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TITLE: Kniola Travel Bureau Register  
# 3868

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p. 1-3 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Your name: Jennifer Thompson Date: 4/13 Table #: 14

The Western Reserve Historical Society Library  
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The Western Reserve Historical Society  
Manuscript Collection

REGISTER: Kniola Travel  
Bureau Records  
Series II

Processed by : Loretta M. Zwolak

Edited by: John J. Grabowski

Mss. No. 3868

The Kniola Travel Bureau Records, Series II complement MSS. 3678 Kniola Travel Bureau Records, 1884-1950 both of which document the Kniola Travel Bureau established in 1890 by Michael P. Kniola, a Polish immigrant. Kniola operated the Bureau in the Polish district called "Warszawa" in Cleveland, Ohio.

Kniola's family immigrated to New Jersey in 1873 where he married Mary Skarupska. Kniola arrived in Cleveland in 1880, worked in the steel mills and then established a grocery store on Tod (E. 65th) Street in 1886 in which he also sold money orders and steamship passage. The growth of these latter activities prompted him to sell out the grocery and operate a full time travel agency. Restrictions on immigration, war travel limitations, his growing influence in the community and social demand encouraged him to supplement the Bureau with insurance and real estate business. In 1927, Kniola received a medal from the Polish government in appreciation for his assistance to Polish people in America. During the 1920s, Kniola gradually turned the business over to his son Raymond Kniola.

Michael P. Kniola was also extremely active in community affairs, in organizations such as Polish Falcons Military organization, as well as church affairs centering about St. Stanislaus Parish, and in Republican politics where he worked with Senator Theodore E. Burton.

Expanded biographical information can be obtained from the register for MSS. 3678, Kniola Travel Bureau Records, 1884-1950.

The Kniola Travel Bureau Records, Series II, 1890-1960, consist of correspondence, steamship ticket stubs, daily slips, receipts, legal documents, real estate records, and estate records relating to Kniola's travel bureau, legal and civic duties, his involvement in Polish organizations, and personal activities. Material is also available on his son Raymond Kniola representing his political and real estate activities. Most of the non-financial records are in Polish. The records are arranged in six series.

Series I. Correspondence, is divided into three subseries, each arranged chronologically: Personal Correspondence, (primarily in Polish); Business Correspondence, (partially in Polish); and Polish Business Correspondence. Where correspondence in these subseries is united by a common theme, some inconsistencies in chronological arrangement occur.

Series II, Business/Financial Records, consist of steamship ticket stubs, passenger receipts, money order memorandum books and receipts, postal receipts, daily slips (representing the totals of individual daily expenditures), income tax returns and loan notes. These subseries are arranged chronologically except for the steamship stubs which are chronological within an alphabetical arrangement by company name.

Series III, Real Estate records of Michael P. Kniola and his wife, Mary, consists of legal and financial documents for properties in Ohio (Cleveland, Elyria, Oberlin), and New Jersey; and material relative to Kniola's activities as an agent for several real estate corporations.

Series IV, Legal/Civic Activities, consists of three subseries: Estate records in which Kniola served as administrator (arranged alphabetically); Legal documents forms (in Polish); and Organizational records consisting of correspondence, rules and regulations, membership records, account and bank books relating primarily to the Polish Falcons.

Series V, Personal and Miscellaneous Records, consists of personal and family documents, travel folders and tickets, and material on other Kniola family members.

Series VI, Raymond Kniola records, includes scrapbooks on his Garfield Heights (Ohio) mayoral campaign and other political matters and real estate records.

The Kniola Travel Bureau Records, Series II, complement MSS. 3678, Kniola Travel Bureau Records, 1884-1950. Of the Travel Bureau itself, the steamship ticket stubs, money order receipts and postal receipts provide genealogical, statistical and financial information about Polish immigrants in the Cleveland area. Acting as an intermediary for Cleveland Poles and their relatives in Poland, Kniola arranged travel papers, steamship passage, naturalization and labor matters. He acquired ticket refunds and overdue wages and handles the financial affairs of his fellow Poles.

Portions of the collection relating to Kniola's involvement in civic affairs include information on St. Stanislaus and St. Hedwig Parishes, The Harmonia Chopin Singing Society, Woodsmen of the World, Warsaw Camp, and especially the Polish Falcons Alliance of America, Nest 141 (Sokół Polski "Jedność", Gniazdo Sokółow Polskich w Ameryce). The majority of the organizational records document the activities of the Sokół Polski in local parades, conventions, the unveiling of the Kosciuszko Monument in Wade Park, and its relations with the Detriot Kosciuszko Regiment and other Polish paramilitary bodies.

The real estate records relate to Kniola's work in Cleveland, Elyria, and Oberlin, Ohio and in Woodland Township, New Brunswick, New Jersey and his activity as an agent for the Cleveland Realization Company; Garfield Park (Heights) Company; Oberlin Avenue Realty Company; Rusholme Realty Company; and Suburban Estates Company.

Other portions of the collection relate to political matters, particularly to Kniola's staunch support of Republican politics and Senator Theodore E. Burton, and his service as an alternate to the 1916 Republican National Convention in Chicago. Other materials relate to his work with the Probate Court, and as an estate administrator and his legal services for Cleveland Poles.

Among the family correspondence is a body of letters from his nephew, Marcin Kniola, in Poland which detail family information, and provide some information on living conditions in Poland.

Some photographs have been removed to the photograph and print collection, others have been retained because of their pertinence to accompanying documentation.

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# MANUSCRIPT PHOTOCOPY ORDER

Manuscript Collection No.

3675

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## NAME OF COLLECTION:

Kniola Travel Bureau

## DESCRIPTION OF ITEM ( S ) TO BE COPIED ( Use reverse side if necessary ) CONTAINER NUMBER, FOLDER NUMBER, DESCRIBE DOCUMENT

cont. 1, folder 2, p. ~~500-503~~, p. 688

cont. 1, folder 3, p. 48-49

cont 1, folder 24, telegraph dated 3/20/30

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Aug 4 4  
THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
10825 EAST BLVD., CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106

Postmaster

New York

Gentlemen

I am taking liberty to ask  
you Honor if you have received German  
or Russian Money orders in favor  
of Josef Wilman in Cleveland Ohio  
which have been sent from Jan Wilman  
I have received letter from him in which  
he states that he have send me some money  
and havent any other and I as yet  
have not received any advice about it  
I would beg you Honor to let me know  
if you have received such money order  
in my name or not if you have please send  
the advice to the address Yours Truly  
of - - - - - Josef Wilman

24 Fed Str  
Cleveland Ohio.

WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
10825 EAST BLDG. CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106  
Apr. 22nd 6.

Hon. J. E. Burton,  
House of Representatives U. S.  
Washington D. C.  
Honorable Sir:

Your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst.  
is at hand. I am very much obliged  
to you for your offer to send books  
to me when opportunity arises and  
accept it with pleasure.

In regard to West Point I wish  
to state that I have a nephew just  
completing a high school course and  
I would wish to have him continue his  
education and at West Point if possible.  
He is 19 yrs. old and I think fit both  
physically and mentally either to  
West Point or Annapolis.

As he is of polish parentage, I  
think it would not only be of honor  
and favor to me and my family but

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also for the whole policy of the U. S. to have you appoint the first of our blood to West Point.

I understand that there is no vacancy to fill at Annapolis but that there is one from the 20<sup>th</sup> district at West Point. I would be very glad to know if you have any influence with Mr. Beach in that respect because it is my greatest desire to get him an appointment if possible.

Awaiting an early answer

I remain

Respectfully yours,  
M. J. Kniole

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# Postal Telegraph

THE MURRAY SYSTEM



ALL AMERICA  
CABLES

COMMERCIAL  
CABLES

RECEIVED AT  
  
STANDARD TIME  
INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

This is a full rate Telegram or Cablegram unless otherwise  
indicated by signal in the check or in the address.

|      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| BLUE | DAY LETTER            |
| NL   | NIGHT LETTER          |
| NITE | NIGHT MESSAGE         |
| LCO  | DEFERRED CABLE        |
| NLT  | NIGHT CABLE LETTER    |
| WLT  | WEEK END CABLE LETTER |

ZA79 29 COLLECT

W DETROIT MICH. 20 1155A

M P KNIOLA

1530-75<sup>th</sup>

3690 EAST 65 ST CLEVELAND OHIO

1930 MAR 20 PM 12 36

WYCIECZKA PANA UDAJONCA SIE SS POLONIA ZNEWYORKU STEDEMNASTEGO  
MAJA DO POLSKI UZYSKALA ZWOLNIENIE ZOPLAT PASZPORTOWYCH I WIZOWYCH  
DLA UCZESTNIKOW WYCIECZKI POSZE NADESLAC WZOR ZASWIADCZEN  
WYDAWANYCH UCZESTNIKOM PANA WYCIECZKI

POLCONSUL.

JAMES HARDING.

Ward Ticket.

Eighteenth Ward.

JOHN M. DAVIDSON.  
For Trustee.

WILLIAM H. HAIGHT.  
For Board of Education.

J. G. HUDDLESTON.  
For Assessor.

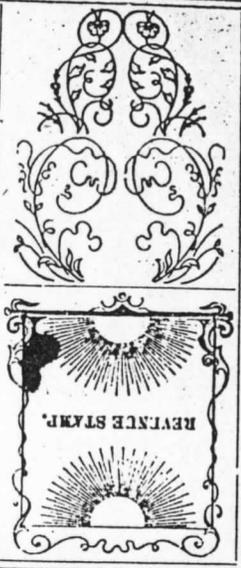
100 DOLLARS.

in Cash,

South Cleveland Banking Co.

187

CLEVELAND, O., 18TH WARD.



Pay to



1236  
And every man in every

kind of office is put in by the same law  
you became a citizen and enjoy the rights  
the Country you have to get gain  
Notwithstanding And this you in times  
you can vote in the President  
How a great money other offers you can  
only in some the Americas there  
are the richest the cleanest and the  
best people you ever saw all  
around them is Rich and looks handsome

I have often felt sorry that I did not  
come to this Country sooner than I do  
But since we come we have been in the  
And we have great increase in our  
that in this Country we enjoy the fruits  
of our industry it is about thirty years  
since we looked to the world for  
we spent in the old world Country and

Four years and four weeks we have  
been in this new Country we have been  
as industrious at home as here and during  
that time we made about five pound  
per year And since we came to this Country  
we have made between ten and thirty  
pounds per year in the same time  
And you see the difference between the two  
Countries that is why that some of our  
more more contentment than we  
are in the old world Country

And all that I have to

that I was in old England as was  
was before the best farm in the  
manor would not keep me any more  
I would repair to turn my back  
to these Black-cot men the oppry  
of the Country that has made life so  
of bondage I would go to Belfast for  
my passage in a strong ship and pro  
to my god that he would by my pro  
vision that large Body of waters and can  
me eye into that Land where there is  
Blessed for every one to sit the Days to  
live and above all Contented mind

And now my Dear friend you may be  
what I say better married or single  
would I come away I do not mind  
Present your love to my dear  
I would not advise you to stop  
my place by the way into your  
to see to us I will give you  
employment for you to go on as long  
as you have a mind to stay I will give  
you as much money as you wish  
So for the first year I will give you  
a great deal more of your dear  
I would encourage your Brothers  
to see the land as I know

1237

in a row for 22  
6 acres 30  
Planted in  
Potatoes  
200 Bushels of  
Corn and  
Bushel Corn 7/4  
toes 30 we are  
of Clinton  
Market for  
se you have in  
nces that we buy

[234]

Newburg January 1, 1870

Dear Sir I now think it my duty to write  
you and my Old Naborers a few lines  
to give you all a clear information of  
the Country we have every reason to thank  
god that we are well and enjoy the most  
of good health our acquantances is all well  
I had a letter from my Father some time  
ago and he was well that James Woye was  
sick that time but I hope she is well  
now I am the treatant I got from them  
I expected to see you in the last Spring  
but what your Calkelations is now I know  
not I feel sorry for you knowing your  
situation and I'm a great many others  
of my old Respectable Naborers that they  
are not here and enjoying the rights  
of Freedom the same as our selves  
you have often heard it say that the  
Brest kept his hears in ignorance  
and in Darknes or the would not believe  
at the did but I say and I say the  
truth that you are more in Darknes than  
the or you would not live in a  
where opression reans every Day in America  
we enjoy the Fruits of our Naborer the  
Laub of our Country are good the are one  
Community at Large a few weeks ago we  
have been voted in our District  
some Mr. Stocke will be  
Namburon by name he is





90  
 Sunday - to the River to be  
 in the morning  
 sugar to the  
 family

of me  
 by some

goods got in cars for First Sea  
 Sugar  
 Candles  
 etc  
 sugar  
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There is a  
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 Church  
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 he did them  
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Mr. Grand  
 Dear  
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 Mr. Williams  
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113

1197  
 Mr. Grand to Mr. Robert  
 dear Father and Brothers in  
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1198

23 Potatoes by the bushel is 2.00  
 24 Tea and Sugar the same Price as at home  
 25 ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~best~~ <sup>best</sup> of wagen is as Tobacco labourers two  
 26 one Dolen per day Carpenters and masons  
 27 two ~~per~~ <sup>per</sup> day Blacksmith the same  
 28 and talking is a good trade here  
 29 this is a fine Place for raising men  
 30 raising women men get in 10 to  
 31 Dollars per month and there is good and  
 32 young women the best from 4 to 8 Dollars  
 33 Per month and the fine better than the best  
 34 Farmers Saughter in Clauses there not brated  
 35 like Sements here ~~there~~ Land here is a  
 36 Sandy Sition wet. Purly good and not much  
 37 Cleared it is Superior ~~Price~~ <sup>Price</sup> by the acre  
 38 round the Borders of this tract and is  
 39 so high as to sell at 20 Dollars per acre  
 40 and within 4 miles of this village we  
 41 will pay from 10 to 16 according to  
 42 the Improvement that is on it  
 43 work in Place in winter is but dull  
 44 and the weather through this Country differs  
 45 far from Ireland in many respects  
 46 and a Country more desirable to live in  
 47 I am sorry that I did not come to this  
 48 Country before now I would recommend  
 49 all young men and young women to come  
 50 to this ~~best~~ <sup>best</sup> Country and the sooner the  
 51 better.

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84) [65]

Stuart & Co

Just

Remember  
me and all those

85) [66]

Dear Father and Brother I now tell you how to enjoy  
you that William our eldest son is dead he died in 10  
Days sickness he was rough most Towens with  
the navy he was not sensible of his change no  
new more of us Shortley after he took it we had the  
Doctor to see him which was a satisfaction to us but  
but of no use to him he is now interred in Cleveland  
Burying ground there is a great deal to us but we  
think the Lord send his mercies to us in bringing  
us all safe to this Haven Country in Brothers  
did on the passage and a Mother that was born  
in the Bay we kept Belial laugh and we land  
in a Race the Cape of Good Hope the 15 of June  
of Venice on the 15 of August we land at that  
we had had to go out of the Harbor and wash all that  
we had we were to take our Captain and Salvo were so  
men and our ship the Captain did us the greatest of  
attention

For John Mc Creain

Wm T. Point Foundry

Cold Springs New York

For John Mc Creain

Wm T. Point Foundry

Cold Springs New York

For John Mc Creain

[51]

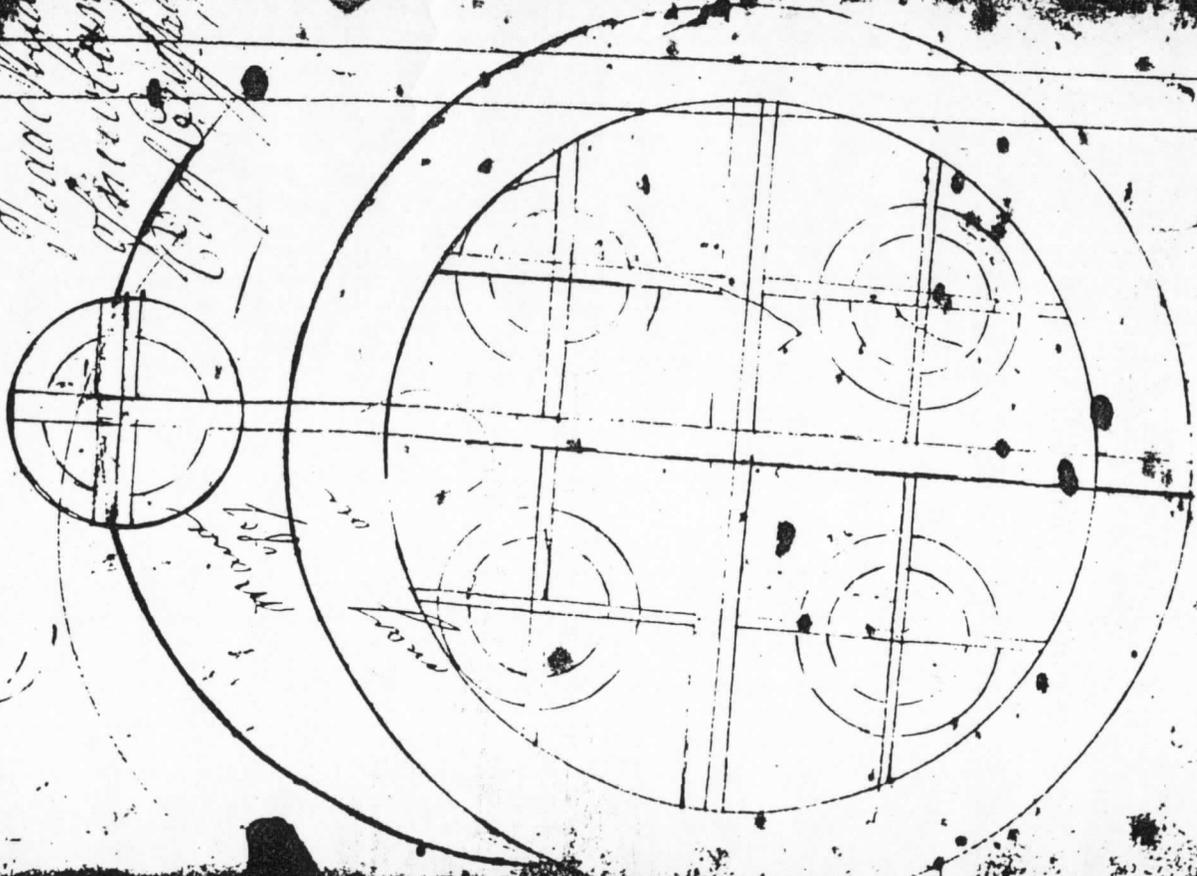
*1m Bond & Co  
London  
100 St. Pauls Churchyard  
London*

*London*

*38*

*John C. ...*

*London*  
*London*  
*London*



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