

# Polish Americans

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## Introduction

Poles are the second largest ethnic group in Michigan (Detroit and Grand Rapids area) and have been a significant part of the history of Detroit and the state of Michigan.

The first Polish mass migration took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries following years of aggression and occupation by its neighbors. During that time about 2.5 million ethnic Poles came to the United States in search of freedom and economic stability.

The Detroit's area large Polish community was for many years concentrated in Poletown and Hamtramck, a suburb of Detroit. Hamtramck was originally settled by German farmers. It became a dominantly Polish industrial town in 1914, when the Dodge Brothers automotive plant was opened providing great employment opportunities. These Polish communities became vital centers of immigrant social life, with small businesses, press, and cultural, political, veterans, patriotic and professional organizations. The heart of Polonia, however, was its Polish Roman Catholic church and its parishes. Poles were able to keep their identity by cultivating their cultural traditions, language and faith.

In addition to the auto industry in the Detroit area, Poles worked in copper mines (Upper Peninsula), iron mines (Western Upper Peninsula), and in the lumber mills. However, the great majority became factory workers and farmers.

The second wave of new Polish immigrants (over 200,000) came to the U.S. following WWII, when Poland became part of the Soviet Union bloc. Of these, 38,000 came to Michigan.

The next large population of immigrants arrived between the late 1960s and early 1990s and consisted of refugees, and non-immigrants on temporary visas. Many of these Poles were political refugees from the SOLIDARITY, the Polish trade union movement. Of this group 34% were professionals, while 27% were skilled workers.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Michigan is home to the third largest Polish population (854,844) after New York (986,141) and Illinois (932,996). The current population of Michigan's Polish Americans is concentrated in Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties. Troy became the center of Poles in Michigan, after their migration from Hamtramck.

*"Poles were the largest immigrant group in Detroit during its greatest era and they contributed enormously to its greatness. It was their intelligence, skill, hard work, and dedication that helped to make Detroit the Motor City and the Arsenal of Democracy... They brought piety, a love of God, beauty, sociability, and a human scale to one of the bleakest industrial areas in the country."*

*Thaddeus C. Radzilowski, Ph.D., "The Polish Experience in Detroit"*

This guide is designed to inform interested researchers of the existence of unique Polish American materials at the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan. It lists all manuscript collections and selected publications currently held at the library reflecting the life,

history and culture of Polish Americans in Michigan. These materials are open to researchers for the study of the social, political, religious, and economic dimensions of this ethnic group.

## Collections

### **American-Polish music from Detroit [sound recording].**

- 2 sound discs (130 min.).
- Recordings by Stas' Wisniach and His Orchestra, Johnny Sadrack and His Orchestra, Ted Koltowicz and His Sparks of Fire Orchestra, Ted Gomulka and His Orchestra, Ted Lach and His Orchestra, Eddie ("Hoyt") Nabozny, Clarence Witkowski ("Clare Wite") and His Orchestra, John Chrzasz and the Michigan Polka-Tels, Walt Cieslik and the Ambassadors. Produced by Laurie A. (Gomulka) Palazzolo.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Americanization Committee of Detroit (Mich.).**

- Papers, 1914-1931
- 200 items
- Microfilm copy available (mf 543c).
- Correspondence, minutes of meetings, reports and other materials concerning the assimilation of the foreign-born residents of Detroit and the committee's educational programs on behalf of the city's immigrant population during World War I and after.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival.**

- Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival collection, 1993-2011.
- 0.3 linear feet and 1 oversize folder.
- The Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival is an annual cultural event organized by the Polish Cultural Fund-Ann Arbor in cooperation with the Polish-American Congress Ann Arbor Chapter, the University of Michigan's Polish Club, and the University of Michigan. Since its beginning in 1993, the Festival has promoted Polish culture by offering audiences an opportunity to see a broad range of narrative forms and visual styles present in contemporary Polish cinema, including documentaries, animated shorts, and feature films. These works are not only commentaries on life in contemporary Poland, but also reflect the views of Polish artists interpreting diverse issues around the world.
- The collection includes program announcement flyers, newsletters, posters, and related material; also DVD of Ewa Pieta talking about Polish films with clips; and CD-Rs of documents, primarily announcements and news notes.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Bentley, Alvin M. (Alvin Morell), 1918-1969.**

- Photograph series.
- 2 linear ft.
- Republican U.S. Congressman from Owosso, Michigan, delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention, 1961-1962, and regent of the University of Michigan.
- Contains the photos of his election campaigns including Polish Group and Polish Committee photos.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Binkowski, Don, 1929-**

- Papers, 1958-2006
- 14 linear ft.
- District judge from Warren, Michigan.
- Correspondence, campaign materials, and other papers concerning his work as delegate to Michigan Constitutional Convention, 1961-1962, as Warren city councilman, and as attorney and judge. Also papers concerning local and state Democratic politics, and his activities with Polish-American organizations; and photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Don Binkowski collection, 1825-2011**

- mixed material, 1825-2011
- 10.5 linear feet and 1 oversize folder.
- District judge from Warren, Michigan and collector of materials relating to the Polish community of Michigan.
- The collection includes subject files with photographs relating to Michigan Polish public figures, to the Polish community in Hamtramck, to the history of Warren, Michigan, and to Michigan History in general.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Center for Russian and East European Studies (University of Michigan).**

- Records, 1957-1973
- 8 linear ft.
- Records relating to the administration of and the programs supported by the Center, including information on funding, courses, exchange programs, publicity, and affiliated activity. Also includes audio and video tapes of presentation and lectures.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Chase, Charles A.**

- Charles A. Chase papers, undated.
- 1 folder.
- Historian of the Polish-American community in Parisville, Michigan and of the Ciechanowski family, early settlers to the area.
- Brief essays written about the Ciechanowski family (variously spelled Chinoski or Chase), Polish immigrants to Parisville in Huron County, Michigan.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Dept. of History (University of Michigan) senior honors theses.**

- 1969-[ongoing].
- 5.0 linear ft.
- Research papers on topics relating to Michigan history and the history of the University of Michigan. Include the theses by Jonathan Alexander Zajac; The Importance of Being

Polish: The Complex Interactions of Community Identity and Race in Hamtramack's Postwar Development.

- [Finding Aid](#)

**Dingell, John D.(John David), 1894-1955.**

- Papers, 1932-1956
- 4 linear ft.
- Democratic U.S. Congressman from Michigan's 15th District. Resident of Detroit, Michigan.
- Biographical material; speeches, press releases, and interviews; and legislation files concerning the bills introduced in Congress by Dingell (includes the Special Quota for Polish Veterans and Axis Civilian Escapees: H.R. 5825, 83rd Congress, 1953).
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Dom Polski [videorecording]:dance hall days of Detroit's Polonia.**

- 1 DVD-video (133 min).
- written and produced by Laurie A. Gomulka Palazzolo ; edited by David Reinhardt.
- The Dom Polski "was originally build in 1912 as a concert hall and club hall for the Polish Falcons. The Dom Polski served as a social and cultural hub for Detroit's Polish neighborhood."
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Dulemba, Arthur W.**

- Scrapbook, 1953-1965
- 1 item.
- Resident of Detroit, Michigan.
- Clippings and photos relating to his activities as president of the West Side Council of Clubs, a Polish-American civic association.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Fajans, Kasimir, 1887-1975.**

- Papers, 1912-1987
- 14.5 linear ft.
- Polish born physical chemist, director of the Institute of Physical Chemistry at the University of Munich, professor of chemistry at the University of Michigan.
- Correspondence, lecture notes, and other papers largely concerning his professional interests, especially relating to his teaching and publications; material pertaining to his concern for Jewish scholars in Germany before and during World War II; also photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Gajec, Edward, 1918-**

- Papers, 1935-1995
- 2.5 linear ft.

- Detroit musician and music educator, also a promoter of ethnic festivals.
- The collection consists of correspondence, brochures, programs and newspapers focusing on established ethnic organizations and festivals.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Gorski, J. William (James William), 1929-**

- J. William Gorski research collection, ca. 2012.
- 1 linear foot.
- Macomb, Mich., researcher and collector of Polish American historical and genealogical materials.
- Historical and genealogical files: "Polish and Polish American military," including material on Polish Americans in the U.S. military and Polish Army veterans in the United States. "Detroit's Eastside Dom Polski," including photocopy of Polish business directory for Detroit, Mich., with translations and added biographical information, also biographical information on Dom Polski members. The collection includes numerous digitized files on CDs.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Grand Valley State Colleges oral history project, 1976-1977.**

- 61 sound tape reels.
- Oral history project administered by Professor John Tevebaugh and relating to the history of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The interviews were later used in the WUOM radio series, "Fitzgerald's Prophecy."
- Sound tape reels of interviews (46 reels; 7 in.), 1976, and recordings of "Fitzgerald's Prophecy" based on the interviews and broadcast on WUOM in 1977. Includes the oral interview with Ed Symons (historian of the local Polish community) and "The Polish" sound tapes reels.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Hind, Japeth.**

- Correspondence, 1926-1935
- 10 items.
- Cashier at the State Savings Bank, Bad Axe, Michigan.
- Comments on the management of a family farm, farm production and economics, and attitudes toward ethnic groups, especially Polish Americans.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Holy Cross Church (Cross Village, Mich.).**

- Records, 1847-1930
- 2 rolls microfilm (positive and negative).
- Baptismal records, marriage, birth and death records, photographs, newspaper clippings and printed histories detailing activities of this Indian church. Includes 1921-1930 records in English and Polish.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Jarocki, Walter "Flash"-collector.**

- Photograph collection, 1937? 1948?, and 1952-1958
- 1 envelope and ca. 500 photonegatives.
- Hamtramck, Michigan, commercial photographer who took photographs for the city during the administration of Mayor Albert J. Zak in the 1950s.
- Photonegatives of public work projects (such as laying of sidewalks), ceremonial functions (such as Christmas displays on city streets), and some political activities. The collection also includes views of the city, its downtown area, residential streets and alleyways behind residences. There are two photographs of Frank Murphy (ca. 1937) and Harry Truman (ca. 1948) visiting Hamtramck.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Karpinski, Henry H., 1852-1935.**

- Papers, 1921 and 1927
- 3 items.
- Polish immigrant to the United States.
- Reminiscences of life in Poland, 1852-1874; and letter to Dearborn Independent recounting trip back to Poland in 1926.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Kausch, Jack-collector.**

- Collection, ca 1910s-2002
- 4 linear feet, 1 oversize folder, and 1 oversize motion picture reel.
- Jack Kausch was a photographer specializing in family portraits and historical subjects. He was the producer of commercial videos on Detroit and Michigan historical topics.
- The collection includes photographs, photographic slides, videotapes, and motion picture films. Topics covered include Poletown throughout its history.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Koch, Theodore Wesley, 1871-1941.**

- Papers, 1894-1941
- 12 linear ft.
- Librarian at the Library of Congress, University of Michigan and Northwestern University, and bibliophile.
- The papers contain four folders of materials related to library Americanization programs, 1919-1921. They include information about Poles in America, the Polish Central Relief Committee of America, as well as the transcripts of immigrants' letters sent to relatives in Poland. Photographs regarding U.S. Immigration, ca 1918-20, include immigrants on Ellis Island, Polish refugees and Americanization and citizenship classes.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Lecznar, Stella, 1895-1982.**

- Scrapbooks, 1939-1948
- 2 rolls microfilm (positive and negative).

- Democratic Party worker and ethnic club leader.
- Clippings, correspondence, and other memorabilia concerning her involvement in Democratic politics and Polish-American organizations, especially the Ladies Voters League.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Lesinski, John, Jr., 1914-2005.**

- Papers, 1930s-1964, bulk 1950-1964
- 27 linear feet, 3 oversize volumes, and 2 oversize folders.
- Democratic member of Congress from Michigan's 16th District, 1950-1964.
- Congressional files include his association with the Polish American community of Detroit.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Mackun, Stanley, 1922-**

- "The changing patterns of Polish settlements in the Greater Detroit area: geographic study of the assimilation of an ethnic group".
- Thesis (Ph.D.), University of Michigan, 1964 (typescript)
- Includes 12 photographs of houses in Polish American neighborhoods in and around Detroit, Michigan:
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Martin, Edward-collector.**

- Collection, 1852-2004
- 11 linear feet (in 16 boxes) and 3 oversize volumes.
- Collector of materials documenting the activities of Polish American individuals and organizations in the Detroit area.
- The collection consists of records of the Polish Army Veterans Association, and the Polish Sea League. The collection also includes photographs from various Polish photography studios in Detroit and Michigan, topical photographs, Polish printed materials, scrapbooks; papers of Waclaw S. Jakubowski including collected clippings about Poletown in Detroit, Michigan.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Michigan Historical Collections.**

- Immigration Sources Project records, 1977-1979
- 1 linear ft.
- Project established by the Michigan Historical Collections of the University of Michigan to survey archival records relating to the study of immigration in the Netherlands, Poland, Finland, Ireland, and Michigan.
- Administrative files, including population data, notes, lists, questionnaires, and correspondence.
- [Finding Aid](#)

### **Michigan Historical Collections.**

- Topical photographs collection, ca 1860s-1950s
- 0.4 linear ft. and 1 outsize box.
- Photographs, from various sources of ethnic groups (including Polish Americans).
- [Finding Aid](#)

### **Muñoz, Cynthia L.**

- A long road to the beginning : a caucasian metamorphosis : memoir, 2011 /
- 1 item (58 p.)
- Cynthia Muñoz was born in Detroit, Mich., "half Mexican/Spanish and half Polish/Hungarian."
- Memoir describing her childhood and youth in Detroit, her father's family life in Texas and mother's family in Detroit, lives of other family members, her drug use and rehabilitation.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Nowicki, Leo J.; 1904-**

- "Profile of an American by Choice", 1975
- 1 vol. Photocopy.
- Reminiscences, 1975, being an autobiographical account of his life as a Polish immigrant to Detroit and Hamtramck, and his career as Wayne County official and Democratic Lieutenant Governor, 1937-1939.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Pacosz, Christina V.**

- Diaries and publications, 1970-2008, bulk 1980-2004.
- 6 linear feet.
- Polish-American poet, born and educated in Detroit, Michigan.
- The collection consists primarily of personal diaries and copies of her published work, including serial publications and anthologies containing her poetry. The diaries are detailed glimpses into her thoughts, her life as a poet, her teaching, travels, and daily activities.
- [Finding Aid](#)

### **Palazzolo, Laurie, collector.**

- Laurie Palazzolo Horn Man research materials collection, 1913-2004, bulk 1940s-1980s.
- 10 linear feet [in 13 boxes] and 1 oversize folder.
- Palazzolo is a founding member of the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society and a past officer on the board of directors of the Friends of Polish Arts. She is also president, executive producer of Hornman Detroit, and member of various Polish American cultural and historical organizations. Palazzolo currently serves as the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society's Vice President and Executive Director/Secretary.

- Collection contains research materials collected and used by Palazzolo for her 2003 book "Horn Man: the Polish-American musician in the twentieth-century Detroit," and includes transcripts of interviews, copies of photographs, performance schedules, business contracts, sheet music, and biographical information, as well as directories, by-laws, and constitution of the Detroit Federation of Musicians; also promotional materials, posters, and signs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

#### **Polish Activities League (Detroit, Mich.).**

- Records, 1923-1974
- 6 linear ft., 4 v. [outsize], 1 reel of microfilm: positive.
- Detroit social service organization established to aid the Detroit Polish community.
- Scrapbooks, printed histories, scattered correspondence, photographs, and minute book, 1949-1954.
- [Finding Aid](#)

#### **Polish American Congress. Ann Arbor Chapter (Mich.)**

- Ann Arbor Polish Americans Oral History Project, 2010-2011.
- 0.2 linear feet.
- In Polish.
- Ann Arbor Chapter of The Polish American Congress was established in 1970 as an independent Chapter of Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress. The Polish American Congress serves as the umbrella for majority of Polish organizations in the United States and in Michigan. Ann Arbor Chapter's mission is to interact in the community through civic, social, cultural and educational initiatives to promote Polish ancestry and increase other cultures' understanding of Polish people. There are about 60 members and supporters in PAC-Ann Arbor, most of them live or work in Ann Arbor area and other parts of Washtenaw County. The PACAAC works in partnership with several local organizations including the University of Michigan Polish Club, Polish Cultural Fund and Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor.
- "Ann Arbor Polish Americans" is an oral history project conducted by the Polish American Congress Ann Arbor Chapter (PACAAC), a non-profit organization. The project was administered by Malgosia Myc (PACAAC archivist) and is focusing on the PAC Ann Arbor Chapter members. The purpose of these interviews was to capture their immigration experience and to provide the information about the history of the PACAAC since its beginnings and the life of the Polish community in Ann Arbor in general. Some interviews include the memories from the life in Poland (including World War II). Each interview folder consists of a CD (audio), as well as a typed transcript of the interview, signed releases and a photograph/s of an interviewee.
- [Mirllyn Catalog Record](#)

#### **Polish Americans in the Motor City [sound recording]: the Detroit story / [Thaddeus Radzilowski].**

- 1 sound disc (63 min.).

- Title on disc surface: Polonia Detroit : the Polish experience in Detroit "Polish presence lecture, Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President, St. Mary's College."
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Polish Farmers Society, Lodge 2984 (Belleville, Mich.).**

- Records, 1941-1973
- 1 reel microfilm (positive).
- Minutes of meetings.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Schulak, Francis X., 1866-**

- Travel notebook, [18--?]
- 1 reel microfilm (positive).
- Polish priest traveling in the United States.
- Notes on travels to Polish communities in the United States, including settlements in Michigan in the nineteenth century.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Smialek-Sinclair, Noreen, papers, 1955-2010, bulk 1958-1974**

- 0.5 linear feet
- Noreen Smialek-Sinclair was a Detroit, Mich., Polish American violinist and promoter of Polish classical music. She served for many years as music chairwoman of the Friends of Polish Art of Detroit, performed locally and internationally, and taught on the faculty of the Detroit Conservatory of Music.
- Scrapbook containing articles, newspaper clippings, concert programs and announcements, and photographs depicting performances and portraits. Also loose articles and newspaper clippings, and concert announcements.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Stanczyk, Benjamin C. (Benjamin Conrad), 1915-**

- Papers, 1944-1975
- 3 linear ft. and 12 v. [outsize].
- Judge of Common Pleas in Detroit, Michigan. Democratic Party and various Polish-American organizations activist.
- Correspondence, notebooks, scrapbooks, and miscellanea largely relating to Democratic Party Affairs, Polish-American activities and organizations, and legal and political interests.
- [Finding Aid](#)

**Stanis, Antoinette, 1911-2001- collector.**

- Collection, 1936-1971
- 1 linear ft.
- Records collected by Antoinette Stanis of Dearborn, Michigan, related to her civic, social and political activities in the Polish-American community in Detroit.

- Minutes and treasurer's books of the Polish-American Women's Political Club; constitution and amendments of the West Side Council of Clubs (Democratic); miscellaneous personal material. Photographs of members of Polish-American Women's Political Club (1940), victory celebrations for various Michigan candidates; and photographs of Stanis and others on various political and social occasions.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Szymczyk, Julius.**

- Julius Szymczyk collection, 1970s-2000s.
- 0.4 linear feet.
- Warren, Mich., collector of Polish American history.
- Collected periodicals, news clippings, and ephemera related to Poland, Polish Americans, and Pope John Paul II.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Wachtel, Stanley Zenon, 1887-1959.**

- Stanley Zenon Wachtel papers, ca. 1938-ca. 1944
- 1 folder.
- Polish language radio broadcaster in Detroit, Michigan. Also known as Stanislaw Wachtel.
- Essay by Estelle P. Wachtel-Torres on Polish radio broadcasting in pre-World War II Detroit (2011); biographical information; photographs; and miscellaneous clippings and a letter.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Wagner, Hipolit C.**

- Hipolit C. Wagner papers, 1912-2010.
- 0.3 linear feet.
- Polish immigrant to the United States in 1913. He returned to Poland in 1919 to serve in the Polish Army. He returned to Detroit in 1921, and eventually came to own a grocery store in Hamtramck, Michigan. Wagner was born in 1894 and died in 1960.
- Diary, 1912-1919, describing his immigration to the United States and return to Poland. Early portions of the diary were transcribed from another volume. The diary has been translated and transcribed by Wagner's son Arthur A. Wgner into a volume entitled "My Journey in the World." The collection also includes a ledger-journal, 1940s-1957, with accounts of his grocery store, but also containing records of relief parcels sent to European relatives after World War II.
- [Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

**Wells, Carlton F. (Carlton Frank), 1898-**

- Papers, 1910-1993
- 18 linear ft.
- Professor of English at University of Michigan.

- The Subject Files (correspondence and topical files) include an extensive files relating to his analysis of new editions of dictionaries, and his participation with the Michigan Committee of Americans for Poland.
- [Finding Aid](#)

### **Williams, Mennen G., 1911-1988.**

- Gubernatorial papers, 1883-1988
- 818 linear ft.
- Michigan Democratic Governor, 1949-1960; Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, 1961-1966; U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, 1967-1969; Michigan Supreme Court justice, 1970-1987.
- The records also contain Ethnic Political Files (including Polish), and file on the Polish Legion of American Veterans, including photographs.
- [Finding Aid](#)

### **Wojsowski, Anthony**

- Papers, 1921-1978, bulk 1920s-1930s, and 1950s.
- 0.6 linear feet, 1 oversize volume and 1 oversize folder.
- Socialist Party candidate for Congress from the 1st Michigan District in 1948, and General Secretary of Polish-American Labor Council. He was actively involved with the Polish Mechanics Company, Inc., Michigan and Midwest chapters of the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born, and other Michigan Polish and political organizations.
- Correspondence, calendars of events, meeting announcements, addresses, financial documentation, as well as texts of essays and articles on historical and political subjects, newsletters and other printed material of the Polish-American Labor Council, the Polish People's University (Polski Uniwersytet Ludowy), Michigan, Midwest, and out of state chapters of the American Committee for the Protection of the Foreign Born. Also by-laws, correspondence, financials, and legal documentation, as well as lists of names of stockholders of the Polish Mechanics Company, Inc., and Wojsowski's personal files relating to his U.S. legal status and travel abroad. Also included are George G. Sadowski 78th U.S. Congress election campaign materials.
- [Finding Aid](#)

### **Wojtowicz, Harriet, 1914-**

- Papers, 1915-2000, bulk 1938-1988
- 1 linear foot.
- Born to Polish immigrants teacher of Spanish in the Detroit Public School System.
- The Miscellaneous series, which concludes the collection, consists of four folders documenting many aspects of Harriet Wojtowicz's life in Detroit. The first of these contains documents and photos related to her early family life, including a number of papers, which shed a little light on the story of her parents as Polish Immigrants in Detroit in the early twentieth century.
- [Finding Aid](#)

## Selected Published Sources

In this section of the guide you will find the selected primary and secondary printed sources held at the Bentley Library. The primary printed works, which contain evidence left by contemporaries, include Polish newspapers, periodicals, and various publications of organizations and societies. The secondary printed sources, primarily books, supplement the library's manuscript and archive collections and provide an overview of the history of Polish Americans in Michigan.

To retrieve additional publications, please search the MIRLYN catalog. Select the "Word(s) anywhere" search field and type "Polish". In the advanced search mode, you may limit your search to books or serials (all) or journals and newspapers only.

## Published Primary Sources

### Business / Polish-American Chamber of Commerce Michigan

- Polish-American Chamber of Commerce Michigan (Detroit, Mich).
- Bentley owns: scattered issues from July 1960 to April/May 1965  
The Polish American Chamber of Commerce - Michigan is "a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Michigan. The Chamber promotes, assists and strengthen member businesses, both in domestic and international arenas" (description from website).  
[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### Citizen, The (Hamtramck, Mich.: 1939)

- Bentley owns: <1972:4:13>, <1984:5:10>, <1980:9:18> <1988:10:24> <1993:7:1>  
Newspaper "Serving Hamtramck, north Detroit, Warren and Highland Park since 1934"  
[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### Dziennik polski =The Polish daily.

- Bentley owns: v.43:no.306 (1947:Dec.24), v.60:no.191 (1964:Sep.25/26), v.61:no.77 (1965:Apr.20), v.62:no.138 (1966:July 15/16), v.63:no.104 (1967:May 29), v.66:no.166 (1970:Aug.21/22), v.67:no.218 (1971:Nov.5/6), v.83:no.23 (1988:June 3/4), v.83:no.33 (1988:Aug.12/13), v.83:no.35 (1988:Aug.26/27), v.83:no.47 (1988:listopada 16/22), v.85:no.8 (1989:lutego 22/28), v.85:no.33 (1989:sierpnia 16/22), v.86:no.16 (1990:Apr.18)  
The "Oldest Polish daily newspaper in the State of Michigan and surrounding territory," <1941>. Newspaper published since 1904.  
[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### E-newsletter

- West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society (Detroit, Mich.).
- Bentley owns: v.1 (2006:Nov.)-present  
The West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society is "an educational, historic, cultural, literary, and scientific organization, acting as a medium for research, public

education, preservation, dissemination and publication of Polish and Polish American history and culture, specifically as it pertains to the immigrants who settled on Detroit's west side and the neighborhoods they built." (description from website).

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Eaglet, The**

- Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (Detroit, Mich.).
- Bentley owns: v.1:no.1 (1981:May)-v.1:no.2 (1981:Sept.), v.2 (1982)-v.15 (1995)  
Continued as Polish eaglet.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan in Detroit is "dedicated to promoting and encouraging research in Polish genealogy, as well as preserving historical materials which would aid in researching Polish family histories." (description from website)

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Echo-Młodzieży**

- Narodowa Federacja Młodzieży Polsko-Amerykańskiej (Detroit, Mich.)
- Bentley owns: v.2:no.1 (1935:Oct.)-v.2:no.4 (1936:Mar.)

Publication devoted to the affairs of Polish American youth.

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **[Friends of Polish Art publications collection]**

- Friends of Polish Art (Royal Oak, Mich.)
- Bentley owns: <1962-1986>

Publications of the Friends of Polish Art, "an educational and social organization, established in 1937, acting as a medium for the promotion of understanding and appreciation of the Arts of Poland, its people and their descendants."(description from website)

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Informator Polonijny: książka adresowo-telefoniczna Chicago z przedmieściami = Polish phone book: Chicago and Detroit.**

- Bentley owns: 1990/1991-1991/1992

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Polish daily news =Dziennik Polski**

- Polish daily news (Detroit, Mich.). English edition
- Bentley owns: scattered issues from July 1970 to August 1989  
(Ceased in 1989)

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

### **Polish eaglet.**

- Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (Detroit, Mich.).
- Bentley owns: v.16 (1996)-v.24 (2004), v.28:no.2 (2008:Summer) v.29:no.1 (2009:Spring)
- Continues The Eaglet.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan in Detroit is a "dedicated to promoting and encouraging research in Polish genealogy, as well as preserving historical materials which would aid in researching Polish family histories." (description from website)

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

#### **Polish times = Czas Polski.**

- Bentley owns: v.3 (2009)-present  
"Polish American newspaper published in Metropolitan Detroit area" weekly, Warren, MI.

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

#### **Polish weekly, The =Tygodnik Polski.**

- Hamtramck, MI :Polish Daily News.
- Bentley owns: scattered issues from April 2002 to April 2007)

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

#### **Polka news, The**

- St. Charles, Mich. :C. Rohwetter.
- Bentley owns: scattered issues from December 2001 to May 2007)

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

#### **Tygodnik=Polish weekly.**

- Hamtramck, MI:s.n.
- The Bentley owns one issue, v.1:no.1 (1957:Feb.28)

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

#### **Tygodnik świat polski.**

- Bentley owns scattered issues from October 1990 to April 1999
- Chiefly Polish; English insert.  
Published weekly in Hamtramck, Mich. by Polish Daily News, Inc.

[Mirlyn Catalog Record](#)

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- Jensen, Cecile Wendt, [\*Detroit's Polonia\*](#), Charleston, SC, c2005
- Kowalski, Greg, [\*Hamtramck; the driven city\*](#), Charleston, SC, c2002
- Radzilowski, Thaddeus, [\*Polish Americans in the Detroit area\*](#), Orchard Lake, Mich., 2001
- Symanski, Edward, [\*Polish settlers in Grand Rapids, Michigan\*](#), Polish American studies, vol. XXI, no. 2, July-December, 1964
- Wood, Arthur E., [\*Hamtramck, then and now; a sociological study of a Polish-Americans community\*](#), New York, [1955]

- Wrobel, Paul, [\*Our way : family, parish, and neighborhood in a Polish-American community\*](#), Notre Dame, Ind., c1979
- Wyrwal, Joseph A., [\*The Polish experience in Detroit\*](#), Detroit, 1992
- Wyrwal, Joseph A., [\*Behold! The Polish-Americans\*](#), Detroit, c1977

## Other Repositories

Researchers interested in Polish Americans related materials may also want to consult the holdings found in other repositories in Michigan:

[Burton Historical Collection, Detroit](#) contains personal papers, records of organizations, businesses and churches, and the governmental archives of Detroit and Wayne County, Michigan. The collection includes genealogical materials such as: federal census population schedules, family histories, cemetery inscriptions, church records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, military records, hereditary society indexes, heraldry books, immigration records, probate indexes and records, vital records, obituaries and land records.

[The Library of Michigan](#) and [Historical Center, Lansing, Mich.](#) offers a wide range of the local history collections and family history research materials.

[Archdiocese of Detroit Archives](#) has Detroit's religious, ethnic, urban, and social history materials. They also include the administrative records of Catholic parishes in the six counties that currently comprise the Archdiocese of Detroit and are an excellent source for the genealogical research.

[The West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society](#) also serves as a repository of historical materials, including artifacts, documents, oral histories, photographs, audio and videotapes, documentary films, and other significant records relevant to Polish Americans. The archives is located in the Heritage Room of St. Hedwig Catholic Church, Detroit, the society's headquarters.

[Orchard Lake Archives, Orchard Lake, Mich.](#) serves as a repository for the records of the schools at Orchard Lake (SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, St. Mary's College and St. Mary's Preparatory School), and the records of Polish Americans schools and various organizations. Also, newspapers, publications and papers of individuals are part of their holdings.