

Finding Aid

for artifacts in the Hatfield Historical Museum
relating to

Polish Immigration in Hatfield

(1877-2010)

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Finding Aid

Polish Immigration in Hatfield

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a diverse group of artifacts from which the Hatfield Historical Museum will select to create an exhibit opening in the spring of 2012 on the topic of Polish Immigration in Hatfield. The Hatfield Historical Society program on Thursday, May 17, 2012, will introduce the exhibit and present interesting and notable findings. The exhibit will either be displayed in the Hatfield Historical Museum's existing location on the second floor of Dickinson Memorial Hall (above the library), or in the museum's proposed new location, on the second floor of the Hatfield Town Hall.

Other than in this inventory, these artifacts are stored and displayed throughout the museum and do not exist as a collection per se. Those items that list **Location** as "**PIE**" (Polish Immigration Exhibit) refer to the fact that they may already be on display *or* be gathered in preparation for display. Once the Polish Immigration exhibit is taken down, it is our intent to update this Finding Aid with new locations and re-post it on the Links & Resources page of the Hatfield Historical Society website: www.hatfieldhistory.weebly.com The Foxfire Reports Finding Aid can also be found on this page.

The artifact *TYPES* (listed in the Finding Aid as **Medium/Material**) include paper, photos, books/booklets and digital-only documents, as well as clothing (and accessories), audio/visual items, and some miscellaneous entries listed by material type (hair tonic bottle and church vigil lights). For the most represented *CATEGORIES*, see the **Series** groupings described below. Additional topics – such as farming, cooking, personal care, WWII and social clubs – are listed under **Keywords**. More specific types of artifacts and topics can be found in the **Item name/description** column – such as diary, diploma, Bible, the Bound Out program, making ends meet and views on immigrants and Catholics.

All entries within a series are arranged chronologically unless otherwise stated.

In no way does this collection represent a complete inventory of artifacts in the Hatfield Historical Museum that might relate to the story of Polish Immigration in our town, as the resources for such a task were not available. This process, however, will be ongoing, and hopefully the Finding Aid will become a live document, with artifacts added as we discover them or as we receive new donations to the Museum's Collection.

The Hatfield Historical Museum would welcome donations that add to the story of Polish immigration in Hatfield.

Organization

SERIES 1: IMMIGRATION (1897-2000) contains several entries that address the immigrant experience in America, from the viewpoint of the Polish immigrant, and from those who would either instruct the immigrant on how to become a citizen, or comment on the so-called “problem” of the immigrant. Also two oral histories, and one photo celebrating the first Polish immigrants in America.

SERIES 2: CHURCHES (1877-2010) contains religious texts and a wide assortment of artifacts relating to the history of Polish Catholics in Hatfield, first at St. Joseph’s Church (until 1916-1919), thereafter at Holy Trinity RC Church (1919-2010), and finally to the merged Our Lady of Grace Church. Also includes church vigil lights, a wedding dress, a cookbook and an organ.

SERIES 3: PERSONAL HISTORIES (1927-2010) contains one day book-type diary from a Hatfield high school girl of Polish descent; an audiocassette interview (half in Polish) with a centenarian born in Poland who moved to Hatfield in the early 1900s; several histories of Polish immigrants turned farm owners; a history of a WWII veteran killed in action; and five audio interviews on CD with Polish-American seniors about various topics of life growing up in Hatfield in the 1930s and ’40s.

SERIES 4: PROFILES (1913-2006) contains various personal items belonging to or relating to an individual or family of Polish descent who resided in Hatfield in the first half of the 20th century, including articles of clothing, documents and photos (currently four individuals/families). Chronological by family and within family entries.

SERIES 5: DAILY LIFE (1910-1950) contains miscellaneous artifacts that help build the picture of Polish immigrant life in Hatfield in the early and mid-1900s – how many Polish residents resided in the town and when did they settle, what did they do for work, where did they shop and when did they start holding town positions?

Abbreviations:

PB: paperback

HC: hardcover

AFB: acid-free box