



Jan Pankuch

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Jan Pankuch (1869-1952) was a prominent figure in Cleveland's Slovak community. He arrived in western Pennsylvania around age 14 and worked as a coal miner and then a laborer, moving to Cleveland the next year. In 1892, Pankuch started his first newspaper, the *Americky Slovak*, which he followed with the *Cirkevne Listy* ("Church Letters"), a Lutheran weekly, in 1894. In 1907, Pankuch started his most successful publication, the *Hlas* ("Voice"), which ran for forty years; the *Hlas* was the only Slovak weekly paper in the country. During his time in Cleveland, Pankuch was also involved in politics: he founded the Slavonian Republican Club, and was a member of the National Slovak Society, the Czecho-Slovak National Council, and the Slovak League of America, which helped in the formation of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918. In addition, Pankuch chaired the committee to create a statue of Czechoslovak hero, General Milan Stefanik, for Cleveland's Wade Park. He died in Lakewood, Ohio, in 1952.

Important Dates

- December 16, 1869: Pankuch is born in Saris County, Slovakia.
- July 7, 1889: Pankuch marries Rozalia Gasgebe; they have 11 children together.
- 1892: Pankuch becomes a naturalized United States citizen.
- 1892: Pankuch starts the *Americky Slovak* newspaper.
- 1894: Pankuch establishes the *Cirkevne Listy* ("Church Letters").
- 1900: Pankuch starts the *Lutheran*, which runs for two years before being merged into the *Slovensky Hlasnik* ("Slovak Herald"), the official organ of the Slovak Evangelical Union.
- 1907: Pankuch begins the *Hlas* ("Voice"), which runs through the late 1940s.
- 1915: Pankuch publishes the *Denny Hlas* ("Daily Voice"), which runs until 1925.
- 1930: Pankuch publishes his book, *History of the Slovaks of Cleveland and Lakewood*.
- February 28, 1952: Pankuch dies in Lakewood, Ohio.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Jan Pankuch, John Pankuch, Slovak League of America, Slavonian Republican Club.
- Limit search by date to find results about the correct Jan/John Pankuch.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["60,000 Imperiled by Ukraine Peace"](#) *Sun* (New York, NY), February 23, 1918, Image 5, col. 5-7.
- ["Society"](#) *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), October 27, 1920, Image 8, col. 7, Image 9, col. 2.
- ["Zo schôdze Sdruž. Slov. Novinárov"](#) *Youngstownské Slovenské Noviny* (Youngstown, OH), May 8, 1931, Image 1, col. 6.
- ["V Clevelande Začal Znovu Vychodiť 'Hlas'"](#) *Youngstownské Slovenské Noviny* (Youngstown, OH), May 6, 1932, Image 1, col. 5.
- ["The Story of the Slovaks"](#) *Youngstownské Slovenské Noviny* (Youngstown, OH), December 27, 1935, Image 3, col. 3-7.