

French O'Hara's Material

1/2 of Population

Poles in Newark.

294,022 of 442,337- in Newark are foreign born- 1930 census.
Newark settled by English Colonists from Conn. the Irish
were a large part of the population before the Revolution.

1923- less than 30% of children in schools were of American
born parents.

1936- American born children have risen to 35.7%

Latest census shows 46,000 Poles in Newark.(Polish birth or
extraction).

Lack of records, cannot prove date of first arrivals of Poles.

First polish settler in N.J.- Albert Zabriskie-Polish Nobleman
made his home on the bank of the Hackensack River, in 1662.

Mass immigration in Newark of Poles in 1865.(What reasons?)

*(Political
Refugees?)*

First immigrants to come to Newark are:- Bulsewicz ---

Wysocki---Waberski---Wesolowski---Stawski---Jechelski---

Wild---Krakowski---Plachecki---Mellinowski---Twardus---

Jurkowski.

Later:-

Praisner---Rucki---Deczyinski---Czspiewski---Grodecki---

Niemarzek---Lewandowski---Whidylar---Jarmicki.

First Polish Society in Newark---King John Sobieski Society-

April 16, 1882.

Then came the 4th Chapter of Independent Polish Krakus.

Ist Poles met in the vicinity of So. Orange Ave.

Started to build St. Stanislaus Church R.C. on
Belmont Ave., Consecrated 1890.

Few years later Poles moved to the Ironbound-in 1908 St.
Casimirs Church built.

Material From Sunday Call, Walter J. Kidd,
March 23, 1924.

Koscuiszke helped draw plans for West Point.

Customs of Poles:-----Christmas.

Xmas Eve---big festival

Putting hay on table to commemorate Lord's Birth inManger
Over this cloth and dishes are put.

For some time before Xmas no meat is put on the table.

At this time beans are thrown to the wolf and telling him
not to come around for the rest of the year.

Origin probably in heathen ideas of spreading the ferocious
animal.

Entire family gets together then leave for 12 O'clock mass.

Hay is left on the table till St.Stephens day -day after Xmas.

This hay is then twisted into a cord and draped around
fruit trees in the hope that summer will bring a good crop.-
or to assure plenty of food in the household for the rest of
the year.

Santa Claus(St, Nicholas) is remembered on his day(Dec.6)

This St. had nothing to do with Xmas.-----was a great lover
of young people.

Stockings are put up this day.

Now Poles use this custom on Xmas.

Another custom is placing a wafer under a plate of beans, if the water sticks- beans for the year will be plenty.

If not, for the potatoes they will be poor for the rest of the year. (American equivalent to the Ground Hog).

Easter;-

Blessing of the food.

St. John the Babtist Day---24th of June.

Getting together of youth of marriageable age.

Girls and boys go to a nearby stream or lake.

With wreath of flowers.

Are thrown in water, crowds watch.

If a wreath of each other should touch it is a sign that they will wed.

If kept apart---they will not be drawn to each other.

Weddings:-

Day of wedding bridegroom goes to brides home.

Will not be let in.

Sings before the door of his desire to marry.

Inside, older women sing back in reply-asking him how well he will provide for his wife.

He sings back his promises and devotion.

Is permitted into home but future wife cannot be seen.

Must sing to her---making declarations.

She sings back----admits him and start off to church together.

Funeral custom:-

Pre- Christian era-Poles put food in casket.

Now they after the funeral have a large feast-drink etc,
dead one is with them.

Poles lovers of Music *****

Put Paderewski as head of the gov'n't

Polish rendition superior to that of Anglo-Saxon.(?)

Singing in church for a long period of time.

(Even now a good portion of the music is devoted to singing.)

Pianists-Chopin---Paderewski---Hoffman.

Painters--- Kossak---Styka---Malczewski.

Poles great lovers of literature and Sciences.(---note the
number of Polish books and no. used.)

Casimir the Great---Built University of Gracow-I364.

Copernicus studied here.

Only school in these parts.

(I have not checked on this yet.I was also thinking we
should ask the people we interview whether they think
the library gives sufficient reading material for their
groups)

Madame Curie---real name Sklodovska.

Poles are also great dancers.

Poles came here before the War--suffered great oppression.

Came from three parts-Russia--Prussia-- Austria.

Poles left Newark during the War-via Canada-to join Hallers

Polish Army in France. Most of the Polish Falcons of this city en-
listed.