



Pulaski Area Historical Society, Inc. Newsletter

Pulaski, Wisconsin

~ Spring Newsletter 2020 ~

"Dedicated to the preservation of the heritage and traditions of the Pulaski Area."

Nsight Family Awarded Historic Preservation Award

The Nsight family of companies was awarded the 2019 Historic Preservation Award at the Annual PAHS Banquet in October, from the Pulaski Area Historical Society this year. The award was presented in recognition and appreciation of the time, dedication and commitment to preserving the history of Pulaski. The award is presented annually to a person or entity in the Pulaski area that has taken steps to preserve local heritage.

The structure, located at 110 E. Pulaski St., was originally built in 1895 as a private residence and stands as the oldest residential building in Pulaski today. Since 1925 it has been a part of the Nsight family of companies, serving as company headquarters until 1960. This year the old house was redecorated to resemble living quarters from the 1920's as tribute to the early years of Nsight.



Earlier photo of the Nsight structure at 110 E. Pulaski Street.



Nsight "old house" as it stands today in 2020.



PULASKI WIS. 1898

Calendar of Events

Board Meetings have not resumed due to COVID-19, however, we will keep you informed on our website and our Facebook group as to when and where we will resume. Tentatively, we have set our Annual Banquet as of October 21, 2020.

*October 21 Annual Meeting & Dinner
Mon. Dec. 7..... Board Meeting Election of Officers*

Museum Hours

By appointment, or until further notice.

Visit our website for more information

www.pulaskiwithistory.com

Like us on facebook too!

Letters From The Land Office *by Curator, Steven Karcz*



Greetings again from the PAHS. As curator I have often believed that the dustiest of books are meant to be shared and this has brought me to share with you our latest addition to the PAHS newsletter. We're calling it "Letters From The Land Office".

Over a hundred years ago people from across North America and continental Europe were writing to Hof's Land Offices in Hofa Park, Pulaski, and Sobieski inquiring about lands in his revered Polish Colonies. Hof's clerks dutifully transcribed these correspondences down in business ledgers (both the initial letters and Hof's responses back to the "would-be" settlers). We at the PAHS are fortunate to have one of these ledgers dating from 1901 to 1903 containing hundreds of letters from Poles seeking homes in the rural farmlands of Wisconsin around Hofa Park, Pulaski, Krakow, and Sobieski.

And it has been my great honor to recreate these hand-written transcripts for you, our friends and supporters. It's a small sample of the collection where many local names are found (Czajkowski, Mroczkowski, Wojciechowski, Jaworski, Lewandowski, Nowak, Pawlus, and many more). The letters give us names of our ancestors along with the often far-way places they called home (one man wrote Hof from British Columbia looking for fellow Galicians, Poles from the Carpathians). This information is cherished by genealogists as it confirms people with places.

Beyond that the letters can give us a snap shot of what it was like for our ancestors to seek out new beginnings far away from their native Poland. They were a people of immense faith, kinship, and ambition. They struggled and lost. They rebuilt and prospered. Some stayed and others left. But through it all they made a distinct mark on North-east Wisconsin and it all started with a letter to the Land Office of J.J. Hof.

And now to the letters.....

August 13, 1901
Poland, Brown County, Wisconsin.

I write to you for information about lands which I understand should be the best at Lena. If you are the owner of lands around there please let me know as soon as possible. I have a farm of 40 acres in the town of Eaton but it is too little for a farmer and there is no chance to buy anymore around here. I can sell it at any time & the lands are so poor that only thistle and wild mustard grow on them. Please answer me as soon as possible because next week I think of coming up to look at your lands & let me know what day I should come over.

Jozef Ratajczak

August 16, 1901
Hof's Land Office, Sobieski

Your letter received and it has been instructed to call on you and see you personally, but have been too busy and could not come to Poland. In regards to lands around Lena we inform you, that we do not own any land there, but if you want a nice 80 acre farm you need not go to Lena for it. We have lots of good 80 acre farms between Pulaski & Sobieski and around Krakow and we know that you would like them. The land is good, no sand, and we would like to have you come and look at them. Our office is at Sobieski and it will cost you only 17 cents from Green Bay to come to Sobieski on the St. Paul Road. When you come here we will show you different pieces and you can buy whatever you will like. We can sell you better land here than what you would get at Lena. Come and we will try our best to satisfy you. Drop us a line when you come.

September 7th, 1902
1207 Pine Ave. Braddock, Pennsylvania.

I have read a great many times already in the Wielkopolanin about your numerous farms. I am here in America 4 years now & am working in Steel Works but I'd like to get me a farm on account that I have 6 children of which 4 boys, the oldest one is 10 years old, and I have a few cents saved up. Please send me information and maps showing how those farms lay, how far from the city, what is the name of that city, how much money one must have, and if that land is cultivated or woods? Are any buildings on it? How much cost to build? What is cattle worth there, horses, and all the livestock and inventory required for tilling the land? I would like to buy me about 80 acres of land, half cultivated and half with woods on & with a house, barn, and stables. How much money would I need to have for such a farm, what would be the conditions on time & at what rate of interest? I come from Ks. Poznan and for 7 years I have been a foreman on government farms I

have been 3 years & therefore I know farmwork. I don't know how they work on farms here in America & for that reason I'd like better if I could get a position with some rich farmer for a year so I would learn the American ways. I can speak & read & count in Polish & German and very little in English. I have my papers of recommendation from Europe and I request you if you could secure work for me on some large farm or perhaps you could yourself give me work & I would come there with my wife and children. How much cost the R.R. fare for one person from here to there? Only please send me information about such a farm as I have described & it must be near a Catholic church. I'd prefer if I could find some work on some farm there the first year so I could learn how to work here. I am 34 years old.

Walenty Kozlowski

November 27, 1907
867 Mitchell Street, Milwaukee WI

Kindly inform me about Mr. Hof's new colony. Tell me what soil is black & strong and sand. What is the cheapest price for an acre? In what direction is it situated from Sobieski. I wish to buy me a 120 acre farm in the new colony near the road. Please write me as soon as possible. I would not go alone, but with my friends.

J. Lemanski

December 6, 1902
Hof's Land Office, Sobieski

In reply to your letter asking about the new colony I can inform you that there will be very good opportunities to get a good farm. 120 acres of good land there would be about \$1500 (fifteen hundred dollars). The soil is good and there is enough black soil. It is northwest of Sobieski and north-east of Krakow and south of the city of Oconto Falls. The first roads through the new colony will be made this winter and next spring. After it gets colder weather so the ground freezes harder so it will be better to walk in the woods. You can come and we will look over the lands providing we don't get too deep snow. The farmers have all had good crops and good luck here and that makes the price go up on all the lands, because the people have found out from experience that these lands are productive and that the climate is favorable. Don't get fooled by looking and waiting and watching for low prices. Select good lands in a good place. That is the main thing to do. Mr. Hof can get cheaper tickets for you if you give him a week's time to get them. Mr. Hof sells each round trip ticket for "Land Seekers" from Milwaukee to look & return to Milwaukee for \$3.87 (that is only half price).

December 12, 1902
815 23rd Street, Detroit Michigan

I have read in the Polish paper that the J.J. Hof Land Co. has land for sale. I write to you asking for information and the map. Kindly state the price and is there any church Polish Catholic or German Catholic because without church I couldn't live. I'd like to buy about 100 acres & in spring will visit your colonies.

Jos. Krefft

December 28, 1902
Ledoux, Minnesota

Your letter received. I had intention to buy a farm from you but the people dissuaded me from that enterprise telling me that there is nothing else but sand and there is no wood for the use & many other things. Now I apply to you hoping you will tell me the truth because you are a Pole just as myself. Is there sandy land or black soil? Have you there much snow? Could you send me a free ticket so I could visit your colony & write me how much you charge for 160 acres of land with good buildings (on at least 30 acres must be plowed). I want to pay everything cash. I have a farm and would like to sell it.

Stanislaw Setera

January 2, 1903
Hof's Land Office, Sobieski

Such a 160 acre farm with good buildings, 30 acres plowed, in the colonies would cost over \$3000. Good black soil. The land and all conditions here are so very favorable that all the farmers are getting rich, and they all like to remain here. You will find reliable information from hundreds of farmers here. We have only 5 inches of snow. Whatever farm you like best you can find out about the soil from the neighbors and from the priest. If you want an improved farm you can come just as well in winter as in the summer. Write at once or come right away.



Nsight was awarded the 2019 PAHS Preservation Award of this building at the annual banquet 2019. Early known as the home of the Pulaski State Bank.



The Pulaski Area Historical Society would like to thank all of our volunteers. We could not be open to the public if it wasn't for you! Since Spring, 2019, the following people have volunteered their time: Chuck and Darlene Kientop, Claudia Ryczkowski, Mari Flanagan, Mary Drella, Brenda Alicea, Bob and Pat Budz, Mary and Bob Brusky, Deb Rodgers, and of course our board members.

During Casimir Pulaski's Birthday Celebration we had thirteen 4th grade classes (275 students) at the museum learning about Casimir Pulaski and the Pulaski area. A thank you also to the volunteers who helped with the classes: Darlene and Chuck Kientop, Vanice Ferfecki, Mary Drella, Judi Gjelsten, and Pat Schellenger. Did we miss someone? Let us know.

Special Thanks

Thank you **Randy Grygiel** and NEW Solid Surface Cleaning for cleaning our museum floors and making it affordable.

Become a PAHS Member today!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Renewal or New (Please circle one)

Individual \$15 _____

Family \$25 _____

Business \$30 _____

Casimir Level \$100+ (annually) _____

Individual Lifetime \$500 (one time) _____

Total AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please make checks payable to Pulaski Area Historical Society: Mail to PAHS, P.O. Box 944, Pulaski, WI 54162.

Save the Date!

PAHS
Annual
Banquet
Wednesday,
October 21st

PAHS Scholarship Winners Announced

The Pulaski Area Historical Society awards scholarships to seniors based on the number of hours they have volunteered at the museum. They help with various tasks including filing, cataloging, cleaning, and putting up and taking down displays. The museum has been open from 3-5 on Mondays for the students to volunteer when their schedules allow. The following seniors received scholarships based on the number of hours they have helped. We thank them for all their help and wish them well as they attend college in the fall.

Evan Steeno – 193 hours over three years: \$500

Kayla Reed – 55 hours over two years: \$300

Brooke Volkman – 39 hours over two years: \$250

Good-Bye to a Great Friend of the PAHS



Mike Blohowiak ("Mike") friend and PAHS board member passed away peacefully on March 29, 2020, at the age of 71 due to complications of congestive heart failure.

Mike served our board well for many years and is credited for initiating the Brick Fundraiser among other great ideas and fundraisers for the society. He helped maintain our building. Mike will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



Our Sympathy

Here is a listing of recently deceased members of the PAHS. Our hearts go out to family and friends of:

Dr. Gloria Krumrai 9/17/19

Ted Konopka 9/6/19

Bea Valley 12/4/19

LaVerne Ripley 3/15/20

Mike Blohowiak 3/29/20

Pulaski's First Polka Days

Written by 89 year old, Bernard Olejniczak (Former Village President) He recently submitted to the PAHS.

Not many remember Pulaski's first Polka Day. We had group of business men who thought it would put Pulaski on the map or be good for business. They thought of Polish Sausage Day but it was too much like Bratwurst Day that some other Wisconsin town had been using. They settled on Polka Day and the date and word was spread by WBAY's Dick Rodgers show on WBAY's Sunday noon show. Dave O'Brien touted the upcoming Polka Day on TV and Rodgers front man, Harold Otto, promoted it all around the state. When the big day came so did thousands of polka lovers. Taverns sold beer in bottles, there were no porta potties, age checks of minors, and the Polka bands were in two different places. Zieliński's hall and the Parish Swamps. At 11 o'clock PM about 100 motor cyclists came into town and became rowdy whipping beer bottles through downtown store windows.

Chief of Police, Ed Pasowicz, knocked on my door (I was village president) and said, "We have to shut her down." With only two cops (one just had one bullet) we had to call out the auxiliary police and their water cannon to disperse the crowds. Due to citizens' complaints beer was sold in paper cups the following year and porta potties were ordered. The following year ages were checked and attendance was charged because a lot of kids were drinking.

Now all is controlled at the Polka venue at the swamps with toilets, ages checked, and a common opening and closing time. A parking area for RVs is provided. The Lion's Club and FFA and others have a system of sharing the profits.



1960's yearbook photo of Bernard Olejniczak

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE BIG

POLISH SAUSAGE FESTIVAL

AT

PULASKI - WIS.

SATURDAY, JULY 24th

ENJOY GENUINE "HOMEMADE POLISH SAUSAGE" SERVED ALL OVER TOWN FROM 10:00 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT

BIG PARADE - 2 P.M.

SKY DIVING AFTER PARADE FREE FALL - DARING - EXCITING

FESTIVAL BALL

FRIDAY EVE JULY 23rd

Pulaski High School Gym - Crowning of the Festival Queen - Admittance for Adults by Booster Button Only ALL STUDENTS ADMITTED FREE

♪♪ SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT - SAT. ♪♪

OUTSIDE ON THE BIG CHURCH PARKING LOT

- ♫ 6 to 7:30 P.M. Dance or Listen To "MACH FOUR" Rock 'N Roll Band
- ♫ 7:45 to 8:15 P.M. - Hootenany Singing featuring - "The Brothers Four"
- ♫ 8:30 to 12:00 P.M. - Outdoor Dance featuring - "THE POLKA-DETS" famous Local Polka Band

IN CASE OF RAIN EVENTS WILL BE HELD INSIDE - ZIELINSKI'S HALL

BRING THE FAMILY - SPEND THE DAY PICNIC IN PULASKI'S BIG 20 ACRE PARK.

Poster at the Pulaski Museum, Polish Sausage Festival in Pulaski, Year not known - could it be July 1976, prior to Pulaski Polka Days as we know it now? If you have insights into this, please let us know.



Welcome to our newest
PAHS Members!

Anna Mae Pruse

Phil Przybylinski

Thank you for your support!



Interested in learning
more about the Polish
Heritage?

Join the Polish Heritage Society. Check out the website.
<http://www.phsofnew.org/>

Message from the President

Dear Friends of the Museum and Members of the PAHS, Fortunately, Casimir Pulaski Days was able to occur despite the COVID-19 pandemic hitting our state a week later. Special thanks to Rock and Pam Mannigel, Steve Karcz and all the volunteers we had, it was a huge success. The historic bus tours and visits to the museum were extremely successful. We educated over 275 students from the entire Pulaski School District about the history of Casimir Pulaski.

Currently, our museum is closed due to COVID-19. We will keep you up to date when we will re-open. Follow our Facebook group or website for updates. If you are looking for information or would like an appointment to visit the museum please contact our curator, or any one of our board members.

As always we continue our brick fund-raiser, and we are especially sad for the passing of Mike Blohowiak who initiated the Brick Fundraiser. We will continue the fundraiser in his honor. Leave a legacy and buy a brick. Forms are found on-line - you can print off and send in with your \$100 check.

We are always looking for new members, and NEW volunteers. Maybe you have a talent, time or maybe you just love history. Let anyone of our board members know and we'll get you in touch with the right person.

Sincerely,
Larry Puzen
PAHS President

A Family Story, by Auntie Rosie

Frank's Ruptured Appendix

Submitted by Rose Marie Joswick-Palmer, daughter of Frank Joswick.

My father, Frank Joswick, started his career as Principal of Pulaski High School on September 3, 1935...the day I was born, at home in Brussels, Wisconsin. A good omen for the start of his family of four children: Rosemarie, Bob, Tom and Charlene. All growing up in Pulaski and graduating from the Pulaski High School.

He had bought the house across from the high school for us in Pulaski. We had moved from Brussels, Wisconsin where he had been a teacher in the high school there, including serving as coach of the basketball team. Being Principal was a step up in his teaching career. PHS had an enrollment of 190 students that year. His annual salary was \$900.

I am not sure of the date, but I know it was later in the fall of that year, that Frank suffered a ruptured appendix. When he got home from the hospital, his doctors gave him strict orders to stay in bed, to avoid a blood clot that could adversely affect his brain or lungs. At that point, I do not know if we had indoor plumbing. My mother Theresa had two of us to take care of, for I was only a couple of months old then.

My father told me that she would put me in bed with him when she was busy preparing meals or doing housework, or the laundry. It was at those times that he told me, "That's when I fell in love with you." I guess I was happy too, having his attention and entertaining him while he recuperated.

Of course, he was worried about keeping his new job at the high school. One day soon after that, the entire School Board came over to the house. They stood at his bedside and said, "Don't worry, Frank, your job will wait for you until you are well again."

He did recover successfully and went on to stay in his job at Pulaski High School for the next 35 years, retiring in 1970 as Superintendent of Schools of the Pulaski School District.

He had come a long way from his young years alone with a widowed mother in the rural village of Cassel, Wisconsin. She had insisted he continue his education, so he went to Edgar High School where he spoke English for the first time. Both of his parents, Marin Jozwiak and Josephine Wenzel, were immigrants from Poland in the 1880s. He was the only one in his family to go to college, and eventually he earned a master's degree. In college, he excelled at public speaking and won a gold medal in a state oratory contest, a remarkable achievement considering his background. He also went on to become an activist for his beloved community of Pulaski, Wisconsin.

Would you like to submit a story that relates to Pulaski, Wisconsin. Email your story to: pulaskihistory@gmail.com.



Left a snap shot of the Pulaski Historic Bus tours from the front of the bus. Both tours accommodated over 50 people, and was very well received. Kudos to Steve Karcz and all who helped put the historic tours together.

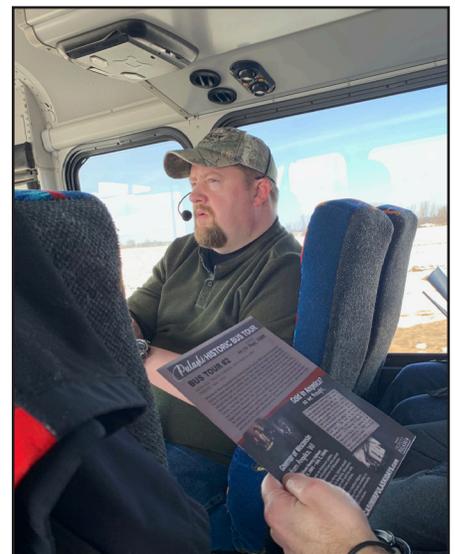
Casimir Pulaski Days Historic Bus Tour

On Saturday, March 6, 2020, Steve Karcz, the PAHS curator, conducted two historic bus tours for the Casimir Pulaski Days event. The Promote Pulaski, Inc. tours were sponsored by Nsight/Cellcom and BayTek.

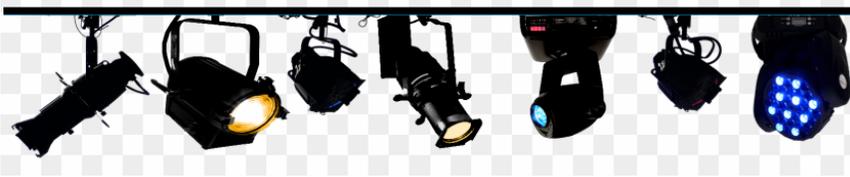
The morning tour provided attendees with information from the period 1880-1920 and provided great stories on downtown Pulaski businesses; such as Kolocheski's Saloon (Classic's), Segall's Annex & Department Store, Joseph LeFerve's Drug Store/Post Office, Kurowski Saloon and Hotel (Rodger's Corner Club), Anton Glowinski's Grocery Store (Another Round), and Mierzwa's store (then the Liberty Bank). The history and stories about the first White Store (on the site of Brad's Service station), the Nunnery, in its entirety, was moved a block away.

"What Happened to our Booming Towns" Tour was the afternoon bus tour. Angelica was a major focus sharing stories and pointing out the booming hub of commerce with its sawmills, hotels, livery stables, saloons, and more. The tourists learned about an William H. Upham Angelica resident, and area Civil War Veteran that rose to become Wisconsin's 18th governor. A great visit at the historic Hofa Park Tavern, special thanks to Amy Swiecichowski for providing great information as well.

What will next bring for a historic tour? Stay tuned as the committee has already started to plan for 2021.



Steve Karcz, the PAHS Curator, on one of the Casimir Pulaski Days historic bus tours.



Member Spotlight



Ronald Maroszek, Board
Member of PAHS

How long have you been a member of the PAHS?

Well over 15 years.

What made you interested in being a part of the PAHS?

The Maroszek Family has been around for 5 generations. We need to preserve history of Pulaski.

Fun facts:

Co-owner of Dynamic Designs family business, not only as owner, but also served as a screen printer, maintenance and finance.

Enjoy fixing projects - satisfaction of bringing something back to life.

Enjoyed our 40 cow dairy farm. Currently retired and busy, don't know how we had time to milk cows.

The Board Member Spotlight is an opportunity for our members to get to know other members of the Pulaski Area Historical Society. If you are interested in being in the "spotlight" contact Katie Walters at kwalters@premiercommunity.com.

Need a little research done?

Our members love to help with research. Although we do not charge for research, if we do assist you, any monetary donation to the Pulaski Area Historical Society would be appreciated. Contact Steven Karcz at 920-822-1762 or Email: karczpulaski@aol.com for assistance on research.

PAHS

2020 Officers & Directors

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VOLUNTEER?

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Address Correction Requested

Place
Stamp
Here

Get active, JOIN OUR
FACEBOOK group.



Missing Baseball because of COVID-19? Know anyone in these photos?

Here are some old photos from the Pulaski News that we archived to share with you. The date is Thursday, August 12, 1976, Pulaski South and Pulaski North teams shown below.

