport in Poland, the John Paul II International Airport, is located here.

Kraków

Kraków (also spelled Cracow) is a jewel in the central region of Małopolska. It was little damaged in WWII and so retains much of its “olde world” charm and elegance. It is easily reached by plane, train, and automobile. I have gone there both by train and automobile and found it easy to get to. If you take a train, purchase first class,

reserved seats. I am really not sure if this is necessary, but the residents do it and you are sure of getting a seat. If you go by car, you would be wise to make sure that your hotel has a gated parking area. Getting around the city is fairly easy by public transport. A good city map helps since they list the transport lines and numbers on the various streets.

While the city of Kraków is interesting, it is the Stare Miasto (Old Town) that is the first thing to see. As you enter the Rynik (Square) of Old Town, the most impressive building called the Sukiennice



Sukiennice seen from the side.



Sukiennice seen from front

ce, rebuilt in the 1550s. The outside is impressive and the inside contains shops. All around the

square the various restaurants and bars have outside tables set up with colorful umbrellas. This is quite a change from the Communist years. There are numerous other sights in Kraków including the Wawel (Royal Castle) at the southern end of Old Town. However, of great cultural interest, there is the Kościół Mariacki (St. Mary's Church)



Kościół Maricki at night

across from the northern end of the Sukienice. Every hour on the hour you can hear the *hajnal* melody played by a trumpeter on the tower, stopping exactly where his medieval counterpart was stopped by a Tatar arrow through the throat.

This is only the start of a trip of discovery. I have been in Kraków 3 or 4 times and I still enjoy it.

Wieliczka

Wieliczka is an important place to visit because it is the location of the Wieliczka Salt Mines. This site is listed on the UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage Monuments. It is famous for its carvings and sculptures all done in the salt of the mine by miners. One of the sculptures in the main hall is of Pope John Paul II. It is only a short local bus ride away or better yet take one of the tours there. I went by bus, actually a van, and I had to ask a lot of questions. On the way back I would have missed my stop if my Polish fellow passengers had not gotten the drivers attention.

Oświęcim

West of Kraków is the town of Oświęcim, or as it is better known, the location of Auschwitz death camp. This is a powerful experience - one that I can not bring myself to see. Many of my friends have, and attest to its impact.

Zakopane

Located in the Tatra mountains, this is a favorite vacation spot for both Poles and others to experience nature. The views are beautiful. There are lovely hiking trails. The culture is that of the *góra* Mountain people. Their dances are well known to many of us. The area is well known for its folk crafts. My personal experience of this is second hand. Two years ago I had booked a bed and breakfast hotel for a stay in the area. I would have had a car and been able to drive around the area. Alas, the day before leaving for Poland the ladder collapse under me - an event I am still recovering from.

This is only a sketch of this beautiful area that can be enjoyed at many levels depending on your interest and endurance. It is of historical, cultural, religious, ethnic, and sporting interest.

Czas ojcem prawdy

Time is the father of truth.

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what? Her past experience in setting up her own web sites has played a role in deciding what information you would need to set your own up. She is generous with her advice and is not too proud to use her own mistakes to explain what not to do. In fact the whole book is written in the style of a helpful friend and not a teacher. The content and references are important and useful and given in a generous spirit.

A common problem with this type of book where web addresses are given is the occurrence of “dead links”. These are URLs (i.e. Addresses) that are no longer available. Sometimes the web page is discarded, sometimes the web host is changed. This leads to frustration for the reader when he finds out the the site that was going to provide the very piece of information vital to him, is no longer accessible. With most books one has to resort to a web search (using Google or Yahoo, etc.) with varying degrees of success. Ms Howells saves you from this problem by providing you with an address where chang-

es in URLs are going to be listed. This is a great service given the fluidity of the Web.

The advice given concerning web page design, colors, animations, backgrounds, and organization is good and valuable. I only wish more people setting up web pages would follow these recommendations. The decisions that must be made with the choice of a service provider are well stated and really present the advantages and disadvantages of all choices. This is an adult book that recognizes **you** are the one setting up the site and provides the information you need to make the decisions. It is not a rule book or a step-by-step list. Such books lead to carbon-copy web sites.

I can whole-heartedly recommend this book to anyone thinking about setting up their family tree on the Internet. Even if you're not so inclined, much can be gained from reading the book.

- Jim Harlos