

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Polish Community in Worcester
Collection

2000.46

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
August 2000

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Collection Information

Abstract : Green Island has been home to ethnic immigrants to Worcester starting with the Irish in 1826, followed by French-Canadian, Lithuanian, Polish, Jewish, and many others. The collection illustrates the Green Island neighborhood and its various ethnic groups, and highlights history of the Polish people who settled there.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of Henry V. Karolkiewicz, Worcester, Mass., August 2000.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Polish community in Worcester. local
Polish Americans – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Poland – History.
Poland – Kings and rulers.
Warsaw (Poland) – History.
Immigrants – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Worcester (Mass.) – History.
Green Island (Worcester, Mass.) – History.

Historical/Biographical Notes

The Green Island section of Worcester, originally bordered by the two branches of Mill Brook, is roughly bound by Quinsigamond Avenue, Millbury and Harding Streets, extending west and south from Kelley Square. First settled in 1826 by Irish immigrants, many of whom came to the area to dig the Blackstone Canal, Green Island has been the first home to many of the ethnic groups immigrating to Worcester. Although the first Polish people in Worcester arrived around 1860, the bulk of Polish immigration occurred in the 1880s. Green Island has been a vibrant neighborhood and home to new immigrants since 1826, and, despite major demolition caused by the construction of I-290, continues as a closely-knit part of Worcester.

Scope and Content

The collection is comprised of an article *The island that became a neighborhood* by Lorraine Laurie, 1985, relative to Polish immigrant settlement in the Green Island section of Worcester and the neighborhood history from 1826 to 1985. Also included is an article *Warsaw, the city that would not die*, by Rudolph Chelminski, printed in Smithsonian Magazine, November 1997, relating to World War II destruction of the city; and an article *Kings of Poland* [S.l., s.n., n.d.] with biographical information of the Polish kings from 960 to 1795.

Series Description

Series 1: Articles, Worcester. Secondary source documents relative to Green Island neighborhood settlement and Polish in Worcester.

Series 2: Articles, Polish History. Secondary source materials relative to Polish history.

Polish Community in Worcester Collection
2000.46
Series 1, Articles, Worcester

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		2000.46.1.1	The island that became a neighborhood : typescript, 56 p., ill. / by Lorraine Laurie, c1985. Binder.

Polish Community in Worcester Collection
2000.46
Series 2, Articles, Polish History

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2000.46.2.1	Warsaw, the city that would not die : typescript, 4 p. / by Rudolph Chelminski; published in <u>Smithsonian Magazine</u> , November 1997. History of Warsaw, particularly during WWII.
1	2	2000.46.2.2	Kings of Poland : 7 p. / S.l., s.n., n.d. Illustrated with biographical notes on 41 Polish kings from 960 to 1795.